

UNICEF contribution to 2018 ECOSOC Integration Segment
Innovative communities: leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies

III. Approaches to leveraging technology and innovation to build resilience for sustainable development

a. National Examples

- UNICEF's drone based technology/programme is exploring a range of applications, including vaccine and medical supply **delivery/transport**; improved **connectivity** in hard-to-reach communities; and aerial **imaging** for better preparedness and response in emergencies.
- In 2017, the Office of Innovation positioned UNICEF as a leader in the field of drones for development by **establishing two drone testing corridors in Malawi and Vanuatu. In Vanuatu, UNICEF and the Government** formalized an agreement in 2017 to test drones for transport in 2018.
- Between June and December, seven companies applied to use the corridor in Malawi and some 150 flights were conducted. UNICEF also partnered with the University of Virginia to train 30 Malawian university students who 3D printed and flew 17 flights during two weeks of training.

b. Cross-border and regional initiatives

- UNICEF and partners use **RapidPro to gather accurate and timely data on vital areas such as health, nutrition, education and child protection**—even in remote and hard-to-reach places—and use that data to reach those most in need.
- For example, in **Indonesia, RapidPro provided real-time tracking and troubleshooting for the country's largest-ever measles and rubella vaccination campaign**, reaching more than 35 million children between the ages of 9 months and 15 years.
- The **RapidPro** platform was selected and highlighted in UNDP's annual *Global South-South Development Expo*, **as a model for cooperation by developers across countries in the global South** – showing governments and others how to build and expand a software platform for global public good.
- **UPSHIFT** is a social innovation youth programme that enables marginalized young people to gain skills for employment and life.
- Building on private sector best practices (human-centred design), **UPSHIFT enables young people to identify problems in their communities and create entrepreneurial solutions to address them.**
- UPSHIFT was developed in Kosovo and scaled organically to 5 other countries (Montenegro, Vietnam, Lebanon, Jordan, Myanmar) in 2017.

c. Global Initiatives

- **U-Report is a free social messaging tool** that allows users to speak out on development issues, support child rights and improve communities.
- There are now **over 4.6 million U-Reporters active in 40 countries**, including 2.3 million emergency-affected users who gained a voice through U-Report in 2017.

- **During the response to Hurricane Irma** in the Caribbean, for example, U-Report was rapidly deployed to deliver potentially life-saving messages to more than 25,000 people within the first 14 days of the response.
- Follow up surveys showed that U-Report was the only source of preparedness information for more than a third of its users, and more than 80 percent of U-Reporters shared the information with least one person, 51% with at least five people.
- UNICEF's Office of Innovation is investing in **Magic Box**, a collaborative platform that is made possible through the contributions of private sector partners (such as Telefonica, Google, IBM and Amadeus) – and harnesses this real-time data to gain critical insights into the needs of vulnerable populations, and allow UNICEF to make more informed decisions about how to invest resources to respond to disasters, epidemics (e.g. the Zika outbreak) and other challenges.
- In 2017, the Office of Innovation grew the Magic Box portfolio by exploring four applications (fighting epidemics; mapping schools; measuring gaps in a child's access to information; and generating real-time inequality indicators using satellite imagery and AI) in 10 countries spanning five regions.
- An example of how Magic Box can be used to fight epidemics: in May 2017, UNICEF Innovation developed a computational model to **simulate the spread of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic** -- this analysis led to a partnership between UNICEF DRC and local telecommunications companies to provide real-time data on human movement, which will improve simulations and help prevent future disease outbreaks.

IV. Policy instruments and mechanisms to support risk management and risk reduction

a. Policy integration

- This year, UNICEF is launching its Guidance for Risk Informed Programming (GRIP). The methodology brings together multiple stakeholders (including government and UN agencies) to analyse risk and to design or adapt programmes to further risk reduction, resilience and peace. Four UNICEF country offices in collaboration with partners went through a Risk-Informed Programming process (Malawi, India (4 States), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vietnam). GRIP will be rolled out across the organization beginning 2018.
- Risk-informed programming strives to make resilience and peace a central goal of all child-rights focused development programming and humanitarian action. It seeks to not just achieve a development or humanitarian-related result – but to protect progress for boys, girls, women and men against the negative impacts of shocks and stresses.
- Risk-informed programming is a central “Change Strategy” in UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2018-2021, through which the organization will reorient its planning and programming processes to better support national governments to pursue the results and targets of the 2030 Agenda. It is part of a “New Way of Working” which will further resilient development and strengthen the linkages between humanitarian and development work.

b. Foresight methods

- In 2016, UNICEF Pacific worked with a private sector firm to develop spatial child-centered risk assessments for seven separate Pacific Island countries. Later, an additional four countries were added to the list. The findings of the risk assessments were integrated in the county-specific Situation Analyses and contributed to internal discussions, informing the new multi-Country Programme. The risk assessments also supported the WASH sector to better target its investments to islands and areas that were not only deprived of adequate WASH, but also highly exposed to a variety of climate and disaster-related hazards.

c. Capacity building

- In areas of Somalia where access to water had been a source of violent conflict, UNICEF supported community-based water management with a focus on peacebuilding. This increased resilience and aided reconciliation.
- Following the devastating hurricane Hayan in the Philippines, UNICEF supported the government in rebuilding a disaster-resilient cold chain system for the transport and storage of vital medicines. This approach included the training of thousands of healthcare workers.

d. Institutional mechanisms

- Systems strengthening and capacity development for social protection systems remain central strategies pre-, during and post- crisis. UNICEF's approach not only contributes to providing an immediate safety net, but contributes to building a national system over a sustained period such as in Yemen.
- In 2017, the country entered a new partnership with the World Bank initially on nutrition and maternal and child health, later expanded to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and most recently to include an Emergency Cash Transfer project.
- The payments improve the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households and help them meet their basic needs. These projects reinforce the synergy between humanitarian and development programmes, contribute to building resilience while meeting immediate needs and when delivered through national structures and services support a systems approach – and are therefore very relevant for fragile contexts.
- In Lebanon, the UNICEF country office has been strengthening existing education systems and capacities since 2014, rather than creating parallel structures. The strategic choice to target all vulnerable children in Lebanon reinforces UNICEF's commitment to support all children based on need, not status, while also strengthening institutional capacity.

e. Multi-stakeholder participation and partnerships

- In Zimbabwe, strong multi-sectoral coordination structures were established to enhance nutrition resilience. At the national level, a multi-stakeholder platform known as the National Food and Nutrition Security Committee was established that engaged the 17 government Ministries, the UN agencies, donor, civil society organizations, academia and business networks.
- Working through predictable local partnerships, such as the Red Cross or other local organizations, is necessary for going to scale, providing a more timely, sustainable and relevant response, including emergency response. Strengthening community structures and capacities is critical to ensuring that communities themselves participate in planning and action.