UGANDA HIGHER EDUCATION EXHIBITION CATALOGUE 2020

THEME:
Higher Education and the Private Sector: Preparing Human Resource Capital for the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR)

12th EDITION
About: ResilientAfrica Network (RAN)

ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) is a multidisciplinary resilience innovation incubation and development lab that leverages the creativity and talent of youth, students, faculty, scholars, and communities to identify, develop, and scale innovative ideas to address diverse community challenges. RAN is one of the Development Labs under USAID’s Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN). Hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, RAN is a consortium of over 20 Universities from 16 African countries founded on the premise of bringing together scholars, a diverse array of industry players, entrepreneurs and ICT developers to co-create evidence-based solutions directed towards strengthening and building the resilience of communities facing recurrent shocks and stresses in Africa. We offer hands-on support to innovators in launching and scaling their ideas, start-up enterprises and businesses that tackle the key challenges in communities including climate change, food insecurity, rapid urbanization, disease epidemics, chronic conflict and displacement, drought and gender-based violence, among others.

To date, working together with development partners, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and private sector stakeholders, RAN is managing a portfolio of over 390 multidisciplinary innovation projects (health, agriculture, climate change, energy and mineral development, Gender based, basic education among others) at various stages of development. These projects have received SEED grants and other innovation incubation support to pilot, test and refine their solutions. Some of these projects include:

- **M-Omulimisa**: An agriculture technology that leverages ICT tools especially mobile telephone technology to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Uganda through the Village Agent Model Extension services, inputs, loans, agro-insurance and markets https://m-omulimisa.com/
- **EzyAgric App**: A Mobile application used to ensure guaranteed supply of genuine agro inputs and production services to smallholder farmers in an effort to increase crop and dairy yields throughout the agricultural value chain http://www.ezyagric.com/
- **Pedal Tap**: A retrofittable and affordable, hands free foot operated hand washing device designed to reduce the spread of infectious diseases and save water https://pedaltapu.com/
- **Low Cost Solar Irrigation System**: A low-cost water pump to help farmers reduce the costs of irrigation https://coast.mak.ac.ug/research/low-cost-irrigation-proj/.
- **The Winnowing Thresher-‘Kungula’**: A locally fabricated, high efficient winnowing machine https://www.globalinnovationexchange.org/innovation/kungula-an-improved-maize-threshing-machine
- **Eco Mobile Water Purifier System**: Providing clean, safe water especially in remote, hard to reach and refugee settlement areas of Uganda where access to safe and clean water is limited https://www.southampton.ac.uk/public/RDF/Research/Clean-water-sewage-and-waste/Eco-water-purifier-page
- **Safe Bangle**: Protecting girls and women against violence.
- **The Oxygen Splitter**: A locally fabricated Oxygen Splitter for efficient use of oxygen in hospitals.

In addition to providing solutions through innovation, to further highlight the power partnership and collaboration for which we have thrived, RAN is engaging different partners to execute various research and innovation programs that contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Below are highlighted:

We successfully conducted a study on the Social Economic value of the digital national ID systems in East Africa. Taking a Case Study of Uganda, a population-based survey of 2,852 adults aged 18 and above was conducted. All 15 statistical regions of Uganda (as used in the national Health and Demographic Survey) were included in the study as indicated in the map of Uganda (Figure 1). This study was supported by USAID Centre for Digital Development. Despite other benefits of the national ID, in Uganda, the findings indicated that the country saved USD 10,157,817 as a result of integrating the system with the national ID database.

We are also implementing self-reliance projects directed towards building capacity of local governments in Uganda and Malawi to implement community-led interventions in Basic Education, Agriculture and Youth Livelihoods. The aim is to co-create solutions that will enhance self-reliance at community levels (communities taking lead in implementing development initiatives). This activity is supported by USAID’s Centre for Development Research.

At the same time, the RAN team is also implementing projects that target indigenous populations like the Batwa, Karamoja region and South Western Uganda with support from USAID Uganda Mission through the Long-Term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER) – Partner University-Led Solutions Engine (PULSE) initiative. Implementing partners include Gulu University Constituent College in Gulu, Makerere University College in Mbarara, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Karamoja Regional Development Steering Committee and South Western Regional Development Steering Committee.

With the recent support from the Government of the Republic of Uganda through Makerere University Research and Innovation Fund (RIF), RAN is implementing projects that will equip cooperatives and extension workers on how best to leverage ICT for Agriculture engaging Innovators from the EzyAgric and M-Omulimisa innovation projects. This is in the districts of Mbarara and Rukungiri in Western Uganda. In addition to this, Government is also funding the institutionalization of innovation in higher institutions of learning and in this regard, we have started engaging students and faculty from Makerere University in trainings imparting in them Human Centred Design skills. To-date, we have conducted Design Thinking and Community based co-creation trainings to over 1,000 students. RAN is supporting the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance to implement the National ICT Initiative Support Program (NISIP) aimed at providing an enabling ecosystem for Uganda’s ICT innovators to be productive and competitive. To-date, a total of 30 innovation are being incubated at the RAN Lab under NISIP.

‘Solutions through Innovation’

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