

# Eradicating plastic pollution: Leveraging value chains

## Project vision and how to engage



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**The Global Plastic Action Partnership, or GPAP, is a platform at the World Economic Forum that aims to shape a more sustainable and inclusive world through the eradication of plastic pollution.** Co-founded by a coalition of public and private partners in 2018, GPAP brings together governments, businesses and civil society to translate commitments into meaningful action at both the global and national levels.

GPAP has established national plastic action partnerships in five countries – Ghana, Nigeria, Viet Nam, Pakistan and Indonesia – and is scoping activities in many more. We accelerate plastic action in six ways: informing policy; unlocking finance; transforming behavior; boosting innovation; harmonizing metrics; and promoting inclusivity.

Through an online resource, GPAP supports the development of locally owned, impact communities, harnessing the skills and knowledge of the wider global plastic community to drive impact at scale. GPAP offers expert guidance and targeted technical assistance that can help translate knowledge and strategy into country action on plastic waste and pollution.

### Taking a value chain approach

GPAP is partnering with the Forum's Future of Trade and Investment Platform to catalyse action across the plastic value chain. As production and consumption patterns are global, there is an increasing need for cross-sectoral and cross-value chain collaboration. Recent research indicates that trade in plastics accounts for 5% of global trade, almost 40% higher than previously estimated, and not counting embedded plastics like packaging. Global trade in plastic waste is small relative to production, though waste dumping is a concern.

Lead firms must understand the use of plastic in their supply chain and work with suppliers on solutions to stem the tide of plastic waste. Governments, in turn, must set policies that consider the reality of plastic flows and industry transition requirements. Each country will have different priorities and needs to consider. These can be explored through trade flows and policy analysis to develop an action agenda for both business and governments.

### A new circular trade programme

We are advancing knowledge and scaling solutions through a 2-year circular trade work programme composed of three pillars. In the first pillar, we are running national level case studies to understand the local and global plastic value chain, as well as potential opportunities for trade policy to accelerate plastic action strategies and advance objectives on circularity. The studies will be conducted through a process of public-private dialogue and feedback involving lead firms, suppliers and policymakers.

As part of the second pillar, we will hold workshops for knowledge exchange on best practices between countries participating in the case studies. The workshops will focus on transparency and needs across the value chain; issues holding back investment and application of best practices; border issues related to plastic waste management.

In the third pillar, we will empower countries participating in the studies to share these in global forums, where conversations on trade and plastic pollution are ongoing. For example, in December 2021 a group of 60-plus governments released a ministerial statement on plastic pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade. The group commits to better identification of global trade in plastics, sharing experiences on trade and circular plastics, and delivering capacity building for developing countries.

The programme is already underway with a case study developed for [Ghana](#) and another one to starting in South Africa. In Ghana we learned about the importance of trade for identifying facilitating imports of relevant goods for upstream and downstream circular plastics. There is also a need to urgently reduce plastic packaging as 70% of plastic input materials in Ghana are used to this end.

Countries wishing to participate on our trade programme can start by taking a short online readiness assessment exploring collaboration across government and sectors on trade and plastic pollution. For more information, please get in touch with: [taylor.clayton@weforum.org](mailto:taylor.clayton@weforum.org).

Visit our website at <https://globalplasticaction.org> and follow us on Twitter at [@PlasticImpact](#).