



Makerere University School of Public Health - ResilientAfrica Network

RAN Innovation Scaling Program (RISP)

Call for Applications

1. Introduction

ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) announces that RAN Innovation Scaling Program (RISP) that is looking for innovations that strengthen the resilience of communities. The innovations should have passed the idea stage and have gone through the formative processes (ideation, prototype testing and piloting) with promising results showing that they are scalable and potentially transformative. This call is targeting both profit driven start-ups and social enterprises that have the potential to strengthen the resilience of communities.

2. Who we are

The ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) headquartered at the Makerere University, School of Public Health is a primarily USAID funded Research and Innovation network currently operating in 20 African Universities in 13 countries. We are one of the University based Development Labs under Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN 2.0). RAN is strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities using innovative, evidence-based approaches developed in collaboration with University students, faculty and the community. To date, RAN has supported over 320 innovative projects. The RAN team also nurtures and upholds strategic partnerships to strengthen the innovation ecosystem (fostering a culture of innovation and creativity) in Africa and beyond.

The core objective of RAN is to promote the development and scaling of sustainable, innovative solutions and approaches that can help strengthen the capacities of vulnerable African communities to mitigate, adapt to or recover from natural or man-made shocks and stresses, thereby strengthening their resilience.



3. About RAN Innovation Scaling Program (RISP)

3.1 General Objective of RISP Call

To identify and bring to scale high-impact innovations that are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

3.2 Thematic areas of focus for the Call

The RISP Call targets the following thematic areas:

- *Agriculture and Food Security*
- *Global Health*
- *Governance /Democracy and Human Rights*
- *Energy*
- *Financial Inclusion*

a) Agriculture and Food Security

In East African communities, agriculture supports the survival and well-being of up to 80 percent of the population. Currently communities experience recurrent shocks arising from climate variability and climate change with high dependence on subsistence agriculture. The yields are meagre and non-diversified, value addition to produce is low, and agricultural markets are skewed by irregularities in prices. The result is low income, persistent poverty and no growth. We need to disrupt the status quo and build the agency of rural farmers. We are looking for low cost, environmentally friendly approaches and technologies to improve agricultural practices and increase agricultural yields both in crops and animal husbandry. We are seeking for novel ideas or approaches (including those that build on or have considerations for previous work in the area) that will address but not limited to the following:

- i. Use of low-cost technologies and ICTs to increase agricultural yields through: increased access to farm inputs, and improved farming and harvesting practices, early warning systems for adverse climate conditions, among others.
- ii. Value addition, preservation, post-harvest handling methods and innovative ways of utilizing agricultural waste.
- iii. Last-mile communication and platforms to reduce market asymmetries.

b) Global Health

Communities in sub-Saharan Africa are confronted by the most dramatic health predicaments including communicable and non-communicable disease due to urbanization, adverse climate conditions, chronic displacements and extreme poverty. We are seeking innovations that will alleviate health concerns among low-resource communities. Innovations may address but not limited to the following areas:

- i. Innovative approaches or technologies that aid disease prevention.
- ii. Low-cost and easy to use primary care diagnostics for common causes of morbidity and mortality.
- iii. Low-cost approaches and technologies to aid current challenges in adherence and treatment of the common causes of morbidity and mortality.



c) Governance/Democracy and Human Rights

Governance systems often have bureaucratic structures that may limit civic engagement and the demand for transparency. Furthermore, there is a disconnect between local and central administrative levels, which further fuels challenges in the allocation and utilization of resources. In order to streamline service delivery, promote democracy and transparency in government systems, there is need to explore innovative approaches and applications of technology for monitoring and reporting, among other uses.

We are seeking innovative solutions that may address but are not limited to the following:

- i. Engagement of leaders and civil servants on pertinent social issues through advocacy and/or dialogue with community. The ideas may use an array of multimedia- visual/conceptual art, photography, videography, music, dance, theatre/performance art, creative writing, or other forms keeping the context of the target communities in mind.
- ii. New frameworks, platforms, and approaches to citizen participation and civic engagement (that include the voices of minority and under-represented groups) to discuss social issues and policies.
- iii. Platforms to facilitate engaging local and central governments so as to promote government accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to the needs of local communities.
- iv. Technologies, approaches or platforms that address the violation of human rights and promote community cohesion (e.g. innovations around reducing gender-based violence, human trafficking and disputes such as land wrangles, etc.).

d) Energy

Research on low-cost, environmentally-friendly energy sources has been funded over the years. However, most of these energy technologies remain unviable for some contexts often due to economic, geographic and social challenges. We are looking for innovations that have demonstrable capabilities to extend sustainable eco-friendly energies to last mile communities and households in East Africa. Solutions may include but not limited to the following:

- i. Innovations (technologies and approaches) that increase access to off-grid energy solutions at a community-level and/or household-level.
- ii. Innovations that promote the wider uptake of clean, energy efficient solutions at the community or household level.
- iii. Innovations around the use of solar, wind and biomass for clean energy production for communities or households.

e) Financial Inclusion

Low financial inclusion, a pervasive culture of not saving for investment and a high dependence on subsistence farming with little or no diversification of livelihoods drive



numerous households into deeper levels of poverty. We are seeking innovative solutions that may address but are not limited to the following:

- i. Technologies and approaches that create and foster a culture that reduces consumerism, improves savings and enhances access to finance and credit.
- ii. Solutions that explore alternative sources of livelihoods for rural communities.

a. Eligibility Criteria

The call is open to interested applicants from diverse backgrounds and disciplines who propose brilliant projects in relation to any of the listed themes. Applicants should note that the proposed projects could be in form of ‘technologies’ or ‘approaches’. The proposed projects should have a demonstrated proof of concept, and evidence or results from a pilot of the product or service. Projects may even have been launched on the market and, made some initial sales of their product or service. This call is open to applicants from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

4. Projects selected for RISP awards

Selected projects will receive up to 10,000 USD in support of a six-month acceleration program to optimize their innovation for scale. As part of the acceleration program, selected projects will undergo a diagnostic evaluation to identify strategic areas for intervention so as to accelerate their pathway to scale.

RAN reserves the right to award a larger or smaller grant amount. RAN may also apply additional geographic, thematic, gender, and other considerations as additional evaluation criteria. Applications may also undergo additional USAID review including initial environmental impact assessment, vetting, special notification, and approval by an applicant’s country USAID Mission. A responsibility determination will be conducted on all applicants for their status regarding United States Government (USG) sanctioned individuals and entities as those ineligible to apply include any individuals participating in, linked to, or sponsoring subversive activities including criminal acts, terrorism or related activities.

Applications that are awarded grants are bound by all provisions of the RAN Cooperative Agreement which flow down to any subsequent sub-awards. This also includes title to and use of Intangible (Intellectual) Property where “Intangible Property” means, but is not limited to, copyrights, inventions and patents, and data first produced under the RAN Cooperative Agreement. Intangible property is subject to the requirements set forth in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations on Administration of Assistance Awards to U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations (22 CFR 226.36).



5.1 Resources beyond the award

Applicants that receive awards shall be responsible for costs incurred for project expenses that exceed the grant amount awarded in this call. Grant money and other reimbursement amounts will be paid through an agreement with RAN and are subject to the availability of funds. RAN reserves the right to determine the grant amount awarded to an applicant and to vary grant amounts among selected finalists based on analysis of the proposed project budget and the availability of funds. The Judging Panel, RAN and USAID reserve the right to reassess the technical requirements and performance evaluation criteria, and are not obligated to make any awards should no applicants match the selection criteria.

However, RAN is fully cognizant of the fact that bringing successful interventions to full pilot or scale will require many more resources than can be provided by the RAN. As part of the mentorship process, RAN will provide support to awardees on development of viable business models and mobilization of external funding from interested agencies, especially for interventions that are clearly impactful on the communities.

6. Implementation schedule

The key milestones for the RISP call are highlighted below. This includes also the time for submission of recommendations to USAID following the shortlist generated from the Final Pitch.

Milestone	Dates
Call open for applications	8 th July 2019
Webinar and Info Session	25 th July 2019
Closing date for applications	16 th August 2019
Final Pitch	11 th September 2019
RISP Awards announced	November 2019

7. Get Involved

To apply please submit your proposal via the RAN grants website as per the stipulated guidelines on: www.grants.ranlab.org

For more details please contact us on:

Email: info@ranlab.org

Tel : +256 31 225 1353



5. Application Support and Info session:

RAN will host a public webinar on **Thursday 25th July 2019** to allow potential applicants to ask any pertinent questions and seek clarifications on anything that may not be clear regarding the call. The connection and schedule details for this webinar will be posted on www.grants.ranlab.org