



6 Grand Challenges

10,000 People

138 Countries



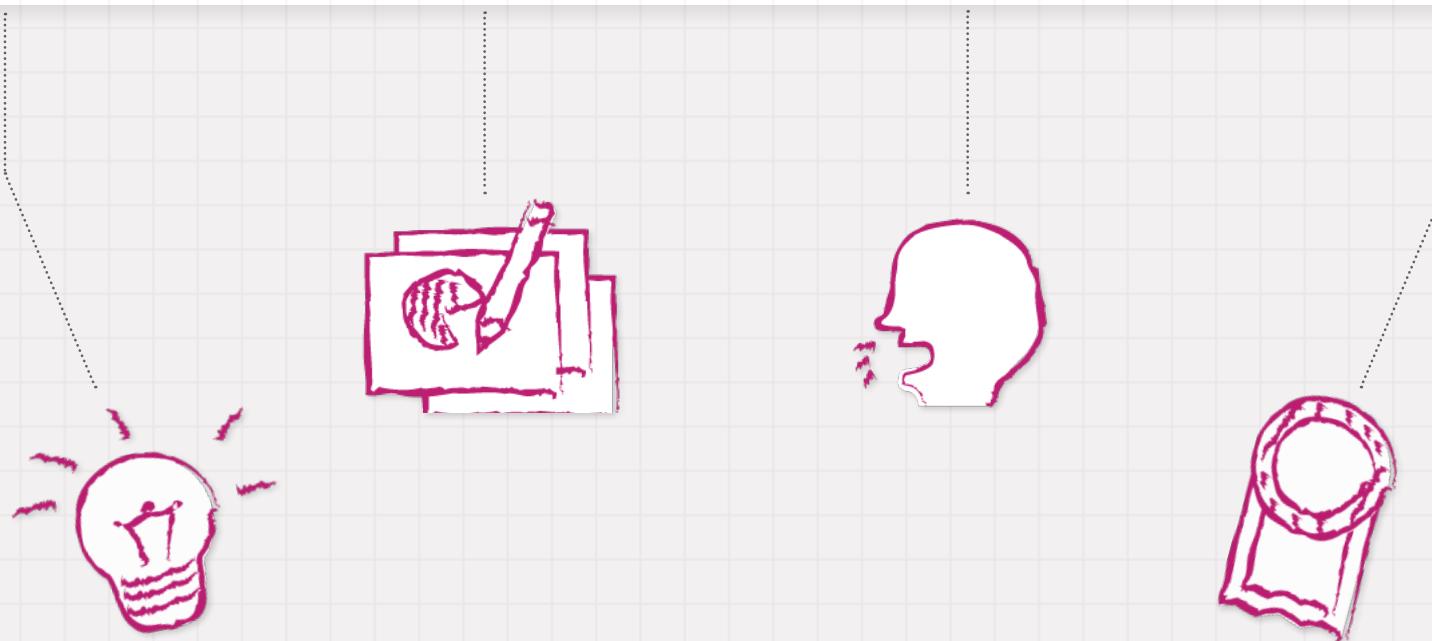
open IDEO

INSPIRATION
584 inspirations

CONCEPTING
194 concepts

EVALUATION
40 evaluation concepts

WINNING CONCEPTS
Announced!





CHALLENGE
?

We asked what challenge
should be addressed.

Where people design better, together BETA

Hello J.T.!
MY PROFILE
MY CHALLENGES
LOGOUT

**FEATURED CHALLENGE**

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN IDEO, UNILEVER & WSUP



How can we improve sanitation and better manage human waste in low-income urban communities?

OpenIDEO has partnered with Unilever and WSUP (Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor) to explore sanitation issues in Ghana. Together we're asking you, the OpenIDEO community, to help us come up with sustainable sanitation inspirations and concepts. We'll be focusing on low-income urban areas like Kumasi – the nation's second-largest city, with a population of more than 1.5 million people.

[Read The Challenge Brief](#)[Take up the Challenge](#) →**FEATURED CHANNEL**

How can today's technology address the environmental challenges we're all facing?

SONY
make.believe

**CURRENT CHALLENGES**

What global challenge do you think innovation leaders should work to solve right now?



How can we improve sanitation and better manage human waste in low-income urban communities?

[Browse Challenges](#) →**RECENTLY COMPLETED CHALLENGES**

Like Kimberly Quach and 855 others like this.

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[Play video](#)

1,695 INSPIRATIONS

1,025 CONCEPTS

10,605 USERS

OpenIDEO – where we create better, together.

- **CHALLENGE SPONSOR**

- **FEATURED CHALLENGE**

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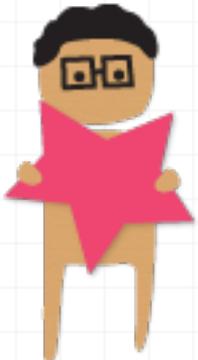
- **FIELD NOTES**

- **ACTIVITY FEED**

**What global challenge do
you think innovation leaders
should work to solve
right now?**



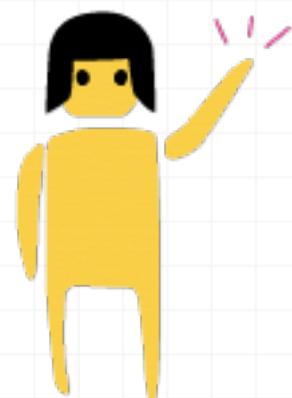
Show us what's innovative
where you live.



**159 inspirations,
108 challenge ideas...**



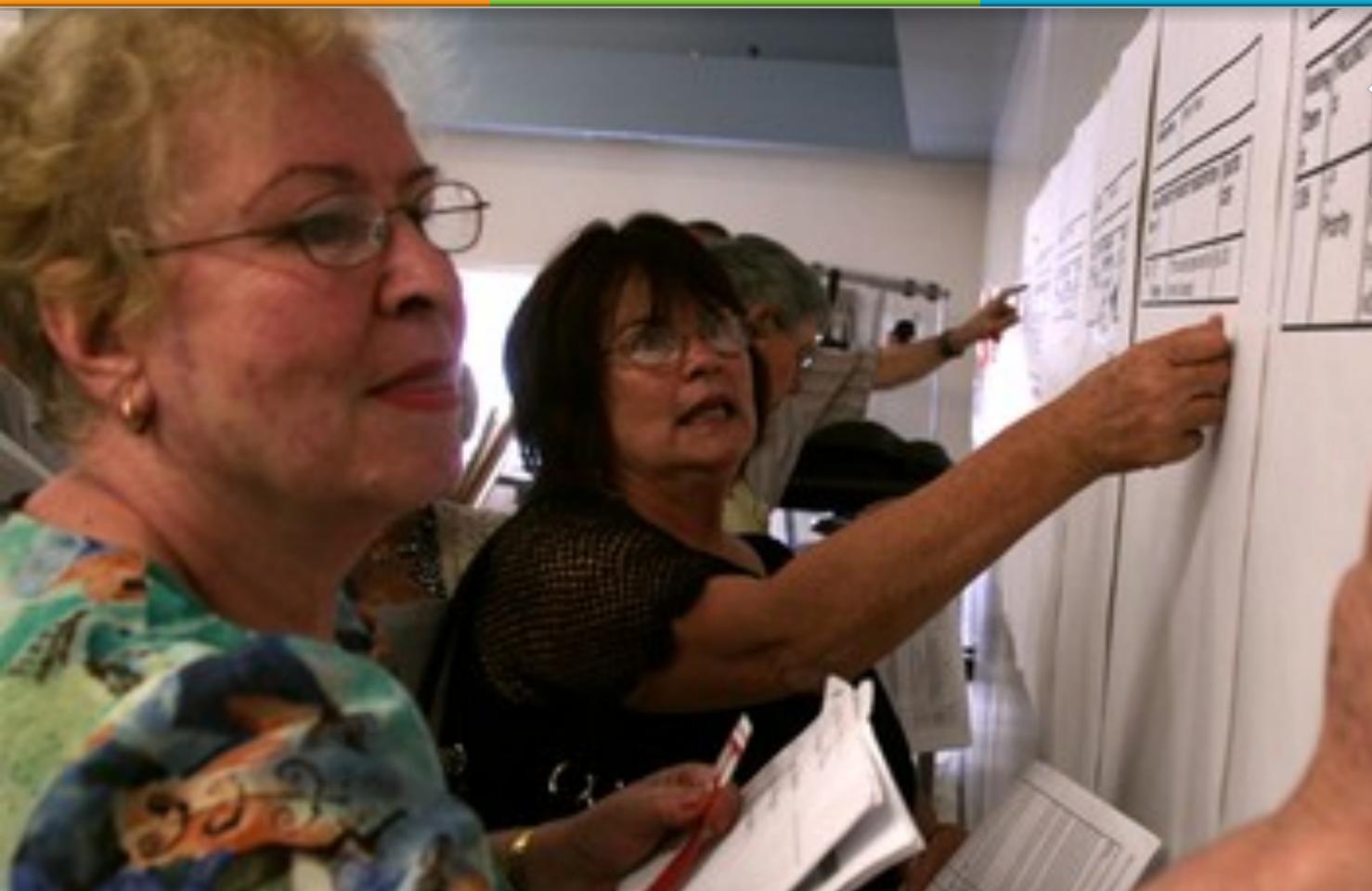
6 Grand Challenges.



1

With, Not For.

*Participatory Budgeting
(Porto Alegre, Brazil)*



Contributed by



Nicole Skibola

Give ordinary residents a role in deciding how to allocate part of a municipal or public budgets.

1

With, Not For.

*Participatory Budgeting
(Porto Alegre, Brazil)*

*How might we
redesign government for
openness?*



Contributed by



Thao Vo

Can we use existing tech to create a more people-centered government? Can we mend the gap between decision-makers and the people with platforms where civic participation is not only encouraged, but is a core principle?



The Discussion

open IDEO

Arjan Tupan

November 26, 2010, 08:31AM

Hi Thao,
I think you touched a very important subject. I also feel there is a growing disconnect between officials and the people they represent. And I agree that having more direct communication can help. Media, and blogs for that matter, often have a colored way of reporting, so they might not be the best intermediates.
I like to draw your attention to an inspiration I uploaded. It's in Latvian, but the platform is very interesting. It is an independent place where members of parliament have profiles and where they can interact with the public directly. <http://3bl.me/dczny2>

Meena Kadri

November 26, 2010, 08:52AM

Good call Thao. Regarding your question "how do we close the information gap?" An earlier inspiration comes to mind for starters - Making Policy Public: <http://bit.ly/bZieuI>

Thao Vo

November 26, 2010, 09:28AM

Arjan, I don't know how I missed your inspiration about Gudras Galvas; it's a great example of an open communication platform. I used Google translate, and I found the information on there to be very informative. We could use more platforms like it. Thanks for calling it to my attention.

Thanks, Meena. You're right, many of the inspirations on here are solutions; it's a matter of connecting the dots and implementing the solutions so they reach far and wide.

Arjan Tupan

November 26, 2010, 09:34AM

Thao, just add up all the numbers of the inspirations phases of the several challenges here, and I think you shouldn't be surprised about missing one :)

Thao Vo

November 26, 2010, 09:43AM

We are multi-tasking like crazy! I try my best to read through all the submissions, but they come in at a pretty quick rate. It's when I miss the really really good ones that I go "darn it!".

Arjan Tupan

November 26, 2010, 11:16AM

Don't worry, there'll be someone who reminds you ;)

OpenIDEO

November 26, 2010, 03:02PM

Great Thao. If you update your post and add all the related inspirations you'll get more DQ points. It also helps folks find material related to your discussion... and as you say - connects the dots.

Christian Halsted

December 03, 2010, 05:21PM

Most important question Thao!
I suggested something on line with this yesterday:
Public Sphere, Technology and Media - <http://bit.ly/hS4fXD>

The Us Now video was very interesting, but it seems that digital media is that it remains the preserve of the globally privileged, and it seems those who often make most use of it do so in the interest of the states and corporations who employ them.
Have a nice weekend.

CHARITY-FOUNDATION GLOBALFIRM™

December 03, 2010, 05:38PM

If you are interested in this, I already designed that.

OpenIDEO

December 04, 2010, 06:44AM

Thao - thanks for the update. This will help show how many inspiring things are already going on in this space to give an added push to

addressing this issue at large.

Thao Vo

December 08, 2010, 02:32AM

Hi Christian, I share your concern about digital media, a technology in general, being a tool for the privilege. "Us Now" was a great inspiration nonetheless, because it showed how technology has connected individuals across the globe. If you take a look at some of the inspirations on here, there are examples of non-tech based innovations that still connect people in an open and collaborative way. Some good examples are Eric's "Dynamic Teen Company": <http://t.co/4ZJhC6I> and Nicole's "Participatory Budgeting": <http://ow.ly/3IDxL>

Vincent Cheng

December 08, 2010, 08:45PM

Well put Thao. Have been away from Openideo for a bit, but glad to return and see the idea of an open and collaborative government gaining so much steam!

Pablo F. Méndez

December 11, 2010, 07:24PM

This is probably one of the biggest challenges we face, how the very society or local communities could take (and be responsible of) their own decisions. There is a lot of debate here. The issue of justice is crucial, what is fair for someone is unfair for anyone else. What is objective and what is subjective? Which is the role of knowledge (both scientific and traditional) on this? Which is the role of risk-aversion? Is everybody equally equipped with the same skills to tackle uncertainty? Are more powerful people ready for delegating power? Which is the origin and the medicine for corruption? Is a matter of institutional design, education, empathy...

Thao Vo

December 21, 2010, 03:47AM

I'm really excited to have discovered this website, and to share it here on OpenIDEO.

OpenCorporates just launched today: <http://opencorporates.com/>

OpenCorporates is a website and service to help build an open database of the corporate world.

In addition to an open Government, we could extend openness to Corporations. The financial crisis could have been prevented by connecting data and having a better understanding of the world we live in. This site helps to make better sense of corporations/companies.

I might need to update this concept to include corporations and other institutions.

Luke Burns

December 24, 2010, 05:38PM

Pablo,

I think what'd be most important is to place objective decisions at the core of the system and force subjective decisions more difficult to make. And through education, grow this culturally into future generations-- rather than just by law.

Whatever the case, education will probably play the biggest role. If a redesigned system can get education right, it's bound to be successful. Ultimately, education is what determines the future of every citizen and every leader.

Luke

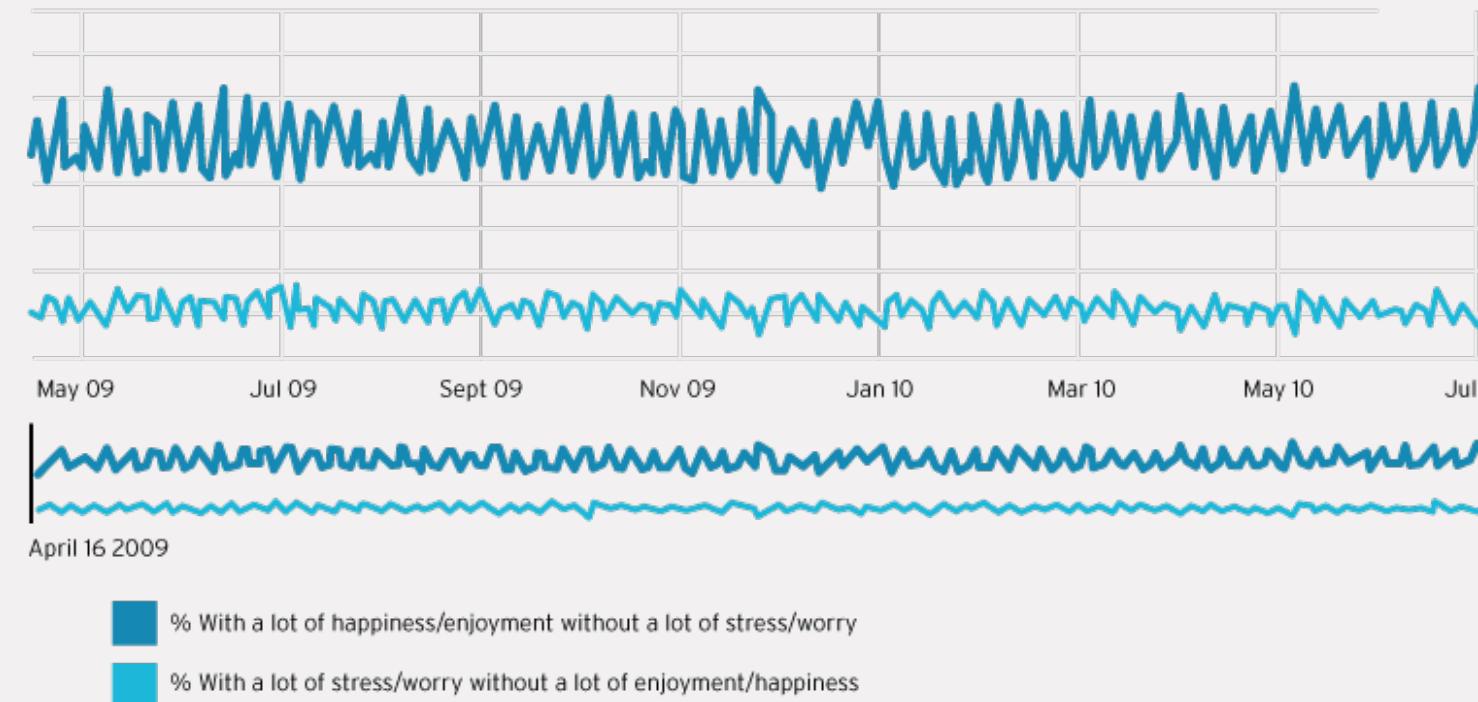
2

Happy At Last.

Gallup Poll

Gallup Daily: U.S. Mood

Based on the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index



Contributed by



Fred Dust

The predominant means of measuring national success is a financial metric. Some countries however have started making a shift from purely monetary means of measuring the health of their nations.

2

Happy At Last.

Gallup Poll

How might we

truly measure and value
well-being as much as GDP?

Gallup Daily: U.S. Mood

Based on the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index



Contributed by



Vincent Cheng

Studies show that GDP growth produces diminishing returns for our life satisfaction and happiness. Other factors, like social relations, health, meaningful work, freedom, etc. become far more important for our overall wellbeing.

The Discussion

Meena Kadri

December 18, 2010, 04:42PM

Great call Vincent! You might be interested to check out the Happy Planet Index by NEF (a think tank which explores "economics as if people and the planet mattered")
<http://www.happyplanetindex.org/>

Vincent Cheng

December 19, 2010, 02:26AM

Thanks for the support and link Meena! I'm a fan of NEF and their work on the Happy Planet Index...definitely worth a read through. I think the big challenge is how to integrate such thoughts, feelings, and actions (I believe who we truly are and are meant to be) into all areas of our lives.

Nicholas Masso

December 19, 2010, 03:55AM

One of the largest challenges for this concept is metrics. GDP is used partially because it is easily quantifiable.

Vincent Cheng

December 19, 2010, 03:11PM

Agreed Nicholas. I had a work background in strategy consulting and academic background in computer science, both where quantification definitely has a lot of power. Metrics is a definite challenge, but not insurmountable, as seen by the measurements that are cropping up in various corners of the world from NEF to the country of Bhutan to recent popularization of various books/research on happiness. For example, in the US, think of the resources going into the census. It would definitely be possible to piggyback some questions on wellbeing there. Now imagine other avenues where such information could be collected from the voting polling booths to say phone apps that provide personal tracking and tips for increasing happiness while providing anonymous aggregate statistics for policy makers/researchers. Of course, these measurements will be a combination of qualitative and quantitative, directionally meaningful though by no means perfect.

However, just recognizing and being aware of wellbeing as the end goal, can have profound impact. As Albert Einstein so eloquently put it, "Not everything that matters can be counted. Not everything that can be counted matters."

Nicholas Masso

December 19, 2010, 05:19PM

Excellent ideas, Vincent. Reading your post reminded me of a psychology research methodology used to quantify happiness. Participants are given wristwatches devices for a week. 8 times a day, at random times, the watch would ring and the participant would fill out a short paper survey asking them what they were doing, how they were feeling on a scale of 1 to 10, feelings of loneliness/belongingness, etc. Today, something similar could be done with texting and cellphones to help get a better quantitative picture of happiness. Being able to say whether the average American had an overall happier week would be a powerful tool.

Vincent Cheng

December 20, 2010, 06:58PM

Thanks Nicholas. Your expansion on the psychology research methodology and applying it to mobiles is a great example of what's possible in terms of measurement. In fact, here are 2 projects (from Harvard University and London School of Economics) that are doing exactly that: <http://www.trackyourhappiness.org/>, <http://www.mappiness.org.uk/>

Thao Vo

December 21, 2010, 12:30AM

Loving the Einstein quote Vincent. How about, "How do we foster a "Culture of We" instead of a "Culture of Me?"

Vincent Cheng

December 22, 2010, 02:00AM

Thanks Thao. Yes, "Me to We" is definitely a big part of it!

Andreännna

December 23, 2010, 04:43AM

Great post, Vincent! I agree, we should pursue accomplishment in wellbeing as we pursue accomplishment in business, politics, education, etc.

I think we'd find that the pursuit of wellbeing, as a broad foundation, would exponentially elevate the value, depth and richness of business, politics, education, etc.

Kale

December 25, 2010, 09:55AM

I applauded and evaluated your concept, and I love the humanistic motives, yet I feel like the question you're asking has been asked here and elsewhere many, many times before only in different ways. My concept certainly covers the same question, however, poses a solution. I think you'd be very much interested.

If I could have built on this, I most definitely would have.

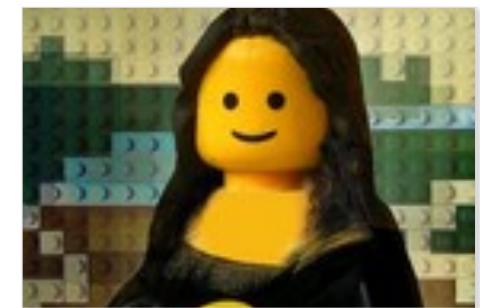
3

Who's Next?

*Bridge International Academics
(Nairobi, Kenya)*



Contributed by



Sandy Speicher

Bridge International Academies are low-cost private schools rapidly scaling in Africa. They've innovated the space with a "School In a Box" model, planning to have 1800 schools under their umbrella by 2015.

3

Who's Next?

*Bridge International Academics
(Nairobi, Kenya)*

How might we
rapidly innovate education to
foster the next generation?



Contributed by



Adam Hueniken

There is a severe lack of design and innovation education throughout many schooling systems. How can we encourage them to provide more opportunities to learn about the power of innovation and design?

The Discussion

Johan Löfström

November 24, 2010, 08:15PM

Feel free to add information about a project that I wrote about, Innovation plant It is written as comments in an inspiration made by user : Nicole
(scroll down to the bottom)

<http://openideo.com/open/what-is-the-global-challenge-that-most-concerns-you-right-now-and-that-global-innovation-leaders-could-begin-to-solve/inspiration/interdisciplinary-incubators/>

PABLO QUINTERO

November 29, 2010, 06:17AM

Hey man, very good point there and we definitely need everyone to apply creative thinking in every field, the only thing i'd like to add is that i personally believe that even though i agree with you saying that children should be exposed to creative thinking at an early stage, i also believe that Design itself is a profession that people chooses based on their understanding of their skills and preferences, current education programs introduce a variety of subjects in order to give students a broader vision of the world and its complexities and finally giving them the choice to develop an expertise in a particular subject or profession; creative thinking can be applied from any profession and therefore it should be actively encouraged in every subject being taught , but how can we do that in a more effective way that hasn't been tried out by the educational systems already?

Adam Hueniken

November 29, 2010, 07:47AM

Very good point Pablo. I'm definitely in agreement with the thought that design and innovation can come from any profession and area. So it's not only providing more opportunities to design and innovate but to provide them in various different subject areas.

Johan that sounds like a wonderful event that

they have going on there. Really interesting and definitely the type of thing I think we need to see more of.

4

Not the Problem.

*Mahila Milan “women together”
(Dharavi Slum, Mumbai)*



Contributed by

DHARAVI VIKAS SHALA
MAHILA MILAN MONTHLY REPORT-SHEET

SR NO.	NAME OF THE AREA	SAVING REP	RMK REP	RMK MM MIN		RE BLDG
				S.C.	REP SC	
1	SKR NAGAR	18,875	1120	—	—	—
2	KALYAN WADI	520	40	—	—	—
3	ANNAMALAI NAGAR	6,815	—	—	—	—
4	JAI BAJARANG CHS.	4,100	—	—	—	—
5	CHAMBADA BAZAR	9,205	—	—	—	—
6	ANNA NAGAR	4,165	1,400	—	—	—
7	SAI BABA CHS.	7,910	—	—	—	—
8	POONAWALA CHAWL	6,470	—	—	—	—
9	ASHIRWAD CHS.	3,735	—	—	—	6350 —

Meena Kadri

Mahila Milan means “women together” and provides a vehicle for the empowerment of women via leadership roles and advocacy alongside its pivotal daily savings collection.

4

Not the Problem.

*Mahila Milan “women together”
(Dharavi Slum, Mumbai)*

How might we

enable and empower women to
create lasting change for low
income communities?

Contributed by



David Griffith

There's a growing recognition in the world that focusing on women and girls is the most effective way to fight global poverty and extremism. Women and girls aren't the problem; they're the solution.

The Discussion

Arjan Tupon

December 27, 2010, 09:17AM

Important concept. The position of women is fortunately more and more being seen as important all around the world. The rise of Grameen bank and micro financing is a great example of this. Although I really feel this is an important issue, my question is if there is not already so much being done around this issue, that it might be better to take more specific action. For example how to ensure that young girls get equal access to education.

Demian Repucci

January 03, 2011, 09:25PM

David, thanks for this concept. It is a vital issue to be dealt with. Unfortunately made all the more complex by the many and varied contexts within which women and girls are repressed and relegated. If it were simply a matter of education that would be one thing, but too often it is the environments and societies within which these women live that resist any change to the status quo. No amount of new educational resources will help if the culture in which they are delivered does not see women's education as valuable and vital also. Positive change for women needs to happen as a change on the larger cultural, societal and religious scale if it is going to have a lasting effect on each woman and girl in that community on an individual level. Therein lies the trick, I think. Great stuff to think about and lots of opportunities. Thanks for putting the concept in there!

5

When Bad Things Happen.

Ushahidi



Contributed by



Meena Kadri, Arjan Tapan,
Adriana Olmos

Ushahidi means 'testimony' in Swahili. It's now a website used to map violence, disaster response, corruption, sexual harassment and more in the Congo, Gaza, Chile, India, Haiti, Pakistan and beyond.

TRUSTED REPORTS

5

When Bad Things Happen.

Ushahidi

How might we use new (and old) technology to improve disaster relief?



Contributed by



Demian Repucci

Is there a better way to coordinate the good will, resources and energy of the global community to more efficiently and effectively bring relief to the victims of disaster?

The Discussion

Meena Kadri

December 15, 2010, 05:42PM

Nice one Demian. You can add Ushahidi from the Inspiration Phase as a Build Upon post for this. I'll let you search for it ;^) but here's an article that talks about how it's assisted disaster management efforts: <http://bit.ly/i7Bzxs>

Sabra Marcroft

December 16, 2010, 04:27AM

This is a most needed concept Demian. In our current human degraded environment with such a quickly growing human population, we are bound to have even more disasters in the future. Coordinating and systematizing disaster relief will enable us to greatly reduce wastage of resources and human lives.

Demian Repucci

December 16, 2010, 05:23AM

Meena! Thanks for the tip! How did I not see Ushahidi?! It is amazing! The story you linked to is here: <http://www.newsweek.com/blogs/techtonic-shifts/2010/03/03/ushahidi-technology-saves-lives-in-haiti-and-chile.html#> in case anyone missed it. Ushahidi's use and adaptation to the earthquake situation in Haiti was really great. I am sure I do not understand completely how it was utilized but I think it would be great if it could be used in both directions. From one perspective, victims could use it to report their medical need, location, an emergency, etc. so that a working map of situational need could be established and monitored. But also from the other side Ushahidi could be utilized by incoming aid organizations and rescue workers to notify other aid organizations of their contributions and capabilities. Aid organizations could post the supplies, food, equipment, etc. that they have brought in. They could also give information on their location, the personnel they have on their team, their mobility, established nodes of distribution, any immediate need in their current location, etc., etc. All of this information from every aid group could be aggregated to form a continually updating map of relief work being done, current clear lines of transportation, points of distribution,

areas of specific need, etc. This could greatly help inform other aid organizations on what is needed at the moment and how best their available resources could be put to use. I could go on and on... but I love it. Thanks again for alerting me to Ushahidi. I actually think that it could be beautifully developed to address my concept on utilizing cell phones to gather real-time health data in the developing world <http://tinyurl.com/2vspwd8> I will go there now to tie it in...

daniel sunden

December 16, 2010, 05:36AM

Good stuff as always Meena. Thank you!

Meena Kadri

December 16, 2010, 11:29AM

Indeed Demian: Ushahidi is used in both those ways. One of the things I like about Ushahidi is that it facilitates P2P, collaborative networks which often work more efficiently than single organisations. Frontline SMS and Samasource have also been doing good work along these lines at sites of disaster. I feel that innovation for disaster relief needs to include acknowledgement of the power and opportunity in P2P networks - both digital and otherwise.

Demian Repucci

December 16, 2010, 01:44PM

Sabra, thanks for the comment! Yes, the increasing global population does bring with it more more dangers and challenges. The world's urban centers are much more populated, and densely populated at that, than ever before. And with large portions of those urban populations living in substandard housing, many people are left more vulnerable than they should be. I agree with you that a more efficient system of disaster response will have direct impact on the lives of the victims. As we saw in Haiti, the survival of people trapped in the rubble of collapsed buildings was utterly dependent on how quickly relief workers could be mobilized and get to them. One thing I like very much about the Ushahidi system that Meena brought to my attention, is the ability of

trapped people to text their location and condition to the system. Rescue workers monitoring the map generated by the texted data can then more efficiently target areas with the most trapped people which would enable them to hopefully save more lives more quickly. Thanks again for your comment!

Sabra Marcroft

December 21, 2010, 01:54AM

Another area that this concept will help with is reducing refugee stress in surrounding populations. Coordination of aid means less people have to be displaced long distances from their home place, and the demand for food and other resources doesn't destabilize the economy of host populations as much.

Thao Vo

December 21, 2010, 02:10AM

What's also great about Ushahidi are the many applications that people have come up with. From violence in Kenya to harassment in Egypt, and Sabra's idea about using it to stabilize the economy of nations - these are just a few of the creative applications and the possibilities are endless. Ushahidi is a mashup of all things great: mobile phones and SMS, web and social media, crowdsourcing and peer-to-peer, etc. Yes, I'm a big fan!

Demian Repucci

December 21, 2010, 05:45AM

Sabra, great point! Displacement and refugee camps are a very serious problem. Not only do neighboring countries such as Pakistan in relation to Afghanistan and Kenya and Ethiopia in relation to Somalia feel the burden of thousands of refugees flooding across their borders but also the sad fact that refugee camps are quick to succumb to the spread of disease, crime, rape, etc. Right now Haiti is suffering from the outbreak of cholera And this is almost a year after the earthquake that devastated that country. Which brings up another grim fact in that on top of all the suffering that the victims of whatever disaster have already gone through, refugee camps tend to also

suffer from inertia. Once they are in place it is very hard to get families back to their original homes. So, yes, the more efficient and effective a disaster relief effort is, using Ushahidi, something like it, or a combination of methods, the less victims may have to be relocated to refugee camps and face an even more uncertain future.

Thanks again Sabra!

Demian Repucci

December 21, 2010, 05:51AM

Thao, thanks for your comment! Yes, I need to spend some more time with Ushahidi to truly understand it but from what I can tell at this point it looks really great. Definitely very usable for situations I am thinking about. My main question that I would like to explore further is it's usefulness on a coordination level from the standpoint of the multitude of incoming independent relief organizations. Can each of them fully utilize Ushahidi to orchestrate their movements with those of all the other aid groups to maximize efficiency and effectiveness, responding to the information they are receiving from on the ground? But from what I can tell so far, this capability is either available already or easily developed within the Ushahidi framework. Very cool.

Thanks again Thao!

Kale

December 25, 2010, 09:51AM

I applauded and evaluated your concept. While it's a compelling issue, I feel that a humane global system of technology and resources would quickly solve it.

If I could have built on this, I would have.

Meena Kadri

January 01, 2011, 04:43PM

Demian - thought you might be interested that Ushahidi has even been used in your own NYC this winter! - to deal with snow via social collaboration: <http://bit.ly/eAWOYL>

Collaborate, Really!

*United Health Group created Diabetes Prevention & Control Alliance (partnership between YMCA, USA & Walgreens)
(Minnetonka, Minnesota, U.S.)*

A photograph showing a male doctor in a white lab coat and a female patient looking at a series of X-ray images mounted on a wall. The doctor is pointing at one of the images with a pen. They are both looking intently at the screen.

Contributed by



Patrice Martin

UCSF and Pfizer have collaborated to create the Global Center for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) – an open network of information, technology platforms, and scientists with goals to share and collaborate upon research.

6

Collaborate, Really!

*United Health Group created Diabetes Prevention & Control Alliance (partnership between YMCA, USA & Walgreens)
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*How might we
create serious public / private
partnerships for the right
problem?*

Contributed by

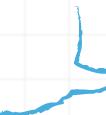


Meena Kadri

Communities become resilient from within. Some of the best ideas for improving them can best be conceptualised by the community itself. How can we support processes which provide collaboration and creative thinking within?



The Discussion



open IDEO

Demian Repucci

January 03, 2011, 04:03AM

Meena! Thanks for the heads up and the link! How funny! It seems the city got caught on its heels by the snow storm and left lots of neighborhoods unplowed. So people started shoveling each other out. Almost all of the 20 inches of snow has melted already but it caused an uproar while it lasted. The mayor had to publicly apologize for not getting all of New York's streets plowed right away. Definitely not as life threatening as something like the Haiti earthquake but it shows how adaptable Ushahidi is. Thanks again! And Happy New Year!

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Sabra Marcroft

December 21, 2010, 01:54AM

Another area that this concept will help with is reducing refugee stress in surrounding populations. Coordination of aid means less people have to be displaced long distances from their home place, and the demand for food and other resources doesn't destabilize the economy of host populations as much.

Demian Repucci

December 16, 2010, 01:44PM

Sabra, thanks for the comment! Yes, the increasing global population does bring with it more more dangers and challenges. The world's urban centers are much more populated, and densely populated at that, than ever before. And with large portions of those urban populations living in substandard housing, many people are left more vulnerable than they should be. I agree with you that a more efficient system of disaster response will have direct impact on the lives of the victims. As we saw in Haiti, the survival of people trapped in the rubble of collapsed buildings was utterly dependent on how quickly relief workers could be mobilized and get to them. One thing I like very much about the Ushahidi system that Meena brought to my attention, is the ability of trapped people to text their location and condition to the system. Rescue workers monitoring the map generated by the texted data can then more efficiently target areas with the most trapped people which would enable them to hopefully save more lives more quickly.

Thanks again for your comment!

Meena Kadri

December 16, 2010, 11:29AM

Indeed Demian: Ushahidi is used in both those ways. One of the things I like about Ushahidi is that it facilitates P2P, collaborative networks which often work more efficiently than single organisations. Frontline SMS and Samasource have also been doing good work along these lines at sites of disaster. I feel that innovation for disaster relief needs to include acknowledgment of the power and opportunity in P2P networks - both digital and otherwise.

daniel sunden

December 16, 2010, 05:36AM

Good stuff as always Meena. Thank you!

Demian Repucci

December 16, 2010, 05:23AM

Meena! Thanks for the tip! How did I not see Ushahidi?! It is amazing! The story you linked to is here: <http://www.newsweek.com/blogs/techtonic-shifts/2010/03/03/ushahidi-technology-saves-lives-in-haiti-and-chile.html#> in case anyone missed it. Ushahidi's use and adaptation to the earthquake situation in Haiti was really great. I am sure I do not understand completely how it was utilized but I think it would be great if it could be used in both directions. From one perspective, victims could use it to report their medical need, location, an emergency, etc. so that a working map of situational need could be established and monitored. But also from the other side Ushahidi could be utilized by incoming aid organizations and rescue workers to notify other aid organizations of their contributions and capabilities. Aid organizations could post the supplies, food, equipment, etc. that they have brought in. They could also give information on their location, the personnel they have on their team, their mobility, established nodes of distribution, any immediate need in their current location, etc., etc. All of this information from every aid group could be aggregated to form a continually updating map of relief work being done, current clear lines of transportation, points of distribution, areas of specific need, etc. This could greatly help inform other aid organizations on what is needed at the moment and how best their available resources could be put to use. I could go on and on... but I love it. Thanks again for alerting me to Ushahidi. I actually think that it could be beautifully developed to address my concept on utilizing cell phones to gather real-time health data in the developing world <http://tinyurl.com/2vspwd8> I will go there now to tie it in...

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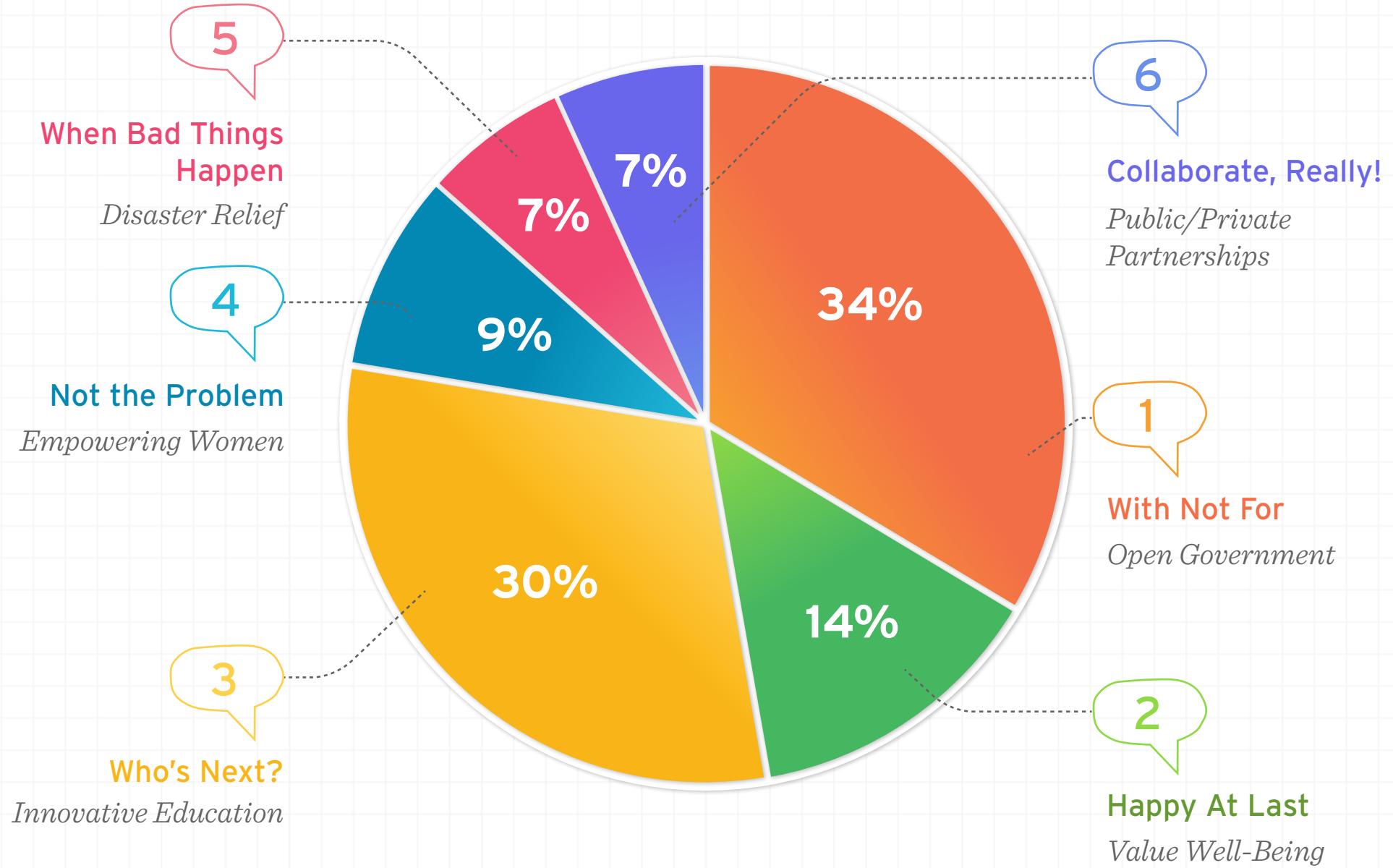
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