

UNFPA INNOVATION FUND:



EXPANDING THE POSSIBLE



INNOVATING FOR A WORLD WHERE EVERY PREGNANCY IS WANTED, EVERY CHILDBIRTH IS SAFE, AND EVERY YOUNG PERSON'S POTENTIAL IS FULFILLED



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WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP
EMERGENCY
FUND

ACRONYMS

HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund



“WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS AND STRENGTHEN OUR PARTNERSHIP TO CONTINUOUSLY STRIVE TO DELIVER THE BEST RESPONSES TO THE CHALLENGES AT HAND, AND TO REMAIN ADAPTABLE, AGILE AND RESPONSIVE IN TODAY’S COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE BY EMBRACING INNOVATION CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS.”

FOREWORD

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is based on the premise that individual human rights and capabilities are the foundation for sustainable and inclusive development. The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set an ambitious agenda and call on us to leave no one behind, as well as to reach people furthest behind first.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has recognized innovation as an indispensable engine to accelerate progress to deliver on these aspirations. Our role is to enable, connect and support the communities and countries we serve as they pursue new pathways towards the SDGs.

Young people in particular are agents of change who drive innovation by leveraging information and communication technologies. Where young innovators can access information, financing and spaces for collaboration, they turn ideas into powerful solutions.

For UNFPA to advance real change, business as usual will not do. It is time to think boldly about how to identify solutions, scale them up, build alliances and amplify impact.

Only then will we be able to deliver results that will transform the lives of women, girls and young people, and realize the full promise of the SDGs and the ICPD Programme of Action.

Benoit Kalasa

Technical Division Director, UNFPA



“OUR ROLE IS TO BE AN ENABLER, CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRIES WE SERVE TO CREATE NEW PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND AND REACHING THE FURTHEST BEHIND FIRST.”

**“I AM ENOUGH OF THE ARTIST TO
DRAW FREELY UPON MY IMAGINATION.
IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
KNOWLEDGE. KNOWLEDGE IS LIMITED.
IMAGINATION ENCIRCLES THE WORLD.”**

—Albert Einstein

I. INTRODUCTION

Innovation is increasingly embedded in global development. As the world becomes more interconnected, it must wrestle with the growing speed and magnitude of concerns such as rapid urbanization, population growth and climate change.

The SDGs commit the world to very ambitious goals by 2030, such as universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, ending preventable maternal deaths, eliminating female genital mutilation, stopping child marriage and all forms of violence against women and girls.

Attaining these goals and staying on top of the rapid pace of change will depend on harnessing the potential of innovation to deliver meaningful results. UNFPA aims to inclusively co-create and scale up solutions that are data-driven, sustainable and open. All are dedicated to one goal: accelerating transformative results in the lives of women, adolescents and youth.

This short report showcases how UNFPA's Innovation Fund has pioneered innovative strategies that are changing the way the organization works. It outlines what the Fund has achieved, its partners, what has been learned and plans to move forward.

The UNFPA Innovation Fund at a glance

UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2014-2017 calls for "increased adaptability through innovation, partnership, and communications" as central to strengthening organizational effectiveness and efficiency. In 2013, UNFPA adopted "promoting innovation and creativity" as a corporate priority.

The UNFPA Innovation Fund, established in 2014 with an initial contribution from the Government of Denmark, was conceived "as a tool for generating a cultural shift within UNFPA by providing motivation and a mechanism for staff to generate, fund and implement innovative ideas." It has two main streams, culture and projects.

About 80 percent of the projects are geared towards UNFPA programme priorities. The remaining 20 percent focus on organizational effectiveness.



The use and application of sound principles, methodologies and tools are crucial for fostering an innovative culture that seeks to improve processes, delivery of services and products in a continuous manner. UNFPA along with UNDP, UNICEF, USAID, Gates Foundation, EOSG Global Pulse, WFP, WHO, HRP, OCHA, SIDA, IKEA Foundation, UN Foundation, and UNHCR endorsed the nine innovation principles in February 2015.



Design with the user



Understand the Existing Ecosystem



Design for Scale



Build for Sustainability



Be data Driven



Use Open Source



Reuse and Improve



Do no harm



BE Collaborative

THE NUMBER AND RATE OF WOMEN DYING FROM COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY OR CHILDBIRTH



HAVE BEEN HALVED



FAMILIES

ARE BECOMING SMALLER AND HEALTHIER



YOUNG PEOPLE

ARE MORE CONNECTED AND EMPOWERED THAN EVER BEFORE



TOO MANY PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ISSUES ARE A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH AND DISABILITY FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



MORE THAN
800

WOMEN DIE **DAILY** FROM PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH COMPLICATIONS.

222 MILLION

WOMEN WHO WANT TO AVOID PREGNANCY ARE NOT USING EFFECTIVE CONTRACEPTIVES

MORE THAN

39,000



GIRLS UNDER 18 ARE MARRIED EVERY DAY.

1 IN 3

WOMEN EXPERIENCE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME.



MORE THAN

100 MILLION

GIRLS FACE THE PROSPECT OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND OTHER HARMFUL PRACTICES



OVER

2,000



YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INFECTED WITH HIV EVERY DAY

130 MILLION

PEOPLE NEED HUMANITARIAN AID. UNFPA REACHED IN 2016.

11.4 MILLION



UNFPA innovation phase II

Formative Evaluation 2016-2017



2017



5 calls for proposal with 149 proposals between Sep - June

Sept

June

Launch of the Innovation Accelerator in ESARO



2016

April

8-prong

IDWG retreat concludes with an updated UNFPA innovation vision for 2016: 8-prong approach



2015



Innovation Fund

September

Innovation and Creativity as a Corporate Priority

February



2014

IDWG

Innovation inter-divisional working group (IDWG) is established with representation in regional offices and HQ



November



Establishment of the UN innovation collaboration network where UNFPA becomes an active member

2013

UNFPA Innovation Initiative

The Innovation Fund follows a two-stream approach

Project stream:

encourages experimentation and innovation among UNFPA staff

How it works:

a call for proposals

75-90

per cent of resources

29

innovation projects funded, 18 operationalized by the end of 2016, 11 initiated in 2017

149

proposals submitted (8,554 unique staff votes)

Open participatory process to select projects for funding

Culture stream:

promotes a culture of innovation within UNFPA

How it works:

Innovation Days, innovation talks, internal communication and advocacy

10-25

per cent of resources

27

Innovation Days held

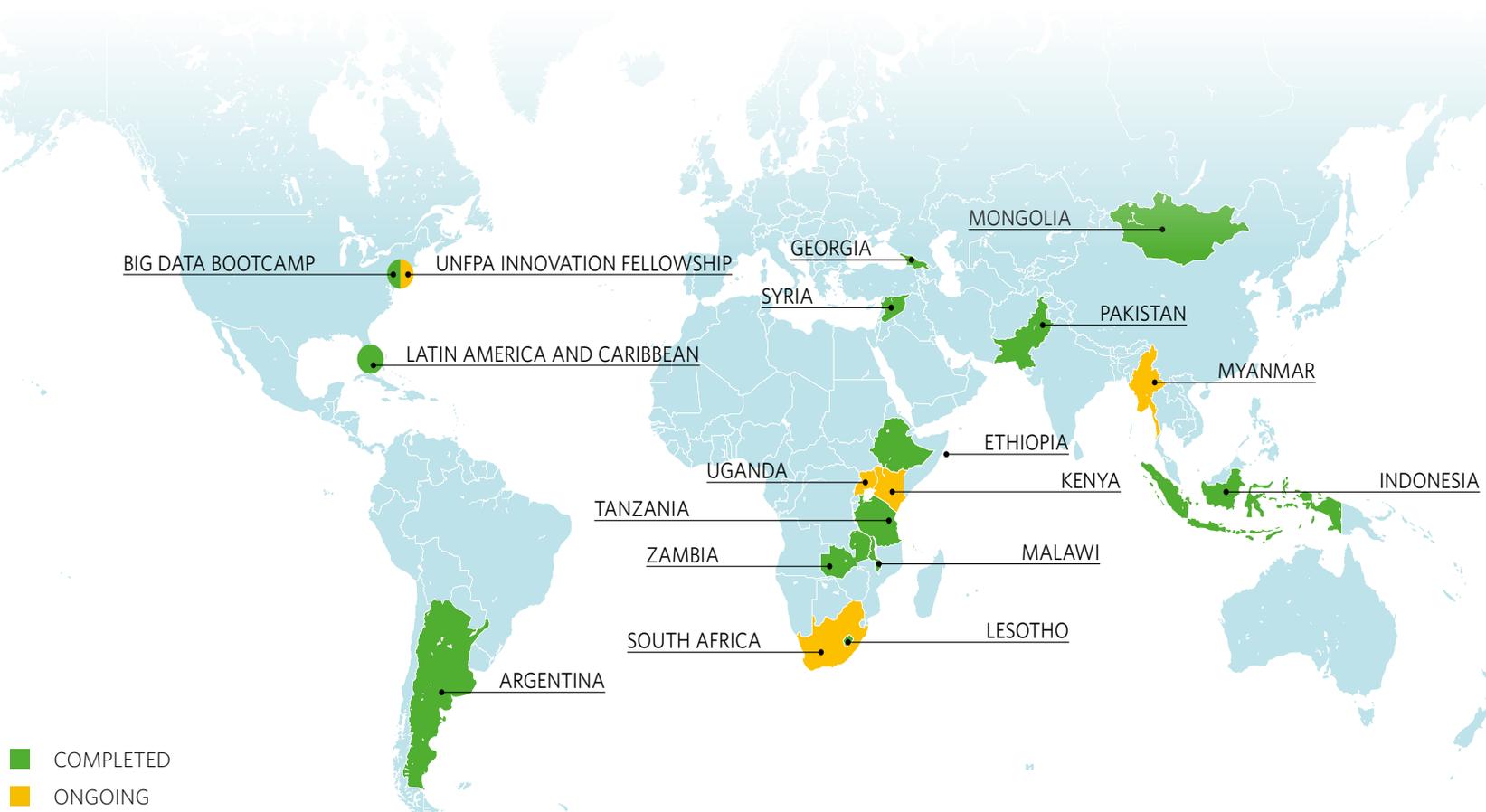
7

innovation talks in 2016

Intranet hub developed

Geographic distribution of Innovation Fund projects

The below map illustrates the 18 projects funded and implemented from 2014 to 2016.



The designations employed and the presentation of material on the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNFPA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

II. OUR INNOVATION PORTFOLIO



The Innovation Fund helps UNFPA pursue a range of innovations to advance sexual and reproductive health, foster youth empowerment, promote gender equality and use population data for development. Portfolio highlights follow.

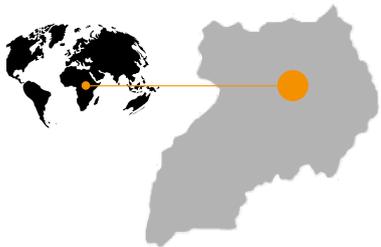
2.1 Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health

In 2015, UNFPA, in partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Reach a Hand, brought together more than 80 people from 17 countries to participate in our first hackathon to generate innovative solutions to longstanding challenges to sexual and reproductive health. At Hack for Youth, a process of dynamic collaboration unfolded over three days as young people,



innovators, developers, partners and UNFPA staff rapidly developed mobile health(mHealth)prototypes to advance young people's access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. The hackathon concluded with the selection of a winning solution.

In Uganda, UNFPA subsequently galvanized further momentum, with three top teams developing their proofs of concept and building functional prototypes for beta-testing in 2016. Two mHealth solutions qualified for additional seed funding. They were fully designed by young people who participated in Hack for Youth.



UGANDA:

UNFPA's Hack for Youth unleashes dynamic collaboration



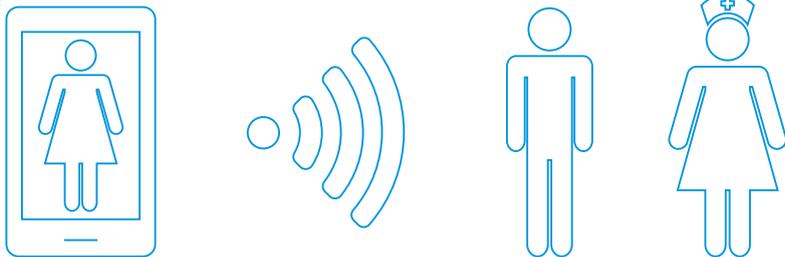
#HackForYouth
MIT Sana
Luna Nanzire
Participant

#HackForYouth
MIT Sana
Bonita Nanzire
Beatrice

#HackForYouth
MIT Sana
von Myazari
Participant

“THE ADVANCEMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, PARTICULARLY HAVING A MOBILE APP, WILL TAKE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH MILES AHEAD.”

—Hope Sarah Kirabo, member of team GetIN



GetIN: A community technology solution for health workers to reach first-time adolescent mothers

The challenge: One in four adolescent girls in Uganda¹ will become a mother by age 18. These girls are the least likely to come into health services early enough to obtain potentially life-saving information and services.

1 UNFPA, 2013, *Adolescent Pregnancy, A Review of the Evidence*.

The innovation: The easy-to-use GetIN mobile app helps community health workers and midwives in rural areas to reach and follow-up with socially and geographically isolated first-time young mothers. It promotes early access to antenatal care, as well as skilled delivery and postpartum family planning.

SafePal: Helping young survivors of sexual violence access essential services

The challenge: In Uganda, fewer than 30 percent of sexual violence survivors report to a health facility within 72 hours, a crucial window for collecting evidence and attending to immediate health needs.²

The innovation: SafePal helps girls and young women aged 12 to 19 in urban slum areas of Kampala to report sexual violence in and around schools and other public spaces. SafePal puts the power to report anonymously in the hands of young people. It helps to reduce the time gap between reporting and intervention through quick referrals, and provides real-time data to aid decision-making by programme managers.

2 Ibid.



Both GetIN and SafePal have attracted strong government interest, and been integrated within existing public programmes and monitoring to track progress over time.

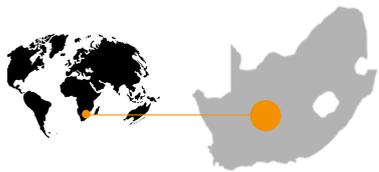
Partners: Ministry of Gender, Child Helpline, Ministry of Education and local schools, Reach Hand Uganda, the United Nations in Uganda, MIT, Kanungu District Government, Kanungu District Health Office

The challenge: In South Africa, youth face many obstacles to sexual and reproductive health; almost 60 percent of all new HIV infections occur among adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24.

The innovation: A mobile app, ilovelife.mobi, was upgraded to advance adolescents' access to sexual and reproductive health services. UNFPA partnered with LoveLife South Africa to add two additional modules, a health facility locator and rating system, incentivizing youth to seek care. The new tools help service providers interact with each other and share valuable information. Young people who use the platform have a chance at free air time, concert tickets and other incentives. Some key results include:

SOUTH AFRICA:

An interactive mobile site connects adolescents and youth to better sexual and reproductive health

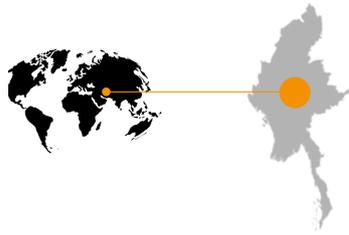


- As of December 2016, there were 52,783 active registered users, mostly adolescents and young people between the ages of 10 and 24.
- 58 per cent of visitors were female.
- Strong buy-in of local authorities, clinics and young people has been demonstrated through a surge in subscriptions after the launching event, which attracted more than 800 people.
- 679 young people were referred to the app by trained nurses in 20 pilot clinics in the Eastern Cape.

UNFPA and Lovelife are working with the Department of Health to integrate the app and the government-led B-Wise platform. This will strengthen sustainability and enable scale-up.

Partners: National, provincial and district department of health, LoveLife, KfW (German development bank)





MYANMAR:

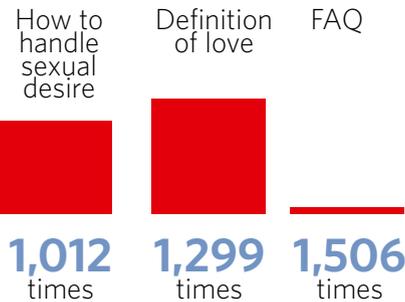
**Love Question Life Answer -
an appurgesyouth to embrace
healthy lifestyles**

The challenge: Sexual and reproductive health issues are still considered taboo, making it difficult for all 16 million young people in Myanmar to get appropriate information and services.

The innovation: A mobile app, Love Question Life Answer, provides easy access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights information and services. The application provides: 1) comprehensive sexuality education to young people through interactive content, quizzes and games, 2) a directory of available health services and their contacts, and 3) a hotline and chat function for young people to access qualified counselors.

The app is accessible on-and offline, given intermittent Internet connectivity in rural areas. The project has been implemented in two conflict-affected states, Kachin in the north and Karen in the east.

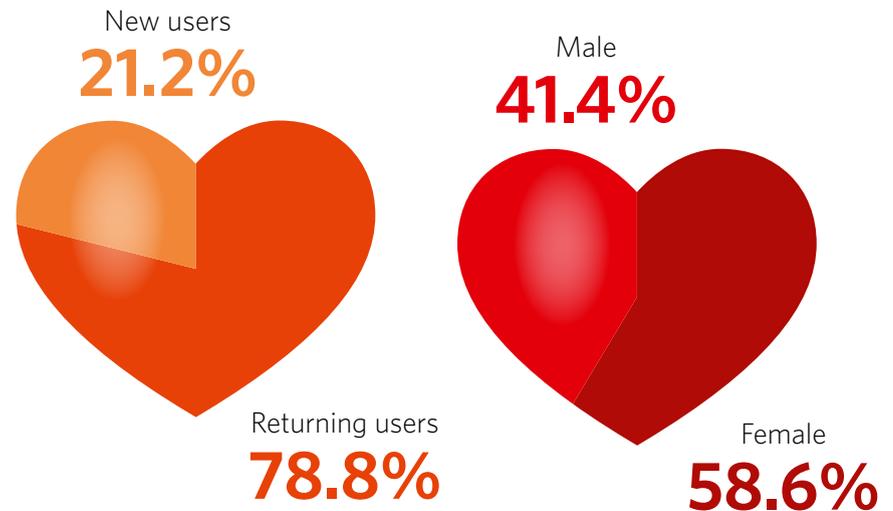
Partners: Health Literacy Promotion Division, Ministry of Health and Sports, Association Francois- Xavier Bagnoud, Myanmar Medical Association, Marie Stopes International



THE THREE MOST READ TOPICS

=4.000

Total 4208 (from 27 Aug 2016 upto 16 Jan 2017)



PRIVACY MEANS NO SHAME

Eighteen-year-old university student Yadana Hlaing from Yangon was one of the first users of the app. She said it helps her and her friends find what they need to know about their physiological and psychological development.

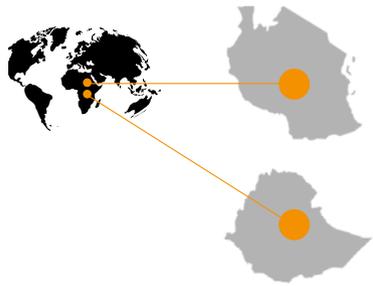
“We don’t feel confident and comfortable talking about sexual and related matters with our parents. The app bridges this gap big time” she commented.

While she and her friends do talk openly about these subjects, the Love Question Life Answer app ensures that the information they have is correct and comprehensive.



ETHIOPIA AND TANZANIA:

Portable mobile learning combats maternal and newborn mortality



The challenge: Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania have high rates of maternal mortality – 398 and 353 deaths per 100,000 live births, respectively.³ Both countries struggle with a severe lack of qualified health workers.

The innovation: UNFPA developed a portable mobile learning system to train midwives and health workers on key skills to combat the most prevalent causes of maternal and newborn mortality. It is an innovative, simple, cost-effective solution for low-resource settings.

The system comprises a WiFi battery-operated palm-size portable projector, portable speakers and a solar-charger kit. The projector has a built-in Android tablet with a five-inch screen. The system functions even in remote rural settings that lack electricity and have poor Internet connectivity.

New partners, including Johnson & Johnson and the Government of Canada, are scaling up the system to other sites in the two countries. UNFPA offices in Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe are adapting the model.

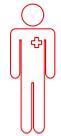
Partners: Ministry of Health in the United Republic of Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar), Tanzania Training Centre for International Health, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, Tanzania Midwives Association, Ministry of Health in Ethiopia, Axum University, Arsi University, Ethiopian Midwives Association

³ World Health Organization, *World Statistics Report 2015*.

United Republic of Tanzania



484
midwives and students



283
healthcare workers



246
non-healthcare workers



22
healthcare centres and
midwifery training sites



3,040
beneficiaries

Ethiopia



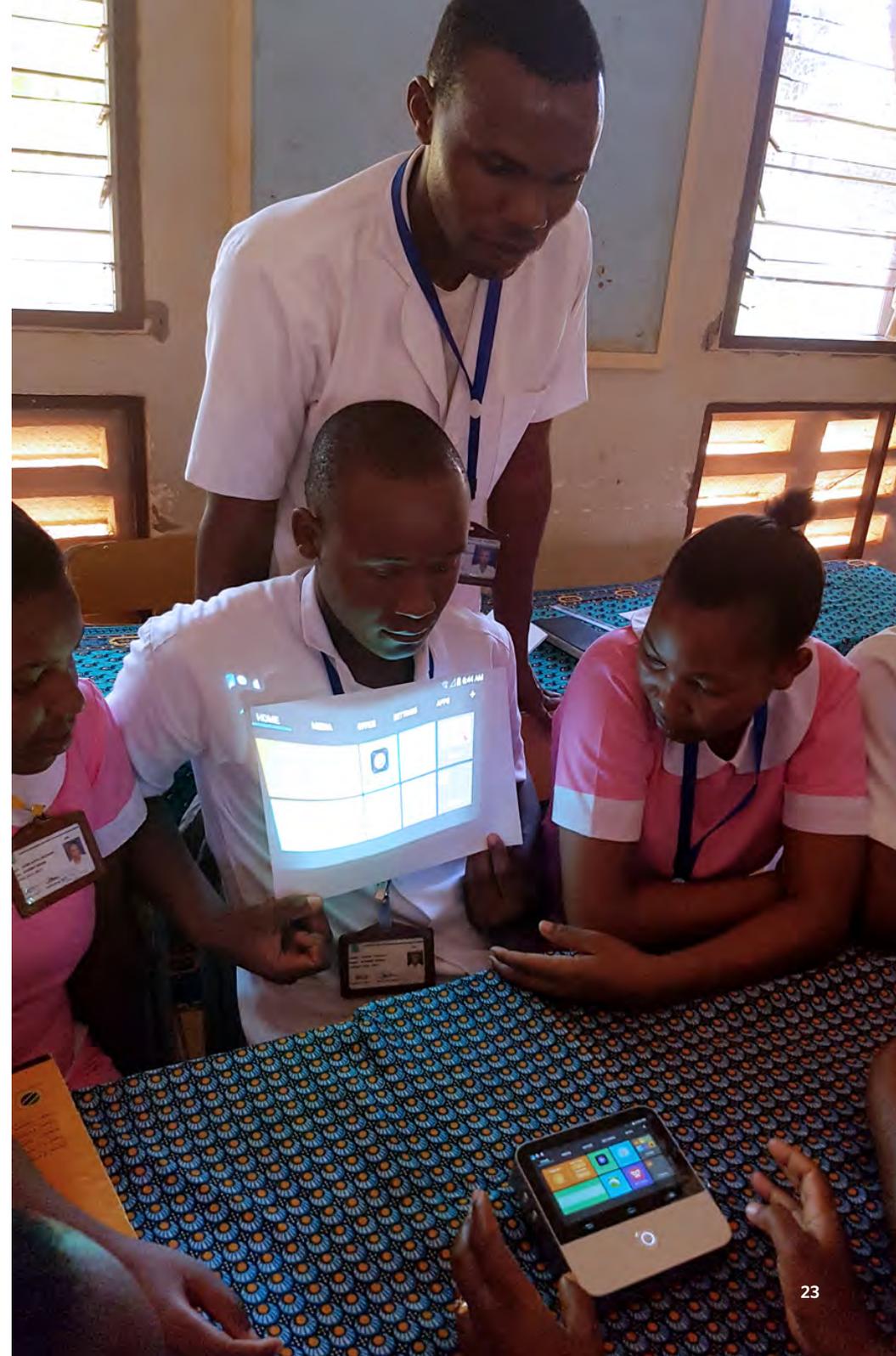
1,169
midwives and students



589
healthcare workers



266
non-healthcare workers







KENYA:

Demonstrating the power of public-private partnerships to advance maternal and newborn health

“WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A HIGH INCIDENCE OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY, WE HAVE A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES, AND OUR COMMUNITIES ARE SUFFERING AS A RESULT. THIS PARTNERSHIP WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING BENEFITS AND WE EXPECT IT WILL ENRICH THE COMMUNITY IN MANDERA FOR YEARS TO COME.”

—Ahmed Sheikh Mohamed, County Executive for Health, Mandera

The challenge: Kenya’s Mandera County has a maternal mortality rate of 3,795 deaths per 100,000 live births, one of the highest in the world. This stems from limited accessibility to quality health-care services and poor basic infrastructure, which in turn result from inadequate resources and capacity amid high poverty rates and cultural barriers to maternal and newborn care.

The innovation: A Community Life Center launched through a public-private partnership serves as a community hub, providing integrated high-quality health services for maternal and child health. The centre has LED lighting, solar power, health-care and laboratory equipment, information technology systems for patient data management and storage, and clean water supplies. It is expected to provide health-care services to approximately 40,000 women and children in Mandera.

The Community Life Center has the potential to augment UNFPA’s effort to advance maternal newborn health outcomes in Mandera and five other counties in Kenya that together have half of all maternal deaths in the country.

Partners: UNFPA, Mandera County Government, Philips Innovation Hub, MSD/Merck



A health educator demonstrates the menstrual cup to adolescent girls

NO MORE MISSING SCHOOL

“BEFORE USING THE CUP, I USED TO MISS OUT SCHOOL FOR AT LEAST FOUR DAYS I WAS HAVING MY PERIOD. WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CUP I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ATTEND ALL THE CLASS BECAUSE I WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT MANAGING THE PERIOD,” SAID ESTHER, A 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN LILONGWE AND ONE OF THE FIRST USERS OF THE MENSTRUAL CUP.

Esther has used the cup for three months without a problem.



MALAWI:

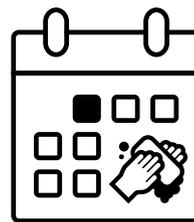
Menstruation cups bring girls back to class

1 cup = 1,200 pads 

The challenge: Forty percent of school girls in Malawi miss school due to menstruation,⁴ holding back their educational and economic opportunities.

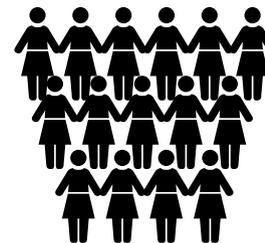
The innovation: UNFPA piloted distribution of menstrual cups for out-of-school girls. As an alternative to disposable hygiene products, the cups offer a sustainable solution to menstrual management.

WITH PROPER CARE AND CLEANING, THE CUPS CAN LAST UP TO



10 years

UNFPA PROVIDED MENSTRUAL CUPS TO



2,500 girls

WERE TRAINED ON DISTRIBUTING AND MONITORING USE OF CUPS.



65 mentors

⁴ See: Menstruation and School Absenteeism: Evidence from Rural Malawi, 2013

A tracking tool follows the uptake and usage of the cups, while an acceptability study will look at the impact on school attendance. Data from the study will guide future distribution.

Partners: Ministry of Health, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Malawi Girl Guides Association, Family Planning Association of Malawi.

2.2 Fostering Youth Empowerment

The challenge: Over 12 million Syrians – half the country’s pre-war population – have been displaced from their homes. A new generation has come of age during six years of war.

The innovation: The empowerment and social engagement of displaced youth and women is building their resilience. In Damascus, Homs and Tartous, UNFPA launched a youth business start-up and communication training programme to provide 81 young people with critical business, leadership and entrepreneurship

SYRIA:

Rebuilding by empowering youth to become entrepreneurs



“SYRIAN YOUTH ARE IN DIRE NEED OF EMPOWERMENT AND SUPPORT. UNFPA INNOVATION PROJECT CERTAINLY COVERED SOME OF THESE NEEDS AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE SOCIAL COHESION AND BOOSTED UP RESILIENCE OF THE PROJECT BENEFICIARIES IN SYRIA.”

—Mr. Nazem Yousef, Executive Manager, Al Barakeh for Social Development

INNOVATING TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

A 23-year-old Syrian student, Leen Darwish, who is a computer science undergraduate at the University of Damascus, has launched an award-winning Arabic-language app to help young people in Syria, and beyond, learn to code.

Darwish launched the app, called Remmaz, after attending a three-week training course in 2015 sponsored by UNFPA's Innovation Fund. At the end, 17 projects were chosen for further support. Along with Remmaz, they included computer maintenance, after-school programmes and online computer games.

Within six months of its launch, Remmaz has over 500 active users learning to code, design websites and develop apps on the platform, which Darwish and her business partner started developing while they were second-year university students. Their aim is to create a massive open online course in Arabic to address the lack of non-English programming resources available to Arab communities, particularly young people looking for employment in conflict-scarred Syria.

"Remmaz is a startup whose mission is to make an evolution in online learning about programming in the Arab world, to empower people to learn about cutting-edge technology tools through Arabic content." said Darwish.

Recently, Remmaz won an entrepreneurship competition for Syrian startups, taking a \$15,000 prize that will go towards expanding the app.

skills, and directly link them to opportunities to generate income. Forty-five received seed-funding to help start small-scale projects. Key results have included:

- 🕒 180 young people employed through the projects
- 🕒 80 percent of beneficiaries were women and female adolescents

Partners: Syrian Family Planning Association, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Smart Women Charity, Syrian Family Planning Association (Tartous), Al Barakeh for Development



ARGENTINA:

**Women investing in
women to transform the
world**

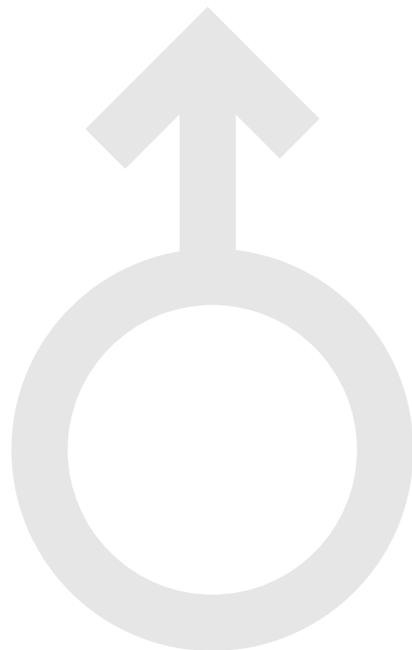
The challenge: In Argentina, the number of women with the means to donate to social causes on a large scale has steadily increased over the last decade, but few resources exist to mobilize them as agents of change.



The innovation: UNFPA established Investing in Women, Transforming the World to offer promising young women philanthropists tailor-made training on promoting women's empowerment.

These women learned in particular the importance of investing in sexual and reproductive health and gender equality. Over six months, the project provided training, mentoring and networking opportunities to 64 women leaders from the entrepreneurial, corporate, public and social arenas. They came from seven provinces and Buenos Aires in Argentina as well as from Uruguay.

Partners: Vital Voices, Latin American School of Social Sciences



2.3 Promoting Gender Equality and Human Rights



GEORGIA:

Media mobilize men to do their part for gender equality

The challenge: 82 percent⁵ of Georgian fathers don't read to or cook for their children, or engage in their education when they are under age six. This undermines women's ability to realize their potential in the labor force.

The innovation: UNFPA and its partners developed a reality TV show, Fathers, to promote dialogue on gender roles within families. Each episode featured a well-known Georgian dad going through a day's routine with his children, getting them dressed, making them food and playing with them, all without the help of his wife.

The show aired in ten episodes on the Rustavi 2 television station, attracting viewers across the country to watch as famous fathers spent a day alone caring for their children. On average, each episode was watched by five percent of the population of Georgia, an estimated 500,000 viewers.

⁵ Institute of Social Studies and Analysis, 2013, *Men and Gender Relations in Georgia*.



"I HAD NEVER SPENT TIME ALONE WITH MY KIDS BEFORE. THEY FOUND IT BIZARRE AT FIRST TO SEE ME CHANGING DIAPERS AND COOKING FOR THEM," SAID ZVIAD KVARATSKHELIA, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER, SITTING IN HIS LIVING ROOM, SPENDING THE DAY ALONE WITH HIS THREE LITTLE KIDS. "BUT WE MUSTN'T TAKE OUR FAMILIES FOR GRANTED."

The Government of Georgia has taken up the momentum and launched the MenCare-Georgia campaign to advocate for men's involvement in domestic chores. Father's Day was celebrated in the country for the first time in 2016, and Parliament is preparing to introduce the official celebration of the day.

Partners: GDS Television Broadcast and We Care



2.4 Using Population Data for Development



GLOBAL:

The Big Data Boot Camp starts to change the game

The challenge: Big data have been recognized as a potential game changer for development, but understanding within the United Nations on practical applications or partnerships has been limited.

The innovation: UNFPA organized the Big Data BootCamp in Barcelona in 2015, bringing together data specialists, and representatives from academia, the private sector and the United Nations system. The event was a unique experience, where participants used methods drawn from design thinking to learn how big data can strengthen development work.

As a follow-up, United Nations agencies have jointly organized a series of UN Data Innovation Labs to advance the application of new and existing sources of data in the broader data ecosystem.

Partners: Betahaus Barcelona and Data-Pop Alliance



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

A real-time response to humanitarian crises

The challenge: The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are highly vulnerable to a range of natural disasters, exacerbated by high rates of inequality and political instability. Timely and accurate information is recognized as integral to humanitarian action.

The innovation: In 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries, UNFPA is developing a mobile-ready, geo-referenced, web-based application to provide socio-demographic data required for emergency preparedness and response. The system will merge the online Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations indicator calculator with a database of the most localized socio-demographic data available.

In a humanitarian situation, responders can use the app to quickly retrieve population data estimates for specific geographic areas to guide planning and resource distribution. Users can also upload pictures with geographic coordinates as evidence reinforcing a timely response.

Partners: Governments



INDONESIA:

A geospatial emergency information portal backs better responses to disaster



The challenge: Indonesia, located on the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” is faced with the ongoing challenge of handling natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. More than 97 percent of Indonesians live in areas with a “very high risk” of natural disaster.⁶ Readily available, accurate data are a cornerstone of effective humanitarian operations.

⁶ National study in 2012 by UNFPA, the National Disaster Management Agency and Statistics Indonesia.



The innovation: UNFPA launched a real-time geospatial system called the Indonesian Disaster Data Exchange. It provides crisis maps with real-time data and links to population baseline data from mobile applications and smart phones. The project is designed to support the Government to provide accurate information on disasters in order to manage a humanitarian response.

UNFPA conducted training and field testing of the mobile app CAPI (computer-assisted personal interview) for emergency responses in different disaster scenarios, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, landslides, forest fires, volcanic eruptions and strong winds. The system has been integrated into the National Disaster Management Authority's web system, a promising step towards sustainability.

Partners: National Disaster Management Agency and Central Bureau of Statistics

“THE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF DISASTER DATA IS VERY IMPORTANT IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS FOR STAKEHOLDERS, INSTITUTIONS AND THE PUBLIC.”

—Mr. Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, Head of the Information Data Centre, National Disaster Management Agency



2.5 Innovating for Organizational Effectiveness



GLOBAL:

Sharing UN vehicles leads to better driving and lower costs

The challenge: UNFPA currently owns about 750 vehicles globally with a total purchase value of \$30 million. It spends \$15,000 per vehicle per year for maintenance.

The innovation: A “UN fleet-sharing” project was designed to digitize fleet-sharing and reduce resource inefficiencies in five pilot countries with shared UN facilities. The project has been implemented in Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mongolia, Pakistan and Zambia, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF.

- UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF are currently using the technology to share vehicles in three countries.
- An on-board computer is installed in each vehicle, which provides up-to-date information on its location and movement.
- Each computer also monitors driving behavior and captures events such as over-speeding, and harsh acceleration and braking.
- An easy-to-use platform to view and book the use of UN vehicles is being integrated in the online fleet manager.

SUCCESS IN ZAMBIA



Passive vehicle reduction
-13.8%



Active vehicle reduction
-17.3%



Reduction in harsh braking
-54%



Reduction in harsh acceleration
-65%

Reduction in over-speeding events
-200%

A study showed scaling up the system globally would save the three participating organizations 10 percent of their vehicle costs, improve safety and reduce maintenance through defensive driving. UNFPA alone could save \$3 million simply through not replacing 10 percent of its current fleet. An additional benefit would be a reduced carbon footprint.

Partners: UNDP and UNICEF

Global: UNFPA's Innovation Fellowship hires today's innovators and develops tomorrow's leaders

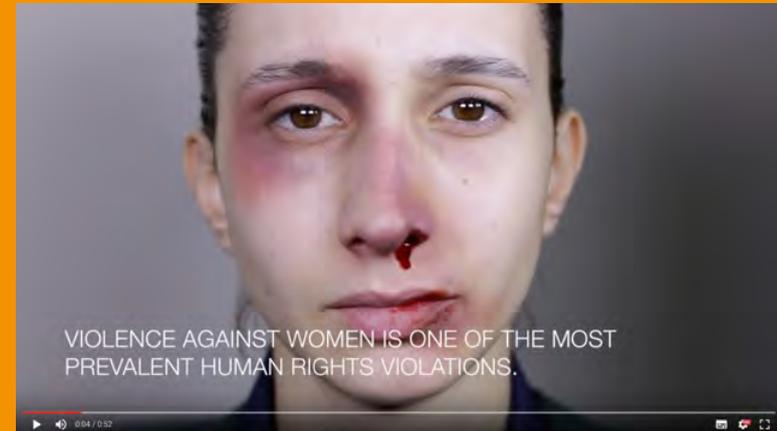
The challenge: UNFPA champions the engagement and leadership of young people in public policy advocacy at national and global levels, but often finds it difficult to recruit and invest in young leaders internally.

“INNOVATION FOR ME IS EMPOWERING AND MOTIVATING. IT IS REVOLUTIONIZING DEVELOPMENT WITH AND FOR THE PEOPLE.”

—Erika Yagun, UNFPA Youth Innovation Fellow



Project Tangerine, a group initiative involving fellows implementing their training through brown bag sessions with staff, tackling topics ranging from virtual reality to disaster preparedness



- Live streaming of youth ambassador Yuan visiting the United Nations on 30 January 2017 attracted more 10 million viewers on Weibo (“Chinese twitter”).
- An Internal Innovation Toolkit developed and rolled-out by fellows in collaboration with UNFPA experts.
- A #7DaysOfMakeup awareness raising campaign with a fellow creating 7 photo essays showcasing her unique brand of makeup activism in the lead up to United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants in 2016. Over 12 million people were reached, in addition to quadrupling traffic to the UNFPA website. “Reversing the trend” a social media campaign has exceeded 20 million impressions globally and was featured in multi-media, including BBC, CNN, Vogue, and Marie-Claire. https://drive.google.com/file/d/OB4BWwbSXgi7_ZGgtQW50N0t1MGc/view?usp=sharing



The innovation: A “Young Innovators Fellowship Programme” allows a new cohort of young people from around the world to gain leadership skills and cultivate their ability to catalyze disruptive innovations. Through a competitive selection process, young people who have demonstrated interest and dedication to development issues within their communities join UNFPA for a year-long fellowship first in headquarters and then in regional or country offices.

Highlights of their work include:

- Project Tangerine is a group initiative involving fellows training staff through brown bag sessions, tackling topics ranging from virtual reality to disaster preparedness.
- The live streaming of youth ambassador Yuan visiting the United Nations on 30 January 2017 attracted more than 10 million viewers on Weibo.
- Fellows developed and rolled out an Internal Innovation Toolkit, in collaboration with UNFPA experts.
- In the #7DaysOfMakeup awareness-raising campaign, a fellow created seven photo essays showcasing her unique brand of makeup activism in the lead-up to the 2016 United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants. The campaign reached over 12 million people, in addition to quadrupling traffic to the UNFPA website. A related social media campaign, “Reversing the trend,” has exceeded 20 million impressions globally, and was featured in media including the BBC, CNN, *Vogue* and *Marie-Claire*.

Partners: Google, LinkedIn, Decoded Fashion, Innovators in Health

2.6 Fostering the culture of innovation at UNFPA

In the spirit of building the culture and capacity to innovate, UNFPA introduced **Innovation Days** in its country offices. These provide a non-traditional platform for country teams to come together, look at persistent challenges and design innovative solutions. In 2015 and 2016, 27 offices held Innovation Days. They produced innovations related to crowdsourcing, design thinking, hackathons, storytelling and open data.

Highlights of the Innovation Days are shared on social media and posted on the UNFPA Innovation Hub. Among offices that participated, 95 per cent submitted project proposals to the Innovation Fund. Increasingly, UNFPA offices are being encouraged to host Innovation Days as part of corporate planning cycles, such as in the development of a country programme. As the number of offices interested in holding Innovation Day increases, UNFPA has designed a global Innovation Day toolkit to guide the process.

Other initiatives include monthly **innovation talks** that discuss themes such as mHealth for adolescent programmes, youth empowerment initiatives, etc.

From 2014 to 2017, members of the interdivisional innovation working group and the Innovation Fund secretariat provided technical support to **44 regional and global innovation events**, such as the Centre for Social Innovation, the Global Health & Innovation Conference, and UN Data Innovation Labs, among others.



III. INNOVATION BEYOND THE FUND

An innovation community of practice in East and Southern Africa emanated from a training of over 20 UNFPA staff from the region on innovation methodologies. They, along with two other staff members from Latin America and Eastern Europe who also attended the training, will act as innovation champions in country and regional offices.



1

Remote sensing technology complementing official statistics: population density mapping

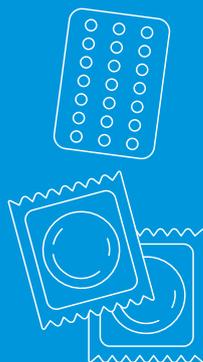
UNFPA assisted the Government of Afghanistan by supporting the National Statistical Office in developing population density estimates disaggregated by age and sex for the entire country.



2

Dr. One project

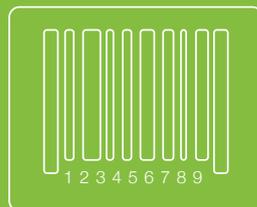
UNFPA in partnership with Ghana Health Services and the Government of the Netherlands piloted use of unmanned aerial vehicles to transport and deliver contraceptives and other medical commodities to remote rural areas of Ghana. Transportation costs were reduced by up to 30 per cent.



4

Strengthening the supply chain stability of medicines and health products

UNFPA has promoted the use of global information standards and barcode technology to enhance sexual and reproductive health commodity supply chains.



3

The Innovation Acceleration Programme

In three countries in East and Southern Africa, UNFPA identifies, supports and capitalizes on open source technologies to tackle challenges related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, supply chains and logistics, and population and development issues.



WORKFLOW

1 - A **partnership** is formed with a local innovation hub that will run the challenge



2 - UNFPA convenes local government and relevant stakeholders to identify the **challenge**



3 - **Funds** are raised to address the specific challenge and develop innovative solutions



6 - **Boot camps** are held to better inform and support potential candidates and to bring the opportunity to rural areas



5 - The challenge is announced as a **call for solutions** and promoted to potential innovators



4 - A **mentoring panel** comprising of UNFPA technical advisors and industry experts is formed to lead the acceleration programme



7 - Submissions are screened by a jury and the most promising teams are invited to pitch their ideas at **Pitch Day**



8 - The winners are enrolled in an intensive accelerator programme, receiving **seed funds, training & mentorship** to prototype their solutions



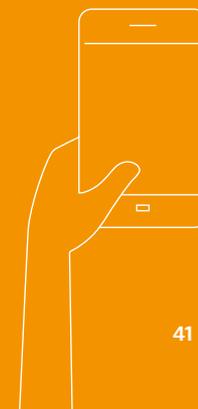
9 - Prototypes of the solutions are showcased at **Demo Day** ahead of potential investors



5

Global Mobile

UNFPA and Planned Parenthood Global joined forces to use mobile technology to provide access to sexual and reproductive health information and referrals to quality services for young people in the Global South. The initiative has been piloted in Ecuador and Nigeria, with an eye towards replication in other countries.



IV. MEASURING, LEARNING AND ADAPTING

Measuring, learning and adapting are key elements of UNFPA's approach to innovation. As part of continuous improvement, evaluation and documenting lessons learned helps UNFPA to understand challenges and identify innovative solutions.

One major recent initiative was the commissioning of an independent formative evaluation of the Innovation Fund to review its progress and guide the next phase of work on innovation. This was the first such exercise in the UN system. The evaluation recommended that UNFPA focus on innovation in selected thematic areas, and in addressing bottlenecks/gaps in programmes and operations through strengthened engagement in the innovation ecosystem.

The evaluation also highlighted the need to improve learning and communication, and for UNFPA to show commitment to innovation by investing in innovation networks and adequate human resources. It recommended better anchoring innovation in the organization, including by reflecting it more clearly in the 2018-2021 UNFPA Strategic Plan.

Drawing insights from what did and did not work

Innovation at UNFPA entails calculated risk-taking and room for failure. Four projects initially approved by the Innovation Fund, for example, were not implemented due to capacity constraints and organizational change.

The current project stream has enabled UNFPA and its partners to experiment with new concepts and projects. One example was the move from traditional project implementation to design-thinking, which puts a premium on ideation, collaboration, creativity and learning. This was a challenge for some early projects, however, underscoring the need to sustain systematic investment in supporting staff to think and work more creatively. Adequate human resources coupled with a strong organizational commitment will be critical to sustain and grow the innovation initiative.



RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORMATIVE EVALUATION OF THE UNFPA INNOVATION INITIATIVE:

1. Make critical strategic decisions in order to frame the foundations for its corporate approach to innovation.
2. Further develop a corporate framework for innovation for the next four years, revisiting and reactivating the Inter-divisional Working Group on Innovation.
3. Invest in human resources to ensure a feasible and credible business case for innovation.
4. Consolidate, redesign and reposition the Innovation Fund for the second phase of the Innovation Initiative
5. Focus to impact solutions while continuing work on nurturing a culture of innovation
6. Re-calibrate its innovation model, from the current inward-looking model to a more outward-looking approach.
7. Anchor innovation in the Strategic Plan 2018-2021.
8. Activate a functional feedback exchange mechanism between the Innovation Initiative and the business units playing a role in developing the policies and procedures that constitute the enabling environment for innovation.
9. Develop a learning-for-impact framework featuring innovation-specific M&E systems, knowledge-sharing mechanisms and a scaling-up framework.



بكل حافوت
فدا التبريت
المطاطا المتحمدة

INNOVATION DAY
PALESTINE

بكل حافوت
فدا التبريت
المطاطا المتحمدة

INNOVATION DAY
PALESTINE

بكل حافوت
فدا التبريت
المطاطا المتحمدة

V. PARTNERING FOR INNOVATION

“A CULTURE OF INNOVATION BRINGS THE RIGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER IN THE RIGHT SPACE TO WORK ON THE RIGHT ISSUES, WITHOUT MICROMANAGING THE PROCESS OR IMPOSING ANY PARTICULAR OUTCOME.”

—the late Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA

The Innovation Fund has helped establish novel partnerships and take existing partnerships in new directions. These have involved governments, civil society organizations, academia and businesses.

Design with the user is the first of the United Nations principles of innovation. Therefore, **communities** have been engaged not just as beneficiaries, or even participants, but as actual designers of development solutions to improve their lives.

UNFPA works closely with its **United Nations** sister agencies, growing a community of practice and encouraging collaboration. It shares learning as a member of the United Nations Innovation Network, and, building on the Big Data Boot Camp, it has supported the UN Data Innovation Labs to advance new and existing data sources. As part of the formative evaluation of the Innovation Fund, UNFPA commissioned a comparative study of innovation in the UN system to benchmark where it stands vis a vis other agencies, and to promote mutual learning. The comparative study identified different approaches to innovation and documented lessons learned.

The Innovation Fund has enabled UNFPA to expand partnerships with the **private sector**, primarily as a source of expertise and capacity rather than financing. Partners have primarily been from technology-oriented enterprises, such as Google, Safaricom and Philips.

UNFPA has also established innovative partnerships with **academia** to connect their technical expertise with its presence and partnerships in over 125 countries. The partnership with MIT on mHealth technology is a notable example.

VI. INNOVATION PHASE II

UNFPA's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan places a greatly increased emphasis on innovation to accelerate achievement of its outcomes.

Phase II of the work on innovation will emphasize removing bottlenecks to corporate results by scaling up successful innovations and strengthening innovative external partnerships. Priority issues will include: innovative financing, mHealth for adolescent sexual and reproductive health, access to sexual and reproductive health commodities and services, and data for development.

UNFPA will continue to promote a culture of innovation through activities such as Innovation Days, and by providing staff with opportunities to develop and test innovations. This effort will be underpinned by the real-time monitoring of lean data, a renewed focus on communications and enhanced capacity to innovate. The Innovation Fund will continue to act as a catalyst for innovation throughout the organization.



Annex I. List of Innovation Fund Projects

THE FOLLOWING INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS WERE OPERATIONALIZED BY THE END OF 2016				
Advancing sexual and reproductive health	Fostering youth empowerment	Promoting gender equality and human rights	Population data for development	Organizational effectiveness and efficiency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hack for Youth, Phase 1, hackathon • Hack for Youth, Phase 2, prototypes and pilots (ongoing) • ilovelife, an innovative and interactive mobile site for adolescents and youth (ongoing) • Love Question Life Answer, a mobile application to help youth to adopt healthy lifestyles (ongoing) • Portable mobile learning system to combat maternal and newborn mortality (completed) • Private sector health partnership (ongoing) • Menstruation cup for out-of-school girls (completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilding Syria through innovation: Empowering Syrian youth to become entrepreneurs (completed) • Women Investing in Women: Engaging women philanthropists in Argentina (completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender transformative media programming for greater male involvement for gender equality (completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Data Boot Camp: driving innovation through big data (completed) • Latin America and the Caribbean: Ensuring access to real-time population data in humanitarian crises (completed) • Indonesia: web-based geospatial emergency information portal: Innovating for better disaster response (completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN vehicle fleet sharing: Supporting One UN operations (completed) • UNFPA Innovation Fellowship: Nurturing the spirit of innovation within UNFPA (ongoing) • Face-to-face fundraising (not implemented) • UNFPA population school(not implemented) • UNFPA lab for policy and cooperation on sustainable development, BRICS Lab(not implemented) • UNFPA e-population award (not implemented)
The following projects were approved for 2017 implementation				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of mobile phones in communities linked to maternal death surveillance and response to reduce maternal mortality • Put It On: A mobile solution that fits in every pocket or purse, anytime and anywhere for free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yalla Shabab: youth active citizens • Basic Life Skills: The Appealing Smart Phone Game, Libya • Teenagers and sexuality: Messages and sexual and emotional relations through social media • ICT for youth, peace and security • Social Changemakers Lab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling gender-based violence through mobile technology in Honduras • Hand-in-Hand We Stand! Canadian business women partner with south-east Nigerian young women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloting remote monitoring methodologies to generate reliable data on programme delivery in areas with constrained access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFPA country and regional offices joining forces to work with social media ambassadors in order to amplify our social media impact



How can we reach the next generation of youth in places/ways to understand it

How can young people have access to timely referral services.

How might we help young women who don't know about Maternal Health care?

How might we help young women who don't know about Maternal Health care?

How do we reach young people with information to demand their rights to end child marriage

How do we reach young people with information to demand their rights to end child marriage

How can we identify information

How might we design a solution to help young people access the SRHR information and services they need?

How do we address the issue of effective counselling for young people.

How do we address the lack of ASRH supplies in the health facilities.

How do we help young people understand their rights to SRHR

How do we address the issue of effective counselling for young people.

How do we address the issue of effective counselling for young people.

How do we address the issue of effective counselling for young people.

How do we address the issue of Confidentiality/Privacy.

How do we address the issue of Confidentiality/Privacy.

How do we make balance between tech/youth needs/priorities

How do we build innovations to help young people better understand their body & reproductive organs/functions

How might we use design/develop a job to address LHR access to contraceptives

Is there a place in when it comes to being curious or other forms of contraceptive business? or how can we focus this

How do we help young people who feel and write

How do we help young people who feel and write

How to address SRHR issues especially about condom use, contraception in remote areas where cultural norms and beliefs are observed so much.

How can informed individuals help spread information and changing concepts to other people?

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Maps and designations

The designations employed and the presentation of material in maps in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNFPA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. A dotted line approximately represents the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties.

UNFPA gratefully acknowledges the support of the governments of Denmark and Finland to the UNFPA Innovation Fund



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Design and layout by Phoenix Design Aid A/S, Denmark



Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted
every childbirth is safe and
every young person's
potential is fulfilled

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