

DRA INNOVATION UPDATE 2020

DUTCH RELIEF
ALLIANCE



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

In partnership with



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1. INTRODUCTION

"TO ENABLE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR PILOTING, SCALING UP AND IMPLEMENTING INNOVATION, ENSURING DUTCH NGO'S ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE AND SOLUTIONS TO DELIVER HIGH QUALITY HUMANITARIAN ACTION."

In response to the increasing humanitarian needs and the growing funding gap, there is an urgent need for transforming approaches of humanitarian action in ways to respond to key global trends and challenges to ensure timely, relevant and quality assistance to those in need. In 2018 the DRA Innovation Fund (DIF) was established as part of the agreed Dutch Relief Alliance strategic period 2018 – 2021, existing of 12 million euros funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This Fund permits the DRA to engage with innovation during the four-year strategic period, from January 2018 until December 2021 (average of € 3m per year).

Innovation has been one of the four strategic pillars of the DRA within this strategy, with the idea to invest in innovative humanitarian solutions, being a testbed and eventually pilot (& scale) in DRA Joint Response work but also broader in other humanitarian interventions by the international community. The DIF aims to bridge the gap between innovations and the actual implementation in the field. Till date, a total of three DIF Calls have been initiated for a total amount of 7,9 million EUR allocated.

Different challenges came across during the process of DIF 1 and therefore resulted in the following changes the DIF 2 Call for Proposals: 1) more interactive moments between the innovation proposals and the Review Committee; 2) lengthier and heavier set-up of the process to enable stronger partnerships at field and NL level and between public and private sector; 3) a stronger focus on co-creating the problem statements of the Call.

For the purpose of the DRA Innovation Update 2020, the resulting DIF 1 and DIF 2 projects will be highlighted

throughout the report for the reason that DIF 3 implementation will start early 2021. For both DIF 1 and DIF 2 Calls for proposals a total amount of 36 projects were submitted of which 10 projects received grants. All projects are in different innovation phases with various projects in their invention phase, while others are almost at the end of their pilots. Therefore, it should be noted that the DIF projects are not addressed equally due to this phase diversity.

From the ten DIF projects, there have been five instances where three DIF innovations have been adapted/adopted by other organizations. Although scaling was not a focus area of the DIF 1 and DIF 2 Calls, three DIF funded projects have scaling plans in place and three DIF projects have the intention to prepare plans if either their project evaluation or pilots allow them to. Throughout both Calls, partnerships were encouraged either with other DRA partners and/or other parties, such as corporates, universities and other (knowledge) institutions. Nine DIF projects demonstrate collaboration with the public sector. Additionally, four of the supported innovation projects will be included and scaled in the Joint Responses in 2021 and four Joint Responses are now investigating the possibilities of implementing one of the DIF projects.

As the majority of the innovation projects funded by the DIF are in implementation, disseminating project results has remained a challenge for most of them. However, there are a number of significant instances where the projects have disseminated information on their projects in various forms, such as videos, bulletins, research models, press releases, working groups, show case events and webinars.

2. MANAGING AND SUPPORTING THE DIF PORTFOLIO

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121 (ONE-TO-ONE) PERSONAL CASH AID

CASH PROGRAMMING



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The 121 project is intended to be a disruptive innovation that changes the way the humanitarian sector implements cash programming. The 121 platform aims to make cash based aid safe, fast & fair, and help people affected by disasters meet their own needs. The platform co-designs with people affected by disasters, aid workers and people donating, and uses robust and available technology to create the solutions needed. Key features of the 121 system are privacy by design, end to end traceability of funds, avoiding aid duplication, digital identity and having people affected be the owners of their data and decisions.

The goal is to provide more efficient, effective, faster and safer cash support for people in need. As the project comes to an end, it has reached its main objectives, such as the involvement of people affected, aid workers and donors in designing 121, the development of the humanitarian organisation platform, and the registration app for people affected and validation modules for aid workers. The final step was to test the 121 platform with users and gather user insights needed for the further development and scale up. Due to Covid-19 a scope change was needed and the pilot is implemented with undocumented migrants in the Netherlands instead of the planned pilots in Malawi and Ethiopia.

ADDRESSING HARMFUL SOCIAL NORMS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS THROUGH A FAITH AND COMMUNITY APPROACH

SAFETY & PROTECTION

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In the majority of humanitarian crisis situations, there is a strong increase of SGBV, whilst humanitarian responses generally show a lack of effective SGBV prevention and response interventions, let alone interventions that envision change in social norms. Taking an effective and tested community-based model for SGBV prevention and response, implemented previously by Tearfund in a rather stable area in the DRC, this pilot seeks to adapt this approach to humanitarian contexts. Adaptations in this project focus on implementing the approach in settings with less social cohesion and people on the move, within a shorter timeframe and monitored by communities themselves through participatory story-based approaches. The innovation project is implemented in 2 regions and targets 15 communities in North Kivu (Kitshanga health zone) and 15 communities in South Kivu (Miti Murghese health zone): both conflict affected humanitarian zones, with Kitshanga hosting a significant number of IDPs amongst the population.

Participating organizations

Tearfund (lead), Help a Child, Heal Africa, BEATIL, Eye Opener Works and an independent researcher

Thematic area

Safety & Protection

Programme period

20 October 2019 – 19 June 2021



Participating organizations

Dorcas (lead), Netherlands Red Cross – 510, Tear, Help a Child, Disberse, PWC, Tykn, TU Delft, DCHI, Red Cross Malawi, Eagles, SOLDEV

Thematic area

Cash Programming

Programme period

1 January 2019 – 31 December 2020

BOB: BUILD YOUR OWN BUDDY

SAFETY & PROTECTION



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Build your Own Buddy (BOB) is a pilot project adapting the evidence based short-term treatment KIDNET: the child version of Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) and reinforcing the approach with a picture-story book and a personal buddy. It will be piloted with preschool children (5-7 years) in Wau and Jur River Counties in the Republic of South Sudan. Feasibility of the approach will be tested and outcomes in children evaluated through pre- and post-measurements. A participatory mixed method design of action-research and quantitative measurements will be applied in all phases of the innovation. If the results of the pilot warrant this, up-scaling and further implementation of the intervention, as well as further research (i.e. randomized controlled trial with a control-group) will be possible.

Participating organizations

Red een Kind (lead), TNO, ARQ

Thematic area

Safety & Protection

Programme period

1 December 2019 – 30 November 2021



B-READY

CASH PROGRAMMING



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Building Resilient, Adaptive and Disaster Ready Communities (B-READY) project aims to better protect vulnerable households from natural disasters using latest digital forecasting technology that predicts extreme weather events. The project combines two innovations on disaster preparedness to increase community resilience using 1) Early warning system through parametric forecasting and risk modelling technology, and 2) Financial technologies to enable pre-disaster cash transfer program to save lives, increase preparedness, and mitigate disaster risks. The project targets vulnerable families to be prepared for disasters by early access to forecast information and financial resources such as monetary aid, insurance and credit. The project is implemented in the Philippines and is a collaboration among different government actors, humanitarian actors, and financial service providers to practice inclusive, efficient, safe, and pre-emptive cash transfer programming.

Participating organizations

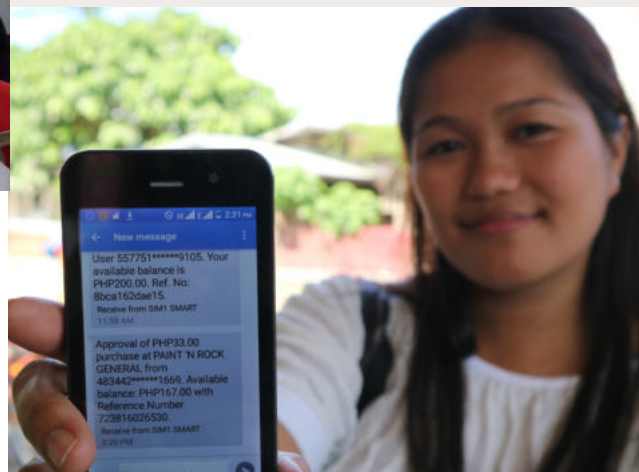
Oxfam Novib (lead), Plan International Nederland, Global Parametrics, People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network, PayMaya Philippines, Visa Worldwide, CLIMBS Insurance Cooperative, Municipal Government of Salcedo municipality, East Samar Province

Thematic area

Cash Programming

Programme period

1 January 2019 – 28 February 2020



COMMUNITIES IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

SAFETY & PROTECTION



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Systematic and enduring child protection challenges demand new and effective approaches, particularly in volatile humanitarian contexts. Building on evidence that community-owned and -driven approaches bring about improved outcomes, this project tests the feasibility of one bottom-up approach to child protection (community-driven approach to child protection in conflict-affected settings) within two applications: 1) community driven child protection and 2) stigma. The two applications are tested in two contexts, allowing for cross-learning, comparison and alignment. The first approach is piloted in Colombia, with displaced communities in Choco. The second approach is piloted in Uganda, in refugee/host settings.

The project's consortium aims to produce evidence on standard community driven approaches which are easy to understand and implement, and yet adaptable to any humanitarian context. This allows for scale up and dissemination among the wider humanitarian community which will bring about increased relevance, impact and sustainability in the field of child protection.

Participating organizations

War Child Holland (lead), Save the Children, Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO-Uganda), Ten Have Change Management, The Nomad Coach, Stichting Elva, Vandejong Creative Agency

Thematic area

Safety & Protection

Programme period

1 November 2019 – 31 October 2021



DIOPTRA (FORMALLY KNOWN AS SYSTEMATIC COST ANALYSIS TOOL (SCAN TOOL))

SMART USE OF DATA



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Due to the big gap between humanitarian needs and available funding it is crucial that funding is directed towards the right programmes – cost-efficient and cost-effective interventions that have the biggest impact on the most people per Euro spent. Whilst there is no shortage of motivation to find cost-efficient ways to deliver assistance, a critical gap exists: methods used to estimate value for money (VfM) are not consistent across agencies or programmes, producing results that cannot be meaningfully compared to informed action.

With funding from the DRA Innovation Fund (DIF), the SCAN Tool project formed a consortium to develop and pilot a multi-agency Systematic Cost Analysis (SCAN) tool that directly addresses the need for rapid and rigorous VfM analysis. Pulling grant expense data from organisations' finance systems, it helps users estimate how cost-efficient their programme was, and how this cost-efficiency compares to other programmes in different contexts. It also provides evidence-based suggestions on how to improve the cost-efficiency of that particular type of programme.

Participating organizations

Stichting Vluchteling/IRC (lead), Mercy Corps, Save the Children, CARE, Action Against Hunger

Thematic area

Smart Use of Data

Programme period

1 December 2018 – 30 June 2020



EMPOWERED2PROTECT

SAFETY & PROTECTION



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The 'Empowered2Protect' (E2P) project entails an innovative approach against sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and is piloted in Kabare, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). During the pilot the "Invi Bracelet", which is a nonviolent self-defence device using a foul smell to keep off perpetrators and alarm others, was introduced together with an inclusive awareness package with community sessions about causes and prevention of SGBV developed by Help a Child. The aim of the pilot was to empower people to protect themselves in a humanitarian context against SGBV. The project is combined with research through satisfaction surveys, interviews and focus group discussions among beneficiaries and staff and by L'Université Evangélique en Afrique and Invi on the applicability and impact of the bracelet in a humanitarian context.

Participating organizations

Red een Kind (lead), Invi, L'Université Evangélique en Afrique

Thematic area

Safety & Protection

Programme period

1 January 2019 – 31 August 2020



INCIDENT REPORTING APP

SAFETY & PROTECTION

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project aimed to develop a user-friendly application, which efficiently gathers and provides crucial security information. As a result of this project, ZOA is now using the "Incident Reporting App" globally as their new tool in gathering incident reports and have also archived backlog information in this system. The "Incident Reporting App" for mobile and laptop allows staff to report incidents when travelling to project locations and runs on both Android and iOS software systems. Based on a survey undertaken among DRA Partners, it was decided that the App should be created in such a way that it would be available for organisations that use Office 365 as this was the main software used.

Participating organizations

ZOA (lead)

Thematic area

Safety & Protection

Programme period

1 December 2018 – 31 December 2019



SEAMLESS MHPSS CROSS-BORDER CARE

SAFETY & PROTECTION



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Globally we are facing a dramatic increase in forceful displacement and migration. Among displaced populations, those who are on the move face greater difficulties in accessing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services. Not being in a specific location, whether in an urban setting, a refugee or IDP camp, people on the move lack continuity of services along the migration route, which leads to chronification of existing and acquired conditions, and an overall increased difficulty in accessing efficient treatments. MHPSS services are life saving for those who have experienced extreme adversity before and during displacement.

This innovation seeks to identify viable solutions to create continuum of MHPSS care along migration routes by tackling the complex challenges of ensuring access to seamless MHPSS CBC to populations on the move passing through multiple geographies and healthcare/social service systems. It tackles issues that prevent scaling, quality and access to CBC. It focuses on children and their families on the move within the wider context of forced displacement, thereby contributing solutions to a large proportion of a highly vulnerable, rapidly-growing population that require access to MHPSS across a wide range of humanitarian contexts.

Participating organizations

Save the Children (lead), The MHPSS Collaborative (hosted by Save the Children Denmark), Upinion, MHPSS.net, DSIL Global

Thematic area

Safety & Protection

Programme period

1 November 2019 – 30 April 2021

TACKLING BARRIERS TO CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

SAFETY & PROTECTION

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This pilot project aims to tackle the barriers to cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for unaccompanied adolescents by designing with adolescents. Considering that, in general, adolescents are a large overlooked group in humanitarian settings and in Ethiopia adolescent refugees constitute almost 19% of the total population in camps, innovative program models to meet the needs of unaccompanied and separated adolescents are of primary importance. In this pilot project, which is implemented in in Sheder camp in Ethiopia, the project aims to create guidance around safe, ethical CVA programmes, pilot them and share them with the global community. It will draw on the expertise of the International Rescue Committee in implementing cash and protection programmes and Youth Development Labs' (Ylabs) experience in youth-centred program design models.

Participating organizations

Stichting Vluchteling/IRC (lead), Y-labs

Thematic area

Safety & Protection

Programme period

1 December 2019 - 31 May 2021



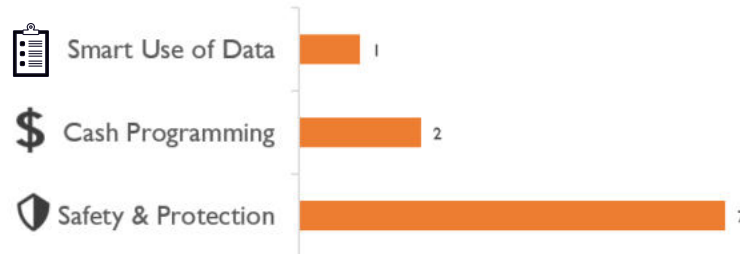
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OVERVIEW

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THEMES



WHERE



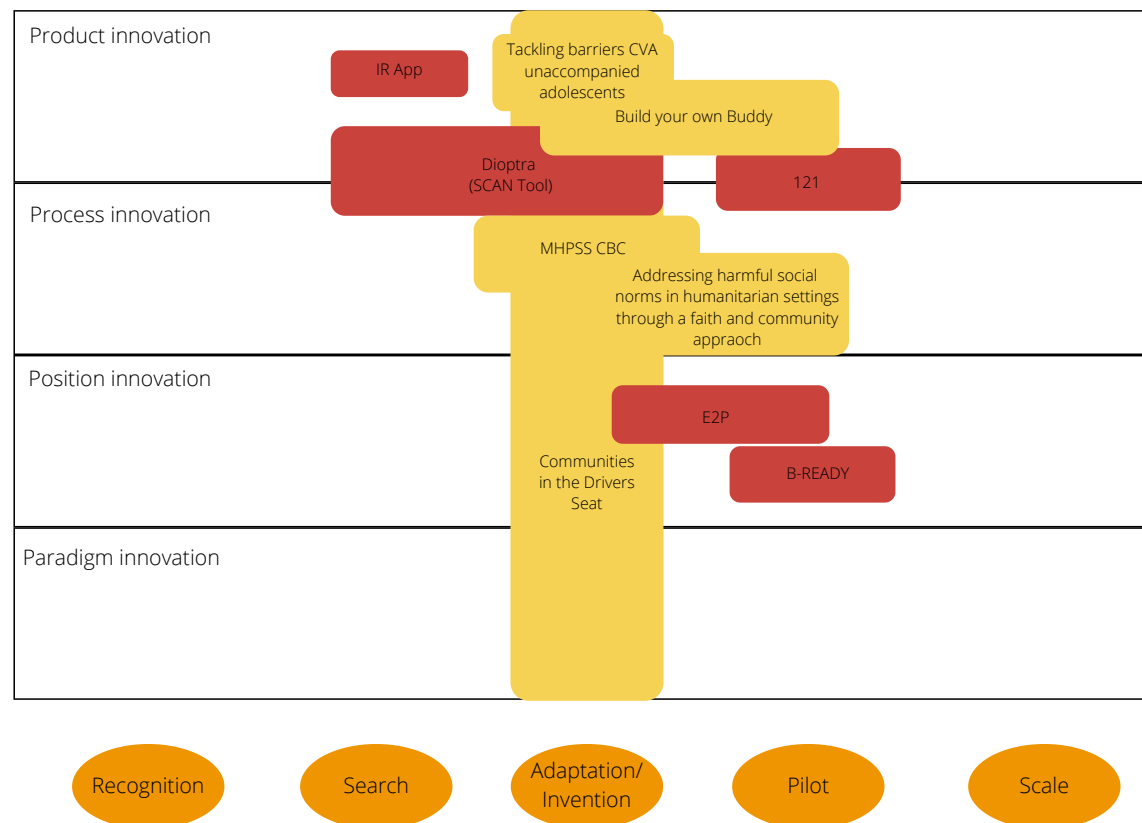
The DRA has chosen 7 thematic priorities for the strategic period 2018-2021: dignity, smart use of data, safety & protection, timely response, health & sanitation, cash programming and energy. For each DIF Call for Proposals, the DRA partners were asked to select the most relevant themes at that time. This resulted in the selection of the following three thematic areas in which innovation projects have been granted funding through the DIF mechanism: Smart Use of Data, Cash Programming and Safety & Protection.

For the first DIF Call in 2018, 20 projects have been submitted of which 5 were granted. For the second DIF Call 2019, 16 projects have been submitted of which also 5 were granted.

PROJECT PHASE & TIMELINE

DIF 1

DIF 2



Recognition

Search

Adaptation/
Invention

Pilot

Scale

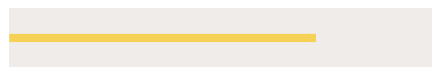
The graphic above shows the current 2020 DIF Portfolio plotted per type of innovation (product, process, position or paradigm) along the different phases of the innovation journey (recognition, search, adaptation/invention, pilot and scale) (Source: Elrha/HIF). As can be seen, all projects are in different innovation phases. Various projects are in the invention phase, while others are almost at the end of their pilots. Therefore, it should be noted that the DIF projects are not addressed equally on every reported indicator in the remaining part of the report due to this phase diversity.

PROJECT START HALFWAY END

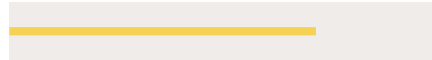
121 (ONE-TO-ONE) personal cash aid



Addressing Harmful social norms in humanitarian settings through a faith and community approach



BOB: Build your Own Buddy



B-READY



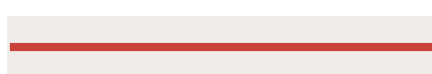
Communities in the driver's seat



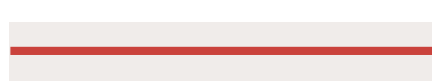
Dioptra (formally known as Systematic Cost Analysis Tool (SCAN Tool))



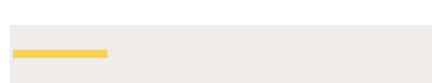
Empowered2Protect



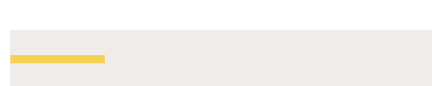
Incident Reporting App



Seamless MHPSS Cross-Border Care



Tackling Barriers to Cash and Voucher Assistance



INSTANCES OF ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The degree and form of adoption or adaptation of innovations is different for every DIF project: a number of projects are in an early invention phase, while others are piloting. Therefore, different forms and stages of adoption or adaptation can be observed. Below section describes a number of the DIF projects regarding their adoption or adaptation by other organizations. From the 10 DIF projects, there have been five instances where 3 DIF innovations (Dioptra, 121 and B-READY) have been adapted/adopted by other organizations.



121 (one-to-one) personal cash aid is a system built on the knowledge and skills of a consortium of humanitarian, technical and academic partners across numerous locations. Thus, besides the DIF funded 121 pilot, there are also two other 121 pilots in collaboration with corporate partners, knowledge institutes, donors and humanitarian organizations. Namely, The Netherlands Red Cross 121 pilot with Tykn and 510 in St. Maarten, and the Dorcas 121 pilot with Tykn and 510 in Ukraine.

The **B-READY** model has been adopted by Plan International and Global Parametrics (a risk modelling company supported by FDCO, owned by GPHC). Furthermore, the local government of Salcedo, East Samar, Philippines issued a resolution to adopt the whole B-READY model as part of early warning, early action, more specifically, the use of digital forecast technology for 3 days release of cash grant for early action and protection.



The project **Empowered2Protect (E2P)** has not been adopted by other organizations yet. However, conversations are ongoing with Oxfam Novib to implement the project in Somalia. Additionally, the project has engaged with the producer of a similar product developed in Uganda, called SafeBangle, to see if collaboration between E2P/Invi and SafeBangle could work. This product has the same goal, but works slightly different as it includes a panic button on a wearable device which when pressed sends a message to your contacts on your location.

The **Tackling barriers to cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for unaccompanied adolescents by co-designing with adolescents** project is not at the stage yet that the approach/innovation is ready to be shared in a way that there are results other organizations can build on and adapt their programming from. However, a number of organizations have shown interest in receiving the end results of the project research in order for them to possibly adapt their programming to. The project's Advisory Committee has membership across 9 international agencies including Plan International, World Vision, Mercy Corps, War Child, CARE, Women's Refugee Committee, CaLP, Save the Children, UNHCR (presenting the Ethiopia Cash Working Group). The team hopes to hold a meeting late January 2021 or early February 2021 to share learnings from this project particularly showcasing the COVID-19 adaptations to YLabs Design Research Toolkit.

The **Dioptra Tool, formally known as the Systematic Cost Analysis Tool (SCAN Tool)** was adopted by 3 original consortium members (IRC, Mercy Corps and Save the Children) at the end of the DIF funded project. This adoption means that they have full access to the tool at any time. These NGOs used the innovation in 8 countries: Democratic Republic of Congo (Save), Kenya (IRC), Yemen (IRC), Uganda (Mercy), Mali (Mercy, IRC), Indonesia (Save), Somalia (IRC), Ethiopia (IRC). Two associate members (Action Against Hunger Spain, CARE US) participated in the consortium but did not adopt SCAN. After project close, CARE US started testing SCAN in 2 country offices (Jordan and Afghanistan – cash program for both) but have not fully adopted it yet.

PROJECTS WITH SCALING PLANS AND THEIR STATUS

It has become evident that scaling humanitarian innovation projects has shown to be a challenge for the humanitarian sector. Even though the sector has started to invest more in innovation, evidencing and available research, progress to scaling remains low compared to other sectors (Source: Elrha/HIF). Although scaling was not a focus area of the DIF 1 and DIF 2 Calls, several projects are preparing and developing scaling plans. Three DIF funded projects have scaling plans in place which are shortly highlighted below, in addition to three DIF projects which have the intention to prepare for scaling plans if either their project evaluation or pilots allow them to.



121 (one-to-one) personal cash aid is developing a scale up plan by working with the DRA Cash Task Force and the Red Cross in further identifying obstacles for scaling cash programming and jointly working on solving those issues. This can partly be through the already developed 121 components, but could also mean additional joined development of tools, strategies and processes.

B-READY will be scaled up in the Philippines and it will start-up in Indonesia. Together, Plan International UK and Global Parametrics adopted the B-READY model and applied for an 18-month grant of approximately £2 million with FCDO. Furthermore, the local government of Salcedo, East Samar, Philippines issued a resolution to adopt the whole B-READY model as part of early warning, early action especially the use of digital forecast technology for 3 days release of cash grant for early action and protection.

For the **Communities in the Driver's Seat** project, scaling is considered in the project and the aim for the approaches developed is to be scalable in different contexts. However, the project is still at its earliest stage and scalability will become more relevant once it is tested as feasible and effective.

With regards to **Dioptra (formally known as SCAN Tool)** a scaling plan has been developed and reviewed by all consortium members. Based on this scaling plan, the consortium members are actively fundraising for the next phase of work but have not yet secured new funding. They are developing proposals for USAID, Sida, and are also approaching several private donors including GiveWell and JP Morgan to gauge their interest.

Empowered2Protect is undergoing a full impact study undertaken by the l'Université Évangélique Afrique. This impact study will show if scaling is achievable and what changes need to be made in order to make the project scalable.

The **Tackling barriers to cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for unaccompanied adolescents by co-designing with adolescents** project is not at the stage yet that the approach/innovation is ready to be scaled. However, a number of organisations have shown interest in receiving the end results of the project research.

COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Throughout the DIF 1 and DIF 2 Calls, partnerships were encouraged either with other DRA partners and/or other parties, such as corporates, universities and other (knowledge) institutions. Several DIF projects are in collaboration with different parties coming from the private and the public sector. These collaborations contributed significantly to sharing of knowledge and expertise on different types of innovation and the use of innovations developed for example in the private sector. These partnerships have also offered the DRA, and the humanitarian sector as a whole, with several learnings on working with such a diverse and unusual range of actors. Some of these learnings included differences in priority settings, lack of business models, and organisational differences in processes. Below section highlights nine DIF projects demonstrating their collaborations with the public and private sector, including suppliers.



The **121 (one-to-one) personal cash** aid project has collaborated with 7 private sectors partners: Tykn (for the digital identity module), Disberse (for the financial infrastructure and connections to last mile providers), Intersolve (financial service provider for the vouchers in the contingency pilot in NL), AH (where the vouchers can be redeemed), PWC that has provided project management advice and advice to adhere to GDPR regulations. PWC partly contributed from their corporate social responsibility budget, Philips (funding referral app, professional volunteers) and Accenture (consultant to support development Dev Ops).

Addressing harmful social norms in humanitarian settings through a faith and community approach will for their pilot work with Eye Opener Works, whose expertise is on podcasting, to monitor the project in a participatory manner. They bring in the technical expertise that is needed for innovation ambition in this humanitarian project. Their role is to train local actors in both the technical elements and in the application of the technology for monitoring and learning and coach them throughout the process. Through the collaboration with Eye Opener Works, the project is enabled to pilot a more bottom-up monitoring approach, that increases the ability of local communities to track social norms change themselves, through the capturing of stories of change and the process of developing podcasts. In this way the project aims to strengthen the participation and ownership of local actors of both the project and the change.

The project **BOB: build your own buddy** works together with TNO (a research institute) which has valuable knowledge, experience and capacity in child psychology research. It complements the experience and knowledge of Help A Child in the Child Protection Sector.

B-READY has an engagement with CLIMBS Insurance and Cebuana Lhuillier, which is a financial service provider including insurance. These financial service providers offered a customized insurance that can be bundled with B-READY financial services to increase protection of life and asset of B-READY project participants. Based on a baseline study of B-READY, insurance is a preferred form of social protection and risk transfer mechanism to reduce risk and safety net for most vulnerable poor to manage financial loss experienced during disaster.

B-READY works together with PayMaya Philippines, a fintech company and financial service provider partner of the project, who trains micro-merchants at community level and enables them to become community based financial service providers to ensure access to pre-emptive cash released by B-READY. The cash will be easily accessible when cash is provided in the mobile wallet or pre-paid card accounts of the B-READY participants. As merchants, the financial service providers also sell basic goods which allows B-READY participants to immediately purchase basic goods needed to prepare prior to and fall of a typhoon.

Global Parametrics also provided training on use of forecast technology and became part of the community early warning triggers. This has helped humanitarian actors to use scientific information and integrate in their disaster preparedness contingency plans.

The project **Communities in the Driver's Seat** works with three private partners, Vandejong Creative Agency, Ten Have Change Management (THCM) and The Normal Coach (TNC). THCM and TNC are providing support as sounding boards on change management and coaching. The outcome of the collaboration with Vandejong is one to be considered as innovative and new in how War Child as an NGO works and develops ideas for more user-friendly and effective interventions. Vandejong has brought to this project a human centred design and creative thinking

and expertise in developing tools for increased user-friendliness. The method used by Vandejong is one called Design Sprints, which involved a close team of experts from War Child and the agency, brainstorming for 3-4 days to prototype solutions for the challenge to be addressed. In the case of the project – Communities in the Driver's Seat – the aim is to package the CDCP and Stigma intervention (method/approach) in a way which is easily understood and applied by end-users in a humanitarian intervention. This would allow for the intervention to be timelier and more effective in its goal which is to reach vulnerable people and children in addressing their needs. The collaboration with Vandejong has resulted in two prototypes, 1) CDCP app and 2) a board game "Community Tales" for the projects stigma reduction approach. Vandejong has a promo video on the Community Driven Child Protection (CDCP) Design Sprint which captures the process on their website. War Child is currently looking into further developing the app.



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Dioptra (formally known as SCAN Tool) works with a private sector software developer, OMBU, who developed the SCAN tool software based on their expertise in technology infrastructure, visual design, and user experience. The project worked with a private sector company, Obscure Group, who conducted a pro-bono security review of the SCAN application code and vulnerabilities, and provided recommendations that were implemented promptly to strengthen the data security of the digital innovation. Dioptra collaborated with a private sector legal firm, Hogan Lovells, who conducted a pro-bono trademark search to assess the viability of several new names for the SCAN tool that can be trademarked in the EU and US, laying the foundation for future positioning and name recognition of this innovation in the humanitarian community.

For the project **Empowered2Protect (E2P)** a partnership was started with Invi whereby the Invi self-defence bracelet is combined with an inclusive community program that focuses on spreading knowledge and awareness on SGBV in South Kivu (DR Congo). Another partner in the project, the l'Université Évangélique Afrique, is undertaking a full impact study. Preliminary data shows that the bracelet increases feelings of confidence and safety and many community participants expressed they feel better equipped to fight SGBV.

The project **Seamless MHPSS Cross-Border Care (MHPSS CBC)** has a partnership with Upinion. This is a social enterprise that creates two way communication with communities. By gathering instant insights and sharing information back with the community, Upinion promotes inclusiveness and effectiveness of humanitarian support. Upinion conducts conversation rounds with parents/caregivers and their children. These conversations take place before, during and after the ideation workshops that are organized with stakeholders to co-design activities and identification of potential solutions throughout the project.

Tackling barriers to cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for unaccompanied adolescents by co-designing with adolescents.

Assuming project work is safely able to resume, in this next phase the IRC and Ylabs looks forward to leading the formative research and prototyping phase, through guiding remotely the IRC Ethiopia team in a workshop and during the initial assessment with key stakeholders (i.e. youth, community leaders, caregivers, etc). By working with IRC field staff and members of the Sheder community, Ylabs will gather early insights and test rapidly developed models at the Sheder Camp with an array of key stakeholders. The outcome of this phase will be a report that incorporates the design findings, user insights, and design opportunities for the CVA program. This will help create some guidelines and directions of interest for how to safely and effectively test the CVA program and further refine the designs for the next round of testing (if needed) within Sheder Camp.

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES OFFERED TO DIF FUNDED PROJECTS



As the DIF Portfolio grew in number of funded projects, it became clear that the DIF Portfolio consisting of 10 projects (2018 Call and 2019 Call) became an overwhelming task for the DRA's Innovation Working Group. The development of the Call processes took an incredible amount of time and effort. Although the DIF Calls and the resulting projects were welcomed by the DRA, there was a clear need for additional capacity, also to be able to connect with Joint Responses and increase visibility.

In 2020, additional capacity was hired to in particular manage and monitor the DIF Portfolio and develop the DIF 3 Local Call for Proposals. Although this Call was launched in 2020, the resulting projects will start implementation in 2021 and have therefore not been included in this report.

Furthermore, due to the DRA governance model and the DIF subsidy framework, all DIF projects have a DRA member as lead. This lead works in partnership with several other actors but monitoring the project was very much left to the lead organization which led to challenges in being able to monitor what was happening in these projects.

One initiative to support more visibility internally of the DIF projects and the work done by the Innovation Working Group (IWG), such as connecting with the DRA Joint Responses, was the introduction of a bi-monthly IWG update. This update has been published four times in 2020, each including two DIF project spotlights, and will continue publication in 2021.

In addition to managing the DIF Portfolio, whereby projects discuss and present their status updates, learning questions, and challenges through frequent calls and reports, the DRA Innovation Manager has supported the DIF funded projects through the following (non-financial) means:

(1) Monthly DIF Project updates with MFA – This informal monthly update is an opportunity for the DIF project to present its status, its challenges and connect at a policy/network level. The monthly discussions have been a positive experience by both the MFA and the DIF projects and will continue in 2021.

(2) Informal Exchange Sessions between DIF Leads – During 2020, three informal exchange sessions were held initially triggered by the impact of Covid-19. It was

observed by the DRA Innovation Manager that each project was experiencing similar impact but was approaching their projects in different ways; either by delaying activities, entire scope changes and new ways of working. Furthermore, the sessions are an opportunity for DIF funded projects to share their challenges and ideally learn from others.

According to the project leads, the sessions have led to the following tops:

- Connection with broader DRA has improved;
- Engagement DIF has increased;
- Monthly update sessions with MFA have supported this;
- Great efforts in connectiveness;
- Feel comfortable to reach out to DRA Innovation Manager; and
- Match making JR's much appreciated.

- Innovation Manager;
- Suggestion: Arrange subgroups with a topic they deal with together to share more;
- Suggestion: Monthly catch-ups between DRA Innovation Manager and DIF Leads could provide more structure;
- Suggestion: Would be helpful to learn more on agile financial structures for scaling plans.

and the field coordinators and the DIF project leads. The outcomes of this event are described in a later chapter.

(5) Share funding opportunities – The Innovation Working Group and DIF funded projects have been informed of a number of relevant funding opportunities, including Humanitarian Grand Challenges and Aqua for All.

(3) Collate and consolidate reporting – In collaboration with the DRA BGM and the DRA Visibility Task Force, the DRA Innovation Manager ensured that the DIF funded projects were included in the 2019 BGM Annual Report, the DRA website and the DRA Impact Brief.

(4) In September 2020, a match making session was organized between Joint Response leads

The sessions also provided the following tips/struggles which will be taken into account in the revised Terms of Reference of the DRA Innovation Manager 2021:

- Unclearity remains on final project deliverables: such as audit and evaluations;
- Grey area in role DRA Innovation Manager: both donor and support which leads to hesitation at times to engage with DRA



3. SUPPORTING THE JOINT RESPONSES IN THEIR INNOVATION GOALS AND INITIATIVES

DUTCH RELIEF
ALLIANCE



MATCH MAKING SESSIONS

One of the 4 key strategic objectives of the DRA is to be a testbed for promising humanitarian innovation, both through the DIF as well as through the Joint Responses (JR). So far, these two streams have been rather separated. This means that the projects funded by the DIF are not linked or connected to the Joint Responses. The new Annual Plan 2021 is approved and the JR 2021 proposal design processes took place in September and October, and therefore, the opportunity was taken to find potential connections between Joint Response plans and the current DIF Portfolio. Thus, match making sessions have been organised between the JRs and the DRA Innovation Fund projects in September 2020. Prior to this session a brochure was sent out with information about the 10 DIF projects. Joint Response leads together with the Field Coordinators could express their interest in projects that are most interesting for their Joint Response context. The match making and further engagements have led to three Joint Responses committing to implement five DIF projects. Four Joint Responses are investigating the possibilities of implementing one of the DIF projects.



Implementation plans

Nigeria Joint Response • **Dioptra (formally known as SCAN Tool)** will be incorporated by all the Joint Response members in the Nigeria Joint Response in 2021.

South Sudan Joint Response • **Addressing harmful social norms in humanitarian settings through a faith and community approach** will scale up the project approach in Aweil East. Partners think that learnings from this pilot will also be interesting for other partners in other locations.

• In SSJR, 25,000 EUR has been allocated for scaling up the **Build your own Buddy (BOB)** approach as well. Help a Child (HAC) will scale up BOB in Bagari, this location is not yet included in the BOB research and because of its own remote location and specific cultural situation it will provide valuable knowledge for the BOB-concept. The excited addition also is that a national partner, WDG, has expressed interest as well, and HAC will seek opportunities to include WDG throughout the scale up process into Bagari. HAC will provide training to SC CP staff on the BOB approach, so that Save the Children can also roll out the BOB approach as part of their SSJR CP program in Aweil East. HAC and SC will specifically seek opportunities to create a learning environment to exchange experiences of staff implementing BOB in the different locations.

Sudan Joint Response • In SDNJR 150.000 euro is allocated for **B-READY**

• As well as the integration of **Community in the driver's seat** initiative under accountability as well (so not per se under innovation).

Investigating the possibilities

Syria Joint Response • During the workshop the SJR members decided to go for a demo about **121 platform** to get more information about how the platform works.

CAR Joint Response • Exploring if DIF projects could be useful in CAR Joint Response.

DRC Joint Response • Tearfund is part of the DRCJR and they are piloting **Addressing harmful social norms in humanitarian settings through a faith and community approach** in these locations and World Vision has expressed interest in using the lessons learnt.

Yemen Joint Response • Exploring if the **B-READY** project could be useful in the Yemen Joint Response.



4. DISSEMINATING INNOVATION KNOWLEDGE WITHIN DRA AND EXTERNALLY

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ALLIANCE



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



121 (one-to-one)

- [Twitter](#)
- 121 was pitched at many occasions and events:
 - DCHI innovation impact fest 2x
 - During a cash training from CALP
 - EU regional IFRC office during cash focal points European regional meeting
 - Red Cross Movement Cash working group and cash IM working group (IFRC and ICRC)
 - Tykn event with the municipality of The Hague.
 - Working group session for the handbook for data protection humanitarian work (including many stakeholder from the Red Cross, DRA, UN bodies and others)

B-READY

- Project won best innovation challenge at the [2019 SEEP Annual Conference](#) held in Virginia, USA.
- Oxfam shared the BREADY model on [European Microfinance](#) platform to increase awareness and uptake of financial institution on roles on disaster preparedness and disaster risk financing.
- BREADY [shares data](#) publicly to use forecast information as part of disaster preparation.
- Lessons on implementing was shared during [Asia Regional Dialogue Platform](#) on Humanitarian Anticipatory Action last 1-7-19th Nov 2020
- [Video](#)

Communities in the Driver's Seat

- Design Sprint [Video](#)
- [Dutch Coalition for Humanitarian Innovation](#)
- [Marketing tribune article](#)

Empowered2Protect (E2P)

- [Press release](#)
- [Website Help a Child](#)
- [Website Invi](#)
- [Interview BNR](#)
- [Invi Newsletter](#)
- [Editie NL](#)
- [Video](#)

As the majority of the innovation projects funded by the DIF are in implementation, disseminating project results has remained a challenge for most of them. However, there are a number of significant instances where the projects have disseminated information on their projects in various forms, such as videos, bulletins, research models, press releases, working groups, show case events and webinars.

One significant step within DRA taken in 2020 is that the DIF projects are shared on the [DRA website](#) where partners internally and externally can now easily refer to. The website is updated on a quarterly basis to ensure latest updates can be included.

Dioptra

- [Website](#)
- A SCAN Showcase Event in webinar format was hosted. Here the vision and achievements of systematic cost analysis, shared case studies on using SCAN for adaptive program management and sectoral learning were showed. The opening introduction featured DFID's Chief Economist, and the closing interview featured the Director of Humanitarian Aid and Stabilisation of the Dutch MoFA. Other organizations that registered for the webinar included ECHO, Sida, OCHA, DRC, NRC, Oxfam, Plan International, Sightsavers, and VVOB.
- The DRA Finance Working Group organized a sharing session for DRA members about our practical experiences in installing and adopting the SCAN tool. As well, information on how SCAN could be used by the DRA and next steps for interested NGOs was provided. Attendees included Tearfund, Dorcas, ICCO, World Vision, Cordaid.
- A webinar was hosted with a presentation for the Grand Bargain Cash Workstream on the findings of some cost-efficiency analyses for cash transfer programs conducted in SCAN. [See video](#)

SHARED DATA

121

- [Academic Research](#)

CASE STUDIES

B-READY will publish a case story soon, see below a few quotes

The cash support was a big help to us. When we received it, we immediately bought meals. We also bought medicines because one of us had fever and cough”.

The training and the seminars that Cristina attended also helped her realize the value of preparedness.

“The Community Drills taught us lessons to keep our families safe during times of disasters and calamities. This experience allowed me to apply the lessons I’ve learned in the seminars. I have learned to prepare our hygiene kits and Go bags so we can carry them when we need to evacuate from our house. It is important that we prepare our food, mat, flashlight, medicines, and other necessities. Now, if we need to evacuate, we will not have to hesitate to go to the evacuation center for the safety of our whole family. Now, we are not worried.”

Empowered2Protect (E2P) published a testimony from a participant.

“I left my house at 3.30pm to go to the market. Along the way, I met three men, two wearing military uniforms and carrying weapons. They asked me where I was from and I told them I was coming from the market to buy food. Then they told me that they wanted to eat the food I was holding. I told them that food was not sufficient but if they were really hungry, we could share it. We (me and the three men) continued our way and after a moment we met another soldier who asked these soldiers that I too had to give him cigarettes. I kindly told him that I had no money to buy cigarettes for him. Then he shouted at me, raising his voice and hit my right hand with a stick. Two of the four men jumped directly on me, brutalized me and took off my clothes. I was almost naked except for the panties that I wore as underwear. The battle began between me and the two soldiers, one holding my two arms. As it was not possible to open the Invi Bracelet with my hands, I used my teeth to open it. It was smelling so terribly that the two men wondered what happened, coughing and closing their nostrils. I seized that occasion to run away in the direction I could find houses. During the escape I crossed a river to go to a friend’s place so that she could give me clothes to wear. After telling her the whole story, she accompanied me to my home.”

See more: [here](#)

Dioptra published two case studies.

1. Disaster Relief in Indonesia analyzed the cost-efficiency of the distribution of conditional cash transfer to 523 households, as well as construction of latrines for 1,900 people displaced by an earthquake in Indonesia.

See more: [here](#)

2. Livelihood Services in Kenya The IRC used Dioptra to estimate the cost-efficiency of livelihoods services in Kajiado and Nairobi counties in Kenya. There is wide variation in the costs to provide livelihoods services

See more: [here](#)



DUTCH RELIEF ALLIANCE

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