



RESPONSE
INNOVATION
LAB

Seed Funding in 2023

Introduction

Under the support function, the Uganda Response Innovation Lab (U-RIL) supports innovators and implementers to maximise their ability to deliver successful innovations in a specific humanitarian context. One of these support avenues is seed funding to test prototypes or conduct pilots. In 2023, U-RIL provided funding through 3 avenues. A TOR for 2023 outlining the process was developed and validated by the senior leadership team. The seed funding is open to entities registered in Uganda (Uganda-led or refugee-led) and with an existing proof of concept.

1 Refugee-Led Ecosystem Support Organizations (RLESOs)

Five (5) refugee-led ecosystem support organisations awarded US\$ 1,000 prize each to boost their entrepreneur support services. These community rooted organisations play a key role in strengthening locally-driven solutions and are often not eligible for funding due to their size. Over the years, the U-RIL has created multiple relationships with RLOs that could benefit from support and has run a competitive prize to select the ones with most potential with special consideration to support gender mainstreaming.

The ESO should have mentors, trains and in some instances funds entrepreneurs to generate community-wide benefits. RIL had a call for application designed and sent out through different platforms and through the ecosystem partners. We received 42 applications. These were reviewed by the RIL team and five ESOs have been selected as per the table below.

ESO Name	Brief Description
Wimrob Bees Company Limited Private Company	Location: Lira, Palabek Ogili in Lamwo district, Northern Uganda. Target audience are youth and women, building capacity on artisan skills in making beehives and honey kits, building their capacity to become a commercial agent, where they can aggregate produce and honey at a commission and discount on selling farm equipment. Business skills training, financial literacy and record keeping. They plan to give 30 women 300 KTB bee hives to start producing honey as source of living and livelihoods.
Community Development Centre – CDC CBO	Location: Ofua 3, Rhino Camp (with Coordination Office in Arua) Target audience are vulnerable communities that are given a seed grant to implement their projects. They have distributed cash grants to 40 most vulnerable groups and also 40% of the standard grant to the 20 communities currently implementing their community projects.
Community Initiative For Rehabilitation and Transformation (CIRT) CBO	Location: Village 10 zone, Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement Target audience are the youth and the women in the refugee settlement. They train them on sustainable life skills development like tailoring, haircutting, hairdressing, motorcycle repair and maintenance and Building which will make them be self-reliant and economically independent. With this kind of knowledge and skills they can start their own business which will generate for them income.
Anzisha Impact Hub CBO	Location: Nakivale refugee settlement Target audience is refugee youth both males and female between the ages of 18 to 35. The organization focuses on empowering and educating young refugees in potential discovery, skills development, leadership, and social entrepreneurship to improve their livelihood. They offer to young entrepreneurs incubation, potential discovery, skills development, leadership, and social entrepreneurship to improve their livelihood development and funding.

ESO Name	Brief Description
<p>Live in Green Live in Wealth Youth Initiative</p> <p>NGO</p>	<p>Location: Kampala and Kyaka II Refugee Settlement</p> <p>The mission is to "eradicate poverty, enhance food security and education while promoting environmental conservation among the youth, young women and men within refugee and host communities by providing them with training on construction and use of energy saving cook stoves, nurturing and providing tree seedlings of different varieties (especially fruit trees) and training them on how to plant trees and woodlots, training on Agro-forestry and trainings in small business management, entrepreneurship skills to all the beneficiaries targeted by the organization.</p>

The five RLESOs were added to the RIL 2023 training cohort. The RLESOs were given additional support to ensure they are able to disseminate lessons learned to the innovators/ enterprises they support.

Dissemination of their prize was done in August 2023.

2 Seed Grants

Three climate adaptive programming innovations are undergoing selection to be awarded a total of US\$20,000. A call was sent out for applications in climate adaptation. The U-RIL was looking to pilot innovative solutions focusing on climate adaptation in the humanitarian response in nutrition, sustainable and market-driven livelihoods, environment & energy, health and WASH. Over 50 applications were received. These were scored using a designed criteria by Save the Children Uganda livelihood team and the U-RIL team. U-RIL conducted verification calls with the finalists before the selection of the top three innovations.

The table below shows the three innovations that were selected.

Innovation Name	Brief Description
<p>Albertine Interventions for Development (AID)</p> <p>Local NGO</p>	<p>Location; Western Uganda</p> <p>Target Audience: Refugees, host communities, youth & women</p> <p>Climate-Resilient Seed Varieties in Uganda(CSV-Uganda) is an innovative program spearheaded by AID aiming at supporting vulnerable communities focusing on supporting refugees and their host communities to have access to improved seeds of superior crop varieties which perform much better in their local conditions for enhanced food & nutrition security, improved livelihoods and self-reliance.</p>
<p>Green GrowthPlus Investment</p> <p>Private Company</p>	<p>Location: Gulu and Palabek refugees camp, reception</p> <p>Target Audience: youths and adults</p> <p>Green GrowthPlus use the application of Black Soldier Fly Technology to manage large waste organic streams while sustainably providing accessible, reliable and affordable livestock feeds for the small scale farmers in Northern Uganda. They have a waste compost facility as value-to-waste solution and learning/training hub on BSF technology, vegetable and tree seedling production unit in Northern Uganda.</p>

Innovation Name	Brief Description
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<p>Tusafishe Local NGO</p>	<p>Location: Kampala and Refugee camps Target: Refugees within refugee camps, and schools in host communities Engineering students and their professor from Humboldt State University invented a technology that helps in purifying water and protecting of the environment at the same time. The technology uses “Moringa” seed powder, decomposing granite and hollow fiber membrane as the main medium for water purification. The use of these locally available materials in the purification process makes safe water affordable and accessible for large marginalized communities. The use of moringa seed powder means the community where the purification systems are installed have to plant the moringa trees whose seed powder they will need in the maintenance of the purification system in the future. This helps to rejuvenate the environment through reforestation. Moringa leaves can also be used by the community as vegetables to supplement on their diet.</p>
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Finalists for both the Refugee Led Ecosystem Support Organizations and Call for solutions in Climate Adaptive Programming and Disaster Risk Reduction, were added to the training but were not eligible for the pitch event. The financial awards to all the innovators and RLESOs were done in August 2023. Contracting activities started in July.

3 Capacity Building Cohort

A training cohort of 20 innovators participated in a pitch event at the end of the bootcamp (the last part of the training.) Innovations were selected and awarded up to US\$10,000 to be used to support activities identified for the next steps. Successful innovators included:

Innovation Name	Brief Description
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<p>Rubungi Investments Ltd Private Company</p>	<p>Location: Rubirizi, Uganda Target Market: https://www.rubungiinvestmentsltd.store Process coffee Kawa</p>
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<p>Disability Innovations Uganda Local NGO</p>	<p>Location: Mukono, Uganda Target Market: Persons with hearing disability A digital solution providing deaf persons in Uganda and refugees access to information on health in sign language as well as linkage to friendly mental health and gender-based violence services.</p>
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ESO Name	Brief Description
PRUM Ventures Private Company	Location: Kampala, Uganda Target market: Pregnant mothers, elderly and persons with chronic illnesses Offering whole-meal okra porridge mix flour to support the supplementary diet that is rich in Vitamins, Folate, Iron, Protein and Carbohydrates. The porridge flour is a mix of foods found within Uganda, such as orange fleshed sweet potato, okra, millet, cassava and soybeans. In this solution, Prum Ventures aims to boost immunity, improve nutrition and promote the well-being of their target market. Whole meal okra porridge is rich in Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin K and Vitamin B6 which boost immunity.
Tucheke Movies Production Private Company	Location: Nakivale Refugee Settlement Target market: Refugees in Nakivale The company aims to reach remote villages. Dubbed as “Education follows people at home”, Since our beginning in 2016 we are facing different challenges due to lack of a lot of experiences as well as : Organizational management, Poorest finances and language barriers.