

# SYSTEMS INNOVATION WORKSHOP FOR CATALYTIC FUNDING INITIATIVES SDGPP ZAMBIA



United Nations  
Z A M B I A



**SDG**  
Philanthropy Platform

# **SYSTEMS INNOVATION WORKSHOP FOR CATALYTIC FUNDING INITIATIVES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The SDG Philanthropy Platform and the UN in Zambia hosted a Systems Innovation Workshop for Catalytic Funding on March 28th 2017 in Lusaka. The objective of the workshop was to use the systems analysis process to collectively identify innovation opportunities which can lead to transformative solutions in addressing the well-being of children and related SDGs. The workshop was also aimed at defining principles/guidelines and criteria to be applied in administering catalytic funding, with an assumption that others will use them to leverage their own programming. The workshop brought together over 30 high-level participants from the government, social enterprises, businesses, innovators, faith-based organizations and NGO's and the UN. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Banny Banerjee, Director of ChangeLabs at Stanford University using a systems analysis approach.

## **TRANSFORMATIVE SYSTEMS INNOVATION PROCESS**

Transformative Systems Innovation Process Participants were introduced to the process of engaging in an innovation arc involving the following steps: identification of desired outcomes within the frame of well-being of Children; identification of key drivers and stakeholders and their behaviours; mapping and analysis of drivers; identification of “acupuncture points” or accelerators based on brainstorming; prioritisation of the points; and identification of innovation “hot spots”.



# TRANSFORMATIVE SYSTEMS INNOVATION PROCESS



## CASUAL MAPPING

**Causal Mapping** In the first step of the process – causal mapping - identifying desired outcomes, key drivers, stakeholders and root causes, participants converged around several important issues including child protection, particularly of the girl child; early child marriages and early pregnancies; lack of avenues or spaces for children's voice and participation; creating awareness and social accountability; employment and income generation opportunities; as well as education and health care services, with a strong emphasis on focusing on the community level.

## IDENTIFYING ACUPUNTURE POINTS

The second step of the process involved identification of "acupuncture points", or deeply transformative innovation opportunities. This process involved creating a causal chain map where key drivers, phenomena, and stakeholder behaviours were identified and causal pathways made, with the potential for leveraging the changes assessed. The four "acupuncture areas" chosen by participants were: social protection for adolescent girls (interventions in social issues such as changing behaviour of parents); testing innovative models for health and education services provision at community level; investing in livelihoods and jobs especially for women and young mothers; and securing governance and social accountability top down and bottom up. Much discussion centred on the social and cultural norms around child marriage, child pregnancy, and child abuse and ways of engaging the media, private sector and parents, to create national awareness and change behaviour.



Innovation hotspots - scalable, impactful "sweet spots" with high saliency for transformation and change- that were drawn from the acupuncture points included engaging parents, traditional leaders, community members and leaders on child participation and voice, sexual and reproductive health and rights, child marriages and early pregnancies; investing in and empowering young girls and adolescents to create impactful change in reducing violence and improving sexual and reproductive health, education, and livelihood and income generating outcomes; investing in citizen awareness of services so that they can demand access to quality services; and creating economic opportunities.

As part of the workshop, participants also discussed the use of systems analysis in their own work and the benefits of the process. Several participants highlighted that they had been applying part of systems analysis in their programming but not as exhaustively as was done at the workshop. There was convergence on the fact that systems analysis was very useful especially in helping set priorities in the face of competing areas of intervention and limited resources. Participants additionally provided input into determining the criteria and guidelines for the catalytic fund in order to foster wider stakeholder ownership.

## CHALLENGE PRIZE AREAS

Drawing from the results from the systems analysis and innovation arc exercises, four challenge prize areas were agreed following the workshop and further consultation. These included:

 <b>Challenge 1</b> A challenge to find innovative solutions to change attitudes of traditional leaders, parents and community members to prevent child marriages in Zambia	 <small>Georgina Ekekete / UNDP</small>	 <b>Challenge 2</b> A challenge to find solutions capable of real-time service tracking and response (availability, access, quality, delivery) for child services (health, education, social protection etc.) at the community level in Zambia.	 <small>ChildFund</small>
 <small>UNDP Zambia</small>	 <b>Challenge 3</b> A challenge to find innovative solutions to support young mothers to meet their economic needs, have skills and knowledge for better capital generation and management, which translates into greater investments in children.	 <small>UNDP Zambia</small>	 <b>Challenge 4</b> A challenge to find innovative solutions that use community-based service delivery models to improve the well-being of children, including those with special needs (Early Childhood Development, education, health, nutrition, HIV etc).

In this regard, a Challenge Prize Call was launched this year, to solicit for solutions to help address the challenges prioritized above.