



DRA INNOVATION FUND THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS – 2020 SHORT OVERVIEW

CALL FOR LOCAL HUMANITARIAN INNOVATIONS - UGANDA

The Dutch Relief Alliance Innovation Fund (DIF) proudly presents its third Call for Proposals. The DIF 3 Local Call aims to promote humanitarian innovation as locally as possible.

The DIF was established in 2018 and is supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Dutch Relief Alliance Partners are responsible for the tender of the DIF grant process. The Response Innovation Lab has been selected to facilitate the call process.

For this Call the focus will be on piloting or scaling local humanitarian innovations for the refugee response in Uganda in the field of:

- Safety and Protection
- Renewable Energy

The total amount available for this call is Eur 2 million total for implementation of innovative projects in 2021. Projects granted under the DIF Local Call must have an implementation period between 6-13 months, ending by December 31st 2021.

The Call process itself and the granted projects are expected to demonstrate opportunities and barriers to local humanitarian innovation, provide best practice/ learnings on how the sector, and actors, can overcome these barriers, and support local innovations that potentially lead to promising solutions to locally defined problems.

All the information on this call, including a longer version of this document, can be accessed here: www.responseinnovationlab.com/uganda-dra-call and the webpage will be regularly updated.

In case of questions contact: dif3-uganda@responseinnovationlab.com



OVERVIEW OF DIF 3 CALL



Country focus: Uganda

decision to narrow the geographic scope down to one country is due to the fact that humanitarian innovation funding is often fragmented, representing a barrier for innovations to reach meaningful impact. Additionally, creating a cohort of innovations, driven by diverse types of stakeholders, innovating on a handful of core challenge statements, creates favorable conditions for peer-learning that can amplify impact.

Uganda hosts more than 1.4 million refugees of which 60% are children. The influx of refugees continues while the possibility for people to safely return may take years. Uganda hosts the world's fourth largest refugee population and one of the largest humanitarian operations in Africa.

The leadership of the Government in the refugee response and its progressive approach (Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)) means that Uganda provides refugees with freedom of movement, the right to work and establish businesses, access social services, and they receive an allocation of land. However, the practical challenges that come with hosting such large numbers of refugees over a long period of time are extreme. A 2018 vulnerability study found refugees much more likely to be living in poverty than the host population, even while receiving food assistance, with nearly 70% living below the national poverty line.

Uganda faces an increased urgency of creating novel approaches for resilience and self-reliance amongst the refugee and host community populations. The progressive view of the Government of Uganda on hosting refugees, the blooming scene of social businesses and for-profit start-ups, and the rapid expansion of new communication technologies, digital payment models, and connectivity in general as well as stable security conditions contribute to making Uganda a favorable testing and scaling ground for innovations.

Thematic focus

Under facilitation of the RIL, DRA Country Offices in Uganda have selected the following two themes for the present call:

Safety & protection

SAFETY: the condition of being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk, or injury. This covers both staff and beneficiary safety.

PROTECTION: the effort to protect the fundamental well-being (mentally and physically) of individuals caught up in conflicts or "man-made" emergencies. This covers responses to SGBV.

Renewable energy

Globally, one of the greatest challenges facing refugees is the lack of quality, reliable, affordable, and clean energy sources - for both electricity and cooking. In addition to refugees having limited financial means, problems on the supply side include private sector enterprises not being familiar with demonstrated refugees' willingness and readiness to pay for quality energy products, lack of selling points accessible to refugees and customer service capacities. Barriers to uptake on the user side also include lack of appropriate information and incentives. Additionally, humanitarian programmes heavily rely on fossil fuels (fuel for transport, generators) contributing to rather than mitigating CO2 emissions.

2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1
RIL Ethical Standards and Principles,
<https://www.responseinnovationlab.com/publications>

2
Principles for Digital Development,
<https://digitalprinciples.org/>

2

Please consider the Ethical Standards and Principles developed by the RIL specifically for humanitarian innovation which will be taken into account when reviewing the projects¹.

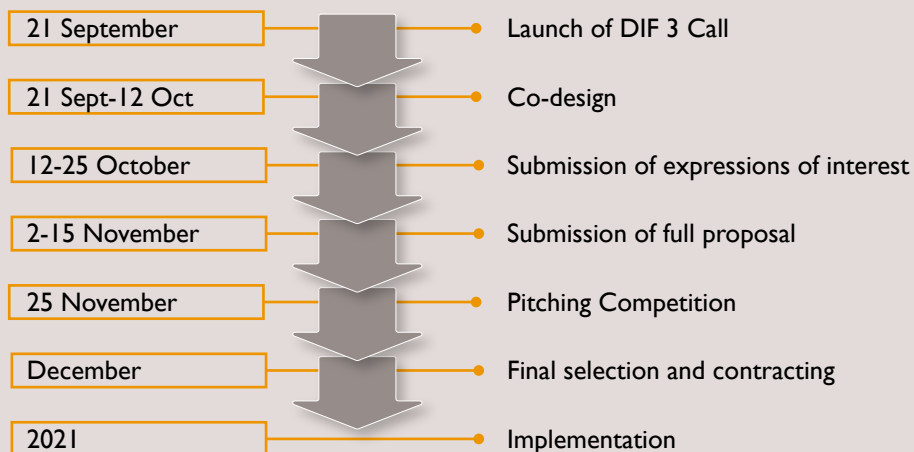
If your innovation includes a digital dimension, please also refer to the Principles for Digital Development².

Four main guiding principles should be at the center of the design of the projects:

- **Relevance and local leadership.**
- **Level of innovation**
- **Potential for impact**
- **Feasibility**

3 CALL PROCESS

3



The DIF 3 Local Call process is divided into different, consultative phases.

The co-design phase starting from 21 September will cover different events facilitated by the RIL to support prospective applicants in the preparation of concepts.

The next step of the process will be to convene all relevant actors, including DRA country offices and local actors such as local community associations, foundations, local and national NGO's, researchers, social enterprises, start-ups and private sector, to **jointly design challenges/problem statements** that relate to persisting needs of refugees and refugee-hosting communities. **It is expected that each of the selected themes will lead to a maximum of two challenges/problem statements leading to a maximum 4 problem statements in total.**

Afterwards a phase of search for solutions and "matchmaking" (facilitated introductions between partners) will take place before the official application process begins.

The selection will be a three-step process overseen by an External Review Panel:

1. Expression of interest
2. Full Proposal
3. Pitching Competition





4
LOCAL CALL
DETAILS

4

BUDGET

PER PROJECT SUBMISSION

PARTNERSHIP MAKE-UP

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS ALLOWED PER DRA MEMBER

Following the aim of this Call of Proposals to be as local as possible, the DIF 3 Local Call has identified the following two funding streams.

Stream 1:	Stream 2:
Innovation Partnerships through DRA Member as lead applicant	Local Partnerships (one DRA Member will act as a grant agent)
Total available budget: €1.5 million	Total available budget: €0.5 million
<p>Up to €500.000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This leads to max 3-4 projects each led by a DRA Member 	<p>Up to €150.000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This leads to max 3-4 projects managed by one grant agent structure
A partnership must consist of a minimum of 3 partners: at least 2 local actors and 1 DRA member as lead applicant.	A partnership structure is required, minimum 2 partners including a local actor.
<p>Examples of local actors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National NGO's Universities/Knowledge institutions Local community associations, CBOs, CSOs Social enterprises – from outside Uganda are also allowed only if 1) they have an office in Uganda, or 2) they can argue a very strong added value Private sector, start-ups 	<p>Examples of local actors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National NGO's-Universities/Knowledge institutions Local community associations, CBOs, CSOs-Social enterprises – from outside Uganda are also allowed only if 1) they have an office in Uganda, or 2) they can argue a very strong added value Private sector, start-ups
A DRA member may also join a partnership as project member.	An INGO may also join the partnership as project member.
As lead applicant: Every DRA member can submit one proposal as Lead applicant.	NA
As co-applicant: Every DRA member can participate as co-applicant in two proposals.	

WHO SUBMITS AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR PROJECT BUDGETS, SPECIFICALLY ICR, MANAGEMENT FEES & SUPPORT COSTS.³

AUDIT⁴ & EVALUATION

MATCH FUNDING

³ Allowed project costs are defined as 'all direct and indirect costs related to a proposal and the implementation of the proposal'. The DIF follows the generic guidance of MFA with regards to ICR, being maximum 6% or 8% of total costs and a management fee being max 1% of direct costs for the Lead applicant.

⁴ Note there are explorative discussions on the current DRA audit thresholds relevant to DIF. If new regulations would be decided upon by the DRAC, updated audit regulations could likely replace the existing one.

The DRA member submits and ensures contractual and financial management but fully associates the local partners to the design and later implementation.

Budget rationales will be specifically reviewed and scored during the review process. The DIF 3 Local Call strongly encourages to structure ICR sharing, management fees and support costs in project budgets as locally as possible (ie observe a right balance between the DRA member and its partners).

Management fee:

1% to leading local partner in the consortium

Support costs:

cannot be over 25% of total project

Other eligible costs DRA Member (such as Technical Expertise): Max 10% of direct costs

Evaluation and external audit are necessary to include

No match funding required

Local actor submits and is in the lead.

Budget rationales will be specifically reviewed and scored during the review process.

Management fee:

0,5% to lead local actor

Support costs:

cannot be over 25% of total project

Evaluation and external audit are necessary to include

No match funding required



Eligibility requirements

The DIF 3 Local Call supports projects **that are ready for the pilot and/or scale phase of their innovation journey**. This means this Call for Proposals will not support projects that are in their recognition, invention or adaptation phase. All projects are required to work in partnerships which can consist of other humanitarian organisations, including INGOs, the private sector, social enterprises, universities, knowledge institutions, civil society organisations (CSOs), community based organisations (CBOs), local partners and/or (local) governments.

To be eligible, applicants must ensure that partnerships must include local actors and their innovations must demonstrate proof of concept* ready for piloting or scaling.

The following definitions are available in the full text of the call document on www.responseinnovationlab.com/uganda-dra-call

- Local actor
- Proof of concept/Minimum Viable Product
- Categories of innovations (process, product, position and paradigm).

More eligibility information and Intellectual property information available in the full text of the call document on www.responseinnovationlab.com/uganda-dra-call

CONTACTS FOR ANY QUESTIONS:

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