



UNOPS Peace and Security Cluster (PSC)

Innovation in Mine Action Cannot Wait

Geneva NDM June 2023

**BUILD
THE FUTURE**

Understanding Innovation



Technology

Enabling
Advanced
Analytics



Processes

Improving
HR and
Procurement



Tools

Informing
Operational
Planning &
Prioritization



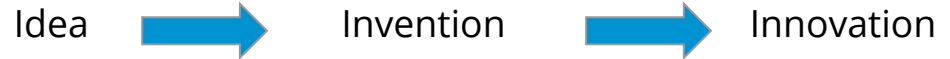
Mindset

Embracing
Innovation

Innovation is the introduction and **application of better solutions** that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing market needs.

Innovation encompasses many aspects: **technology, processes, tools**, and very importantly - **mindset**.

It's not only about **groundbreaking discoveries** but how they are **applied** including **incremental improvements**.



Innovation is more than just Technology

We often only think about technology and related tools; but the way we use technology and apply it in our work (policies, tools, process, thinking) often creates positive change.

Innovation should be a **Way of Thinking** that fosters **continuous improvement**.



The core essence lies in harnessing **human potential** to create new processes, products, or ideas that deliver value.

The Power of Incremental Changes

Incremental changes are as important as big discoveries, sometimes even more so.

A small process change that simplifies work, makes it more efficient, saves resources, and time can lead to better decision making.



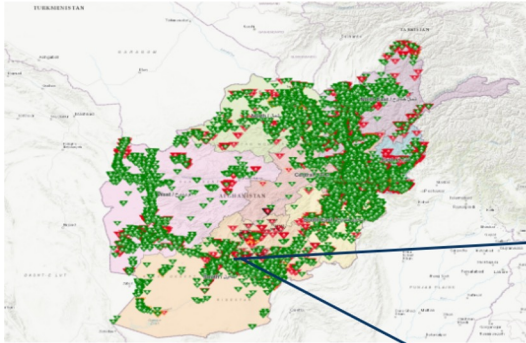
Seemingly **small change** can have **significant impact** on efficiencies - costs, time, resources.

Examples of Innovation within UNOPS (1)

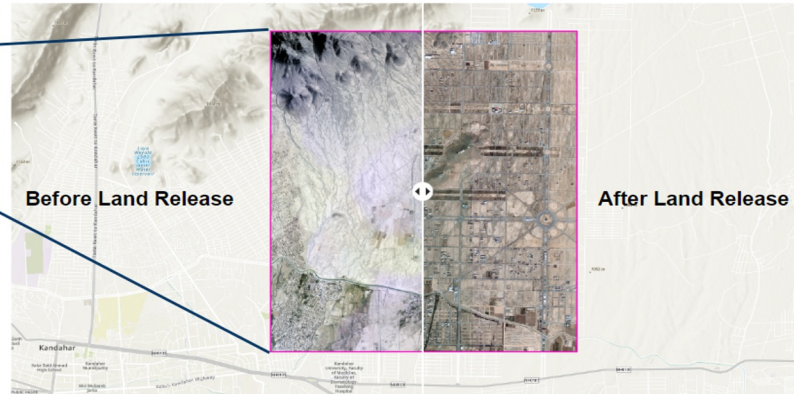
Example 1: Providing **Evidence** of UNOPS PSC Land Release Operations **Contributions to UN SDG** using **AI / Deep Learning** and Satellite Imagery

Evidence of Land Release Outcomes:

1. Overall value of this development: \$1 Billion USD
2. Direct and indirect employment of over 15,000 people
3. 4000 family homes constructed, 1500 apartments.
4. 9 schools and 1 university
5. Over 100 Kms of new roads
6. 77 Hectares of new agricultural land development



Aino Mena, Kandahar

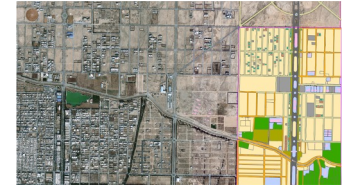


In Afghanistan

UNOPS PSC and UNMAS enabled
3,140,234,670 m²
of Contaminated Land to be Released



1. Using AI to detect Changes



2. Contextualize Changes

Feature	Subtype	Description	Measurement - by subtype
Roads	Main Road	Primary roads with tarmac	Length of roads
	Secondary Tarmac	Secondary roads with Tarmac	
	Secondary Dirt	Secondary roads without tarmac	
Buildings	Domestic	Residential buildings residing within parcel walls	Number of buildings Area of building footprints (m ²)
	Other	Non-residential buildings including shops, warehouses etc	
	Developed (Domestic)	Parcels containing domestic buildings, complete or under construction	
Parcels	Developed (Other)	Parcels containing non-residential buildings	Number of parcels Area of parcels (m ²)
	Undeveloped	Parcels with no development	
	Unfilled Empty	Parcels with walls but no buildings	
	Crops	Parcels containing crops	
Orchard	Parcels containing fruit bearing trees		

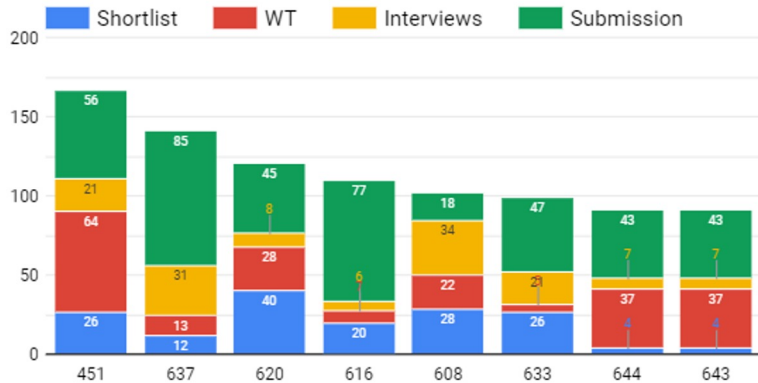
3. Map Changes to SDGs



Examples of Innovation within UNOPS (2)

Example 2: How Innovation has improved HR and Procurement processes at UNOPS

HR



Tells us where to apply corrective pressure

Procurement

Compliant bidders

Tenders with 3+ compliant bidders (open and limited competition)

57.1%

↑ 1.59%



Vendor responses per tender (open competition only)

Average # responses

9.0

↑ 0.56

Median

5.0

0

Tenders awarded in selected period. Comparison to previous full year.

Helps identify potential for improving best practices

Examples of Innovation within UNOPS (3)

Example 3: leveraging the prequalification process to push forward gender and diversity mainstreaming

UNOPS PSC has been leveraging its **pre-qualification (PQ) processes** to strengthen our focus on gender and diversity mainstreaming and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

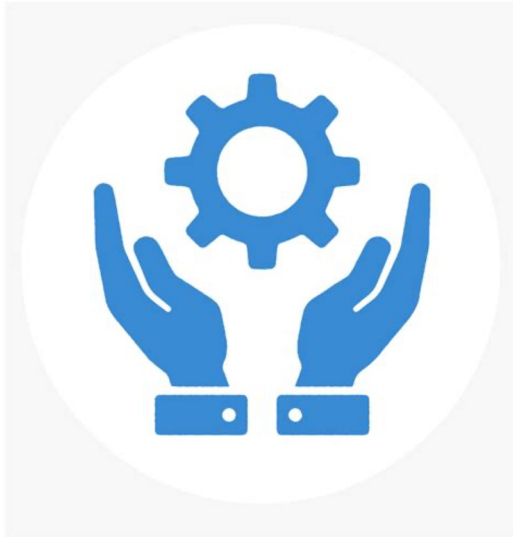
As a result, since 2018, PSC has observed the following:

- 13 out of 20 suppliers developed a new or improved an existing Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy/procedure
- 6 out of 7 suppliers developed a new or improved an existing gender mainstreaming, diversity, and equal opportunity policy/procedure



The Takeaway

Embracing innovation—whether it's a significant technological breakthrough or a process adjustment — can transform how we work, increase efficiency, and create substantial new value.



Innovation is

the **Way of Thinking**

and path of

Continuous Improvement