

DRA INNOVATION UPDATE 2021

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CHAPTER 1

1. INTRODUCTION

*"THE DIF AIMED TO BRIDGE
THE GAP BETWEEN
INNOVATIONS AND THE
ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION
IN THE FIELD"*

Innovation has been one of the four strategic pillars of the DRA within the 2018-2021 strategy, with the aim to enable an environment for piloting, scaling and implementing innovation, enabling Dutch NGOs to be at the forefront of new approaches to deliver high-quality humanitarian action. The innovation strategic pillar allowed the DRA to invest in innovative humanitarian solutions, being a testbed to eventually pilot and scale in DRA Joint Responses, but also broader in other humanitarian interventions by the international community. The Innovation Working Group (IWG) was established to operationalize and execute the innovation strategic pillar.

The DRA Innovation Fund (DIF) was established in 2018 and funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With the DIF, the DRA was able to invest in innovations during the four-year strategic period with an average of € 3m per year. The DIF aimed to bridge the gap between innovations and the actual implementation in the field. A total of four DIF Calls for Proposals have taken place (one Call a year) resulting in a total of 22 grants/projects (18 innovations) with a total of 12 million EUR allocated. The main tasks of the IWG with regards to the DIF were to initiate innovation calls, manage the innovation portfolio and to communicate and disseminate innovation learnings among all relevant stakeholders.

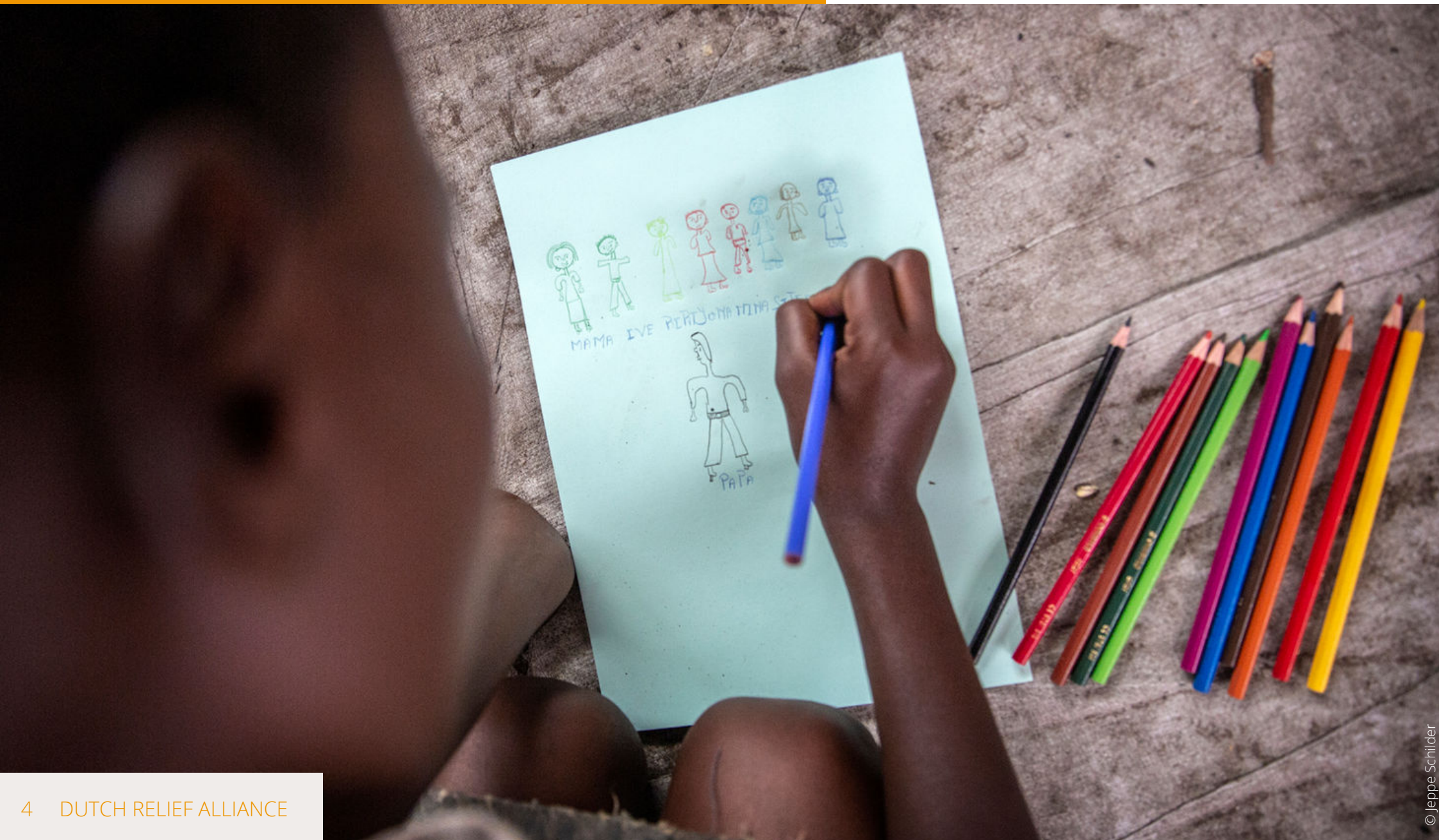
As the 2018-2021 strategic period is coming to an end, and therefore also the existence of the DIF, all DIF funded projects are highlighted in this Annual Innovation Update 2021. However, all six projects resulting from the DIF 3 Local Call are in implementation till the end of 2021, and the six projects resulting from the DIF 4 (readiness to) Scale Call are in implementation into 2022. Therefore, for these twelve projects, results and evaluations will be further elaborated on in the DRA Annual Innovation Update 2022. Referring to the remaining seven projects, which have been closed in 2020 and 2021, learnings are noted on the project spotlight page.

The first half of the Annual Innovation Update 2021 elaborates on the DIF Portfolio essentials, innovation support activities 2021 and innovation in Joint Responses. In Section 2, the report provides an overview of the DIF funded projects and focus areas. The report further highlights the evolution of the DIF Calls as different challenges emerged during the design and implementation of all the DIF Calls for Proposals. Lessons learned in DIF 1 led to changes in the process of DIF 2, while lessons learned during DIF 2 led to changes in DIF 3, and so on. More interestingly, as part of their learning and scaling journeys, the innovations across the DIF Portfolio have gained considerable achievements in the areas of adaptation/adoption by other organisations, collaborations with the public/private sector, and disseminating of knowledge, results and learnings with several stakeholders and audiences through different means. More on this in Section 2. Section 3 describes the support activities to innovation in 2021, including an interview with the DRA Innovation Manager. Section 4 demonstrates and describes promising DIF funded innovations that have been or will be integrated into a number of DRA's Joint Responses.

The second half of the Annual Innovation Update 2021 is dedicated to the DIF Project Spotlights zooming into each of the 18 DIF funded innovations. Each project spotlight page includes a brief explanation of the innovation, and information on gathered learnings, collaborations and activities/tools used to disseminate knowledge. Moreover, depending on the stage of the innovation, information is provided on adaptation/adoption by other organisations, and relevant activities directed towards scaling.

Looking forward to the next DRA strategic period 2022-2026 and innovation, there will be more emphasis on the embedding of innovation(s) in Joint Responses and learning.

2. DIF PORTFOLIO ESSENTIALS



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

DIF CALLS

During the strategic period 2018-2021, the DIF launched four Calls for Proposals (one Call each year). Throughout the design and process of each Call learnings were gathered and considered during the design of the next Call. Besides evaluations, several consultations with members of the IWG, MFA, DRAC and other DRA Working Groups, such as the Localisation Working Group, supported the development of the Call documents. The below provides an overview of the main characteristics of each DIF Call across the four years of the DIF.

DIF1

- Launched May - August 2018
- All seven innovation themes were open but selected projects showed thematic focus in Smart Use of Data, Cash Programming, and Safety & Protection
- Call was open to all phases along the innovation journey (recognition, search, adaptation/invention, pilot, and scale)
- 5 projects granted funding

DIF2

- Launched March - August 2019 facilitated by the Dutch Coalition for Humanitarian Innovation
- One thematic focus selected: Safety & Protection
- Lengthier and heavier set-up of the process which strongly encouraged external partnerships, also with the public and private sector, and a stronger focus on defining challenges before solutions
- 5 projects granted funding
- More interactive moments between project proposals and the External Review Committee

DIF3 LOCAL

- Launched September - December 2020 facilitated by Response Innovation Lab
- Strong focus on localisation in key elements: design of Call, selecting thematic focus, defining local challenges/problem statements, review/scoring and selection of projects by local External Review Committee, and local leadership in implementation of projects
- One geographic location: Uganda
- Proof of concept required and process leading to proposal development was lighter
- Two funding streams: Stream 1: DRA member lead, Stream 2: local actor lead
- For Stream 1, 10 expressions of interest were submitted of which 3 received grants. For Stream 2, 45 expressions of interest were submitted of which 3 received grants
- Stream 2 projects are supported by a Grant Agent

DIF4

(READINESS TO) SCALE

- Launched December 2020 - March 2021 facilitated by Elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund
- Focus on last phase of the innovation journey – (readiness to) scale – supported by a three-day scaling workshop for grantees
- Proof of concept required and process leading to proposal development was light – expressions of interest instead of concept notes
- Feedback from External Review Panelists was incorporated in the pitches of the proposals
- 9 project proposals were submitted of which 6 received grants
- Global project implementation, link to Joint Responses and project implementation supported by mentor



DIF PORTFOLIO ACHIEVEMENTS



COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Throughout all the DIF calls, building partnerships with the public and private sector was strongly encouraged and used as criteria in scoring of proposals. With humanitarian needs increasing, collaborations between private and public sector actors and humanitarian actors are increasing. The relevance of collaboration with the private/public sector in humanitarian innovation has become evident across the Portfolio, as thirteen out of eighteen DIF innovations have been/are working together with actors from the private sector, such as financial service providers, social enterprises, consultants with expertise in podcasting, and technology suppliers. Moreover, seven DIF projects work with research organisations or universities from the public sector, helping in the process of designing, researching, and evaluating the innovations. Furthermore, nine DIF projects exist of a consortium of numerous NGOs, and four DIF projects formally involve (local) government representatives. Overall, these collaborations demonstrate each other complementarities, while some of the learnings include differences in priority settings, lack of business models, and organisational differences in processes.

DISSEMINATING INNOVATION KNOWLEDGE

The dissemination of innovation knowledge is key to the uptake of humanitarian innovations in the sector. Across the DIF Portfolio, projects have developed means to share their findings, many of which can be referred to in the DIF Project Spotlights in the second half of the Annual Innovation Update. Some innovations focus on reaching the target audience of the project, which the project “Build your own Buddy (BoB)” did with the use of radio talk shows. Other projects gathered findings and disseminated information with DRA members and beyond. Examples of the tools and channels projects have used in collating their learnings and disseminating the knowledge include podcasts, videos, Twitter, project websites, journal articles, learning events, research papers and workshops among others. Besides projects’ efforts, all DIF [projects](#) are shared on the DRA website and regularly updated. At the time of writing this report, the Innovation Working Group is working on developing an Innovation Knowledge/Learning Map (expected Q1 2022).

INSTANCES OF ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Across the DIF Portfolio, projects are at different stages when it comes to adaptation and/or adoption by other organisations as the projects are in different phases along the innovation journey. For instance, the ideation (recognition/invention) project “Seamless MHPSS Cross-Border Care” first needs to enter piloting before it can be possibly adapted/adopted by other organisations. Adding to this, a significant number of DIF projects indicate that their pilot(s) first need to be evaluated before being shared for adaptation/adoption by other organisations. Yet other projects are a step further.

From the DIF Portfolio:

- Six projects have indicated that organisations have expressed interest in the innovations: Tackling barriers to CVA, Empowered2Protect, Youth Livelihoods and Conflict Transformation, CloudGreen, Sensor Data for Sustainable Water Services, and Waste to Clean Energy;
- One project is in the process of being adopted/adapted: TeamUp;
- Three projects have already been adopted/adapted by other organisations: Dioptra, 121 Platform, and B-READY.

PROJECTS WITH SCALING PLANS AND THEIR STATUS

Even though the humanitarian sector has invested more in innovation, evidencing and available research, progress to scaling remains low compared to other sectors. Scaling humanitarian innovation has shown to be a challenge for the humanitarian sector. A number of DIF projects, such as the project “EFLC Addressing harmful social and genders norms in humanitarian settings”, indicate they first need to address identified issues before it is ready for scaling.

To support the readiness to scale humanitarian innovations and to learn more about the obstacles that projects encounter in scaling, the DIF 4 (readiness to) Scale Call specifically selected projects that were ready for such journeys. Four DIF projects that were initially funded through the DIF 1 Call were funded with DIF 4 scaling funding to accelerate their scaling journeys: B-READY II, Empowered2Protect – Getting Set 2 Scale, 121 Upskilling & Upscaling, and Dioptra. A three day scaling workshop for the grantees intended to provide the innovations with advice and tools on how best to continue their journeys to (readiness to) scale. For example, the DIF 4 project “121 Upskilling & Upscaling” aims to have a clear business model and product service offering to facilitate scale-up, and the DIF 4 project “Empowered2Protect” is developing a scaling strategy based on market research. Also, all DIF 4 projects are supported by external mentors.

From the DIF Portfolio:

- Seven projects are working on developing scaling pathways/plans: Tackling barriers to CVA, Communities in the Drivers’ Seat, Build your Own Buddy, PROSPERS, Sport4Peace, Waste to Clean Energy, and Sensor Data for Sustainable Water Services;
- Five projects are in their scaling journey: Dioptra, 121 Platform, B-READY, TeamUp, and Empowered2Protect.

3. DRA INNOVATION SUPPORT 2021



INNOVATION WORKING GROUP

ACTIVITIES

The main objectives of the innovation pillar during the strategic period 2018-2021 was to explore innovations that could potentially provide more effective and efficient humanitarian aid, to increase knowledge of humanitarian innovation within DRA and the humanitarian system, and towards the end of the strategic period to embed innovations into Joint Responses. This has been supported by several activities undertaken by the Innovation Working Group (IWG), including a Chair, Vice-Chair and representatives of all DRA members, and the DRA Innovation Manager with support from a DRA intern.

For the purpose of the Annual Innovation Update 2021, the below list outlines the main activities performed by the IWG and the Innovation Manager in 2021. Furthermore, this section contains an interview with the Innovation Manager to further illustrate support provided to innovation in the DRA.

- The roll-out and implementation of the DIF 4 (readiness to) Scale Call, resulting in six scaling projects added to the DIF Portfolio;
- Facilitated a top-up process to allocate underspend of the DIF Portfolio;
- Continued reactive and pro-active support to DIF Project leads;
- Continued support to DIF Projects to connect with Joint Responses;
- Organised DIF 3 Learning Event and participated at DRA Learning Days to disseminate innovation learning among DRA members, including Joint Responses;
- Informed relevant stakeholders with a quarterly newsletter;
- Had an external evaluation of the whole DRA Innovation Fund conducted by MDF;
- Build strong partnerships with key humanitarian innovation platforms, such as DCHI, Response Innovation Lab and Elrha;
- Developed a DIF Learning product, which at the time of writing is taking the form of an Innovation Knowledge Map;
- The sub-WG on Cash continued to intensify its efforts in improving cash interventions within the Joint Responses and where applicable in the DIF Portfolio.



INTERVIEW WITH LISETTE GOTINK, DRA INNOVATION MANAGER

How would you describe the role of the Innovation Manager?

The role of the DRA Innovation Manager, which is a relatively new position, has taken more shape during the past two years. When I started the role in February 2019, it was intended as additional resource capacity to the DRA's IWG. The IWG worked in four main areas: visibility of innovation, innovation in Joint Responses, DIF Portfolio Management and DIF Call facilitation and development. My main responsibilities lay in the latter two areas.

As the DIF Portfolio grew from an initial 10 projects (DIF 1 & DIF 2) to a portfolio consisting of 18 innovations (22 grants), this led to a significant increase in (the range of) support required by the projects, especially as a number of projects neared towards their project end-dates and their evaluations, and also on cross-fertilization across the Portfolio by connecting and learning amongst each other and the DRA as a whole. The design, coordination and launch of the DIF 3 Local Call and the DIF 4 (readiness to) Scale Call, in partnerships with the Response Innovation Lab and Elrha's Innovation Fund, amounted to a significant part of my workload, especially during the launch and also afterwards during contracting.

In 2021, I was also asked to provide input to the new DRA strategy, support learnings events, such as the DIF 3 learning event and the DRA learning days, and work on visibility, including the DRA website, join an Advisory Group supporting the new State of the Humanitarian System report, participate in a podcast by The New Humanitarian (which unfortunately did not make publication) and the Annual Innovation Update 2021.



What did you enjoy most and what have you learned?

There are two things I enjoyed the most: 1) working with the DIF leads and learning from their experiences during the project mid-terms/phase reports and the six project closures review meetings I have held so far; and 2) developing and facilitating the DIF Calls and thereby building on our relationships with key humanitarian innovation platforms Response Innovation Lab and Elrha. It was a huge pleasure working with such inspirational and determined people.

One issue where I believe that there is still room for improvement is the isolated position of innovation, which fed the isolation of my own position as well. Innovation is a continuous uncomfortable upwards journey, but can lead to incredible results. I am still awaiting for one of the DIF innovations to pull the plug, but I recognize the efforts DIF project leads and their partners put into their work – it is not easy!

What will DRA do with the knowledge and learnings gathered from the DIF projects?

The DIF Portfolio holds a wealth of knowledge on innovations, but also on approaches and processes. Although the DRA's main operating model is the Joint Response, the DIF Projects and the DIF Calls can teach us a great deal on the importance of understanding our challenges before working on solutions, the value-add of external review and support, and that innovation is an iterative approach, not a means in itself. The experiences of the DIF Portfolio lies in the hands of the DRA – in our own hands – and by increased sharing of the gained knowledge, the DRA will incrementally make use of some of these innovations to change our way of working.

In your view, how will innovation take shape in the DRA next year?

Embedding of innovation in Joint Response has been explicitly noted in the new DRA strategy. Unpacking what embedding of innovation means for the DRA is crucial and will entail many consultations with DRA members and Joint Responses at all levels, including local partners. The main challenge for humanitarian innovation in the DRA in the coming years will be linking, coherence and commitment.

4. INNOVATION IN JOINT RESPONSES



Towards the end of 2020, an initial matchmaking opportunity was taken to find potential connections between Joint Response plans and the DIF Portfolio. Matchmaking sessions were organised between the Joint Responses and the DIF funded projects. This section provides an overview of the actual linkages made between those sessions and their follow-ups.

Dioptra

& Nigeria JR: In July 2021, partners in the Nigeria Joint Response conducted cost-efficiency analyses of child protection, food security & livelihoods, nutrition, and WASH interventions using the Dioptra tool. They found that the cost analysis process in Dioptra was straightforward and that the method could be used to assess top cost items, but more practice will be required to use the tool independently. The most challenging step in the analysis process was to allocate percentages of staff costs for the intervention being analysed. Moving forward, the Dioptra tool, analysis skills, and lessons will be shared within the Localisation Working Group (which will remain as a Working Group after the NJR formally seizes).

Build your own Buddy (BOB)

& South-Sudan JR: The pilot of BoB took place in South Sudan, including an expansion of pilot areas in the South Sudan Joint Response areas supported by Help a Child and Save the Children.

Communities in the Driver's Seat

& Sudan JR: There is an integration of the Community in the Driver's Seat initiative under accountability (so not per se under innovation).

Waste to Clean Energy: Fueling Sustainable Futures together by Closing the Loops

& Afghanistan JR: During the matchmaking session held in September 2020, the project found a match with the Afghanistan Joint Response. However, as the situation in Afghanistan worsened, the focus shifted to addressing urgent needs for the Afghan population. The project remains available to engage with the Joint Response and will support developing new strategies to make this work..

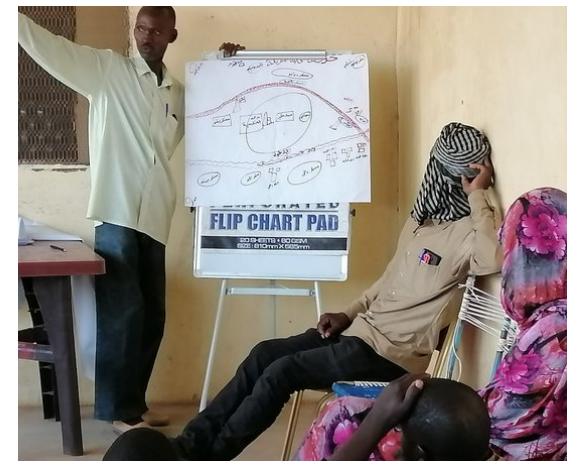
EFLC Addressing harmful social and gender norms in humanitarian settings

& South Sudan JR: Tearfund South Sudan has committed to integrating a start of the EFLC approach into the South Sudan Joint Response.

& DRC JR: The EFLC project is implemented by Tearfund in two regions in DRC. Exploration is ongoing with the DRC's Joint Response, but without specific follow-ups by the other members of the Joint Response.

B-READY

& Sudan JR: B-READY is piloted within the Sudan Joint Response in Tawilla, North Darfur State. The project aims to provide an analytical structure to help diagnose the situation in the chosen community sentinel sites and respond accordingly. The lessons learned are being integrated into the Global Toolkit that will be developed under B-READY funded by DIF 4. The "Up to you" Card system (a feature of B-READY) has been piloted successfully in rural areas of South Sudan.



121 - Upskilling and Upscaling

& Syria JR: During 2020, this project engaged with the Syria Joint Response to see if the 121 Platform could be used for cash programming. A demo was given, and several key staff members were interviewed to assess its feasibility. This engagement was not further pursued as it was concluded that the government restrictions on cash programming and usage of digital devices were obstacles in using the 121 Platform.

Based on the matchmaking experiences and beyond, it remains a continuous exploration of how Joint Responses can uptake/scale innovation as the barriers to scale are extremely challenging to overcome. The new DRA strategy 2022-2026 provides an opportunity for further embedding innovation in Joint Responses, which will see the below overview likely expand in amount and detail.

Exploring the opportunities

121 – Upskilling and Upscaling

& JRs: The 121 Platform can contribute to DRA's ambition to scale cash programming. The 121 Platform presented the innovation to the DRA Cash Working Group. A market study suggests Ethiopia and Lebanon as promising markets, while countries like South Sudan, Yemen and Syria are less suitable due to conflict, a lack of mobile phone diffusion and internet coverage. Dorcas, ZOA, Help a Child, Tearfund and Cordaid will be stimulated to use the 121 Platform in their cash programming inside and outside Joint Responses.

& Ethiopia JR: The Ethiopia Joint Response illustrated interest in the innovation as the 121 Platform could be used as a joint cash platform for the multipurpose cash component in this Joint Response. A presentation was given on the 121 Platform and cash information management services during the pre-planning workshop. However, there are no concrete plans for collaboration yet. After successfully implementing the 121 Platform with ZOA in Ethiopia, the results, evidence and lessons learned will be shared with the Ethiopia Joint Response at large.

Sensor Data for Sustainable Water Services in Humanitarian Contexts

& JRs: Dorcas is interested to explore how the learnings and findings can be integrated into the South Sudan JR WASH programme and beyond. Tearfund will organise a Learning Forum, a two-day learning event on January 25th and 26th 2022 organised jointly with the Rural Water Service Network (RWSN). DRA members will be invited to this event.

Empowered2Protect

& DRC JR: E2P connected with a partner of CARE in DRC, Codevah. Also, discussions were held with World Vision in DRC to work together, but the discussions did not lead to a direct implementation collaboration. Moreover, the E2P project has been presented to the JR members in Burundi and DRC.

B-READY

& JRs: A B-READY Brief was developed as a short introduction to the B-READY model. This Brief includes suggestions on how B-READY modalities could be of interest for Joint Responses, together with a rough budget indication and an offer to present and discuss this further. This Brief was shared before and around the Joint Response Planning Workshops with all Joint Leads (2x) as well as with the DRAC.

& Yemen JR: In November 2021, a presentation and discussion took place with the Yemen Joint Response which created quite some interest. However, budget-wise it still needs to be seen whether it is feasible to integrate B-READY components. A follow-up discussion will be scheduled in early 2022.

& DRC JR: This Joint Response expressed their interest and we will explore if B-READY can be contextualised to DRC.

PROSPERS

& Yemen JR: There was a plan to explore the inclusion of PROSPERS into the Yemen JR, but this proved not to be an option. Inclusion into other Joint Responses still has to be discussed.

Seamless MHPSS Cross Border Care

& JRs: This DIF project started as an ideation project. It should therefore first be thoroughly piloted, which will initially be done in the same context that the ideation took place: Turkey. After successful piloting, it may be ready to further scale to different contexts, including Joint Responses.

& Syria JR: There has been a discussion between the project and the Syria Joint Response, and learnings have been shared. Implementation in Syria has not been discussed.

EFLC Addressing harmful social and gender norms in humanitarian settings

& JRs: The project will explore how they could share the outcomes from the external evaluation with the DRA members.

Implementation plans

B-READY

& Sudan JR: The Sudan Joint Response already adopted B-READY elements in 2021 and B-READY is included in the 2022/23 proposal.

Build your own Buddy (BOB)

& South-Sudan JR: Depending on the final outcomes and lessons learned of the pilot project, the South Sudan Joint Response considers including BoB in its second implementation year (2023) as there are widespread MHPSS needs for children aged between 5 and 7 and their parents.

TeamUp: Ready? Go!

& JRs: War Child Holland has included TeamUp in their South Sudan Joint Response and DRC Joint Response proposals, and SOS Children's Villages has incorporated TeamUp in the Sudan Joint Response. Moreover, Help a Child will decide to incorporate TeamUp in the South Sudan Joint Response and DRC Joint Response based on lessons learned from DIF 4 funded Team Up project.

EFLC Addressing harmful social and gender norms in humanitarian settings

& South Sudan JR: The Joint Response has reserved budget for piloting the approach in South Sudan.

Sensor Data for Sustainable Water Services in Humanitarian Contexts

& South Sudan JR: Tearfund has reserved budget in the South Sudan Joint Response budget for the installation of sensors at the hand-pumped borehole sites where Tearfund will do maintenance, repair, and installation.

Illustrating interest

Dioptra

& JRs: The experiences of the Nigeria Joint Response partners proved that Dioptra is successful at rapidly generating comparable cost-efficiency data and programme lessons at different humanitarian organisations. They were able to assess that cost-efficiency was not consistently different between international and local NGOs. National NGOs can serve the hardest-to-reach clients but were not able to achieve their value-for-money potential since they were not funded at the same scale as international NGOs. Joint Responses are welcome to contact Stichting Vluchteling and use the Dioptra tool to assess the value-for-money of their programme interventions for learning, improvement, and advocacy.

Waste to Clean Energy: Fueling sustainable futures together by Closing the Loops

& JRs: This project can be of relevance to Joint Responses as innovations focused on sustainable energy are becoming of increasing importance given the effects of global warming.

Youth livelihoods & Conflict transformation

& JRs: The innovation provides durable solutions to meeting humanitarian, development and peaceful co-existence needs in a collaborated and complementarity manner. This can be of relevance to Joint Responses.

Sensor Data for Sustainable Water Services in Humanitarian Contexts

& JRs: Two DRA members (Cordaid and Dorcas) were present at the learning event organised by the project in June 2021 and one DRA member (Dorcas) was present at the Mid-term review workshop.

121 - Upskilling and Upscaling

& JRs: Upscaling on an organisational base is easier than with JRs. To implement the 121 Platform it needs to fit within the structures and processes of each organisation. It is not attractive for an individual organisation to use a cash platform such as the 121 Platform for one specific cash programme as it requires time, investments and capacity building to use any new platform or software. The entry point through adoption by individual interested members of JRs is more logical than trying to implement with an entire JR. However, the JR can be used as a platform to engage with individual DRA members and showcase successful implementation to stimulate uptake by other DRA members. This is also the intention with the Ethiopia JR.

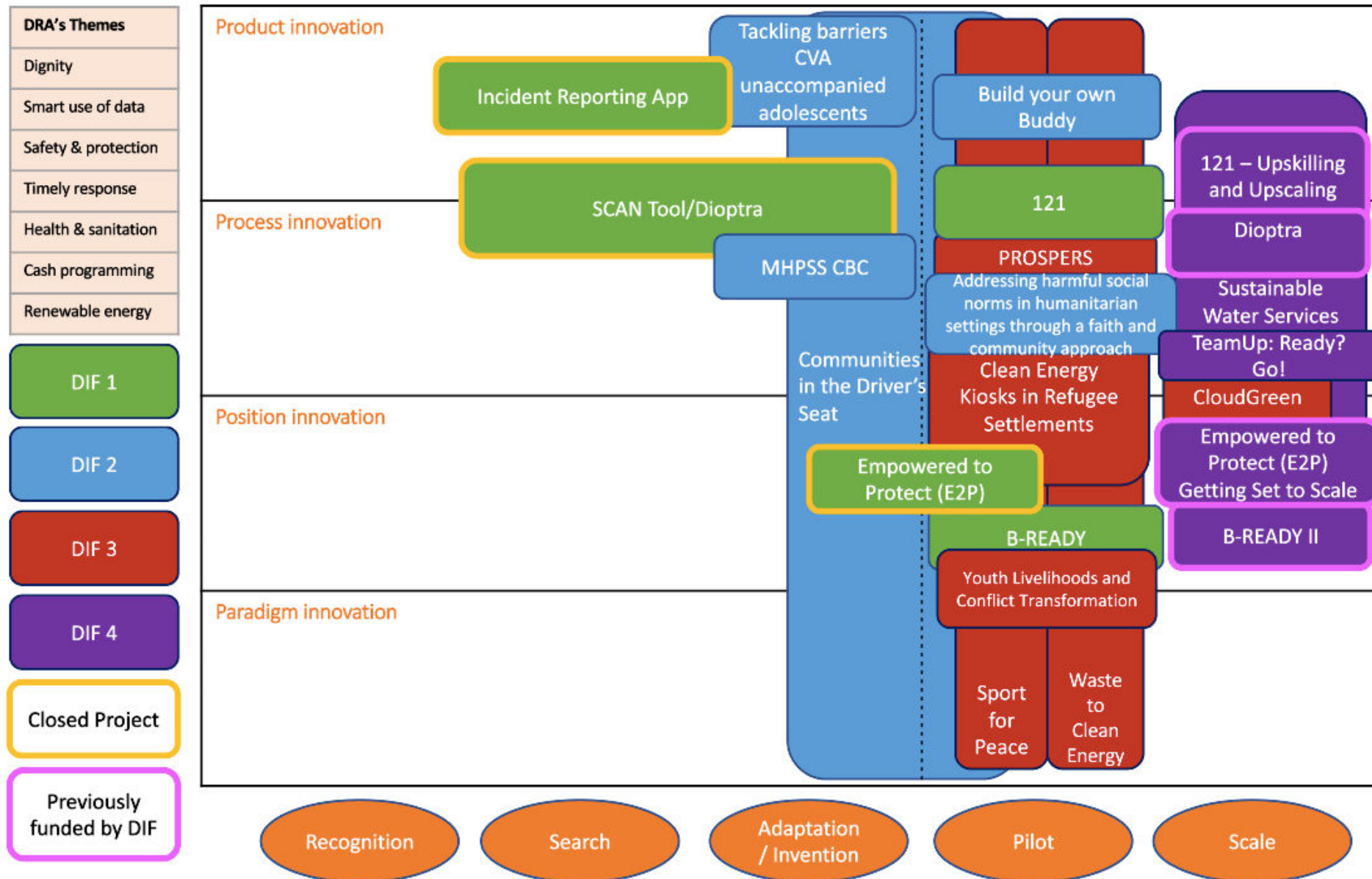


CHAPTER 2

5. INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS UPDATE



Welcome to the second half of the Annual Innovation Update which focusses on the DIF Portfolio Project Spotlights. Each Project Spotlight page informs the reader with a short summary of the project, its learnings (so far), collaborations with public/private sector, instance of adoption/adaption by other organisations, outreach and communication activities, and case studies, if applicable. The below diagram shows the projects of the DIF Portfolio plotted according to the type of innovation and the phase of the innovation project along its innovation journey. The Project Spotlights are organized by innovation phase.



INCIDENT REPORTING APP

SAFETY & PROTECTION

DIF1

CLOSED

Participating organisations
ZOA

Innovation phase
Recognition / Invention

Project period
1 December 2018 – 31 December 2019

Budget
€104,220

ABOUT THE PROJECT

ZOA was awarded DIF funding to create an Incident Reporting Application for mobile use. This application aimed to make incident reporting more user-friendly and increase the visibility of security incidents across ZOA. To create a successful tool, ZOA sought existing knowledge and tools from other organisations. At the end of the project, the app was fully functional. It allows ZOA staff to report incidents through laptops and mobile use when travelling to project locations and allows for reporting in multiple languages. At the same time, it provides ZOA headquarters the coverage needed to assess security situations.

LEARNINGS

An important learning from the [final evaluation](#) of the project is that the purpose of innovation should be clear and defined at the impact level. Giving attention to this from the onset will result in innovations that impact the sector even more and may result in more interest and uptake by other organisations. Moreover, ZOA found that developing a product from scratch results in much longer development times than with more clearly defined and well-known products. Also, the input that it received to produce this app, by its own colleagues and colleagues in other organisations, led to a more well-rounded app.

Overall, this was a successful innovation project. The app is a useful innovation from the user's experience, as it results in a decrease in time spent and a higher chance of incidents being reported, and a quicker follow-up around the globe. The development process was done well and included input from relevant parties (including the DRA).



COLLABORATION

Early in the process, ZOA shared a questionnaire with the different DRA members in order to create an optimum app. One outcome of this survey was that 10 out of 15 responses indicated they were using Office 365. It was therefore decided that the IR-App should be based on Office 365. In addition, ZOA aligned the platform with external advice and the IWG.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The IR-App project initially started in the Recognition/Invention phase, but as it progressed, the Pilot phase also came into scope. ZOA is using the IR-App globally as their tool in gathering incident reports and also archived any backlog information in the system. The app is based on Office 365 and uses no additional licenses leading to a low barrier for other organisations to install the app.

OUTREACH

ZOA has promoted the app through the following:

- Presentation at the DRA Partner Meeting on the January 30th 2020
- One-Pager to all DRA members and MFA
- Published the app, which is freely available, and its components on [GitHub](#) with detailed step-by-step guide
- Lessons learned have extensively been shared with War Child
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has been hosted by ZOA explaining the app (5-person delegation)

SEAMLESS MHPSS CROSS-BORDER CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SAFETY & PROTECTION

DIF2

CLOSED

Participating organisations

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

Innovation phase

Invention

Project period

1 November 2019 – 30 April 2021

Budget

€199,448

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 services. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) are life-saving for those who have experienced extreme adversity before, during, and after migration. The Seamless MHPSS Cross-border Care (CBC) project seeks to identify viable solutions to create a continuum of care along migration routes. The ideation project consists of four stages: 1) What is known? 2) What is being done? 3) What is the community saying? And 4) Co-design, and took place in Turkey with Syrian refugee youth.

The project has deepened the understanding of key challenges organisations face in providing continuous and consistent support to youth and their families as well as the barriers youth and families experience in identifying and accessing this support. Through the project prototypes, six interventions have been identified which have the potential to address these challenges and barriers: (1) connecting local and international organisations; (2) migrant support; (3) information hub website; (4) peer-to-peer support; (5) virtual counselling; and (6) listening stations. Most importantly, these interventions have been identified as essential needs and have the support of stakeholders.

PROJECT LEARNINGS

The [final project evaluation](#) has shown that the project team has provided a solid foundation for the piloting stage by engaging relevant platforms and local organisations which directly work with refugees and migrant youth and by engaging them in stages 3 and 4 of the projects. Furthermore, the learning component that was integrated as a red thread throughout the project, has ensured that lessons learned could be captured on a rolling basis, resulting in immediate adjustments of the prototype design, sharing of insights with stakeholders, and ensuring the meaningful involvement of youth in project activities. The involvement of youth is one of the key enabling factors of the project.

COLLABORATION

The project partnered with *Upinion*, 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 took place before, during, and after the ideation workshops that were organised with stakeholders to co-design activities and to identify potential solutions throughout the project.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

This being an ideation project, it is not immediately ready to be scaled and adopted by other organisations yet. It should first be piloted, which the project partners are currently working towards, both via an internal Innovation Accelerator, as well as newly developed project proposals that are to be implemented in the same region as this ideation project.

SCALING PLANS

This project's learnings have already fed into the design of a project called *I Support my Friends*, which builds on and supports children and youth's natural empathy, helping abilities, and social skills, realizing that they are often the first to observe and hear if a friend is in distress. With local adaptations, the tool is relevant across culture, gender, and disability status for children and youth between 9 and 17 years. The toolkit is tailored to children and youth and is based on exercises, discussions, and experience sharing. All methods enhance the relevance and learning of children and youth. *I Support My Friends* was launched as an open-source, four-part resource kit in July 2021 through a webinar hosting nearly 250 participants.



OUTREACH

- Multiple validation sessions with technical working groups
- Submitted an article to the Forced Migration Review
- [Engaging Syrian refugee youth in finding solutions for ensuring seamless MHPSS cross-border care - The MHPSS Collaborative \(website\)](#)
- [Youth Together Initiative \(pv2\) on Vimeo](#)
- ["Seamless" MHPSS Cross Border Care: Feedback needed for a new Youth Together Initiative - The MHPSS Collaborative](#)
- [Twitter](#)

TACKLING BARRIERS TO CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA) FOR UNACCOMPANIED ADOLESCENTS DESIGNED WITH ADOLESCENTS

SAFETY & PROTECTION

DIF2

Participating organisations

Stichting Vluchteling/International Rescue Committee (IRC) (lead), Y-labs

Innovation phase

Adaptation / Pilot

Project period

1 December 2019 - 31 September 2021

Budget

€599,840

ABOUT THE PROJECT

As adolescents are a largely overlooked group in humanitarian settings, innovative programme models meeting the needs of unaccompanied and separated adolescents are of primary importance. This pilot project aimed to tackle the barriers to cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for unaccompanied adolescents by co-designing with adolescents. This project was implemented in Sheder camp in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, adolescent refugees constitute almost 19% of the total population in camps. The aim of this project was to create guidance around safe, ethical CVA programmes, pilot them and share them with the global community. The project draws on the expertise of the International Rescue Committee in implementing cash and protection programmes and Youth Development Labs' (Ylabs) experience in youth-centred programme design models.

LEARNINGS

Some of the planned Research Questions were: 1) What is the optimum delivery model for CVA to adolescents living in different care arrangements in humanitarian contexts?; 2) Can CVA provided directly to UASC lead to improved child protection outcomes?; 3) What, if any, are the adverse consequences of CVA for UASC?; and 4) What, if any, complementary skill-building training for adolescents is needed to ensure proper use of CVA?

There are many Key Learnings, but in summary, cash was considered to be a beneficial delivery method for youth in Sheder camp. Youth prioritized their spending on resources that improved their future, learning and safety, such as education, food, clothing and hygiene items. While there is increased attention for mobile money, the benefits of directly giving cash to youth far outweighed the risks, as cash enabled these youth to improve their lives. Moreover, the project expanded understanding of the utility of skill-building training as a complementary activity to support improved protection outcomes for adolescents.

COLLABORATION

During 2021, the IRC and Ylabs collaborated to conduct ideation workshops and to present findings from the formative research and phases of different models of the project that were tested. In April 2021, the IRC and Ylabs held a series of design workshops to gather early insights and test rapidly developed models at the Sheder Camp with an array of key stakeholders. The outcomes of these consultations and design discussions were a [Design Research Findings Report](#) and [Ideation Workshop Findings](#) which incorporate the design findings, user insights, and design opportunities for CVA programmes targeting adolescents. These workshops served as the basis of piloting guidelines for how to safely and effectively implement the CVA pilot programme for Unaccompanied Adolescents within Sheder Camp, Ethiopia. Ylabs and IRC's collaboration on this project complemented each other's strengths. While IRC works in child protection and has expertise in designing projects for and with children, Ylabs participatory method on how to involve youth and design with them the inclusion of cash, was certainly a new approach.

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ADOPTION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Whilst there is not a definitive indication of innovation adoption, we do see strong interest from peer agencies in our Advisory Committee (with membership across 9 international agencies) and from the [Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Cash for Protection](#).

In January 2021, the project shared learnings around the project's [Design Research Toolkit](#) in a webinar update to a wide range of key external stakeholders hosted by the Cash Transfer and Child Protection Task Force under the [Alliance for Child Protection](#). The presentation explored Ylabs approach to youth-centred design and innovative solutions to COVID-19 restrictions. The recording from the webinar is available on the [Alliance website](#) and on [YouTube](#). In addition, the [Design Research Findings](#) and [Ideation Workshop Findings](#) were shared with the members of the project's Advisory Committee in April 2021. This event was an important opportunity for consultation with key external actors in the field of Cash and Protection programming and research. The project hopes to schedule a final Advisory Group meeting in late January 2022 or early February 2022 to share learnings from this project as other dissemination events (see below).

SCALING PLANS

The project is making modifications to enable scaling up. A series of three basic needs cash distributions and one 'future success' cash distribution were conducted for unaccompanied adolescents and other vulnerable adolescents in Sheder Camp during July-September 2021. During the delivery of the cash pilot, Ylabs was able to conduct live prototyping activities to support real-time feedback and modifications to support improved piloting.

The project hopes that following dissemination events planned for early 2022, fellow humanitarian agencies and actors will be able to utilize the approach/innovation outlined through this research pilot. However, at this point, it is not possible to say the extent of learning uptake.

OUTREACH

- Advisory Group meetings held in 2021
- [Presentation on Initial learning and research findings](#) to the IRC's Cash and Protection Task Team in June 2021
- [Report on the Cash Pilot Findings and Recommendations](#).
- [Webinar on the Cash Pilot Findings and Recommendations in July 2021](#).
- The project plans to hold a series of research findings dissemination events in early 2022 to share further learning from the project including with members of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Cash for Protection in February 2022
- The project will be featuring learning from this project in the IRC's Child Protection Community of Practice meeting scheduled end of January 2022-

CASE STUDIES

- The project's key deliverable to date is the [Cash Pilot Findings and Research Recommendations report](#) presented by Ylabs to the IRC. This has been shared with Advisory Group members as well as widely across the IRC.
- An illustrative [user-case study](#) describes a hypothetical experience of a female adolescent receiving cash during the distributions which took place in July-Sept 2021.



COMMUNITIES IN THE DRIVERS' SEAT: FACILITATING COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOCIAL CHANGE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

SAFETY & PROTECTION

DIF2

Participating organisations

War Child (lead), Save the Children, Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO-Uganda), Ten Have Change Management, The Nomad Coach, Stichting Elva, Vandejong Creative Agency, Butterfly Works & PeaceTech Lab NL.

Innovation phase

Adaptation / Pilot

Project period

1 November 2019 – 31 December 2021

Budget

€800.000

ABOUT THE PROJECT

There is a demand for new and effective approaches that provide systematic and enduring child protection in volatile humanitarian contexts. Building on evidence that community-owned and community-driven approaches bring about improved outcomes, this project tests the feasibility of one bottom-up approach to child protection within two applications: 1) community-driven child protection ([Seeds](#)) and 2) stigma reduction ([STRETCH](#)).

The two applications were initially planned to be tested in two contexts, allowing for cross-learning, comparison, and alignment. The first approach was piloted in Colombia, with urban communities in Bogota. Information is now being collected to assess the feasibility of the developed approach, methods, and tools. The second approach, intended to be piloted in Uganda in refugee/host settings, was not possible due to COVID-19. Instead, a stakeholder assessment was organised with stigma reduction practitioners and researchers from various low- and middle-income country contexts and stigma backgrounds to get feedback on the approach. Further, while on-site research could not be executed, exercises of one strategy of STRETCH – the strategy focusing on stigma reduction within organisations – were translated for online facilitation. Another element – the Community Tales Board game in which players will jointly reflect on the stigmatization process, its consequences, and what could be done – will still be tried out in Uganda at the end of 2021.

LEARNINGS

While data on feasibility, acceptability, and practicalities of Seeds will be analyzed after the data collection in December 2021, the process of the project has already provided learnings and challenges. The pandemic delayed and halted certain activities, especially for STRETCH in Uganda. Therefore, the project team had to rethink and approach components to the project implementation differently. This entailed a number of adaptations, such as stronger involvement from people facing stigma as well as other important stakeholders, stronger efforts regarding sustainability, the inclusion of dealing with resistance, simplification with an action checklist, and integration of intersectionality. New collaborations were entered to support the changes.

COLLABORATION

From the beginning, the project worked with the following three private partners: *Vandejong Creative Agency*, *Ten Have Change Management (THCM)*, and *The Nomad Coach (TNC)*. THCM and TNC are providing support on change management and coaching. Vandejong contributed to this project with human-centred design, creative thinking and expertise in developing tools for increased user-friendliness. Vandejong employed Design Sprints, which involved a close team of experts from War Child, the agency, and partners to brainstorm for 3-4 days to prototype solutions for the challenge to be addressed. The project aimed to present Seeds and STRETCH (method/approach) in a way that is easily understood in order to be more effective in its goal to reach vulnerable people and children in addressing their needs. This collaboration resulted in multiple outputs: 1) CDCP app prototype, 2) a board game “Community Tales” for the project’s stigma reduction approach, 3) Road Map (in development), and 4) Co-branding Guidelines.

In addition, during implementation the project partnered with *Butterfly Works* and *PeaceTech Lab NL* to further support with the user-friendly packaging of the intervention. War Child is currently working on an online version of Community Tales with PeaceTech Lab NL to allow broader use of the tool.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

[STRETCH](#) - STRETCH is not in a stage that allows for the adoption of the full programme by other organisations. However, the to-be online tool ‘Community Tales’ can be easily shared with other organisations to trigger reflection regarding stigma and stigma reduction. The adoption steps will be further detailed after the on-site feasibility study, which is planned for 2022.

[Seeds](#) - War Child and Save the Children entered into a partnership to further co-develop and co-test Seeds and to allow for implementation at scale. The community ownership reflection workshop, developed as part of this innovation project, was developed and tested with multiple organisations involved (War Child, Save the Children, ChildFund, Plan International, and others) and will be presented to the CP Alliance Steering Committee to seek for approval on making this a CP Alliance document.

SCALING PLANS

Regarding scaling, [STRETCH](#) is not at the stage to try-out scaling, as scaling within the organisation can take place when the on-site feasibility study has been conducted. [Seeds](#) is now co-owned by War Child and Save the Children with the aim to scale the intervention. In 2022, both organisations will implement and further test Seeds in their country offices.

The intervention research trajectories of War Child are all geared towards creating an evidence-based approach. The steps taken within this project period are part of that. Regarding context-specificity, the two applications include a set of process steps that aim for local relevance and contextualization to ensure that local groups steer the process and identify with the process and the applications.

OUTREACH

- Community Tales board game
- Community Ownership Reflection Workshop Guide
- Stakeholder validation workshops STRETCH
- Presentation of STRETCH at National Institute for Health (NIH) stigma reduction training June 2021
- Posts about [STRETCH](#) and [Seeds](#) on War Child's website
- Presentation of Seeds during a technical deep-dive series on community-led child protection in humanitarian action organised by UNICEF East-Asia and Pacific Region.
- Presentation on Seeds and community-led child protection in the CP Alliance annual meeting (by Save the Children).

CASE STUDIES

Published journal articles:

- Hartog, K., Hubbard, C. D., Krouwer, A. F., Thornicroft, G., Kohrt, B. A., & Jordans, M. J. D. (2020). Stigma reduction interventions for children and adolescents in low-and middle-income countries: systematic review of intervention strategies. *Social Science & Medicine*, 246, 112749.
- Hartog, K., Peters, R. M., & Jordans, M. J. (2020). Understanding Stigmatisation: Results of a Qualitative Formative Study with Adolescents and Adults in DR Congo. *Foundations of Science*, 1-24.
- Ellermeijer, R. E. C., Robinson, M. A., Guevara, A., O'Hare, G., Veldhuizen, C. I. S., Wessells, M., ... Jordans, M. J. D. (2021). A systematic review of the literature on community-level child protection in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (manuscript submitted for publication)
- Gavan, L., Hartog, K., Feddes, A.R., Jordans, M.J.D, Koppenol-Gonzalez, G.V., Kohrt, B.A., Peters, R.M.H. (x) *Assessing stigma in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review of scales used with children and adolescents* (manuscript submitted for publication)

Upcoming Journal articles:

- Development paper STRETCH
- Development paper Seeds
- Results of feasibility study Seeds (in 2022)
- Scoping review of community-driven interventions, strategies, and measures

Upcoming case studies:

- Cases studies related to the implementation of Seeds are being collected in Colombia.
- A case study will be written on the use of Community Tales offline.



BOB: BUILD YOUR OWN BUDDY

SAFETY & PROTECTION

DIF2

Participating organisations

Help a Child (lead), TNO & ARQ

Innovation phase

Pilot

Project period

1 December 2019 – 30 November 2021

Budget

€798.091

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The aim of the Build Your Own Buddy (BoB) innovation is to support children aged 5 to 7 years and their caregivers to deal with stress related to conflict and other harsh circumstances. The project entails a Mental Health and PsychoSocial Support (MHPSS) group programme with elements of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Emotion Focused Therapy (EFT). Based on recent scientific insights, the programme offers physical and mental strategies to recognize emotions and stress levels, communicate about stress levels and bring stress levels down.

The module includes the following: During several sessions, children hear the story about Bob, the hare, who experiences all kinds of adventures and feelings through a colorful storybook. The volcano in the story is a metaphor for how children can feel. Through several exercises, children learn about different coping strategies and also get help from their buddies. Parallel to the sessions with the children, parents/caretakers learn, with the use of psycho-education, about their own stress and behaviour and about how to help their children deal with stress.

The project is piloted in Wau and Jur River Counties in the Republic of South Sudan. Two rounds of sessions have been finalized at three locations: Abunybuny, Agok, and Mapel.

LEARNINGS

The final project results will be out in March 2022. Preliminary results, combined with observations from Help a Child South Sudan/Netherlands and TNO, and testimonies shared, indicate that BoB has made a positive impact on children and their parents. Parents mentioned that it was their first time to share their own experiences and to learn about both their own and their child's emotions and behaviours and how to support them. The metaphor of the volcano helps to indicate the level of emotions they feel. Children and parents enjoy the storytelling books and the buddy programme. Learning cycles helped to finetune the method.



COLLABORATION

The project is a collaboration between TNO, ARQ, and Help a Child NL. TNO is a research institute that has valuable knowledge, experience, and capacity in child psychology research. ARQ is a research centre specialized in psycho-trauma. Both ARQ and TNO have been coaching the Community Counsellors. ARQ trained Community Counsellors in Basic Mental Health skills and TNO trained the Community Counsellors in conducting the BoB sessions. TNO has been very instrumental in the design of the intervention and the action learning after each round of the BoB sessions. Based on the findings, the intervention was adapted for the next round. Help a Child South Sudan has implemented the sessions and conducted the pre-and post-assessments and the focus group discussions with parents for learning purposes. Help a Child NL coordinated several steps of the project and ensured the context and culture of the locations were taken into account. Visibility efforts were a joint responsibility with the communications manager taking the lead.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Since BoB is in the phase of piloting, the project has not yet been widely shared. In its last phase, phase 4, preliminary results show that BoB has a positive impact and that it would be beneficial to expand BoB in South Sudan and potentially to other countries. In a response, Save the Children adopted BoB at one location during the South Sudan Joint Response. Unfortunately, this location will close and trained staff will leave.

SCALING PLANS

Help a Child is in the process of developing a concept note to expand BoB: both at the initial pilot location to reach more children and parents and to expand to other locations in South Sudan, including Pibor. Discussions are being held with TNO for further research. TNO is looking into a digital version of BoB to be implemented in Lebanon. Also, discussions are being held with ARQ to provide more Mental Health Psychosocial Support skills to project coordinators and community counsellors.

OUTREACH

Four radio talk shows took place:

- To raise awareness about BoB and the importance of psychosocial support for children aged 5 to 7 and their parents;
- With parents who narrated the sessions;
- With children about Bob the hare;
- And with representatives from TNO and Help a Child NL about the development of BoB and results so far.



Participating organisations

Care Nederland (lead), CARE International in Uganda, African Clean Energy (ACE), Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC).

Innovation phase

Pilot

Project period

1 January 2021 - 31 March 2022

Budget

€485,374

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Given the scarcity of natural resources in Kyangwali, Uganda, there is a huge demand for an affordable and accessible fuel alternative for refugee and host populations. Most refugee and host community households in Kyangwali cook on inefficient cookstoves due to a lack of alternatives. This problem of poor energy access is one that disproportionately impacts women and children.

In this project, two complementary programmes are being developed with an integrated gender approach. The first is the User Referral Bonus Model, African Clean Energy makes their improved cookstove and clean energy system, the ACE One, affordable to refugees in Kyangwali by selling it on a User Referral Bonus (URB) model whereby participating refugee and host community members are able to reduce the monthly instalments on which they purchase the product by recommending it to a friend. The second programme, is the Briquetting Business where the Kabarole Research Centre passes their knowledge of clean, biomass briquette production on to local farming cooperatives/Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLAs) to empower them to set up their own briquetting businesses. Each business will have the tools to produce affordable briquettes for sale amongst the target population.

LEARNINGS

As the project is in implementation, the external evaluation has not yet started and findings from the action research are not yet available. General learnings so far include: It takes time to get communities to switch to new technologies; a good understanding of the socio-economic context of the refugee setting is important for results delivery; there is a significant interest in the product amongst the target population despite the relatively high cost and; there are factors affecting implementation which are hard to mitigate due to their intrinsically external nature (notably the delayed shipment of the stoves).

A situation analysis is conducted as part of the action research. Recommendations will be explored further, but a selection of learnings can already be provided: 1. Briquette marketing strategy should be developed and implemented to accelerate production and adoption; 2. Need for frequent monitoring and follow-up of supported communities to ensure adoption and consistency in the use of briquettes; 3. Consider the provision of automated machines to reduce the human energy demand for briquette production; and, 4. Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of briquettes to determine a good price at which producers make a profit, but it remains affordable to make briquettes more competitive to charcoal.



COLLABORATION

Project partner ACE has been manufacturing and distributing the ACE One stove since 2011. ACE's target market is low-income households living in rural, off-grid areas, many of whom live on as little as €2/day. As a commercial entity, ACE is continually iterating its business model to fit the needs of the consumer. Through the PROSPERS project, ACE is exploring the affordability of the ACE One and clean fuel in a humanitarian setting with the URB model and briquetting programme.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

CARE will use its "Natural Resource Governance programme" to replicate the URB and briquette models in more communities within Kikuube District, beyond the project. CARE also uses the "Kyangwali Refugee settlement energy and environment sectoral working group platform" to reach out to humanitarian staff to sensitize them and to trigger scaling up the work of PROSPERS. CARE also engaged with Kikuube district key stakeholders and community environment management committee chairpersons and focal desks at Kikuube district through dialogues.



SCALING PLANS

For this model to be scalable, this project will have to generate social impact for refugees (especially women), environmental impact (CO2 reduction) and prove to be a profitable business model for ACE. Also, barriers to scaling such as logistics, maintenance/customer service, social norms (do men accept it when women are buying and working with this product?) need to be further explored. To date, CARE and partners have been testing a variety of ways of integrating the URB model within its existing operations. ACE has built out the system in Salesforce and is testing it. ACE plans to open another kiosk in Hoima to create a point of sales focused on selling to the host communities. In the coming years, ACE looks to scale in this region and intends to recruit more people, particularly refugees who can help network with potential beneficiaries.

OUTREACH

- To share more about the PROSPERS project implementation, the project team participated in the "Kyangwali Settlement Energy and Environment working group" coordination meetings and in a joint field monitoring activity with other partners.
- A video production is planned for Q4 2021/Q1 2022.
- CARE targeted national-level key stakeholders during the Uganda National Energy Week 2021, where critical and topical discussions concerning the Renewable Energy sector take place, to share more about Clean Cooking/Energy with emphasis on the refugee settlement and host communities' perspective.
- In November 2021, a [dialogue](#) attended by 60 district-level stakeholders took place, focusing on sharing solutions to the existing challenges in accelerating clean cooking technologies in Kikuube district. Key recommendations to influence decision making on critical issues that propel Clean Cooking technologies uptake for both the refugee settlement populace and host communities were developed.
- CARE is participating in the "National Renewable Energy Platform" as a member organisation. This platform provides visibility to the concept, creates networks and linkages for PROSPERS to leverage while scaling up beyond the current operational scope.

CASE STUDIES

There are no case studies yet as the action research is still ongoing. The situation analysis took place as a preparatory step. Additionally, good insights are expected from the Marketing Study that will trigger key aspects of scaling PROSPERS as well as facilitate community market penetration

ADDRESSING HARMFUL SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS: ENGAGING FAITH LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES (EFLC)

SAFETY & PROTECTION

DIF2

CLOSED

Participating organisations

Tearfund (lead), Help a Child, Heal Africa, BEATIL, EyeOpenerWorks, independent researcher

Innovation phase

Pilot

Project period

20 October 2019 – 19 June 2021

Budget

€764,441

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Humanitarian crises often go together with a strong increase in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The EFLC innovation is designed to prevent SGBV against women in humanitarian settings, where violence against women is a prevalent and pervasive protection concern. EFLC targets social and gender norms as the root causes of violence against women through a faith-based, transformational, and community-driven model. Developed by Tearfund, the approach is premised on the influence of social and socio-religious norms on the roles, relations, and practices expected by and of women, men, boys, and girls. Socio-religious norms are often used to legitimate violence against women and girls, as well as the gender unequal norms that underpin them. Working with faith leaders and communities to challenge such harmful norms offers a key- and under-explored avenue for preventing violence against women.

The innovation project was implemented in two regions in DRC. It targets 15 communities in North Kivu (Kitshanga health zone) and 15 communities in South Kivu (Miti Murghese health zone). These are both conflict-affected humanitarian zones, with Kitshanga hosting a significant number of IDPs amongst the population.

COLLABORATION

This pilot project worked with *EyeOpenerWorks*, whose expertise is on podcasting, to monitor the project in a participatory manner. Their role was to train local actors in both the technical elements and in the application of the technology for monitoring and learning and to coach local actors throughout the process. The use of podcasts as a means to promote community-driven monitoring was innovative, exciting, and well-received by EFLC actors in target communities. In addition, the introduction of podcasts provided Community Action Group members and the EFLC podcast team with new technical skills that they look forward to bringing to their future work.

LEARNINGS

A full exploration of the learnings is included in [the Endline Study](#). Learnings include:

- The EFLC pilot equipped local communities with means through which women and men can work together to prevent, reduce, and respond to violence against women and girls in their communities.
- EFLC is not designed to adequately support displaced and other vulnerable members target communities to fully participate in EFLC activities.
- The implementation period of 12 months was sufficiently long to encourage critical reflection on and challenge some key harmful gender norms, but not long enough to spur fundamental and transformative change in some key harmful gender norms.
- Besides harmful gender norms, other causes for violence should be taken into account, such as conflict, displacement, dispossession, and associated socio-economic and psychosocial consequences.
- It is crucial to work with and through implementing actors who have long-standing and trusting relationships with communities in target zones.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The project team has begun exploring organisations based in the DRC and abroad which are active in the fight against GBV. Networking opportunities will be further sought and linkages made over the third phase of the project. The objectives sought are twofold: create opportunities to disseminate the approach, as well as create opportunities for shared learning.

SCALING PLANS

The Endline Study results indicate that there is potential to expand the EFLC approach in eastern DRC. Notably, the study affirmed the value of working with faith communities to challenge harmful social and gender norms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence. To do so, EFLC programme architects and implementing partners may want to address a number of considerations to ensure that expanding EFLC does more good than harm in participating communities and ensure that survivors' well-being remains central to the approach.

OUTREACH

Upcoming:

- A podcast is under development
- A learning meeting



CLEAN ENERGY KIOSKS IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS

(RENEWABLE) ENERGY

DIF3

Participating organisations

Save the Children (lead), New Energy Nexus/ENVenture, Raising Gabdho Foundation Ltd.

Innovation phase

Pilot

Project period

1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

Budget

€500.000

ABOUT THE PROJECT

93% of the population in refugee-hosting districts in Uganda rely on wood for cooking fuel (Water and Environment Sector Response Plan, 2019). The burden especially rests on women and girls who spend 12-24 hours a week collecting firewood.

The Clean Energy Kiosks innovation provides a solution to easily access clean energy products for vulnerable households and targets women. The stocked Kiosks are prepared to be financed by the energy cooperatives/networks of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and will be able to provide after-sale services. These cooperatives are trained to run energy kiosks which will become localised distributors of clean energy products in refugee settlements.

Energy needs assessment and VSLA mapping ensure that the kiosks are designed to meet the needs of end-users in terms of location and products stocked. Purchases are driven via the distribution of digital commodity vouchers, driving reinvestment in the operation of the kiosks in its initial months of implementation. ENVenture and Raising Gabdho Foundation establish and operate kiosks in Kiryandongo and Bibi Bidi respectively, while Save the Children implements the voucher programme in both locations.

LEARNINGS

An energy needs & market rapid survey was conducted in Kiryandongo by the ENVenture team on the VSLAs for product uptake with the use of focus group discussions and interviews. The findings showed that 98% of the households drink unboiled water collected from boreholes or taps, and 80% use charcoal and firewood using the Lorena stove. All participants walk long distances to buy charcoal at fair prices. Thus, these findings suggest inadequate use of clean energy products, such as the clean stove, and there is a need for affordable non-electric water purifiers, as well as a need to access affordable clean energy-saving stoves and affordable pico systems for the residents to get light and charge their phones. Most VSLA members confirmed they were willing to use the alternative solutions given that energy products are accessible and affordable.

COLLABORATION

The project works together with *ENVenture* and *Raising Gabdho Foundation*. ENVenture is an award-winning social enterprise that incubates and accelerates clean energy enterprises by providing financing, capacity building, and mobile technology. This enterprise has incubated 108 clean energy enterprises through partnerships with Community Based Organisations across rural areas of Uganda. Raising Gabdho Foundation continuously innovates with energy corps to strengthen the clean energy value chain and to design low-cost maintenance solutions with reputable suppliers. The foundation's innovative approaches are based on best practices from pilots in the urban and refugee settlements.

SCALING PLANS

The project will be linked to a four-year EUTF funded programme in Arua, Yumbe, Kiryandongo, and Adjumani. The operation of energy hubs formed through the project will continue to be supported, particularly through mentorship, continued SBC, and activities that drive footfall to the kiosks. ENVenture will enrol SACCOs into its ongoing support programming. The established energy cooperatives will be linked to other development and humanitarian agencies who will continue to offer support to - most especially - vulnerable households. Raising Gabdho Foundation will continue to support the entrepreneurs with clean energy value chains through skills building and will link them to opportunities from other development and humanitarian partners.

OUTREACH

The majority of learnings will be captured after completion of all kiosks and after the distribution of the vouchers. Thereafter, the learnings will be disseminated and case studies will be developed.



YOUTH LIVELIHOODS AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

SAFETY & PROTECTION

DIF3

Participating organisations

CEFORD (lead), ICCO Cooperation, HEKS/EPER (Hilfswerk der evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz), COSMESS Uganda

Innovation phase

Pilot

Project period

1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

Budget

€150.000

ABOUT THE PROJECT

One problem in Uganda is land fragmentation, which causes inefficiencies in food production. Additionally, youth unemployment in Uganda is high and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities is not self-evident. This project sought to address these challenges by including the youth - of the districts Adjumani and Obongi - in the conflict transformation processes through income-generating activities (IGAs).

The project is currently being implemented in a participatory manner in two refugee-hosting sub counties. It focuses on offering IGAs to 2,000 young people to improve livelihoods and to promote peaceful co-existence within and between refugee and host communities. The youth participants learn to run a business and to get access to the market by managing block farming land. As conflicts over land are not uncommon, the youth also receive training on conflict resolution and the Ugandan legal system.

Overall, this innovation consists of a triple nexus approach in which short-term humanitarian needs are met while looking at durable solutions in which refugees and the host community can work together in harmony. The project involves youth delivering solutions with participatory feasibility assessments, planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and sharing best practices. It supports local structures and promotes local leadership for sustainability with continued development and dialogue with communities and people of concern. The dia-praxis method is used to foster mutual appreciation among people of different backgrounds, by working together and engaging in practical work with a shared goal, such as increased income, in order to enhance positive relationships.

LEARNINGS

A key learning question in this project is how the local actors can coordinate the project in a collaborative, coherent, and supplementary manner with international NGOs. CEFORD, with support from HEKS, conducted a due diligence of three other partners (ICCO, COSMESS, and HEKS/EPER) and together came with an innovative itinerary of how to empower the youth to generate income in a participatory manner. This project implements a triple nexus approach as each partner leveraged core competencies within the three core thematic areas of humanitarian, development, and peaceful co-existence. As an outcome of this collaboration, the economic inclusion model and business-centered production have resulted in a tangible shift in the behaviour of the youth regarding the creation of IGAs.



COLLABORATION

The project has collaborated with the *Local Governments* of Adjumani and Obongi Districts. Especially the Sub Counties of Ukusijoni and Palorinya have been helpful as they provided technical backstopping in capacity building and mobilisation for the youth groups. Throughout the project, there have been collaborations with the private sector for market linkages. For instance, *Umba Veterinary services* in Moyo supported the youth with improved livestock and *APIVA Agro-Inputs* who supported the youth with improved seeds and tools. Finally, three commercial banks (*Stanbic bank*, *Centenary bank*, and *Equity bank*) supported the groups with financial linkages as the youth groups opened their accounts with them.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Based on the triple nexus approach, this project is gaining attention from other organisations. The block farms in Adjumani managed by the youth have received visits from two other organisations: Ayuda en Accion & Jesuit. These organisations have shown interest to train their staff in this approach and visited block farms as a learning visit. There are now plans to have the conflict-free demonstration block farms as learning centres.

SCALING PLANS

In the pilot project, only 10 out of the 80 groups (in total 2000 youth) were directly supported with micro-grants to support their business plans through competitive pitching. The remaining 70 groups were trained in business-centred production, financial inclusion models, peaceful co-existence, and management of conflicts. Scaling plans will focus on further supporting the remaining groups with the micro-grants, thereby creating model settlements for others to learn from. Additionally, components of vocational skilling will be introduced.

OUTREACH

Outreach activities include:

- Technical working groups of livelihood and protection for both Obongi and Adjumani;
- A [Video](#);
- Showcase events;
- Experiential visits.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Sport for Peace aims to strengthen social cohesion among and between refugee and host community youth in Adjumani, Uganda. This innovative project has a human-centred design, as the perspectives of all relevant stakeholders, primarily youth, but also communities, district and community leaders, and the Office of the Prime Minister are involved at all times, from need analysis to project design, from implementation to evaluation. Youth are at the forefront of this innovative approach, with special attention to out-of-school youth, former child soldiers and extremist youth.

The project contributes to two outcomes:

1. Refugee and host community youth have enhanced their knowledge and skills of a non-violent approach to conflict resolution;
2. Host and refugee communities show improved perception towards non-violence responses to conflict and youth participation.

Through established community clubs, Right To Play is strengthening the capacity of youth in non-violent approaches to conflict resolution through a 30-week Sport for Peace curriculum. CECORE has trained and supported a group of 60 Peace Champions who have initiated youth-led community awareness activities, like community dialogue, sports tournaments and theatre plays to improve the perceptions of host and refugee communities towards non-violent responses to conflict and youth participation.

LEARNINGS

The Sports for Peace project is in implementation and the prominent role of youth has been a positive experience. The inclusive consultations in the project design phase and during project implementation have been fruitful. It is too early to communicate objective learnings, as the external end evaluation is yet to be completed.

COLLABORATION

In preparing the project proposal/design, CECORE and Right To Play conducted broad-based consultations with a cross-section of project beneficiaries and key community actors in refugee and host communities in Adjumani district. Focus group discussions were held with, among others, women, youth, elders, and civil society organisations. Key informant interviews were conducted with local government officials, leadership structures of refugee settlements, Office of the Prime Minister, and UNHCR. These discussions highlighted key conflict and security issues, including gaps and recommendations about strengthening social cohesion among and between refugee and host communities. They also helped to ensure that the intervention is in line with national and district priorities and plans. This inclusive needs analysis and the pilot evaluations by CECORE and RTP informed the project design (including objectives and methodology). Similar inclusive consultations are being held on a monthly basis to assess progress towards achieving the two project outcomes.

The complementary nature of expertise, networks and activities of project partners has worked well: CECORE has brought unique expertise in working with violent youth groups; RTP introduced its sport for peace curriculum to CECORE; and RTP's strong presence and network in Adjumani allowed CECORE to expand to a new area.

SCALING PLANS

RTP is exploring options to scale the project in Uganda and to enrich it by adding an economic empowerment component to boost entrepreneurship among the youth who are now more confident, empowered, and ready to build their futures. RTP also aims to contextualize the 30-week Sport for Peace curriculum for implementation in other countries where RTP is active.



OUTREACH

The design of the project has outreach at its core since it carried out broad-based consultations with a cross-section of project beneficiaries and key actors in refugee and host communities in Adjumani. An integral part of the project is to sensitize and mobilize communities through youth-led activities, like intercultural dialogues, community events and campaigns, tournaments and thematic play days using sport, music, dance or drama. The project is learning how important it is that these are youth-led, and not overruled by other community actors. It is through **youth** - trained as peace champions - that the project is making steps towards changing the perception of host and refugee community members towards non-violent responses to conflict and youth participation. The project is also establishing communities of practice to encourage peer exchange, learning and strengthening existing community structures, like community clubs, to support ongoing dialogue on various topics, intended to reach also beyond the scope of the project.

SAFETY & PROTECTION

DIF3

Participating organisations
Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) & Right To Play (RTP)

Innovation phase
Pilot

Project period
1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

Budget
€150.000

WASTE TO CLEAN
ENERGY:
FUELING
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURES TOGETHER
BY CLOSING THE
LOOPS

(RENEWABLE) ENERGY

DIF3

Participating organisations

Cordaid (lead), SkillEd, SEMiLLA, Caritas Arua Diocese, Muni University

Innovation phase

Pilot

Project period

1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

Budget

€499,998

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project is implemented in Imvepi Refugee settlement in Terego District, Uganda, by the Circular Refugee Camps consortium. The project aims to strengthen the ability of the communities to adapt to climate change through the use of sustainable energy in the form of biogas (for cooking and lighting) made from a biodigester that uses human faecal matter. Additionally, the project focuses on greening by supporting tree planting using organic compost from the digester. At the same time, employment opportunities for local communities are created through providing labour for operating and maintaining the treatment plant, sell of biogas and compost, sale of tree seedlings trees, and increasing purchasing power resulting from the employment opportunities. To strengthen the uptake of the products and the employment opportunities, the Consortium implements an innovative blended training concept, based on the SkillEd platform, to train, guide, and engage biogas users, operators, and entrepreneurs in the different business opportunities along the value chain.

To create awareness on the benefits of using biogas and the dangers of using wood fuel for cooking continuous community engagement and awareness sessions commenced in April 2021. Due to COVID-19, these sessions were interrupted for three months and resumed at the start of September 2021 upon the government lifting lockdown measures.



LEARNINGS

The Consortium consists of members with different profiles, such as a social enterprise, relief and charity agencies, and academia. Such a collaboration is fairly uncommon and comes together with ongoing learning at different levels. Members are learning to manage different expectations and the need to protect and respect persons of concern while the project supports implement private sector development projects in relief settings. The Consortium is documenting the steps that are taken to ensure refugees do not experience any form of harm as a result of this project.

Feedback from the sector partners include: pay adequate attention to social acceptance, continuous mindset change, and awareness creation for the community to embrace the project; engage women and girls as key players and users in the renewable energy sector; engage landlords for access to land and institutions for raw materials needed to operate the biodigester. This feedback has been incorporated into the project implementation plan.

COLLABORATION

The biodigester has been built by SEMiLLA in partnership with Nijhus (a private company in the Netherlands) and packed in containers. The containers were shipped to Uganda in late November 2021. This shipment seems late, but the project has fast-tracked the remaining activities to maintain engagement with the community and sustain the momentum, and leverage on time. At the time of installation, the CRC Consortium will roll out a partnership with the ATC (Appropriate Technology Centre) of the Ugandan Ministry of Environment who has expressed interest in becoming a learning partner of the CRC Consortium. The essence of this partnership is to facilitate cross-learning and potential knowledge transfer. Learning is essential as the government of Uganda has had two unsuccessful attempts at building biodigesters to generate gas.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

CARE Netherlands/Uganda has indicated their potential interest to participate in the next steps. The Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD) has shown interest to co-fund the further development and further piloting in Imvepi settlement, as well as fund an expansion to 10 more locations in Uganda (total investment of € 16.2 million over the next 5 years). Other (public and private) investors are interested in co-investing in the scaling approach of this concept. It is probable that both DFCD and some private investors will step in during 2022.

SCALING PLANS

A number of business plans have been developed for these scaling activities. Pre-feasibility studies on the 'carbon credit potential' of the biogas and greening value chains have been completed. In the next three months (till the end of February 2022), the CRC consortium will strengthen the evidence for several parts of the business plan (greening, market analysis, etc.). The CRC consortium will start building the legal framework for the social enterprise, which will manage the future scaling operations.

OUTREACH

- Participating in the "Livelihood and Environment Sector Working Group" Meetings in Imvepi refugee settlement: Cordaid represents the CRC Consortium in the monthly sector coordination meetings chaired by Joint Aid Management (JAM), Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR where updates on project implementation are shared. These updates include findings from the pre-feasibility studies, feedback from the baseline, mini-surveys conducted to inform project implementation, and community perceptions from the community engagement sessions.
- Videos as blended learning materials were created to cover topics as entrepreneurship, collection faecal matter, access to finance, marketing and sale of biogas and compost. The videos have been digitalized by SkillEd to three on/offline Android applications to support learners with self-paced digital learning which will be combined with in-depth field training sessions.
- Eight engagements sessions by Caritas Arua which focused on the objectives of the project, targets, outputs, and outcomes. The sessions reached out to 593 people from March – October 2021.
- Development of investors pitch (May – June 2021), which has been presented to potential public and private investors, and to potential collaboration partners.
- [Explanatory video](#).

CASE STUDIES

The following case studies are under development:

- Face the Future study on carbon credits (regreening);
- Fair Climate Fund study on carbon credits (biogas)



DIF3

Participating organisations

ThinkIT (lead), Sparky Dryer, Fynixwave

Innovation phase

Scale

Project period

1 February 2021 - 31 December 2021

Budget

€150.000

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Uganda provides a unique context for refugees, as the country encourages them to work and to be entrepreneurs. To optimize this opportunity, cloudGreen's (cG) innovative platform supports female entrepreneurial refugees and locals to run their businesses successfully and sustainably. The platform addresses the demand for affordable and productive assets for settlements and urban women-led businesses; startup risks; lack of incentives to transition to clean energy; and limited market access (to emerging digital markets).

Local cG hubs (Kampala, Kiryandongo) provide partnering mechanisms and tools to improve access to clean energy for refugees and hosts. Women get solar dryers to dry their food and e-bikes to transport their food to the markets in sustainable ways. Moreover, women use the e-platform (ordering/payment platforms) of cG to sell their food. Also, financial services were available and training was provided on financial inclusion and financial literacy, aimed at helping women cultivate a savings culture and create credit scores for their businesses.

Through the e-platform, female refugees in Kiryandongo and Kampala are connected with cloudGreen's ready markets in Kampala. The inclusion of female entrepreneurs from both the refugee community and the host community expectedly leads to social connectedness.

LEARNINGS

Some key Learning Questions that cG is monitoring are: How can cG best help the women cooperatives/groups improve their Market Access based on their aspirations and context? Which of the cG project assets e-bikes or solar dryers best help the women cooperatives/group to meet their aspirations and why or which factors impact their prioritisation for using the assets? Which components of the cG platform help women gain Market Access based on context?

Initial insights include the following:

In Kiryandongo, the solar dryers provide the women cooperatives with immediate value addition for their products. It helps them to dry their product (cassava, okra, etc) more quickly and thoroughly which reduces spoilage. Dried products, especially okra, are more valuable in the marketplace. The women would like larger solar dryers to help them dry larger quantities and bigger produce (e.g. cassava, maize). Access to the cG e-TukTus provides better market access as it is a way to more affordably transport their products to market. The women would like more e-TukTus to help them transport and sell more products in nearby trading centres. The cG Hub as a meeting place has allowed refugee women to meet and form business relationships with host market women. In Kampala, the women need more in-depth training on using e-commerce digital platforms, quality control, and entrepreneurial soft skills. In Kampala, the e-bikes used for delivery are what connects the women to new customers so these are very valued.



COLLABORATION

This project is being carried out through collaborative work through several partners.

- *Fynixwave* is a local fintech company supporting women's financial inclusion through training on financial literacy and savings. Fynixwave supports 10 cG groups with smartphones for conducting and digitizing their saving activity and to get access to cG digital selling platforms;
- *Sparky Dryer* provides solar dryers and training on the making of organic briquettes needed in dryer operations.
- *Bodawerk* is the supplier of our e-Bikes which they convert from motorcycles. Bodawerk further employs women in battery production;
- *Bweyale Town Council* - In the Kiryandongo district, the cG hub is located in Bweyale Town, 5 kilometres away from Panyadolii Refugee Camp. cG has been working closely with the Community Development Officer who has been supervising operations and offering support and guidance. Additionally, cloudGreen is in the process of working out a MoU with the office of the Resident District Commissioner, Kiryandongo District;
- *Kalwere Women's Market Vendors Association (KWMVA)* represents a part of the female host community in Kampala. 47 female market vendors who are members of KWMVA have been trained in the use of the Sparky dryer. The association has also expressed its interest in working with cG on other sanitation and environment-related projects.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Five private businesses and one women's cooperative have expressed their interest in buying cG e-bikes to 1) make food deliveries similar to the cG model, or 2) make other deliveries of locally produced products (liquid soap, pizzas, coffee, etc). These organisations either contacted cG through its network or they are one of the vendors who are selling on the e-platform. Also, one business in Rwanda has expressed its interest in buying an e-bike in order to launch a similar business model in Kigali. cG has explored ways to make this business-to-business-to-consumer (B2B2C) model work without subsidies.

SCALING PLANS

In Kampala, cG will be expanded to urban market women in Kalerwe through the provision of additional stalls for storing, packaging and selling produce. The B2B2C model provides e-bikes and solar drying to support women to increase revenues/access to new digital markets while expanding cG's goal of reducing damage to the environment by transitioning vendors and customers to 1) clean solar-powered e-mobility and 2) organic briquettes made by women in rural Kiryandongo.

In Kiryandongo, cG will continue to support women's dry food chain and briquette making - offering them training in branding and market access while expanding e-mobility services.

OUTREACH

- [Video](#) - launch of the cloudGreen project
- [Video](#) - cloudGreen and Bodawerk partnership on the use of e-Bikes
- Upcoming: a virtual learning event in January 2022 to share the learnings from the cloudGreen project. This will be held in conjunction with Makerere University School of Business' (MUBS)- Business Resilience Innovation and Leadership (BRIL) programme.

CASE STUDIES

cG has created a [Project Documentary](#) to highlight project's Process & Position innovation.

SENSOR DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER SERVICES IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

SMART USE OF DATA

DIF4

Participating organisations

Tearfund Netherlands (lead), Tearfund UK/South Sudan, RichardCarter and Associates, Centre for Emergency and Development Support (CEDS)

Innovation phase

Scaling

Project period

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

Budget

€611.359

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project attempts to improve the sustainability of rural water supply services in two counties (Aweil East and Aweil Central) of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, South Sudan. The project started with the assumption that better and more timely data on the performance of handpumps, communicated promptly to the right actors, could result in more rapid repairs. Previously, the use of handpump monitoring sensors has been deployed in countries that fit in the 'sustainable development' context. The innovative aspect of this project is the use of such sensors in a country that is perceived as a 'humanitarian context'.

Broadly speaking, the project consists of 1) implementation and 2) research and learning. Implementation includes initial repairs to handpumps; support to water user committees; the installation of sensors, training in the use of their data, and interpretation of the information which they provide; and wider engagement with water user committees, handpump mechanics, private sector parts suppliers, humanitarian agencies and government; and exchange with the 'research and learning' workstream. The latter workstream seeks to answer the four questions: (a) Do the sensors provide reliable and timely data on handpump performance? Specifically, do they give warning of impending failure, as well as of an actual breakdown? (b) How do the various stakeholders respond to the availability of sensor data? (c) Do we see any improvement in handpump uptime as a result of installing sensors? And (d) What other learning can we derive from the project, especially in regard to unexpected and unintended outcomes?

LEARNINGS

The main delays and challenges to date have centred on the sensors, and their means of transmission of data. Both the satellite-linked and mobile telephone-connected sensors experienced data transmission difficulties in the early months of the project. Modifications to the mobile telephone-connected sensors had to be made. A small number of thefts occurred. Repairs became more complicated as handpump mechanics (HPMs) were cautious about interfering with sensor installations.

The baseline survey was carried out over a 2–3-month period in the rainy season. This affected the availability of community members (many of whom were occupied with farming), and it affected access to some of the sites.

COLLABORATION

The project is working together with two private sector stakeholders: *Octrinsic Technologies*, based in Kenya, and *SonSet Solutions*, based in the United States. Both companies provide the sensor technologies and the dashboards made accessible to the (project) stakeholders.

The project also works together with the county and regional *government authorities*. Government representatives are part of the research team and engage actively in thinking with project consortium actors about potential solutions and ways forward in scaling.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Dorcas is interested to explore how the learnings and findings can be integrated into the South Sudan Joint Response WASH programme and beyond.



SCALING PLANS

The shared experience by the project consortium stakeholders is that this project requires a more systemic and multi-actor follow-up leading to a 4 to 5 years scaling project. Five domains are identified that will be explored further to develop (sustainable) scaling pathways:

1. Supporting the transition of the spare part supply chain from a humanitarian-oriented system to a more market-based service provision. This should lead to better access of communities and actors to needed parts in order to repair hand pumped boreholes (HPBs);
2. Supporting further access and use of data to assess, monitor, and evaluate HPB functionality;
3. Supporting community-based service delivery management models and exploring the viability of alternative service delivery models; this will estimate how communities are self-organised to demand (and contribute to) reliable water supply;
4. Supporting the development of viable financing structures and mechanisms leading to more financially sustainable operation and management; this will be linked to the benefits provided by the sensor data and a mechanism to pay for it; and
5. Supporting the further improvement of water supply.

The expected outcome at the end of this project is to have a strategic plan for each of the five topics with preconditions, risks, assumptions, and steps to take to facilitate this in the longer run.

OUTREACH

- Learning event held June 10th, 2021: With the purpose to update participating researchers in the field of handpump sensors on each other's activities; to offer and receive participant feedback on this project, and; to launch an ongoing learning forum around the theme of the use of remotely-sensed handpump performance data for sustaining water supply services in humanitarian and development settings. 23 experts from different organisations participated, including two DRA members (Cordaid and Dorcas).
- Mid-term review workshop held October 12th and 13th, 2021: The second day of the workshop was open to external stakeholders, such as DRA members in South Sudan, government stakeholders and other humanitarian/development actors. The results and learnings from the MTR workshop are shared with a wider audience through a short 'glossy' type of report.

SYSTEMATIC COST ANALYSIS TOOL

DIOPTRA FOR RAPID AND RIGOROUS COST- EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS

SMART USE OF DATA

DIF1

CLOSED

Participating organisations

Stichting Vluchteling (lead), Save the Children, Mercy Corps, International Rescue Committee, CARE, Action Against Hunger

Innovation phase

Invention / Pilot

Project period

1 December 2018 – 30 June 2020

Budget

€799.522

DIF4

Participating organisations

Stichting Vluchteling (lead), Save the Children, International Rescue Committee

Innovation phase

Scaling

Project period

1 July 2021 – 31 December 2021

Budget

€191.548

ABOUT THE PROJECT

As there is a gap between humanitarian needs and available funding it is essential that funding is directed towards interventions that have the biggest impact on the most people per euro spent. However, it is complicated for organisations to find cost-efficient ways to deliver assistance as methods used to estimate value for money (VfM) are not consistent across organisations or programmes, producing results that cannot be meaningfully compared to inform action. The Dioptra tool offers a solution to this problem.

With DIF1 funding, the Dioptra tool (previously named Systematic Cost Analysis (SCAN) tool) was developed to conduct cost-efficiency analysis quickly, rigorously, and consistently based on the [Grand Bargain's](#) methodology. It is an intuitive web-based tool that walks programme staff through the process of cost analysis, compares results to available benchmarks, and provides evidence-based suggestions on how to improve the reach and impact of that programme. It automatically uses available data from organisations' finance systems, reducing the time to conduct an analysis from several days to a few hours. It is designed to be interoperable with any organisation's finance system while ensuring full data security and control.

The project continued as a scaling project with DIF4. Dioptra has been successfully piloted in more than 12 countries, including the Nigeria Joint Response.

LEARNINGS

An [external evaluation](#) found that a majority of surveyed users recommended the tool citing usefulness in budgeting and programme design processes, and easy identification of high-cost categories. Each analysis took an average of 3 hours to complete.

The project further learned that more socialization on 'value-for-money' is required before diving into a cost analysis to avoid misunderstanding the tool's capability. It also learned that the opportunities to apply Dioptra were greater when focal points were more engaged in continuous support for technical or country teams on the broader issue of 'value-for-money'.

COLLABORATION

Dioptra is supported by a private sector software developer, *OMBU*, who developed the software based on their expertise in technology infrastructure, visual design, and user experience. To ensure the robustness of the software security, a private sector company, *Obscure Group*, conducted a pro-bono security review of the software code and vulnerabilities, which helped to strengthen the data security of the digital innovation. Lastly, a private sector legal firm, *Hogan Lovells*, provided pro-bono support on trademark search and application to establish the trademark of the Dioptra name in the EU and US.



ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The Dioptra tool has been adopted by IRC, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, and CARE. These NGOs have full access to the tool at any time and have collectively used it in at least 12 countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Kenya, Yemen, Uganda, Mali, Indonesia, Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Afghanistan. Besides, Danish Refugee Council is currently in the process of adopting Dioptra and expects to pilot it in Uganda in 2022. Catholic Relief Services and Action Against Hunger have also indicated an interest in piloting Dioptra for cash and livelihoods programmes if funding becomes available.

SCALING PLANS

By the end of 2021, Dioptra will have been installed by 5 INGOs. In the next three years, the aim for Dioptra is to be installed at 10 INGOs and to have completed 100 new cost-efficiency analyses in cash, health, and education programmes in different regions, generating robust evidence on the 'value-for-money' of different activities and modalities. It is envisioned that many partners will cover some part of software maintenance and technical support costs through the grants benefiting from Dioptra, paving the way towards sustainable scaling. The project is also exploring engaging private sector technology partners to support Dioptra and pursue a revenue-based scaling model.

OUTREACH

- [Dioptra website](#)
- [USC Social Innovation Speaker Series](#)
- [CEGA Cost-over 2021 workshop](#)
- Grand Bargain Cash Workstream
- GNV Wasting Global Technical Working Group
- DCHI Humanitarian Innovation Course



CASE STUDIES

Several case studies on the use of Dioptra and interpretation of cost-efficiency results have been published on <https://www.dioptratool.org/what-does-dioptra-do>:

- Disaster Relief in Indonesia: Save the Children analyzed the cost-efficiency of the distribution of conditional cash transfer to 523 households, as well as the construction of latrines for 1,900 people. See more: [here](#)
- Child-Friendly Spaces in Nigeria: The Nigeria Joint Response estimated the cost-efficiency of child-friendly spaces. See more: [here](#)
- Food Security, Livelihoods, and Nutrition in Nigeria: The Nigeria Joint Response estimated the cost-efficiency of micro-enterprise management training and treatment of malnutrition. See more: [here](#)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Nigeria: The Nigeria Joint Response estimated the cost-efficiency of latrine construction and hygiene kit distribution. See more: [here](#)
- Family Planning in South Sudan: The IRC analyzed the cost-efficiency of family planning services in South Sudan. See more: [here](#)
- Conditional Cash for Education and Protection in Jordan: CARE used the results from a Dioptra analysis to start an analysis of how different transfer amounts of conditional cash for education and protection in Jordan could help reduce the programme's cost per child and reach more children in need. See more: [here](#)

121 (ONE-TO-ONE)
PERSONAL CASH
AID

121 - UPSKILLING
AND UPSCALING
CASH AND
VOUCHER
ASSISTANCE

CASH PROGRAMMING

DIF1	CLOSED
Participating organisations Dorcas (lead), Netherlands Red Cross – 510, Tearfund NL, Help a Child, Disberse, PWC, Tykn, TU Delft, DCHI, Red Cross Malawi, Eagles, SOLDEV	
Innovation phase Pilot	
Project period 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2020	
Budget €795.855	
DIF4	
Participating organisations Dorcas (lead), Cordaid, Help a Child, Tearfund, ZOA, Netherlands Red Cross – 510	
Innovation phase Scaling	
Project period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022	
Budget €777.410	

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The 121 Platform aims to provide more efficient, effective, faster, and safer cash support for people which enables them to meet their own needs. The Platform co-designs with people affected by disasters, aid workers and people donating. Besides, it uses robust and available technology to create the solutions needed. The project 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 project was first piloted with DIF1 funding and is currently implementing its scaling project with DIF4 funding. During the DIF1 project, 121 was piloted during a cash programme with undocumented migrants in the Netherlands instead of the planned pilots in Malawi and Ethiopia due to COVID-19. The 121 Platform was tested with users and information was gathered on user insights for further development. The 121 scaling project (DIF4) activities focus on the further development of 121 productions (deepening), introducing 121 solutions to new partners and more countries (broadening) and generating the necessary knowledge, tools, business model and validation of 121 solutions (embedding). During this phase, the 121 Platform will be used by Dorcas in Lebanon and by ZOA in Ethiopia.

LEARNINGS

- The 121 innovation project(s) have provided us with the following three areas of learnings:
- There exist both contextual and organisational barriers to scale Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). The contextual barriers include third-party approvals from governments, community leaders, and the target community. Examples of organisational barriers are that CVA preparedness is not prioritized within organisations (for instance, due to a lack of people trained in CVA and lack of capacity available) and the limited recognition of the potential of digitization and the use of data due to a lack of devices and low digital literacy;
 - The use of [Matomo](#) and [Application Insights](#) enables the 121 Platform to continue learning through monitoring the app use;
 - The project conducted market research to develop viable business models. The insights from the market research have been used during two business model workshops where the project worked on drafting possible business models and refining the buyer groups for 121. This is still a work in progress. Two more workshops are planned in which real-life experiments will be designed to test the business models and assumptions.

COLLABORATION

In the first project, 121 collaborated with seven private sectors partners: *Tykn* (digital identity module), *Disberse* (financial infrastructure and connections to last-mile providers), *Intersolve* (financial service provider for the vouchers in the contingency pilot in NL), *Albert Heijn* (where the vouchers can be redeemed), *PWC* (provided project management advice and advice to adhere to GDPR (European privacy regulation) and contributed with their corporate social responsibility budget), *Philips* (funding referral app, professional volunteers) and *Accenture* (consultant to support development Dev Ops).

In the second project, the 121 Platform expands collaboration with two financial service providers: *BOB finance* in Lebanon and *HelloCash* in Ethiopia. These service providers will enable cash payments to people in need. Besides that, 510 has established cooperation with several private sector partners to provide developers at reduced rates.



ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Besides the DIF-funded pilot in the Netherlands, there have been other 121 pilots in collaboration with corporate partners, knowledge institutes, donors and humanitarian organisations. Namely, The Netherlands Red Cross 121 pilot in St. Maarten and Kenya and the Dorcas 121 pilot with Tykn and 510 in Ukraine. The 121 Platform will also be used by Dorcas in Lebanon and by ZOA in Ethiopia. Besides that, Cash Information Management capacity building has been provided to Cordaid, Tearfund, Help a Child and several local partners. Also, the Cash Programme Design Wizard – which is under development - will be available to all DRA members and their local partners.

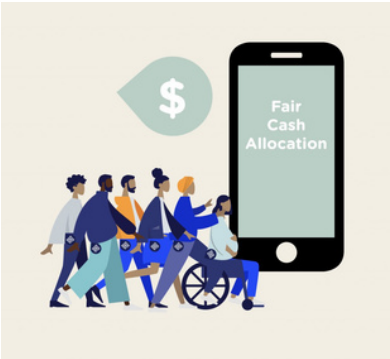
SCALING PLANS

- The 121 project funded by DIF4 focuses on the journey to scale of the 121 Platform and is working on the following scaling pathways:
- Scaling knowledge through 121 services, by sharing Cash Information Management (IM) knowledge through existing platforms, building Cash IM skills and improving CVA processes for 5 DRA members (Dorcas, ZOA, Cordaid, Tearfund and Help a Child).
 - Scaling 121 products by contextualizing and implementing with two DRA members: Dorcas in Lebanon and ZOA in Ethiopia
 - Sustaining 121, by extending market research and developing a sustainable business model with experts

Towards the end of the project, a clear business model and product-service offering should be available to facilitate further scale-up.

OUTREACH

The project has a clear communication plan in place to share insights and results with the humanitarian sector. A presentation has been provided to the DRA Cash Working Group and the Ethiopia Joint Response about the 121 Platform and Cash IM services. Please see the 121 Platform website for more information: <https://www.121.global/>



CASE STUDIES

- Five case studies will be developed and shared within the DRA and across key platforms (CalP, CashHub, organisations, 121.global). The topics of the case studies are:
- Insights from the Human Centred Design process (HCD) with identification and results on three profiles: HQ, Country Office, and Field Office;
 - Development process and realization of the Cash IM training – based on HCD insights - including a train the trainer at HQ level and contextual training for County Offices;
 - Development of the Cash Programme Design Wizard - based on HCD insights - where HQ and Country Office collaboratively design cash programmes;
 - Two case studies on how cash IM processes have improved;
 - Experiences and insights with the 121 Platform in Ethiopia (ZOA) & Lebanon (Dorcas). The actual communication material has not been concluded, but will likely consist of an article, photos and/or video.

TEAMUP: READY? GO!

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Children are exposed to stress and traumatic experiences during their journeys to safety. As the children's social and emotional needs – during their journey and at their (temporary) destination - are often not met, TeamUp focuses on decreasing stress and increasing wellbeing. It is an inclusive psychosocial support intervention with structured movement-based group activities based on play, movement, and body awareness for all children aged 6 to 18 years. TeamUp is expanding rapidly and developed a scaling strategy with the ambition to reach one million children by 2025.

With support from the DRA Innovation Fund, this consortium will be able to improve systems and processes to allow scaling of TeamUp in South Sudan and the wider region. Therefore, this project aims to facilitate the development of a certification system for trainers and facilitators, improve M&E processes, organise a national advocacy event and regional training for staff of Save the Children, War Child Holland, Help a Child and SOS Children's Villages from new countries in the region to facilitate further expansion and embedding of TeamUp.

As part of the project, the above mentioned NGOs implement TeamUp in their regular project sites. The aim is to reach 8,000 children, learn from implementation, and identify opportunities to continue with TeamUp in upcoming Joint Responses and other projects.

LEARNINGS

Initial feedback from children, parents and teachers related to TeamUp activities indicate, among others, that children more easily connect with each other and that children open up towards peers. New elements were added during the start-up training in Juba: a coordination day, launching of a certification system, and training for M&E staff to standardize tools. These elements will now also be incorporated in other TeamUp trainings organised in other projects/countries.

Digitalization of processes (e.g., learning trajectory) is not feasible in all parts of South Sudan. Creative offline solutions were identified to ensure the continuation of the certification of facilitators.



ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Within South Sudan, War Child Holland will scale and test TeamUp as part of the Global MHPSS minimum service package in collaboration with UNICEF. The other NGOs (HAC, SOS and SC) will await results of the learnings before deciding to scale, however initial positive feedback has been shared.

With regards to regional expansion, requests were received from the [Joining Forces](#) for Africa Coalition to implement TeamUp in Uganda, Ethiopia (trained November), and Kenya (training 2022). WCH Burundi, WCH DRC and SC Mozambique will implement TeamUp in 2022. If South Sudan learnings are positive, HAC will consider implementing TeamUp in DRC JR.

SCALING PLANS

TeamUp is funded as a scaling project with the aim to improve systems and processes to allow TeamUp scaling in South Sudan and the wider region. Activities include:

- The testing of processes facilitating TeamUp scaling with four partners is generating joint in-country learnings (related to certification, M&E processes and branding) which will support improved processes and roll out of the TeamUp intervention in other parts of Sub Sahara Africa.
- Finalizing the financial (business) model;
- A regional TeamUp training for the four partner agencies from other countries will be organised in Kenya in January 2022 to further scale in the region;
- Plans are being developed to set up regional capacity with a pool of (interagency) TeamUp trainers to facilitate scaling in the region.

OUTREACH

- Partners are documenting initial outcomes and continue sharing experiences during relevant cluster meetings, Technical Working Groups, state and national MHPSS and Child protection coordination groups. Project partners will also use learnings from this project to inform and complement other MHPSS programmes in South Sudan;
- In 2022, in-country lessons learned event and Webinar for external audience will be organised;
- A regional training is planned for January 2022 for staff from partners from Africa region interested in taking up TeamUp.

SAFETY & PROTECTION

DIF4

Participating organisations

Save the Children (lead), War Child Holland, SOS Children's Villages Italy, Help a Child

Innovation phase

Scaling

Project period

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

Budget

€799.122

DIF1 **CLOSED**

Participating organisations

Help a Child (lead), Invi, L'Université Évangélique en Afrique

Innovation phase

Pilot

Project period

1 January 2019 – 31 August 2020

Budget

€389.939

DIF4

Participating organisations

Help a Child (lead), Invi

Innovation phase

Scaling

Project period

1 May 2021 – 31 March 2022

Budget

€642.725

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Empowered2Protect entails an innovative approach against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) focusing on both prevention and mitigation. The project consists of two complementary elements, namely the [Invi self-defence bracelet](#) and an inclusive community program. The Invi bracelet offers direct protection as its wearer can release a foul odour to repel perpetrators. The community awareness sessions provide strategies and build knowledge to empower women and men to take an active role in preventing SGBV. The combination of both interventions is a valuable asset to strengthen current SGBV programming.

The project was first piloted with DIF1 funding and is currently working on its scaling journey with DIF4 funding. The pilot project was piloted in Kabare, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The aim was to empower people to protect themselves in a humanitarian context against SGBV. The project was combined with research through satisfaction surveys, interviews and focus group discussion. The second project mainly takes place in Burundi, with the main objective to overcome barriers to scale. This includes, amongst other activities, the improvement of the E2P Manual for the community sessions, as well as the reduction of the price of an Invi bracelet.

LEARNINGS

In general, the project has been highly appreciated by beneficiaries in the pilot phase, who stated they feel safer and more equipped to counter SGBV. However, a longer study is needed to show whether the project decreases cases in SGBV.

Below is a list of learnings from the [final external evaluation](#) of the pilot project:

- The involvement of men in community awareness training is necessary and the impact of traditional beliefs should not be underestimated.
- The Teach a Friend (TaF) approach allowed for more impact by increasing the number of people sensitized on SGBV.
- Through translation, some key concepts to SGBV were not communicated effectively
- Better communication is needed to address beneficiaries' misunderstanding on the actual cost of the bracelet and the expected costs in a humanitarian setting.

Adaptations are made based on the learnings. To fit the cultural context, adaptations were made to the design of the Invi bracelet based on requests of beneficiaries of the E2P pilot project. Also, the E2P module was updated with new information and tools so beneficiaries are better informed about the advantages and disadvantages of the E2P bracelet. A risk assessment was included to inform beneficiaries on when (not) to use the bracelet. Also, it is found that cost reductions can be achieved (e.g. through a design that is easier to reproduce, low-cost material, and avoiding dangerous goods shipping fees).

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

E2P has not been adopted by other organisations yet, but there are several opportunities:

- There was contact with SOS Colombia where the device could protect migrants from Venezuela who are passing through Colombia. First, SOS Colombia wants to test the Invi bracelet among their staff and they have revised the E2P Manual.
- There is an opportunity to form a consortium in 5 refugee camps in Burundi (UNHCR, Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), Save the Children, Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC)). Save the Children coordinates protection and provides reporting mechanisms, while JRS provides psychological support and GVC health care.
- Both UNFPA and Red Cross are interested in being involved in scaling E2P in PEP kits and Dignity kits as a preventive element to their responsive efforts. The price of the product seems to be a barrier.
- E2P can enhance programmes of Sacode and AFAB, who have networks that involve groups of women. The price of the bracelet and lack of funding are current barriers.
- Tearfund might be interested in implementing the Invi Bracelet in its current Transforming Masculinity program that is used in many churches.
- [Healthy entrepreneurs](#) expressed interest in the Invi Bracelet for their female entrepreneurs (about 8,000 total) who frequently travel through rural areas. To include it in their catalogue, they prefer to see a price point around €10.



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COLLABORATION

Empowered2Protect (E2P) consists of a partnership between *Help a Child* and *Invi*, whereby the Invi self-defence bracelet is combined with an inclusive community program that focuses on spreading knowledge and awareness on SGBV. Additionally, with the pilot, the l'Université Évangélique Afrique undertook a full impact study, which also examined whether scaling was achievable and which changes needed to be made.

SCALING PLANS

Based on market research, a scaling strategy is developed for the coming years. This strategy focuses on an active implementation of E2P on a national level through Help a Child's country offices and other organisations. Scaling is intended to start in DRC and Burundi, to later expand to the African Great Lake area and other regions. In the meantime, the project wants to learn about cross-border protection dynamics and focus on enhancing responsive (funded) SGBV programming through programmes that focus on women, girls and men at risk and through segments like camps, education, and religious entities.

OUTREACH

- [Website Invi](#)
- [Invi Newsletter](#)

DRC

- Update on E2P in DRC Joint Response meeting October 2021
- Multistakeholder meeting in cooperation with Division of Gender & Family - introduction of E2P
- [Questionnaire](#) held on the use of E2P among 20 key actors in North Kivu

Burundi

- Multistakeholder meeting August 2021 – introduction of E2P
- Presentation of E2P in SGBV sub-cluster meeting
- E2P launch event 25 Nov 2021 Bujumbura during 16 Days of Activism campaign, and created music [video](#) with female artists
- [Article](#) in B-NP Magazine
- [Article](#) in Iwacu

CASE STUDIES

A [testimony](#) by a female participant who describes her experience with the Invi Bracelet.

Operational Research Report on E2P: Bwimana, A., Léonard Kazamwali, M., Obonage Safari, R. (2020). Humanitarian innovation for humanising empowerment in contexts of persistent emergencies and statelessness. *University Evangelique en Afrique*, 1-67.

CASH PROGRAMMING

DIF1

CLOSED

Participating organisations

Oxfam Novib (lead), Plan International, Global Parametrics, PayMaya Philippines, Visa Worldwide, CLIMBS Insurance Cooperative

Innovation phase

Pilot

Project period

1 January 2019 – 31 March 2021

Budget

€610,444

DIF4

Participating organisations

Oxfam Novib (lead), Plan International, Global Parametrics

Innovation phase

Scaling

Project period

1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

Budget

€800,000

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Building Resilient, Adaptive and Disaster Ready Communities (B-READY) project aims to better protect vulnerable households from natural disasters by using the latest digital forecasting technology that predicts extreme weather events. The project focuses on enabling a shift from humanitarian response after disasters to pre-emptive response through the following innovations: 1) Impact-based disaster forecasting, 2) Pre-emptive cash transfer as part of early action, and 3) Aligning systems, policy, and financing for better disaster response.

B-READY I was piloted in the Philippines with DIF 1 funding. Currently, B-READY II is implementing its readiness to scaling project with DIF4 funding. In addition to the project's continued presence and technical support to villages in Salcedo, the current project expanded to villages in Oras and Cotabato city. In the past months, the project has worked on, among others, family profiling and registration, prepaid card account opening, financial literacy of vulnerable families, participatory community disaster risk assessment, index development and simulation of B-READY protocols, community-based preparedness, and resilience building. Due to the current COVID-19 regulations in the Philippines, most project activities were largely conducted via digital platforms. Still, constant communication with local leaders was maintained to conduct the community-based activities.



LEARNINGS

With more contexts adapting the approach, B-READY can build on evidence demonstrating that anticipatory action is necessary for the humanitarian system to be more effective. Among others, the following findings are observed:

- People who received cash grants prepared for the disaster by purchasing their necessary basic needs, pre-emptively evacuating to safer ground, and actively engaging in preparedness plans.
- As people saw the value of pre-emptive cash transfers, they reported willingness to contribute monthly amounts towards paying for disaster insurance.
- Communities were more prepared through community disaster preparedness activities.
- Local governments were interested after seeing an effective model of anticipatory action, leading to improved policies and gender-sensitive programmes.
- Local markets benefitted from being part of the payment deliveries as people, in turn, purchased from them.

COLLABORATION

The project is in itself a collaboration among different government actors, humanitarian actors, and financial service providers to practice inclusive, efficient, safe, and pre-emptive cash transfer programming. To build on institutionalizing anticipatory action, B-READY has signed MoUs with participating local government units as our public partnership agreement to create buy-in and equal engagement in the design and implementation of B-READY.

B-READY is exploring engagement with financial service providers like *Cebuana Lhuillier* to develop customized insurance/financial products that can be bundled with B-READY financial services to B-READY project participants. B-READY also works together with *PayMaya Philippines*, a fintech company and financial service provider, who trains micro-merchants at the community level and enables them to become community-based financial service providers to ensure access to pre-emptive cash. The merchants also sell basic goods. This allows B-READY participants to immediately purchase basic goods needed to prepare prior to a typhoon.

Moreover, *Global Parametrics* (a risk modelling company) provided training on the use of forecast technology and became part of the community's early warning triggers. This has helped humanitarian actors to integrate scientific information in their disaster preparedness contingency plans.

ADOPTION/ADAPTATION BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The B-READY model has been adopted by the local government of Salcedo, East Samar, Philippines and 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.

SCALING PLANS

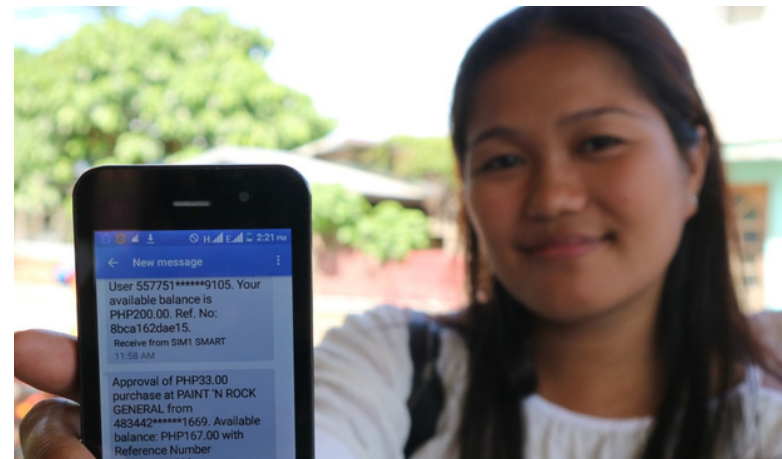
B-READY is piloted in Indonesia (under FCDO) and Sudan (under Sudan Joint Response) and is being scaled up in the Philippines. Furthermore, the partnership has applied for ECHO funding to continue the pilot in Indonesia and to expand to Bangladesh. Talks are ongoing to explore funding opportunities for Uganda as well.

OUTREACH

- [Video](#) - explaining the B-READY project
- COP26 digital exhibition
- [Socialization workshops with countries](#)
- Printable and digital brochures for B-READY (December 2021)
- [Briefing paper for UN High Level Event on Anticipatory Action](#)
- B-READY Presentation for NetHope Global Summit November 2021
- Global Anticipation Dialogue session on vulnerability assessment in anticipatory action with FAO December 2021

CASE STUDIES

- B-READY in the Philippines - [case study](#)
- Capacity development framework and guidance notes – [Adopting Innovations for Pre-emptive Cash Transfer](#)





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