

Programme Completion Review

Title: Championing Inclusivity in Plastic Pollution (CHIPP)

Final Programme Spend £ (full life): £5.1m	Review Date:	December 2025
Analysis code [ID#]	Start Date: Jan 2023	End Date: Sep 2025

Summary of Programme Performance

Year	23/24	24/25
Programme Score	B	A
Residual Risk Exposure Rating	High	Low

DevTrack BC: https://iatipublisher-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/document-link/414/UNEP_business_case_FINAL_Dec22_redacted_forpublication%20%281%29175006_Business_Case_4119.docx

(and any addendum): CCN: https://iatipublisher-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/document-link/414/CHIPP%20FBC%20Change%20Control%20Note%20V2_FINAL_linksremoved_Redacted1750331377.pdf

DevTrack Links 2024 logframe: https://iatipublisher-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/document-link/414/2024_CHIPP%20logframe_for%20publication1750066922.xlsx

Original logframes annexed to 23/24 Annual Review: https://iatipublisher-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/document-link/414/CHIPP_Annual-Review_2324_FINAL_for-publication-202411080911031745544392.pdf

lifetime:

Acronyms

AR	Annual Review
BPF	Blue Planet Fund
CHIPP	Championing Inclusivity in Plastic Pollution
CEE	Centre for Environmental Education
CPF	Captain Planet Foundation
DiD	Difference-in-differences
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GRULAC	Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
SUP	Single Use Plastic
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WAGGGS	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
WESSA	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa
WOSM	World Organisation for the Scout Movement

A. Summary and Overview

Description of the programme and what it has achieved

Championing Inclusivity in Plastic Pollution (CHIPP) was a £5.1 million programme comprising two components: (1) a £2.9 million contribution for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Tide Turners Plastic Challenge (TTPC) and (2) a £2.2 million contribution to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), also hosted by UNEP, to support inclusive participation of ODA-eligible country negotiators in the development of an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

TTPC is a global youth environmental education and advocacy initiative which seeks to educate and empower young people on marine plastic pollution and how they can address it in their communities. The objective of Defra's investment was to influence behaviour change, share knowledge, build awareness, and promote inclusive environmental stewardship in young people and give them a voice in the fight against plastic pollution. Its core deliverable was an educational course delivered in partnership with educational institutions. It was delivered in Africa by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the World Organisation for the Scout Movement (WOSM), and in India by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Centre for Environmental Education (CEE). These organisations worked in partnership with educational institutions to deliver online and in-person environmental awareness, policy and advocacy training. Under CHIPP, TTPC scaled significantly, reaching nearly one million young people across 14 countries. It exceeded targets for youth engagement, leadership development, and advocacy campaigns, while integrating livelihoods and stronger safeguarding measures. Independent evaluations confirmed significant gains in environmental awareness, pro-environmental behaviours, and youth leadership, positioning TTPC as a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)-transformative initiative with strong potential for long-term impact.

Tide Turners Delivery Partners		
Organisation	Role	Geography
World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF-India)	WWF and CEE deliver the core Tide Turner's curriculum across schools in India, in person and virtually.	India, South Asia
Centre for Environment Education (CEE)	WWF and CEE deliver the core Tide Turner's curriculum across schools in India, in person and virtually.	India, South Asia
Captain Planet Foundation (CPF)	CPF deliver advanced advocacy training for small cohorts of Tide Turners graduates	Global
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)	WAGGGS and WOSM deliver the core Tide Turners curriculum in African countries through their networks of members organisations.	Africa
Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)	WESSA delivered activities towards the end of the programme in South Africa, including a strong focus on disability inclusion.	South Africa
World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)	WAGGGS and WOSM deliver the core Tide Turners curriculum in African countries through their networks of members organisations.	Africa

The INC contribution ensured that voices from ODA-eligible countries were represented in negotiations for a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, by supporting the travel of delegates to the negotiation sessions and various intersessional meetings. These intersessional meetings convened delegates from four regional negotiating groups to help countries coordinate, prepare and build consensus ahead of each formal session. Across the programme, 1,287 delegates were supported to attend INC sessions and related meetings, representing 127 ODA-eligible countries. Gender balance was actively promoted, with women comprising approximately 44% of funded delegates at INC 5. On average across the 5 INC sessions, the programme succeeded in supporting the travel of 87% of ODA-eligible delegates, reflecting strong alignment with the programme's inclusivity objective. It is important to note that funding to the INC process is pooled across donors and results are not attributed to specific donors. As of September 2025, the total donor country contributions to the INC stands at US\$38,336,057. The UK has provided £2.2 million, about 7.8% of the total budget based on current exchange rates. This percentage is used throughout this report as a proxy for attributing results to the UK contribution.

Defra funded UNEP to deliver Tide Turners prior to the CHIPP programme through four funding phases disbursed since 2019, to a total value of £1.3m, bringing the total investment to £5.1m. This earlier funding was reviewed in the CHIPP business case as part of the case for continued investment. Over the course of the programme, CHIPP has had frequent changes in programme management in Defra. The programme was closed 6 months later than was

originally planned, following a 6-month extension including a £200,000 uplift for the INC component ahead of the INC5.2 negotiation session held in August 2025. Together, CHIPP’s overall objective was to foster an inclusive approach to tackling plastic pollution at all levels in ODA-eligible countries, from young people and communities to international action. Combining our assessment of logframe output, outcome and impact indicators, qualitative review of achievements as well as assessment of delivery partner performance and evaluation findings, we score overall performance as an **A**. While performance against output and outcome indicators was strong and could have merited a higher score, gaps in evidencing impact—due to limitations in the MEL framework—mean that Defra has applied a more conservative score.

Programme History and Visibility

CHIPP was formalised in the 2022 business case as a two-component programme in Defra’s marine ODA portfolio and with UK’s commitments under the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance (CCOA), the 25 Environment Plan, and Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 14. Before CHIPP’s inception, TTPC had received £1.3 million in Defra funding across four phases between 2019 and 2022. These earlier phases reached over 468,000 young people across 35 countries and laid the foundation for CHIPP’s expanded scope, which included a stronger focus on advocacy training, livelihoods, safeguarding, and GEDSI. During Phase 1 and 2, TTPC introduced a structured learning journey with levels (Entry, Leader, Champion). Phase 3 and 4 of TTPC were delivered with a combined £750,000 grant and a no-cost extension to June 2022. These phases introduced the “Hero Level” (Level 4), which trained over 2,000 young people in advocacy, and launched regional bootcamps in Africa and India.

The programme has had high-level visibility and senior engagement for its investment size. At the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, a Kenyan Tide Turner handed the “nature baton” to UN Secretary-General António Guterres in a symbolic ceremony. Tide Turners achieved further global prominence when King Charles III met youth leaders during his royal visit to Kenya in November 2023. His Majesty was honoured as a “Tide Turners Warrior” and presented with a throne crafted from recycled plastic bottles, underscoring the initiative’s alignment with the UK’s environmental diplomacy and its role as a flagship youth movement on plastic pollution.

The INC component was included as part of CHIPP to ensure inclusive representation in the plastics treaty negotiations. Defra’s funding supported travel and regional consultations for ODA-eligible delegates, contributing to institutional capacity and more equitable participation. However, the treaty was not agreed within the programme’s lifespan.

Major lessons learned, evidence generated and recommendations

- Development of youth-led movements: As Defra’s only youth-focused ODA programme, Defra should reflect on the importance of integrating youth into inclusive programming on the environment. The TTPC closing evaluation highlighted the impressive organic growth of youth-led environmental movements, especially when supported by digital tools. Future programmes should consider inclusive digital infrastructure and co-create content with youth to ensure relevance and usability.
- Programme design: Combining Tide Turners and INC under one programme with shared MEL added unnecessary complexity to monitoring, compliance and reporting. Treating INC—a funding stream for multilateral negotiations—as a standard project with KPIs and compliance created disproportionate burden on Defra and UNEP. MEA support should avoid rigid ODA structures, using light-touch approaches focused on transparency and accountability. Monitoring frameworks must be agreed before delivery and be designed proportionately to delivery models.
- Youth-led movements can catalyse change at the grassroots level that contributes to national agendas. Evidence from the evaluations highlighted how empowering youth led to policy changes at the local level and in government and educational institutions. Defra should draw from this in future plastics programming and policy decision making, including on whether examples from Tide Turners as the grassroots level offers a model for change that could be scaled through larger programmes with national reach and a wider stakeholder base, such as the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP).
- Defra programme management: Strong, consistent programme management is critical for trust and effective partnerships. Changes to reporting or delivery expectations should be clear and sensitive to avoid disruption. Programme manager turnover should be minimised, and handovers should be carefully managed to preserve institutional knowledge and relationships.
- Poverty, GEDSI & Safeguarding: Defra’s expectations on poverty, GEDSI and Safeguarding changed over the course of the programme. Adaptation takes time and short programmes will be limited in their capacity to respond to Defra’s requirements. Tide Turners was receptive to changes given the circumstances, particularly on steps to understand and strengthen Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) protections. CHIPP’s recognition as a GEDSI transformative programme highlights the value of inclusive design, and choosing inclusion as the primary objective of a programme.
- Safeguarding must be prioritised early in programme design, especially when working with youth and marginalised groups. The programme’s experience shows that assumptions of low risk can lead to gaps in

oversight. Understanding the delivery chain and what it means in practice is crucial for setting risk appetite – this can be strengthened by in-person site visits and early engagement with SEAH Safeguarding expertise.

Evaluations Summary

Two evaluations were conducted for Tide Turners. As an MEA contribution with activities restricted to travel support, no evaluation was conducted for the INC component.

1. Tide Turners Independent Closing Evaluation

This evaluation was commissioned by UNEP to provide an independent assessment of TTPC's performance across all phases (2018 – 2025), using OECD DAC criteria – relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability – with a strong emphasis on GEDSI. Findings highlight lessons for future youth-led environmental programmes: the need for longer-term funding windows, stronger MEL frameworks, and strategies to sustain youth engagement beyond project cycles. They also underscore the importance of integrating livelihoods and institutional partnerships to embed change at scale. This evaluation took a mixed-methods review across India, Kenya, Madagascar, and South Africa, using interviews, surveys, and peer-led focus groups to capture youth perspectives. The evaluation applied a GEDSI lens through inclusive sampling and adaptations such as braille materials, though constraints included absence of baselines, reliance on virtual engagement for under-18s, and potential sampling bias. Despite these limitations, the evidence is sufficient to assess TTPC's influence on knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour, while highlighting the importance of inclusive design, early safeguarding measures, and stronger evaluation systems for future programming.

Key Findings:

- **Relevance and coherence:** TTPC was highly relevant to global and national plastic pollution priorities and leveraged strong partnerships (WAGGGS, WOSM, WWF, CEE). However, coherence was weakened by fragmented logframe and lack of an overarching framework.
- **Effectiveness:** The programme reached nearly 1 million youth, with strong female participation (~51%) and efforts to include rural, indigenous, and disabled youth. Youth leadership and advocacy were standout successes, with champions influencing school policies and community practices. Livelihood initiatives showed promise but lacked scale.
- **Efficiency and MEL:** Delivered strong value for money (██████████) through network leverage, but short funding windows and weak MEL systems (misaligned ToC/logframes, lack of baselines) constrained outcome measurement.
- **Sustainability:** Institutional integration into national curricula in India and Madagascar, and Scouts' Earth Tribe ensures continuity. Many young people continue clean-ups and advocacy post-programme, but gaps in alumni engagement and corporate partnerships remain. TTPC has taken on a life of its own, beyond the UK investment, thanks to strong buy in from youth organisations and the grassroots delivery model.

2. Tide Turners Behaviour Change Social Research (India only)

This evaluation was commissioned by UNEP and conducted by social researchers in the University of Oxford from October 2024 to October 2025. India was selected as a focal country for the impact evaluation because it represented the largest share of TTPC's global reach and offered a diverse delivery model combining formal education systems, eco-clubs, and community engagement. Over half of TTPC's global participants were based in India, and the programme was embedded in state-level curricula and institutional frameworks, making it a strong case study for assessing both behavioural and systemic impacts. The report provides new evidence on the effectiveness and scalability of youth-led interventions for plastic reduction. The findings are valuable, although caution should be exercised in extrapolating and applying to other contexts, particularly given the limitations of the sampling (an urban bias, mean age was towards the bottom-end of the scale, India was chosen in part for having a more experienced set of local delivery partners, etc.).

The evaluation adopted a mixed-methods approach to assess the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge's impact on youth behaviour, environmental awareness, leadership development, and community engagement. The quantitative component of the study involved a survey of over 600 students across two states (Delhi and Gujarat), and applied a difference-in-differences (DiD) approach to measure changes in environmental attitudes, recycling knowledge, and Single Use Plastic (SUP) related behaviours. The DiD approach was chosen to help isolate the effects of the Tide Turners programme from broader trends. The quantitative element was supported by qualitative, semi-structured interviews with 56 participants across six states (Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh), to explore the depth and range of programme impacts such as leadership development, cultural adaptation, institutional integration, and long-term sustainability patterns.

Key Findings:

- **Behaviour change and impact attribution:** the evaluation found statistically significant improvements in general (self-reported) pro-environmental behaviours (bringing reusable bags and recycling at home) by participants. However, changes in specific single-use plastic consumption (e.g. straws, cups) were limited. This suggests that while TTPC effectively embedded sustainable habits, it was less successful in shifting item-specific behaviours.
- **Youth leadership and community engagement:** the evaluation highlighted TTPC's success in fostering youth leadership and community mobilisation in India. Participants reported increased confidence, communication skills, and agency, with many leading clean-up drives, advocacy campaigns, and school initiatives. Some youth reached thousands through institutional partnerships such as school-wide plastic bans and panchayat-led¹ waste audits, demonstrating TTPC's potential to catalyse structural changes at the grass roots level.
- **Equity and inclusion:** the evaluation underscored disparities in programme access and outcomes. Youth from urban, well-resourced schools engaged more consistently, while rural participants faced barriers such as poor internet access, limited devices, and weaker institutional support. Despite this, rural participants often achieved deeper community integration, using culturally relevant methods like folk theatre and local language outreach. This underscores the need for multi-modal delivery, offline toolkits, and micro-grants to ensure equitable participation and sustained engagement.

The evaluations also highlighted a number of key challenges:

- The impacts of TTPC were not experienced evenly across participants. Youth from urban, better-resourced schools tended to engage more consistently and reported fewer logistical barriers than those in rural areas.
- The change in use of specific plastic items was variable, with changes in some plastic items being limited (e.g., cups, straws, food containers) suggesting that TTPC is most effective in embedding general pro environmental routines rather than eliminating all types of single-use plastics.
- There are difficulties reported in sustaining advocacy champions which may limit the programmes ability to achieve its ultimate impact
- Livelihoods initiatives and green skilling have shown promising but limited impact, scaling these successes will require partners with specific expertise and a stronger understanding of market dynamics.
- While the programme was effective at building awareness, participant responses reflected that often the cost of resources required for implementing this knowledge in practice was too high, for example for plastic alternatives or maintaining or participating in networks.
- During the sampling process, evaluators encountered a high refusal rate from participants to discuss their experiences, including those who progressed to the highest levels of the programme (advocacy champions). The evaluation highlighted that these challenges may also reflect lack of sustained engagement beyond implementation, hindering long term impact.

How this report was conducted

Please refer to the Terms of Reference in Annex A.

Actions following approval of this report

All funds have been dispersed and final reporting received. After the PCR is approved, any outstanding sensitive information will be redacted, and the review will be shared with UNEP teams and uploaded to DevTracker, alongside the final logframe. Internal Defra dissemination activities are planned to follow the completion of this PCR in early 2026 and will pick out key learnings and recommendations from the programme for the benefit of other ODA programming in the Department.

B: Theory of Change and Outcome Assessment

Summarise the programme's [REDACTED] and results framework, including any changes to outcome and impact indicators.

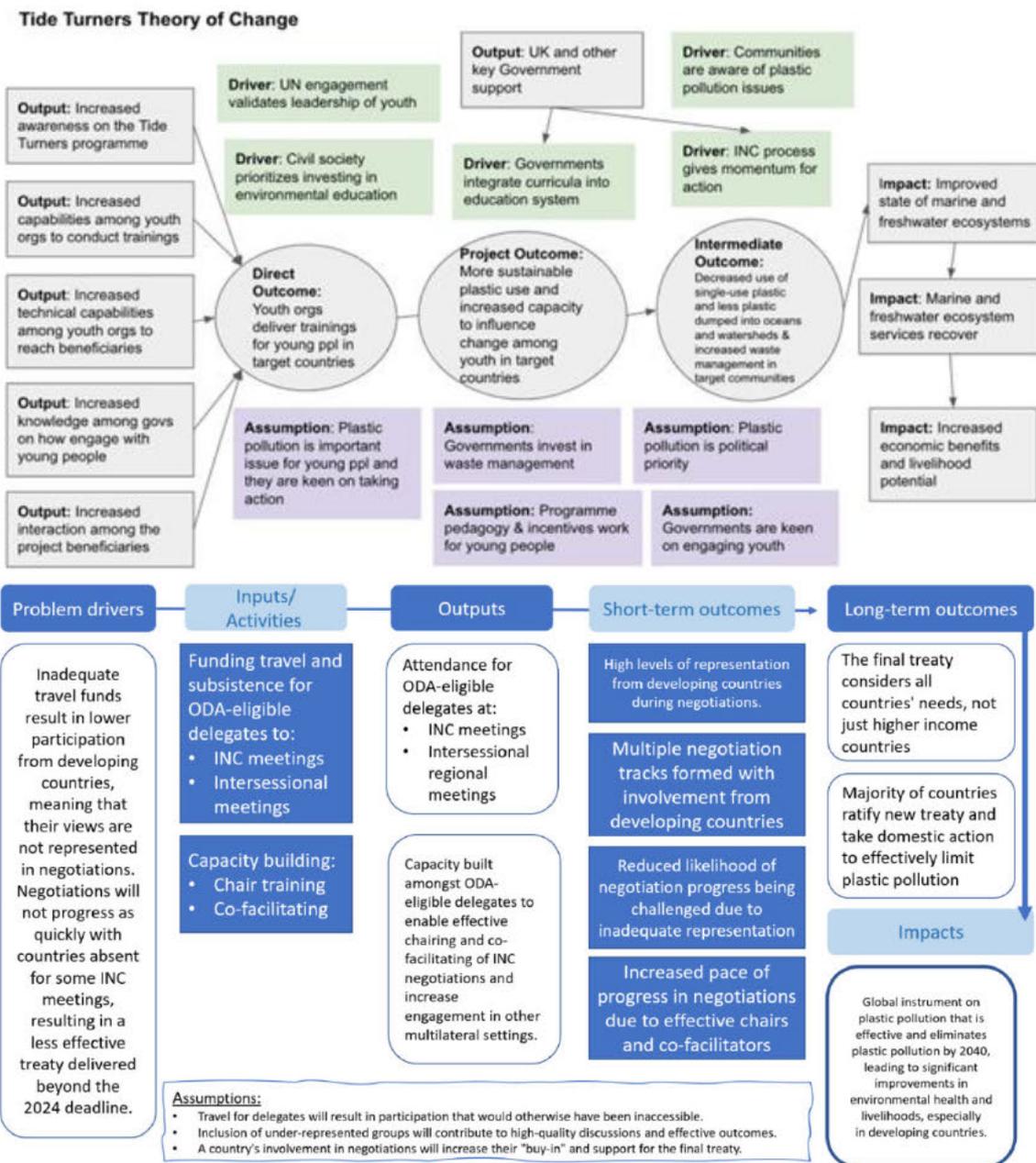
The Business Case set out two separate theories of change (ToC), one for each component. The TTPC ToC links outputs on the increased training of youth organisations with more sustainable plastic use and greater capacity for youth to influence change. This leads to the longer-term outcomes of decreased use of single-use plastic, reduced marine plastic litter, and increased waste management in target communities. The INC theory of change sets out how increasing equitable participation in the negotiations will increase the pace of, and buy-in in, the negotiation process, and support the adoption of an agreed text that better responds to the needs to developing countries.

Initially, the programme had separate logframes for each component. Prior to the final year of delivery, the logframe was combined and updated. There was recognition from both Defra and the UNEP TTPC team that there was a

¹ Panchayats are Indian local government organisations at the village level

disconnect between the programme outputs captured and these longer-term outcomes, which made it harder to quantitatively assess impact. The logframe failed to accurately reflect the ToC logic, with the logframe including more measurable short-term outcomes of the challenge, such as the number of Tide Turners who attend events, the number of community projects/advocacy campaigns led by Tide Turners, and the number of success stories published. The logframe indicators did not measure the progression between the three impacts identified in the ToC, due to the long-term nature of these impacts and challenges measuring them. Section F includes a more detailed discussion of delivery on GEDSI and poverty reduction.

A recommendation to strengthen the two theories of change and develop and agree a single logframe that better aligned outputs and outcomes with the intended pathway to impact was identified in the 23/24 Annual Review. A logframe review was conducted in November 2024. The changes implemented are set out in Annex B.



Overall assessment of programme outcomes, impacts, sustainability and VfM

	Starting point	Final result
Budget	£3.6m	£3.8m

Timeframe	January 2023 – March 2025 (2 years 2 months)	January 2023 – September 2025 (2 years 8 months)	
Impacts			
Impact Indicator (Units)	Starting Target	Final Logframe Target	Final Result Achieved
1.1: Number of INC sessions convened	Not applicable	5	6
1.2: % of ODA-eligible countries that agree the final treaty text	Not applicable	90%	0%, treaty not agreed
2.1: % of youth reporting better understanding on single-use plastic and pollution after taking part in the training	Not applicable	70%	Not measured, see below
2.2: % of youth reporting change in the use of single-use plastic (SUP) after taking part in the training	Not applicable	60%	Not measured, see below

Impact Indicators

TTPC Component

Measuring Tide Turner's impact was acknowledged as a key challenge in the last annual review, with no clear metrics to measure the intended impacts in the theory of change. However, the two evaluations suggest that the programme had a positive impact on youth behaviour and engagement on plastic pollution, with three main impact themes emerging:

Youth Leadership Driving Community Impact: TTPC has equipped young people with confidence, communication, and organisational skills, enabling them to lead clean-up drives, advocacy campaigns, and school initiatives that reached hundreds—sometimes thousands—of community members. These efforts not only fostered leadership but also catalysed institutional changes like no-plastic school policies and local waste audits, creating a foundation for sustained environmental action.

Shifting Norms and Behaviours: The programme strengthened environmental awareness and responsibility, with positive attitudinal gains (e.g., “Plastic pollution is a serious environmental problem”) and enhanced peer engagement on sustainability issues. The Oxford University-led evaluation found TTPC participants reported increased use of reusable bags for shopping and recycling/ re-use at home compared to the non-participant control group, for instance.

Pathways to Systemic and Economic Change: By embedding TTPC into school curricula, Scout and Guide networks, and local government structures, the programme has initiated lasting shifts in norms and practices. Emerging youth-led recycling and plastic-alternative enterprises point to TTPC's potential as a catalyst for more sustainable practices in local institutions, although uncertainty remains on whether these practices will be scaled and translate into improved livelihoods.

The two TTPC impact indicators cannot be accurately reported using the India evaluation results as a case study. The indicators were drafted before the evaluation design was developed, and the two were not accurately aligned. The evaluation was designed to estimate causal impact through behaviour- and attitude-specific effects rather than the overall youth-level measures needed to assess these indicators. As a proxy, the results below summarise results from the survey that provided the closest relevant evidence. While conducted using carefully designed and executed research methods, the results are drawn from the India-only impact evaluation, and there are therefore important limitations on how far these results can be extrapolated across the wider programme:

- In India, TTPC was embedded in state-level curricula and institutional frameworks, but the delivery model in other countries was more diffuse (operating generally through the scouts and girl guides networks). Behavioural and systemic impacts may have varied in countries where the initiative was less institutionally embedded.
- TTPC also had two delivery partners (WWF India and the Centre for Environment Education), and different delivery partners in other geographies. We can't rule-out that as delivery partners with significant environmental and education experience, they may well be more effective than in other countries
- The TTPC programme age range is 11-25. The sample in the Oxford University case was towards the younger end (mean age 13.89, standard deviation 1.82), and sampling was strongly urban focused. We can't necessarily extrapolate to older teenagers and young adults may exhibit different behaviours, or to rural participants.

Impact indicator 2.1: % of youth reporting better understanding of single-use plastic and pollution after taking part in the training (not measured)

The India difference-in-differences evaluation indicates improvements in environmental understanding. Students in the treatment group were more likely than those in the control group to agree that plastic pollution is a serious environmental problem, that they have a personal responsibility to act, and that they better understand which items can be recycled. Post-intervention agreement with four key statements averaged 96–97% among treated students, and DiD estimates indicate meaningful positive shifts attributable to TTPC.

However, these results cannot be converted into the percentage-of-youth-improved figure required by the indicator, because the evaluation did not produce youth-level improvement data or baseline measures that would allow the indicator to be scored. They do demonstrate that TTPC strengthened environmental awareness, understanding and responsibility among participating youth in India. Qualitative findings reinforce this, showing a shift from surface-level awareness to systems-level understanding, including links to health and environmental consequences.

Post-intervention agreement among treatment group:

- “I need to act to reduce plastic pollution”, 97.2%
- “Plastic pollution is a serious environmental problem”, 97.7%
- “Improved understanding of what items can and cannot be recycled”, 97.0%
- “Expressed greater concern about the future of the environment”, 95.0%

Impact indicator 2.2: % of youth reporting change in the use of single-use plastic after taking part in the training (not measured)

This indicator also cannot be measured as written. The evaluation does not provide data that allow us to calculate a single percentage of youth who changed their use of single-use plastics. Instead, we draw on behaviour-specific DiD estimates from the India study as a proxy for the direction and magnitude of change. The India study shows strong behaviour-specific impacts, including statistically significant increases in reusable bag use and recycling/reuse at home; positive effects for other SUP behaviours were not statistically significant.

- Bringing reusable shopping bags (+47 percentage points, $p = 0.010$)
- Recycling or reusing items at home (+53 percentage points, $p = 0.016$)
- Refusing extra plastic packaging (+35 pp, $p = 0.081$)
- Avoiding plastic bottles (+20 pp, $p = 0.17$)

No consistent effects reported for most other item-specific SUPs (e.g. cups, food containers; cutlery not reported), with p -values > 0.20 .

INC Component

Impact assessment for the INC component drew on qualitative feedback from post-event surveys following regional consultations, HoDs meetings, and negotiation sessions. Surveys measured perceived gains in negotiating capacity, procedural understanding, and readiness for formal talks. Responses were anonymised and aggregated by region to identify trends. Across sessions, over 90% reported improved understanding of negotiation issues, and more than 80% felt better prepared. Feedback underscored the value of regional consultations in clarifying positions and fostering convergence. HoDs meetings were praised for enabling informal exchanges, while expert groups strengthened technical knowledge. The approach ensured transparency and alignment with UN standards, maintaining consistency in data collection and reporting.

Although no formal evaluation was undertaken, structured surveys and consistent feedback provide a credible basis for assessing progress on capacity-building and inclusivity. The absence of a treaty agreement reflects wider multilateral challenges, not CHIPP. Evidence indicates CHIPP contributed meaningfully to equitable participation in the global plastics treaty process.

Impact indicator 1.1: number of INC sessions convened – exceeded.

The programme supported six negotiation sessions and multiple intersessional meetings. This demonstrates CHIPP’s contribution to sustaining momentum in the treaty process despite prolonged negotiations.

Impact indicator 1.2: % of ODA-eligible countries that agree the final treaty text – 0%

The treaty was not agreed during INC5.2, limiting direct measurement. However, evidence from INC Secretariat surveys shows that over 90% of delegates reported improved understanding of negotiation issues, and 80% felt better prepared to engage, confirming progress on capacity-building and inclusivity.

Outcomes

Outcomes

Outcome Indicator (Units)	Starting Target	Final Logframe Target	Final Result Achieved
1.1: Total number of delegates from eligible countries that are supported to attend INC sessions (156 countries eligible for UN support; of which 136 are also ODA eligible. Note: UK support is ringfenced for ODA-eligible countries)	Not applicable	1,324 (97% of total eligible delegates) UK attribution: 103	1,287 (95% total eligible delegates) UK attribution: 100 Average gender disaggregation: 57% men 43% women
3.1: Number of events with Tide Turners youth voices represented	Not applicable	35	57
3.2: Number of community projects/advocacy campaigns executed by young people in target countries	Not applicable	63	127
3.3: Number of Tide Turners who take on leadership roles as recorded through Tide Turner's success stories	Not applicable	48	62

Overall, performance of outcome indicators was strong. All three TTPC indicators final targets were surpassed. These indicators focused on how undertaking the Tide Turners' training increased youth engagement in advocacy, leadership, and community action. While the logframe outcomes were largely quantitative and activity-based, the UNEP Closing Evaluation and Oxford University impact study provide qualitative depth and confirm that TTPC contributed meaningfully to youth empowerment and environmental stewardship. The INC component came close to meeting its ambitious target for delegate support, achieving 1,287 delegates against a target of 1,324. Achievements and challenges associated with each individual indicator are summarised below:

Outcome Indicator 1.1: Total number of delegates from eligible countries that are supported to attend INC sessions

The INC component aimed to ensure inclusive participation in the plastics treaty negotiations by supporting travel for delegates eligible for support from the UN, in accordance with operative paragraph 7 of the UNEA resolution 5/14 that established the INC. Eligibility includes all ODA-eligible countries plus some other states, however all UK funding is ringfenced for ODA-eligible countries. This is similar but distinct from output KPI 1, which measures only ODA-eligible delegates supported. The final target was 1,324 delegates (97% of total eligible delegates), and the programme achieved 1,287 (95% of total eligible delegates). Beyond the formal INC sessions, Defra's funding also enabled participation in regional consultations, Heads of Delegation (HoDs) meetings, and ad-hoc intersessional expert groups, which were critical for building negotiating capacity and identifying areas of consensus. For example:

- Regional consultations were convened before INC-3, INC-4, and INC-5.2, supporting 319 delegates from ODA-eligible countries to align regional priorities and review draft texts.
- HoDs meetings in Nairobi (2024 and 2025) brought together 294 delegates for informal exchanges that informed the Chair's text and helped maintain momentum between sessions.
- Expert group meetings in Bangkok (August 2024) engaged 173 delegates to advance technical work on financial mechanisms and product design criteria.

Survey feedback, collected through anonymous post-event surveys administered by the INC Secretariat, reinforces these activities. Delegates highlighted that regional consultations were particularly useful for identifying areas of convergence within regions, clarifying complex articles, and strengthening institutional capacity to engage effectively. HoDs meetings were praised for fostering informal exchanges and constructive dialogue, though some participants noted challenges such as tight schedules and repetitive discussions. Expert group meetings were valued for deepening technical understanding and advancing work on critical elements of the treaty. While the treaty text was not finalised during INC-5.2, these results demonstrate that the programme delivered on its core aim of enabling equitable representation and strengthening negotiating capacity.

Outcome Indicator 3.1: Number of events with Tide Turners youth voices represented

The programme aimed to amplify youth voices in national and international forums, with a target of 35 events featuring Tide Turners Champions by the end of the programme. A total of 57 events were recorded, with 27 events in the final year of delivery alone. Events included World Environment Day and Ocean Day celebrations, COP participation, youth summits, and community-led campaigns such as the Korang River clean-up in Pakistan. These platforms provided opportunities for young people to share their experiences, advocate for policy change, and connect with broader environmental movements. Each phase consistently exceeded expectations, and the depth of youth engagement was widely praised by partners. However, disaggregation by gender and geography was limited, and future programming would benefit from more systematic tracking of who is represented and how.

Outcome Indicator 3.2: Number of community projects/advocacy campaigns executed by young people in target countries

TTPC set out to support youth-led action in their communities, with a final target of 63 projects or campaigns. The programme exceeded this, with 127 initiatives reported across participating countries, and 73 achieved in the final phase alone. These ranged from repurposing plastic waste into reusable products, to awareness campaigns and policy advocacy. In India, students successfully lobbied for plastic-free school policies and installed waste segregation systems. In Uganda, youth leaders trained hundreds of peers in recycling techniques and sustainable gardening. The UNEP evaluation highlighted the multiplier effect of these initiatives, with youth influencing vendors, families, and local governments. While the diversity and creativity of these projects were impressive, reporting systems did not consistently capture their sustainability or long-term impact. A more structured framework for documenting outcomes would strengthen future assessments.

Outcome 3.3: Number of Tide Turners who take on leadership roles as recorded through Tide Turner's success stories

The programme aimed to cultivate youth leadership, with a target of 48 Tide Turners taking on leadership roles. This was significantly exceeded, with 62 leaders reported across the programme. Success stories included young entrepreneurs developing eco-friendly products, community organisers leading clean-up drives, and advocates engaging with local policymakers. The Oxford evaluation identified gains in confidence, communication, and agency among participants, with students who had been through the training more likely to discuss environmental issues with peers and take initiative in their communities. However, definitions of "leadership" varied across partners, and reporting was uneven. The UNEP evaluation recommended standardising criteria and expanding geographic coverage to better reflect the full scope of youth leadership fostered by the programme.

Sustainability

Defra and UNEP worked collaboratively to strengthen the longevity of Tide Turners beyond CHIPP's funding window. UNEP used insights from the independent evaluations to shape the future evolution of the programme, identifying opportunities to embed lessons learned and diversify delivery models. Downstream partners will continue delivering elements of the curriculum using their own budgets, reflecting how well the programme is integrated into schools and youth networks. UNEP has also developed a biodiversity-focused equivalent to Tide Turners, expanding the model's reach into new thematic areas. UNEP successfully secured £400,000 from the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AgFund) to sustain activities. Defra is exploring continuing its contribution to the INC process through other financial mechanisms.

C: Detailed Output Assessment

Output Number and Title	Output 1 – INC The INC Secretariat supports the representation of ODA-eligible countries in the negotiation process.		
Output Score	A		
Impact weighting (%)	50%	Impact weighting revised since last AR?	No
Output Indicator	<i>Starting Target</i>	<i>Final Logframe Target</i>	<i>Final Result Achieved</i>
1.1: Number of ODA-eligible delegates supported to attend the INC meetings	<i>Not applicable</i>	1,181 (90% of all ODA-eligible delegates) <i>UK attribution: 92</i>	1,179 (87% of all ODA-eligible delegates) <i>UK attribution: 92</i>
1.2: Number of regional consultations held per eligible UN region to build negotiating capacity ahead of INC-3 and INC-4, respectively	<i>Not applicable</i>	12	12
1.3: Number of ODA-eligible delegates participating in intersessional regional consultations	<i>Not applicable</i>	307 <i>UK attribution: 24</i>	305 <i>UK attribution: 24</i>
1.4: Number of ODA-eligible leadership figures supported to participate in INC bureau meetings	<i>Not applicable</i>	20	20

Briefly describe the output's activities and achievements during its lifetime, and provide supporting narrative for the score.

Two of the four indicators under this output met expectations and achieved their final targets, while the other two fell marginally short. As identified in the previous AR, the numeric targets for INC attendance were deemed unrealistic, because they assumed 100% participation and did not account for multiple sessions or pooled donor funding. Overall, **this output scores an A**, delivery met expectations.

Output 1.1 measured the number of ODA-eligible delegates supported to attend INC meetings. This was central to the programme's aim of ensuring inclusive participation in the plastics treaty negotiations. By funding travel and subsistence for delegates from ODA-eligible countries, the programme helped amplify voices from low- and middle-income countries in shaping the treaty text. The programme supported 1,179 ODA-eligible delegates across six INC sessions, against a target of 1,181, representing 87% ODA-eligible participation. While slightly below target, the original targets were based on maximum theoretical attendance (two delegates per eligible country per session), which was unrealistic given pooled donor funding and variable uptake. UK funding was exclusively earmarked for ODA-eligible delegates. UK attribution is calculated proportionally to the UK's share of the total donor contributions to the INC.

Output 1.2 tracked the number of regional consultations convened to build negotiating capacity. These consultations provided critical space for countries to align positions, understand procedural issues, and prepare for formal sessions. All 12 planned consultations were delivered across Africa, Asia-Pacific, GRULAC, and Eastern Europe, and were widely praised by participants for improving preparedness.

Output 1.3 measured the number of ODA-eligible delegates participating in intersessional regional consultations. The programme achieved 305 delegates against a target of 307. While this represents a minor shortfall, it does not materially affect the overall success of the output. These sessions strengthened institutional capacity and allowed for informal exchanges that helped clarify positions and identify potential landing zones ahead of formal negotiations. These consultations were particularly valued for enabling regions to develop joint statements and build consensus on priority issues. UK attribution is calculated proportionally to the UK's share of the total donor contributions to the INC.

Output 1.4 focused on leadership engagement, tracking the number of ODA-eligible leadership figures supported to participate in INC Bureau meetings. The programme met its target of 20 leadership figures, ensuring representation in decision-making spaces and continuity between sessions. As the previous Annual Review noted, leadership training originally planned was not delivered due to lack of demand and because delivering training directly by UNEP to delegates was considered beyond their mandate as independent conveners of the process; instead, funding was adaptively redirected to support leadership figures attending Bureau meetings, which provided an important forum for shaping the negotiating process. As a result the indicator was shifted to track travel support rather than training provided.

While the treaty text was not finalised during INC-5.2, this reflects external factors rather than delivery shortcomings. Overall, the output delivered on its core objectives, enabling equitable representation and strengthening negotiation capacity among ODA-eligible countries.

Lessons learned through this output, and recommendations for future programming

While the programme successfully enabled representation from 127 ODA-eligible countries, the pooled funding model and reliance on external nomination processes created challenges in attribution and data consistency, linked to lesson 1 in Section A. Additionally, the assumption that inclusivity could be fully measured through delegate numbers proved limiting. Qualitative evidence from participant surveys highlighted that capacity-building activities – such as regional consultations and Heads of Delegation meetings – were as critical as attendance at formal sessions for meaningful engagement. This underscores the need for monitoring frameworks that capture both quantitative and qualitative dimensions of participation.

Delivering support for multilateral negotiations within an ODA programme requires a fundamentally different approach than conventional project delivery. The INC component was essentially a funding stream for a multilateral process, yet applying standard ODA programme tools – such as rigid KPIs, compliance frameworks, and logframe structures – created unnecessary complexity and strained delivery. These mechanisms did not reflect the nature of diplomatic negotiations, pooled donor arrangements, and the unpredictability of treaty timelines.

Recommendations:

- Avoid designing MEA financial support as a conventional ODA programme. Instead adopt light-touch, flexible frameworks tailored to the nature of multilateral negotiations, focusing on transparency and accountability without imposing rigid project-style compliance requirements. Engage with internal governance teams to

ensure that MEA support is managed under frameworks that recognise its unique characteristics, rather than forcing alignment with conventional ODA programme templates.

- Where pooled funding is used, agree early on clear attribution mechanisms and reporting standards with delivery partners to maintain visibility of UK contributions.
- Build in contingency planning and adaptive management to accommodate external factors such as negotiation delays or changes in treaty scope.

Output Number and Title	Output 2 – TTPC Tide Turners reaches a broad range of youths, including rural, indigenous and disabled youths, across a growing number of countries.		
Output Score	A++		
Impact weighting (%)	30%	Impact weighting revised since last AR?	No
Output Indicator	Starting Target	Final Logframe Target	Final Result Achieved
2.1: Numbers of young people reached within the programme – registered participants by level reached (including: gender, age group, disability and/or other regional specific categories) ICF TA KPI 2.1	Business case: 523005 Minimum 50% women and girls	854,303	975,498 (57% F, 43% M) 20% People with Disabilities (based only on results from the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA))
2.2: Number of countries in which the programme is implemented (UK funding only) ICF TA KPI 1	Not applicable	12	14 Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Tanzania
2.3: Number of Advocacy Champions trained	Business case: 3827	5412	9788 (57% F, 43% M) 3,432 India 1,000 WESSA 550 WAGGS 94 WOSM

Briefly describe the output's activities and achievements during its lifetime, and provide supporting narrative for the score.

This output reflects the core ambition of the TTPC to mobilise youth across ODA-eligible countries in the fight against plastic pollution. All three indicators under this output exceeded their final targets, demonstrating strong delivery against programme objectives. Results are dramatically higher than the expectations set in the business case. This reflects partners in India in particular expanding online engagement following the COVID-19 pandemic, but also the extent to which partners embraced the programme, often continuing to deliver activities and engage young people beyond budgeted activities. Although the significant increase in online participation may have carried trade-offs with depth of engagement, the rate of progression to the high levels of the programme – calculated by dividing indicator 2.3 divided by indicator 2.1 – was 1%, higher than both the baseline (0.7%), and the target (0.6%), suggesting that depth of engagement actually improved towards the end of the programme.

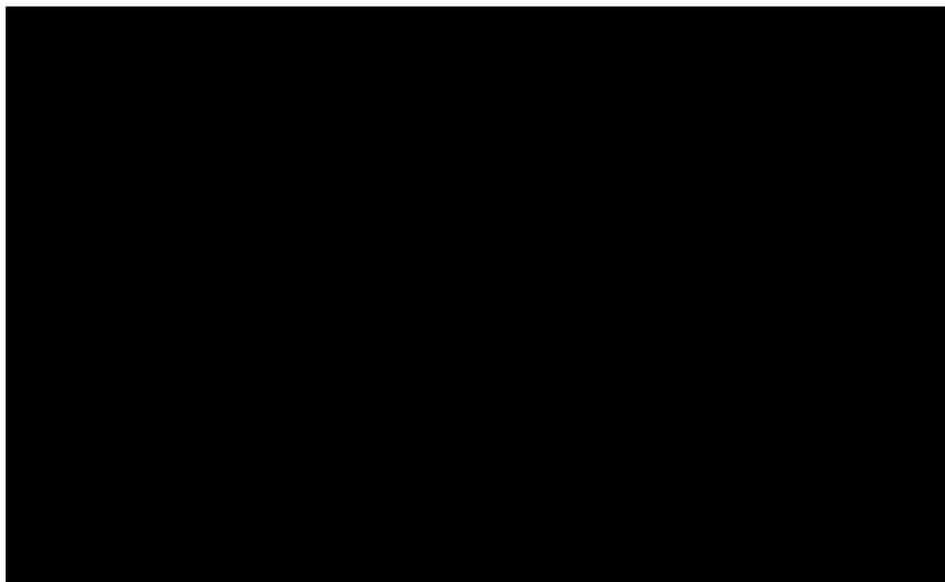
Gender inclusion was consistently strong, with female participation increasing across phases, and disability inclusion reported at 20% by one partner. The result for output 2.3 is encouraging, and reduces concerns around attrition rates for young people only completing the early levels of the programme, with almost 10,000 young people passing through to the 'advocacy champion' level. Overall, **this output scores an A++**, reflecting the progressive increase in ambition and results throughout the programme lifetime, and substantial improvement on the expectations set in the business case.

Case Study: Recycling for Empowerment – Girls Leading Plastic Action in Kenya

In Kenya, TTPC partnered with the Girl Guides Association to empower young women through environmental action. Among the standout leaders was ██████████, who trained girls in schools to recycle plastic waste into decorative items and household goods. Her initiative went beyond awareness-raising: the recycled products were sold to generate income, which was then used to purchase school uniforms for girls from low-income families.

This approach combined environmental stewardship with social empowerment, demonstrating how TTPC can catalyse change across multiple dimensions. ██████████'s work not only diverted plastic waste from landfills but also addressed barriers to education, particularly for girls in underserved communities. Her campaign inspired schools to form environmental clubs and integrate plastic awareness into their extracurricular activities.

Participation in TTPC enabled ██████████ and her peers to become community advocates, blending creativity, leadership and sustainability. Their story exemplifies the Champion Level of the challenge – mobilising communities and institutions to support solutions – and highlights the transformational potential of youth-led action. This case study reinforces TTPC's commitment to inclusive environmental education and demonstrates how young women are driving change at the intersection of climate action and gender equality.



Output 2.1 sought to measure the number of young people reached within the programme. The final target of 854,303 was greatly surpassed with 146,427 young people being reached in the last phase (5.3) alone, bringing the total number up to 945,730. The programme demonstrated strong performance in gender inclusion, with a consistent upward trajectory in female participation – from 51% in 2023 to 67% in the final phase. While disability inclusion was reported at 20% by one partner (WESSA), comprehensive disaggregation across all delivery partners remains limited. Reach was measured through registration and progression across TTPC's challenge levels (Entry, Leader, Champion). The challenge levels are designed to promote leadership development, broken down as follows:

- Entry Level: Awareness through toolkit and Plastic Literacy Test.
- Leader Level: Peer and institutional awareness-raising.
- Champion Level: Community mobilisation and advocacy.

However, the indicator focuses on registration rather than completion, which limits insight into sustained engagement. The programme's layered delivery model – leveraging schools, Scouts, Guides, and eco-clubs – was instrumental in achieving scale, particularly in India, which accounted for over half of global participants. Monitoring relied on UNEP's

registration data and partner reporting. While effective for tracking scale, future programming should strengthen data systems to capture progression, dropout rates, and inclusion metrics more consistently.

Output 2.2 measured the number of countries in which the TTPC programme is implemented. This output exceeded its target of 12, with TTPC implemented in 14 UK-funded ODA-eligible countries. The programme also expanded organically beyond the UK-funded cohort, with countries like Bhutan adopting the model independently. The strategic use of global youth networks (WAGGGs, WOSM) and national education systems facilitated rapid geographic expansion. The programme's ability to scale across diverse contexts, such as urban, rural and Indigenous, demonstrates strong adaptability.

Output 2.3 tracked the number of Advocacy Champions trained. An Advocacy Champion within the TTPC context is a young person who has:

- Completed structured environmental education and advocacy training.
- Taken on leadership roles in their communities or institutions.
- Led or participated in advocacy campaigns, community projects, or policy engagement efforts related to plastic pollution.
- Often progressed through TTPC's challenge levels (Entry, Leader, Champion, and Hero).

The term is used to describe youth who not only receive training, but actively apply their learning to influence environmental policy, behaviour, and awareness in their communities. It's a role that blends education, leadership, and activism. This output substantially exceeded its target, training nearly 10,000 Advocacy Champions – half of these in the final phase alone. These Champions played a pivotal role in community mobilisation, policy advocacy, and institutional change, leading clean-up drives, lobbying for plastic-free school policies, and initiating local recycling initiatives. The Oxford evaluation confirmed statistically significant gains in some measures of confidence, communication, and leadership among treated students. Champions acted as multipliers, reaching hundreds to thousands of community members, with some influencing local government and school policy. Gender inclusion was strong, with female champions often leading institutional uptake and household behaviour change. The proportion of young women trained as Advocacy Champions increased from 54% in Phase 5.2 to 59% in Phase 5.3.

Lessons learned through this output, and recommendations for future programming

The TTPC component of CHIPP demonstrated that large-scale youth mobilisation is achievable through strategic partnerships, layered delivery models, and cultural relevant engagement. There are a number of lessons learned and recommendations we can take from this output assessment.

- Inclusive design drives participation: TTPC's success in increasing female participation – from 51% to 67% - and engaging disabled youth - underscores the value of inclusive design. However, comprehensive disaggregation across all delivery partners was limited. Standardised data collection frameworks should be adopted to strengthen equity analysis and ensure consistent reporting on gender, disability, and other inclusion metrics.
- Registration is not a sufficient proxy for engagement: While registration data provided a useful measure of reach, it did not capture progression or sustained engagement. Future programmes should embed systems to track completion rates, dropout trends, and progression through challenge levels to better assess impact and retention.
- Youth networks enable scale: The use of existing youth networks (e.g. Scouts, Guides, eco-clubs) and integration into national education systems proved highly effective in scaling the programme. These networks provided trusted platforms for delivery and facilitated rapid uptake across diverse geographies. Delivery partners in many cases chose to expand delivery of the TTPC curriculum to new geographies, resulting in organic replication of the delivery model, increasing reach beyond the UK funded footprint. Future programmes should continue to leverage such networks while investing in capacity-building and localisation.
- Advocacy champions catalyse change: The concept of Advocacy Champions, youth who apply training to lead campaigns and influence policy, was central to TTPC's impact. Champions acted as multipliers, driving community mobilisation and institutional reform. Their success highlights the importance of combining education with leadership development and providing platforms for youth voice. Programmes should ensure that advocacy training is embedded early and supported with mentorship and recognition pathways.
- Qualitative impact is important: Quantitative indicators alone do not capture the full scope of TTPC's achievements. Case studies from India and Kenya illustrate how youth-led initiatives can result in policy change, community empowerment, and social innovation. Future MEL frameworks should incorporate qualitative methods – such as 'change' stories, peer-led evaluations, and participatory feedback – to capture these dimensions.

Output Number and Title	Output 3 – TTPC Tide Turners provides additional training and support to increase understanding of plastic pollution policy and sustainable livelihoods linked to the circular economy.		
Output Score	A+		
Impact weighting (%)	20%	Impact weighting revised since last AR?	No
Output Indicator	Starting Target	Final Logframe Target	Final Result Achieved
3.1: Number of training sessions organised by partner organisations	Not applicable, added for phase 5.2	216	337
3.2: Training on skills-based training on circular economy / waste management that can increase alternative livelihood outcomes	Not applicable, added for phase 5.2	16	26
3.3: Tide Turner Heroes engaged in 6-month policy training and mentorship (Captain Planet Foundation)	Not applicable, added for phase 5.2	50	121 Final phase: 52% Female 48% Male

Briefly describe the output's activities and achievements during its lifetime, and provide supporting narrative for the score.

This output reflects TTPC's work to deepen youth engagement through policy literacy, livelihood skills, and circular economy awareness. It delivered strong results across all three indicators, which were all exceeded. This output is assessed as A+.

Output 3.1 tracked the number of training sessions organised by partner organisations. A total of 337 sessions were delivered, significantly surpassing the target of 216. These sessions were implemented across 11 countries in the final phase alone – Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe – demonstrating the programme's wide geographic reach. Sessions covered a range of topics, including plastic pollution awareness, community engagement strategies, and local policy frameworks.

Output 3.2 This output was added later in the process in response to increased focus in Defra on activities that deliver direct poverty impact. And was focused on skills-based training linked to sustainable livelihoods. The programme delivered 26 livelihood-focused training against a target of 16. These trainings were tailored to local plastic pollution contexts and varied by geography. Themes included circular economy approaches, plastic alternatives, and effective waste management. The absence of a standardising training product allowed for flexibility and responsiveness to local needs. In several countries, youth were trained in cloth bag production, utensil libraries, and recycling entrepreneurship. These sessions were particularly impactful in low-income and rural communities, where they provided practical tools for income generation and environmental stewardship.

Output 3.3 measured the number of Tide Turner Heroes engaged in a six-month policy training and mentorship programme, delivered by Captain Planet Foundation. Some training was online and some virtual, and focused on more advanced policy training and advocacy, including engagement with multilateral environment negotiations. This indicator also significantly exceeded its target, with 121 youth leaders (52% female) completing the programme. Participants received structured mentorship, engaged in policy dialogues, and developed advocacy campaigns tailored to their local contexts. The programme was regionally diverse and included youth from Africa, South Asia, and Small Island Developing States. Feedback from participants indicated significant gains in confidence, policy literacy, and leadership capacity.

Overall, Output 3 added critical depth to TTPC's impact by moving beyond awareness-raising to equip youth with the tools to influence policy and pursue sustainable livelihoods. It demonstrated that when given the opportunity, young people can meaningfully engage in environmental governance and economic innovation. The strong performance across all indicators suggests high demand and relevance.

Lessons learned through this output, and recommendations for future programming

- **Deeper engagement for youth:** The high uptake of training sessions (337 delivered across 11 countries) and strong participation in the Captain Planet Foundation’s mentorship programme (121 youth leaders) highlight a clear appetite among young people for more advanced, action-oriented learning. This suggests that youth are not only eager to learn about plastic pollution but are also motivated to lead change through policy engagement and entrepreneurship. Future programming should develop a flexible but structured training framework that balances standardisation with contextual adaptability.
- **Contextual relevance through flexible approach:** The absence of a standardised training product for livelihood sessions allowed partners to tailor content to local plastic pollution challenges. This flexibility enabled the delivery of context-specific training on circular economy principles, plastic alternatives, and waste management. However, it also made comparative analysis and aggregation of outcomes more difficult. Future programmes should balance flexibility with a core curriculum framework to ensure consistency while allowing for localisation.
- **Leadership accelerated through mentorship:** The success of the Tide Turner Heroes programme, delivered by the Captain Planet Foundation, demonstrates the value of structured mentorship in building youth leadership. Participants reported increased confidence, policy literacy, and the ability to design and implement advocacy campaigns. This model of long-term engagement should be considered a core component of future youth-focused environmental programmes.

D: Value for Money

The CHIPP business case did not model monetised benefits of the programme, due to the lack of available input data and small size of the investment. Based on results data, we are also unable to monetise the benefits achieved by the programme, as there are no easily or immediately quantifiable environmental or income benefits. The business case estimated an additional 55,000 young people would be reached through the initiative, with 200 of those reaching the Level 4 Advocacy Champion stage, and 20 undertaking advanced advocacy training. As set out in the last section, all three of these estimates were exceeded.

Cost-Effectiveness

The CHIPP programme demonstrates good Value for Money (VfM) across the four Es – Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Equity – with particularly strong performance in equity. While the programme did not include VfM-specific indicators in its logframe, both the Oxford Impact Evaluation and the UNEP Internal Evaluation provide qualitative and quantitative evidence to support this assessment. The TTPC component reached nearly 976,000 youth across 14 countries, with a cost-per-beneficiary estimated at █████, representing strong economy and efficiency. █████ per participant is well below most youth environmental education programmes, with this cost-efficiency likely driven by digital delivery, working through partner organisations with existing youth networks, low or no equipment costs, and—for the majority of participants—awareness raising rather than in-depth capacity building. While a more targeted, higher-cost approach might have deepened individual capacity, the evidence suggests that the light-footprint, grassroots model was a highly cost-effective way to achieve behaviour change and shift attitudes at scale. Impact data and advocacy outcomes show that this broad-based engagement not only met its objectives but also generated unintended benefits, such as youth-led campaigns influencing school policies and community practices, demonstrating that large-scale awareness can catalyse systemic change beyond what was anticipated.

The INC component enabled participation of 1,287 delegates from 127 ODA-eligible countries across six INC sessions, multiple intersessional meetings, alongside 12 regional consultations and 20 leadership figures supported for Bureau meetings. Defra’s contribution of £2.2m was pooled with co-financing from other donors, significantly extending the reach of travel support and ensuring inclusivity.

Economy

Economy considers whether the inputs required for a project are being procured at the best price. Both contributions are paid via UNEP, and Defra’s funding is received, managed, disbursed, accounted for and audited in accordance with the applicable Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The assurance and oversight on the use of the resources of the donors is undertaken by independent internal and external oversight bodies.

- TTPC was delivered primarily through existing youth networks (e.g. Scouts, Guides, schools), reducing overheads and leveraging in-kind support.
- Digital platforms and virtual delivery models helped minimise input costs, though accessibility varied by geography, with online participation strongest in India.
- Defra and UNEP kept costs down by avoiding duplication and using established delivery chains. No major capital investments or international travel were required.

- [REDACTED]
- For INC, cost-efficiency was achieved through economy-class travel, UN procurement rules, and scheduling regional consultations back-to-back with other meetings to reduce venue and logistics costs. In practice, no other supplier than the INC secretariat could deliver Defra funding to provide direct support to negotiation delegates.

Efficiency

Efficiency relates to how well inputs are converted into outputs, i.e. 'spending well'.

- The programme achieved a low cost-per-beneficiary and scaled rapidly across geographies.
- INC efficiency was strengthened by pooling donor finance, enabling broader participation than UK funds alone could support. The Secretariat also implemented cost-effective travel arrangements and logistical synergies, such as hosting consultations at UNEP regional offices.
- TTPC exceeded most output targets, including youth reach, training sessions, and leadership development. The original business case targets for core outputs were in some cases dramatically exceeded, despite no uplift in budget. A six month no-cost extension was agreed to reduce pressure on partners which helped facilitate this over-performance.

Effectiveness

Effectiveness relates to how well the outputs are achieving the desired outcomes and impacts. The programme met or exceeded its outcome targets, as set out in Sections B, alongside the impacts results and challenges.

- TTPC exceeded outcomes targets on the number of participants who went to other advocacy and leadership activities, including representation at events, community advocacy campaigns and 'success stories'.
- The Oxford evaluation confirmed statistically significant behaviour change improvements in:
 - Environmental awareness (+23%)
 - Use of reusable bags (+41%)
 - Household recycling (+55%)
- INC delivered on its core objective of inclusivity: 87% of delegates supported were ODA-eligible and survey feedback shows over 90% of participants felt consultations improved understanding of negotiation issues. While the treaty text was not finalised during INC-5.2, the inclusive process strengthened negotiating capacity and credibility. UK funding was ringfenced for ODA-eligible countries only.

Equity

Equity assesses the degree to which the results of the intervention – both positive and negative – are equitably distributed, with consideration of different vulnerable groups in the population such as women and girls, those whose livelihoods are most at risk, and the young and elderly.

- TTPC was recognised as GEDSI Transformative, with strong inclusion of girls, disabled youth, and rural communities.
- Disaggregated data shows:
 - ~62% of participants were female
 - ~20% of participants had disabilities, based on WESSA data. The overall programme total was likely significantly lower, as WESSA only delivered towards the end of the programme with a set of activities taking a more targeted approach to disability.
- Inclusion was embedded through offline materials, local language delivery, and culturally relevant engagement (e.g. folk theatre, temple partnerships, disability-sensitive educational materials)
- Targeting of marginalised groups varied by partner and geography, with India partners delivering work on rural and indigenous, and disabled youths. The approach was more varied and less direct in African countries, except South Africa.
- INC promoted gender balance in negotiations, with women comprising 44% of ODA-supported delegates at INC-5.2, and supported participation from all four eligible UN regional groups.

Lessons and Recommendations

- VfM indicators should be embedded early in programme MEL frameworks to enable more robust quantitative assessment.
- Disaggregated data collection should be standardised across partnerships to strengthen equity analysis.
- Digital tools require further investment to ensure accessibility and functionality across diverse contexts.

E: Risk

Overview of programme risk during the past year and over the life of the programme, drawing on Defra's Risk Management Policy and wider risk guidance.

Risk management has evolved significantly over the programme's delivery period. From inception, the programme acknowledged the inherent risks of working in complex international and youth-focused contexts. However, the original business case rated overall programme risk as **Low (RPA)** as a result of the small scale of the programme and low perceived impact, but this masked some of the delivery and safeguarding challenges that later emerged from the novel delivery model for Defra. Initially constrained by frequent turnover in Defra programme management, risk oversight was inconsistent, and engagement with delivery partners was *ad hoc*. However, following the appointment of a dedicated programme manager in mid-2024, risk governance was strengthened, with monthly steering meetings and standing agenda items on safeguarding and risk prioritised. The programme's risk appetite was set in line with Defra's ODA Risk Management Policy and reflects the programme's ambition to support innovative and inclusive programming, while recognising the need for strong controls in sensitive areas.

Risk Category	CHIPP Risk Appetite
Strategic and Context	Open
Delivery and Operational	Cautious
Financial and Fiduciary	Cautious
Project / Programme	Open
Reputational	Cautious
Safeguarding	Cautious

Risk Exposure and Trends

Over the past year, the programme has made progress in bringing several risks within appetite:

- Safeguarding:** Initially rated high due to limited oversight and opaque delivery chains, this risk was managed through a Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) risk assessment, delivery chain mapping, and monthly reporting. Residual risk is now medium and trending downward. The delivery chain mapping exercise helped clarify the reality of youth engagement within the Tide Turners component. Rather than direct contact with children, the programme operates through a 'train-the-trainers' model, where delivery partners train educators who then implement the programme within formal school settings. UNEP conducted an audit of partner policies, training and reporting process to ensure they were up to date. As a result, frequency of staff training was increased and UNEP established a new dedicated reporting mechanism to offer an alternate route to partner mechanisms. These changes significantly reduced direct safeguarding risk. However, downstream risk remains, including where delivery relies on national education systems, such as India, which operate outside Defra's remit and have their own safeguarding mechanisms. While this decentralised model lowers programme-level exposure, it underscores the importance of understanding and evidencing how safeguarding policies are applied in local contexts, especially when working through third-party institutions.
- Operational Delays:** Risks linked to delayed annual review and programme resourcing were resolved through improved governance and revised staffing allocations, bringing residual risk to low.
- Financial Assurance:** Due diligence gaps were addressed via a fraud risk assessment and assurance requests to UNEP, reducing residual risk to low. The programme team connected to Defra's Central Assurance Assessment of UNEP.

However, some strategic risks have persisted or increased:

- INC negotiation extension:** The most significant strategic risk to the INC component materialised in August 2025 when the INC process adjourned without agreement on a final treaty text. Substantive negotiations are to resume at a later date. This outcome has extended the negotiation timeline beyond CHIPP's lifespan, creating uncertainty around the long-term impact of Defra's investment. While the programme successfully supported inclusive participation and capacity-building – evidenced by high delegate attendance and positive feedback – the absence of a treaty outcome limits the ability to demonstrate direct policy influence or institutional change. This risk was compounded by negotiation dynamics and geopolitical tensions that disrupted consensus-building. The programme's design did not anticipate such a prolonged negotiation process, highlighting the need for contingency planning in treaty-linked programming. It is important to note

that this risk was linked to factors beyond Defra or the delivery partner's control and that a lack of treaty agreement does not diminish the value of delegate attendance at each respective session.

- **Impact attribution and reporting framework:** Challenges in evidencing programme impact and value for money persist due to the long-term nature of anticipated benefits and inconsistency in the logframe and theory of change throughout the programme's lifespan. The TTPC component, while demonstrating strong results in India, lacked baseline data and consistent disaggregation across geographies, limiting generalisability. The absence of a unified MEL framework for much of the programme's lifespan further compounded this risk. As discussed in Sections A and B, in the final 6 months of the programme this risk was reduced significantly following the two evaluations conducted for the Tide Turners component.

While most risks are now within appetite, the programme operated **outside appetite for safeguarding** during the first part of the review period. This was due to limited oversight and reporting mechanisms in the TTPC component. The team responded by:

- Conducting a SEAH risk assessment.
- Requiring monthly safeguarding updates from UNEP.
- UNEP establishing a new SEAH reporting mechanism
- Mapping the delivery chain to identify high-risk areas.
- Strengthening reporting and audit training across partners.

Partner Due Diligence and Risk Response

Due diligence on UNEP, the tier-one delivery partner, revealed gaps due to the last central assessment being conducted in 2019. The team responded by:

- Linking with Defra's Central Assurance Assessment of UNEP,
- Requesting evidence of UNEP's due diligence processes for downstream partners.
- Conducting a fraud risk assessment and strengthening financial controls.

Tide Turners have demonstrated strong cooperation, transparency and willingness to strengthen safeguarding and financial assurance mechanisms. The programme team have shared feedback on working with UNEP with other UNEP-led Defra ODA programmes, such as the Sustainable Cooling Programme.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- **Safeguarding must be prioritised early** in programme design, especially when working with youth and marginalised groups. The programme's experience shows that assumptions of low risk can lead to gaps in oversight. Understanding the delivery chain and what it means in practice is crucial for setting risk appetite – this can be strengthened by in-person site visits and early engagement with SEAH Safeguarding expertise.
- **Risk appetite should be reviewed annually** and aligned with delivery realities. The initial low RPA rating did not reflect some aspects of the complexity of CHIPP's delivery model.
- **Exit strategies should be embedded from the outset**, with clear sustainability pathways and funding plans. While the programme made progress in its final year, earlier planning would have strengthened long-term impact.
- **Multilateral negotiation support requires tailored risk management frameworks.** Applying standard ODA programme tools, such as rigid KPIs, compliance frameworks, and logframe structures – to multilateral treaty processes can create misalignment and delivery strain. The failure of the INC to reach a treaty agreement within the programme's lifespan exposed the limitations of conventional risk planning, which did not account for the unpredictability of international diplomacy. Future programmes should adopt flexible, light-touch risk management approaches that reflect the unique characteristics of multilateral engagement, including pooled funding, diplomatic timelines, and consensus-based outcomes. Risk frameworks should prioritise adaptive planning, qualitative measures of influence, and early scenario mapping for treaty delays or partial outcomes.

F: Programme Management: Commercial and Financial Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

Over the course of CHIPP's lifecycle, Defra has sought to raise the profile and strengthen the integration of GEDSI across its ODA portfolio. The establishment of the Social Development Unit supported increased capacity and capability in this area through GEDSI-specific assessments, guidance and training. CHIPP was Defra's only marine

programme recognised as GEDSI Transformative in the 2023 internal audit of Defra's ODA portfolio. This designation – reserved for programmes that actively address unequal power relationships and seek institutional and societal change – reflected CHIPP's core purpose of championing inclusivity and improving outcomes for marginalised groups. The INC component contributed to this ambition by prioritising ODA-eligible countries and encouraging gender-balanced delegations. Survey feedback from regional consultations indicated that over 90% of participants felt better prepared for negotiations, with delegates highlighting the value of the inclusive format and co-facilitation approach in informal spaces for confidence-building and networking.

The TTPC component was important in achieving the programme's GEDSI Transformative status with its unique focus on youth-led environmental advocacy and inclusive engagement across gender, geography, and ability. TTPC was unique in that the programme was designed from inception to empower young people as agents of change, and its delivery model – combining formal education, non-formal networks, and community-based action – enabled broad participation. The TTPC evaluations found that the programme consistently reached diverse youth cohorts, including girls and young women, people with disabilities, and rural and indigenous communities. These groups not only participated but often led advocacy campaigns, clean-up drives, and institutional reforms, demonstrating TTPC's capacity to catalyse structural change when embedded locally.

Defra and UNEP worked closely to strengthen GEDSI integration, including through delivery chain mapping, safeguarding assessments, and targeted outreach to underrepresented groups. The last AR recommended improved disaggregation of people-focused indicators and more consistent reporting on disability and socioeconomic inclusion. In response, UNEP and delivery partners reviewed their data systems and began collecting more detailed demographic data. Although the programme logframe did not include GEDSI-specific indicators, disaggregated data was provided during the PCR process. Across TTPC's final phase, approximately 62% of participants were female and activities from some partners specifically targeted disabled groups, with the availability of disaggregated data on disability improving towards the end of the programme. The evaluations both found that TTPC was particularly effective in engaging girls and young women, who frequently led advocacy campaigns, community clean-ups, and institutional change initiatives. In India, female participants were instrumental in lobbying for plastic-free school policies and implementing waste segregation systems.

The evaluations also highlighted TTPC's efforts to reach rural, Indigenous and disabled youth, though access and outcomes varied. Rural participants often faced barriers such as poor internet connectivity, limited devices, and weaker institutional support. Despite this, they demonstrated strong community integration, using culturally relevant methods such as folk theatre, temple partnerships, and local language outreach. TTPC materials were adapted for visually impaired youth (e.g. braille and tactile tools), and Deaf College Africa supported content delivery for hearing-impaired participants. However, digital platforms posed accessibility challenges, and disability inclusion was not consistently tracked across all delivery partners. Intersectionality was a core strength of TTPC. The programme reached youth from diverse backgrounds, including tribal communities, informal sector workers, and young people with limited formal education. This strong GEDSI performance, including the targeted approach on disability, demonstrates UNEP's adaptability to changing donor priorities.

SEAH Safeguarding was a key area of risk during TTPC's delivery, particularly given the decentralised delivery model and limited oversight in early phases. Defra and UNEP responded by conducting a SEAH risk assessment, strengthening reporting mechanisms, and mapping the delivery chain. However, downstream risks remained, especially in contexts where national education systems operated outside Defra's remit.

In May 2025, CHIPP convened a dedicated GEDSI Workshop to strengthen inclusive practice across the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge. The workshop brought together youth leaders, educators, policymakers, and gender specialists to identify barriers to participation and co-develop strategies for more equitable engagement. Key outcomes included recommendations for adaptive learning materials, inclusive leadership pathways, and a monitoring framework to track participation by gender and disability. These insights sought to inform TTPC's final phase and to support regional replication in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan. Following this, the Tide Turners team presented to Defra's GEDSI champions network on the outcomes of this work, and on the evaluation approach taken for the programme.

Case study: 'No Barriers to Plastics Action' – Partnerships with Institutions of People with Disabilities for Inclusive Environmental Awareness Raising in India

In India, TTPC partnered with ██████████ in Lucknow, ██████████ ██████████ in Ahmedabad, and ██████████ in Delhi – an all-women institution committed to ensuring that blindness does not limit a woman's aspirations or potential.

Through tactile learning and adapted materials, visually impaired students were introduced to the environmental impacts of plastic pollution. Activities included 'Touch and Feel' sessions to distinguish single-use plastics (SUPs) from reusable items, identify plastic grades by texture, and interpret Grade Cycle Marks. These innovations enabled students to engage meaningfully with environmental concepts, despite visual impairments. In parallel, TTPC worked with a school for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in Lucknow, where teachers were trained to use sign language to communicate key messages about plastic pollution. This ensured that hearing-impaired youth could participate fully in awareness activities and advocacy efforts.

Intersectionality was central to TTPC's approach. The programme recognised that disability intersects with gender, geography, and socioeconomic status, and tailored its delivery accordingly. For example, colour-coded bins posed challenges for visually impaired students, but they overcame these barriers through peer support and community collaboration. Cloth bags and reusable bottles were adopted in on-campus cafes, and waste was responsibly segregated before disposal. These engagements catalysed youth-led advocacy. Participants pledged to "refuse single-use plastics", educated peers and community members, and initiated structural changes in their institutions. The NAB Centre's students, for instance, led awareness campaigns and waste audits, demonstrating that environmental action can be inclusive and empowering.

Participation in TTPC planted the seeds of sustainable thinking among young women and disabled youth. They now envision a future where environmental awareness is inclusive, community-driven, and rooted in shared responsibility. This case study highlights TTPC's success in embedding GEDSI principles into environmental education, demonstrating that inclusive design not only improves access but also strengthens outcomes. It reinforces the importance of intersectional approaches in future programming and the need to co-create solutions with marginalised groups to ensure relevance, dignity and impact.



Poverty Reduction

Both components contribute in distinct and complementary ways to addressing poverty-related challenges, particularly through enabling environments and social co-benefits from grassroots community organisation. The business case acknowledged that poverty reduction would be a 'moderate indirect outcome' of this programme, and that in some locations there would be economic benefits as a result of skills development and improved engagement

in the circular economy from the youth community. However, in response to increased prioritisation on direct and measurable poverty work in Defra, UNEP expanded livelihoods work for phases 5.2 and 5.3.

TTPC's contribution to poverty reduction is most tangible through its integration of livelihoods-focused activities into its youth environmental education model. In India and several African countries, TTPC partners have delivered skills-based training on circular economy and waste management, equipping young people and rural communities with practical tools to reduce reliance on single-use plastics while generating alternative income streams. Initiatives such as Bartan Banks (reusable utensil libraries), cloth bag production units, and life jacket manufacturing from recycled materials have created local employment opportunities and enhanced community resilience, particularly in underserved areas.

The evaluations found that these activities, while still nascent and geographically limited, are highly valued by communities and have disproportionately benefited women and girls, especially in informal sectors. TTPC's adaptive management – such as its shift to online delivery during COVID-19 and its increased focus on reaching disabled and rural youth – demonstrated an awareness of poverty-related barriers to participation.

Poverty outcomes, while not directly measured in the programme's logframe, are supported by case studies and impact data. For example, the Oxford evaluation found statistically significant improvements in behaviours such as increased confidence, leadership skills, and community engagement – factors that could contribute to long-term economic empowerment.

However, the programme lacked a robust framework for systematically measuring poverty impact. The business case did not include quantified poverty-related benefits, and the logframe does not contain indicators that directly track changes in income, employment, or economic resilience, despite there being initiative towards tackling poverty-related aims such as livelihoods, climate resilience, and social inclusion/marginalisation. However, the programme demonstrated that inclusive environmental governance and youth-led advocacy can catalyse community-level change with economic co-benefits. Future programming should build on these foundations by integrating poverty-focused indicators and ensuring that livelihood interventions are designed with sustainability and scalability in mind.

The INC component's contribution to poverty reduction is indirect but important. By supporting the participation of ODA-eligible country delegates in plastics treaty negotiations, it ensured that the perspectives of low- and lower-middle-income countries were represented in shaping the future international framework on plastic pollution. This is critical, as plastic pollution disproportionately affects poorer communities, especially those with limited waste management infrastructure.

Although the treaty was not agreed within the CHIPP programme's lifespan, Defra's funding enabled regional consultations and travel support that significantly strengthened institutional capacity. These efforts laid the groundwork for more inclusive and effective treaty negotiations, which could ultimately support poverty alleviation through improved waste systems, reduced health risks, and sustainable livelihoods. Future programming should build on these foundations by integrating poverty-focused indicators and ensuring that livelihood interventions are designed for sustainability, scalability, and market relevance.

Defra's funding enabled regional consultations that built institutional capacity among negotiators from the Global South. Survey data from these sessions indicated that over 90% of participants felt better prepared to engage in the INC process, and many noted that the consultations helped clarify regional priorities and foster collaboration. These outcomes contribute to more equitable and effective treaty negotiations, which in turn can support long-term poverty reduction through environmental justice and access to international support mechanisms.

UNEP Performance

UNEP, as the lead delivery partner for both CHIPP components (Tide Turners Plastic Challenge and INC Secretariat), was responsive and transparent throughout the review period. TTPC partners submitted regular reports and met or exceeded most output targets, including youth reach and long-term training programmes. UNEP was proactive in engaging with Defra on safeguarding, agreeing to strengthen SEAH risk management and delivery chain mapping. They also responded positively to requests to review the programme logframe and improve reporting frameworks, and explore options on programme sustainability.

The Oxford evaluation highlighted UNEP's collaborative approach with delivery partners, particularly in India, where joint planning and site visits contributed to effective delivery. UNEP's lean programme management structure was generally effective. However, limitations included:

- **Inconsistent baselining and target setting** across TTPC indicators through the phases of the programme.
- **Delayed submission** of the second INC performance report [REDACTED]

- **Lack of a unified programme logframe** for a large portion of the programme's lifespan, making outcome and impact assessment difficult, and the challenges in creating a single MEL framework for a programme with two different components, as discussed in Section A, Lessons and Recommendations.

Despite these limitations, UNEP showed a strong commitment to learning and adaptation, and maintained a constructive relationship with Defra and delivery partners throughout.

Defra Performance

Defra played a central role in shaping CHIPP's strategic direction. The department provided consistent funding across multiple phases of TTPC and supported the expansion of the programme's scope to include livelihoods, safeguarding and GEDSI.

However, Defra's performance in managing the programme was mixed, largely due to frequent staff turnover and resourcing constraints. These led to:

- **Delayed annual review** [REDACTED]
- **Irregular meetings** with delivery partners during significant periods of the programme lifetime.
- **Changing expectations** and inconsistent risk and delivery monitoring.
- **Limited oversight** of risk and safeguarding, especially in TTPC's educational delivery model.

These issues limited Defra's ability to provide strategic continuity, monitor progress, and respond to emerging risks. The lack of a coherent monitoring framework and delayed logframe development further compounded these challenges.

Improvements were made in the final year:

- A new programme manager and SRO was appointed.
- Monthly meetings with UNEP were established, with standing agenda items on safeguarding, risk, and financial updates.
- The programme management team took on managing the INC component from the International Marine Division to ensure it was managed more closely in line with the ODA operating framework.
- Defra began strengthening SEAH oversight and connected with Defra's Central Assurance Assessment on UNEP.

Future programme would benefit from earlier investment in programme governance, continuity in staffing, and proactive risk management – particularly when working with vulnerable groups and complex delivery chains.

Commercial and Financial Issues

UNEP's financial management across both CHIPP components was broadly sound and compliant with UN procurement and audit standards. For TTPC, quarterly delivery reports were submitted on time, and all disbursements were completed as planned. The cost-per-beneficiary remains low – estimated at [REDACTED] for nearly one million youth participants – suggesting good economy and efficiency. Tier 2 partners were subject to due diligence and monthly financial reporting, and UNEP demonstrated flexibility in adjusting funding based on performance.

The INC Secretariat also met key financial reporting obligations, including submission of audited statements. However, one performance report was delayed [REDACTED]. While Defra's funding was earmarked for ODA-eligible activities, the pooled nature of donor contributions made it difficult to attribute specific results to UK support. [REDACTED]

Asset monitoring was not relevant due to the nature of programme activities, and no fraud cases were reported. A Central Assurance Assessment of UNEP was conducted to strengthen oversight. Overall, while financial processes were robust, the lack of benefit modelling in the business case and attribution data constrained deeper value-for-money analysis.

Lessons and Recommendations for Future Programming

Lessons are summarised in section A. CHIPP's delivery experience offers several important lessons for future Defra ODA programmes. First, the absence of a unified logframe and theory of change across the two components for the majority of the programme's lifespan significantly hindered Defra's ability to assess impact and value for money. Future programmes should ensure that monitoring frameworks are finalised before delivery begins, with clear causal pathways and realistic, disaggregated targets.

Second, safeguarding and risk management must be prioritised from the outset – especially in programmes involving youth or educational contexts. Defra's oversight of SEAH risks in TTPC was limited, and while UNEP's global policies

were strong, their application at national levels requires closer scrutiny. Delivery chain mapping and monthly safeguarding updates should be standard practice.

Third, Defra’s internal performance was affected by staff turnover and inconsistent engagement with delivery partners. Regular meetings, clear reporting expectations, and structured handovers are essential to maintain continuity and accountability.

Finally, CHIPP’s recognition as GEDSI transformative programme highlights the value of inclusive design. Defra should capture and share learning from CHIPP’s success in youth empowerment and gender inclusion and ensure that future programmes build on this foundation with consistent documentation, disaggregated data, and rights-based approaches.

Programme-level approach to monitoring and evaluation

CHIPP’s monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach evolved significantly over the programme’s lifespan. At inception, the programme lacked a unified logframe aligned with ODA standards and did not establish baseline data or counterfactuals to support robust impact assessment. While some baseline data was available from earlier Tide Turners funding phases, this was not systematically integrated into the CHIPP framework.

Major changes were made to the logframe ahead of the 2024/25 Annual Review, covering phases 5.2 and 5.3. These changes - summarised in Section B - strengthened coherence across the two programme components and introduced more realistic and disaggregated indicators. Risk management improvements were implemented in parallel, including enhanced safeguarding oversight and delivery chain mapping.

A full Theory of Change (ToC) refresh was not prioritised due to the programme’s relatively low value and short duration. However, evaluators conducted a light-touch review and found the original ToC remained broadly valid, with no major deviations from the intended causal pathways.

Two evaluations were commissioned for the Tide Turners component and their findings are integrated throughout this review. The first was a quasi-experimental randomised control trial study conducted in India, using a difference-in-differences (DiD) methodology to assess behaviour change. The second was a conventional impact evaluation applying OECD DAC criteria across multiple geographies. Together, these evaluations provided a comprehensive view of the programme’s outcomes and impact, which were generally very positive and reflect the strong output performance.

As discussed in Section A, future programmes would benefit from embedding M&E frameworks from the outset, with clear baselines, unified logframes, and consistent data collection standards to support more rigorous assessment and learning.

Date of last narrative financial report	INC: 23/10/2025 TTPC: 23/10/2025	Date of last audited annual statement	INC: 6/1/2026 TTPC: 29/10/2025
---	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

**Championing Inclusivity in Plastic Pollution (CHIPP)
2024/25 Programme Closure Review Terms of Reference**

Lifetime value: £3,800,000

Delivery Partner: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Introduction and Background

At the end of the programme cycle, Defra conducts a Programme Completion Review (PCR) to confirm the progress against the objectives set out in the business case. The PCR is an opportunity to reflect on the entire programme, its performance, achievements, lessons and how learning has and will continue to be shared to inform future programming.

Championing Inclusivity in Plastic Pollution (CHIPP) comprises two components: (1) £1.6m support for the UNEP's Tide Turners Plastic Challenge (TTPC) and (2) £2.2m funding the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) Secretariat to support inclusive participation of ODA-eligible country negotiators in the agreement of a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. CHIPP's overall objective is to foster an inclusive approach to tackling plastic pollution at all levels in ODA-eligible countries, from community to international action. Given the INC funding is an MEA contribution predominantly for travel assistance for the INC process, the review will focus in greater detail on the TTPC contribution.

Two evaluations are in process for the TTPC component. One, delivered by Oxford University in partnership the ATREE Foundation, focuses specifically on behaviour change outcomes from delivery in India. The other, delivered by a consultant, will assess impact, process and value for money for the programme more widely, in coordination with the Oxford evaluation.

Note on review timelines

The CHIPP business case was approved in December 2022. Due to frequent turnover in programme managers, the programme team received approval to lengthen the period covered by each AR to bring the programme under Prof compliance in a manner proportionate to the size of the programme. The full context for these extensions is set out in request forms approved by the Director for International Biodiversity and Climate.

<i>AR/PCR</i>			<i>Delivered</i>	<i>Score</i>
<i>FY 23/24</i>			<i>September 2024</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>FY 24/25</i>	<i>May 2024 – September 2025</i>	<i>December 2025</i>		

Output

One PCR document completed according to the Defra template. The length of the PCR will be proportionate to the delivery period and value of the programme. It will also encompass the final AR (May 2024 – September 2025) as per table above.

Objectives of the review

- Assess progress achieved since inception (when the Business Case was agreed) against the objectives and critical success factors set out in the business case, including an assessment of the quality of progress
- Assess and score the project's progress during the last year, and over the lifetime (Business Case delivery 2022-2025), against the outputs and outcomes in the logframe and final partner reporting due September 2025, including a consideration of assumptions and risks
- Reflect on the theory of change (ToC) and evidence across its casual pathways, including in relation to assumptions and risks, considering available qualitative and quantitative evidence, including from the TTPC evaluations
- Review the performance of downstream project partners, with UNEP underpinning focus across the report, including financial management and delivery effectiveness
- Assess programme value for money (VfM), including an assessment against the expected benefits outlined in the business case
- Assess how Defra and UNEP have managed risks across the programme lifetime
- Identification of key challenges or barriers to success and how the programme adapted to changes in context

			<p>What was the overall score for the programme's outputs for the review year, and lifetime outcomes? How was this review conducted?</p>	
Theory of Change and Outcome Assessment			<p>To what extent were the intended outcomes and impacts set out in the business case achieved? Does the evidence suggest the results will be sustainable? Was the theory of change accurate? Consider causal pathways, assumptions, risks. Reflect on the changes to the results framework over the programme lifetime. Reflect on the GEDSI transformative categorisation and explore the GEDSI-linked learnings and evidence the programme has generated. Who benefitted from the programme? Can we illustrate with case studies?</p>	<p>Consider logframe data for outcomes and impact and whether targets were met and compare these against the expectations set in the business case. Use the evaluation and qualitative partner reporting to dig deeper into the results, provide case studies and consider sustainability. Assess the theories of change for INC and TTPC and accompanying narrative set out in the business case, and compare this with reporting, evaluation and programme manager/ delivery partner reflections to review causal pathways and assumptions, and implications for sustained impact. Review the logframe changes in 2024 and consider lessons resulting from the broader management of results across both components, again drawing on programme manager and delivery partner reflections.</p>
Detailed Output Assessment			<p>Did the programme's outputs meet expectations for the final year? How did outputs perform over the programme lifetime, and how were they adapted from what was envisioned in the business case? What lessons and case studies can be drawn out from specific outputs?</p>	<p>Review logframe data and consider progress in the previous annual review, against the expectations set out in the business case Draw on reporting and programme manager/ delivery partner discussion to consider how output lessons have been implemented Draw on the evaluations and partner reports to highlight case studies</p>
Value for Money			<p>Did the programme deliver the benefits set out in the business case? Provide a 5Es assessment of programme value for money, considering the past year and programme lifetime. What lessons can be drawn on how Defra incorporates Value for Money considerations into different stages of the programme cycle? How did the programme respond to challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic? What lessons can be learned from this?</p>	<p>Draw on the logframe results, benefits assessment in the business case and relevant quantitative data from the evaluations to consider a final BCR and comparison with BC expected benefits. Use evidence above to inform 5Es assessment, guided by ISBF evidence team VFM guiding questions Use qualitative reporting (final reports, evaluation) to expand and give examples</p>
Risk			<p>How was risk and risk appetite managed over the programme lifetime? Consider each Defra risk category with particular attention to SEAH and fraud risks. Were the risks envisioned in the business case accurate? How did risk management adapt to changing contexts?</p>	<p>Consider the risk register, previous annual review and feedback from delivery partner and programme manager to give an assessment of risk governance across the programme lifetime. Review the SEAH action plan to consider how TTPC in particular adapted to strengthen understanding and mitigations for SEAH risks Using the register, FRA and discussions with risk owners, review if any fraud</p>

				incidents were reported across the programme lifetime, and if not why not.
Programme Management			<p>Did delivery partner performance meet expectations?</p> <p>Did Defra's performance meet expectations?</p> <p>How was monitoring, evaluation and learning managed throughout the programme lifetime?</p> <p>What is the plan for securing financial sustainability after Defra support ends? What actions have been taken to ensure a sustainable exit?</p> <p>How will the programme disseminate learning and recommendations from the programme?</p>	<p>Request feedback from the delivery partner on Defra's performance and management over the programme lifetime.</p> <p>Use discussions with the Defra programme team to assess partner performance.</p> <p>Look back at the last annual review, logframe change log and discussions with delivery partner to consider how MEL has been managed.</p>

Annex B: Logframe changes

	Change	Reason
1. Structural changes		
1.1	Combined separate INC and TTPC logframes into a single unified framework	To improve coherence and simplify reporting across the two components of the CHIPP programme.
1.2	Adjusted reporting cycles to align with programme phases: TTPC phases (5.1 June 2023; 5.2 Jul 2023-Mar 2024; 5.3 Apr-Sept 2025); INC phases aligned to negotiation sessions.	To reflect different delivery timelines and ensure reporting is phase-appropriate for each component.
1.3	Added placeholder for INC5.2 results. No data expected due to lack of agreement at session.	To maintain consistency in reporting structure while acknowledging that no treaty agreement was reached during INC5.2.
1.4	Introduced baselines for output and outcome indicators using data from phases 1–4 where available.	To enable more meaningful assessment of progress and support retrospective analysis.
2. Impact Indicators		
2.1	Revised INC impact statement to emphasise UK support for inclusive treaty development.	To better reflect the UK's strategic objective of supporting inclusive participation in the treaty process.
2.2	Added new INC impact indicator: % of ODA-eligible countries that agree/sign the final treaty text.	To provide a measurable indicator of inclusivity and treaty adoption among target countries.
2.3	Updated and expanded assumptions for both INC and TTPC impact indicators.	To clarify the logic underpinning the indicators and improve transparency in reporting.
2.4	Added TTPC impact statement focused on youth understanding, advocacy capacity, and leadership (India case study).	To align with the programme's strategic focus on youth empowerment and inclusive environmental action.
2.5	Reclassified two TTPC indicators from long-term outcomes to impact level: % of youth reporting better understanding (target: 70%) and % reporting behaviour change (target: 60%).	To reflect their relevance as impact-level measures and align with findings from the Oxford evaluation.
3. Outcome Indicators		
3.1	Outcome 1.1: Added baseline for ODA attendance at INC-1; adjusted targets for INC-4 and INC-5 to 90% (from 100%) based on feasibility; clarified methodology and added disaggregation.	To improve realism of targets and enhance data quality and comparability.
3.2	Removed INC outcome 1.2, replaced with tracking of parallel meetings held at INC sessions.	Original indicator was not clearly linked to outcome logic; new measure better reflects negotiation dynamics.

3.3	Outcome 3.1: Clarified definitions of 'events'; revised phase 5.3 target upward based on strong phase 5.2 performance; added geographic disaggregation.	To improve consistency in reporting and reflect programme momentum.
3.4	Outcome 3.2: Revised phase 5.3 target upward; added disaggregation by geography and type (advocacy vs. community project).	To capture the diversity of youth-led initiatives and improve equity analysis.
4. Output Indicators		
4.1	Output 1.1: Added baseline for ODA attendance at INC-1.	To enable tracking of progress from pre-intervention levels.
4.2	Output 1.3: Added disaggregation by region and gender.	To improve equity analysis and support GESI reporting.
4.3	Output 1.4: Updated indicator to reflect support for participation in INC bureau meetings rather than leadership training; added disaggregation.	To reflect the actual nature of support provided and improve clarity.
4.4	Output 2.1: Added disaggregation by challenge level progression.	To better understand participant engagement and progression through TTPC levels.
4.5	Output 2.2: Added disaggregation by funding source (UK, GEF, self-adopted).	To distinguish between different delivery modalities and funding streams.
4.6	Removed TTPC output on Tide Turners app development due to underperformance and limited uptake.	The app did not meet expectations and was not widely adopted; removing the indicator reflects delivery reality.