Update on Innovation

Informal briefing of the UNICEF Executive Board

Daniel Couture, Chief Information Officer and Acting Director, Division of Innovation

January 29, 2020
## Evaluation management response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Develop a shared strategic vision and approach that directly addresses fundamental constraints in the current approach and drives decision-making across the organization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF’s Global Innovation Strategy and Vision has been finalized.</td>
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<td><strong>This recommendation is complete.</strong></td>
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<td>2. Act on needed structural change to advance innovation as a means of achieving results for children.</td>
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<td>Under the overall guidance of the new DED Innovation, the Division of Innovation is being re-organized to align to the new Innovation Strategy, to ensure it is fit for purpose.</td>
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<td><strong>This recommendation is approximately 70% complete</strong></td>
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<td>3. Utilize a portfolio management approach for innovation.</td>
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<td>The Division of Innovation has put in place a portfolio management approach in with this new recommendation.</td>
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<td><strong>This recommendation is approximately 75% complete</strong></td>
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Strategy and Framework

**Accomplishments**: Comparative advantages and demonstrated successes in applying innovation to improve children’s lives.

**Bending the curve**: Understanding where to focus innovation to influence and accelerate the arc of progress positively for children, and applying a portfolio approach to do so.

**Capability and culture**: Purposefully collaborating with partners and contributing to innovation as a catalyst and convener, and in other roles – as well as evolving our organizational capability and becoming more fit for purpose in the context of a learning oriented, risk-taking culture.
Accomplishments, applications, advantages

Categories of experience

Digital
- EduTech
- Data & digital health tools
- Mobile youth platforms

Physical products
- Portable incubators
- Accessible latrine slabs
- Multi-purpose, lightweight tents

Financing
- Bridge funds
- Blended finance
- Cryptocurrency
- Transactional Financing

Programme
- Blockchain
- Human-centered design
- Behaviour science-driven C4D

Frugal
- Kangaroo care and safe birth kits
- Youth entrepreneur programmes
- FieldLab
Bending the curve

*Portfolio management approach*

**Problem-focused approach** to select from a portfolio of innovations with a sectoral-focus on:
- Learning
- Maternal and Newborn Child Health
- WASH
- Humanitarian Context

**Tackle the most difficult challenges** while prioritizing issues in which existing solutions are not making enough progress

**Accelerate Results** toward achieving the SDGs
Innovation cycle

Matching today’s challenges with tomorrow’s solutions

Common framework to nurture culture of innovation across UNICEF

Four stage cyclical innovation process:
1. Ideation
2. Proof of concept
3. Scale up
4. Product lifecycle
Ongoing steps

Implement interconnected innovation governance and realign structures to deliver the strategy

Align partnerships to innovation priorities for children through an expanded innovation portfolio with a focus on scaling

Continuing to cultivate a culture of innovation, deliberate learning and risk taking

Further invest in knowledge management and building staff and partner capability

Measure our progress and effect on results for children
Thank You