

# INNOVATION

# FACILITY



“UNDP has invested in advancing innovation to disrupt ‘business as usual,’ encourage change in the search for ever greater effectiveness, and identify new ways of doing things which could be of wide benefit.”

HELEN CLARK, UNDP ADMINISTRATOR

## INNOVATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The development landscape is changing dramatically and these shifts can be an opportunity to re-think the way the international community addresses global poverty, inequality and discrimination worldwide. Over the past three years, UNDP has tested promising approaches to improve its effectiveness and innovate with partners. For UNDP, innovation for development means using the most up-to-date concepts and means available to achieve change. It is about finding better ways to create impact for people and the planet, to strengthen resilience and build more inclusive societies.

## UNDP'S INNOVATION FACILITY

UNDP's Innovation Facility provides two service lines:

- ONE Supports Governments in creating the next generation of public services and enhancing the innovation capacities of the public sector; and
- TWO Supports UNDP Country Offices to explore promising pathways for greater impact and provides the space for co-design and experimentation.

In 2014, UNDP launched the Innovation Facility as a dedicated funding mechanism that nurtures promising development interventions on the ground. A diverse global team based in Addis Ababa, Amman, Bangkok, Istanbul, New York and Panama City scans the horizon to identify promising approaches and technologies used by the private and public sector. The Innovation Facility takes a portfolio approach to compare the effectiveness of promising concepts, promotes calculated risk-taking and ‘working out loud’ to learn and identify effective ways of designing solutions around the needs of the people and communities affected by development challenges.

## WHAT WE FUND

To date the Innovation Facility has funded 102 initiatives in 73 countries, and counting – almost 70% of which are least-developed, landlocked, small island developing countries or crisis-affected contexts. These initiatives ranged from the roving innovation lab in a bus for entrepreneurs in Haiti, the Ebola health emergency in West Africa, and foresight planning in Rwanda, Sudan and Tonga, to co-designing citizen feedback loops for more responsive Governments in Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, the Maldives and Papua New Guinea. It includes re-designing public services through co-design with the end-users in Moldova, Macedonia and Egypt to setting-up Innovation Labs to foster entrepreneurship and citizen-driven solutions in Armenia, Georgia and Zimbabwe as well as exploring the potential of big data with private sector partners in China and real-time monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in Tunisia.

Grants from the Innovation Facility are a form of catalytic seed capital and so far have been deliberately small and combined a mix of initiatives linked to ongoing projects as well as new endeavours. Initiatives are asked to incorporate clear scaling pathways from the inception. A preliminary assessment of the 2014 initiatives shows an uptake to greater scale in almost 65% of the cases. Learn more in the Facility's ‘2014 - Year in Review’ report, available on [undp.org/innovation](http://undp.org/innovation).



## SCALING UP, 2015-2017

As for all innovations, successful initiatives must offer scale potential. In 2016, the Innovation Facility is gearing up to scale promising initiatives from 2014 and 2015, as well as take on new challenges especially in these four areas:

- ONE **Transparent & Accountable Governments**  
Supporting citizen engagement through the development of responsive feedback mechanisms and pathways.
- TWO **Adaptable Planning**  
Providing strategic foresight services to governments to strengthen the flexibility and preparedness of national planning instruments, together with UNDP's Global Centre for Public Service Excellence.
- THREE **Strengthening Community Resilience**  
Establishing spaces to co-design solutions to social problems through innovation labs and camps for citizens, particularly youth. This includes developing prototype initiatives in the run-up of the World Humanitarian Summit with partners to better respond to protracted humanitarian and development crises.
- FOUR **Embracing Big Data**  
Utilising digital data sources to inform projects and programmes, especially to lay the foundation for solid and real-time monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.



## INVEST IN INNOVATION

Here are three sample pipeline initiatives which hold significant scale potential and for which we are actively seeking additional partners and funds.

ONE

REQUIRED  
FUNDING  
\$250,000

### Social Impact Investment

What are the hidden social costs of not adequately investing in education and public health for women? Together with UNICEF and Government partners we seek to calculate these, set-up Social Impact Investments and measure whether the investments reduce the long-term social costs.

TWO

REQUIRED  
FUNDING  
\$750,000

### Re-designing public service delivery

The Innovation Facility supports governments in testing and refining ideas to create proven models that speak to their policy goals while developing a shared, government-wide infrastructure for innovation. This opens up avenues to explore potential solutions for forthcoming priorities such as the monitoring of SDGs and examining the role of non-traditional data in informing policy. UNDP offers governments a compelling service line that can diagnose problems, assess opportunities, inspire early champions and address persistent challenges at national and sub-national levels.

THREE

REQUIRED  
FUNDING  
\$150,000

### Data driven development investments

Through this intervention, the Innovation Facility seeks to test out the payment-by-result business model in the UNDP context, by employing behavioural insights as a methodology and randomised control trials as an approach of evaluation. This initiative, in collaboration with the Behavioural Insights Unit, explores the potential of this innovative financing mechanism and rigorous evaluation approach across a variety of development challenges in Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

## PARTNER WITH US!

The Innovation Facility is made possible with generous contributions from the Government of Denmark and co-investment from UNDP.

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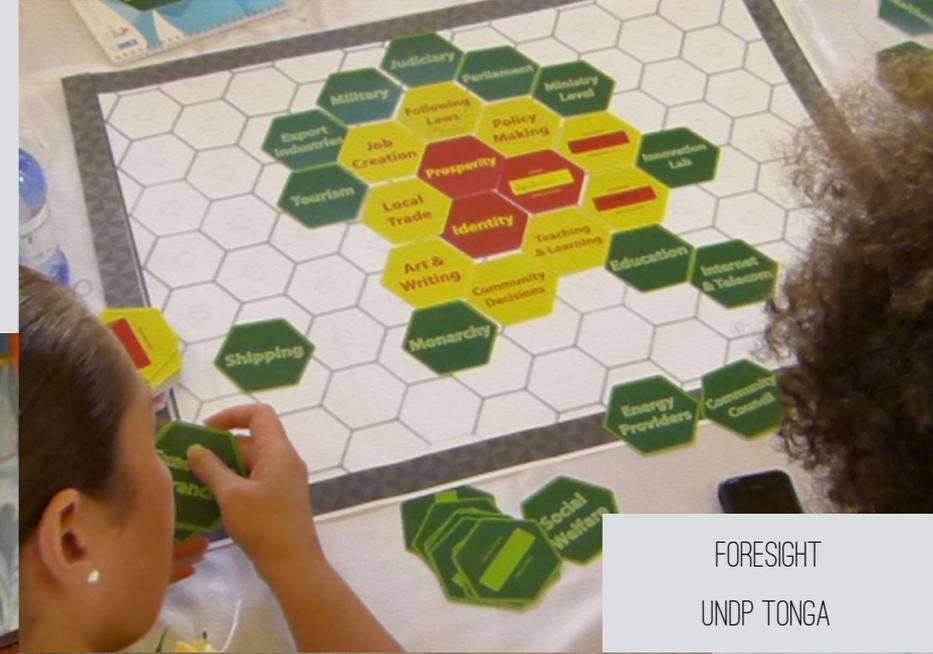


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