



What to expect: Program Details

The UN Global Compact Young SDG Innovators Program engages young professionals from companies participating in the UN Global Compact around the world to learn how to use the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a catalyst for the development of new products and services. Each team of young Innovators will, over the course of 10 months, work on a challenge specific to their company with the goal of designing more sustainable business models, initiatives and products that will advance the company's sustainability efforts while driving innovation and delivering tangible solutions with potential market value.

This program has five phases:

Challenge Identification: Exploring the core concepts around business and the Sustainable Development Goals and Breakthrough Innovation to understand and apply to relevant challenges facing businesses today.

January 2021 - February 2021

Solutions Validation and Testing: Moving project solutions to more refined versions by testing and validation within the company and with external stakeholders.

July 2021 - August 2021

Challenge Definition: Testing out innovation tools to frame and validate a specific SDG business challenge pertinent to their company that will form the basis of a solution to be developed to address it.

March 2021 - April 2021

Off-boarding: Incorporating the skills and projects from the program back into participants' respective companies to embed breakthrough thinking within their organization

September 2021 - October 2021

Solutions Development: Designing a solution to address the challenge and then taking the idea from a concept into a fully defined project.

May 2021 - June 2021

The program offers a mix of diverse blended learning opportunities:

Innovation Camps | Five online workshops where time is spent focused on problem-solving and applying learning and tools to address real-life challenges.

Virtual Learning Hub | In addition to the online workshops, participants will remotely access online resources and training to understand breakthrough technologies, industry disruption, and business models through the lens of the SDGs. Courses include: *SDGs and Design Thinking*, *How to Innovate with Impact*, *Align Corporate Strategy to the SDGs*, *The Role of Disruptive Technologies and Business Models in the SDGs*.

Team Challenges | Hands on online collaborative learning activities allowing participants to apply tools and skills to real business problems and scenarios.

Interactive Case Studies & Company Visits | Insight from real-life examples through experiential case studies where participants are given an insider's perspective into corporate SDG innovation asking questions and applying their own solutions to the company's challenges to serve as inspiration and models to apply to their context.

Mentoring and Coaching | Support and guidance from external mentors, from ideation and design to project development – to guide participants on how to take their ideas forward within their companies.

Solutions Showcase | A final project presentation is made to the Innovators' senior management towards the end of the program, allowing them to assess commercial viability and explore future pathways to continue project development. Additionally, Innovators will have chance to present the project at a Solutions Showcase event on a local/global platform.