ETHxUN Impact Guideline Overview

A practical workflow to design, validate, and evidence blockchain-enabled impact projects with UN-grade credibility

This work is designed to be used as a workflow, not as a one-time report. It supports both UN teams and Ethereum builders in transitioning from evidence and examples to a measurable, verifiable, and implementable project—and in continuously improving it through iteration. This workflow is not premised on blockchain being inherently beneficial, but on testing when and whether it adds verifiable public value under real-world constraints. This workflow is not premised on blockchain being inherently beneficial, but on testing when and whether it adds verifiable public value under real-world constraints.

Identify (Inspire & Discover) → Understand (Review & Map)→ Imagine→ Situate→ Design → Validate→ Deliver (Develop, assess, iterate)

Phases	Summary of Cyclical iterative Stages		
	Stage	First Time (Baseline)	Later Development Cycles
Identify	Inspire	Review impact stories → extract patterns	Add new stories + lessons learned from your own pilots (what actually worked/failed)
	Discover	Shortlist candidate problem space(s) + test whether blockchain may add value (or not)	Re-scan opportunities using new constraints, feedback, and ecosystem shifts
Understand	Review new information	Review framework + UN/Web3 evaluation logic (what "good" looks like)	Review assessment results, audit findings, user feedback, monitoring data
	Map current workflows	Map current user/service journey, constraints, risks, stakeholders	Update journey and constraints with field learnings + participatory insights
Imagine	Ideate (Alternate Realities & Ideation)	Generate 2–3 plausible solution concepts (incl. non-blockchain options) that respond to constraints.	Co-create improvements with stakeholders; test alternative designs as conditions change.
Situate	Ground (Operational Reality)	Adapt chosen concept to context: ToC, intended impact, stakeholders needed, what changes and how, including power dynamics and risk ownership.	Re-ground ToC after pilot evidence; participatory validation of "what matters."
Design	Operational Workflow	Specify operational workflows, stakeholder roles, etc.	Improve usability, reduce burden, strengthen governance, interoperability, privacy/security; update evaluation mechanisms.
	Measurement & Assessment	Build ToC + select indicators + define Triple-Proof plan (narratives as governance signals)	
	Governance Workflow	Design governance mechanisms, desired behaviors,incentives and safeguards to manage power asymmetries and unintended outcomes.	
	Technical Architecture & Data flows	Design technical architecture and data flow in line with the workflows, measurement plan, governance, and design conditions.	
Validate	Readiness Checks	Run readiness checks: technical feasibility, partner capacity, safeguards, evaluation readiness, cost/time realism, and protection-first validation (narrative harm signals override metrics).	Re-validate after changes, scaling, or new environments
	Check design conditions	Validate if design conditions are met, and if monitoring is embedded in design (e.g. Scalability, replicability, monitoring by design).	
Deliver	Develop, Deploy	Build MVP, onboard stakeholders	Iterate releases; run A/B or phased rollouts
	Assess, Measure	Set up evaluation mechanisms, run pilots; do baseline measurement + narrative sensemaking.	Continuous monitoring + periodic evaluation + participatory sensemaking
	Ecosystem Pulse	Continuously identify changes in the system	Record and assess impact of changes.
	Adapt, Scale & Institutionalize	Use pilot learning to adapt (scope, workflows, metrics, governance).	Scale only when conditions hold; institutionalize templates, procurement docs, training, registry updates.

Artifacts (clickable)

Pattern Card • Fit Gate • Minimum Evidence Set • As-Is Map • 3-Option Tradeoffs • Mini-ToC + Triple-Proof • Blueprint Pack • Readiness Checklist • Red-Team & Consent Audit • Convergence Dashboard • Governance Agenda • Privacy Checklist • Ethics Inbox • Registry Pack • Procurement Pack • Workshop Kit

Decision gates

- Gate 0 Fit-for-Blockchain → back to Identify
- Gate 1 Measurement & Ethics Feasible → back to Situate
    - Ethical veto: if community participation is mediated exclusively through a single institution or local elite → pause and redesign.
- Gate 2 Implementation Ready → back to Design
- Gate 3 Go/No-Go → back to Design/Situate

Exit & Fork Protocol (last-resort safeguard against capture)