



Iraq Response Innovation Lab. Save the Children 2017.

Response Innovation Lab

Improving Responses to Humanitarian Challenges

The Problem

There is significant evidence that barriers to innovation are hampering the ability of humanitarian actors to rapidly develop solutions to new or enduring challenges they encounter when responding to humanitarian crises or disasters. As is the case in business, there are problems, both simple and complex, that are often only visible on the ground and are most ably and rapidly addressed through engagement of local stakeholders. A space where traditional and non-traditional local response actors can collaborate to solve difficult challenges hampering disaster relief and recovery has not been part of the humanitarian architecture.

Our Innovative Idea

The Response Innovation Lab (RIL) is a global collaboration between several leading nonprofit organizations that exists to solve real, on-the-ground humanitarian problems. It creates a cross-thematic, multi-sectoral space where the unique challenges posed by a specific humanitarian crisis



can be identified and aims to help local actors develop customized solutions fit for the unique challenges of chaotic relief environments. that are both innovative and in line with humanitarian ethics and standards

Our Work to Date

Save the Children leads RIL labs in Uganda and Puerto Rico, with partner-led labs in Iraq, Jordan and Somalia. Our Puerto Rico lab is one of the pilot locations for the Matchmaker, a new service that provides impartial and independent advice on pioneering humanitarian solutions. It is open to any organization and is currently offered free of charge. RIL is also developing an evidence framework and toolkit that can help us tell the story of why field-led innovations work and should be scaled.

Become an Innovation Investor

Partnerships are vital to all of the work we do at Save the Children. Our partners provide the skills, networks and resources we need to develop, test, replicate and scale the most promising innovations for children.

Invest Time or Skills: We aim to inspire and guide disaster response practitioners to develop and test new ideas and implement proven solutions. To achieve our vision, we are looking to collaborate with humanitarian response and innovation organizations. Individuals or corporations with on-the-ground disaster experience or a background in innovation and a drive to improve access and delivery of aid in complex humanitarian responses can play a critical role in this project by partnering with us.

Accelerate the Pilot: We are continuously working toward creating a future in which innovation practice is embedded in all humanitarian action, substantially reducing suffering and creating resilient communities. Through your financial contribution, we will be able to:

- scale up our current programming,
- pilot the Matchmaker services to determine usability, functionality and accessibility, and/or
- develop new solutions that can be used to help save more children and families devastated by disaster or crisis.