



Usage of Blockchain in the UN System

A DESK REVIEW, August 2017

TechNovation Day: Blockchain

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Objective and Scope

- Provide a rapid high-level overview of the interest and usage of blockchain in the UN system.
- The following slides summarize the findings of an internet-based desk review conducted during the month of August 2017.
- Based on keyword searches for blockchain-related projects on the websites of large UN system entities.
- It is not an exhaustive catalog of blockchain projects, but a high level picture.

The United Nations gradually embracing Blockchain

15

UN entities carrying
out
Blockchain initiatives.

Summary (Ongoing research)

	UN Entity	Description
Proof Of Concept & Scale Up	UNDP	Remittances, Car Fleet Mgmt., considering fund transfers and tracking
	WFP	Blockchain backbone for a variety of use cases, current application to cash based transfer programmes
	UNCTAD	Teamed up with Alibaba Group co-founder for planned “e-Trade for All” application
Events & Workshops	UN Women	Blockchain Hackathon event
	UNICRI	Emerging Technology & Security
	ITU	Security Aspects of Blockchain
	DESA	RemTech Awards
	UNODC	Cryptocurrency Investigation Train-the-Trainers
Publications & Investments	UNEP	Fintech and Sustainable Development Assessing the Implications
	UNECE	Blockchain White Paper
	UNOPS	Unite all UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes working on their own Blockchain projects
	ECLAC	Prospects for Blockchain-based Settlement Frameworks as a Resolution to the Threat of De-risking to Caribbean Financial Systems
	UNRISD	How Can Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Technology Play a Role in Building Social and Solidarity Finance?
	OCHA	Blockchain for Humanitarian Sector: Future Opportunities
	UNICEF	Innovation Venture Fund; Identity App Prototype; Trainings

UN Development Program

Proof of concept:

Blockchain technology for alternate financing.

See the Alternative Finance Lab in Istanbul.



Img: UN Photo/JC McIlwaine

Looking into Blockchain technology as means to manage UN car fleets.

World Food Programme

Proof of Concept:

Scale-up Phase (After Successful Pilot):



Designed and implemented blockchain system for 10,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan to purchase food with a scan of the eye! Already distributed more than USD 1 million...

Improve Cash Based Transfers and UN interoperability. Additional applications could include digital ID and supply chain. Open for collaboration.



Img: <http://innovation.wfp.org/>

UN Conference on Trade and Development

Proof of Concept:

Plans to develop “e-Trade for All”, an application to help people from all over the world start their own online business

Based off of Estonia’s “e-Residency” app which uses Blockchain technology to manage health care data



Img: http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DTL/STI_and ICTs/eTrade-for-All.aspx

UN Women



Events & Workshops:

Partnered with Innovation Norway to hold Blockchain Hackathon which produced several decentralized applications

One application produced, called “VIPI Cash”, would allow secure financial transactions between women entrepreneurs



Img: <http://womenwatch.unwomen.org/science-technology>

UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Events & Workshops:



Recently held Emerging Technology & Security course on topics included Blockchain as well as biotech, AI/robotics, VR, nanotech, and 3D printing

Though development in technology opens up new opportunities, it also opens up new threats



Img: http://www.unicri.it/in_focus/on/training_threats_peace_security

International Telecommunication Union



Events & Workshops:

Considered whether Blockchain technology should be new security standard & provided platform for policy discussions

Organized “Workshop on Security Aspects of Blockchain”



Img: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2015/March-Cybersecurity/home.aspx>

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



UNDESA

Events & Workshops:

Part of joint competition project known as RemTech Awards in which contestants from all over the world could participate



Img: <https://remtech.org/#!/team>

Theme is the use of Blockchain as means to democratize industry of remittance

UN Centre for Trade Facilitation & Electronic Business

Publication:



Published Blockchain White Paper and held mini conferences to clarify and explain potential applications of Blockchain



[img:https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/trade-programme.html](https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/trade-programme.html)

Explored use of Blockchain in regards to facilitation of trade & other business processes

UN Office on Drugs and Crime



Events & Workshops:

Worked with Blockchain analytics startup Chainalysis to develop/launch training on “BitCoin tracing as part of wider financial investigation”



Img: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bitcoin.png>

Law enforcement
experts from 22
countries participated

UN Environment Programme

Publication:



Combining technologies such as Blockchain, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things could enable the sustainable development agenda at scale.

Implementation of new technologies could reduce overall costs



Img:

<http://unepinquiry.org/>

unite.un.org/techevents

UN Office for Project Services



UNOOPS

Request for Information:

Special Advisor for UN Engagement and Blockchain Technology at UNOOPS, releases RFI regarding Blockchain

Came together with several UN entities working on their own Blockchain initiatives

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

Publication:

Views Blockchain technology as possible solution to multiple issues such as combating bank de-risking and transaction costs and surveillance

Prospects for
blockchain-based
settlement frameworks
as a resolution to the
threat of de-risking to
Caribbean financial systems

Robert Crane Williams



ECLAC

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Though potential is seen, claims technology not developed enough to be used as solution currently

Img: <http://caribbean.cepal.org/content/what-you-need-know-about-de-risking>



UN Research Institute for Social Development

UNRISD

Publication:

Sees Blockchain & Bitcoin as possible currency for remittances



Working Paper 2016-1

How Can Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Technology Play a Role in Building Social and Solidarity Finance?

Brett Scott

prepared for the UNRISD Workshop
Social and Solidarity Finance: Tensions, Opportunities and
Transformative Potential* in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert
Stiftung and the International Labour Office

February 2016

img: <http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf>

Creates potential for local merchants in poorer countries to participate in international commerce

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

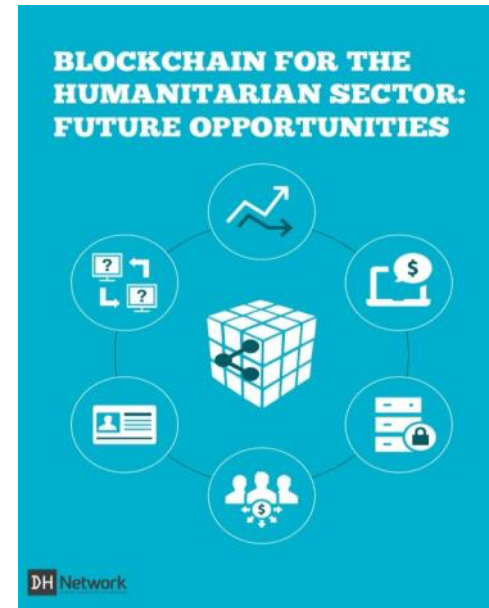
Publication:

Delves into the main features of Blockchain technology and its potential use in transferring financial value but data as well

Can be used in a variety of humanitarian related issues including donor financing, securing/monitoring supply chains, and data protection



OCHA



Img: <http://blog.veritythink.com/post>

UN Children's Fund

Investment:



\$11.2 million Innovation Venture Fund

Invested in Blockchain startup projects & developed application prototypes of their own



img: https://www.unicef.org/media/media_89993.html

Next to investments, initiatives include training, knowledge sharing and much more!

Thank You.

Let us know about your Blockchain projects.

Contact OICT Global Services Division.

unite.un.org

 unite@un.org

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

 [UnitedNationsUnite](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedNationsUnite)

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