

## **DIF 4 (READINESS TO) SCALE CALL FOR PROPOSALS – launched January 2021**

The Dutch Relief Alliance Innovation Fund (DIF) proudly presents its fourth Call for Proposals providing the opportunity for humanitarian innovation projects to continue their scaling journeys. The DIF 4 (readiness to) scale Call aims for projects to enter the next stage of innovating, enabling the DIF Portfolio innovations granted thus far and others, to further grow, develop and improve their implementation.

There are multiple barriers identified that hamper scaling of humanitarian innovations – such as lack of scaling plans, lack of knowledge and skills in the humanitarian sector to bring projects to scale, lack of evidence of impact of humanitarian innovation and the humanitarian sector to bring projects to scale, lack of evidence of impact of humanitarian innovation, and the humanitarian ecosystem itself frustrating scaling. Through the DIF 4 Call, the DRA has challenged itself to address these barriers and support the scaling of humanitarian innovation.

The DIF 4 Call opens the opportunity to support projects at an early stage to plan for scale, to develop their theory of scale and to begin/continue testing and implementing critical components that will enable subsequent scale. The Call is designed to support innovations at different points on their innovation journey. The Call is “closed” meaning that the 15 DRA members can be Lead Applicant of a submission while engaging in partnership with (I)NGOs, local actors, academics, start-ups, social enterprises and the private sector.

Three different points have been established as starting point for an application:

- Grants under the current DIF Portfolio;
- Innovations (outside the DIF Portfolio) that are currently being implemented in one or more DRA Joint Responses;
- DRA partners can submit a Scaling Plan for a promising innovation that is not funded currently by DRA or implemented/used in a DRA setting.

The (readiness to) Scale Call has been developed in collaboration with Elrha’s Humanitarian Innovation Fund, a global charity that aims to find solutions to complex humanitarian problems through research and innovation. The role of Elrha is to advise and provide expertise on the framework of the Call, its design principles and the scoring guidance. In addition to this, Elrha will support DIF in linking to the right and relevant scaling and thematic experts for the External Review Panel (independent decision makers), as well as facilitating a key multi-day Scaling Strategy workshop intended for grantees to continue working on their Scaling Plans scheduled in March 2021.

During the Call process, updates will be posted online. Keep an eye out!

Please feel free to reach out to the DRA Innovation Manager Lisette Gotink ([innovation@dutchrelief.org](mailto:innovation@dutchrelief.org)) for more information.