



Insight Brief:

Trends in Country Priorities and Partner Support Across the NDC Partnership 2021–2025 Work Program

NOVEMBER 2025

About This Insight Brief

Insight briefs are analyses developed by the NDC Partnership's Support Unit, members, or its partner institutions to share insights based on requests received by countries and the support provided by the NDC Partnership. This insight brief presents trends in country requests for support across the NDC Partnership from 2021–2025, providing a clear picture of countries' support needs and patterns in partner responses. The information it contains can inform discussions on emerging country priorities and help scale support for countries as they implement their NDCs.

Contents

1	Introduction	4
2	Overview of Country Requests and Partner Support, 2021–2025	6
	Requests and Support by Sector	9
	Requests and Support by Focus Area	10
	Requests and Support by Activity Type	11
	Annex 1. Methodology	13



Colombia Project Checklist Workshop (Climate Finance Corridor)

SECTION 1

Introduction

The NDC Partnership is a global coalition, bringing together more than 250 countries and institutions to deliver on ambitious climate action that helps achieve the Paris Agreement and drive sustainable development. Governments identify their NDC implementation priorities and the type of support that is needed to translate them into actionable policies and programs.

Based on these requests, the membership offers a tailored package of expertise, technical assistance, and funding. This collaborative response provides developing countries with efficient access to a wide range of resources to adapt to and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development.

This insight brief presents trends in country requests for support across the NDC Partnership 2021–2025 Work Program.¹ Request trends are broken down by topics, sectors, activities, and support rate over time. Data is drawn from the NDC Partnership’s knowledge management system, the [kNook](#), which catalogs country requests to the NDC Partnership and partner support committed in response.²

Since the NDC Partnership began programmatic operations in 2017, 103 countries have submitted close to 7,000 individual requests for support. One hundred and one of these countries requested support between 2021 and 2025.

Over the last five years, the number of countries requesting support each year has consistently grown, reaching a high of 80 countries requesting support in 2024 alone. While partner support has also grown, it has not increased at pace with country requests.

This insight brief is accompanied by a companion paper presenting deep dives across the six thematic axes under the [COP30 Presidency’s Action Agenda](#).

1 The NDC Partnership 2021–2025 Work Program is available on the main [NDC Partnership website](#).

2 Methodological note: The dataset used for the analysis covered in this insight brief reflects data in kNook as of 1 August 2025. The dataset used for the analysis in the companion paper reflects data in kNook as of 14 August 2025. The dataset used for the companion paper was regenerated to align with a data tagging update and excludes 11 requests that were archived after 1 August. Overall, trends remain unchanged across the two datasets.



Implementation Plan Online Tool Training, São Tomé and Príncipe / Photos by Guedes Medeiros



SECTION 2

Overview of Country Requests and Partner Support, 2021–2025

Since programmatic operations began in 2017, 103 countries have submitted a total of 6,944 requests for support through the NDC Partnership. One hundred and one of these countries submitted 4,971 requests between 2021 and 2025 alone (72% of all requests). Most of these requests come from 26 countries' multiyear, programmatic NDC implementation plans, at least one third of which were updated and relaunched in the last five years to align with countries' 2020 NDC updates.³

³ Countries' NDC implementation plans are routinely updated following NDC updates every five years and during NDC implementation periods. The proportion of plans updated and relaunched in the last five years is a best estimate based on available data. Old versions of these plans are archived from the kNook and replaced once new versions are launched. Given that NDC implementation plans are multiyear programmatic frameworks for implementing countries' NDC priorities, they comprise the majority of the requests in the kNook. If old versions of the plans were included in this data, the percentage of requests circulated during this period would likely be a much lower percentage.

Three times as many countries requested support in 2024 compared to 2021. This is likely due to the gradual resumption of economic and programmatic activities following the COVID-19 pandemic and the Paris Agreement enhancement cycle in 2025.

Partner support consistently lags country requests. This is partially expected due to challenges partners face in rapidly and flexibly deploying support in response to evolving country priorities. However, even when factoring in time lags, there remains an urgent need to scale support in response to countries' needs.

Partners have fully or partially supported 55% of all requests circulated since the NDC Partnership began programmatic operations in 2017. Requests circulated during the last five years have a lower support rate (45%) (Figure 1). This reflects both the fact that it takes time—sometimes years—to generate support, and globally, there has been a drop in support due to reduced funding availability.

Most countries (63%) requesting support through the NDC Partnership in the last five years are in two regions: Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Figure 3 shows that nearly all supported countries (93%) are official development assistance (ODA) eligible, while 7% are non-ODA eligible. Figure 4 (on the next page) shows that **non-ODA eligible countries have a larger support gap (69% unsupported) compared to ODA eligible countries (54% unsupported).**⁴

⁴ The seven non-ODA eligible countries that requested support through the NDC Partnership between 2021 and 2025 are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Chile, Palestine, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Seychelles, and Uruguay.

FIGURE 1

Overall Support Rate (%) (2021–2025)

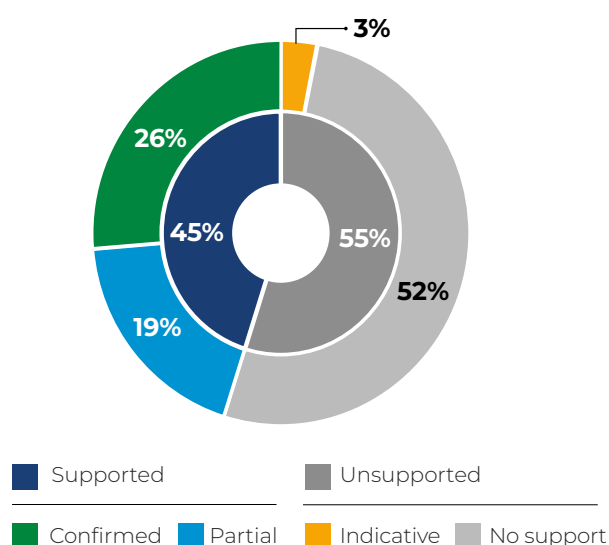


FIGURE 2

Number of Countries Requesting Support by Region (2021–2025)

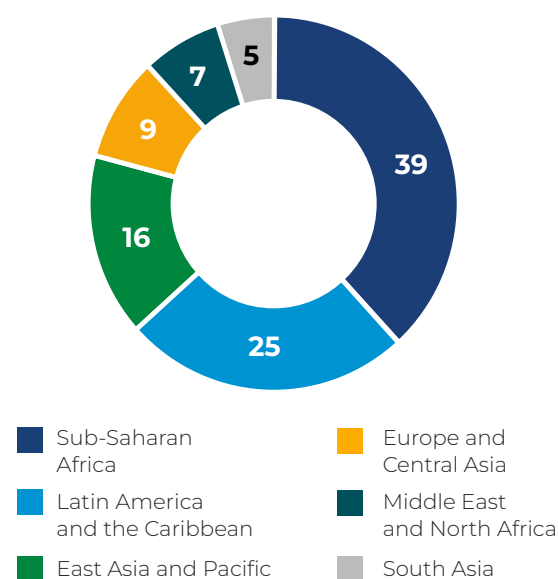
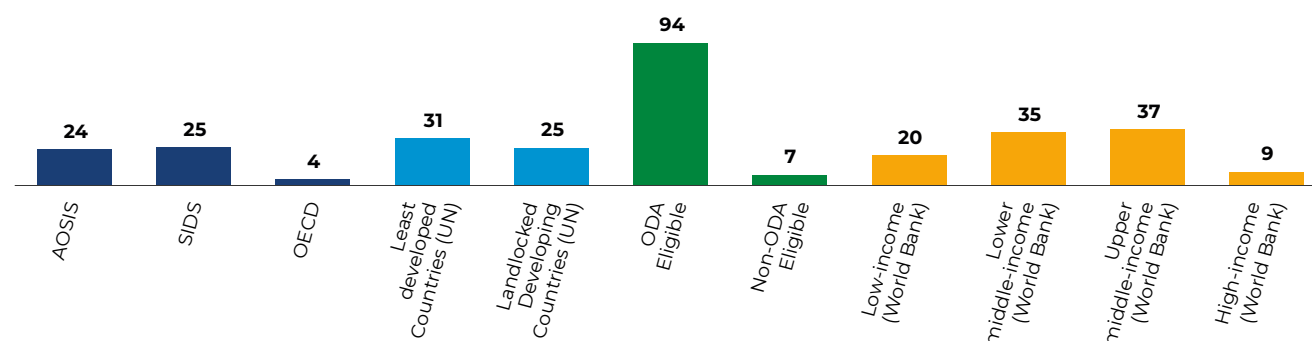


FIGURE 3

Number of Countries Requesting Support by Country Grouping (2021–2025)

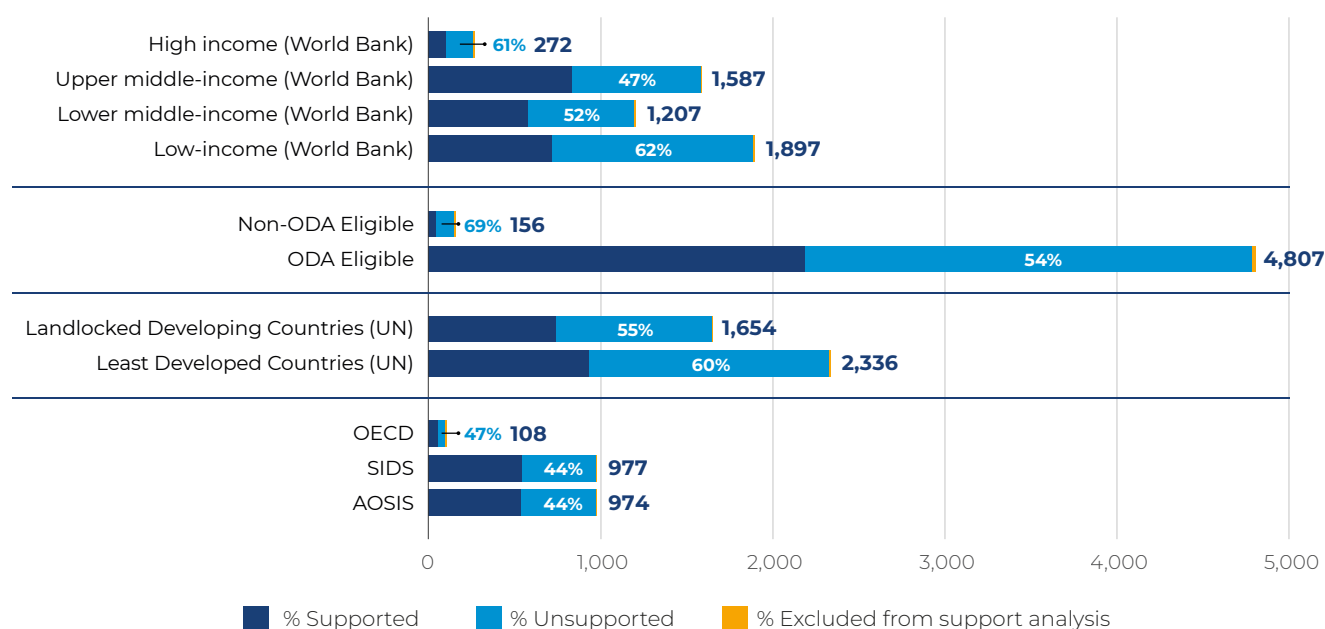


While most countries requesting support during the last five years are classified as lower-middle or upper-middle income, **requests from low-income and high-income countries have larger support gaps compared to middle- or upper middle-income countries.** Figure 4 shows that, while only 20% of the countries requesting support are categorized as low income, they submitted the most requests of any income category. Sixty-two percent of requests from these countries are unsupported. High-income countries only represent 9% of the countries requesting support through the NDC Partnership and submitted the fewest requests of all income groupings during the last five years. Sixty-one percent of requests from these countries are unsupported.⁵

5 In some cases, data on the support status of country requests is unavailable. In these cases, the requests are excluded from support rate calculations and appear in this insight brief as “excluded from support analysis.”

FIGURE 4

Number of Requests by Country Grouping and Support Status (2021–2025)

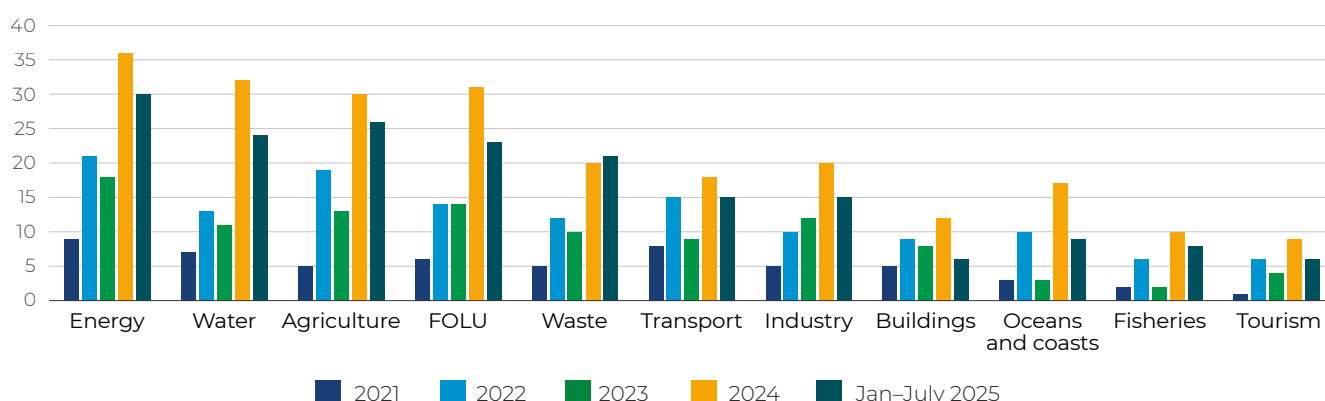


Requests and Support by Sector

Sixty-four percent of requests circulated between 2021 and 2025 have at least one defined sector.⁶ The remaining 36% of these requests do not reference specific sectors—this includes requests for support to create national measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) or monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems or to develop or update national policies, strategies, or plans such as NDCs 3.0.

FIGURE 5

Number of Countries Requesting Support by Sector and Year Circulated (2021–2025)



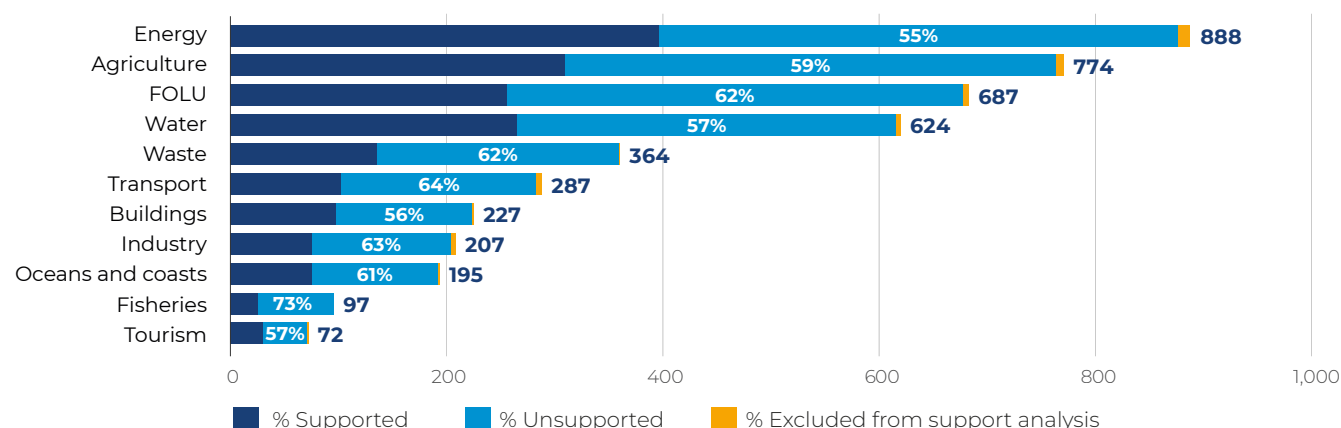
Most countries requested support in the energy sector (75 countries), followed by water (62 countries) and agriculture (62 countries). Figure 5 shows that the number of countries requesting sector-specific support has grown following the outcomes of the Global Stocktake (GST) in 2023. Requests in the waste sector have grown significantly, with requests in the first half of 2025 already exceeding those received in 2024.

Additional support is needed across all sectors. The four sectors with the most requests—energy, agriculture, forestry and other land use (FOLU), and water—also attract high levels of support, as shown in Figure 6. While the fisheries sector is one of the least common among country requests (26 countries), it has the largest support gap of all the sectors (73% unsupported).

⁶ In kNook, an individual request for support can be tagged with multiple sectors.

FIGURE 6

Number of Requests for Support by Sector and Support Status (2021–2025)



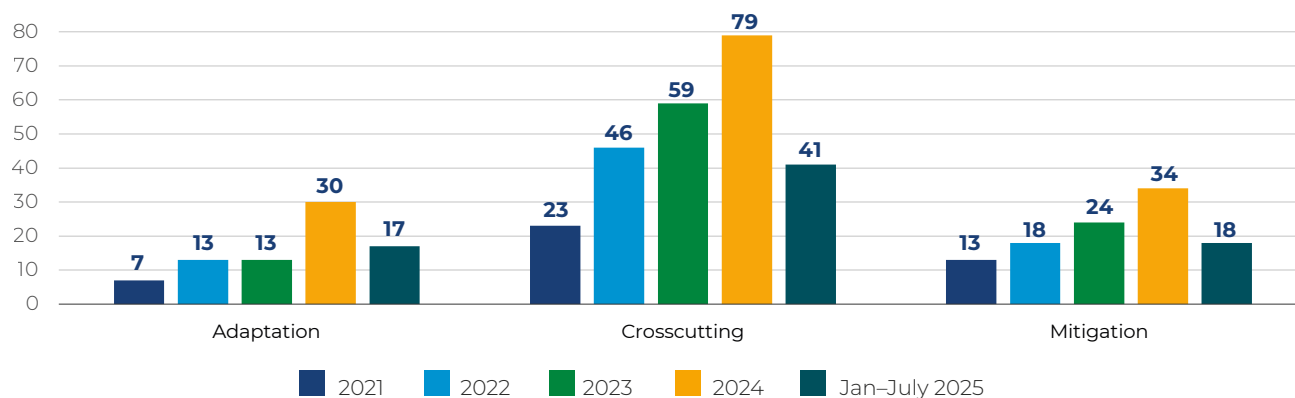
Requests and Support by Focus Area

In the last five years, nearly all countries (99 out of 101 countries) requested crosscutting support, covering aspects of both mitigation and adaptation. More countries requested mitigation-focused support (68 countries) during this period than adaptation-focused support (54 countries).

The number of countries seeking support across each focus area has grown year on year, with the number of countries requesting adaptation-specific support more than doubling between 2023 and 2024, as shown in Figure 7. This growth in adaptation requests reflects the growing prevalence of topics like just transition and biodiversity protection.

FIGURE 7

Number of Countries Requesting Support by Focus Area and Year Circulated (2021–2025)

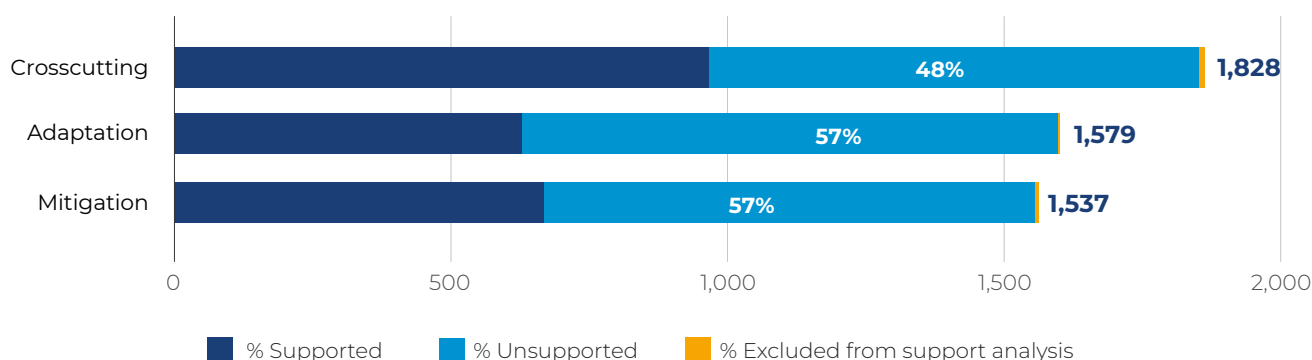


Most support is being directed toward crosscutting requests, with 52% of these supported, as shown in Figure 8. While the support rate is the same for both adaptation- and mitigation-focused requests (43% supported), a greater number of adaptation-focused requests remain unsupported.

More support is needed for mitigation- and adaptation-specific requests. As countries expand the coverage of their NDCs to include whole-of-economy targets and sector specific actions, this requires increasingly specialized technical expertise. This highlights the importance of engaging a range of partners—each bringing a comparative advantage—to efficiently support countries' diverse needs.

FIGURE 8

Number of Requests for Support by Focus Area and Support Status (2021–2025)

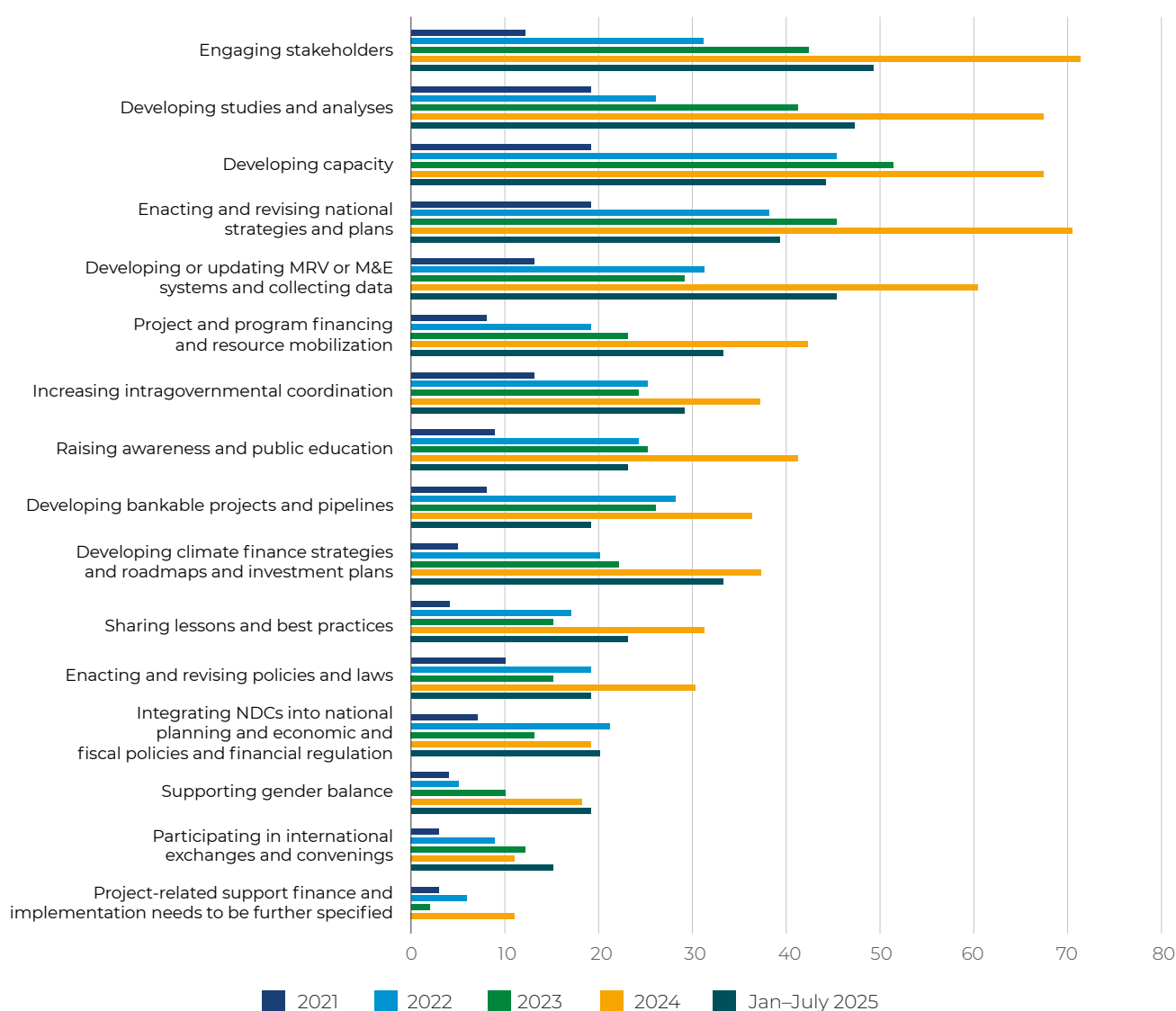


Requests and Support by Activity Type

The most common activity types among countries requesting support between 2021 and 2025 were stakeholder engagement, developing studies and analyses, and developing capacity, with 96 countries requesting support related to each. The least common activity types were participating in international exchanges and convenings (39 countries) and generic project-related support where specific needs were not defined (22 countries).

FIGURE 9

Number of Countries Requesting Support by Activity Type and Year Circulated



Developing capacity is the most common activity type among country requests for support, covering all sectors and topics. This highlights the central role of capacity development in enabling countries to drive their climate agendas, strengthen coordination and decision-making processes, mobilize resources, and coordinate whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to climate action. While 46% of these requests have received support, the activity type with the highest support rate is enacting and revising national strategies and plans (52% supported), as shown in Figure 10 (on the next page). Support is also commonly directed to requests to increase intragovernmental coordination (51% supported) and integrate NDCs into national planning and economic and fiscal policies and financial regulation (51% supported).

Finance and investment is the most common key topic among country requests for support, covering all sectors and activity types.

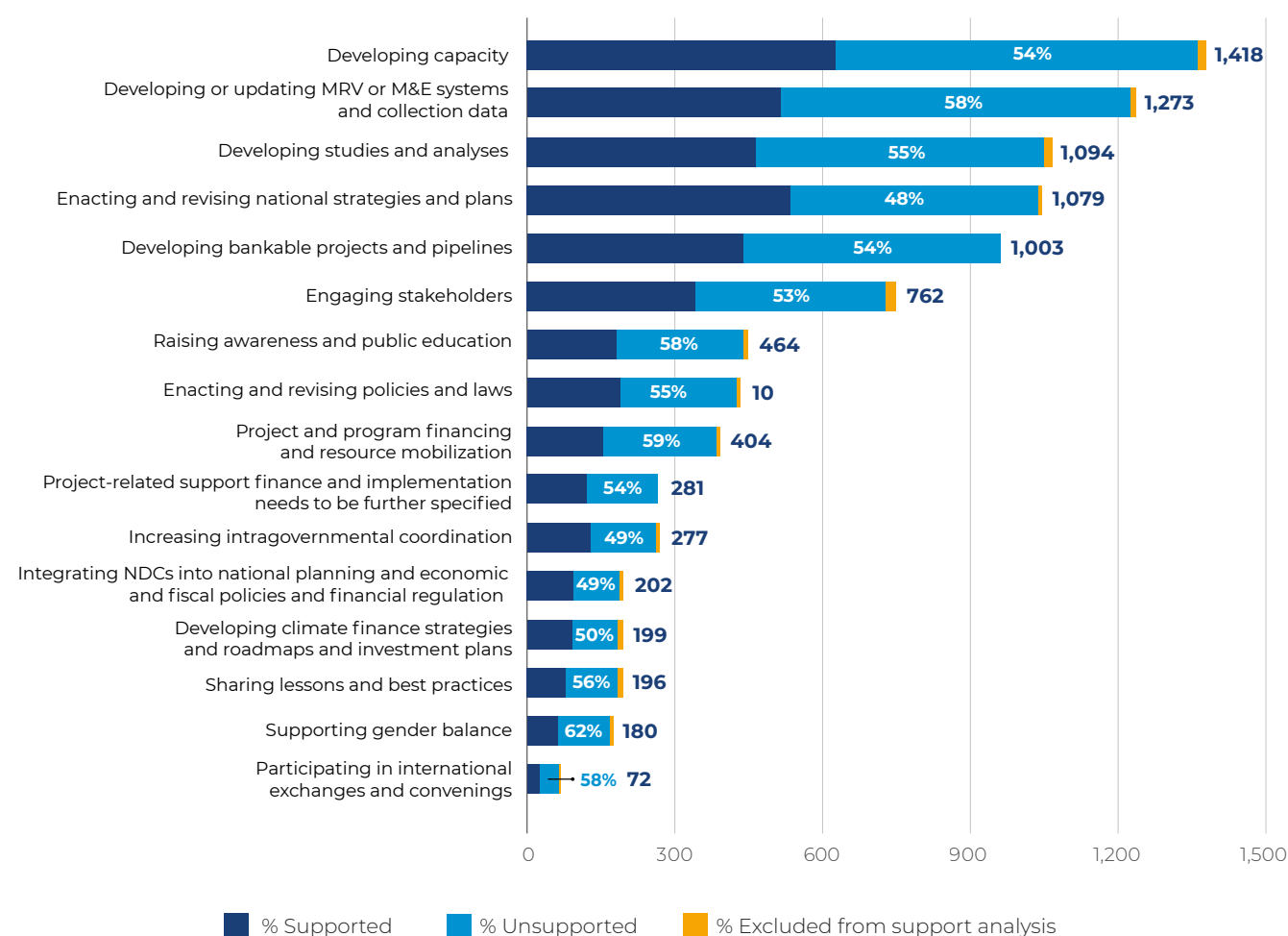
The support rate for these requests is higher than the overall support rate, with 47% of finance- and investment-related requests circulated in the last five years supported—compared to 45% of all requests supported during this period. Of the six activity types that have a lower-than-average support rate, only one is finance related: project and program financing and resource mobilization (41% supported).

Additional activity types where more support is needed include:

- developing or updating MRV or M&E systems and collecting data, which has a high number of supported requests but a relatively high percent of unsupported requests compared to trends across all activity types (58% unsupported);
- raising awareness and public education (58% unsupported);
- sharing lessons and best practices (56% unsupported);
- supporting gender balance (62% unsupported); and
- participating in international exchanges and convenings (58% unsupported).

FIGURE 10

Number of Requests for Support by Activity Type and Support Status (2021–2025)



ANNEX 1

Methodology

The methodology used in this insight brief aligns with the kNook taxonomy [available on the kNook website](#). The [kNook](#) is the NDC Partnership's knowledge management system, which consolidates country requests for support submitted to the NDC Partnership as well as implementing and development partners' responses to country requests. Each request is tagged by a series of categories, including country, region, sector, focus area, type of support, key topic, activity type, and more.



Insight Brief:

**Trends in Country Priorities and Partner
Support Across the NDC Partnership
2021–2025 Work Program**

Cover photo: Nigeria Project Checklist matchmaking event / Photo by Crossboundary

NDC PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT UNIT

WASHINGTON, DC, USA OFFICE

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE
10 G Street NE Suite 800
Washington, DC 20002, USA

T: +1 (202) 729-7600
E: supportunit@ndcpartnership.org

BONN, GERMANY OFFICE

UNFCCC, UNOPS
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn, Germany

T: +49 (228) 815-1000
E: supportunit@ndcpartnership.org

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of four overlapping, slanted rectangular shapes in blue, orange, green, and dark blue.