unicef

INNOVATION CENTER

TRANSFORMING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INNOVATION

UNICEF INNOVATION LANDSCAPE

The Innovation Centre has an extensive global footprint through its network of innovation labs, local presence and best-of-breed partners.

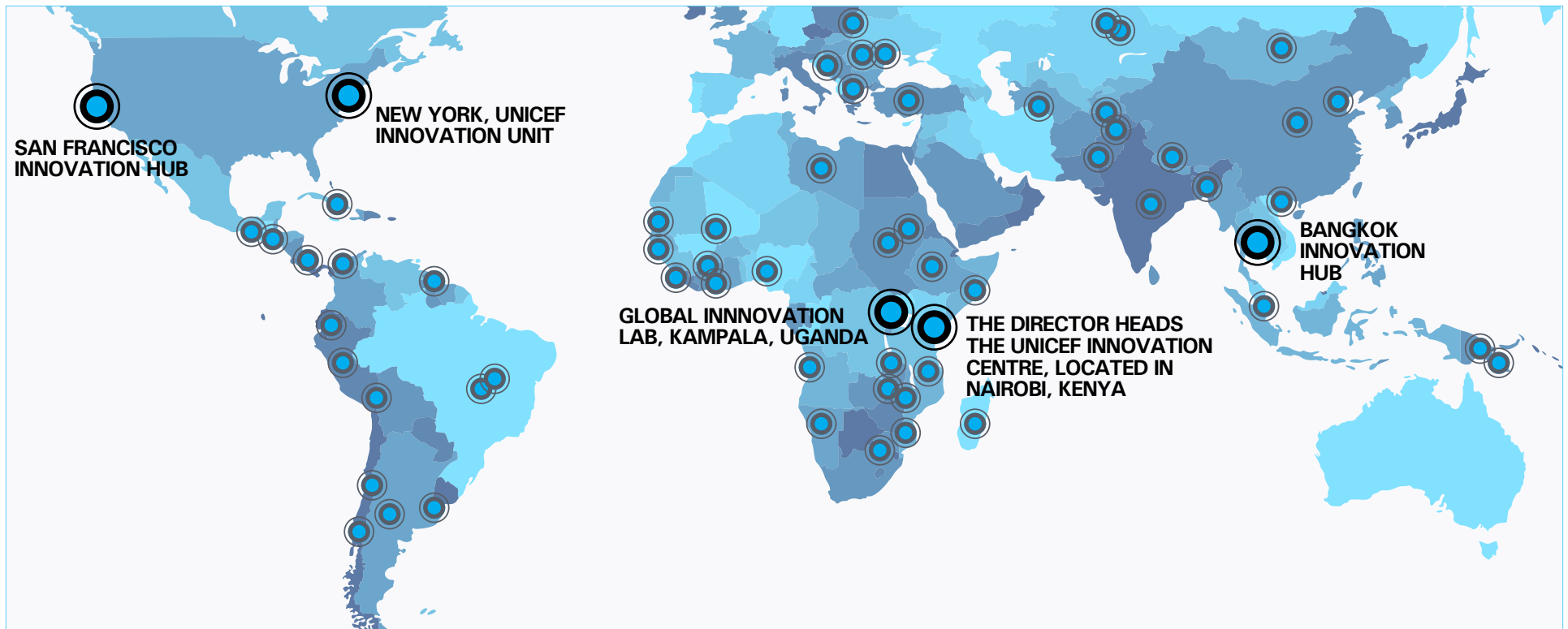Innovation Labs in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America

Partnerships in the private, development and public sectors

Ability to access and leverage on-the-ground knowledge of the existing ecosystem through local presence in more than 190 countries

Established innovation and design programmes with academic institutions in Africa, Europe and North America.

SAN FRANCISCO INNOVATION HUB

NEW YORK, UNICEF INNOVATION UNIT

GLOBAL INNNOVATION LAB, KAMPALA, UGANDA

THE DIRECTOR HEADS THE UNICEF INNOVATION CENTRE, LOCATED IN NAIROBI, KENYA

BANGKOK INNOVATION HUB

VISION

The vision of the UNICEF Global Innovation Centre (UIC) is enabling exponential change in reducing inequities and achieving programme effectiveness and results for children.

The centre focuses on innovations that benefit the most deprived people, and the areas with the highest levels of inequity. That is why we focus on technologies, tools and solutions that can be deployed and used in remote areas and by people who do not have access to feature technology.

UNICEF INNOVATION PRINCIPLES

1. Design with the user

2. Understand the existing ecosystem

3. Design for scale

4. Build for sustainability

5. Be data driven

6. Use Open Standard, Open Data, Open Source and Open Innovation

7. Reuse and improve

8. Do no harm

9. Be collaborative

OUR APPROACH

Take Successful Innovations to Global Scale:

Solutions like RapidPro (which includes tools like U-report and eduTrac) and Digital Kiosks are currently deployed in around 18 countries at various scales and many more are in the process of starting. USAID and the World Bank are now incorporating these tools in their own programming.

HARVEST	INCUBATE	EDUCATE	DISSEMINATE

HARVEST

Harvest innovations that are working as pilots but have not been tested for replicability, scalability, robustness and effectiveness. Help support their assessment and where applicable, help grow them to the level where they can then be taken to scale through donor funding. For example, health monitoring solution MTrac was first developed and piloted by an NGO. UNICEF Innovation helped create the replicability, robustness and scalability factors and the evidence that allowed DfID to fund scaling up to national level.

INCUBATE

Identify great concepts that do not have the financial support to be tested. Help build those concepts for testing and harvest those that qualify on scalability, replicability, robustness and effectiveness criteria. For example, the Innovation Lab applied the concept of reusing waste banana leaves and produced sanitary napkins and fuel briquettes.These products have been approved by the Uganda Standards Bureau for manufacture and sale in the country. A women's group is now establishing a cooperative production unit.

EDUCATE

Provide connections where young talent can be connected to various collaborative centers and even UNICEF Innovation Labs to learn from and be exposed to the innovative processes. The Global Innovation Lab hosts students from various international universities and connects them to local universities. This provides exposure and experience for local students, and offers international students an opportunity to work with communities to solve the challenges they face. One of the results has been a joint university course on product design and development.

DISSEMINATE

Document, share and promote successful innovations for scaling up. In 2013, the Global Innovation Lab in collaboration with UNICEF Regional and Country offices, hosted government and UNICEF delegations from 24 countries, high-value donors and organizations from Africa, Asia and the Middle East. This has resulted in solutions being translated, adapted and deployed in those countries and by organizations like USAID and the World Bank.

UNICEF INNOVATION FILTERING PROCESS

The UNICEF Innovation Centre embraces and lives its own principles in managing an Open Source affinity and action platform that transparently facilitates broad engagement with people and organizations interested in working on innovation that benefits children and women.

AFFINITY

Any person or organization interested in innovation for children and women can register to join via the UNICEF Innovation Centre's open source platform. Members receive regular communication about the Centre and its work, as well as on innovation in general.

CALL TO ACTION

Any member can take action, including:
- Submit their idea/innovation for consideration for the UIC portfolio
- Respond to a call for solutions to a directed innovation challenge
- Engage in a matchmaking exercise with identified UNICEF innovation needs.
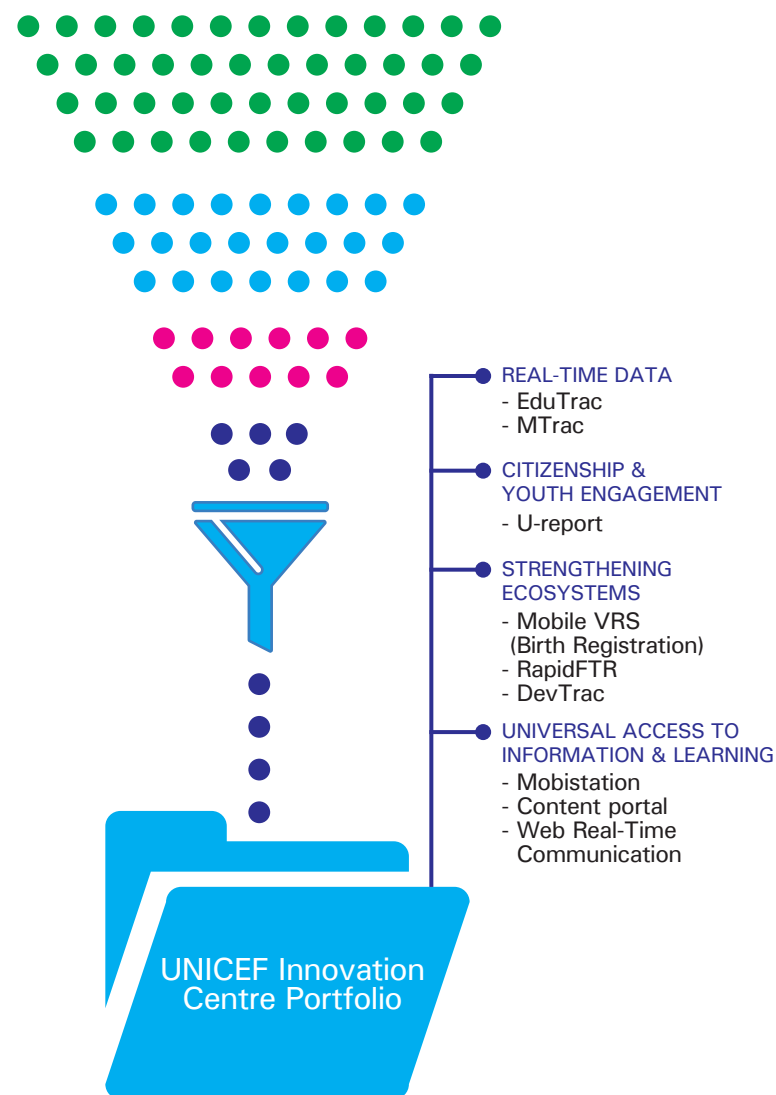 Proposals must meet UNICEF's Innovation principles

PEER REVIEW/ CROWD SOURCING

Members are invited to weigh in on submissions, which will help to identify those with more promise according to the wisdom of the crowd. Members will also identify the individual who will fill the social entrepreneur seat on the UIC steering committee.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

These emerging ideas/innovations will be reviewed by the UIC Steering Committee for decision on whether the UIC will invest in them. Regardless, these will enter the UIC portfolio and be publicly available for other organizations to review for investment, providing global visibility to socially good innovations that benefit children and women.

REAL-TIME DATA
- EduTrac
- MTrac

CITIZENSHIP & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
- U-report

STRENGTHENING ECOSYSTEMS
- Mobile VRS (Birth Registration)
- RapidFTR
- DevTrac

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION & LEARNING
- Mobistation
- Content portal
- Web Real-Time Communication

UNICEF Innovation Centre Portfolio

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT

The Innovation Centre manages an assessed portfolio of innovations that range from robust, fully scaled solutions implemented at national level in multiple countries, to new ideas being incubated, field-tested and assessed against scalability, replicability, robustness and effectiveness criteria.

The majority of the global population, especially those living in under-served and resource-constrained areas do not have access to the three pillars of global citizenship: information, opportunity and choice.

REAL-TIME DATA

FROM WHAT HAPPENED TO WHAT'S HAPPENING
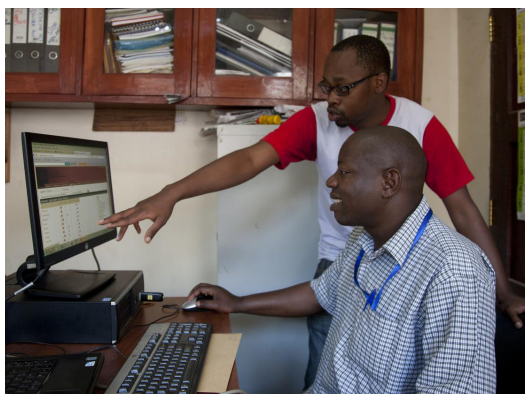
» MTrac is a national-scale disease surveillance and medicine tracking system managing actionable data from thousands of facilities.

» EduTrac is an SMS-based data collection system designed to track key issues such as absenteeism, school budget allocation and availability of water and sanitation facilities. Triangulated data sources provide greater accountability and transparency in the education sector and inform policy and programmes.

Cutting delays in moving critical management data from frontline workers in remote areas to decsion-makers. A shift from "What happened?" to "What is happening" and from "Information Management Systems" to "Information For Management."

Tracking
Ensuring mothers and children receive necessary, lifesaving interventions.

CITIZENSHIP AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND CITIZEN-CENTRED MONITORING

» U-report provides an SMS-based platform for strengthening communication and dialogues with communities and parliamentarians around core development issues.
In its largest implementation in Uganda, more than 250,000 young people are polled with data analysed in real time. Both quantitative and machine-intelligence aided qualitative analysis are undertaken.

Direct citizen-parliamentarian communication and grassroots data to influence policy, budget allocations and legislation.

Real-time youth engagement and citizen-centered monitoring as the basis for giving a voice to those left out and establishing a system of transparency and accountability to those affected most by inequities.

STRENGTHENING ECOSYSTEMS

IDENTITY AND REGISTRATION SYSTEMS/ DEVELOPMENT PARTNER COORDINATION
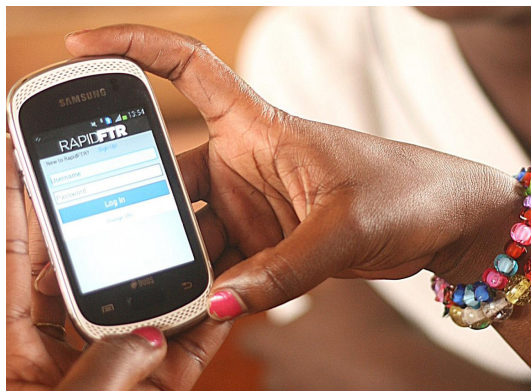
» MobileVRS is a web- and mobile-based system that allows health workers and local government officials to report births with simple verification and print birth certificates.

» RapidFTR is a mobile-based system that enables aid workers to quickly collect and share information to trace and reunify separated and unaccompanied children with their families

» DevTrac is an aggregation tool that provides real-time information about development projects for immediate programme response, analysis, accountability and advocacy. It includes both qualitative and quantitative media.

Development partner coordination tools providing real-time updates on who is doing what and where, enhancing aid transparency.

Game-changing registration systems at the scale of millions of records that enable individual's right to an identity and access to services and strengthen public sector planning, budgeting and social services.

Management support tools including case management and remote diagnostics.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND LEARNING

INFORMATION ACCESS FOR THE MOST MARGINALIZED IN THE MOST DEPRIVED AREAS

» Information kiosks for youth

» Enhanced public call booths

» Mobistation, a multimedia tool to support education in and out of schools and to assist teachers, improving access, equity and quality in education. Built into a portable suitcase, it is equipped with a solar-powered laptop, a low-power pico-projector and an audio system. Offline and interactive multimedia materials create an innovative learning environment with opportunities for active student learning.

Equitable access providing access to information to the most deprived in the most remote areas.

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

**FROM"WHAT HAPPENED?"
TO "WHAT'S HAPPENING"**

Real-time reporting of programme data for programme management. Cutting delays in moving critical data

IDENTITY AND REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

- Birth registration
- Family Tracing and Reunification

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND CITIZEN-CENTERED MONITORING

Real-time citizen feedback and beneficiary feedback for transparency, accountability and end-use monitoring

REMOTE DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

CASE MANAGEMENT

**DEVELOPMENT PARTNER
CO-ORDINATION**

PARTNERSHIPS WITH

- Private sector innovation labs
- Acedemic research labs
- Development partners
- UNICEF Innovation labs

INFORMATION ACCESS TO THE MOST DEPRIVED IN THE MOST REMOTE AREAS

- Digital kiosks
- Mobistation portable digital kiosks
- Enhanced public call booths
- Web Real-Time Communications(RTC)
- Content portals

Circle segments:
- SERVICE PROVIDERS
- PROVEN OPEN SOURCE
- MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TOOLS
- PARTNERSHIPS
- HARDWARE DEVELOPMENT

EMERGING AREAS OF WORK

FINANCIAL SERVICES:
How can we partner with existing and new finacial institutions and technology companies to bring the most underserved into the financial world?

IDENTITY:
For a child, formal identity in the form of a birth certificate can mean the difference between safety and danger, even life and death. How can we give children an identity while avoiding the pitfalls?

TRANSPORT AND DELIVERY:
Transport is key to economic development. How can we foster entrepreneurship to leapfrog existing infrastructure barriers?
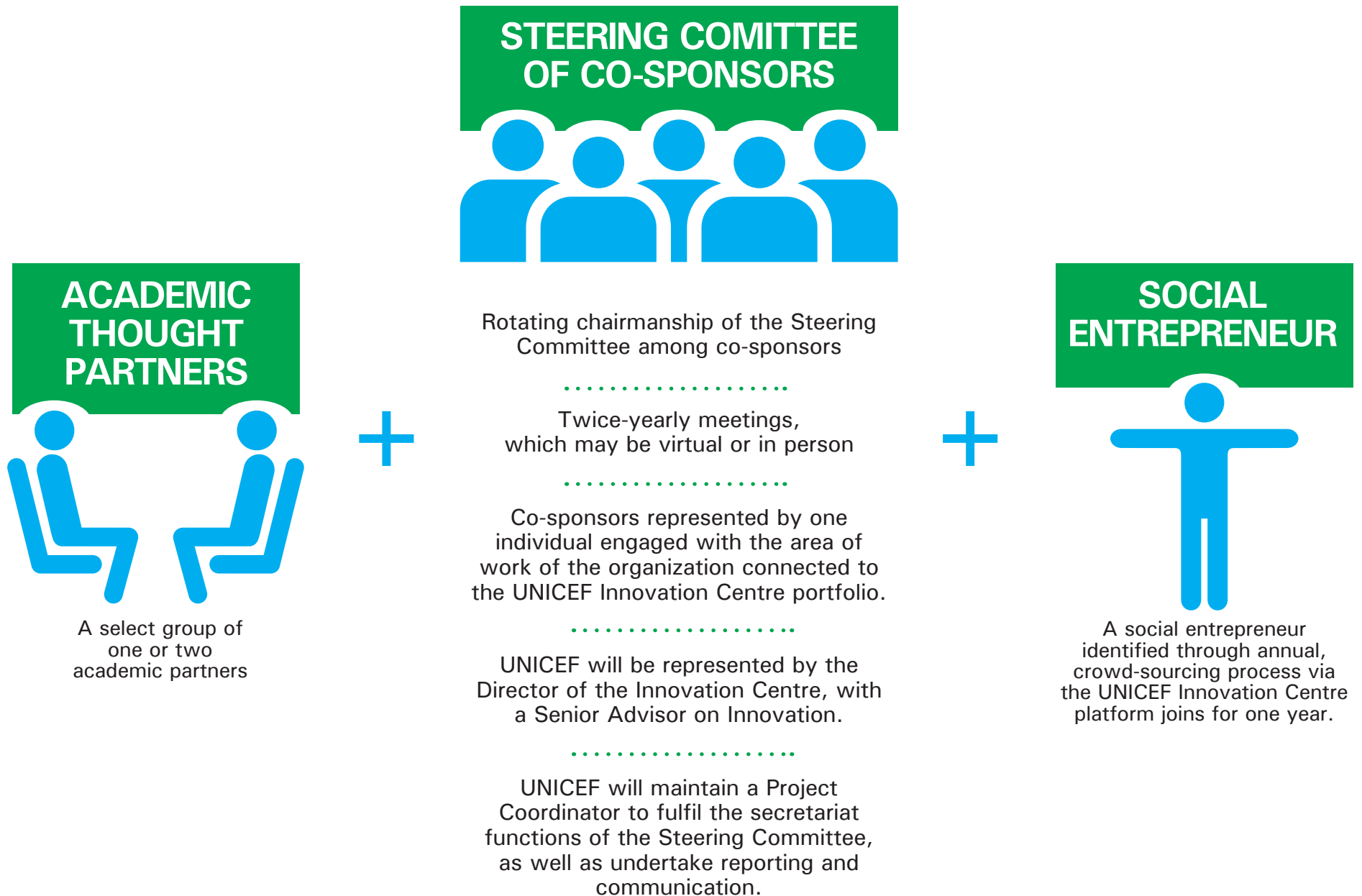
WEARABLES:
This emerging area is converging around fitness and health. How could wearables deliver cost-effective tracking and diagnostic solutions to underserved communities?

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

STEERING COMITTEE OF CO-SPONSORS

ACADEMIC THOUGHT PARTNERS

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

Rotating chairmanship of the Steering Committee among co-sponsors

Twice-yearly meetings, which may be virtual or in person

Co-sponsors represented by one individual engaged with the area of work of the organization connected to the UNICEF Innovation Centre portfolio.

UNICEF will be represented by the Director of the Innovation Centre, with a Senior Advisor on Innovation.

UNICEF will maintain a Project Coordinator to fulfil the secretariat functions of the Steering Committee, as well as undertake reporting and communication.

A select group of one or two academic partners

+

+

A social entrepreneur identified through annual, crowd-sourcing process via the UNICEF Innovation Centre platform joins for one year.

CONTACT

Dr. Sharad Sapra
Director, UNICEF Innovation Centre
ssapra@unicef.org

Tanya Accone
Senior Adviser on Innovation
1-646-229-2572
taccone@unicef.org

Hiba Frankoul
Partnerships Manager
1-212-824-6977
hfrankoul@unicef.org

PHOTO CREDITS