Discover new approaches that UNDP and its partners are taking to achieve greater impact in complex environments.
UNDP BELIEVES THAT:

1. The citizen’s voice is paramount in understanding and seeking solutions to persistent and complex problems.

2. Innovation can be catalytic in solving development problems, but is just one piece of the puzzle.

3. Innovation should be undertaken with a defined development goal in mind, not innovation for innovation’s sake.
UNDP supports innovation for development by:

1. Using a wide range of approaches, methodologies and tools to tap into alternative and best available voices, resources, ideas and technologies.

2. Creating space for rapid experimentation and learning from experience.

3. Combining data, information and narratives to drive development effectiveness.

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Human centred design starts with the needs of the user (in the development context: the citizen), emphasises the importance of diverse perspectives, and encourages solution-seeking among multiple actors. The outside-in, bottom-up nature of the process often leads to more informed and effective solutions as well as an environment of openness and trust between citizen and state.

**When to Use**

- Policies, plans and programmes are no longer generating the expected results.
- Potential solutions all sound the same.
- There is mistrust and lack of understanding among stakeholders.
- You’ve run out of ideas!

**Tips**

1. Identify an issue that is not well understood: lack of clarity about what the problem is or why a response is not working.
2. Invest time upfront to listen to how users define the problem.
3. Be open to different perspectives, as what you hear may not match your preconceptions.
4. Start with small ideas and prototype; no need to wait to make one big investment.
What’s the Value in Different Points of View?

Discover New Perspectives!
Human Centred Design

**Vietnam**: Understanding ways to improve public legal literacy through community engagement.

**Egypt**: Providing a platform for citizens to share their views and propose ideas on social justice.

**Moldova**: Rethinking designs for a community police station.
Innovation Labs bring people together to collaborate in addressing today’s pressing development challenges. They are places where social entrepreneurs, community activists, nonprofits, government agencies, and others come to share insights and experiences, generate ideas, and test solutions. Innovation labs foster mental creativity, encourage experimentation, and create an environment safe for risk-taking.

**When to Use**

- There is recognition that challenges cannot be effectively tackled by any given sector (public, private, civil society).
- There is an inadequate platform (or “safe space”) for experimentation.
- The potential of social innovators and entrepreneurs is un(under)tapped.

**Tips**

1. Listen to the voices of users/citizens to guide the lab’s priorities.
2. Recognise that an innovation lab is only as good as its network; invite a multi-disciplinary crowd.
3. Consider different kinds of labs, e.g., an incubator for social enterprises, an idea generator for better service delivery.
INNOVATION LAB

Build a prototype for diverse input, faster feedback and better results

NOW TEST IT!
Haiti: Roving innovation lab to support unemployed youth in turning their ideas into start-ups.

Georgia: Innovation lab for designing and prototyping public services.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Tackling social issues and accelerating new solutions through collaboration, prototyping and fast feedback.
Games and play offer an alternative mechanism for learning, engagement and problem-solving – with multiple benefits. They offer a way for people to understand complex issues in a more accessible manner. By breaking down barriers to engagement, they also serve to collect ideas and opinions from those who have not historically been involved in the development process. They also create a “safe space” to explore different points of view, fostering empathy for the “other,” a critical element in building stronger communities.

**When to Use**

- Multiple partners are required to achieve the desired outcome.
- Various sectors and stakeholders are entrenched in their points of view, with little understanding of others’ perspectives.
- Engagement, especially among young people, on a particular development issue is lacking.

**Tips**

1. Start with an issue that requires trade-offs to be made (economic vs. environmental or social vs. economic) or calls for civic awareness and engagement to be raised.
2. Don’t underestimate the value of fun as a design strategy for meaningful policy discussions and harnessing the energy and ideas of young people especially.
Who Wants to Play?

Gamification

Who Wants to Play?

Invite Them to the Game!

Young Entrepreneurs

Village Families

Small Business Owners

A FIELD GUIDE TO EXPLORING INNOVATION

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**Nepal**: Using games to question gender stereotypes and change attitudes about gender roles.

**Egypt**: Developing powerful games to explore and identify solutions for complex social issues.

**Cyprus**: Developing digital games and gamified apps for cultural dialogue and conflict management.
Foresight can help promote resilience, agility and responsiveness. As an enhancement to more traditional approaches to public planning, it offers a process to tap into alternative perspectives as well as a platform to explore scenarios of how the world could be and negotiate a future we all want.

**WHEN TO USE**

- There has been a demonstrated lack of flexibility and adaptability in responding to unanticipated events.
- The capacity to take advantage of opportunity and manage risk is less than desired.
- There is lack of cohesion about the country’s future.
- There is a need for an appealing national, local or sectoral vision everybody can commit to.

**TIPS**

1. Select a particular thematic area (e.g., urbanisation, climate change) to apply foresighting to.
2. Recognise that foresight tools can be applied at any stage and level of strategic planning and policy development processes.
3. Understand that the ability to act upon foresight may require organisational adjustments, especially in the area of cross-agency collaboration.
What are the possibilities?

Create a common vision!

A Field Guide to Exploring Innovation

Foresighting

Smart Cities

Biometric Voting

Remote Diagnostics

Create a common vision!
Rwanda: Exploring alternative futures for complex and pressing development issues, including urbanisation and rural development.

Sudan: Developing a vision that ensures greater ownership and reflects a solid theory of change.

Tonga: Adopting a “thinking ahead” approach to addressing key challenges and building resilience.
A Field Guide to Exploring Innovation

Notes
Reach out to UNDP to expand your perspective, try something new and explore different possibilities

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