unicef | for every child

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

INNOVATION CAMP 2026

-

Wednesday 7th

unicef | for every child

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

Keskiviikko

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

The 2026 Innovation Camp

A five-day arc in Helsinki, from vision to action.

Day 1
Beyond digital as usual

Anchor initiatives are the starting point.

Each country takes the cohort through its anchor, and the week opens with a shared picture and a first view of their vision for their education system.

Day 2
See the future differently

A megatrends workshop opens up the possibilities.

Future scenarios are applied directly to each anchor initiative and the strategy behind it.

Day 3
Strengthen the anchor initiative

A school visit in Finland grounds the week in practice.

Peer clinics, adaptation requirements and evidence gaps then sharpen each anchor value proposition.

Day 4
Build the pathway

Exercises on stakeholder and resource mapping, and working together to produce a draft scaling plan.

A strategy exchange session on thematic areas that are critical to scaling digital education work in countries.

Day 5
Lead the change

Country plans presented with roles and responsibilities, reflections and next steps.

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Day 3: Wednesday 7 October

Strengthen the anchor. A school visit in Finland grounds the week in practice. The redesign studio then sharpens each anchor value proposition.

Morning

08:45	Recap
09:00	Guest speaker: Minister Tavio, Finland Minister for Foreign Trade and Development
09:20	Group photo
09:30	Travel to the school
10:15	School tour and introduction: Hiidenkiven Peruskoulu
11:45	School lunch

Afternoon

12:30	Classroom observations
13:15	Travel back to the venue
14:00	Team reflection: insights from the field
14:45	Break
15:00	Guest speakers: Brad Olsen & Molly Wyss, Brookings Institution. Scaling sustainable edtech innovations
16:00	Redesign studio: sharpened value proposition

unicef | for every child



LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

08:45 to 09:00

Recap

Tuesday: see the future differently

unicef | for every child

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

Guest speaker

Ville Tavio

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Finland

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Guest speaker, 09:00

Ville Tavio

Finland's Minister for Foreign Trade and Development.

Minister Tavio has served in this role since 2023 and has been a Member of Parliament since 2015.

Throughout his career, he has played an active role in shaping Finland's engagement on international affairs, trade, and development cooperation.



unicef | for every child

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

09:20 to 09:30

Group photo

unicef | for every child

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

09:30 to 13:15

School visit: Hiidenkiven Peruskoulu

10:15 school tour and introduction. 11:45 school lunch. 12:30 classroom observations.

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Day 3: Wednesday 7 October

Strengthen the anchor. A school visit in Finland grounds the week in practice. The redesign studio then sharpens each anchor value proposition.

Morning

08:45	Recap
09:00	Guest speaker: Minister Tavio, Finland Minister for Foreign Trade and Development
09:20	Group photo
09:30	Travel to the school
10:15	School tour and introduction: Hiidenkiven Peruskoulu
11:45	School lunch

Afternoon

12:30	Classroom observations
13:15	Travel back to the venue
14:00	Team reflection: insights from the field
14:45	Break
15:00	Guest speakers: Brad Olsen & Molly Wyss, Brookings Institution. Scaling sustainable edtech innovations
16:00	Redesign studio: sharpened value proposition

unicef | for every child



LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

14:00 to 14:45

Team reflection

Insights from the field

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

What we take from the school visit

Day 3 feedback. Scan the QR code and answer on your phone. Then write your team reflection on workbook slide 20.

1. **What is one thing from the school visit that changed how you see schools and learning?**

2. **What would need to change for what you saw to work in your country?**

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

The school visit

Workbook slide 20. Keep these three in mind during the visit. You will write them up at 14:00.

Policy in practice

How national policy shows up in the daily life of the school.

Text

The learning environment

Spaces, devices and connectivity, and how the school uses them.

Text

Class observation

What the teacher and learners did, and how they used technology.

Text

unicef | for every child



LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

14:45 to 15:00

Break

unicef | for every child

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

15:00 to 15:45

Scaling sustainable edtech and digital innovations

Guest speakers: Brad Olsen and Molly Wyss

Center for Universal Education, Brookings Institution

Session chair: Leotes Helin

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Scaling sustainable edtech and digital innovations



Brad Olsen
Senior Fellow
Global Economy and Development, Center for Universal Education
Brookings Institution

At Brookings, Olsen's work centers on research and policy around the scaling of educational innovations for systemic improvement in low- and middle-income countries around the world. Prior to this, Olsen was a professor of education at the University of California, Santa Cruz.



Molly Wyss
Assistant Project Director – Global Economy and Development, Center for Universal Education
Brookings Institution

As a member of the Millions Learning team since 2017, Molly's work focuses on issues related to scaling and sustaining quality education innovations and initiatives for all children and youth in low- and middle-income countries. Prior to Brookings, Molly worked as a research consultant for the Global Business Coalition for Education and Theirworld, a global children's charity committed to ending the global education crisis.

unicef | for every child

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

16:00

Redesign studio

Sharpened value proposition

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

The Learning Pioneers Programme Journey

A structured journey to engage with emerging approaches to impact and scale in education and build the institutional capacity to keep adapting.

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Programme timeline

Foundation | **Direction** | **Delivery** | **Ecosystem**

Community of practice, peer-to-peer learning, comms and visibility.

We are here

August 2026

Selected on readiness to scale

Five to six countries chosen, each with a candidate anchor initiative.

Aug- Sept 2026

Confirm the anchor, map the gaps

Evidence built through landscape mapping and user research.

5 to 9 Oct 2026

Innovation Camp, Helsinki

The cohort convenes and shapes a future-proof scaling plan.

Oct to Dec 2026

Scaling plans grounded in country realities

Camp outputs become concrete plans with technical support.

Early 2027

Scaling plan implementation

Plans implemented with support on governance and capacity.

Mid 2027 to 2028

Scaling review and decisions

Progress reviewed and lessons feed into scaling plan iteration, and where possible the Digital Education Strategy, Education Sector Plan

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Programme timeline

Foundation | **Direction** | **Delivery** | **Ecosystem**

Community of practice, peer-to-peer learning, comms and visibility.

We are going here

August 2026

Selected on readiness to scale

Five to six countries chosen, each with a candidate anchor initiative.

Aug- Sept 2026

Confirm the anchor, map the gaps

Evidence built through landscape mapping and user research.

5 to 9 Oct 2026

Innovation Camp, Helsinki

The cohort convenes and shapes a future-proof scaling plan.

Oct to Dec 2026

Scaling plans grounded in country realities

Camp outputs become concrete plans with technical support.

Early 2027

Scaling plan implementation

Plans implemented with support on governance and capacity.

Mid 2027 to 2028

Scaling review and decisions

Progress reviewed and lessons feed into scaling plan iteration, and where possible the Digital Education Strategy, Education Sector Plan

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

LPP3: Pathways to Scale

From pilots and scattered initiatives to a country-owned scaling plan.

WHERE COUNTRIES ARE NOW

Supporting fragmented digital initiatives

Countries are implementing different digital education initiatives, some at pilot stage, others ongoing for a few years but have limited pathways for scale

WHAT THE DIGITAL EDUCATION AND LEARNING INNOVATION TEAM BRINGS

1. **Diagnostic tools:** to build a shared baseline from existing data.
2. **Technical inputs:** across financing, systems integration, and future-proofing.
3. **Facilitation and Human-Centred Design methods:** for the 1-2 day Strategic Alignment and Pathways to Scale Workshop.
4. **Continued technical guidance:** to support implementation

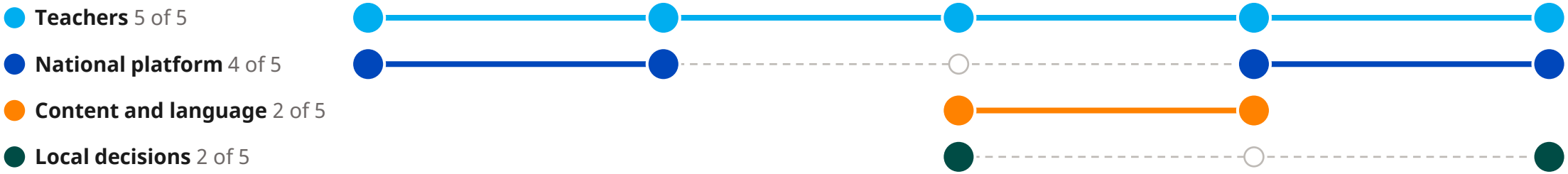
WHERE COUNTRIES NEED TO GO

An endorsed scaling pathway plan

A country-owned plan for national reach, financing, and sustainability.

Mapping common areas and overlaps

	State of Palestine	Uganda	Nepal	Mozambique	Honduras
Anchor	**National platform** for continuity of learning	**Leaders in Teaching** (teacher upskilling) + **national platform**	Foundational learning + digital education framework development	**Learning platforms** for primary and secondary (content already accessible?)	21st century skills and AI literacy + **national platform** (+ influencing national budgets on education and digital education)
Sub-focus	**Teachers**	School readiness and infrastructure	**Quality, accessible content**; **teachers**	**Teacher upskilling**	**Teachers**
Shared threads					
Boundary conditions	Safety and freedom of movement	Energy, electricity and infrastructure	**Decentralization and local decisions** (coordination, planning, governance)	**Language and cultural identity**, people and technology (Mozambican Portuguese content in place of Portuguese or Brazilian; bilingual education)	Public debt and fiscal space (limited budget for education). **Local authorities influence education priorities**



UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Common questions across the cohort

Three shared questions from Monday, with inclusion and equity running through all of them.

1

How do we fund it beyond donor support?

Including device procurement and maintenance. **From Nepal:** start with what government can fund, through its own mechanisms.

2

How do we deliver on learning outcomes, and measure them?

Evidence that the initiative improves learning, and a way to track it as it grows.

3

How do we upskill teachers at scale?

Capacity building that reaches every teacher, including in rural areas.

Inclusion and equity run through all three. Who does each initiative reach first, and how does it reach every learner?

Also emerging



Data systems and early warning

Nepal links EMIS to the national ID system. Mozambique brings DHS. Could these support an early warning system?



Climate impact

How climate events affect schools and learning, raised by Mozambique and Nepal.

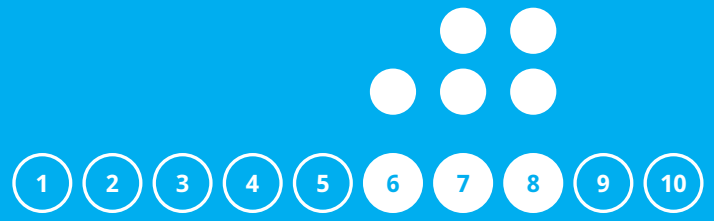
UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

How confident are you about scale?

Your live feedback from yesterday. Five responses, on a scale from 1 to 10.

7.2

Average confidence that your anchor initiative can scale in your country.



Two responses at 8, two at 7, one at 6.

What would move you from 7 to 9?

The assumptions you said you need to explore and validate.

Ownership and formal approval

"Share and discuss the initiative and collect feedback with all stakeholders. Legalise it through formal channels." "Ministry of Education ownership."

2 of 5

Funding and long-term maintenance

"Adequate funding for implementation and sustainability." "Staff capacity, technical skills, funding and long-term maintenance."

2 of 5

Teacher capacity and motivation

"The teacher training strategy needs a more extensive team." "Motivation by teachers."

2 of 5

Evidence of use

"Teachers are registered and use it, and we can verify it was used. Children are registered and data shows its use."

1 of 5

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Where Learning Pioneers can help next

Across the cohort. Support for the questions you share, built on what the programme offers.

What you asked	How Learning Pioneers can help	Type of support
Funding beyond donor support	Technical inputs on financing: costing the full rollout, including devices and maintenance. Peer exchange on building through existing government mechanisms.	Technical inputs; Peer learning
Teachers at scale, including rural areas	A cohort exchange on teacher upskilling, since all five anchors work through teachers. Continued guidance on models that reach rural schools.	Peer learning; Technical guidance
Evidence of learning and use	Diagnostic tools to build a shared baseline from existing data, including EMIS. Guidance on tracking use and learning outcomes from the start.	Diagnostic tools; Technical guidance
Ownership and formal approval	The Strategic Alignment and Pathways to Scale Workshop, to place the anchor inside the Education Sector Plan and digital education strategy.	Facilitation

Inclusion and equity are part of every support area: who is reached first, and how every learner is reached.

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Where Learning Pioneers can help next

In your country. Starting points shaped by your conditions, to check with your facilitators.



State of Palestine

Designing around: safety and freedom of movement.

Support focus: a platform and teacher support that keep learning going when movement is restricted.



Uganda

Designing around: energy, electricity and infrastructure.

Support focus: a rollout that matches school readiness, with energy and device options that fit each setting.



Nepal

Designing around: decentralisation and local decisions.

Support focus: coordination, planning and governance across federal, provincial and local levels.



Mozambique

Designing around: language and cultural identity.

Support focus: content in Mozambican Portuguese, and support for bilingual education.



Honduras

Designing around: limited fiscal space, and local authorities shaping priorities.

Support focus: costing and the budget case, with local authorities involved early.

In country work time:

Check this focus with your facilitators and add what is missing. It feeds your first draft of the pathway to scale plan.

unicef | for every child

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

16:00

Redesign studio

Sharpened value proposition

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

The school visit

Workbook slide 20. Write what your team saw while the visit is still fresh.

Policy in practice

How national policy shows up in the daily life of the school.

Text

The learning environment

Spaces, devices and connectivity, and how the school uses them.

Text

Class observation

What the teacher and learners did, and how they used technology.

Text

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Notes from today’s speakers

Workbook slide 21. Write one or two lines for each speaker.

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development

The points to take into our own government conversations.

Text

Brookings on scaling sustainable edtech and digital innovations

What applies to our anchor, and what we would adapt.

Text

What this changes for us

One change to our anchor as a result of today.

Text

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Our value proposition, sharpened

Workbook slide 22, part 1 of 2. Start from the landscape analysis: main challenges.

Who is it for?

The learners, teachers and schools who benefit, and where they are.



Text



Text



Text

What problem does it solve?

The problem in the education system that the anchor addresses.

Text

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Our value proposition, sharpened

Workbook slide 23, part 2 of 2. Start from the landscape analysis: Evidence spotlight.

Why this approach?

What makes this the right choice for the government today.

Text

What is the evidence?

The results and data that support the case, with source and year.

Result	Source	Year

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Tomorrow: Thursday 8 October

Build the pathway. Stakeholder mapping and resource mapping lead to a first draft of the pathway to scale plan.

Morning

09:00	Recap and introduction
09:30	Stakeholder mapping
10:30	Break
10:45	Resource mapping
12:00	Lunch

Afternoon

13:00	Country work session
14:00	Guest speaker: Teemu Roos, Finland Generation AI
14:45	Break
15:00	Draft the pathway to scale plan: country work time
16:00	Strategy exchange sessions: group activity
18:00	Participants get together: Radisson Hotel RED

UNICEF
Learning Pioneers Programme

Spread the word

Communication and social media

When posting on social media, please use the hashtag:

#BeyondDigitalAsUsual

#LearningPioneers

Sign up for the Global Learning Innovation Hub newsletter:

Learn more:

Digital Education Portal:
www.unicef.org/digitaleducation

UNICEF Education LinkedIn account:
www.linkedin.com/company/unicef-education

unicef | for every child

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

See you tomorrow!

Thursday 8 October, 09:00