Innovative market-based solutions for sustainable development

Innovations against poverty

Take the challenge, make the change

FUNDING € 200 000

IMPACT

ADVISORY

IDEA
Innovations in technology and business practices are critical for creating opportunities for people living in poverty to improve their living conditions. The aim of IAP is to stimulate development which otherwise would not have taken place within the private sector due to perceived initial commercial risk or uncertain market opportunities, and to accelerate the go-to-market process. Involving low income groups (poor and near poor people), especially women and youth as innovators, entrepreneurs, producers, consumers and distributors, provides positive development opportunities for all parties. The involvement of low income groups also increases the prospects of reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

About IAP

Innovations Against Poverty challenges the private sector to develop products, services and business models that can contribute to the fight against poverty and climate change. It is a specialized fund with the specific mandate to identify and support innovative inclusive business models that deliver both commercial benefits for the private sector and developmental benefits for the low income population, while advancing the inclusion and economic empowerment of women and youth. The selected companies receive both non-reimbursable funding (ranging from €50 000 up to €200 000) and advisory support—advice in developing and rolling out their business models that engage low income people and deliver commercial return. The advisory support will cover inclusive business development and innovation support to further enhance the design and roll-out of the business models and products.

Focus sectors

- **Agriculture and food:** including, but not limited to, food security and improved nutrition; sustainable agriculture
- **Energy:** including, but not limited to, access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- **WASH:** including, but not limited to, availability and sustainable management of water, hygiene and sanitation for
- **ICT:** including, but not limited to, access to technology and services that help deliver solutions in the other three target sectors or other basic needs

Application and selection

At the close of the 2017 round, IAP noted a high number of submitted concept notes (1051) and an even higher number of registered applicants on the platform (1359). After going through online evaluation proceedings, a total of 93 cases were shortlisted for further development and processing. Eventually, 35 companies have successfully signed contracts and are currently implementing their innovative business ideas.
Dowin Technology Business PLC (ET)

Working to solve problem with access to agricultural machinery for farmers as small holders, Dowin Technology Business is introducing a custom hiring center of agricultural machinery for small holder farmers, with tractor owners as its franchisees, using Uber system. The initiatives will create jobs for 10 LIPs as workers and distributors and increase income for 75,218 LIPs. The company receive IAP grant amounting to 200,000 euro with company’s financial commitment of 79,692 euro, to be implemented until March 2019.

AMK (CA)

AMK is introducing an E-Market platform in Cambodia with focus on agricultural value chain. An APP will be developed to provide farmers with possibility to check selling price of specific crops, technical agricultural counselling, weather information, and more. The farmers will be able to get updated information on selling price, agricultural calendar and weather updates, which enable them to decide crops choices for specific time of the year. They will also get continuous technical agricultural support regarding disease control, fertilizers and pest management.

Live Clean WASH (ZA)

Live Clean WASH provide sanitation solution to urban lower income population of densely-populated Lusaka, who have been using pit latrines, makeshift holes outside their homes, or council-run toilets which are old, poorly maintained and unhygienic, through provision of modern toilets and showers, using customized cargo containers. Waste from the toilet will be converted to bio-fuel and fertilizers, while water used in showers and basins will be recycled for used in the toilets. Any rain water harvested will be made available to residents as a source of fresh drinking and cooking water.

Eco Group (UG)

To provide clean and efficient fuel energy solution to household, where mostly girls and women have to live and work in smoke filled kitchen and girls have to leave school early to collect fuel woods, Eco Group has explored eco-friendly and efficient fuel energy solutions. Among a number of alternatives explored, Eco Group manufactures and distributes eco-friendly cook stoves that use volcanic rocks fuels in low income market, by engaging and supporting low income people to be suppliers of fuel, stoves technicians and distributors. 90% of the targeted 330 new job creation as suppliers and distributors are women.
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For more information, please visit www.innovationsagainstpoverty.org

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