



Resilience Knowledge Coalition

Supporting ambitious and transformative policies, plans and investments to build a resilient future

Global Resilience Partnership

International Centre for Climate Change and Development

SouthSouthNorth

Background

The world today stands at the crossroads of decisions for a safe, just and thriving future. Chronic stresses in economic and health systems around the world are compounded by climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss, conflict and political instability. At times like these, communities need to be equipped to build resilience, i.e. enhance their capacity to persist, adapt and transform in the face of change.

The global development community has set ambitious targets to “leave nobody behind” inspired by the rapid progress in the recent past. However, shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic, economic recessions and climate change demonstrate the complex and interconnected risks humanity faces. These underscore the need for a shift towards enhancing resilience for humanity and nature, through recognizing the inherent agency of people to collaborate and take transformative action.

The Resilience Knowledge Coalition

While collectively we have the knowledge on how to build a resilient future, it is not effectively used to make an impact. This is the gap the Resilience Knowledge Coalition (the coalition) aims to address by providing access to knowledge, expertise, energy, innovation and collaborative learning. The coalition is built on [Principles of Locally Led Adaptation](#) and co-created with organizations and stakeholders from the Global South and North. It is hosted by the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) and co-led by SouthSouthNorth (SSN) / Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) as well as the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) / Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC). Our purpose:

Getting the best knowledge and practice on resilience used to shape policies, plans and investments to deliver a resilient future.

The coalition is a “**network of networks**” that connects existing initiatives and builds on their successes through a systemic approach so that they can become greater than the sum of their parts. This will focus on regions and countries where it matters the most and tackle the most intractable challenges at the intersection of peace and stability, disaster resilience and food and water security. The coalition will work with these existing initiatives, learning from past experiences, and avoid duplication by referring to existing assistance, only undertaking action to fill gaps. We will invest in learning by doing, capturing technical experience and sharing knowledge from existing initiatives.

Functions of the Resilience Knowledge Coalition

The coalition will enable stakeholders to access the latest knowledge and expertise on how to invest in resilience for development. It will support the robust design of resilience components in national, regional and global plans, policies, programs and investments to deliver positive impacts on human wellbeing, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It will work in relation to certain themes, for example: Climate Adaptation, Financing, Water and Food Security, Coastal Resilience, Disaster Resilience, Peace and Conflict, and Health. It has three functions: Collaborate, Connect and Apply. The functions are interrelated; for instance, working groups engaged in peer-learning under Collaborate can interact on virtual platforms under Connect and benefit from the incubation and MEL support under Apply. At the same time, each has specific objectives and activities (outlined below).

Collaborate: Peer-to-peer learning, networking and capacity building

The coalition has over 400 members from 100 organizations, bringing together a vibrant community of practitioners, researchers, grassroots organizations, policymakers and investors from the Global South and North. Under the collaborate function, we will implement phased and strategic capacity-building activities to improve the utilization of resilience knowledge for policy, programs and investments. Anticipated activities and results:

- Co-creating a broad Resilience Knowledge Coalition with increased engagement of practitioners, communities, investors, policy-makers and knowledge partners from the Global South and North.
- Assessment of resilience knowledge gaps and capacity building needs and demands:
 1. Review existing capacity building initiatives related to resilience in order to build on and improve, rather than duplicate, existing initiatives;
 2. Identify key knowledge gaps and capacity building needs and;
 3. Develop a robust capacity building and knowledge brokering strategy.
- Capacity building support includes facilitating South-South and South-South-North learning, transdisciplinary working groups, internships, longer-term secondments and exchanges, while avoiding short-term, top-down technical assistance that creates a dependency on external skills.
- A biennial event, smaller regional convenings and webinars will be organized around resilience program design, measurement, evidence and learning.
- Small grants to promote Southern-based collaborations between key events.

Connect: Agile online platforms and virtual spaces for knowledge-sharing and convening

Knowledge needs to be shared and exchanged to improve and grow successful activities. The coalition develops virtual spaces to connect and interact with others to share, build on and amplify insights. The experience of the COVID-19 crisis will be used to ensure grassroots and communities are involved and heard, and not “digitally excluded”. These online convenings will be connected to in-person (biennial) events, peer-to-peer learning and knowledge products. Anticipated activities and results:

- Curating, synthesizing and profiling “best practice” knowledge, tools and methods through ongoing peer exchange and dynamic linking of online repositories.
- Various virtual spaces will be explored and created to share new ideas and connect people for reflective learning through webinars, online courses and a help desk.
- An online inventory of resilience expertise (organizations, networks and people) will be made available to help design, implement and evaluate the resilience components of development plans, policies and investments.

Apply: Getting knowledge into use through measurement, incubation and scaling support

The coalition will harmonize resilience measurement approaches and provide Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) support and guidance. Coalition knowledge, evidence and expertise will be grounded in practice through incubation, acceleration and scaling support for members. This will ensure resilience knowledge shapes transformative policy action and receives sustained investments. Anticipated activities and results:

- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning support:
 - Harmonizing measurement and MEL guidance, tools and approaches.
 - The evidence base for resilience investments will be systematically and rigorously strengthened through sharing and co-developing robust program design, measurement, evaluation and learning approaches.
 - Increased access to resilience “good practice” knowledge, tools and methodologies through ongoing peer exchange and online repositories.
- Catalytic grants and prizes to surface bold ideas that put knowledge into use
- Incubation, Acceleration and Scaling support:
 - Screening scaling and resilience potential through a value chain driven assessment and a gap analysis to inform mentoring and action plans.
 - Organizing ideation workshops, scenario planning and leadership academies.
 - Matchmaking between resilience initiatives and potential funders through investor platforms and deal brokering services.

Governance

The coalition will be designed to break the model of past knowledge-brokering initiatives that have often been top-down, donor-driven, and delivered through international consultants. It will do this through the governance structure and processes, which will be co-created by coalition members.

The Resilience Knowledge Coalition will intentionally have a lean support structure and will focus on deepening connections between members and networks. The collaborative member-focused nature of the coalition is critical to its success and its strength and influence.

The coalition is genuine on making global South demand and expertise take center stage. To that effect, engaging with organizations working at national and local levels, especially grassroots organizations, is essential. A particular emphasis will be on inclusion of members from the Global South.

Any resilience and adaptation professional is free to join, through [this link](#). The members will receive regular email updates (quarterly/ bimonthly) and will be able to access content through the online platform. As the coalition progresses, co-lead and member social media channels will be used to activate and communicate with members.

Plan of action

Drawing from best practice in establishing effective communities of practice, the coalition will be implemented in phases to ensure accurate assessment and analysis of needs, incremental engagement of key stakeholders, and trust and shared purpose among members to implement collaborative action.

At the end of the initial implementation period the initiative is expected to continue playing a critical role in the space of resilience. For this to happen the coalition needs to remain relevant and add value to the wider community base. The initiative is designed in a way that the functions proposed here not only create a lasting coalition with multiple funders that engage based on a perceived business case, but also leads to a sustained impact in resilience programming.