GLOBAL INNOVATION EXCHANGE

Data on Global Innovation Exchange
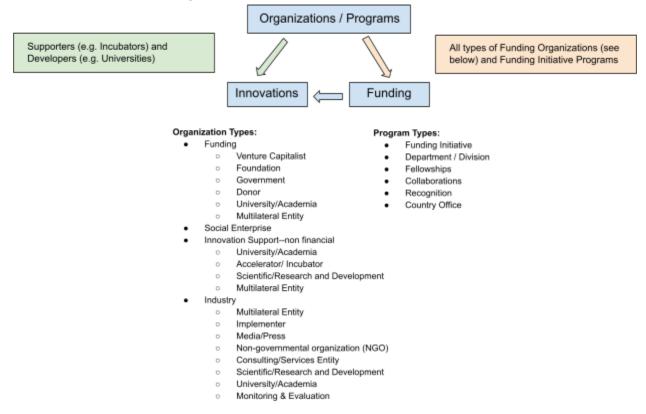
Outline

Overview

Global Innovation Exchange was a technology platform with the largest database of development innovations connecting innovators with funding and exposure opportunities active from 2017 through September 2021. Managed by Results for Development's Innovation Practice, GIE was supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Australian Department of Foreign Assistance and Trade (Australian Aid), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

This GIE Data Manifesto provides a synopsis of how data was characterized, classified, uploaded, and managed on the GIE. This document also provides insight in how to interpret and analyze the data exported from the GIE database such as through the "Global Innovations Exchange Public Good Export" available on the R4D resource library: https://r4d.org/resources/.

Types of Data on GIE

GIE has 3 types of profiles:
1. **Innovations** - These are profiles about development innovations - GIE uses the [International Development Alliance (IDIA)](#) definition of innovation: *a new solution with the transformative ability to accelerate impact. Innovation can be fueled by science and technology, can entail improved ways of working with new and diverse partners, or can involve new social and business models or policy, creative financing mechanisms, or path-breaking improvements in delivering essential services and products.*
2. **Funding** - These are profiles for funding opportunities that are actively accepting applications (incl. In the form of an email or business plan) for funding from innovations.
3. **Organizations** / **Programs** - These are profiles about organizations (e.g. USAID, DFAT, UN, Unleashed, etc.) or programs (e.g. Development Innovation Ventures, Saving Lives at Birth, etc.) within the development innovation ecosystem from various actors in the ecosystem. Programs are initiatives that are managed by 1 or a consortium of organizations. For example, the [Million Lives Club](#) is a Program that is an initiative that involves multiple Organizations.

Organization Types:
- Funding
  - Venture Capitalist
  - Foundation
  - Government
  - Donor
  - University/Academia
  - Multilateral Entity
- Social Enterprise
- Innovation Support--non financial
  - University/Academia
  - Accelerator/ Incubator
  - Scientific/Research and Development
  - Multilateral Entity
- Industry
  - Multilateral Entity
  - Implementer
  - Media/Press
  - Non-governmental organization (NGO)
  - Consulting/Services Entity
  - Scientific/Research and Development
  - University/Academia
  - Monitoring & Evaluation

Program Types:
- Funding Initiative
- Department / Division
- Fellowships
- Collaborations
- Recognition
- Country Office

<u>Milestones</u>

The most important type of innovation data on GIE are Milestones. These are achievements or accomplishments by an innovation. There are 8 different types (see below). Many of these

Milestones are engagements with Organizations and Programs in ecosystems such as Funds Raised, Recognitions Received and Key Partnerships.

Types of Milestones:
1. Innovation Created: The date when the innovation was developed or created. (Note: this is NOT the date when the innovation profile was created on GIE)
2. Country Implemented In: For every low- or middle-income country that the innovation is already active in.
3. Funds Raised: When the innovation receives funds for the innovation. This milestone specifies the date, amount and funder. Optional data can include details such as what the funding was for (e.g. focus areas, countries, program), type of funding, the link to an announcement about the funding, etc.

Sep 2018

Funds Raised VERIFIED
$10,000

FOCUS AREAS Health
IMPLEMENTED IN Uganda
FUNDING Frontlines of Health Challenge
ORGANIZATION MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) as part of SOLVE

SOLVE

4. Recognition Received: Milestones when an innovation receives an award or any other recognition from an organization or program. This can include global or local recognition such as being selected to present the innovation at an event, winning a competition or award, joining an incubator/accelerator program, and much more.

Jan 2019

Recognition Received VERIFIED
2019 Innovator Cohort

ORGANIZATION Duke University as part of Innovations in Healthcare

INNOVATIONS IN HEALTHCARE

5. Key Partnerships: When an innovation partnered with any Programs or Organizations. Type of partnerships include: Government, Implementation, Research and Other.

Aug 2015

Key Partnership

Research

ORGANIZATION **Duke University** as part of
**Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator at Duke
University**

Duke | SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACCELERATOR AT DUKE

6. <u>In the News</u>: Any articles, blogs or other news items that showcase the innovation.

Jul 2017

In the News

**In a Remote Village,
Witnessing Miracles**

ORGANIZATION **The New York Times**

7. <u>Lives Impacted</u>: How many lives the innovation impacted by this particular date.
8. <u>New Product or Service</u>: A new product or service the innovation launched.

Additionally, Funds Raised and Recognitions Received Milestones can be "Verified" by stakeholders validating that the Milestones happened as noted. "Verified" means that this information has been reviewed and confirmed for accuracy by the GIE team in partnership with the organization that funded or recognized the innovation or another equally reliable source. That is, there is a source that confirmed the funding or recognition happened as noted. In the below example, GIE partnered with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to Verify their funding of $381,325 as part of The Blue Economy Challenge.

Oct 2016

Funds Raised ✅ VERIFIED

$381,325

FUNDING **The Blue Economy Challenge**
ORGANIZATION **Australian Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade** as part of **Blue
Economy Challenge** and **innovationXchange**

THE **BLUE ECONOMY CHALLENGE** 2016
#BlueRevolution

How do we categorize and classify data on GIE?

Taxonomy

GIE's taxonomy (or classification system) was created in consultation with funders (e.g. USAID, DFAT, etc.) and adds standardization specifically for Focus Areas and Geographies. See GIE's taxonomy in the Taxonomy tab in your export file.

Focus Areas

Made up of sectors (and sub-sectors) and topics. Sectors (and subsectors) help define the social issue that the GIE users (social entrepreneurs, funders, ecosystem supporters) work on such as health. Topics are cross-cutting approaches that describe *how* the GIE user works such as AI. See full list in the Taxonomy tab in your export file.

GIE encouraged Innovators to prioritize which Focus Areas they choose for their profiles to ensure that they are finding a good match. There are two separate fields on the form:
- Top 3 Focus Areas - The top 3 Focus Areas that best describe the innovation. In 2018, this became a required field for all innovations created on GIE.

Additional Focus Areas - Other Focus Areas that also apply to the innovation but did not make the cut in the top 3. Innovators were able to add as many Focus Areas that are applicable.

What guides the data on GIE?

1. **Data reflects the <u>development</u> <u>innovation</u> ecosystem** - GIE focuses on <u>**innovations**</u> that are already <u>**implemented in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**</u> and funding opportunities for them.

GIE focuses on those that have a clear intention/desire to create impact in LMICs (indicated as such on their innovation profiles). Due to COVID-19, GIE's COVID-19 Innovation Hub accepted innovations from high-income countries.

Funding Data on GIE

Funding opportunities posted on GIE were designed for or at the least accessible for LMIC innovations aka they shouldn't be designed exclusively for HIC innovations.

GIE was designed to support innovators in their fundraising and provide scaling opportunities. As such, the platform evaluated who will benefit from the investment before deciding whether or not it should be posted. In other words, is the recipient of the funding truly a social enterprise? For example, if the investment is to "shape ecosystems" or give out sub-grants or manage an initiative this is NOT a good fit for GIE because the funding is not directly supporting a social enterprise.

2. **Balancing Openness with Quality - Let the Data do the talking** -
Innovations & Milestones: We believe there is power in an open platform and as such anyone can add an innovation to GIE and it is instantly posted without requiring moderator approval. Innovation profiles are managed by innovators and they can add unlimited Milestones to the profiles. Milestones can only be Verified by GIE admins based on data provided by Data Champions and those Milestones are then locked for editing. An innovation profile's quality is determined by its completeness and number of Verified Milestones

   Funding, Organizations & Programs: To uphold high data quality for these pages, these can only be managed by GIE admins. We may change this in the future to allow funders and supporters to submit drafts that can be approved by GIE admins.

   Users: All users must adhere to the terms of service, but GIE promotes a spirit of inclusion rather than exclusivity.

3. **Data on GIE is sector and geography agonistic** - While there is a focus on global development innovation ecosystem, within that there is no specific restriction or focus on thematic areas (e.g health, education, etc.) or geographies (e.g. Asia, Africa, etc.).

4. **Data provides opportunities and insights for social entrepreneurs with solutions designed for LMICs-** Social entrepreneurs can find opportunities on GIE in two ways. First, social entrepreneurs can discover funding opportunities through the Funding Directory, which they can apply to or "throw their hat into the ring". Second, through the Funder Directory where entrepreneurs explore the funding universe and discover if and how they fit in the portfolio of funders.They also also explore the innovations who have received funding from specific funders here which they can use to determine if they are a good fit and/or to strengthen their application by comparing their innovations to those previously funded by them.

5. **Innovation data is owned by social entrepreneurs** - While GIE 100% supports the goal of reducing the burden on social entrepreneurs and innovators, it is essential that social entrepreneurs manage their own profiles. If the social entrepreneur doesn't own their profile, they won't be able to leverage the platform's full potential and take part in opportunities.

6. **Data doesn't expire** - GIE is designed to showcase and highlight recent data and milestones and provide transparency into an innovation's progress. We recognize that innovations pivot or even close as a result of the changes in an ecosystem or business model. GIE strongly discourages removing profiles that are not explicit duplicates/errors. Profiles cannot be removed from GIE because the business is no longer active as that would skew the data of our partners' investments/support and be a huge missed opportunity for learnings for the innovation ecosystem. Inactive profiles are inherently

valuable as to educating future social entrepreneurs who might be exploring/piloting similar approaches or business models and avoids "re-inventing the wheel".

Where does the data on GIE come from?

Innovation Data Management

Innovations are added to GIE in two ways:
1. Innovations hear about GIE through various channels, sign-up and add/edit their own innovations.
2. Data Champions share innovations with GIE which are added to the platform in bulk. They are ultimately managed and edited by innovators as well.

Innovation profiles on GIE are owned and managed by the social entrepreneurs and innovators behind them. If innovations are added in bulk by the GIE Data Team (with the support of engineers), they are left open to be 'claimed' by the innovators to own and manage. To add data quality indicators, GIE adds "Verified" Milestones to the innovation profiles from their supporters (read more about Verified Milestones above under "Milestones").

GIE Data Champions are key partners supporting the "data engine". They are funding programs/organizations and other innovation supporters showcasing their "Verified" support of innovations on GIE. Data Champions share verified funding data or recognitions to demonstrate how they have supported the innovation. The data they provide serves as a crowdsourced due diligence information providing quality checks to help surface the most promising innovations on GIE. There are many types of Data Champions that provide different innovation support from across all geographies, focus areas, including:
1. Innovation Funders
2. Accelerators/ incubators
3. Focus Area experts
4. Geography experts
5. Other platforms

Funding Data Management

The GIE Data team ensures that there is a steady growth of funding opportunities on the site by:
1. Monitoring funding landscape
2. Finding funding and confirm fit for GIE
3. Reviewing, map to GIE & Post
4. Monitoring and select for promotion

Data team efforts prioritize quality of funding data on the platform. The team works to promote the diversity of funding on the platform. For example the team works to ensure that the Funding and Funder Directories content does not "skew" towards any particular region or focus area.

GIE users who lead funding organizations or programs may also submit a funding opportunity through GIE's funding opportunity submission form or reach out to the GIE HelpDesk. To ensure data quality, GIE Data team posts any user submitted funding opportunities on the site only if they are a fit for GIE. Users are not permitted to post funding opportunities to ensure standardization.