

“By harnessing the power of the digital revolution we have a massive opportunity and responsibility to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development programming for children affected by forced displacement.”



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Novel approaches and innovation via design thinking to help displaced children affected by crisis.

The story I want to share

We are in a rapidly escalating crisis of global forced displacement – a crisis disproportionately affecting children. Within this extreme context, Save The Children was faced with the challenge of developing a common set of tools to deal with the problems arising from this extreme context. **That's why Save the Children launched its new Migration and Displacement Innovation Platform (MDIP)** – an organisation-wide effort, bringing together a broad range of knowledge partners to collaboratively develop innovative tools, solutions, and know-how to better support children, youth and their families at the heart of displacement crises.

The MDIP has already catalysed a range of exciting, innovative digital projects addressing several key gaps in our current response to child-focused displacement. Key examples include a predictive analytics model to anticipate the duration and scale of forced displacement crises.

Our next steps involve the collaborative internal development of ideas in consultation with champions across Save the Children, and their stress-testing by relevant technical leads, followed by initial piloting.

Lessons learnt

- 1) To ensure organisational buy-in and meaningful commitment to human-centred principles, the whole design process must **engage multiple stakeholders as co-innovators** – from direct beneficiaries to programming staff, software engineers, and knowledge partners in the private sector and academia.
- 2) The **opportunities for risk-taking**, experimentation and 'room for failure' in humanitarian innovation need to be carefully balanced against our sector's commitment to the **principles of do-no-harm**. Yet significant gaps remain in our sector's understanding of how best to safeguard against risks arising from digital technologies.

How the Migration and Displacement Innovation Platform works

The platform uses a design-thinking approach, strongly guided by the principles of both human-centred design, and the ethical, child-safe usage of digital technologies and data. We seek to bring together multi-stakeholders, including the private sector and academia, in the collaborative design and scaling of iterative and disruptive, as well as product and process innovations.