

## Africa Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund for Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology

### Progress Report July 2019– March 2020

For more information, please contact:  
The Manager, RSIF, *icipe* (Email: [rsif@icipe.org](mailto:rsif@icipe.org))

#### Executive Summary

The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund of the Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of African universities to train quality PhD graduates, enhance research and innovation environments at these institutions and to generate transformative technologies that respond to key African challenges. This report provides summary of progress in implementation of the RSIF Program for the period July 2019 to March 2020. Key achievements during the period are:

1. Resource Mobilization: Ghana has signed the *icipe* subsidiary agreement (SA) confirming their contribution of USD 2m to RSIF through the World Bank (WB) African Centres of Excellence Impact (ACE Impact) Project. Disbursement is expected by end of Quarter 2, 2020. The Government of Burkina Faso has also signed the SA with *icipe* with funding from the same WB project. Several other countries including Benin, Nigeria, and Senegal are in process of signing agreements. *icipe* continued its active interaction with African governments and donors including through presence at strategic regional events including by dialogue to ministers and technical experts on Education, Science and Technology at the Third Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 3) at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Further, to strengthen resource mobilization and networking by universities, the RCU has initiated sharing information weekly with universities and students on funding opportunities. A grant writing workshop for RSIF African Host Universities and their partners was held at *icipe* in January 2020.
2. In the Republic of Benin, *icipe* co-organised a national stakeholder workshop on PASET-RSIF in early December with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Over 90 participants from key stakeholder groups in Benin attended the workshop. The Government confirmed that it would establish a National Steering Committee to oversee RSIF activities in Benin and to engage key stakeholders in the program.
3. The Inception Report for the Feasibility Study to establish the RSIF Endowment Fund was approved. The consulting firm undertaking the study, Lion's Head Global Partners, interacted with the CAG, World Bank and *icipe*. The consultants developed a draft progress report for the task which is expected to conclude by end of May, 2020.
4. RSIF Host University selection was finalized with an official confirmation from the PASET Board to the African Host Universities (AHUs) on their selection. Partnership agreements were signed between each AHU<sup>1</sup> and *icipe* in October 2019. A scoping study was undertaken to identify key capacity building needs for the universities that could be met by the PASET initiative. Building on the needs identified, *icipe* is developing a capacity building strategy to guide activities in support of PhD training, research and innovation. No agreement was signed with Kenyatta University due to some confusion on national accreditation for the program. A team will be identified to review the Kenyatta University PhD program in the next quarter.

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<sup>1</sup> Ten of the eleven universities signed partnership agreements with *icipe*. Kenyatta University agreement was delayed pending confirmation of their national accreditation status.

5. The 15 First Cohort RSIF Students submitted their quarterly reports and have received stipends for the next quarter- January, February and March. Overall students have been progressing well with 12 having commenced their internships at international partner institutions.
6. The selection process for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of RSIF scholars was finalised. The EB awarded 71 candidates, 39% of whom are women (42 men and 29 women) comprising 27 faculty members. Of the 71, most (43) were supported with country funding, while 28 were supported by the Korea Fund.
7. Following the premature exit of one of the recipients of the RSIF PhD scholarship (Ms. Lilian Malewa Robert -Reg.No. PVM/D/2018/0094- a Kenyan national) around April 2019 a three-member independent panel was commissioned by *icipe* on request by the EB to review the circumstances of her exit. The Panel was led by Prof. Tolly.S.A. Mbwette and the other members were Prof. Mabel Imbuga and Prof. Penina Mlama. The Panel has provided recommendations on the case as well as regarding measures that can lead to improvement of the management of the current and future cohorts of the PhD scholarship recipients.
8. A survey was carried out amongst AHUs to assess the status of ICT facilities to inform the RSIF Capacity Building Strategy including the establishment/ strengthening of video conferencing facilities at universities. Five universities have responded to the survey.
9. Following an RSIF Call for proposals in the last period, RSIF received nine (9) applications for the Innovation Grants Type 1 (RSIF Institutional Innovation Capacity Building Program Grants -RSIF ICBP). *Icipe* also published two further calls: a call for proposals for the award of Innovation Grants Type 2 (RSIF Cooperability Grants) in the period ending December 2019, and a call for research proposals (RSIF Research Award). Both calls had a submission deadline of January 20, 2020. These will be reviewed and evaluated, and winning proposals recommended for award in the next reporting period.

Key planned activities for the next period (Annex 1) include i) completing the feasibility study on the establishment of the Endowment Fund; ii) launching the third cohort of student applications; iii) launching pre-call for RSIF AHUs; iv) reviewing and selecting proposals for award in response to the RSIF Research Award (Research Grants Type 1) and Innovation Grants (RSIF Cooperability Grants and RSIF ICBP); v) completing the capacity building strategy for AHUs and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and social risk management framework for the project, and v) responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Key Challenges

Key challenge during the reporting period were:

- There remains a challenge in identifying adequate numbers of qualified women applicants for RSIF Scholarships. The proportion of women applicants was approximately 20%. For the next call, there will be need to increase the actions to target more women to apply.
- The immediate impact of COVID 19 is that RSIF PhD scholars from Cohort one are restricted in terms of movement (staying in dorm areas and a few with access to laboratories) to ensure self-distancing. Most are expected to face delays in undertaking research during the period, and more so if field research is part of their research plans. The situation still remains unclear.
- The onboarding of Cohort two scholars has been postponed due to the global outbreak of COVID-19. All scholars have been informed of university closures and a webinar is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> to inform scholars of how to move forward. Seven of the eleven RSIF AHUs have announced indefinite closures in accordance with government measures and the other four are planned. This will have an impact on the enrolment schedule and depending on the length of university closures, we anticipate delays in the PhD program. The COVID 19 situations needs to be discussed comprehensively.

- The safeguards consultant's contract was terminated due to shortfalls in meeting milestones and expiry of contract. A call for a safeguards consultant will soon be published to identify an expert to support the work.
- There is need to confirm the status of signing of the Subsidiary Agreement between Senegal and *icipe*. There are seven students that are earmarked for support by the Government of Senegal in Cohort 2. It may not be prudent to automatically move these students to the third cohort but allow them to compete again for the next call as there may be a different level of competition and to maintain merit-based selection without prior ring-fencing of scholarships for these students.

## Introduction

The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), the flagship program of the Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) aims to address fundamental gaps in skills and knowledge needed for increasing the use of science, technology and innovation for sustained economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This Report provides a summary of progress in implementation of the RSIF Program for the period July 2019 to March 2020. The report is arranged in the two component areas of the program: **viz**, Component 1: Capacity Development for Operation of the Scholarship, Research and Innovation Fund; and Component 2: PhD Scholarships, research grants and innovation grants. Overall, the activities for the program remain “on-track”.

## A. Component 1: Capacity Development for Operation of the Scholarship, Research and Innovation Fund

### 1.1 Capacity building for management of the RSIF General Fund and setting up the RSIF Endowment Fund:

#### 1.1.1 Resource mobilization

The RCU implemented several resource mobilization activities as well as related activities to enhance the visibility of the RSIF program. Key achievements are below:

- a) African country contributions are at various stages. Three countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana and Senegal) are at different stages of joining the partnership and contributing to the Fund through financing agreements for the World Bank African Centres of Excellence Impact (ACE Impact) Project. The Subsidiary Agreement (SA) between Ghana and *icipe* has now been signed and is effective. The Government of Burkina Faso has endorsed the SA with *icipe* to be signed by *icipe* soon while Senegal is reviewing the Agreement. Agreements with Benin as well as Nigeria are expected to be signed soon. If all are executed, this will bring total PASET membership to eight countries (Benin, Cote D Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal).
- b) In the Republic of Benin, *icipe* co-organised a national stakeholder workshop on PASET-RSIF in early December at the request of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Over 90 participants from key stakeholder groups in Benin attended the workshop. The Government confirmed that it would establish a National Steering Committee to facilitate RSIF activities in Benin.
- c) Discussions are underway on PASET/RSIF with other countries including Mauritius, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe who have expressed interest in joining RSIF (See Annex 2). To facilitate this, the RCU prepared letters for endorsement by Prof. George A.O. Magoha, Chair of the PASET Governing Council and Cabinet Secretary for Education of the Government of Kenya to invite African governments through his colleagues to consider joining PASET (Annex 3). *icipe* also continues to follow up with South Africa, which had earlier expressed interest in joining PASET.
- d) A side event on RSIF was held at the Third ACE Impact and 12th ACE 1 Workshop in Abuja, Nigeria from 24-29 February 2020. The Session was organised to provide update on the RSIF initiative to government officials at the ACE workshop, and to provide clarifications on emerging issues. Participants at the Session included government delegations from Ghana, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Nigeria and other participants. Side meetings were held with government representatives from Ghana, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Nigeria and the World Bank to discuss actions towards signing of subsidiary agreements, withdrawal procedures and to

provide clarifications. Meetings were also held with the Government of Cote D'Ivoire to follow up on the second payment<sup>2</sup>.

- e) There have been discussions with private sector groups such as OCP Group, Sasakawa Africa Association and the Hagar Holdings company from Sudan.
- f) The RCU had the chance to present RSIF to Norad (Norway), Germany, DAAD, BRIDGIN Foundation, UK Research and Innovation, the African Development Bank, and the Mastercard Foundation. Discussions were also held with the British High Commission - United Kingdom Research and Innovation; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Embassy of France and Embassy of Brazil during the period.
- g) Through the International Foundation for Science (IFS) linkages were made with several Swiss institutions, including the Leading House Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (TPH), University of Basel and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) Essential Tech.
- h) Three proposals were submitted during the period: i) a proposal was submitted to IDRC in a competitive global call to support RSIF's gender work; ii) **a concept note was sent to DAAD for "Strengthening Institutional Capacity for PhD Supervision at PASET African Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) African Host Universities"**; iii) a proposal was submitted to the European Union African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Innovation Fund to support competitive grants for strengthening innovation in West Africa.
- i) A proposal writing workshop was organised for over 30 staff from African Host Universities and their partners to develop proposals for capacity building in higher education under Erasmus+. The focus was to strengthen communities of practices and networks on the continent. The key outcomes were: 1) Improved proposal writing skills of participating faculty and university staff, 2) Increased awareness of the relevant funding opportunities and how to develop winning proposals; 3) Innovative ideas/ challenges supported into proposals, including through partnership with RSIF AHUs and other partners and; 4) Relevant long term research 'consortia' to respond to the needs of the broader RSIF agenda developed. A planned second workshop is currently on hold due to the Covid-19 situation, but online engagement continues without disruption.
- j) *icipe* continued its active outreach to African governments and donors through presence at strategic regional events such as the:
  - Science Granting Council Initiative for sub-Saharan Africa annual meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from 11-12 November 2019.
  - 3rd Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 3) from 9-11 December 2019 at the African Union HQs in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The purpose of the meeting was to take stock of how education, science, technology and innovation may better contribute towards attaining the African Agenda 2063 and to take collective decisions on education, science, technology and innovation. A presentation was made on RSIF to the country experts and ministers of Education, science and technology at the meeting.
  - *icipe* participated in the "Thought Leaders Meeting on Higher Education in Africa" organised by the Mastercard Foundation in Kigali, Rwanda from 25-26 November. The objective of the meeting was to structure a new Higher Education Initiative in Africa to advance Mastercard Foundation's goal of ensuring that 30 million young people in Africa can secure dignified and fulfilling work as part of their Young Africa Works strategy.

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<sup>2</sup> Cote D'Ivoire made 1<sup>st</sup> Instalment of US\$1million towards membership. A second instalment of US\$ 1million is pending.

- k) *Icipe* engaged with 25 African and donor embassies in Nairobi in the period, providing updates on the RSIF as the agreements were signed with African Host Universities in early October. Online, phone and face to face engagement continued with senior officials from various Ministries, e.g. Malawi. In February 2020 there was follow-up engagement with 7<sup>3</sup> African embassies in Nairobi regarding the formal invitation from PASET for their countries to join PASET.
- l) Recognising the need to support AHUs to strengthen research to underpin PhD training, the RCU has initiated identifying, classifying and sharing information weekly with universities and students on new funding possibilities. This will facilitate greater access to relevant and up to date information on opportunities for them to secure research funding and to improve higher education programs.

### 1.1.2 Endowment Fund design

The firm commissioned to conduct the feasibility study, Lion's Head Global Partners prepared and submitted its Inception Report for the assignment. The report was informed by consultations undertaken with key stakeholders, including with the CAG (meeting in Nairobi on 22 November 2019), *icipe*, the World Bank and selected stakeholders. The Inception Report was approved in December, 2019. A draft progress report was later submitted to *icipe* in February 2020, to which comments have been received from the World Bank, *icipe* and selected CAG members. The Final report along with both legal and governance frameworks for the proposed Fund, including draft TORs for fund manager is expected by the end of the first quarter of 2020. The firm will also prepare a detailed resource mobilization strategy for RSIF, as part of the assignment.

## **1.2 Capacity development for the operation and management of doctoral training scholarships in selected AHUs**

### 1.2.1 Host university selection

RSIF Host University selection was finalized with an official confirmation from the PASET Board to the AHUs on their selection. Partnership agreements were signed between each of 10 AHU<sup>4</sup> and *icipe* in October 2019.

A team of consultants<sup>5</sup> was identified to review the Kenyatta University (KU) PhD program to clear confusion on its accreditation status and recommend to the PASET EB on next steps. The expert team visited Kenyatta university and engaged with KU management, faculty and the Commission for University Education (CUE) to clarify the status of the accreditation for the PhD program. The team is finalizing its report to be submitted by next week to the PASET EB.

### 1.2.2 Routine monitoring and evaluation visits to AHUs

During this reporting period, the RCU conducted routine visits to the University of Gaston Berger (UGB), Senegal; University Félix Houphouët-Boigny (U-FHB), Côte d'Ivoire and the University of Ghana. These visits included meetings with university leadership, key departmental staff and students to engage in discussion about partnerships, capacity building, research, innovation and student matching.

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<sup>3</sup> Angola, Djibouti, DRC, Malawi, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

<sup>4</sup> Ten of the eleven universities signed partnership agreements with *icipe*. Kenyatta University agreement was delayed pending confirmation of their national accreditation status.

<sup>5</sup> The Team comprised Prof. Emmanuel Tanyi, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Buea, Cameroon; Prof. Mabel Imbuga, Former Vice Chancellor, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya; and Prof. Burton Mwamila, Former Vice Chancellor, Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology, Tanzania.



### 1.2.3 Selection of Second Cohort of PhD Scholars

Based on the process approved by the PASET EB during the first quarter of 2019, the RSIF Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC) met at *icipe* on 28 November 2019, reviewed comments from external reviewers and recommended to the EB to award 71 students for the Second Cohort of PhD Scholars. The 71 awardees were selected from 175 eligible candidates<sup>6</sup> of which 39 were women (Table 1). (See link for details of the 71 students [https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/mosiru\\_icipe\\_org/EQgHyHuoPTRBnDhJaVaa0R0B3P-zQH17AmHEuQzlhIzi-Q?e=zel5iN](https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/mosiru_icipe_org/EQgHyHuoPTRBnDhJaVaa0R0B3P-zQH17AmHEuQzlhIzi-Q?e=zel5iN). Table 1 presents the distribution of the 71 selected students by nationality, gender, and funding source. The Briefing Note to the EB ([https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/mosiru\\_icipe\\_org/EVdNID4bCiROjD48t5WU5jBb2HJecd1FfxYvLV13CSiQg?e=ld8kqC](https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/mosiru_icipe_org/EVdNID4bCiROjD48t5WU5jBb2HJecd1FfxYvLV13CSiQg?e=ld8kqC)) articulates the process and criteria applied for the process. An important criterion was to ensure that non-paying country citizens do not receive more than two scholarships that might reduce their incentive to formally contribute and join PASET.

**Table 1: Candidates to be awarded second cohort RSIF PhD Scholarships by nationality**

Nationality	Eligible* applicants (women in brackets)	No. shortlisted by IEC (women in brackets)	Citizens shortlisted **	Non-citizens shortlisted***	Shortlisted on Korea Fund****
Burkina Faso	3 (0)	3 (0)	3	2	0
Cote d'Ivoire	4 (1)	4 (1)	4	2	0
Ghana	11 (2)	11 (2)	8	2	3
Kenya	34 (13)	13 (10)	8	0	5
Senegal	5 (3)	5 (3)	5	2	0
Rwanda	8 (2)	8 (2)	5	2	3
Any SSA	110 (18)	27 (11)	0	0	17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>175 (39)</b>	<b>71 (29)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>

\* Applicants above cut-off of 3.0; \*\*citizens of the country that were shortlisted. Numbers shortlisted were constrained by number of eligible candidates from that country; \*\*\*These are shortlisted based on the 80/20 rule for country funding; \*\*\*\*Only Kenya, Ghana and Rwanda had more eligible candidates than their current funding and could benefit from Korea fund.

Of the selected 71 scholars, most (43) were supported with country funding, while 28 were supported by the Korea Trust Fund. Table 2 presents the distribution of Cohort 2 Scholarships (including 11 women and 60% faculty) to be supported by the Korea Fund. The 71 awardees selected represent 17 African countries (Table 3). There was uneven distribution of scholars to universities, with most students awarded scholarships to Sokoine university (14), and 11 each to the University of Ghana and University of Nairobi, respective. Only three (3) were awarded scholarships to Kenyatta University (Annex 4). Due to the accreditation issues at KU, these students were moved to NMAIST in Tanzania. Following PASET approval, 64 students have received award letters and scholar agreements with most having confirmed their commitment. The Second Cohort students were expected to initiate their studies in March 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in almost all the AHUs closing and new schedules will be discussed with the situation normalises. Orientation for the second cohort was initially planned for May (18th – 29). This will now be conducted online and will include training sessions on key skills and information needed for the scholars to initiate their PhDs.

<sup>6</sup> A total of 1752 applications were received for the second cohort of PASET RSIF PhD scholarships. Compliance screening, university selection and scoring by external reviewers led to 175 eligible candidates.

**Table 2: Distribution of Korea scholarship recipients for RSIF Cohort by nationality and gender**

Nationality	Distribution of Korea Funds (women in brackets)	Faculty
Kenya	5 (5)	3
Nigeria	2 (1)	1
Uganda	1	-
Ethiopia	1	-
Ghana	3 (1)	1
Rwanda	3 (1)	2
Tanzania, United Republic of	2	1
Cameroon	2(2)	1
Chad	2	1
Congo	1	-
Zimbabwe	2	2
Benin	2	1
Malawi	1	1
Sudan	1 (1)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>28 (11)</b>	<b>15</b>

**Table 3: Distribution of shortlisted candidates by nationality, gender and faculty**

Nationality	Total shortlisted applications	Female	Faculty
Burkina Faso	3	-	-
Cote d'Ivoire	4	1	-
Ghana	11	2	3
Kenya	13	10	7
Senegal	5	3	-
Rwanda	8	2	3
Benin	4	1	1
Cameroon	4	2	2
Chad	2	-	1
Congo	1	-	-
Ethiopia	2	1	1
Malawi	1	-	1
Nigeria	4	3	2
Sudan	1	1	1
Tanzania	3	1	2
Uganda	3	2	1
Zimbabwe	2	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>

1.2.4 Strategies for increasing the participation of women in PhD training and in research in ASET fields RSIF was among the co-organizers (AWARD, UKRI, DFID, IDRC, Carnegie Corporation, and AAS) of the Global Forum for Women in Scientific Research (GoFoWiSeR) conference, July 18-19, 2019 in Dakar. GoFoWiSeR brought together 302 participants from 29 countries – leaders of research institutions, research funders, female scientists, and others – for a global conversation on how to enhance the numbers and experiences of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The meeting provided visibility to PASET and its RSIF Program.

A consultant was hired to implement the RSIF gender study and support the development of a Gender strategy for RSIF. The Consultant, Prof. Salome Bukachi is an Associate Professor of Anthropology, Gender, and African Studies at the University of Nairobi. She has now conducted a comprehensive



literature review of empirical studies on women's participation in graduate science programs and identified factors that influence female student completion rate of graduate programs in ASET fields. The core of the planned research is a survey of PhD students (both former and current) and faculty of PhD programs in ASET fields at African universities. Groundwork for the survey was initiated in November, which included developing the survey protocol and instruments (structured questionnaires and focus group checklists). The consultant has initiated the surveys and will visit further RSIF AHUs in the next period for the surveys. Finalization of the RSIF gender strategy is anticipated during the next reporting period.

#### 1.2.5. International partner organizations

Over and above the existing seven international partners with signed MoUs, there has been considerable progress in the establishment of additional international partner institutions. There are high level discussions with Ghent University, Rutgers State University of New Jersey, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), University of Greenwich's Natural Resources Institute, John Innes Center, the University of Tokyo, and Kobe Institute of Computing, Japan. A draft tripartite agreement between AHUs-*icipe*-IPI was developed to facilitate the partnerships. This will be shared with the IPIs and the AHUs as they move to the next steps of collaboration.

*Icipe* facilitated a one-day meeting between representatives from Seoul National University, Institutes of Green Bio Science and Technology (SNU-GBST) and the University of Ghana on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in Ghana to further identify areas for collaboration between the two institutions for student training.

As part of the next level engagement between the AHUs and the IPI, a matching engagement was initially planned to take place during the Technical Annual Learning Meeting to enable faculty and supervisors opportunity to agree on matching process and content based on their research interests and alignment to needs of the Continent.

#### Mohamed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P):

A workshop was co-organized by Mohamed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), *icipe* and the World Bank at the UM6P campus in Benguerir Morocco between 4-6 September 2019 to discuss the implementation arrangements for the recently signed MoU between PASET and UM6P. Specifically, the objectives of the three-day workshop were to:

1. Identify potential areas for collaboration and partnership between the two institutions, including in new research areas;
2. Identify opportunities for joint research and supervision for PhD students registered at the PASET RSIF African Host Universities to undertake research at UM6P as part of their sandwich training;
3. Deepen understanding of Innovation platforms/ systems and related capacity available at UM6P and identify opportunities for collaboration to strengthen AHU innovation capacity and training;
4. Identify opportunities for exchange of faculty professors and researchers;
5. Discuss how to strengthen partnerships between PASET and the OCP Group (i.e. by joint research & innovation through competitive grants on specific thematic areas of relevance to OCP).

The Workshop was attended by representatives from the 11 AHUs and counterpart research teams from UM6P. Representatives from the World Bank, OCP, and *icipe* also attended the three-day meeting. The workshop was designed to allow the two parties to better understand their respective missions and 'modus operandi' to facilitate partnership building and identification of specific areas and activities

for the collaboration. The three-day workshop included facilitated discussions, site visits and breakout sessions. The discussions were arranged based on the five PASET thematic areas. The Workshop report and participants can be accessed on this link [https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mosiru\\_icipe\\_org/EXpxaZq7C\\_dPqCYm\\_s0n\\_7cBBMPHKdeU455a\\_p5YnZ1eK8g?e=Xjj4hP](https://icipedudu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mosiru_icipe_org/EXpxaZq7C_dPqCYm_s0n_7cBBMPHKdeU455a_p5YnZ1eK8g?e=Xjj4hP)

Subsequent to the meeting, UM6P has committed to providing 20 PhD fellowships to RSIF scholars to support internships at UM6P and its partners in the north. A list of UM6P faculty and related topics of interest that built on agreements at the meeting at UM6P has been provided to facilitate matching with AHUs and discussions are on-going. A draft call for RSIF scholars to engage in sandwich training at UM6P is under review. Once finalized, *icipe* will launch a unique call for cohort two and three scholars to undertake sandwich training at UM6P.

### Strengthening RSIF partnerships with Japanese Universities and Industry Partners

With co-financing from the World Bank, representatives from the RCU and six (6) African Host Universities attended the TICAD 7 Conference and subsequent events in Japan from August 28 to September 4, 2019. Participants visited exhibition booths and attended various other side meetings to make useful connections for potential partnerships for their respective universities. Subsequent separate meetings were held with Japanese Universities and Industry Partners with World Bank facilitation. During these meetings, RSIF AHU representatives were able to present highlights of their PhD programs and research areas of interest to facilitate collaborations with Japanese Universities for the conduct of joint research. Further they were able to participate in panel discussions to highlight the social issues in African context that can be addressed by private sector as they plan to invest or expand their operations in Africa and how they can leverage the universities as an entry point. The mission also included site visits to two private sector companies and one Japanese university for learning and knowledge exchange on the experiences of Japan private sector – University engagement and the innovation development. Since then, discussions have taken place with University of Tokyo to partner with University of Gaston Berger on several research topics, including to apply to the AJ-Core call for proposals.

## **1.3 Capacity development for improving quality of PhD programs and research in ASET fields**

### 1.3.1. Scoping exercise and gap analysis

To guide the development of RSIF's capacity building, a scoping study was undertaken to identify key capacity building needs for the universities that could be met by the PASET initiative. The scoping study took the form of interviews, guided by a questionnaire that was designed, having taken into consideration, the scope of the RSIF, expected outcomes, as well as benchmarking frameworks such as of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Building on the needs identified, *icipe* has developed a draft capacity building strategy to guide its activities in ensuring quality PhD training, research and innovation. The Strategy will consider some of the key issues highlighted by universities during the Scoping Study as below:

- **PhD scholar supervision models:** The AHUs have varying standards on how supervision is undertaken within their institutions in terms of: (i) frequency of engagement between the scholar and the supervisor; (ii) requirements for formal review processes; (iii) the need for publications prior to graduation; (iv) frequency of progress reports; and (v) requirements for scholars to attend formal seminars among others. Training for supervision is also not rationalized.
- **Intellectual property (IP):** The AHUs raised concerns over IP rights and management issues particularly under the sandwich program, where the scholars are hosted in international PIs.

- **Research ethics, ethics and sexual harassment.** Most of the AHUs have some form of ethics, research ethics, and sexual harassment policies. However, the AHUs requested support in implementing these policies.
- **Industry partnerships.** The AHUs indicated that building meaningful partnerships with the private sector/industry remains a significant challenge.
- **Accreditation.** Some AHUs have made good progress in implementing international accreditation. However, challenges remain in identification of the right PI to implement international accreditation and the costly nature of the process on the part of the AHUs.

The Technical Annual Learning Meeting had been planned for early April 2020 has now been postponed to a later date due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

### 1.3.2 World Bank Implementation Support Mission to icipe

A World Bank Implementation support mission was held on 10&11 October at icipe to a) review the status of the second cohort of RSIF scholars and agree on timelines for the next steps; b) review status of partnership with international partner institutions and discuss the proposed 'due diligence' guidelines for these partners; c) review the status of research and innovation grants for the calls' ending September and October 2019 and agree on timelines for the next steps; d) review implementation progress for resource mobilization and communication activities; and e) review fiduciary and safeguards compliance as well as status of implementation of recommendations, including regarding establishment of grievance mechanisms, from the last implementation support mission in February 2019 and the follow on-technical review meetings in June and August 2019. The meeting found that progress made by the Project was overall satisfactory, with action points for the next few months.

### 1.3.3. Capacity Building of host University libraries

icipe has created a network of librarians at the AHUs to facilitate provision of services to the AHUs. All 10 RSIF AHUs were facilitated to access research for Life (R4L) and are now registered on the website. R4L<sup>7</sup> includes approximately ~85,000 peer-reviewed international scientific journals, books, and databases provided by the world's leading science publishers. As a result, AHU's and RSIF scholars can now access up to 12,000 journals in Applied Sciences Engineering and Technology. Discussions have been held with Elsevier and other publishing houses to identify relevant journals and publications for AHUs/ scholars. In addition, a call for applications was sent to librarians in the AHU's to join a five-week Massive Open Online course (MOOC) by research4life and all institutions participated in the training from November to December. The MOOC was sponsored by Elsevier and FAO.

### 1.3.4. ICT

A survey was carried out amongst AHUs to assess the status of ICT facilities to inform the RSIF Capacity Building Strategy including the establishment/ strengthening of video conferencing facilities at universities. Nine universities have responded to the survey. Roll out of the of the Video Conference equipment is ongoing. A Call for Proposals has been published for the development of a management information system (MIS) for RSIF to support the automation of the scholarship and innovation components of the program. Selection is ongoing.

The RSIF ICT ecosystem components under development are:

- RSIF Website (involving new design, database restructuring, web 2.0 improvement and Search Engine Optimization (SEO))

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<sup>7</sup> During the year, two publishers (Springer and Elsevier) pulled out of the research4life program in some African countries meaning access to quality peer reviewed resources in ASET fields has reduced significantly. To counter this setback, there is a need to acquire one database rich in ASET journals, which will be done during 2020.

- RSIF repository and knowledge hub
- Enterprise Resource Planning

### 1.3.5 Implementation status of Research Grants (Window 2, Type 1)

On October 8, 2019, icipe published the inaugural Call for Research Proposals for the RSIF Research Award (Window 2, Type 1)<sup>8</sup>. The Call<sup>9</sup> was shared by email to all vice chancellors and heads of departments of the RSIF AHUs. It was also shared through partner networks, including publishing on the RSIF and icipe website and social media. The initial submission deadline was January 6, 2020. However, the deadline was extended to January 20, 2020 to allow more time for AHUs to submit their applications. To help project teams identify collaborators, the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) i.e. icipe, shared contacts of international partners with the AHU teams. Further, webinars were organized on December 17, 2019 and January 13, 2020 to provide clarifications to teams on the Call for proposal guidelines and to respond to questions on the application procedure.

A total of 17 applications<sup>10</sup> to the RSIF Research Award Call were received and screened by the RCU for compliance with the Call guidelines and eligibility. 11 of the 17 proposals were found to be eligible to move to the next stage of external independent review. Three external independent reviewers were identified for each of the five priority thematic areas of PASET. The reviewers were selected from a pool of experts compiled by icipe. Eligible proposals are currently under review and are expected to be reviewed by the Research and Innovations Grants Technical Committee (GITC) during this quarter. Their recommendations will be submitted to the PASET Executive Board for approval of Awards.

### 1.3.5. PASET RSIF Strategy

icipe has organised for an expert group meeting to discuss the PASET RSIF research strategy which is expected to inform research to be undertaken by PhD students and to ensure that it aligns to national research strategies and results in impact by ensuring sequencing of research, including interdisciplinary research to solve community problems. The meeting could not take place due to the COVID-19 situation. Icipe is now preparing TORs for a consultant to review the current research strategies at continental, sub regional and national levels within participating PASET countries to identify how the strategy might support and contribute to the implementation of these strategies. The results of the consultancy with inform the expert meeting that will now be delayed.

## **1.4 Capacity development for the operation and management of innovation grants**

### 1.4.1 Implementation Status of Innovation Grants (Window 3)

The RCU published the Call for proposals<sup>11</sup> for the Window 3 Type 1 on August 1, 2019 with a submission deadline of October 4, 2019. A webinar session was conducted on September 19, 2019 to provide clarifications and respond to questions from the interested applicants. Each AHU was allowed to submit only one application. A total of nine (9)<sup>12</sup> applications were received in response to the Call for Proposal. The RCU conducted eligibility screening and compliance check on the applications. Seven (7) of the nine

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<sup>8</sup> Window 2, Type 2 focuses on postdoctoral research awards for RSIF PhD students that have completed their studies and returned to their home institutions. This Call for this award will be issued at the end of Year 3 of the Project.

<sup>9</sup> With a total amount of \$900,000 initially available for this category, the RSIF is expected to competitively award approximately 10 grants of up to \$90,000 each.

<sup>10</sup> Proposal applications received per thematic area: Materials, Mining and Engineering – 4, ICT (Big Data and AI)-4, Food Security – 1, Energy (Including renewables)-6, Climate Change- 1, Other Non RSIF AHU submissions

<sup>11</sup> With a total budget of \$300,000 available for this category, RSIF will award up to six (6) grants of up to \$50,000 each.

<sup>12</sup> List of AHUs that submitted applications: (i)AUST, (ii) Bayero University, Kano, (iii) Gaston Berger University, (iv)Kenya University, (v) NM-AUST, (vi) University of Port-Harcourt, (vii) Sokoine University of Agriculture, (viii) University of Ghana, and (ix) University of Nairobi. Two AHUs did not submit a proposal in response to this Call as follows: (i) University of Rwanda and (ii) University of Felix Houphouet-Boigny

(9) applications were found to be eligible to move to the next stage of external independent review. Independent review was done by three innovation system experts who reviewed all the seven proposals for consistency. The proposals together with review comments from the external reviewers will be evaluated by the Research and Innovations Grants Technical Committee (GITC) during this quarter. Their recommendations will be submitted to the PASET Executive Board for approval of Awards.

The Call for Proposal for the **Innovation Grants (Type 2 – RSIF Cooperability Grants)** was published on October 18, 2019 with a submission deadline of January 20, 2020. The grants aims to encourage public-innovative projects and produce by promoting cooperation between researchers from RSIF African Host Universities, the private sector and international partners with established experience in commercialization of research results. Up to five grants of up to \$50,000 each are expected to be awarded. Webinars were organized on December 17, 2019 and January 13, 2020 to provide information and take questions about the Call and the application procedure.

A total of four applications were received and screened by the RCU for eligibility and compliance with the Call requirements. Three of the proposals were identified to be eligible for expert review and are currently under review by a panel of three independent expert reviewers. The proposals will be evaluated by the Research and Innovations Grants Technical Committee (GITC) this quarter and recommendations submitted to the PASET Executive Board for approval of awards.

#### 1.4.2 Timelines for award of published Research and Innovation grants

The RCU will advance in the selection and award of the published Call for proposals as per the timelines below.

Table 4. Timeframes for the Innovation Type 1 (RSIF ICBP) Grant

Activity	Timeline/ Status	Comments
Independent expert reviews of proposals	Completed	Awaiting GITC review and selection
GITC meeting	3 April 2020	To review and recommend for EB approval
Submission of full report on the selection process and GITC recommendations for approval	15 April 2020	For approval by EB
Institutional Innovation Capacity Building Workshop	22-30 April 2020	The workshop will strengthen proposals based on innovation ecosystem assessment.
Formal contracting and funds disbursements	30 May 2020	Provision of technical backstopping support

Table 5: Timelines - Research Award (Type 1) and Innovation Grants (Type 2)

Activity	Timeline	Comments
Independent expert reviews of proposals	Ongoing	to be completed by March 20, 2020
GITC meeting	3 April 2020	To review and recommend for EB approval
Submission of full report on the selection process and GITC recommendations to World Bank	15 April 2020	For approval by EB
Formal contracting and funds disbursements	30 May 2020	Provision of technical backstopping support

#### 1.4.3 A study of research and innovation ecosystems at African Host Universities and development of IP guidelines

On February 19<sup>th</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the RCU conducted visits to four (4) AHUs<sup>13</sup> to assess the existing research and innovation ecosystems with technical support from a Senior Research and Innovation Consultant from the World Bank (Dr. Danica Ramljak). The objectives of the assessment were:

- a) To provide an analysis of university research and innovation strategic policy and practice related to technology transfer and intellectual property management.
- b) To analyze selected country national innovation systems (NIS) including key stakeholders, institutional functionality and available innovation infrastructure.
- c) To provide recommendations on research and innovation related interventions towards strengthening innovations ecosystems at RSIF AHUs and PASET RSIF participating countries.

The study is on-going and findings will be reported during the next quarter. The findings will also be used to provided targeted support to the design of innovation grants as well as technical backstopping support during project implementation.

icipe is also in the process of developing guidelines to support universities to improve IP management for research and innovation activities including for scholars hosted in international partner institutions as well as faculty implementing research and innovation projects. An analysis has been done of IP provisions in various documents including; (i) AHU policies, (ii) PASET MoUs with International Partner Institutions (IPIs), (iii) icipe-student contracts and (iv) specific AHU agreements with IPIs. The draft guidelines will be shared in the next report.

#### 1.4.4 Key issues and challenges for Windows 1 & 2 Call for Proposals

Several issues were identified during implementation with recommendations for redress as highlighted in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Key issues identified by RCU and proposed recommendations

No	Issue	Recommendation to address the issue
1	Low number of faculty involved in RSIF PhD programs at the AHUs who were expected to be the lead applicants to the Calls.	Expand the target group and eligibility requirements for the Calls to include other faculty in the AHUs to propose projects related to the selected thematic area.
2.	Most faculty are new to the concepts of innovation and commercializing research results with low capacity of designing and implementing innovation related grant proposals	Conduct capacity building workshops to equip faculty with skills on how to design, write and implement innovation grant proposals in ASET fields.
3.	The design of the Calls that required mandatory partnerships with international and private sector partners. Applicants expressed concerns on the difficulties in obtaining the required partnerships especially with private sector due to their lack of interest to collaborate.	Review the design of the Calls to provide some flexibility on partnerships requirements, while maintaining focus on key objectives for the Calls.
4.	The design of the Calls required matching funding in cash and in kind by the international and Private sector partners. Applicants expressed challenges convincing partners to provide matching funding. Additionally, most private sector partners willing to partner have limited financial resources to provide matching funding as per the Call requirements	Review the design of the Calls to allow flexibility on matching funding requirements and encourage in-kind contributions and not mandatory cash contributions.

<sup>13</sup> AHUs visited: University of Nairobi, University of Ghana, Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology and University of Felix Houphouet-Boigny



No	Issue	Recommendation to address the issue
5	The limited engagement with private sector by faculty involved in RSIF PhD programs	The RCU will work closely with the existing research and innovation support structures at the AHUs to support interested applicants obtain partnerships with relevant private sector partners.
6	The complexity of support documents and application templates	Simplify the templates and reduce the number of support documents required for eligibility especially those requested from private sector partners e.g financial statements, tax compliance certificates, certificate of no bankruptcy.

## B. Component 2: PhD Scholarships, Research Grants and Innovation Grants

### 2.1 Status of first cohort of scholars and engagement with KIST

The 15 first cohort RSIF Students submitted their quarterly reports and have received stipends for the next quarter- January, February and March 2020. Overall students are progressing well, and most have initiated their internships. Progress is as below:

- Six students matched with Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST): The students (Sylvia Wairimu, Kenya; Emmanuel Kifaro, Tanzania; Humphrey Mabwi, Kenya; Maxwell Waema, Kenya; Gahamanyi Noel, Rwanda; Frejus Sodedji (Benin) have started their internships at KIST in Korea.
- Six students matched with Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) have started their sandwich training at WPI in the USA. Scholars have all completed several trainings including in laboratory safety, use of Scanning Electron Microscopy, the X-Ray diffractometer etc.
- Three students are preparing to undertake their sandwich training at Biosciences eastern and central Africa at the International Livestock Research Institute (BecA - ILRI) Hub. The first student, Traore Abdoulaye will join a multi-disciplinary team of experts from the International Potato Center (CIP) and Purdue University. The second student, Jean Hakizimana is finalizing sequencing of samples and will begin bioinformatics analysis placement in March 2020. Levi Omache is currently engaged in data collection in Tanzania.
- Students continue to participate in various trainings and conferences. For example, Jean Hakizimana (Rwanda) was competitively selected to participate in a scientific writing and publishing workshop at *icipe* from November 4-8, 2019. Sylvia Wairimu presented a poster at the 2019 Annual Autumn Conference of the Korean Society for Horticultural science (KSHS). The poster was entitled; “Mass Spectrometer Based Untargeted Metabolomics Investigation of Heat and Freeze Dried *Ganoderma lucidum* using ultra-performance liquid chromatography (UPLC-QTOF-MS) and gas chromatography coupled to quadrupole-time-of-flight mass spectrometry (GC-QTOF-MS).
- The immediate impact is that RSIF PhD scholars from Cohort one is now under restricted movement (staying in dorm areas and a few with access to laboratories) to ensure self-distancing. Most are facing delays in undertaking research during the period, particularly if field research is part of their research plans. The delays are likely to increase. The situation still remains unclear.

#### Review of separation of RSIF Student, Lillian Malewa from SUA

Following the premature exit of one of the recipients of the RSIF PhD scholarship (Ms. Lilian Malewa Robert -Reg.No. PVM/D/2018/0094- a Kenyan national) around April 2019 a three-member independent panel was commissioned by *icipe* on request by the EB to review the circumstances of her



exit. The Panel was led by Prof. Tolly.S.A. Mbwette and the other members were Prof. Mabel Imbuga and Prof. Penina Mlama. The panel was given the task to investigate the specific case and to make some specific recommendations on the case as well as regarding measures that can lead to improvement of the management of the current and future cohorts of the PhD scholarship recipients. The Panel provided recommendations to RSIF and PASET. The recommendations have been used to improve the current student contracts, including the need for students who leave the program to refund money disbursed to them. The EB has officially written to the Ms. Lillian Malewa, requesting her to refund money paid out to her.

## C. Crosscutting activities

### 3.1 RSIF communications

*icipe* has developed a draft communications strategy for RSIF and continues to implement various elements. The strategy will be finalized during the next period.

- i. Procurement of a firm to support RSIF communications is underway and is expected to be completed in the next quarter. The firm will support *icipe* to develop and implement a brand strategy for RSIF, further refine key messages for RSIF and to support delivery of these messages.
- ii. To reach out to the French speaking countries, RSIF has compiled the website and social media accounts of the ministries of education of the 21 countries where French is the official language. These addresses will be used for dissemination during the next call for applications for PASET-RSIF scholarships.
- iii. The tendering process to undertake the website re-development was completed. The Nairobi based firm (Kihingu Ltd) has initiated the task. This process is expected to be complete within 6 months in a phased approach that will allow components of the site to be made 'live' during development.
- iv. A communications consultant has been hired to support RSIF Communications. Ms. Whitney Mwangi is an experienced communications expert who has been supporting several United Nations Agencies and International Non governmental Organisations (NGOs). Ms. Pauline Achoka, the RSIF Communications officer has been on sick leave for a few months.

### 3.2 Safeguards, risk management and development of a grievance re-dress mechanism and procurement

A draft Grievance Redress Manual has been prepared for RSIF that outlines the roles of the AHUs, *icipe* and students. The *icipe*-AHU agreements which were signed in October included a requirement for AHUs to appoint focal points. Further validation will be undertaken in the next period to finalize the GRM, followed by training of focal points, including at *icipe* to enable them to implement the GRM. Unfortunately, during the period, the Safeguards Consultancy was terminated due to shortfalls in meeting milestones and expiry of contract. *icipe* is in the process of contracting another consultant to undertake this work. *icipe* continued training of its staff to support safeguarding with the below trainings: i) UNDP Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA); ii) Humanitarian Leadership Academy Safeguarding Essentials and iii) World Bank Introduction to the World bank Environmental and Social safeguards. The link to the World Bank online course was also shared with AHUs. *icipe* is finalizing the procurement of a consultant to complete the pending work and contracting will be done in the next weeks to enable the completion of the task.

A list of procurements undertaken during the period and current status is included as Annex 5.

### 3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

A one-day theory of change workshop was held with core project staff in which a draft project theory of change was developed, discussed and revised. The workshop was facilitated by the monitoring and evaluation specialist and its objectives were to:

- 1) Provide a platform for staff to have a better understanding of the project's context and design.
- 2) Review and define outcomes and associated indicators, to complement those provided under the PAD based Results Framework.
- 3) Discuss and refine capacity building indicators for tracking students' progress and project's performance on delivery of quality PhDs and quality research.
- 4) Suggest mechanisms for designing of tools and frameworks for tracking progress on capacity development.

An ToC and its associated evaluation framework has been update to guide project monitoring and evaluations. Consequently, students, African Host University (AHU) contact persons and student supervisors' reporting templates have been reviewed and refined based on the updated project theory of change. The evaluation strategy has been the basis for an online survey of AHUs contact persons, RSIF PhD students (cohort I and II) and IPs contact persons aimed to provide lessons and feedback on program implementation. Data analysis is under progress and lesson will be documented. The theory of change schema will be further developed into a project publicity product to increase stakeholder's understanding of the project. The project has continued to monitor its progress on indicators and targets provided in the PAD. An updated PAD based indicator tracking sheet has been completed.

The results of the online surveys and feedback from the second cohort scholars indicated that:

- There was a feeling that, though transparent, the Cohort 2 selection process took too long and could have been much faster and Call should have been slightly earlier to fit better with the university calendar.
- The use of technology (online interviews and pre-recordings by applicants) by the program made the selection process convenient and participants preferred to submit their applications online.
- The ability to apply in both English and French was positive.

### 3.4 Key Challenges during the period

- a. There remains a challenge in identifying adequate numbers of qualified women applicants for RSIF Scholarships. The proportion of women applicants was approximately 20%. For the third call, there will be need to increase the actions to target more women to apply.
- b. Due to Covid-19 and university and border closures, second cohort students are not able to proceed to AHUs and a strategy for managing the current situation is needed. *icipe* is currently developing this strategy.
- c. The safeguards consultant's contract was terminated due to shortfalls in meeting the agreed milestones and expiry of contract period. Another safeguards consultant was recently recruited and will pick up on the finalization of the Grievance Redress Mechanism for RSIF and related tools needed to make this functional.
- d. There is need to confirm the status of signing of the Subsidiary Agreement between Senegal and *icipe*. Seven students were earmarked for support by the Government of Senegal in Cohort 2<sup>14</sup>. A request has been made to Senegal to consider the five students and response is awaited. It may not be prudent to automatically move these students to the third cohort but allow them to compete

<sup>14</sup> Five Senegalese students, one from Nigeria and one from Cameroon.

- again for the next call as there may be a different level of competition and in the interest of maintaining merit-based and open evaluation process.
- e. During the first year, the African University of Science and Technology had several governance and management challenges. Following an RSIF mission to the university and actions by the Ministry of Education in Nigeria, it was agreed by the PASET Board that they would not take students for Cohort 2. There is need to verify the current status to confirm their eligibility to receive students for Cohort 3.
  - f. Need to confirm target numbers for RSIF in order to enable scenario building for RSIF to be used by the consultant to build the resource mobilisation strategy. It is clear that PASET will contribute to the 10,000 students but will not be held accountable for all the 10,000. These are also needed for finalisation of the feasibility study for establishment of the endowment fund and for finalising the resource mobilisation strategy.
  - g. COVID 19 present several challenges, some not yet identified. We highlight that in addition to restrictions on research, teaching and movement, employees are being expected to work from home. This means, schools are closed, and children are at home and parents are expected to provide teaching as well as parental roles for the children. Our scholars are adults, many with families and will be affected. Some AHU staff might also be affected and unable to deliver their usual teaching and research responsibilities during the period- this will not only affect the scholar supervision, but also the implementation of research and innovation grants as well as capacity building activities. It is not unlikely that some of the scholars will have to take care of sick family members and those close to them. The impact on the programme will depend on the duration of the crisis.

### 3.5 A summary of utilization of funds from the Governments of Kenya, Rwanda and Côte d'Ivoire

INCOME	Recipient	Description			Total
B8501G00001	<i>icipe</i>	Balance from AAU			3,413,977
B8501G00001	<i>icipe</i>	From Ivorian Govt			1,033,497
	<b>Total Income</b>				<b>4,447,474</b>
EXPENDITURE	Payee	Description	Jan-Jun 2019	Jul-Dec 2019	Total
B8501G30001	Maxwell Wambua Waema	Scholarship costs	14,400	-	14,400
B8501G30002	Sylvia Wairimu Maina	Scholarship costs	10,800	-	10,800
B8501G30003	Humphrey Mabwi	Scholarship costs	10,800	-	10,800
B8501G30004	Levi Omache	Scholarship costs	10,800	7,200	18,000
B8501G30005	Lilian Mulewa	Scholarship costs	3,600	-	3,600
B8501G30006	Gahamanyi Noel	Scholarship costs	10,800	3,600	14,400
B8501G30007	Jean N. Hakizimana	Scholarship costs	10,800	7,200	18,000
B8501G30008	Emmanuel Effah	Scholarship costs	10,800	21,107	31,907
B8501G30009	Fatoumata Thiam	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,420	25,220
B8501G30010	Richard Kipyegon Koech	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,548	25,348
B8501G30011	Jeanne Pauline Munganyinka	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,853	25,653
B8501G30012	Jean Baptiste Habinshuti	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,548	25,348
B8501G30013	David Afolayan	Scholarship costs	10,800	14,548	25,348
B8501G30014	Sodedji Frejus Kpedetin	Scholarship costs	10,800	3,600	14,400
B8501G30015	Traore Abdoulaye	Scholarship costs	7,200	7,200	14,400

B8501G31201	Other PHD Expenses	Investigation costs*	-	6,628	6,628
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>154,800</b>	<b>129,452</b>	<b>284,252</b>
	<b>Balance</b>				<b>4,163,222</b>

\*Investigation by RSIF on the causes of Lilian Mulewa separation with RSIF

### 3.6 RSIF Funds Allocation Report -Government Contributions

INCOME		Notes	KENYA		RWANDA		COTE D'IVOIRE	TOTAL
Funds received		A	1,979,177		1,963,292		1,033,497	4,975,966
Less : AAU Admin charges		B	131,105		130,387		-	261,492
<b>Funds available for Scholarships</b>		C =A-B	<b>1,848,072</b>		<b>1,832,905</b>		<b>1,033,497</b>	<b>4,714,474</b>
Scholarship Cost per student (4 years)		E	97,300		97,300		97,300	
<b>Number of Scholarships Available</b>		F=C/E	<b>18</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>
Allocation of Scholarships								
80% to Nationals	80%	G	15		15		8	38
20% to Non Nationals	20%	H	3		3		2	8
Scholarships Awarded								
Nationals	60%	I	6	80%	4		-	10
Non Nationals	40%	J	4	20%	1		-	5
Scholarships to Award								
Nationals		K=G-I	8		11		8	27
Non Nationals		L=H-J	-		2		2	4
<b>Funds spent on Scholars</b>								
By AAU		M	178,000		89,000		-	267,000
By <i>Icipe</i>		N	168,944		115,308		-	284,252
<b>Fund Balance</b>		<b>O=C-M-N</b>	<b>1,501,128</b>		<b>1,628,597</b>		<b>1,033,497</b>	<b>4,163,222</b>

## Annex 1: Key planned activities for the next quarter (March-June 2020)

### General Fund and Endowment Fund

- 4.1. Complete feasibility study on the establishment of the Endowment Fund.
- 4.2. Continue to implement the interim resource mobilization plan with emphasis on written and online engagement due to Covid-19
- 4.3. Establish the permanent fund (put in place necessary by laws, statutes, governance, structure and investment policy) to make it ready to receive capital and implement other recommendations of the Feasibility study report
- 4.4. Develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy

### Management of PhD Scholarships and Research/Innovation Grants

- 4.3. Further advance in the selection of international partner organizations
- 4.4. Continue discussion of matching of students with partner institutions
- 4.5. Organise postponed onboarding of second cohort of students in Covid-19 context
- 4.6. Launch third cohort of student applications
- 4.7. Finalise review and selection of proposals for award in response to the RSIF Research Award (Research Grants Type 1) and Innovation Grants (RSIF Cooperability Grants and RSIF ICBP)
- 4.8. Finalize study of existing innovation support organizations (tech hubs, accelerators and incubators) in participating RSIF countries
- 4.9. Finalise assessment of innovation systems of RSIF AHUs and PASET Countries
- 4.10. Develop online mechanism for supervision and mentorship of PhD students

### Capacity building of host universities

- 4.11. Start implementing capacity building strategy for AHUs
- 4.12. Launch third call for RSIF African Host Universities
- 4.13. Enhance access to journals and databases for RSIF scholars
- 4.14. Acquire one additional journal database to supplement research4life database being accessed by AHUs.

### Cross cutting activities

- 4.15. Finalize development of an RSIF communication strategy
- 4.16. Finalize hiring of a communication firm to support communications and branding for RSIF
- 4.17. Finalize Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and social risk management framework for the project.

## Annex 2: RSIF engagement with countries

Country	Expected Contribution (US\$)	Payment modality	Expected date of contribution (by calendar year)	Current status
Angola	2 Million	Direct payment to RSIF	Unclear	Discussions initiated
Benin	2 million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 2	Q4, 2020	Awaiting approval of ACE Impact Phase 2 by WB Board
Burkina Faso	2 million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 1	Q2, 2020	Awaiting project effectiveness. SA signed
Ghana	2million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 1	Q2, 2020	Agreement signed and project effective
Malawi	Unknown	Unknown	Unclear	Discussions underway
Mauritius	2 million	Direct payments	Unclear	Discussions underway
Mozambique	6 million	World Bank Country project	Q2 2020	Awaiting approval of Project by WB Board
Nigeria	4 million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 2	Q4, 2020	Awaiting approval of ACE Impact Phase 2 by WB Board
Senegal	2 million	World Bank ACE Impact Phase 1	Q1, 2020	Awaiting signing of SA
South Africa	Unknown	Direct payment to RSIF	Unclear	Discussions underway
Tanzania	2 million	World Bank Country Project	Unclear	Not clear
Zambia	Unknown	Unknown	Unclear	Discussions underway
Zimbabwe	Unknown	Unknown	Unclear	Discussions underway



Annex 3: List of invitations to participate in PASET\* prepared by RSIF-RCU

COUNTRY	NAME OF MINISTER	TITLE
Angola	Hon. Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo	Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
Cabo Verde	Hon. Maritza Rosabal Peña	Minister of Education and Minister of Family and Social Inclusion of Cabo Verde
Cameroun	S.E. Pr. Jacques FAME NDONGO	Le Ministre d'Etat, Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur
Chad/Tchad	S.E. Dr Houdeingar David Ngarimaden	Ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche scientifique et de l'Innovation
Djibouti	S.E. Dr. Nabil Mohamed Ahmed	Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche
DRC	Hon. Thomas Luhaka	Ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur et Universitaire
Gambia	Hon. Mr. Badara Alieu Joof	Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
Guinée	S.E. Abdoulaye Yéro Baldé	Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche
Malawi	Hon. Dr William Susuwele-Banda	Minister of Education, Science and Technology
Namibia	Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi	Minister, Higher Education, Training and Innovation
Sudan	Hon. Dr Intisar El Zein	Minister of Higher Education
Togo	H.E. Prof. Koffi Akpagana	Ministre de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche
Uganda	Hon. Mrs. Janet Kataaha Museveni	First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports
Zimbabwe	Hon. Prof. Amon Murwira	Minister of Higher & Tertiary Education, Science & Technology Development

\*Explanatory notes:

All sub-Saharan African countries are welcome to join PASET if they agree with the provisions in its charter and contribute to RSIF.

Letters to Mauritius and South Africa were sent previously. Letters were not done to current and incoming members including Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal. Letters to Botswana, Mali and Mauritania were not done at this stage.

Additional countries not in this list that have since expressed an interest to receive communication from PASET-RSIF include: Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Eswatini and Lesotho.

#### Annex 4: Shortlisted students by African Host University and Gender

RSIF AHU	Total	Female	Male
Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania	14	5	9
University of Ghana-Legon, Ghana	11	4	7
University of Nairobi, Kenya	11	4	7
L'Université Gaston Berger, Senegal	9	4	5
Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania	5	2	3
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria	2	1	1
Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire.	8	3	5
University of Rwanda	4	1	3
Bayero University, Nigeria	4	4	0
Kenyatta University, Kenya	3	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>

#### Annex 5: List of all procurements undertaken and their status

S.No	Procurement Activity	Status as at March 20 <sup>th</sup> 2020
1	Procurement of office stationery	Completed
2	Consultancy for Photographer for the Fifth PASET Forum	Completed
3	Consultancy for Videographer for the Fifth PASET Forum	Completed
4	Consultancy for Interviewer for the Fifth PASET Forum	Completed
5	Procurement of Computers and accessories	Completed
6	Individual consultant for French-English translation services	Completed
7	Creative cloud software for Design work	Completed
8	Procurement of service providers for printing communication materials	Completed
9	Procurement of office furniture	Completed
10	Consultant to facilitate a team building exercise for RSIF staff	Completed
11	Consultancy firm for French-English translation services	Consultancy in progress
12	Feasibility Study on Establishment of an Endowment Fund for RSIF	Consultancy in progress
13	Individual consultancy for Development of a Strategy for Enhancing Women's Participation in PhD Programs and Research in Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology (ASET) fields at African Universities	Consultancy in progress
14	Consultancy firm for Redesign and Development of the RSIF Website	Consultancy in progress
15	Individual consultant for Proposal writing workshop services	Consultancy in progress
16	Individual Short-term consultancy for Communications officer	Consultancy in progress
17	Consultancy Firm for Communications, Branding and Outreach for the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF).	Process temporarily on hold.
18	Purchase of Video Conferencing equipment, Camera and accessories.	At RFQ evaluation stage
19	Development of safeguards and grievance redress mechanism framework (Social Risk Management)	At proposal evaluation stage
20	Consultancy for development and design of a Scholarships and Grants Information Management System	Awaiting RFP submission on Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March,2020