

GLOBAL DESIGN FOR UNICEF CHALLENGE 2014

What is the Global Design for UNICEF Challenge?

It is an academic design competition that engages students in developing innovative solutions to pressing development problems. Registration opens Feb 3rd at www.unicefchallenge.com.

How does it work?

Students sign-up through a dedicated website, form teams, and identify a specific development problem to tackle. They are guided by UNICEF experts and faculty advisors through a four-month research and design process. The winning teams have the opportunity to continue working with UNICEF and travel to one of its Country Offices to test their idea in the field.

What are the areas of focus?

1. Child survival: Every year, 6.9 million children under the age of five die from causes that have known cures. To put an end to these unnecessary deaths, we need more creative thinking and solutions to reach the most remote populations. The answer lies in renewable sources of energy to power health clinics, new technologies to speed the transfer of knowledge and create information loops, research to provide revolutionary insight, and innovative processes and systems to solve distribution and access issues.

2. Emergency: Every year, millions of people are affected by humanitarian disasters, such as typhoon Hayan that recently hit the Philippines. People are displaced, injured, or worse. Power lines are down, communication systems are compromised, and roads and other infrastructure are destroyed. The most vulnerable populations are children in need of lifesaving interventions and social and protection services. Similarly, the conflict in Syria is now in its third year and threatens the lives of four million children. A few of the areas where innovative processes, products, and technologies can have real impact in emergencies are smarter lifesaving interventions, real-time data gathering and analysis, better preparedness and disaster risk reduction, and family reunification.

What is new for 2014?

Last year, CUNY students were selected to be the inaugural participants of the Challenge. Fifty teams from 15 CUNY schools tackled the main threats to child survival worldwide. This year, the Challenge is expanding to include academic institutions in the Global South. UNICEF invites CUNY students to take the lead in forging relationships with this international network of peers, and work together to find local solutions that can have global impact.

How do I get involved?

Students

- Sign up for registration info and updates [here](#)
- Build a team of 3-5 members from any CUNY school/discipline
- Identify a faculty advisor
- Decide on a development problem
- Design a solution
- Change the world!

Faculty

- Sign up for more information and updates [here](#)
- Inform your students and department
- Become a faculty advisor for a participating team

