



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



▲ Participants at the RAN 2015 Partners' Forum at the Commonwealth Speke Resort Munyonyo.

The Horn of Africa RILab at Jimma University in Ethiopia concentrates on strengthening resilience to the effects of recurrent drought and chronic displacement in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya.

Partners: Jimma University and University of Addis Ababa, Bulehora University Ethiopia; Benadir University, Somalia and University of Nairobi, Kenya.

The Southern Africa RILab at the University of Pretoria in South Africa concentrates on the impact of chronic diseases including HIV/AIDS, access to livelihood assets, and local adaptive strategies in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. **Partners:** Universities of Pretoria and Limpopo, South Africa and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi.

The West Africa RILab at the University for Development Studies in Ghana focuses on strengthening the resilience of communities responding to rapid urbanization and food insecurity in Ghana, Senegal, and Mali. **Partners:** University for Development Studies, University of Education, Ghana; University of Bamako, Mali; University of Dakar, Senegal.

About HESN

Since 2012, HESN has supported Development Labs at seven universities that engage students, researchers, faculty and their partners in innovating scientific and technological approaches to the world's most challenging development problems. By evaluating and field-testing approaches in partnership with local institutions, HESN Development Labs identify solutions that are efficient, cost-effective, accessible, and sustainable, then strategize how to apply them on a large scale. With funding over five years from USAID and matching investments from the universities, the HESN has grown into a vibrant collaboration among more than 650 partner institutions in academia, civil society, and government in more than 65 countries.

Contact RAN:

**Makerere University, School of Public Health,
ResilientAfrica Network (RAN),**

Plot 28, Upper Kololo Terrace,
P. O. Box 7072, Kampala Uganda, Office

Telephone: +256 414 343 597

Email: info@ranlab.org

Web: www.ranlab.org

Core Partners:



“Solutions through Innovation”

“This is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The content is the responsibility of RAN and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.”



▲ Rapid prototyping richly informs the innovation process.

ResilientAfrica Network (RAN)

Building Resilient African Communities Through Innovative Solutions

RAN is one of the eight development labs under USAID's Office of Science and Technology's Higher Education Solutions Network. The Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) accelerates research and innovation in development. With HESN, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) brings the ingenuity and passion of world-class universities to the front lines of international development.

www.ranlab.org



Engagement is key to further support innovation.

Vision

Resilient African communities through innovative solutions.

Mission

To strengthen the resilience of communities in Africa through University-led local innovative solutions using evidenced-based approaches.

Core Values

- Teamwork
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Accountability
- Creativity
- Networking
- Multi-Disciplinarity

Objectives

1. Design and operationalize a scientific, data-driven and evidence-based resilience framework for sub-Saharan Africa that builds on the resources already engaged through the RAN.
2. Strengthen resilience at the individual, household and community levels through innovative technologies and approaches to development, which will be identified, incubated, tested and scaled through the RAN, in collaboration with its partners.
3. Enhance resilience-related knowledge and share it globally, engaging students, faculty, staff, and development experts from around the world to collaborate on solving resilience related problems.

RAN's challenge

How do we measure "resilience", or a community's ability to adapt and respond to recurrent shocks and stresses? How can we learn from successful community responses, build on community strengths, and help to build resilience through sustainable interventions? How do we connect local innovators with communities to accelerate the impact of development?

RAN definition of resilience

Resilience is the capacity of people and systems to mitigate, adopt to, recover and learn from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces vulnerability and increases well-being.

RAN's innovative approach

By working in partnership with key stakeholders in affected communities, RAN identifies targeted interventions and adaptations that aim to strengthen communities faced with adversity. RAN, a partnership of 18 African universities in 13 countries has engaged stakeholders in 26 communities across Africa to inform innovation under the leadership of Makerere University in Uganda. RAN believes in evidence based decision making and action generated by key stakeholders including; faculty, students, researchers, development experts, private and public sector. RAN is equipping communities and local stakeholders with innovations, tools and resources to more effectively respond to and recover from complex challenges by identifying local solutions, catalyzing successful ones and rolling them out to other vulnerable communities.

RAN casts a wide net for good ideas through three main approaches

1. **Crowdsourcing** : RAN crowd-sources innovations with the highest potential to impact resilience. Selected innovators are invited to compete at events or exhibitions and receive mentoring, guidance, training, funding and prepping through the Resilience Innovation Acceleration Program (RIAP).
2. **Prioritizing community needs** : Through themed Resilience Innovation Challenges (RIC), RAN funds new ideas and innovations that address the unique needs of local communities.
3. **Co-creation** : Through a process called Collaborative Resilience Innovation Design (CRID), RAN convenes experts and guides them through a co-creation process to design platform projects that address multiple system-level problems.

Some of the projects under incubation at RAN include; RootIO-a community radio powered by a mobile phone, Electronic Dollar a Day (EDAD)-'the wonder savings box', Village Egg Bank-'an egg at a time', Improved Push and Pull Technology- 'suppressing nuisance weeds and pests', Low Cost Solar powered Irrigation Pump, Fruiti-Cycle- 'an electric motorized tricycle mounted with a refrigerated storage unit for conveniently and safely distributing fresh fruits and vegetables', Wekebere-'an app for monitoring foetal heartbeat'and PedalTap-'an affordable hands free foot operated handwashing system', Trust Insects for Food (TIFF) in Dikgale Community of Limpopo Province in South Africa, the Mopane Worm for Improved Income Generation (MW4IG) project in Beitbridge, Zimbabwe by Ruzivo Trust, Innovative Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) Technologies to Improve Access to Safe Water in Borana Zone, Ethiopia and Grass Fuel project, an alternative to wood fuel also known as charcoal to save depletion of the forest reserves in the Kasena-Nankana District in the upper East Region of Ghana among others.

	<p>RAPID Solar Dryer</p> <p>An efficient, express dryer that uses solar technology to facilitate faster drying of a broad range of agricultural produce to reduce post-harvest handling losses while improving yields and using locally available and cheap materials</p>
	<p>'KUNGULA' – Thresh IT</p> <p>A low-cost optimized post-harvest technology for mechanized threshing and winnowing of maize</p>
	<p>BVKit</p> <p>A rapid, portable screening and diagnostic tool for Bacterial Vaginosis condition that causes excessive growth of bacteria in the Vagina with increased risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV and HPV</p>

Resilience Innovation Labs

RAN is fostering collaboration throughout sub-Saharan Africa by establishing Resilience Innovation Labs (RILabs) located at universities in four regions, each concentrating on topics most important to its region:

The Eastern Africa RILab at Makerere University examines communities' resilience in response to climate change and chronic conflict in Uganda, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tanzania. **Partners:** Makerere and Gulu Universities, Uganda; National University of Rwanda; University of Kinshasa, DRC and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania.