

## Christopher Fabian

- **2015-Present, Principal Advisor on Innovation & Lead of UNICEF Ventures, UNICEF NYHQ**  
Built the UNICEF Ventures team within the Office of Innovation, making early stage investments into technology companies and creating platforms like Magic Box for data science and the Malawi UAV/drone corridor to support our investments.
- **2013-2015, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director: Innovation, UNICEF NYHQ**  
Advised Executive Director Tony Lake on organizational structure and scaleup of innovation activities. Innovation is a central component in UNICEF's 2014-17 Strategic Plan and the theme of the flagship 2014 *State of the World's Children* report. Innovation Fund established as a 10M\$ vehicle. Built a 20-person team to support colleagues globally.
- **January 2010-2013, co-Lead, Innovation Unit, UNICEF NYHQ**  
Organized UNICEF's first organization-wide effort to structure its innovation work modelled on technology & startup practices. Supported UNICEF offices globally to establish programs that would reach millions of people.
- **January 2010-January 2011, Senior Advisor on Innovation, Global Pulse, UN Executive Office of the Secretary General (secondment)**  
Represented UNICEF in the Global Pulse initiative housed in the UN Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Incorporated data science and "big data" concepts into policy and decision documents for the G20, the Secretary-General, and the General Assembly.
- **June 2006-December 2010, Innovation Specialist, Director's Office, Division of Communication, UNICEF NYHQ,**  
Advised the Director on options for UNICEF strategic innovation. Worked with UNICEF country offices to build open-source systems like RapidSMS and RapidFTR in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Malawi and to demonstrate the value of realtime data for UNICEF operations.
- **2002-2006, Founder naomba.com & blankspacedesign**  
Founded and successfully exited startup technology, media and design companies in Egypt and Tanzania.

### Selected Personal Awards & Team Recognition

Google "Leaders @ Google", 2015

Core 77 Design Award "Design for UNICEF Curriculum", 2014 (team)

TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential" people 2013

Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Fellow 2013

Redhat "Top 4 Open Source Initiatives 2012" (team)

### Selected Invited Speaker Roles (2014 & 2015)

Corporations: Google, Google[x], Twitter, Facebook,

Universities: Princeton-Fung Forum, NYU, Tsinghua University, IIT Delhi, Harvard, Yale, Columbia,

Other: WEF (Panama), The World Bank, US Department of State, The Wilson Center, TEDxArendal, TedXAalto, The Web Summit

**Languages:** Native English, high intermediate spoken Egyptian Arabic and Spanish. Functional Swahili.

**Education:**

2002: BA, Philosophy, The American University of Cairo. (Study years at Trinity College, Dublin and NYU)

2012: MA, Media and Communications, The New School

Chris led the launch of the 11M\$ UNICEF Venture Fund in 2015, creating the first fund of its kind in the United Nations. The Fund uses a venture capital approach to invest in startups working on frontier technology like virtual reality, machine learning, and crypto-currency that can have a positive impact on humanity.

The Ventures team also makes larger secondary investments in platforms like two drone testing corridors (in Malawi and Vanuatu) launched in 2017, as well as the Magic Box, an open source analytics platform that combines data and engineering from companies like Amadeus, IBM, Google, and Telefonica to produce insights that help the organization make better real-time decisions.

Previously, Chris's teams have worked on technology for low infrastructure environments including award winning work on RapidPro, an SMS-based information system with more than 3.5M active users in 35 countries.

Chris's academic roles have included teaching at NYU, Tsinghua University and IIT Delhi, and he has recently been an invited speaker at Google, Facebook, Twitter, and the US Congress, exploring how to create fairness in a world of rapid technological change. In 2013 he was recognized as one of TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential People."