









Problems in this sector

In the rush to provide aid quickly, local manufacturing capacity is usually ignored. As a result, the supply chains that are relied on are long, slow and cumbersome. Opportunities are lost due to lack of coordination and cost increases to address basic needs. There is a need to reinvent the way the aid community operates and connects to solve real world problems.

What Field Ready is doing

Field Ready is creating a future where digital innovations supported by a number of partners, including GIZ, IBM and Cisco, are vastly superior than current supply chain methods. A series of initiatives have been undertaken that will improve coordination and the offering of aid. MakerNet is a system of makers, manufacturers, tools, business models and markets. It will enable local production of supplies that meet humanitarian and sustainable human development demands and aspirations.

Humanitarian Makers is a community of aid workers, humanitarians, makers, designers, technologists and others with experience or interest in respective fields working to shrink humanitarian supply chains and support humanitarian response. Humanitarian Makers facilitate lectures, events, online groups and design challenges.

Makepedia is an open source sharing platform of digital designs used in making computer-aided design (CAD) files used in manufacturing. The website is used to share designs, mapping designs-in-use, and capabilities of machines. An array of parts from different sectors will be featured on the site that other practitioners can use.

Field Ready is also working with the Imperial College London to create a new computer application called MakeFit that simplifies and increases the utility of CAD files. Field Ready is also working to create an open source catalog of parts that enable on-demand production. This will consist of CAD files to enable printing of useful items that are accessible for others to use.

Impact

MakerNet was widely successful at the pilot program in Nairobi, Kenya where many new parts were created. Makers are coordinating to solve immense problems and will transform the way these spaces have a social impact around the world. We plan to expand this initiative to other areas.