Scaling solutions for complex, global poverty issues can take decades.

CARE, a leading global organization fighting global poverty, is on a mission to cut the timeline and accelerate the expansion of promising solutions that will impact the lives of 200 million people by 2020.

Unlike accelerators that invest in independent social entrepreneurs, CARE’s Scale X Design program invests in innovative NGO teams who are on the frontlines of fighting poverty. Working with intrapreneurs inside CARE, Scale X Design draws from the private sector’s ability to rapidly design, test, learn, iterate and implement bold new ideas. We collaborate with leading social entrepreneurs, investors, corporate executives and development practitioners to bring to scale the most promising and proven innovations to eradicate poverty and combat social injustice.

CARE’s Scale X Design Accelerator is a first-of-its-kind learning platform that gives development practitioners new skills, mentorship and resources to bring to scale the most promising and proven innovations to end poverty and promote social justice.

Teams will pitch their global solutions to compete for a $75,000 grant determined by expert judges and a $25,000 grant determined by the audience. We’re looking for thought partners, mentors and donors to collaborate with us to disrupt poverty and its underlying causes. Click here for highlights from the Scale X Design Challenge in Atlanta and Brooklyn in January 2017.

WHO IS INVITED?
Innovators, entrepreneurs, global development professionals, technologists and supporters will meet and collaborate with Accelerator teams focused on financially sustainable and technology solutions to disrupt poverty.

FEB. 9, 2018 | STANFORD UNIVERSITY

6-7 PM
Reception

7-8:15 PM
Team Pitches & Audience Voting

8:15-9 PM
Pro Bono Marketplace & Winners Announced
MAKING TREASURE FROM TRASH [GHANA]

Sub-Saharan Africa is faced with deteriorating environmental conditions, including rapid deforestation and degradation of soil quality. Agriculture is critical to livelihoods, yet soil quality is now so poor that many areas can no longer support crops and livestock without costly chemical fertilizers, leading to food insecurity and cycles of debt for communities already living on the brink of extreme poverty. Making Treasure from Trash works with Village Savings & Loans Associations to support women to create biogas businesses and provide biogas for cooking (reducing deforestation from traditional cooking on open fires) and biofertilizer to fertilize crops (reducing dependence on commercial chemical fertilizers).

THE COOPERATIVE FUND [GEORGIA]

Farming Cooperatives in Georgia have empowered individual farmers to reduce risk and costs while maximizing profits and local economic opportunities. However, cooperatives are unable to access traditional financing to grow their business. The Cooperative Fund improves access to finance through revolving, repayable grants, effectively addressing systematic causes of poverty and the unequal division of resources and development between rural and urban areas. The fund taps into the immense commercial potential of agriculture and provides a model that transforms work and stimulates engagement between farmers, markets and financial institutions.

ALOWEATHER [VIETNAM]

Small family farms in Vietnam have limited access to a basic and critical resource — weather forecasts. Unable to prepare and plan, farmers often waste seed, fertilizer, livestock and valuable time. Through AloWeather, meteorologists, agriculturalists, and village leaders produce joint seasonal weather forecasts, calendars, and agricultural advisories. These resources are then translated into potential impacts (risks and opportunities) for agricultural activities and distributed directly to the rural farmers. This has allowed farmers to take actions to respond, increase crop yields, and gain back agency against uncertainty. To scale and sustain our innovation, CARE is working to create a social enterprise providing forecasts and advice through an SMS, fee-for-service model.

A-CARD [BANGLADESH]

About 80% of rural people in Bangladesh, especially smallholder farmers who desperately need loans, are not part of the formal banking system. Microfinance and informal loans have been the answer since formal banking institutions require large collateral and assets. However, microfinance rates can be astronomically high. A-Card is a cashless digital financial product with a reduced interest rate and long repayment period that brings farmers already using microfinance services into the formal banking system to improve their overall potential and livelihoods.

TEACHING RESOURCE LABS: ADVANCING TEACHERS FOR TOMORROW’S INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS [INDIA]

Around the world, women and girls fail to reach their full potential in STEM related careers. This problem is particularly acute in India where gender gaps combine with insufficient school infrastructure and lack of creative teaching capacity. CARE Teaching Resource Labs model builds teachers’ capacities in science, math, and language and provides valuable opportunities for children to use technology and engage in active, hands-on learning activities. The program supports teachers to understand gender-bias and support girls to maintain their confidence and interest in STEM.

THE SOCIAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAB [WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP]

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, constant political instability and insecurity create significant practical barriers for small businesses and discourages outside investment. The poor climate for private sector growth entrenches dependence on aid and philanthropy. CARE’s Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab supports local entrepreneurs not just to start new businesses, but to translate these specific barriers into business opportunities, enabling both economic growth and greater resilience for the communities.

LEVERAGING BRILLIANT IDEAS TO CHANGE LIVES

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