

What does UNICEF want to do with UAS or drones?

UNICEF responded to close to 300 emergencies in 2015 and buys a third of the world's vaccines.

We are exploring the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) also known as Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) or drones, to support UNICEF's programme work in humanitarian response and community development. UAS can be piloted autonomously, and programmed to do tasks that a manned aircraft cannot do.

Even though drones are a new technology, we see great potential use in humanitarian and development affairs by their potential for imagery, connectivity, and transportation. And they've already been used. In Latin America, they've been used for hurricane damage analysis, post-earthquake census and damage mapping, and camp management. In Africa, drones have been used to transport HIV tests and to map flood risk. In Asia and Oceania they have been used for medical payload delivery, disaster damage assessment, and for real-time information after Typhoon Haiyan.

UNICEF sees drones as being helpful, for example, in mudslides in emergency flooding situations, by extending cell and WiFi/LTE/5G connectivity to areas with no cell coverages and for transporting important medical supplies to hard-to-reach places.

What are the conditions for participating?

UNICEF's mandate is to help the world's most vulnerable children. UNICEF's work in innovation is bound to a developed set of principles, which is supported by multiple other groups, including other UN agencies and global NGOs.

Industry partners wishing to test in the established corridors, to participate in challenges or receive investment from the UNICEF Venture Fund will be assessed against specified criteria for each opportunity. Common to each opportunity is alignment with UNICEF Innovation Principles, which include being open source and providing open data. The principles of design can be found here: <http://www.unicefstories.org/principles/>

GENERAL INFORMATION

What opportunities are currently open?

- 1) **Challenge for UAVs for delivery in the Pacific:** We currently have an ongoing drone trial for a vaccine cargo delivery Challenge in Vanuatu. You may find all the details at

the official website: www.unicefstories.org/drones/vanuatu. Phase 1 trials will take place between 21 – 25 August 2017.

- 2) **Malawi drone corridor:** Another [open drone corridor opportunity is located in Malawi, Kasungu Airfield](#). For more information on how to apply for use of the corridor and related opportunities click [here](#).
- 3) **Seed funding for start-ups from the UNICEF Venture Fund:** The Venture Fund provides seed funding to start-ups registered in UNICEF [programme countries](#), that are developing and piloting open source technology solutions. Focused on emerging technology areas, the Fund is seeking to invest in companies active in the UAV space. For more information, please see www.unicefinnovationfund.org (no deadline, applications are accepted on a rolling basis).
- 4) **Partnerships:** UNICEF Innovation is seeking industry partners to engage in a significant and global way as a "core" UAV partners with UNICEF. These partnerships are based on the creation of shared value, leveraging industry partners' core expertise, assets and resources to jointly explore and scale the application of UAVs in new markets and to address the needs of the most vulnerable children.

Are UNICEF activities related to military drones?

No. The UNICEF mandate dictates there will be no development for military or defense purposes. Companies must be vetted by our corporate screening process.

<https://form.jotform.us/72116078931153>

For any enquiries, click [here](#).

About UNICEF Innovation

UNICEF Innovation is an interdisciplinary team of individuals around the world tasked with identifying, prototyping, and scaling technologies and practices that strengthen UNICEF's work. For more information about UNICEF's work in innovation, visit: www.unicef.org/innovation and www.unicefstories.org.

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About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere. For more information about UNICEF and its work visit: www.unicef.org

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