



## KEY MESSAGES ON THE ACCELERATOR LAB

### WHY WE NEED THIS

- The speed, dynamics and complexity of today's challenges are fundamentally different from previous eras in history. Some examples are: The impact of artificial intelligence on unemployment, migration due to climate change, or the influence of disinformation on democracy and conflict.
- Our current approaches are not making enough progress against 21st century challenges. Effectively addressing these challenges requires radically new approaches that fit the complexity of current development challenges.

### #NextGenUNDP AND THE ACCELERATOR LABS

- At UNDP, we are disrupting the way we think, invest, deliver and manage to perform faster, better and at scale. The Accelerator Labs are part of this effort to collaborate with national partners to address today's new challenges.

### WHAT THE ACCELERATOR LAB BRINGS TO YOUR COUNTRY

- Embedded in UNDP's country office, the Accelerator Labs are teams that provide national partners with a set of new services to better tackle complex sustainable development problems.
- The success of the Lab will be seen in three ways: : influence of experimentation and acceleration on development programming, input into government policy, and spin-offs of Lab initiatives into independent ventures

### NEW SERVICES TO GOVERNMENTS

- The services provided by the Labs are a set of new approaches for addressing complex development issues.

### Sense-making:

#### Core investors:



#### Partners:





- Together with partners, the Labs will analyse, in almost real time, the local context challenges to identify connections and patterns to anticipate new avenues of work and act effectively to accelerate development.

### Collective intelligence:

- Collective intelligence is the ability of large groups and machines to think and act intelligently in a way that amount to more than the sum of its parts.
- Collective intelligence helps the public sector better understand facts and ideas, develop new solutions, promote more inclusive decision making, and provide better oversight of what is done.
- A classic example of collective intelligence is Wikipedia, where for the last 20 years large groups of people engage in knowledge generation, replacing traditional encyclopedia processes based on expert knowledge.
- Collective intelligence requires real time data. In Sudan, UNDP works with the National Telecom Corporation and big data analytics experts to test using phone metadata to complement official statistics and provide more granular data for measurement of progress in addressing multidimensional poverty.

### Solutions mapping:

- Solutions mapping finds things that work and expands on them. The Accelerator Labs will identify local innovators who have already developed solutions for their own needs or those of their peers.
- Solutions can come in many different forms, from a farmer discovering a new way to prevent floods to other grassroots innovations in health, energy or water management.
- Instead of having external experts devise off-the-shelf solutions, the Labs will focus on identifying and promoting local solutions, as these are more likely to replicate and scale within society.
- Together with local partners, the Labs will identify grassroots solutions and stretch their potential to accelerate development.

### Core investors:



### Partners:





## Designing and Testing

The Labs will simultaneously test approaches to tackle a singular complex development problem. This systematic process allows learning to happen in weeks or months rather than years.

- **Example:** In Skopje, Northern Macedonia, among the top ten most-polluted cities in Europe, UNDP supported the city's Innovation Lab developing a variety of experiments to tackle pollution. The Lab designed a portfolio of solutions to reduce pollution. These include: citizen-generated data to understand the issues, an online calculator to help citizens make informed energy consumption choices, and a foresight tool to demonstrate the possible future impact of different actions to combat air pollution.

## EACH LAB IS PART OF THE GLOBAL ACCELERATOR LAB NETWORK

- The Accelerator Lab Network will include 60 Labs covering 78 countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.
- Being part of a globally integrated network, each lab will draw inspiration from both local solutions and solutions identified by the global network.
- Labs will work on development challenges in parallel, benefiting from each other's learning in real-time, creating a powerful collective learning effect.
- Partners will be a core part of the network. They will help us co design the work of the Labs and those emerging issues that need to be tackled. Together with UNDP, partners will also benefit from insights into emergent demands around complex development challenges..

### Core investors:



### Partners:

