



Dutch Relief Alliance - Innovation

**Show and Tell -- DRA: Review of Dutch Relief Alliance
Innovation Fund and recent efforts to embed innovation in
DRA Joint Responses**

Content

- Brief introduction to Dutch Relief Alliance
- DIF Portfolio (2018-2021)
- Transitioning from DIF to embedding of innovation in Joint Responses (2022-2026)
- Critical reflections & challenges



DRA

The Dutch Relief Alliance is a collaboration of 14 NGOs based in the Netherlands.

- **DUTCH** NGOs working globally
- Equitable humanitarian **RELIEF**: life-saving assistance based on solid humanitarian response plans and best practices.
- An **ALLIANCE** of 14 Dutch NGOs in partnership with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs



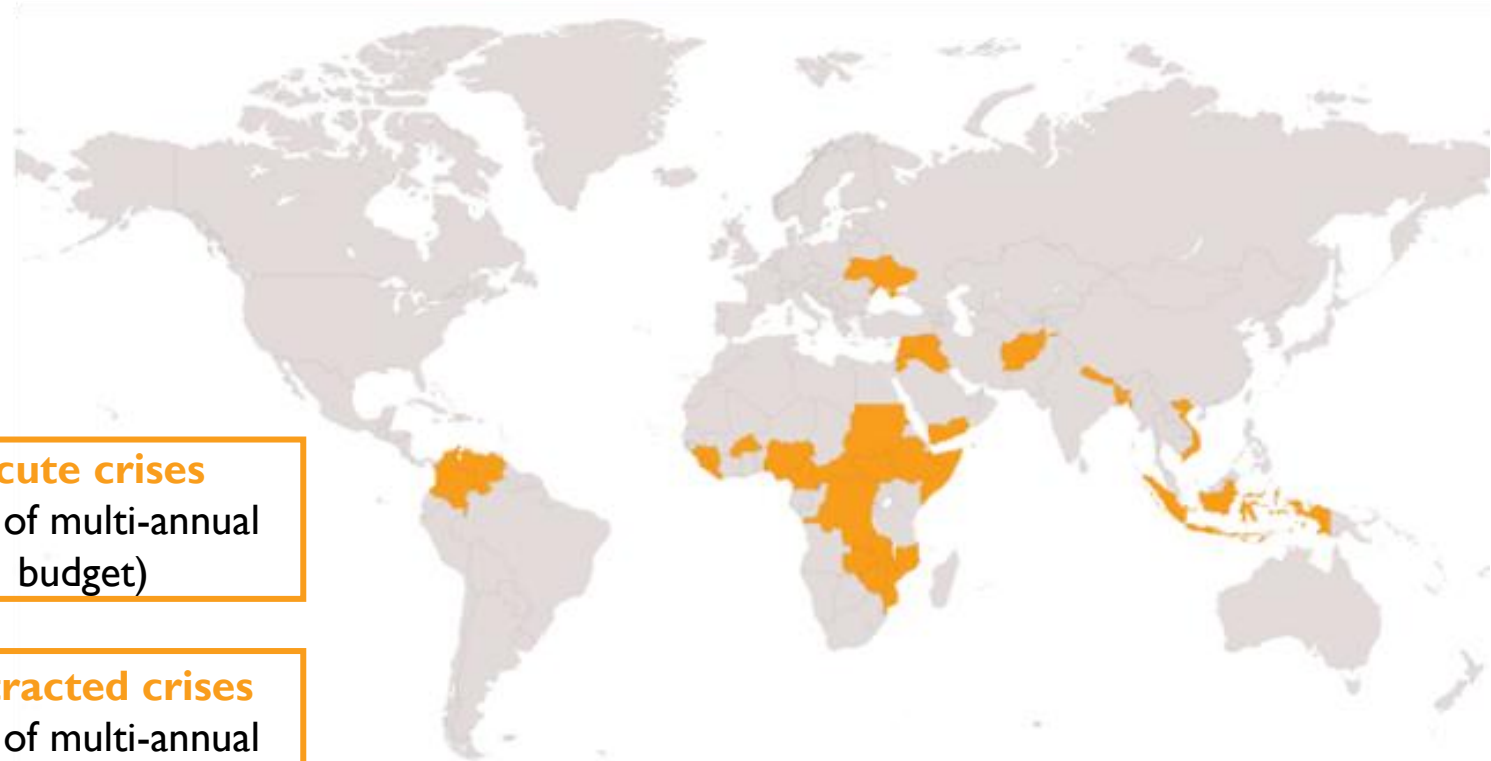
Partner organisations



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

Facts and Figures

- Budget 2022-2026
310 million + 55 million Top-Up
in 2023
- Number of people reached
Approx. 5 million per year
- Locations
Joint responses in more
than 30 countries since 2015
(currently active in 8 Protracted
crisis joint responses and 4 Acute
crisis joint responses)



Acute crises
(20% of multi-annual
budget)

Protracted crises
(80% of multi-annual
budget)



Education



Food Security
& Livelihoods



Health



Multi-
Purpose Cash
Assistance



Nutrition



Protection



Shelter and
Non-Food
Items



Water,
Sanitation
and Hygiene

DRA Innovation Fund (DIF)



DIF 1	DIF 2	DIF 3 Local	DIF 4 (readiness to) Scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First try - May – Aug 2018 - 5 projects granted funding - Open to all phases along the innovation journey (recognition, search, adaptation/intervention, pilot and scale) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March – Aug 2019 - Facilitated by Dutch Coalition for Humanitarian Innovation - Thematic focus: Safety & protection - 5 projects granted for funding - Criteria: Partnerships with private and public sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sept – Dec 2022 - Facilitated by U-RIL - Focus on localisation and implementation in Uganda - 2 funding streams: DRA member lead & local actor lead - 6 projects granted for funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dec 2022 – March 2021 - Facilitated by Elrha’s HIF - Mandatory 3-day scaling workshop - Global project implementation with link to Joint Responses - 6 projects: 3 initially funded in 2018

Data provided to SOHS

DUTCH RELIEF ALLIANCE

DIF 4 periods & funding exclude top-ups (allocated Nov 2021)

DIF Portfolio Overview (From DRA Annual Innovation Update 2021)

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

PROJECT	PERIOD	FUNDING	THEME	PHASE	TYPE	
DIF1	Incident Reporting App (IR-App)	13 months ✓	€104.220	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Recogn./Invent.	Product & Process
	The Systematic Cost Analysis (SCAN) Tool	19 months ✓	€799.522	📊 Smart Use of Data	Invention/Pilot	Process
	Empowered2Protect (E2P)	20 months ✓	€389.939	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Pilot	Product & Position
	121 (one-to-one) personal cash aid	24 months ✓	€795.855	💰 Cash Programming	Pilot	Product & Process
	B-READY	27 months ✓	€610.444	💰 Cash Programming	Pilot	Position
DIF2	EFLC: Addressing harmful social/gender norms ..	20 months ✓	€764.441	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Pilot	Process
	Seamless MHPSS Cross-Border Care. ...	18 months ✓	€199.448	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Invention	Process
	Communities in the Driver's Seat..	26 months ✓	€800.000	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Adaptation/Pilot	All 4
	Tackling barriers to cash and voucher assistance...	22 months ✓	€599.840	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Adaptation/Pilot	Product
	BOB: Build your own buddy	24 months ✓	€798.091	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Pilot	Product
DIF3	PROSPERS	15 months ✓	€485.374	🔌 (Renewable) Energy	Pilot	Process
	Sport for Peace	12 months ✓	€150.000	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Pilot	Prod. & Proc. & Pos.
	Youth Livelihoods and Conflict Transformation	12 months ✓	€150.000	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Pilot	Position & Paradigm
	Waste to Clean Energy: ..	12 months ✓	€499.998	🔌 (Renewable) Energy	Pilot	All 4
	Clean Energy Kiosks in Refugee Settlements	12 months ✓	€500.000	🔌 (Renewable) Energy	Pilot	Process & Position
CloudGreen	11 months ✓	€150.000	🔌 (Renewable) Energy	Scale	Process & Position	
DIF4	TeamUp: Ready? GO!	12 months ✓	€799.122	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Scale	Process
	121 - Upskilling and Upscaling	12 months ✓	€777.410	💰 Cash Programming	Scale	Product & Process
	B-READY II	12 months ✓	€800.000	💰 Cash Programming	Scale	Position
	Sensor Data for Sustainable Water Services..	12 months ✓	€611.359	📊 Smart Use of Data	Scale	Process
	Empowered2Protect	11 months ✓	€642.725	🛡️ Safety & Protection	Scale	Product/Process
	Dioptra	6 months ✓	€191.548	📊 Smart Use of Data	Scale	Product



Partners



DIF Portfolio: Team Up: Ready? Go!

Video on Team Up – from South Sudan

<https://youtu.be/sFSF6CQmMPw>

- Safety & Protection innovation – movement based psychosocial intervention for children
 - <https://dutchrelief.org/teamup-ready-go/>
 - Project partners: Save the Children, WCH, HaC & SOS CV
 - 1 year implementation – short considering delay
 - South Sudan, while regional focus
 - 3 focus areas in scaling journey: Certification system for trainers (wide), improving cross-organizational MEAL system and co-branding kit.
 - **Niche area:** inclusive (non-verbal), community based, child MEAL tool
 - Embedded in South Sudan JR
- ❖ Success – scaling, although working on business model

DIF Portfolio: B-READY



- Cash programming innovation
 - Project partners: Oxfam, Plan International, Global Parametrics
 - <https://b-ready.org/>
 - 1 year implementation – ok considering where innovation was in its innovation journey, but significant portion of funding is for the pre-emptive cash transfers so spending waits till disaster thresholds are expected (burn rates do not tell all)
 - 3 innovations: impact based disaster financing, linking financial transfer technology to social protection for pre-emptive action, paradigm shift to pre-emptive response
 - Philippines – expanded in-country
 - Worked on evidencing, codification for scaling in Philippines & globally, sustainability model, advocacy
 - **Niche area:** model at forefront of anticipatory action, localization, protection aspect
 - Sudan JR - failed
- ❖ Success – ready to scale, but requires strong contextualization

DIF Portfolio: Dioptra

- Innovation on Smart Use of Data – cost efficiency analyses/value for money of programmes/projects in specific intervention areas
 - Project partners: SV/IRC, Save the Children
 - 9 month implementation – ok
 - Implemented within the Nigeria JR so lessons learned around this
 - Budget lowest compared to others
 - Worked on expanding (more projects/evidence) and deepening (improving the software in sprints)
 - Cost efficiency analyses published on Reliefweb
 - **Niche area:** value for money comparing between INGOs and NNGOs – Evaluation: did not show significant differences between INGOs and NNGOs; scale and geographical locations explain differences more. NNGOs need funding at equal volume and scale to INGOs to achieve full cost efficiency potential.
- ❖ Success – scaling within organisations / Consortium has maxxed to 6 members



121 – Cash Aid Platform

- Cash programming innovation
 - <https://www.121.global/>
 - Project partners: Dorcas, ZOA, Cordaid, Tearfund, HaC & Netherlands Red Cross Data Initiative 510
 - 1 year implementation – ok considering where innovation was in its innovation journey
 - Worked through human centered design on key challenges, worked on Cash Information Management knowledge/skills/trainings, developing a Cash Programme Design Wizard, 121 platform pilots, and business model development.
 - **Niche area:** self-registration of beneficiaries & remote validation by aid workers
 - Role Dorcas, ZOA and Hac changed from partner to client
 - Ethiopia JR?
- ❖ Success – ready to scale



Transition from fund driven innovation to embedding of innovation in joint responses

“Innovation and learning provide solutions for improved quality and efficiency of responses and place Joint responses at the center.”

DRA Strategy 2022-2026

2018 – 2021

DIF Portfolio

2022 – 2026

Embedding
innovation in JRs

Embedding of innovation in Joint responses – design 22-23

Phase I: Challenge mapping

- Focus on challenges before solutions
- Driven & supported by all partners (Local & INGO) in the JRs
- Approach different across the JRs
- External facilitation (RIL)

Phase II: Open Call for funding 2022-2023

- Launch of projects: June/July 2023
- Mix of external & internal reviewers
- DRA Strategy: Demonstrated innovations in direct funding, contingency planning, preparedness and anticipatory action.
- 5 projects granted (Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria NGCA Yemen)



Challenge Mapping in Protracted Joint Responses 2022-2023



Video from Joseph Kayi Alex –
Coordinator South Sudan Joint
Response, Save the Children

Critical reflections and challenges

Phase I & Phase II

- Remains internally NGO focused – little external partnerships at JR level with academic, startups, etc
- Lead implementer/lead applicant in call process - stayed INGO due mostly to risk aversion
- Moving beyond organizational level
- Levels of funding requested vs expected vs needed – who determines this?

DRA

- Incremental fixes vs system change: is there appetite?
- Gap between DRA partners (in NL) and Joint Responses – many layers
- Add-on / process-burden – how to overcome this yet aim for quality?
- Several views on “embedding”
- Design Protracted Crisis Joint Responses 2024 – 2026: fatigue or momentum?

