

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CORONA ACTION RWANDA AWARDS GRANTS TO ENTREPRENEURIAL INITIATIVES IN RWANDA THAT MITIGATE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID19.

Kigali, RWANDA - Jasiri, in partnership with the **Rwandan Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Inkomoko, Westerwelle Foundation** and the **Norrskan Foundation** launched **CORONA ACTION RWANDA**, an initiative that supports entrepreneurial projects addressing the impact of COVID19.

Today, Corona Action Rwanda is pleased to announce that grants have been awarded in varying amounts to support the following essential entrepreneurial initiatives:

- ❖ *The Ihangane Project*
- ❖ *IPRC Kigali Consultancy/ Made in Rwanda Emergency ventilator*
- ❖ *Insightiv*
- ❖ *Iriba Water Group Ltd*

These winners are selected from among 435 applications, representing entrepreneurial initiatives in the country that can mitigate the health or socio-economic impact of COVID19. Each application was reviewed, scored and selected by a team of 10 representatives from Jasiri, Rwandan Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Inkomoko and Westerwelle Foundation, guided by an assessment criteria which included innovation, scalability, sustainability and market readiness.

"The CoronaActionRwanda initiative is timely in accelerating the implementation of solutions that will save the lives of many during the Covid19 crisis and beyond. The grant funding combined with business development support will ensure that these solutions immediately benefit people in Rwanda and potentially scale in other countries " said Yves Iradukunda, Permanent Secretary, Rwandan Ministry of ICT and Innovation.

During the grant period, all the projects will be provided with additional support in the form of business advisory and consultancy. Corona Action Rwanda has also partnered with 13 organisations in Rwanda that have offered to provide support to 30 entrepreneurial initiatives that were not selected for the grant but showed immense potential in mitigating the COVID19 impact. *"We are excited by the willingness of partners to come forward in this way to demonstrate the strength of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Rwanda. It is only through these collaborative efforts that we will be able to defeat COVID-19"* adds Anthony Farr, CEO of Jasiri.

The support from the 13 partners ranges from pro-bono business services to coaching and mentoring and we are happy to have partnered with the following support organizations:

250STARTUPS; 510.Netherlands B.V; African Management Institute; BPN Rwanda; Bridge2Rwanda - The BRIDGE Career Services; German Rwandan Tech Network; Hub&Fund; Inkomoko; Muraho Technology; ProfeTech Rwanda LTD; Resonate; Seeds&Chips and Venture Platform Foundation

"As borders are closed and other countries have limited their exports, Rwanda has the need and opportunity to create our own innovative solutions for Covid19 recovery. Corona Action Rwanda offers valuable grant capital to ensure these businesses can respond directly to the economic and health challenges in communities across Rwanda," said Sara Leedom, COO, Inkomoko Business Development.

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Sangwa Rwabuhiri, General Manager at Westerwelle Foundation also stated that *the COVID19 crisis has impacted all sectors of the economy. Rwanda has in the past overcome numerous challenges by growing solutions locally. Entrepreneurs have been at the forefront of this dynamic and are confident that these solutions will address some of the challenges facing Rwanda.*

Jasiri provides entrepreneurship development programs for high potential individuals and teams in East Africa and soon will be launching their programs in Rwanda.

For enquiries and more information about JASIRI and CORONA ACTION RWANDA please contact:

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Corona Action Rwanda Grant Recipients

The Ihangane Project

In response to Covid-19, The Ihangane Project has accelerated the design and development of E-Heza Data Solution's Acute Illness Assessment & Management module for Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Nurses at Health Centers in Rwanda that is fully supportive of World Health Organization and Rwanda Ministry of Health policies and procedures for Covid-19 specifically and for all acute illness screening, diagnosis, treatment, and follow up care management in the community and local health facility level.

Director: Theophila Huriro Uwacu

Website: <http://www.tipglobalhealth.org>

IIRC Kigali Consultancy/ Made in Rwanda Emergency ventilator

Develops low-cost emergency ventilators for helping patients in critical condition due to Covid19. Apart from the COVID19 period, the ventilators will be used normally in ICU and another version which will be used in an ambulance is currently being developed. IIRC has been working hand in hand with medical doctors in producing equipment with acceptable patient parameters.

Project Leader: Joseph Habiyaremye

Website: www.iirc.kigali.ac.rw

Insightiv

Insightiv has developed a Teleradiology platform powered by Artificial Intelligence to allow medical imaging specialists such as radiologists to serve patients from around the country in a very short amount of time, with the goal to reduce delayed results and to improve patient clinical outcomes. The platform was developed in November 2019, but the COVID-19 crisis has even amplified the urgency of this solution given the resulting mobility and financial constraints on patients and healthcare providers that it has caused.

Founder and Managing Director: Audace Nakeshimana

Website: <https://www.insightiv.ai>

Iriba Water Group Ltd

Iriba Water Group developed the IRIBA Tap&Drink initiative. They install eco-friendly water ATMs and kiosks in urban and peri-urban crowded areas such as markets. These water ATMs enable the public to access affordable safe and clean drinking water at any time of need. Consumers use reusable water bottles and cups to avoid disposable plastic bottles. These water ATMs are managed strictly by youth and women through a franchise model, hence creating new job opportunities. In addition to the provision of water and hand sanitizing stations, they undertake WASH campaigns and roadshows aimed at educating and mobilizing people in the areas of operations to adopt the best hygienic practices, and other tips and measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Managing Director: Yvette Ishimwe

Website: <https://www.iribawatergroup.com/>
