

STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR RESILIENCE INVESTMENTS

WHAT WORKS? HOW DO WE KNOW?

The past decade has seen the growth and adoption of resilience as a central focus of investments to strengthen the ability of people to survive and even thrive in the face of shocks and stresses. Yet, the availability of robust and verifiable evidence of how these interventions impact the lives of people, particularly the poor and vulnerable, remains scarce.

Major funders, including The Rockefeller Foundation, DFID, USAID, and SIDA, have invested significantly in global initiatives that integrate resilience goals into development, humanitarian assistance, urban planning, and climate change interventions. “Resilience” is now a central focus of investments to increase wellbeing at multiple levels – regional, city, community, household, and individual – and across sectors including urban planning, climate change, food security, and disaster risk reduction.

The Resilience Measurement, Evidence and Learning Community of Practice (CoP)

Implemented by the Windward Fund, with initial financial support from The Rockefeller Foundation, the Resilience Measurement, Evidence and Learning Community of Practice (CoP) has been formed to strengthen the knowledge and

evidence base for resilience, and to build the skills to close the gap between resilience measurement in theory and in practice.

CoP resilience measurement specialists, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) practitioners convene regionally and globally – to share their knowledge and lessons in measuring resilience and to undertake the joint work needed to strengthen the evidence base for resilience investments.

To date, convenings in New York, Rome, and Kampala have brought together over 80 MEL practitioners, representing a number of organizations and resilience measurement networks, to share lessons from an analysis of 45 resilience measurement frameworks and approaches, to identify commonalities and gaps, and to embark on joint innovation and collaborative work in 2017–2018. This work of the CoP aims to fill gaps in evidence, measurement and learning methods, and skills in order to guide the design, implementation, and scaling of resilience investments.

The Theory of Change of the CoP, illustrated below, highlights its four objectives.

Objectives

- 1. Collaborating, learning, generating evidence, and building capacity** – enable collaboration between resilience learning initiatives across different sectors, geographic scales, and levels of organization.
- 2. Piloting for demonstration and innovation** – develop phased cohorts of pilots to test, refine, and fill gaps in resilience measurement methods and approaches for generating and communicating resilience evidence.
- 3. Influencing to catalyze change** – use the synthesis of evidence, lessons, and cases to influence the design and implementation of resilience programs and investments beyond the CoP, reshape the global dialogue on resilience evidence, and build the business case for investments in resilience.
- 4. Managing and governing the CoP** – establish a collaborative leadership, management, and governance model to lead, coordinate, and account for the delivery of results and the expenditures of funds for the CoP.

Through its objectives, the CoP will contribute to stronger resilience outcomes and investments, and influence global discourse. For example, its collaborative learning and demonstrations across sectors and scales will generate and consolidate credible evidence on what works, including documenting the financial, social, and environmental returns and tradeoffs that come from resilience programming and investments. This will inform the business case for increased investment in resilience at scale, provide lower risk for investors and greater clarity and accountability for implementers, and, in turn, contribute to more positive results and outcomes.

Phased approach to implementation

Drawing from best practices in establishing an effective CoP, the Resilience Measurement, Evidence and Learning CoP is being implemented in phases over a three-year period.

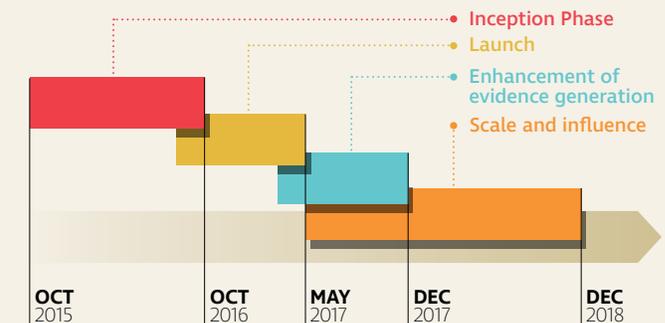
Inception Phase 2016

An Inception Phase in 2016 analyzed resilience measurement frameworks and the needs of stakeholders, incrementally engaging key stakeholders, and building trust and shared purpose among members to implement collaborative action.

Implementation Phases 2017–2018

A short operational launch period, from late 2016 through early 2017, established the collaborative leadership, management, and governance model of the CoP. With an elected Steering Committee, appointed Co-directors, and a strong core membership, the CoP launched its work program in 2017, focused on evidence generation, capacity building, and initial scaling and influencing activities.

The CoP will continue to broaden and deepen its core membership by engaging with key global and regional audiences to use and promote the evidence, products, and the business case for resilience, in order to strengthen the planning, design, delivery, and funding of resilience interventions.



Within a two-year period, the CoP aims to contribute to reshaping key regional and global discourse on resilience evidence, policies, and investments, in order to better integrate resilience measurement and evidence into key global and regional frameworks and agreements.

By its nature, a community of practice exists to convene its members and enable them to share their knowledge, skills, and abilities. Mindful of this, the CoP will intentionally have a lean support structure and deep connections to its diverse members and the networks they represent. The collaborative member-focused nature of the CoP is critical to its strength and influence, contributing to its success. An inclusive membership policy will allow the CoP to work with a range of members globally and regionally, and draw on their respective capabilities and organizations.

The wider use of resilience evidence and learning strengthens the capacity of people and communities to be more resilient to shocks, risks and stresses.

DEMONSTRATION

Resilience evidence enables more effective programs and investments

- a: Evidence-based resilience program approaches mainstreamed across sectors
- b: Strategic investments in resilience programs scaled up
- c: Evidence-based learning used to replicate and scale successful resilience programs to broader systems
- d: Innovative solutions accelerate learning and the evidence base for resilience
- e: Resilience measurement leaders collaborate on measurement /MEL and knowledge creation through research/pilots

SCALE

Global development discourse, policy development, and innovative financing at scale reflects resilience evidence

- a: Compelling business case for resilience central to global development discourse and financing solutions
- b: Markets respond to evidence-based resilience solutions
- c: Key resilience issues and evidence become central to strategic global development processes, dialogues, and financing solutions – e.g. SDGs, Sendai, CIF, SOCAP, WEF
- d: Full range of influential players use resilience evidence to scale up efforts across government, civil society, UN system, private sector, philanthropy

Evidence on building resilience increasingly demanded and utilized

Key institutions strengthen resilience policies, programs, and investments

Collaborative learning and capacity building

- Diversified CoP membership across sectors and disciplines
- Analytical knowledge products on resilience measurement
- Technical support for complex measurement-MEL
- Capacity building for CoP members and practitioners
- Knowledge base on resilience evidence (e.g. summary of resilience evidence across sectors)

- Identify and engage leaders, experts, and practitioners in resilience-related fields as well as those in priority areas not traditionally identified with resilience
- Manage and facilitate CoP processes across disciplines
- Undertake analysis and deliver knowledge products
- Support capacity development of CoP members

Piloting for demonstration and innovation

- Resilience measurement-MEL pilot approaches, methods, innovations
- Evidence and insights from pilots
- Research, methodologies, and analyses
- Evidence of and model for resilience difference

- Select and manage pilot implementation
- Facilitate collaborative learning process and analyze results
- Produce products (e.g. case studies, evidence briefs)
- Commission and peer review products
- Facilitate the use of the evidence and results

Influencing to catalyze change and scale

- Program investment examples of resilience evidence
- Business case and market systems examples of resilience
- Briefs, cases, and strategies for global influence across actors
- New groups entering into resilience field

- Implement a scaling & influencing strategy
- Articulate an evidence-based business case for resilience programs and investments
- Explore outreach and engagement with influential stakeholder groups from sectors, investment, government, private sector

Grants for CoP

RF convening and existing partners/relationships

Incubation support

Windward staff and resources

CoP members' extended networks of practitioners and experts

CoP members' experience and knowledge

IMPACT

GLOBAL OUTCOMES

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

CoP OBJECTIVES

CoP OUTPUTS

ACTIVITIES

CoP INPUTS

Highlights and accomplishments to date

Drawing on the collective wisdom and experience of recognized leaders in resilience measurement, the CoP has:

- engaged 150+ recognized resilience measurement and MEL practitioners from networks and organizations in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, and the United States who are committed to a collaborative learning and leadership model for the CoP
- elected a Steering Committee and appointed Co-directors to provide collaborative leadership and strategic management of the CoP
- agreed on a theory of change, strategy, work program, and influence strategy
- analyzed 45 frameworks for measuring resilience across sectors – including urban planning, climate change, food security, humanitarian relief, disaster relief – highlighting commonalities in approach, methods and measures as well as the gaps to be filled by the CoP's collective work program
- convened the CoP core group members in New York, Rome, and Kampala, to share analysis, knowledge, and lessons, and agree on commonalities, challenges, and gaps in resilience measurement and the evidence base
- developed case studies of applied resilience measurement approaches by leading resilience implementers such as DFID-funded BRACED, Mercy Corps, Oxfam GB, CARE, and FAO.
- issued an Open Innovation Call to CoP member to strengthen Resilience evidence and knowledge.

Building on these efforts, the CoP aims to fill critical gaps in resilience measurement and build essential knowledge and skills in measuring and learning about resilience, and in scaling and influencing programs and investments.

About the Windward Fund

The Windward Fund advances public awareness about conservation, climate, and environmental issues, sustainable food systems, and the protection of land, wildlife, and other natural resources. It hosts public awareness campaigns and grant-making projects that address conservation from a range of angles. Windward Fund commissioned this report as the host of the Resilience Measurement, Evidence and Learning Community of Practice (CoP).

About The Rockefeller Foundation

For more than 100 years, The Rockefeller Foundation's mission has been to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world. Today, The Rockefeller Foundation pursues this mission through dual goals: advancing inclusive economies that expand opportunities for more broadly shared prosperity, and building resilience by helping people, communities, and institutions prepare for, withstand, and emerge stronger from acute shocks and chronic stresses. Over the past decade, The Foundation has increasingly supported multi-year resilience initiatives including the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC), Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN), Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), Rebuild by Design (RBD), the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC), and resilience measurement projects such as the City Resilience Framework/Index and the Resilience Value Realization (RVR) process.

If you are actively working in the field of resilience and would like to learn more about the CoP, please contact:

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