



# Annual Report 2021





**Using data  
responsibly to  
improve  
outcomes for  
every child.**

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# Welcome Back!

## What a year it's been.

We've made some great progress across our portfolio of projects this year, producing useful insights and outputs that we are now collecting in our Knowledge Zone for others to use and learn from.

We've also developed new projects via our Impact Collaboration process, and have met some really inspiring and dedicated individuals along the way!

Our core team has expanded too - we welcomed our new Project Manager and Funding Officer this year and it's been great having them on board to support us as we continue to grow and develop.

Our annual report is a chance for us to reflect on our progress, what we've learned and, crucially, how we are using data to improve outcomes for children. Whilst we've highlighted a number of projects throughout the report, there just isn't space for everything! You can read more about all of our work via our [website](#).

We hope that you enjoy reading and learning more about us, our community and what we do!

Best Wishes,

*The Collaborative Team*



**Alex**



**Fraser**



**Alessandra**



**Viviana**



**Iain**



# A message from our chair

## Stefaan Verhulst

Co-Founder, The GovLab

2020–21 was a year of unprecedented disaster and distress: Covid-19, the increased impact of our climate crisis, growing socio-economic inequality, the global outcry over systemic racism, and general political instability. Such crises only heighten children’s already increased risk to social instability, further threatening their well-being and development. While no easy solutions exist to the challenges of our times, the work of this Collaborative—along with a growing body of research—suggests that greater cooperation and sharing of data must be part of the answer. Too much data and expertise currently remains siloed; only a stronger emphasis on collaboration can generate the insights and innovations we need.

All of this strongly suggests the critical importance and potential contributions of initiatives like the Data for Children Collaborative with UNICEF. As this report suggests, the Collaborative has undertaken several important projects, targeting key challenges in an agile and responsible manner, and bringing together domain and data experts with those best positioned to act upon the insights generated. Yet despite our early and impressive achievements, we can and must do better, and we need your help to do so.

Therefore, this annual report is not only an overview of what has been achieved but also a call to join and support us and build a better future for all children, by leveraging responsible data, research and collaboration. We can’t wait to work together.

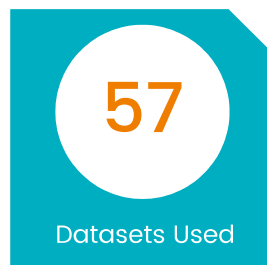
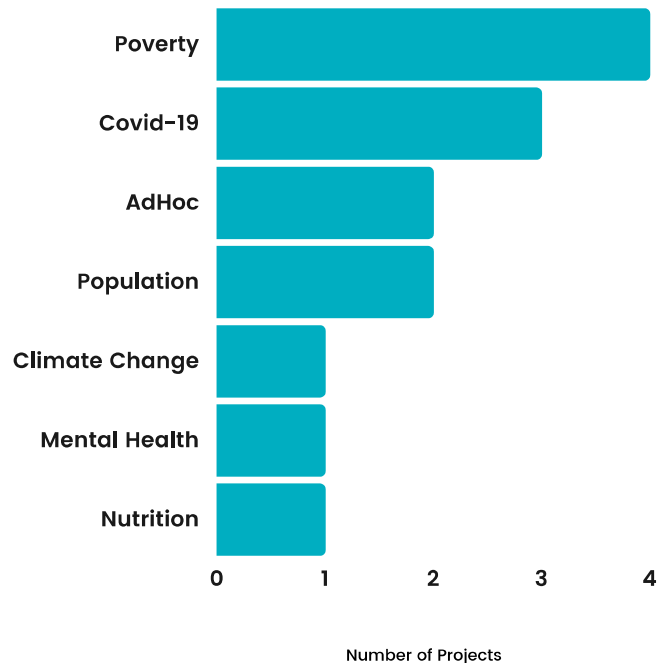
"While no easy solutions exist to the challenges of our times, the work of this Collaborative—along with a growing body of research—suggests that greater cooperation and sharing of data must be part of the answer."



# Demand Driven Research



Our data-driven research is the workhorse of the collaborative. We bring together **unique collaborations** and **novel datasets** to solve the most **complex problems** around the globe, across a number of priority themes.



# Why Us?

**It's been a year of expansion, improvement and (crucially) outputs for the Data for Children Collaborative with UNICEF, and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved.**



**Alex Hutchison**  
Director

What's the secret sauce in our success? It's no coincidence that we are called a "Collaborative". The magic ingredient in all that we have delivered this year has been the power of collaboration. The strength of being backed by three distinct but invested partners who each bring something different to the table.

We have UNICEF who bring with them; the challenge questions, the subject matter expertise, the contextual knowledge and the willingness to engage throughout our projects to ensure successful adoption.

We also have the University of Edinburgh, who beyond their high calibre academics and that academic rigour, provide the back bone of operational support to the Collaborative. This comes in the form of legal, financial, technological, infrastructure and communication support.

Our third partner is the Scottish Government, who provide us with trust and autonomy – a much more valuable contribution than you would expect. We feel empowered to be innovative in how we work, and this has undeniably led to us being more agile.

The strength of the triumvirate is clear. But this ingredient of the power of collaboration stretches more widely than our partners. It is the collaborative teams that we have working on each of our projects, and therefore it all comes down to the people.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a really diverse range of contributors working with us. They come from different sectors, from different pockets of the world, bringing with them different skills and experience. And as this annual report reflects, these teams are doing an excellent job of delivering key insight and outputs for our stakeholders.

Our core team's role is pivotal in all of this. Not only do we bring together these unique collaborations, leveraging our Impact Collaborations approach, we also underpin all of our activity with our Responsible Innovation framework, which includes our 'True North' check to make sure the question is right and we're the right ones to answer it, our bespoke ethics assessment and our youth participation workbook, to name but a few. Acting as facilitators in all aspect of project delivery, we are the glue that takes us from demand driven challenge to actionable insight that will make a real difference to children around the world.

Our projects are designed to produce **tangible outcomes for a multitude of beneficiaries**. Each outcome is aligned with our Theory of Change, covering **Actionable Insights**, **Knowledge Exchange**, and **Responsible Innovation**.



You'll notice that our annual report is themed around these three groups of activity, reflecting our efforts across these key outcomes that help us to fulfil our ultimate goal: improving outcomes for children.





## Albert King

Chief Data Officer  
Scottish Government



When we embarked on this initiative with UNICEF and the University of Edinburgh, we shared a conviction that data can improve the lives of children. We also believed that the challenges facing the worlds children will be **best solved by through collaboration across disciplines and geographical boundaries.**

Reflecting on the last year, I'm hugely proud of the achievements of the Collaborative. It has brought insight into issues as diverse as closing how to close the attainment gap here in Scotland through to the impact of climate change on children around the world. The Collaborative is **fulfilling our shared vision** and showing what can be achieved with data, working in partnership at the heart of a global network.

## Jarmo Eskelinen

Director  
Data Driven Innovation  
Programme



The DDI mission is **"Doing Data Right"**. Joining forces with UNICEF and the Scottish Government to support global children is right at the heart of that mission. The combination of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change are causing especially dire consequences to some of the most vulnerable regions in the world. The first ever Children's Climate Risk Index is using data to identify which groups of children are at especially severe and urgent risk, to target actions for maximum impact.

The Data for Children Collaborative with UNICEF is a **prime example of using data to deliver public good**, and we are determined to continue the excellent collaboration, to Do Data Right.

# Actionable Insights

Outputs across our projects  
that are helping others to make  
a difference to children's lives.



# Global Impact

**Our partnership with UNICEF is critical in helping us to decide the types of questions we look to address, in collaboration with the people who need the answers.**

Using data science to solve humanitarian issues is so new and innovative for some UNICEF Country Offices that [knowing how to take advantage of it is not an easy task](#). Some may approach data as a solution to all of their problems, whilst others may want to avoid data-driven solutions, as they seem too complicated.

So how do we know when data science can help solve a specific programmatic problem? When we receive a request from a Country Office, we first try to understand exactly what problem they are trying to solve. We need to ask ourselves: what is the scope?; do we have the capacity and talent to tackle this issue?; can we access the data needed?

We then try and build a statement about an area of concern or a condition that needs to be improved. With a clear challenge question, [driven by the needs of Country Office](#), we can bring together experts in the field and leading data scientists to transform the challenge question into a project.

What is great about the Collaborative is its [capacity to pull together expertise coming from different backgrounds](#) and putting it at the service of those who may need it at UNICEF.



**Viviana Cañón**  
Project Manager

The outputs from the Collaborative's projects are helping to progress UNICEF's advocacy and programming activities. A concrete example is the climate change project that has developed the [Children's Climate Risk Index](#). This new data-driven information makes it easier for UNICEF Country Offices to advocate for change within their local governments. It is also useful for UNICEF in the more affected countries, as they can start prioritising climate change in their strategic plans.

In our [mental health project](#), aiming to harness digital technologies to help prevent mental health issues in adolescents and promote mental wellbeing, we are currently working with the Jamaica Country Office. We will be holding focus groups with young people to gain valuable country-specific contextual information that will inform the development of the project.

Every project in the portfolio is different and the scope of its impact can vary. However, by engaging with the Country Offices we are able to ensure that any outputs of our projects have a viable route to impact. Developing these in tandem with the people who will use them helps both us, and UNICEF, spread positive results to a maximum number of beneficiaries.

# The climate crisis is a child's rights crisis.



**Where are children most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, both now and in the future?**

The climate crisis is leading to another crisis altogether – a child's rights crisis. Not only must UNICEF continue to focus their efforts today on building a better world for every child, every day, everywhere, but they must also look to mitigate against threats in the future that compromise any progress made so far.

**This phase of the collaborative project aims to help UNICEF to...**



**UNDERSTAND**

Understand where and how children are most at-risk due to climate change and environmental degradation



**ADVOCATE**

Advocate effectively at global and national levels



**PROGRAMME**

Programme effectively within 150 countries

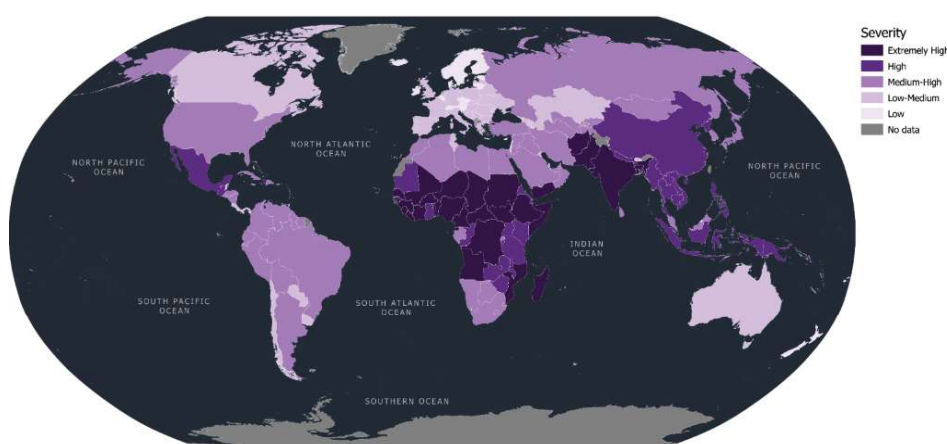


**ADJUST**

Adjust to a changing global landscape

# Creating a Climate Risk Index

The goal of this work has been to produce a Risk Index that is specifically sensitive to the experience of children. The socioeconomic impacts of a changing climate affect children in a different way to adults, yet they are rarely considered independently. By combining geophysical data with information about young people's socio-economic vulnerability, the team is working to capture the degree to which children are uniquely vulnerable to climate-related hazards, and how ready their countries are to address the effects of climate change.



## 1 BILLION

**CHILDREN ARE AT 'EXTREMELY HIGH RISK' OF THE IMPACTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS.**

The Children's Climate Risk Index, UNICEF, 2021

## The Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) reveals:

- **240 million** children are highly exposed to coastal flooding;
- **330 million** children are highly exposed to riverine flooding;
- **400 million** children are highly exposed to cyclones;
- **600 million** children are highly exposed to vector borne diseases;
- **815 million** children are highly exposed to lead pollution;
- **820 million** children are highly exposed to heatwaves;
- **920 million** children are highly exposed to water scarcity;
- **1 billion** children are are highly exposed to exceedingly high levels of air pollution

**Nick Rees**  
Climate and  
Environment Specialist  
UNICEF

"The Data for Children Collaborative brought together an exceptionally strong group of academics, each providing unique and valuable insights and perspectives. As a group, they have been instrumental in helping to create the Children's Climate Risk Index, which now serves as a basis for UNICEF's global advocacy on climate change. This included providing rigorous statistical analysis and technical expertise, as well as compiling an extensive evidence-base on the impacts of climate change on children. Taken together, this will greatly enhance our ability to conduct effective global advocacy and programming for children in the face of the climate crisis."

# Why collaborate?

The Index required expertise from various areas in order to be successful. Geophysicists have been working alongside social scientists in order to develop the multi-faceted outputs of this project. No one group could have completed this work alone!

Through a combination of design thinking principles and skills led collaboration, we provided a platform to share ideas and build a proposal that reflects the unique knowledge and expertise that each partner brought to the table.

How has the Data for Children Collaborative supported this work?



## EXPERTISE

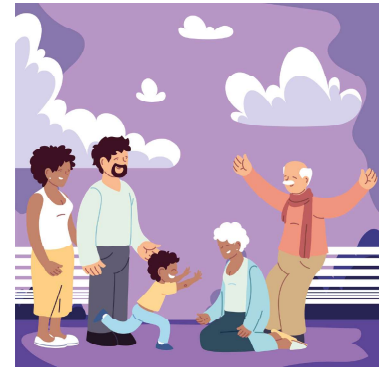
Multidisciplinary approach supported by diverse experience.

Expertise in social context of child vulnerability, social statistics, biophysical process and statistics, project management, child welfare and poverty issues.



## USER NEED

Balancing the trade-off between stakeholder representative needs and statistical academic rigour in index development.



## COMMUNITY

Building relationships and a core team for important future work in this space.

This project had a successful media launch this August, reaching major publications in the UK and across the globe!

Find out more about the project [here](#).

# Routes to Impact

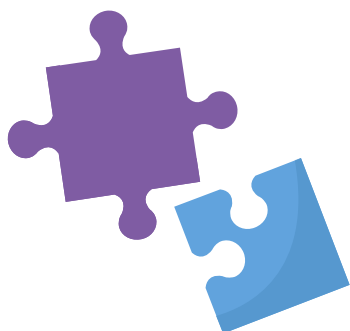
Our impact is defined by our actions. This year we have taken time to reflect on how we prioritise challenges that come to us, and how we work with relevant stakeholders to develop usable outputs across our portfolio.



## Demand-driven

When designing a challenge question, we make sure there is a clear use-case for any outputs before initiating a collaboration.

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## Co-creation

We involve the customer throughout the design and delivery of a project to ensure any outputs can, and will, be usable and fit for purpose.

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## Communication

We build a bespoke stakeholder list for every project to ensure we can keep the right people engaged and informed. This helps us transform insight to action.

These steps help us to deliver sustainable, impactful solutions to multiple end users. You can read some of our Impact Statements [here](#).

We have also created [Impact Dashboards](#) that document how we are performing, and the impact we are creating, in an innovative, open and accessible way.

# Understanding poverty and attainment across the Northern Alliance region of Scotland

How do we use novel data sets and techniques to effectively understand the impact of child poverty on education within urban and rural contexts?



What is the need?	What has the first phase delivered?	What are the key findings?
Place is not only important within education, but can greatly influence children's outcomes. Context matters.	Identification of a range of data sources potentially related to attainment.	The definition of attainment/positive outcomes may not capture the priorities of rural communities.
Availability and density of data to understand children's circumstances is more limited in rural contexts.	Data visualisation and statistics documenting educational inequalities across Scotland.	Informative data exists but is difficult to access and link, and is at an inconsistent range of geographical levels.
Schools have limited information about the impacts of poverty on their pupils and communities.	Summary of workshops held with practitioners to understand challenges and needs.	Rural/small town schools have a smaller median level of educational mobility than their urban counterparts.
If practitioners had access to the right data presented at the right level, they would be better equipped to apply the most appropriate interventions to get it right for every child.	Identification of the current data and systems used by practitioners, the challenges of using it, what users want and how this might be possible.	Some factors impacting rural students' wellbeing and therefore their learning potential include cost of living, digital infrastructure, distance to schools/services and small schools.

Read more about the project [here](#).



# Helen Budge

## Director of Children's Services Shetland Islands Council



As eight local authorities spanning a diverse range of contexts, we have always valued collaboration. Extending this collaboration to partners through the Data for Children Collaborative has been invaluable in helping us making strides in understanding our diverse context. This work sets us out on a path to empower our education system and develop a deeper understanding of where our children, young people and families live – including those who are disadvantaged by poverty.

By building insights of our wide-ranging contexts, we can work collaboratively with others to Get It Right For Every Child across a number of outcomes. I as well as my peers in the Northern Alliance excitingly look forward to developing our work further alongside our partners within the Data for Children for Collaborative to improve the educational and life chances of children and young people within the Northern Alliance and possibly beyond.



**"Extending this collaboration to partners through the Data for Children Collaborative has been invaluable in helping us making strides in understanding our diverse context."**

# Knowledge Exchange

Useful resources, spanning a variety of topics, that others can use to expand their learning.



# Understanding Our Community

**At the Collaborative, we have benefited from developing a comprehensive understanding of what is considered valuable within our community.**

*Our community drives our delivery.* We are constantly bringing together new combinations of expertise to co-design and develop solutions to some of the most complex and challenging issues facing children. Our network brings a range of perspectives to each issue we tackle, allowing for the development of novel and innovative data driven solutions. To achieve this goal, we need to develop and maintain a diverse community through effective and valuable engagement.

*But how exactly do you measure value?* Value doesn't simply come from the number of interactions, especially when you're considering the growth of a community. Beyond the number of times you interact, you want to consider the relationship you are developing. It's less about time spent, and more about frequency of time spent together. When you combine this with the outcomes of your relationship, you begin to build a far better picture of value. This isn't new, of course. The business development and sales communities have been mastering the craft of building and measuring relationships for a very long time.

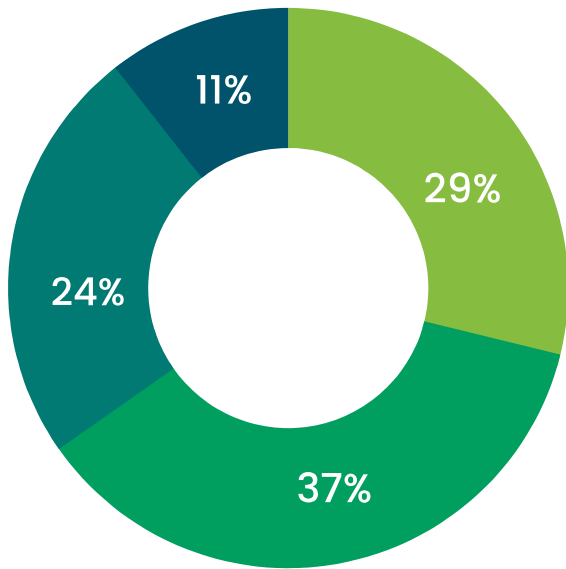


**Fraser Macdonald**  
Head of Delivery & Innovation

Working closely with the incredible Data Science team at The Data Lab, the Index was developed to show, quickly and easily, *how the value of our engagement changes over time.* The Index pulls data from various sources, including Outlook and Salesforce, to consider the value of our engagement based on several factors. Significantly, the factors considered vary depending on the partner type. This is important as the dimensions we believe are 'valuable' will differ depending on the type of organisation and their interests in working with us and vice-a-versa.

We developed the Index as a novel way to understand and visualise valuable engagement across our community. Through the process, we have established partner types and got a unique understanding of how our engagement with our network has changed over time. Using this tool, we can ask questions like "Does our Data Partner Pledge help sustain our relationships with those organisations?" or "Do Impact Collaborations help improve relationships with our customers?". Most importantly, reviewing our Index can show us where to focus our attention next. *This is true data-driven decision making.*

# Community



- Public Sector
- Private Sector
- Third Sector
- Academic

Solving complex problems takes a community. **Our community is at the centre of everything we do.**

Like-minded organisations and individuals who share a common goal to improve outcomes for children globally.



We're working with great people across the globe!



We value our community and the relationships we build. But, how do you measure 'value'? We believe there many factors that influence a valuable relationship. Our unique engagement index informs us how the value of our relationships changes over time across our partnership.

A higher value means we are having more valuable relationships with our community.

# Who are they?

## Customers

Organisations that we support as they strive to deliver better outcomes for children.

## Data Partners

Organisations and groups that hold data and want to collaborate to deliver positive outcomes.

## Strategic Partners

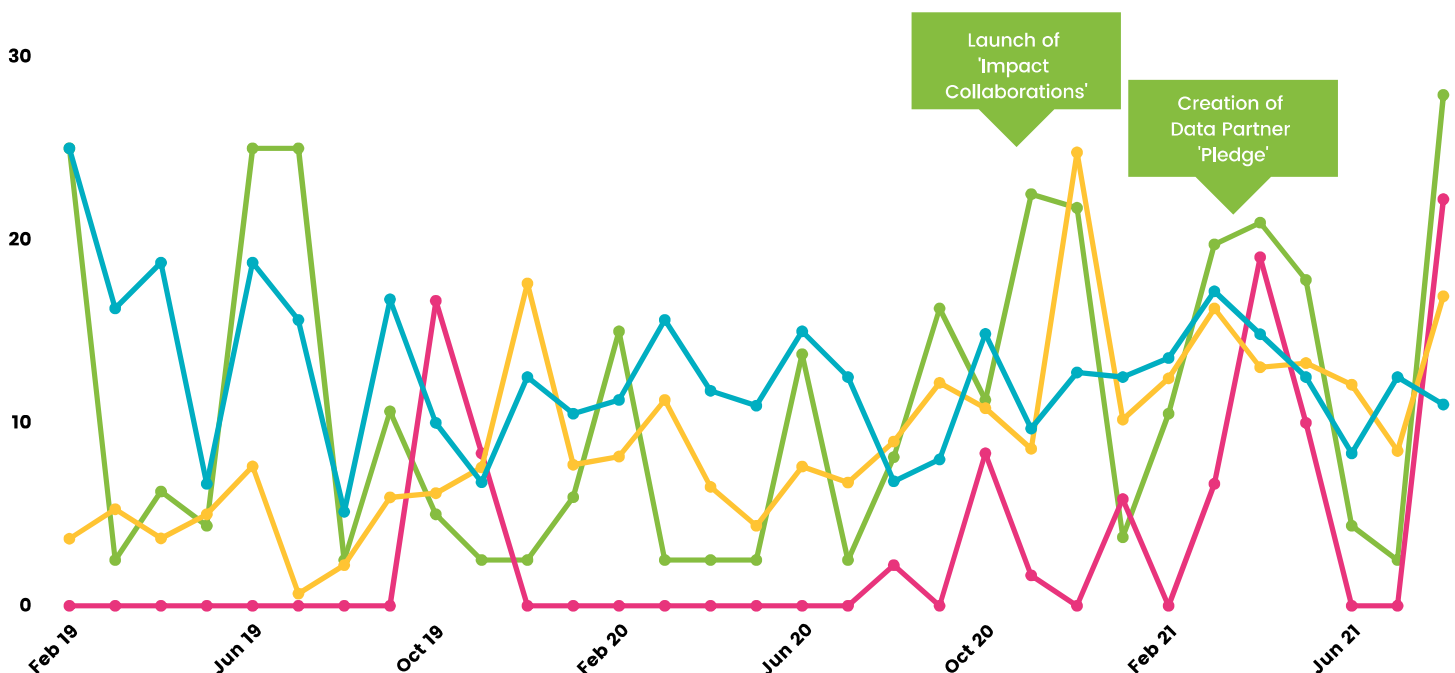
Organisations and groups that have a similar purpose to ours

## Expertise Network

Organisations, groups, and individuals who have the knowledge and expertise to solve complex problems.

## Funding Partners

Organisations that can support us in our work, and help deliver improved outcomes for children



# Bringing Experts Together



**Our Impact Collaboration process has gone from strength to strength this year.**

We currently have four [Impact Collaboration projects](#) underway, all supported by strong multi-disciplinary teams who want to use their skills to help improve outcomes for children.

One of our newest collaborations this year is with The Promise Scotland. They came to us looking for support in how to bring together the right expertise to build a cohesive central picture of all data in processes and systems that directly and indirectly impact children and their families in Scotland.

We worked with The Promise to design a challenge question that we posted to our networks, and built a strong team with skills ranging from UX design and data analytics to those who understand the challenges faced by children and their families.

Read more about the project [here](#).

**Our Impact Collaboration process allows us to bring together talented individuals from across the globe to work towards a common goal.**



# Claire Stuart

## Head of Evidence The Promise Scotland



The Care Review heard that data is a key part of the scaffolding needed to ensure Scotland is the best place to grow up. However the way that data and information about children and families is collected, stored and used cuts across every area of change outlined in The Promise Scotland's Plan 21-24, meaning the changes that are needed to #KeepThePromise made at the conclusion of the Care Review require a collaborative approach to data improvement.

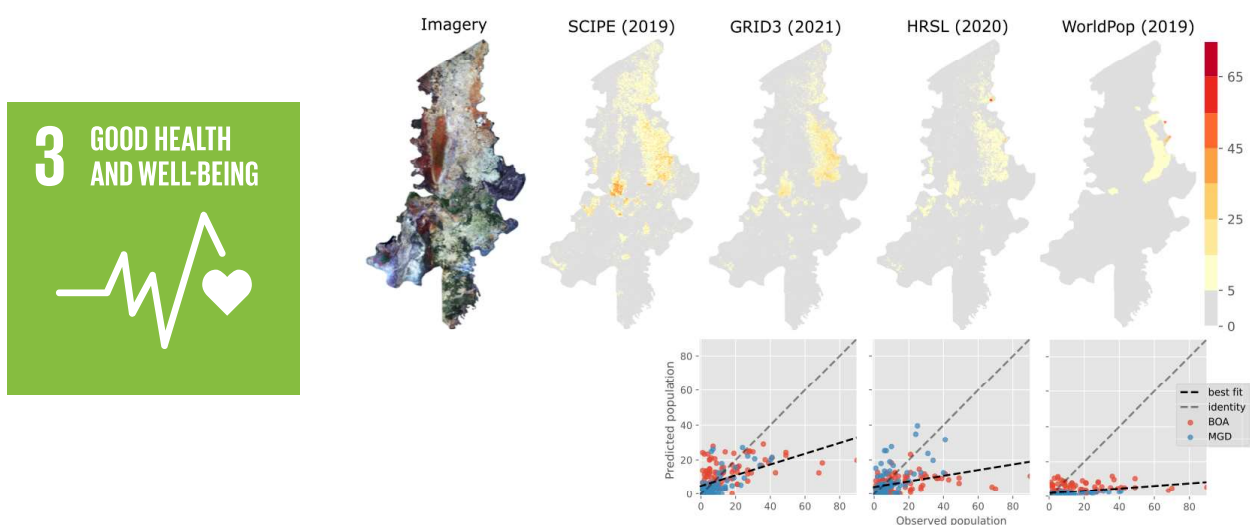
The Data for Children Collaborative was the perfect match, using the Impact Collaboration Methodology meant it was possible to leverage a broad range of approaches, perspectives and expertise to help realise the ambitious scope of this project. Working with the DCC team has been rewarding and inspiring, resulting in the bringing together of a multi-disciplinary team made up of people who are all committed to using data in a way that is responsible and ethical. The process has been inspiring and thought-provoking, and has demonstrated how much can be achieved (and at pace) by making the right connections between different people and organisations, all guided by the same ambition - to make a positive change in the lives of children.



**"The Data for Children Collaborative was the perfect match, using the Impact Collaboration Methodology meant it was possible to leverage a broad range of approaches, perspectives and expertise to help realise the ambitious scope of this project."**

# Population Estimation in Mozambique

Accurate local population counts are critical for the zero-dose agenda, yet can often be difficult to obtain. Censuses can be infrequent, there can be quality issues with administrative data and local populations can change rapidly in many settings in developing countries. More accurate population counts are needed in order to better tailor interventions and services to the size and needs of the community, and make children known to immunisation services.



We have been working with colleagues at UNICEF and The University of Edinburgh to develop a new sustainable census independent method to estimate populations in Mozambique. You can find out more about this project [here](#).

An important part of this project has been to connect researchers and stakeholders together to help develop and test our machine learning tools. This project is a great example of why it is important to bring together a community of stakeholders to support a project – our team has been able to learn from others working in this space such as GRID3 and Humanitarian OpenStreepMap. Their support and advice has been invaluable in the development of this project.

**Sohan Seth**  
Senior Data Scientist  
University of Edinburgh

"In the census-independent population estimation project, our focus has been on building a sustainable pipeline for continual estimation of population that becomes more robust and reliable over time, and making it available to be used by the right people at the right time through active collaboration under a unified vision. The Collaborative has been critical for building this vision, from providing seed fund and ethical guidance, to finding suitable expertise and stakeholders, and linking strategic partners to increase the impact of this project. But most importantly the Collaborative has been crucial for maintaining our focus by keeping children at the centre of it all."



# The Knowledge Zone

**We want to share our learnings with others.**

That's why we've created our Knowledge Zone this year, an online catalogue of all of the various outputs that our projects produce. We hope that this resource will help other individuals and organisations who are working towards similar goals.



## **ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS**

Outputs across our projects that are helping others to make a difference to children's lives. This year we have published a variety of resources including topic maps and academic posters.



## **KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

Useful resources, spanning a variety of topics, that others can use to expand their learning. Some highlights from this year include a data catalogue, academic reports and our climate change atlas.



## **RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION**

Outputs that will help our community use data in a safe, trusted and transparent way. Alongside our work on ethics this year, we have also created a number of Impact Statements that provide information about what our projects have achieved.

You can access the Knowledge Zone and search through our outputs [here!](#)

# Responsible Innovation

Helping our community to use  
data in a safe, trusted and  
transparent way.



# Living our Values

**Key to our success is using data in the right way and for the right reasons. Sometimes that means taking a step back and asking - are we the right people to deliver this?**



**Alessandra Fassio**  
Advocacy & Relations Manager

At the Collaborative we talk a lot about Responsible Innovation, and why this is so important to us. The phrase 'Responsible Innovation' itself may seem conflicting – whilst innovation is associated with moving fast and taking risks, responsibility implies being careful and cautious. So how can the two things be reconciled? **Our approach is to make sure that the tools we develop allow us to ask the right questions of a project, and ourselves, at the right time.**

This year we decided to focus inward, and reflect on how our Responsible Innovation framework governs our internal activity. After some thought provoking discussions, we came to the realisation that we need to be asking more questions of ourselves. Not only do we need to deliver projects responsibly, but we need to make sure that we're the right people for the job, and have the right people in the room to call the shots. That's why we have created a new **True North** check which we can apply to both our internal and external activities. This set of questions gives us an opportunity to think about the type of challenge we are trying to solve, who is involved and whether data is really the best solution. Crucially, it allows us to determine how valuable an activity will be in improving outcomes for children.

We have also been busy refining some of the other tools in our framework, including our new '**Legals at a Glance.**' Often, legal agreements can be long and difficult to understand. In order to ensure the critical information is accessible to all partners on a project, we now produce a one page summary of the 'need to know' information included in a contract so that everyone feels comfortable and confident about their responsibilities.

Our **Youth Participation workbook** has been another key focus for us this year. Working with young people and experts, we have created an interactive tool that encourages teams to think about the value of youth participation not only to their project, but to the young people involved. We're really pleased with how this tool is transforming some of the work across our portfolio.

The team were also delighted to work with the Scottish Government's Data and Intelligence Network earlier this year to assist them in the development of an ethical workbook for their data science projects relating to the pandemic. This was a great opportunity to **transfer our skills and learnings** from our own ethical framework to support others in this space.

# Responsible Innovation

These are the steps we take to ensure our projects are carried out in a trustworthy, transparent and safe way, for every child. We've rebranded and refined this a little to reflect how we carry out these steps practically.

## Prioritisation Framework

Are we best placed to answer this challenge?



Our new True North check fits here!

## Project Initiation Document (PID)

Who, what, when, how does the project work?



## Governance Approval

Do the partner organisations support this initiative?



## Legals at a Glance

What have we all signed up to?



## Safeguarding Training

What are our responsibilities towards every child?



## Ethical Assessment

Are we doing the right thing in the right way?



## Youth Participation

How do we meaningfully engage young people?



## Impact Statement

What did the project achieve, and what lessons have we learned?



# Finding our 'True North'



**How will this project improve outcomes for children?**

What is the intended positive impact on children? Is it clear how the project will achieve this?

**For Every Child**

**What is the need for this project?**

Where did the idea for the project come from? Whose idea was the project? Is there a clear use case for any outputs?

**Transparency**

**How and why is data the solution?**

How can we evidence that using data is the best solution to solve this problem?

**Safe Data**

**Who is the real end user, and are they already invested in this project?**

Is there an invested end user or customer that is dedicated to supporting this work, helping to ensure that it delivers its intended impact? Have the right people been engaged in discussions about this project?

**Trust**

16 PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



## Accelerating What Works to End Violence Against Children: A Multi-Country Study

We have partnered with the End Violence Lab to engage national universities in Brazil, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Jordan and Uganda to map the evidence landscape on violence against children by conducting a global systemic review of Inspire interventions to identify 'SDG accelerators' for most effective and rapid violence reduction. You can read more about the project [here](#).

One of the project leads, **Professor Catherine Maternowska**, reflects on how our Youth Participation Workbook helped to shape and transform the project.

"Prompted by the Collaborative's Youth Participation Workbook, which interrogated the extent to which children and young people were actively engaged in the research process: we were inspired. We proposed adding Young People Advisors (YPAs) to the project—one male and one female—18 years and older, to be mentored by more senior accelerator researchers. Contributing to understandings of what drives violence, they co-published a document on the meaning of violence from their national perspectives. To track their progress, YPAs also learned how to use 'outcome mapping' and at least one participant has already shared the tool with her youth organisation. Finally, they have developed case studies on their selected interventions which will be shared with national youth networks. Involving the YPAs in the larger systematic review process has ensured that the 'end-users' of research can amplify scientific analysis and findings bringing a needed youth-centred perspective to the process. Taken together these outcomes reinforce the Data Collaborative's Youth Participation Strategy by generating tangible youth-centred outputs that can be celebrated on various knowledge platforms."

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"Prompted by the Collaborative's Youth Participation Workbook, which interrogated the extent to which children and young people were actively engaged in the research process: we were inspired."

Professor Catherine Maternowska

# Young People Advisors

Some testimonials from the young people working on this project!



**"I like the teamwork; the way different elements of the work are organized because they keep me focused."**

**"I liked the structured model to carry out the review of the INSPIRE strategies, and how much this structure involves us in the construction."**



# Putting Ethics Into Practice

Over the last year we were involved in helping to develop an Ethical Framework and Workbook for the Scottish Government's Data and Intelligence Network. The aim? To create a practical and valuable tool that helped to embed ethical decision making across the Network's data science projects.

We were delighted to have had this opportunity to engage with a team who wanted to put ethical decision-making at the forefront of their actions in a practical and accessible way. Our mission at the Collaborative is to transform ethics from high-level theory into valuable practical steps that a project team can take to ensure that they are working in the right way and for the right reasons. We used our learnings from creating our own Responsible Innovation framework to advise the Network on how to embed ethics into their daily activities. You can read more about this work [here](#).



## VALUES

We worked with the team to brainstorm some ideas about what the Network wants to be known for, and what it believes in.



## PRINCIPLES

Once we had finalised the values, the next step was to work with the team to ensure that these were embedded in a practical, accessible and valuable way.



## WORKBOOK

The Workbook provides a practical tool to help teams work through the moral and social dilemmas at the earliest point in their work, following the natural lifecycle of a project.



## ETHICAL LITERACY

Once we had finalised the values, the next step was to work with the team to ensure that these were embedded in a practical, accessible and valuable way.



# Anne Jamieson

## Head of COVID-19 Data & Intelligence Network Scottish Government



Our network's core aim is to deliver added value across the public sector in Scotland by supporting data-driven policy development and providing a forum for constructive challenge and testing of strategies.

Underpinning our key principles is ethical awareness, the ability to identify moral or ethical issues and the inclination to do something about them. The D&IN has adopted an open and honest approach to ethics, and in collaboration with the Data for Children Collaborative with UNICEF developed an Ethics Framework and Workbook that supports this outlook. This acts as a guide across the Scottish data landscape to identify data ethics issues in data projects and help address issues raised. The success of the Ethics Framework and workbook is shared with our partners and the D&IN is now actively encouraging the adoption of the Ethics Framework and Workbook across the Scottish public sector.



**" The D&IN has adopted an open and honest approach to ethics, and in collaboration with the Data for Children Collaborative with UNICEF developed an Ethics Framework and Workbook that supports this outlook."**

# Our Other Work

Reflecting on 2021 and all that  
we've learned and achieved.





# Achievements



Some of our highlights that we're really proud of this year!

## AWARDS

## DATAIQ AWARDS

- Winner: Alex Hutchison, Data for Good Champion
- Shortlisted: Data for Society

## WE MOVED!

## SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO EFI

- Now housed in Edinburgh Futures Institute
- Building stronger relationships with the University of Edinburgh

## IN THE PRESS

## CLIMATE CHANGE HIT THE MEDIA

- Global press coverage for our climate change project
- Foreword by Greta Thunberg and other youth climate activists

## PROJECTS

## NEW THEMES, NEW TEAMS

- We've launched two new Impact Collaborations
- New themes include Mental Health and Climate Change

# Lessons Learned



## Where do we go from here?

No project is without its challenges, but we like to take these as an opportunity to learn and grow. Here are some of our key lessons learned this year:

### 1

#### CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

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It's important to make sure any challenge question has a clear scope, and is developed with the end-user to ensure the outputs can, and will, be used effectively.

### 2

#### AGILE LEGAL CONTRACTS

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Collaborative projects require cross-institutional contracts, which can be tricky to navigate. We are working to make this process slicker and more agile to reflect our needs.

### 3

#### DEFINING ROLES

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Having a clear understanding of everyone's roles and responsibilities at the outset of a project can help ensure people's skills and expertise are being used effectively.

### 4

#### GROWING THE TEAM

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As the portfolio expands, so should the team! Having new core team members on board has been critical in helping us make progress across all of our activity this year.

# 5

## STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

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Having a method of mapping the different stakeholders involved in a project, and how we should keep them informed, has helped us to leverage the right expertise at the right time.

# 6

## DEVELOPING NEW TOOLS

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We've invested time in revisiting and refining some of the tools we use to make sure they are fit for purpose and to ensure that we are able to provide the right level of information to stakeholders.

# 7

## TRUE NORTH

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Taking time to think about how we decide what projects are right for us led to the development of our True North check, which now governs all of our activity and helps us to reflect on what we are doing and why.

# 8

## BUILDING TRUST

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Using our learnings from our Responsible Innovation framework to support and advise others has allowed us to build a network of trusted and like-minded individuals working in this space.

# 9

## HYBRID WORKING

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We are still navigating what 'going to work' looks like now, and it's important that we respect the differing situations of those that we work with. We're still getting to grips with working across time-zones, though!

# 10

## LOOKING AHEAD

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If this year has taught us anything, it's that there is a great community of people willing to support our cause. We want to keep partnering with experts, customers and funders to support our cause.



# Portfolio Overview



**We're currently working on projects across **seven** priority themes.**

This year we've continued to progress some of our existing projects, as well as bringing together new and exciting global collaborations to explore new themes.



## AD HOC

- Accelerating what works to end violence against children: a multi-country study
- Targeting HIV interventions for adolescents



## CLIMATE CHANGE

- Where are children most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, both now and in the future?



## COVID-19

- Addressing socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on children in Scotland: A review of capability and available data assets
- In Isolation Instead of in School (INISS): young people's experiences of COVID-19 and effects on mental health and education
- Conversational AI to rebut COVID-19 rumours, myths, and misinformation



## **MENTAL HEALTH**

- Prevention of adolescent mental health conditions: is technology a possible source for good?



## **NUTRITION**

- Nutrition with a focus on child obesity: Growing Up in Scotland



## **POPULATION**

- Building footprint identification
- Sustainable census independent population estimation



## **POVERTY**

- Child poverty access to services
- Understanding poverty and attainment across the Northern Alliance region of Scotland
- What data does Scotland collect and analyse that directly and indirectly impacts the lives of children and their families, and how can we best map it?

**Head to [our website](#) for more information about all of the projects we're working on.**

**We welcome new partnerships and support that can help us and build a better future for all children. We can't wait to work together.**

# Contact Us



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[@dataforchildren](https://twitter.com/dataforchildren)



Data for Children Collaborative with  
UNICEF





# Partner with us to tackle complex issues for children across the globe.

The Data for Children Collaborative with UNICEF is on a mission to solve problems facing children around the world for our partner organisations.

**We can't, and don't, do this on our own.**

Issues that the world's children are facing are complex and multi-layered. Data can be a critical player in solving issues for children, where it is used effectively and responsibly. By bringing together access to data, data science expertise and those who really understand the challenges, we can enable our partners to improve forecasting, tailor programmes, and inform policy-making.

**We must act now, and we must act together.**

If your organisation is seeking to support innovative ways of delivering rigorous, ethical and sustainable solutions to global challenges through data-driven solutions, then we would welcome you to join us on our mission.

By working with us you will:

- **Access** the best academic expertise in multi-disciplinary fields, as well as a wider network of expertise across industries and sectors.
- **Partner** with the world's most widespread and recognisable charity for children, with a presence in 192 countries and territories.
- **Be a leader** in best practice responsible innovation in data and data science.

**If you feel like our vision, our values and our approaches resonate with your organisation, please do not hesitate to get in touch to discuss partnership opportunities.**



