



# GLOBAL INNOVATION EXCHANGE

Learnings from building an online platform for development innovations

for the

High-level Study Visit on STI for SDGs  
Shanghai, China  
December 5, 2017

# LET'S CHANGE THE WORLD TOGETHER

We are a community of innovators, entrepreneurs, and investors connecting to address humanity's greatest challenges

LEARN MORE

## The Exchange Connects



**5446 Innovations**

Discover breakthrough ideas that need funding, collaboration, application and feedback.



**\$100.6M Available**

Find or provide funding for innovations that change lives.



**17985 Collaborators**

Review and evaluate new solutions or lend your expertise to entrepreneurs.

# CHALLENGES IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

1

ACCESS  
TO INFORMATION

2

LACK OF SHARED BUSINESS  
INTELLIGENCE

3

DUPLICATION

4

BARRIERS TO SCALE &  
SUSTAINABILITY

# SOLUTION

1 SINGLE DATABASE TO MATCH  
INNOVATIONS & FUNDING



2 SECTOR AND REGION  
AGNOSTIC



3 OPEN, PUBLIC  
GOOD PLATFORM



TRANSPARENCY

GLOBAL COLLABORATION

ENHANCED BUSINESS  
INTELLIGENCE

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON THE EXCHANGE

[ABOUT THE SDG'S](#)[+ SHARE YOUR INNOVATION](#)

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



# JOURNEY

- Project ideation beginning October 2014 at USAID
- Concept to MVP in 100 business days
- Iterative, agile development process
- 100+ partners across USG and private/public sector partners
- Current co-funding partners:



# USER RESEARCH & PLATFORM DESIGN - 1

- Default to public, open platform
- Default to all innovations welcome
- Needs assessment & requirements gathering began at “home” first
- User Personas and Use Cases
- Then we talked to everyone and anyone
- Open to all feedback

# USER RESEARCH & PLATFORM DESIGN - 2

Exchange Community Features and Functionality To be crowd-sourced completed														
#	Functionality	Description	# priority votes	(To be filled in by DAI) Approx monthly hours of maintenance	(To be filled in by DAI) Cost of maintenance	Nicole OEC	John Ranking-Digital Development	Hannah Ranking RIF	Carolyn Ranking Div	Alma/ Alex Ranking HESN	Chayva Ranking PEER	Phil/Janet Ranking CTP	Mariam Ranking GeoCenter	Brit/ Rebecca Ranking RST
1	Dashboard	Content filtered by type (e.g. category or tag, update or user (e.g. custom combination of filters and data incl. toolkits, training modules	8			23	10	17	11	1	10	1	1	9
2	Resource Library		7			22	1	11	12	6	5	3	5	1
3	Forum	Classic internet forum functionality for asynchronous discussions (threads) by users on topics and sub-topics. (e.g. PHPBB, VBulletin, Slashdot.) With community and/or central moderation. Classifieds	6			4	5	16	1	8	9	6	15	10
4	Search Functionality	Search innovations, innovators, funders/donors, (other users?); Search via sector(e.g. health, agriculture, etc), sub-sector, solution type(process, technology, etc), location, stage (e.g. proof, prototype, etc), contributors, time (e.g. years) ; Add the ability to search for reports, i.e. pull out a specific excel file	6			2	16	18	2	2	2	2	2	2
5	Connections/Friend People		4			12	23	8	18	25	11	25	17	20
6	Media Center	Videos, RSS Feeds, Podcasts, Recorded Webinars, program photos	4			5	3	6	26	4	14		10	16
7	Profiles	Verification, Achievement Tracker, Description	4			1	21	1	4	17	18	8	23	18
8	Calendar of events	Research world Academic conferences Funding: deadlines/openings/RFP's Should be able to add events to your own calendar	3			6	2	29	13	7	7	9	6	11
9	Collaboration area	Essentially a google-doc-like sharing environment	2			7	22	12	27	5	3	7	7	3
10	Funding	One of the most requested features by users.	2			8	30	14	5	9	1	5	16	12
11	Job Opportunity		2			9	29	13	14	23	20	10	18	
12	Live Events	Twitter Chats, Webinars, Q&A	1			10	11	15	17	15	15	20	8	19
13	Trending Topics		1			21	15	22	19	27	23	11	19	21
14	Ability to turn functions on and off	Freeze/unfreeze data fields (access levels)				26	8	21	16	16	25	24	24	27
15	Co Development [DUPLICATE with 20]	System to facilitate collaborative development (crowdsourcing) of innovations. Examples: Github, OpenIDEO, Innocentive				24	28	25	20	14	3	12	3	4
16	Comments	Be able to comment on posts/blogs etc.				11	6	7	6	19	26	13	20	25
17	Competitions						27	24	28	20	13	28	9	17
18	Connections between	degrees of cooperation				25	17	10	22	24	11	21	21	5

# USER RESEARCH & PLATFORM DESIGN - 3



# LESSONS LEARNED

- Fine balance between quantity vs. quality
  - A platform for all ideas OR only good, validated ideas
- Who is the primary customer... innovators or funders?
  - Innovators seek funding, experts, curated content
  - Funders seek validated innovations
- Data Partnerships
  - Magical API is not so magical
- The Ginsu Knife Dilemma

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Enhanced match-making for innovators to funding opportunities
- Validations
  - Deals & Funding
  - Expert & Peer Reviews
- Investors Portal
- Universal Application: Quick Apply
- Localization: language and content



## Smarter Fundraising, More Innovation, Bigger Impact

Global Innovation Exchange (GIE) is a tech platform that aims to accelerate innovation in developing countries, using our ever-growing database of innovations and funding to reveal curated content and industry insights.



**Our mission is to help social entrepreneurs spend more time achieving theirs.**

GIE helps them fundraise more easily and quickly so they can spend less time on fundraising and more time on scaling their innovation. Our social entrepreneurs are those creating innovations for developing countries such as mobile-based payment systems or bio-fortified crops that are more effective, impactful and sustainable than existing solutions.

GIE also benefits funders who can deploy their funds and funding portfolio as well as find new innovations.

If we do both well, we have an ever-growing database of deals and other critical data.



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[www.globalinnovationexchange.org](http://www.globalinnovationexchange.org)

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