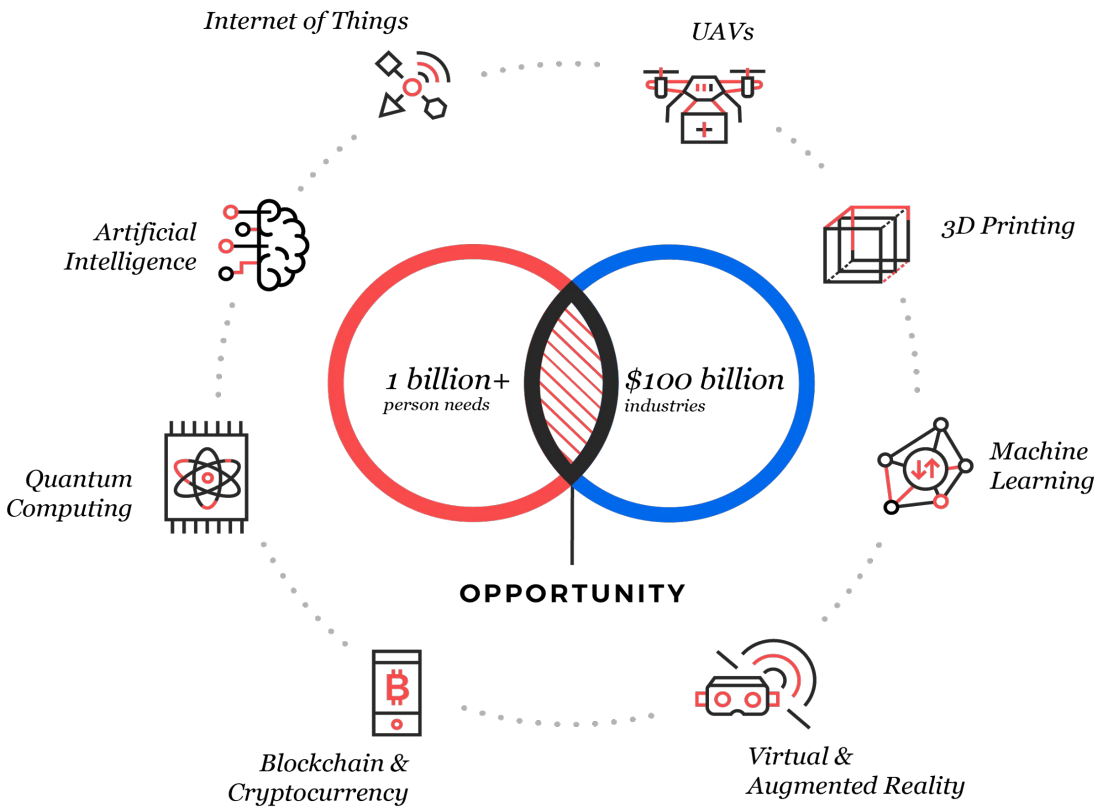
# Building blockchain products for UNICEF. How to get involved.

Devcon, Bogota 11th Oct 2022

# UNICEF has been experimenting with Ethereum and blockchain technologies for years

UNICEF VENTURE FUND

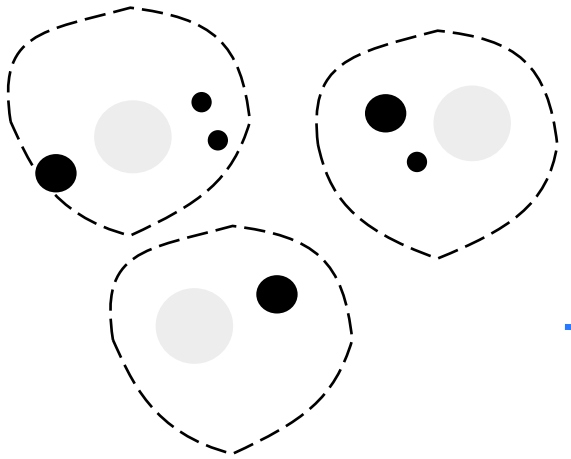
# Since 2014, the VF has provided early-stage funding and support to frontier technology solutions that benefit children and the world



VENTURE FUND: BLOCKCHAIN COHORT 2022

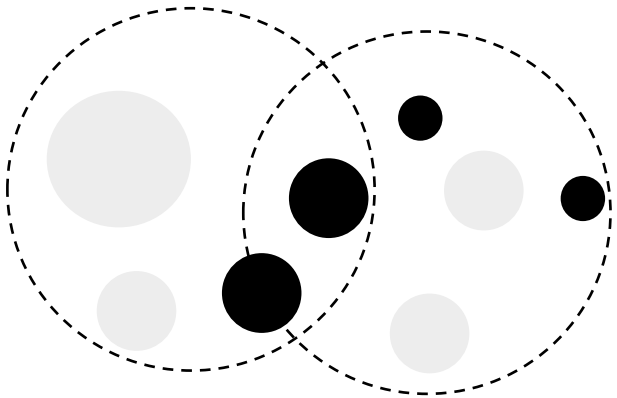
# Goal for the new cohort

## 1st COHORT



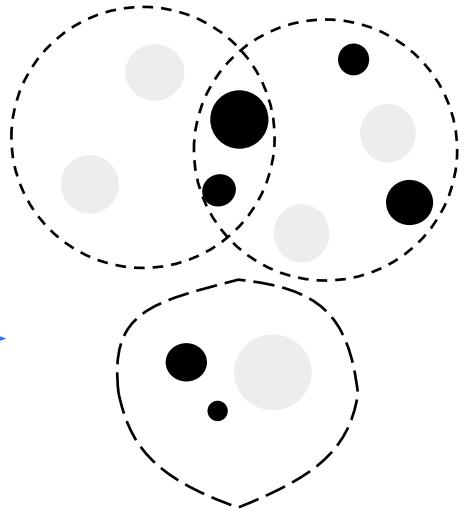
- Digital certificates & badges
- Supply chain
- Digital prescriptions
- Transparent funding
- Impact investing

## 2nd COHORT



- Remittances, humanitarian cash transfers and community currency
- Loan and investment services for unserved communities
- Decentralised decision-making tools

## Looking Forward



- Platforms to automate decisions, and payments
- Solutions to improve accountability and tracking of financial flows and service delivery
- Create new economies and marketplaces
- Empower young people with skills to engage with crypto

## THE UNICEF CRYPTO FUND

In October 2019, UNICEF launched the CryptoFund, allowing UNICEF to receive, hold, and disburse cryptocurrency - a first for the UN.

Through the CryptoFund  we can help build successful digital solutions into digital public goods, to ensure fair, equitable, and open access to these tools for human development on a global scale.

NEW APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY

# Exploring blockchain-based cash transfers for UNICEF

**Blockchain for Cash Transfers can help:**

- Cut operational costs and increasing efficiencies through faster and cheaper distribution, real-time reporting, easier auditing
- Increase donor and public trust through real-time tracking/verifiability
- Increase security, safety, and inclusion for vulnerable populations

**Why now?**

- Since signing the Grand Bargain in 2016, UNICEF is increasingly implementing cash transfers in humanitarian contexts. In 2021 alone, UNICEF transferred $351M across 62 country offices, impacting an estimated 19M children.
- UNICEF is being approached by large-value Cryptocurrency donors keen on supporting programs directly impacting children
- OOI strategic direction is to bring in frontier technology applications to large scale UNICEF programme priorities at country offices

Rumsan (Nepal) have developed **Rahat**, a blockchain-based digital cash and voucher assistance (CVA) management system.

With **UNICEF Nepal**, Rumsan are now prototyping their platform to provide Unconditional Cash Transfer to **1500 households** in rural Nepal.

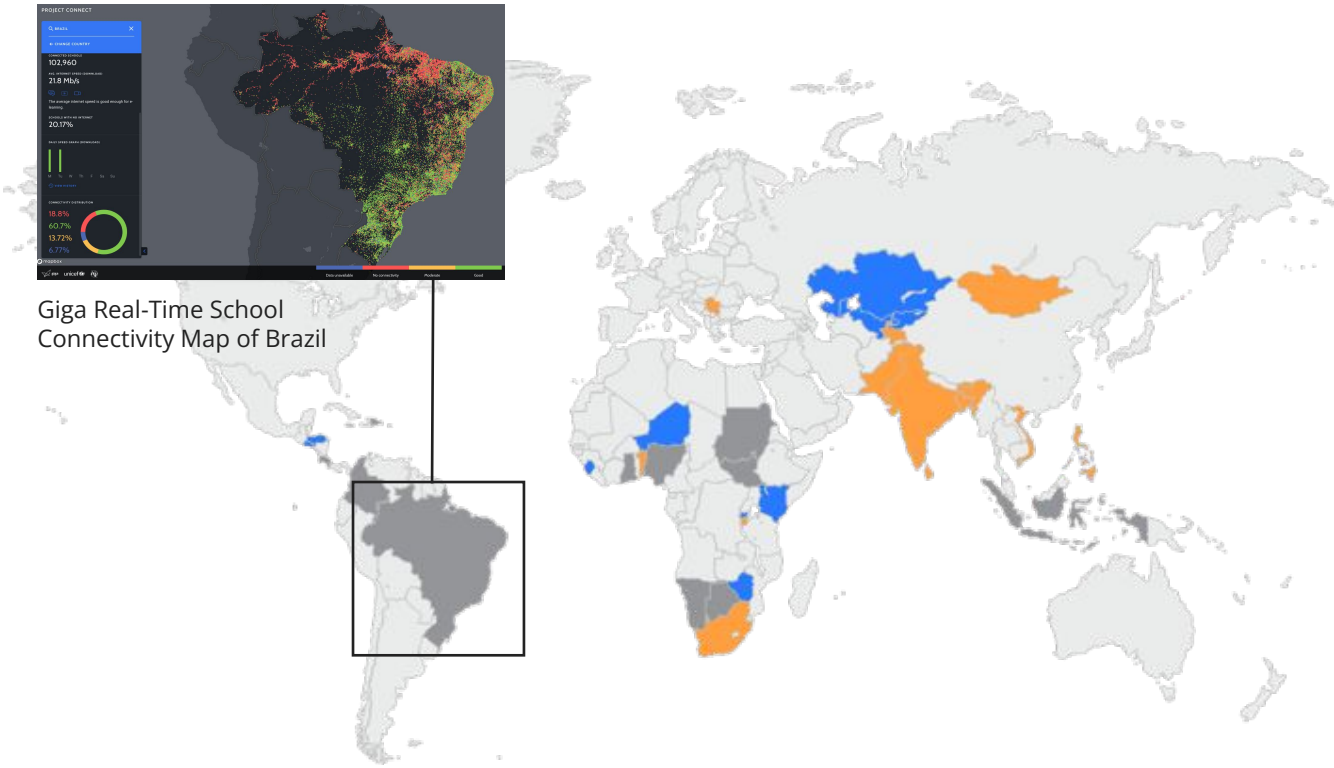
giga
unicef
for every child
ITU

# Giga

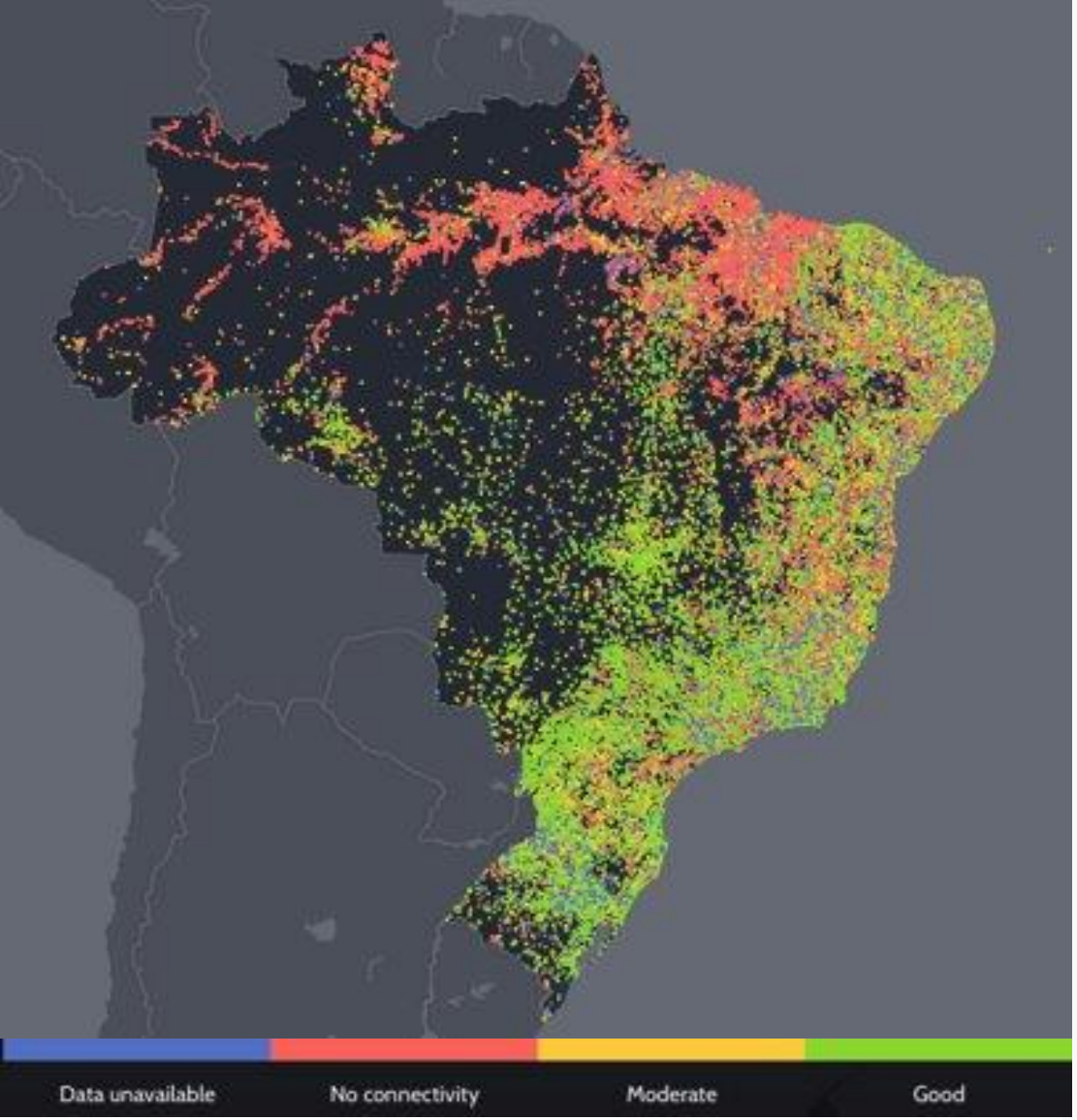
**UNICEF** is the world's leading agency for children. **ITU** is the UN's specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICT). **Together** we are working to connect every young person to the internet**.**

As the only Named Initiative for Connectivity in the Secretary-General's Digital Cooperation Strategy and the Common Agenda, Giga is uniquely equipped to:

1. **Map** previously unmapped schools, and monitor connectivity in real-time using open-source AI/ML
2. **Finance** connectivity projects using the most capital efficient solutions available
3. **Connect** students and teachers to the internet and empowered learning solutions



Giga Real-Time School Connectivity Map of Brazil




**These dots are every school in Brazil colored by the quality of internet access**

# With the launch of Giga in late 2019, UNICEF and ITU set a goal of providing connectivity to every school in the world.

*We're on our way.*

**19**

## countries joined

to connect over 86,000 schools and more than 25.8 million students and teachers

**5,300+**

## prototype schools connected

by Giga partners: Kenya, Sierra Leone, Kazakhstan, Brazil, OECS ... and more soon

**1.8M+**

## schools mapped across 41 countries

and all viewable on the Project Connect platform

**14**

## partners joined

Ericsson, Dubai Cares, Musk Foundation, Softbank, BCG, NIC.Br, Actual, FCDO, Dell, Arm, Jumia, Liquid Technologies, Mapbox and GSMA

**$210M+**

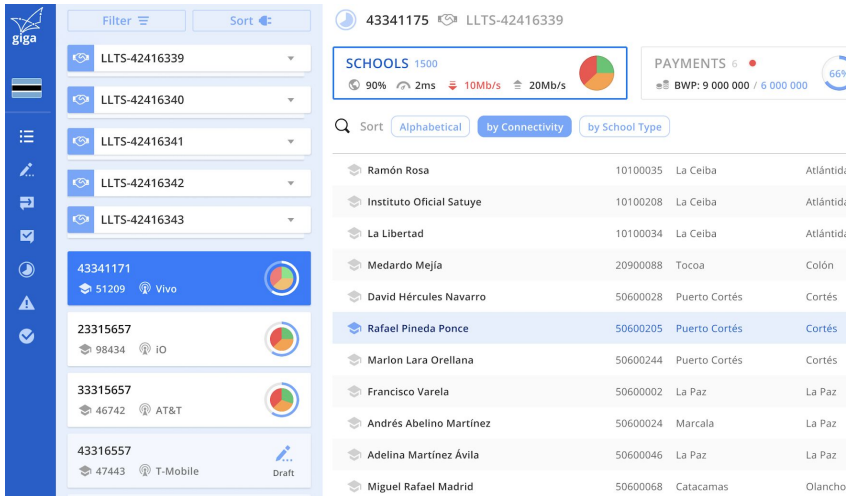
## funding mobilized

to countries and UNICEF Country Offices to accelerate connectivity

giga

## Gigacounts

A platform to automatically manage contracts and pay providers based on performance.

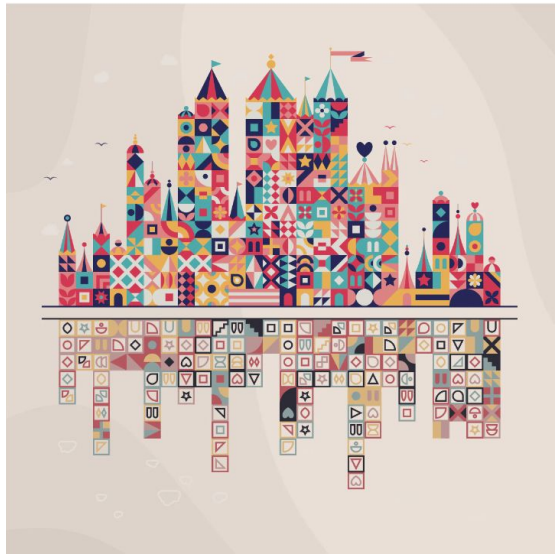



## Connectivity credits

A global marketplace for connectivity where schools that are currently priced out of the market could be connected using government incentives.

## Patchwork Kingdoms

A data-driven NFT collection to help raise funds for Giga (700k++ USD raised)

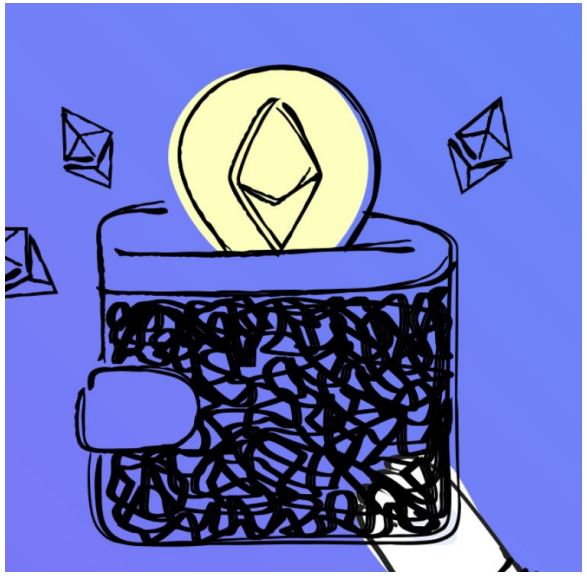


## NFT2

The world's most comprehensive decentralized database of school data, using NFTs.

## Staking

Creating an impact investing product using ethereum staking to pay for school connectivity.



# *Rome wasn't built in a day. And neither are these products. Want to help us build?*

> “The digital revolution must be a benefit to all school children. I ask states to ensure that students and teaching establishments be better connected. **Our Giga initiative aims at putting all schools online.**”

**ANTONIO GUTERRES**

*UN Secretary-General at the 77th UN General Assembly, 19 September 2022*

# How you can help?

1. **If you are a dev, PM or similar interested in joining our team, keep an eye on our openings and Apply!**

2. **If you are an established company that wants to support the development of our products**
   - **Become a vendor**
   - **Become a partner**

3. **If you are a startup, keep an eye for are new call for Climate tech solutions and Apply for up to $100K in funding and tech assistance!**