IDIN PROGRAM IMPACT REPORT
2012 – 2016

IDIN

International
Development
Innovation
Network

> **823**
> Network members

IDIN enables a diverse, global network of problem solvers to create practical solutions to development challenges hand-in-hand with local communities.

We're not just changing the way design is done. *We're changing who gets to call themselves a designer.*

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153 innovations

65 countries

Our Approach

The first International Development Design Summit (IDDS) was held at MIT in 2007. Then, as now, summits brought together diverse teams from around the globe to learn the design process and develop prototypes to address global development challenges, big and small.

One thing was clear: after summits ended, the momentum did not. Participants kept working on prototypes, launched social ventures, and shared what they had learned back home.

In 2012, the International Development Innovation Network (IDIN) was created to build and support this growing network. IDIN is a consortium of U.S. and international partners led by MIT D-Lab that supports activities to create a year-round, global ecosystem for innovation and collaboration.

IDIN is rooted in the idea of co-creation: that engaging communities as equal members of the design team can be an important pathway to creating sustainable and relevant solutions. We believe the **process** of innovation is as important as the **products** of innovation. In other words, IDIN is not exclusively a technology or venture accelerator. Our program is about people, capacity building, and empowerment through collaborative design.

Today, IDIN connects more than 800 members to a robust ecosystem of training, resources, and mentorship that can create impact in two key ways: 1) by generating solutions to development challenges, and 2) by spreading the co-creation approach. This report shares the impact of our program from 2012 through 2016.

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Photo by Ana Osorio
Colombia

What We Have Achieved Together

Once a design summit is over, participants become members of the IDIN Network. IDIN connects its members to a global ecosystem of support, which includes funding, mentorship, student and faculty collaboration, workshop space, and digital sharing platforms. These resources help members continue developing their summit projects and advance other initiatives around the world.

Network members go on to design products, launch social ventures, open maker spaces, and organize design trainings and workshops.

823 IDIN Network members

living in **65** countries around the world

13 design summits organized by:

214 volunteer summit organizers

153 active solutions in the pipeline:

reaching **514,420** people around the world

12 consortium partners reaching:

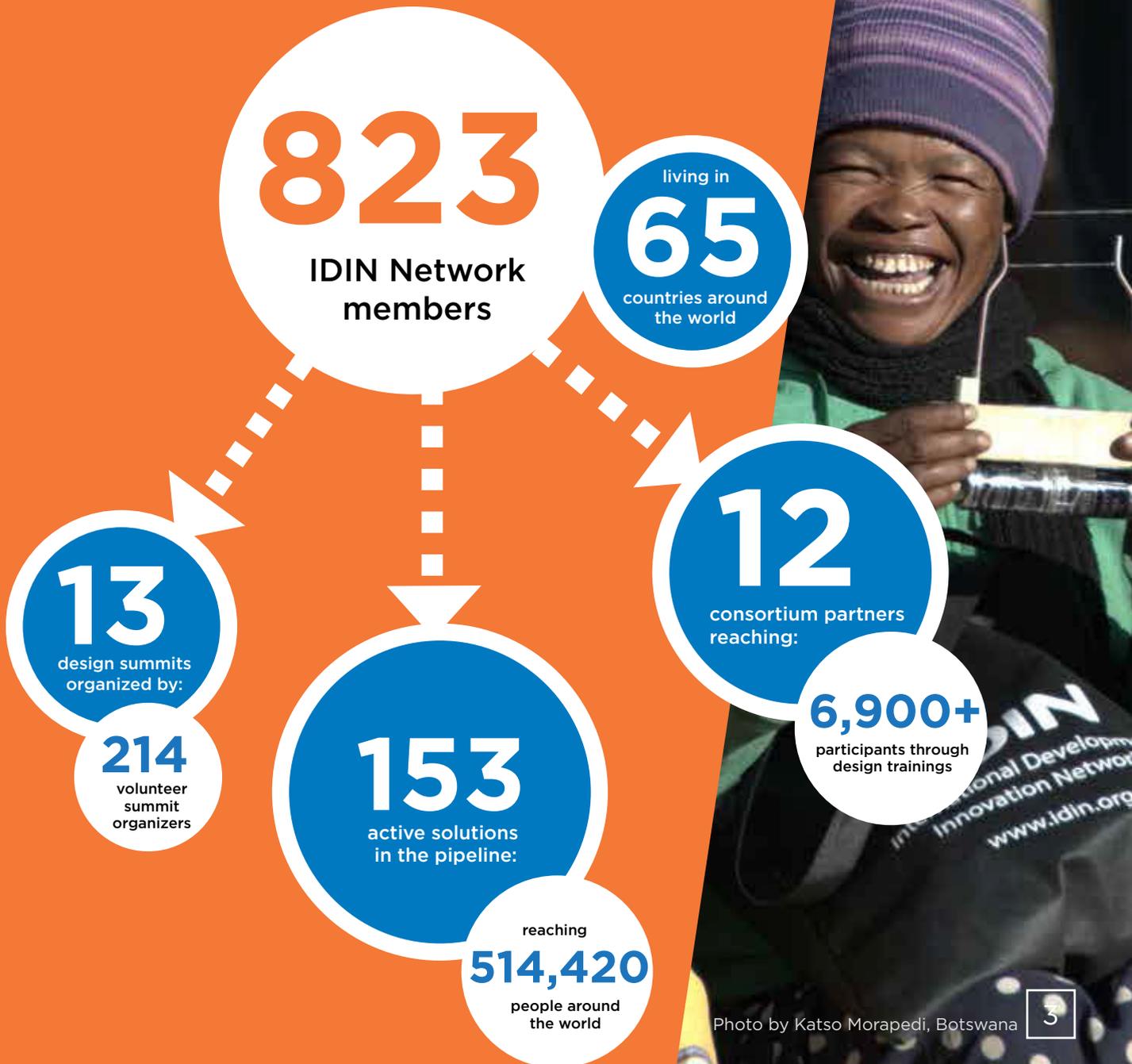**6,900+** participants through design trainings

Photo by Katso Morapedi, Botswana

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Building
Capacity

At design summits, participants live, work, and play together to develop skills like problem framing, rapid prototyping, iterative design, and working in diverse teams.

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Everyone as a problem-solver

At design summits, participants explore challenges in sectors such as health, waste, and education through the development of real-world projects. Although each summit is unique, nearly all participants say that the experience has been transformative.

Summits bring together people from all walks of life, connecting farmers to engineers, mothers to doctors, and waste pickers to government workers. Local community members begin to see themselves as capable, creative innovators, many for the first time. Experienced designers discover the value of empathy and the importance of learning from and working with users.

What do participants value most about design summits?

#1
Building connections in the Network

47% of respondents

#2
Co-creating with local communities

36% of respondents

#3
Learning & practicing the design process

33% of respondents

#4
Working with diverse teams

28% of respondents

Aggregated data from participants of nine design summits, 2014-2016 (n=284).

> *The design process was very helpful to me because I thought and thought about the resources available in my village and what I can do with them to help with the community development.*

Wiver Michelo, Farmer & Entrepreneur, Zambia

> *IDDS teaches an important process of true community-driven design. I believe that only this approach will lead to sustainable improvements in the target communities.*
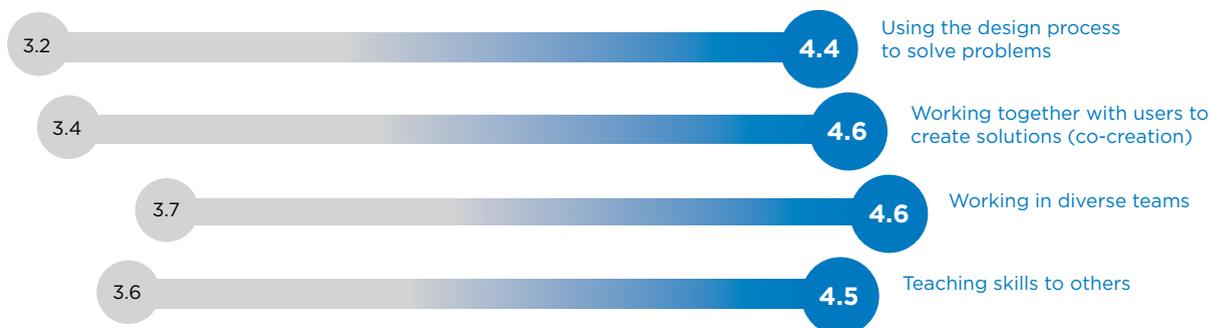
Claudine Chen, Data Scientist, Ireland

Read more at IDIN.org/summitexperience.

What kind of knowledge & skills did participants gain?

How confident did you feel doing the following activities before and after IDDS?
(1=Not at all confident, 5=Very confident)

Before	After	Activity
3.2	4.4	Using the design process to solve problems
3.4	4.6	Working together with users to create solutions (co-creation)
3.7	4.6	Working in diverse teams
3.6	4.5	Teaching skills to others

Aggregated data from IDDS Educación, IDDS Amazon, IDDS Botswana, and IDDS Cookstoves (n=127)

Creating Solutions

After attending a design summit, many of our Network members go on to develop products and launch social ventures that make an impact around the globe.

Entrepreneurs who make a difference

Equipped with real-world experience in co-creation and design, our Network members develop solutions **with** communities rather than **for** communities.

IDIN provides three main kinds of support for product developers and designers in the Network: funding, mentorship, and technical support from university teams and partners. IDIN offers access to critical early-stage seed funding that is often difficult for new ventures to secure. Our three tiers of funding range from picogrants and microgrants for prototype development and user testing, to D-Lab Scale-Ups Fellowships intended to help social enterprises ready themselves for investment.

Photo by Lauren McKown, India

IDIN-supported innovations have reached more than **514,420** people worldwide.

$260,000
Invested in IDIN grantees

$3,670,000+
External investment post-IDIN funding

Data spans 2012-2016.

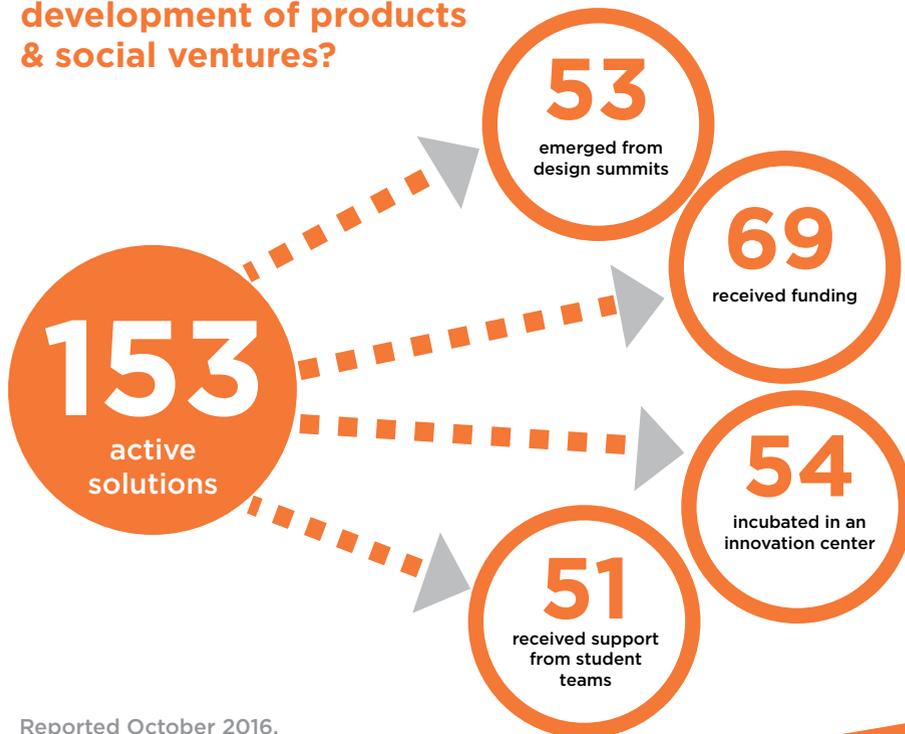*After working together at a design summit in Zambia, Sunday Silungwe and Carl Jensen created Zasaka, a social enterprise that improves farmer productivity by connecting them with trained private extension agents to get inputs for growing high quality legume seeds. Over the past two years, Zasaka increased its client farmers' incomes by an average of $220/hectare.*

Sunday and Carl are now working with 2,000 farmers, and hope to reach 50,000 by 2020. Zasaka's work has been supported by IDIN microgrants, a D-Lab Scale-Ups Fellowship, mentorship, and support from student teams at University of California Davis and MIT.

Read the full story at IDIN.org/Zasaka.

How does IDIN support the development of products & social ventures?

153
active solutions

53
emerged from design summits

69
received funding

54
incubated in an innovation center

51
received support from student teams

Meet a few of the projects in our pipeline:

ayzh, Inc., a $2 Clean Birthing Kit with all of the materials recommended by the World Health Organization for a clean, safe birth (India)

PoupaCerto, a mobile application designed to help people in low-income communities save money to achieve their financial goals (Brazil)

Avomeru, a social enterprise enabling avocado farmers to produce high quality avocado oil out of excess crops (Tanzania)

Reported October 2016.

Spreading the
Approach

The most common action IDIN Network members take after attending a summit is to teach what they have learned about co-creation to their own communities.

The ripple effect

Inspired by the value of designing hand-in-hand with local communities, about **two-thirds of IDIN Network members go on to teach what they have learned** about co-creation and design to others. Network members spread the approach of co-creation in diverse ways: integrating it into university classes and programs, running design trainings, or founding maker spaces that seek to create social impact.

These maker spaces for social impact, or **innovation centers,** are local hubs for training, collaboration, and product incubation. IDIN supports these centers with funding, mentorship, curricula, and the creation of a community of practice comprised of innovation center leaders from around the world.

How do IDIN Network members spread the approach?

2/3
of our Network members go on to teach what they have learned about co-creation and design to others*

12
innovation centers run by IDIN members & partners, including:

20+
innovation center leaders

222
design trainings run by IDIN members & partners

Reaching **6,900+** participants

12
people created academic classes or programs inspired by our approach

*Survey of participants from IDDS Tanzania, Zero Waste, Aarogyam, and D'Kar (n=74).

> *I had never actually worked with communities. The whole experience organizing design summits and starting C-Innova [an innovation center] was a life-changing experience. I'm a completely different person today.*
>
> ***Johana Sanabria, Organizer of IDDS Educacion, Colombia***
> Read the full story at IDIN.org/Colombia.

Measuring & Understanding Impact

IDIN started with a question: If we bring people together at design summits, and then offer ongoing resources and support, will they create lasting impact in their communities? Will the world look different than it did before? Four years later, the answers have started to emerge. Now, when we are asked how IDIN works, we usually explain it like this:

If we...

introduce diverse people around the world to the collaborative design prcess

and...

connect them to one another and a vibrant ecosystem of support

then...

they will shape communities for the better by:

1) Developing **innovative products and services** to address critical development challenges.

2) Spreading the **approach of collaborative design,** enabling more people to sit at the design table and solve local challenges.

3) Strengthening **local innovation ecosystems** in those communities.

At every step, we collect feedback and take stock of how our programs are working. This practice has helped build a culture of constant experimentation, evaluation, and learning.

Our Network members have shaped the way we think about impact. By sharing their goals, needs, and accomplishments with us, they have helped **frame a collective vision** for how **co-creation can lead to a more equitable world**.

Investigating Outcomes of Local Innovation

In order to support this vision with an evidence base, IDIN's research program has spent the past three years investigating the role of local innovation in development, exploring its processes, ecosystems, and impacts around the world. These explorations have deepened our understanding of local innovation and will strengthen our efforts to measure impact in the future.

Powering a Network

When IDIN was first created, we set out to **build connections across a network** of problem solvers around the globe. How could we help our members to connect in a meaningful way after a summit ended? If someone wanted to learn about building a solar dryer or writing a business plan, how could they tap into the incredible knowledge and experience of the Network to move their initiative forward?

IDIN has supported the creation of **local chapters** organized by Network members who live in a specific country or city to enable in-person connectivity. Seed funding is made available for chapters to host their own events and trainings, enabling collaboration on design and development challenges. Today, IDIN local chapters are vibrant hubs of friendship, creativity, and sustained action.
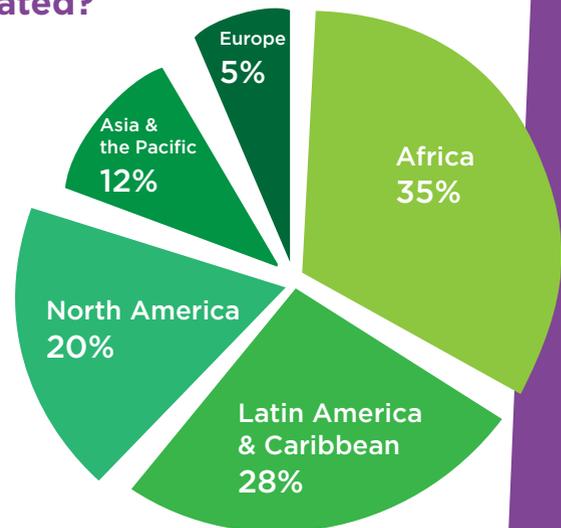
On the web, Network members answer the question, "What do you need help with today?" on an email-based platform called Hylo, which broadcasts needs and solutions in order to crowdsource ideas, tips, and connections that can move projects forward. Network members also connect through our Network Directory, WhatsApp, Facebook, and other social media.

These online and offline platforms are designed to **foster connectivity and sustainability** within the Network, while also serving as a point of entry for potential partners in the future.

How do IDIN Network members connect?

12
local chapters established

Over **60%** of members use IDIN's digital platforms to stay connected

Where are 800+ members located?

Europe 5%

Asia & the Pacific 12%

Africa 35%

North America 20%

Latin America & Caribbean 28%

> **With work I am doing now…there's no blueprint or map. Being part of and interacting with the IDIN Network allows me to tap into rich expertise and advice as well as the experiences of others as I navigate through uncharted territory.**
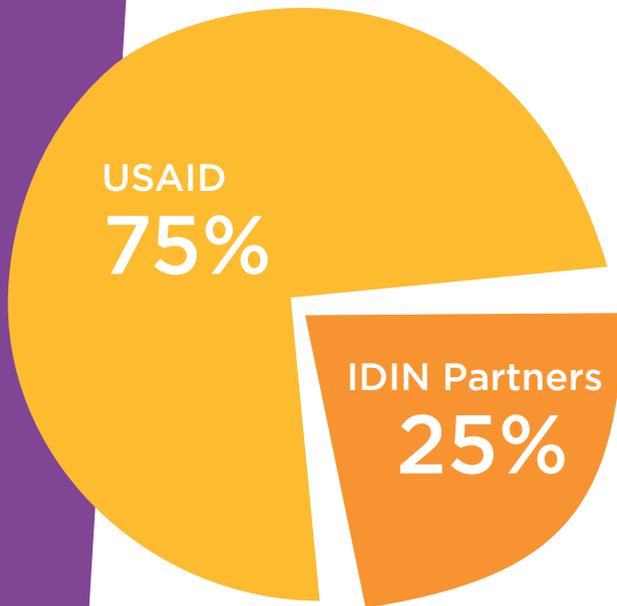>
> *Aggrey Mokaya, Founder of ChangeHub, Kenya*
> Read the full story at IDIN.org/ChangeHub.

Financials, 2012-2016

Funding

USAID
75%

IDIN Partners
25%

Expenditures

Student Engagement
16.3%

Implementing Partners
17.6%

Summits
8.3%

Personnel & Operations
26.5%

Network
6.4%

Research
5.6%

Innovation Centers
3.3%

Overhead*
16%

*Overhead is calculated as the average of rates used by MIT and implementing partners. Total funding 2012-2016: $13,177,050

IDIN Consortium Partners

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, D-Lab
- Olin College of Engineering, Affordable Design & Entrepreneurship
- University of California Davis, D-Lab
- Colorado State University, Center for Advancement of Sustainable Enterprise
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana
- Singapore Polytechnic, Learning Express, Singapore
- Twende Social Innovation Center, Tanzania
- Vila Nova Esperança Innovation Center, Brazil
- Tet Centre, Uganda
- ECHO East Africa Impact Center, Tanzania
- National Technology Business Centre, Zambia
- These Hands, Botswana

Looking Forward

Over the past four years, we have experimented, learned, and iterated our approach. Together with our partners and Network members, we have refined our design summit curriculum, developed an ecosystem of support for early-stage social ventures, and convened a community of maker spaces for social good.

At this juncture, we are poised to use these learnings to refocus our resources to **spark and nurture** the growth of **inclusive local innovation ecosystems** around the globe.

In this way, IDIN seeks to seed problem-solvers that are committed to improving their communities. We also intend for this to catalyze a **global paradigm shift** toward more **inclusive and collaborative approaches** in the fields of education, development, design, and entrepreneurship.

Throughout the past four years, IDIN has seen what is possible when we **invest capital, mentorship, training, and confidence** in local designers, educators, conveners, and social entrepreneurs.

Our experience thus far gives us confidence that meaningful impact in the struggle against poverty can be achieved when local communities are able to participate in **defining and pursuing their own development**.

Photo by Ranyee Chiang, Uganda

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Cover Photo by Bianca Anderson, Tanzania