Tanya Accone

The rate of change and challenge facing children today demands business unusual solutions. This is why UNICEF is investing in disruptive technology and building groundbreaking partnerships that range from some of the world’s most valuable companies to young local entrepreneurs.

Tanya Accone leads UNICEF’s scale up of innovations that deliver exponential change for millions of children and youth across 143 countries in her role as the Senior Adviser on Innovation. UNICEF is engaging partners such as ARM, Facebook, Google, IBM and Telefonica through their core business and leveraging their expertise, time and resources to test innovations and set the stage to scale those that work.

Our innovation pipeline covers emerging future technologies including blockchain, drones, and sensors, a venture fund to invest in these, and exit pathways including through our Global Innovation Centre, a centre of excellence for scaling.

Some of Tanya’s professional nine lives include launching internet-mobile-satellite companies throughout sub-Saharan Africa, covering technology as a journalist, and helping to take The Washington Post Company online. Tanya was born in South Africa, is a Fulbright Fellow, and tweets at @accone