UNICEF CryptoFund
Exploring Blockchain and How it Could Change Futures for the Most Vulnerable

Sanna Bedi
Innovation Specialist, UNICEF Office of Innovation
Half of the world is not connected
Digital solutions are not designed or built to solve critical challenges.
Digital progress comes at the expense of further exploiting and excluding people from the system.
Existing solutions are proprietary and inaccessible to many
WHAT'S MISSING?

Digital solutions and services that are accessible to and benefit the most vulnerable
Opportunity for greatness exists between 1B persons' needs and disruptive technologies
THE UNICEF VENTURE FUND & CRYPTOFOUNDS

We provide early-stage funding and support to frontier technology solutions that benefit children and the world.

Core of UNICEF programming

New areas of UNICEF work

New unproven tech; known challenges

Results varying forms in multiple countries

Fund’s Focus: Emerging Technologies
The Venture Fund invests in a diverse group of founders building early-stage Open Source solutions

124 investments across 74 countries
Catalyzing capital for Open Source solutions that address local problems

UNICEF VENTURE FUND: FUNDING WINDOWS

Seed Funding up to USD $100K (or equivalent)

Bridge Funding up to USD $200K (or equivalent)

Acceleration Funding up to USD $400K (or equivalent)

Growth Funding

Tailored Mentorship
Rumsan (Nepal) have developed Rahat, a digital cash and voucher assistance (CVA) management system.

In collaboration with UNICEF Nepal, Rumsan will pilot their platform to provide Cash Transfer to 1500 vulnerable families with children under 5 in rural Nepal.
INVESTMENT THESIS II

Fund invests in strong core infrastructure that can respond to multiple programmatic needs and problem statements

StaTwig (India) ensures quality and safety of products such as vaccines and food by preventing supply-chain failures by tracking details to a blockchain that connects all the stakeholders.
Venture Fund's Impact

31.7M beneficiaries reached across 100 countries

43% of Portfolio are founded by women

6 Exits

20 start-ups have scaled their solution across 36 UNICEF COs

11 Solutions approved as DPGs

$27.7M raised in follow-on funding after the initial seed

Only 11% of the total third-party funding raised by the portfolio comes from female-led startups despite them making up 43% of the Fund’s portfolio
The Fund model is unique

Build communities of local problem solvers, growing skills and capacities in frontier technology areas

We invest in solutions that are commercially sustainable; 80% of portfolio companies are generating revenue and have raised $17M in follow-on funding

43% of the Fund portfolio consists of female-led/founded startups

The first and only mechanism in the UN to accept, hold or disburse cryptocurrencies

The Fund exclusively invests in Open Source solutions that have the potential to create scalable digital public goods
The UNICEF CryptoFund

Launched in October 2019, a prototype fund to accept donations and make disbursements exclusively denominated in cryptocurrencies, to finance early-stage, Open Source technology benefiting children and young people.
UNICEF CRYPTO FUND

Results to Date

The purpose of the CryptoFund is for UNICEF to:

- Increase **efficiency and transparency**
- Unlock new **programme opportunities**
- Pilot **a new platform**
- Access **untapped resources**
- Understand our **digital future**

**2058 ETH & 4.1 BTC**  
Crypto disbursed

**<10 mins**  
Average transfer time (HQ -> Startup)

**<.1%**  
Spent on fees

**100%**  
Transparency of transactions

**35**  
Number of projects supported with cryptocurrency
First Fund investee to contribute to the Fund

0.584318 ETH
Contribution to the CryptoFund, in September 2022
JOIN US IN CHANGING FUTURES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

Call to action

• **Collaborate with us**: share ideas, mentor startups, or contribute code to our Open Source solutions

• **Investment opportunity**: new call for climate tech startups to receive USD $100K or equivalent in cryptocurrency (ETH or BTC) & technical assistance from UNICEF’s Venture Fund

• **Co-invest in the portfolio companies**: contribute to the Fund or directly invest in graduates from the Fund to support solutions that have potential to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children
Thank you!

Learn more: unicefinnovationfund.org
cryptofund.unicef.io

Write to us: venturefund@unicef.org

@uinnovate