

GRP PARTNERS MEETING REPORT

26 May 2021, 13:30 – 16:30 CEST, Virtual



**GLOBAL
RESILIENCE
PARTNERSHIP**

Contents

- 1. AGENDA 2
- 2. ACTIONS 2
- 3. MEETING MINUTES 3
- Welcome and Opening Remarks..... 3
- Updates from the Partnership 3
- Breakout Room Discussions..... 4
 - Group A: GRP Directions for 2022-2023 and Priority Areas 4
 - Group B: GRP Joint Statement/Commentary on Food Resilience for 2021..... 5
 - Group C: Building a resilient and green future in response to Covid-19 5
 - Group D: Horizon Scanning & Disaster Resilience: What is the next "Covid"? What are the next big systemic shocks on the horizon? 6
 - Group E: Intersectionality in Resilience Development and Research..... 6
- How to improve the Partnership 7
- Wrap-up and Closing..... 7
- APPENDIX 1: MEETING PARTICIPANTS..... 8



1. AGENDA

Time	Content	Lead(s)
13:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Nathanial Matthews (GRP) Saleem Huq (ICCCAD) Johan Rockström (PIK)
13:55	Updates from the Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South-to-South Resilience Academy - Resilience Knowledge Coalition - Ocean Risk & Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) - Scaling & Supporting Innovative Finance for Resilience - Voices from the Frontline - Race to Resilience 	GRP Partners
14:25	Breakout room discussion topics presented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everyone divides into breakout groups - Rooms will be capped 	GRP Secretariat
14:35	1 st Breakout Group	GRP Partners
15:05	Break	
15:15	2 nd Breakout Group	GRP Partners
15:45	Plenary Feedback	GRP Partners
15:55	Focused Q+A: How to improve the Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What has worked? - What are the gaps? - How can we improve? 	Jesper Hornberg
16:15	Wrap-up and Closing	Nathanial Matthews

2. ACTIONS

- Please contact [Anastasia Brainich](#) if you would like to engage in the Resilience Hub at COP26 or if you have any questions regarding it.
- Sign up to the mailing list to join the [Resilience Knowledge Coalition](#) and start participating in one of the three working groups (Collaborate, Connect, and Apply).
- Share any stories or tips on how grassroots communities have responded to Covid-19 with [Shahrin Mannan](#) for the [Voices from the Frontline](#) initiative.
- Sign up for the GRP newsletter [here](#).
- Reach out to [Ida Gabrielsson](#) if you would like to host or co-host a [Learning Webinar](#).

3. MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Nathaniel Matthews, CEO of GRP, opened the meeting and welcomed all the Partners. He reminded the Partners of GRP's vision, structure, and governance. He also went through how GRP works across four interlinked areas: Innovate, Share, Convene and Advance.

Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Chair of GRP's Advisory Board, gave the opening remarks. He spoke to the importance of GRP having more active Partners from the Global South. Saleem's goal for his time as Chair is to continue to move GRP to become a more of a Global South led Partnership.

Johan Rockström, Co-Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), set the scene for the meeting. He said that going forward humanity will increasingly be facing similar cascading and global shocks like COVID-19. The challenge is to respond by building a truly resilient future, one that reduces risks and is prepared and able to deal with shocks, well beyond pandemics. GRP is a part of spearheading efforts to rise to this challenge. GRP Partners are leading the way to ensure we build a resilient future that focuses on the need to specifically invest in strategies that integrate mitigation and adaptation (e.g. zero-carbon adaptations), and build transformation to address the fundamental changes required to navigate the new risk landscape and keep within our planetary boundaries.

Updates from the Partnership

Istiakh Ahmed, ICCCAD, provided an overview of the [South-to-South Resilience Academy](#) on the Community Responses for Climate Resilience in a Post COVID-19 world. The Climate Resilience Academy for LDCs (CRAL) was initiated by ICCCAD and GRP with the aim to combine diverse forms of knowledge and generate useful insights towards identifying solution pathways for the most pressing southern resilience challenges.

Shuchi Vora, GRP, gave a brief update on the [Resilience Knowledge Coalition](#). The coalition aims to get the best resilience knowledge and practice used to shape policies, plans and investments to deliver a resilient future. It has three functions: collaborate, connect and apply. Partners can sign up to the mailing list to join the coalition and start participating in one of the three working groups (collaborate, connect, and apply).

Chip Cunliffe, AXA XL, updated the Partnership on the [Ocean Risk & Resilience Action Alliance \(ORRAA\)](#), a multi-stakeholder alliance bringing together insurance and finance sectors, governments, multilateral banks, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and universities. The alliance has three priority pathways: financial innovation, science & research, and policy & governance. They are currently scaling their approach through several projects.

Jesper Hornberg, GRP, gave an update on GRP's work on [Scaling & Supporting Innovative Finance for Resilience in Fragile and Conflict Prone Regions](#). GRP is working together with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to identify and nurture a

pipeline of novel, viable and fundable financial mechanisms in fragile and conflict prone regions. The chosen initiatives will receive funding and mentoring support from the GRP incubator to scale and ensure leveraging of additional funding.

Shahrin Mannan, ICCCAD, provided an update on the [Voices from the Frontline](#) initiative. The objective of the initiative is to accumulate, learn from and disseminate community response strategies during COVID-19 to enhance community resilience in the face of future disasters. ICCCAD is working together with GRP and the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) on Voices from the Frontline. Over 45 stories have been published. Sessions and webinars have been held at number of events. And the initiative has contributed to a Thomson Reuters blog series. Partners can share any stories or tips on how grassroots communities have responded to Covid-19 with [Shahrin Mannan](#).

Lastly, Anastasia Brainich, GRP, gave an update on the [Race to Resilience](#) (R2R). R2R has a goal to catalyse action by non-state actors that builds the resilience of four billion people from groups and communities who are vulnerable to climate risks by 2030. It focuses on three themes: urban, rural, and coastal. The next round for R2R applications is open. At COP26, there will be a Resilience Hub, which will serve as a focal point for R2R. As a GRP Partner, there are several ways to engage, please contact [Anastasia Brainich](#) for more details.

Breakout Room Discussions

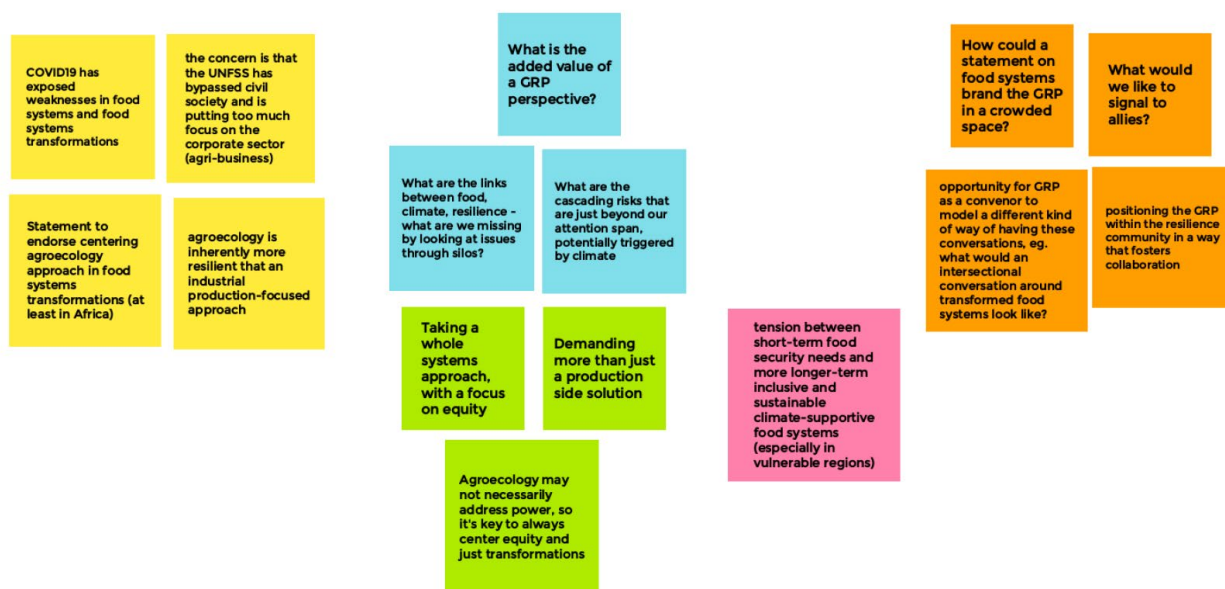
Group A: GRP Directions for 2022-2023 and Priority Areas

In this break-out group, we explored GRP Directions and potential Priority Areas for 2022-2023. Participants shared their view and vision on where GRP should be in 2023 and reflected on key processes to connect to over the next 2-3 years, starting in 2021. Subsequently the discussion focused on specific deliverables, products and outcomes that Partners could contribute to in the next two years. Some highlighted priority areas and associated deliverables by Partners included:

- Surfacing, grounding and scaling local solutions and actions, e.g., by widely sharing solutions and tools for resilience programming (Seacology, AGWA)
- Advocacy to influence financial decisions and direct funds to local actions, including climate smart investments, matchmaking with investors, connecting to Locally Led Adaptation Network and Climate Bridge Fund Projects (CDKN, SDI, BRAC, ICCCAD, WRI)
- Space and spotlight on Social Transformations, e.g. Resilience Hub session at COP 26 (BRAC)
- Global South and broader Inclusion in the Partnership and action, collecting data and sharing evidence on impact Global South organizations can have on resilience goals and objectives (SDI)
- Stronger Private Sector Engagement, e.g., guidance on risk assessment and strategy (AGWA)

Group B: GRP Joint Statement/Commentary on Food Resilience for 2021

GRP Statement on Food Systems Transformations



In this breakout group, we discussed food systems transformations, and how GRP might position itself in the global landscape of food systems conversations that are leading up to the UN Food Systems Summit later in 2021. A suggestion was to highlight approaches, such as agroecology, which are based on systems perspectives and acknowledge the complex interlinkages between food, climate, and equity. GRP is well placed to call for, support, and share innovations and approaches that go beyond just “optimizing” the production of food, and instead enhance resilience of food systems across sectors and value chains, especially in regions of the world that are vulnerable to climate change impacts. In addition, GRP may act as a convener of different voices and perspectives, supporting an intersectional and inclusive conversation around food system transformations. These suggestions will contribute to a published statement or commentary piece on food system transformations, crafted by the secretariat with input from the broader Partnership.

Group C: Building a resilient and green future in response to Covid-19

The outputs of this discussion will feed into a possible future GRP project to assess if ongoing global policy commitments, government spending, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are building a truly resilient future. In this breakout group, we focused discussions on:

- the key attributes that are needed to underpin resilience in a post-pandemic world,
- the critical barriers that need to be overcome to nurture resilience, and
- examples of existing resilience building initiatives.

In order to build a resilient post-pandemic world, it was highlighted that we need to build on the [principles of Locally-led Adaptation \(LLA\)](#). Resilience depends on involving local communities in the

design of projects and getting money to where it matters. Top-down interventions with no consultation or co-production, or interventions designed with no context-sensitive approach, are almost guaranteed to erode long-term transformative resilience. If project developers can adequately capture local considerations and needs into the design and delivery, then interventions will be a lot more effective. GRP has a role to play in promoting partnership between local beneficiaries and those developing and funding the interventions of support. LIFE AR initiative was highlighted as an example.

Group D: Horizon Scanning & Disaster Resilience: What is the next "Covid"? What are the next big systemic shocks on the horizon?

In this group, we discussed that the next big systemic shock could be water scarcity and droughts. Group members pointed out the conditions in Western United States to highlight the impacts of droughts and chronic water scarcity in regions around the world. They also highlighted that systemic shocks can either be long-term stresses or short-term, high intensity shocks. Often, long-term stresses such as droughts can reach a tipping point, which can escalate quickly to manifest as short-term impacts.

Other related issues that the group pointed out were biodiversity loss and climate-related extreme events (hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, etc.) that adversely affect communities vulnerable to climate events. They also pointed out that water is an underlying factor among many climate related shocks on food systems, natural systems etc.

Balancing connectivity, which can have both positive and negative impacts on systems and the spread of shocks, were also highlighted. There is a need to strengthen health systems and technological systems to cope with pandemic and its ramifications on the work-from-home scenarios across the globe.

We also discussed underlying causes that have led to ineffective management to all these shocks. We felt that geopolitical instability in various countries and regions made it difficult to arrive at collaborative solutions. Further, the lack of data, especially in the case of Nature-based Solutions to many of these systemic shocks, made it difficult to attract investments and buy-ins from governments as well. Despite these challenges, the group felt that in regards to Nature-based solutions, a "no regrets approach" could be a viable solution to climate-related shocks.

Lastly, a discussion on enhancing resilience to these systemic shocks ensued. Finance and governance were identified as critical elements. We also feel that resilience should be proactive and process-oriented, rather than as a reaction to the shocks.

Group E: Intersectionality in Resilience Development and Research

In this breakout group, we discussed how Partners can work together to accelerate the mainstreaming of intersectionality in strategies and planning and how to attract more funding for this. We discussed the following questions:

- *How do we mainstream/institutionalize intersectionality in strategies and planning for (resilience) development programmes and research?*
- *How do we attract more funding for this?*
- *How can Partners work together to accelerate this?*

The discussions started with that we need to be aware of power dynamics, who is in the room and what do they represent. There is a need to move away from gender and intersectionality as being a

standalone question and tick box exercise to become integrated in the core activities and included in strategies and planning. One suggestion of how to integrate this is when developing indicators.

Taking this forward, a suggestion that came up was to develop a primer for projects and research on how to include intersectionality in planning. The GRP secretariat will reach out to partners to see the interest for co-designing this primer.

Another idea that came up was to showcase more case studies on this, like the Voices from the Frontline project has.

How to improve the Partnership

The Partners provided valuable feedback on how the Partnership can be improved. Several Partners highlighted aspects that already work well, which include:

1. GRP provides Partners with a platform at global events (i.e. the Building a Resilient Future event at UN Climate Action Summit in 2019 and Resilience Hub at COP26).
2. GRP provides a safe space for diverse voices to be heard and the space to have open and honest discussions.
3. GRP is flexible and nimble in its structure, which allows it pivot and pick up on topical issues.
4. GRP is able to combine the latest resilience research and knowledge with work that is being done on the ground.
5. GRP is able to bridge communities that do not normally connect, and is able to convene unique conversations.
6. GRP plays a leading role in the Resilience Measurement Community.

However, there are also aspects that the Partnership needs to improve. These include:

1. How to keep the momentum going in-between different moments or events. There is a need for active “gardeners” to facilitate/catalyse subgroups over time.
2. Clearly define what GRP really wants to achieve.
3. Define the role of the Partners vs. the Secretariat.
4. What is the comparative advantage of GRP compared to a more traditionally structured organisation?
5. Provide more space for members to contribute.

The GRP Secretariat is taking on board the feedback from the Partners. A key takeaway is to continually test how we are working and interacting to learn, adapt, and improve.

Wrap-up and Closing

Nathaniel Matthews provided the closing for the meeting. He reiterated that GRP is a unique Partnership that brings together diverse voices in the development space. GRP’s value proposition is that together we are more than the sum of our parts. This meeting has been about engaging with our Partners and learning from each. It is critical that as a Partnership we are open and adaptive and aim to continually improve. It is also important to note that to be a successful Partnership, Partners need to engage with GRP and the secretariat as well.

APPENDIX 1: MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organisation
Lorine Giangola	ABT Associates
Alex Mauroner	AGWA (Alliance for Global Water Adaptation)
Chip Cunliffe	AXA-XL
Mara Russell	Care International
Shenaaz Moosa	CDKN (Climate Development Knowledge Network) / SSN (SouthSouthNorth)
Michelle du Toit	CDKN (Climate Development Knowledge Network)
Nadia Sitas	CST (Centre for Complex Transitions (University of Stellenbosch)
Vincent Gainey	FCDO (UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office)
Regardt J. Ferreira	Disaster Risk Leadership Academy - Tulane University (DRLA)
Aaron Adu	Global Shea Association
Peter Gubbels	Groundswell International
Saleemul Huq	ICCCAD (International Centre for Climate Change and Development)
Shahrin Mannan	ICCCAD (International Centre for Climate Change and Development)
Istiakh Ahmed	ICCCAD (International Centre for Climate Change and Development)
Molly Hellmuth	ICF
John Choptiany	iDE Global
Bruce Currie-Alder	IDRC (International Development Research Centre)
Liangzhi You	IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute)
Clare Shakya	IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development)
Molly Schneider	International Rescue committee
Smita Sanghrajka	KPMG
Holli Jordan	Lutheran World Relief / Corus International

Bijal Brahmbhatt	Mahila SEWA Housing Trust (MHT)
Siraz Hirani	Mahila SEWA Housing Trust (MHT)
Sophie Javers	Markets, Risk & Resilience Innovation Lab - UC Davis (MRR Lab)
Jen Abdella	NEF (Near East Foundation)
Matthijs Bouw	One Architecture
Johan Rockström	PIK (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research)
Chiara Ambrosino	Plan International
Elaine ANGELES	IFRC / RCCC
Irfan Miswari	Scale Up NGO
Karen Peterson	Seacology
Johanna Palmberg	Sida
Joe Muturi	SDI (Slum/Shack Dwellers International)
Sheela Patel	SDI (Slum/Shack Dwellers International)
Lisa McNamara	SouthSouthNorth (SSN)
Moushumi Chaudhury	TNC (The Nature Conservancy)
Erno Tornikoski	University of Exeter
Raphael Dennett	University of Exeter
Jami Montgomery	USAID
Michael Kunz	USAID
Paul Holthus	WOC (World Ocean Council)
Stephanie Speck	UNDRR
Stuart Orr	WWF
Muhammad Musa	BRAC
Oscar Ivanova	UNEP