GLOBAL RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Advancing resilience innovation, knowledge, and policy

2024-2029 Strategy





Our Mission & Vision

Together with our Partners, we work to advance **climate resilience** by identifying and scaling locally-led innovations, sharing and generating knowledge, and shaping resilience policy and investments.

We envision an inclusive world in harmony with nature that is better prepared to cope with shocks, adapt to change, and transform – all within planetary boundaries

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Letter from the CEO

In recent years, the global community has recognised the essential role of building resilience in the face of increasing systemic shocks and uncertainties. The COVID-19 pandemic, the escalation of climate-related disasters, the exacerbation of conflicts, and soaring energy and food prices have underscored the pressing need to prioritise resilience and place it at the forefront of global dialogue and action. At the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), we are devoted to enhancing resilience on the ground, as well as advancing resilience knowledge, investment, and policy.

As we approach the milestone of our tenth anniversary, we take pride in reflecting on the progress we have made over the past decade. From a Partnership consisting of fewer than ten organisations, we are now over 80 active organisations, all united in the mission to advance resilience. We have transitioned from a primarily Global North-led organisation to a Secretariat that spans a diverse range of 14 countries. We have established ourselves as a recognised leader in measurement and evidence building for resilience, strengthening capacity, amplifying the voices of local communities, and engaging the private sector.

Our efforts to date have supported millions of people, thousands of organisations, hundreds of new investments, policies, and actions, and have elevated the profile of resilience globally. They serve as a critical partner to humanitarian, climate action, and development initiatives. When approached in a comprehensive and holistic manner, evidence shows that resilience action can foster new opportunities for livelihoods, promote gender equity, justice, and fairness through locally-driven solutions, pre-empt potential conflicts, and minimise vulnerabilities.

Going forward, we have identified three opportunities for transformative climate resilience: food, finance, and communities, with gender and youth as key focal points cutting

across. These opportunities underpin our strategic direction going forward. We will intervene strategically through a portfolio of programmes that ladder up to four long-term outcomes:

- 1. Transforming food and financial systems
- 2. Scaling innovative formal and informal collaborations
- 3. Increasing inclusive transdisciplinary learning
- 4. Embedding resilience in the private and financial sectors

As global risks continue to mount, it is more critical than ever that we join forces with our Partners to advance resilience where it is most urgently needed. Together, we are stronger, and we invite all those who share our vision to join us in building a more resilient future.

@masthers

Dr. Nathanial Matthews CEO

We are focusing our work on three opportunities for transformative climate resilience: **food, finance,** and **communities**.





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GRP is not just another NGO, it helps challenge the existing, dysfunctional system as much as it helps build an equitable and inclusive resilient future for those of us on the frontlines of shocks and stresses. The Partnership represents a way forward where organisations of all sizes, from both the public and private sectors, as well as from the Global South and Global North, can come together as equal voices and make commitments to develop resilient responses to the threats we face.

Sheela Patel

Founder and Director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resources Centres (SPARC), India



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Changing course towards a resilient and sustainable future requires transformative collaboration across sectors, scales and geographies. GRP unites partners to learn from each other, launch innovative solutions, and drive investments into resilience. As we race to a better world, I am excited to have GRP as a key resilience ally.

Nigel Topping

UN Climate Change High Level Climate Champion, COP26

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In our hyper-connected world, the interdependence between humanity and ecosystems is increasingly facing systemic risks and global shocks. In order to navigate these challenges and secure a resilient future, it is imperative that we take proactive measures to mitigate risks, strengthen our ability to respond to shocks, and embrace innovation to catalyse transformative change. The Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) is a critical force in spearheading these efforts, by translating evidence-based resilience knowledge into actionable strategies that can build a truly resilient future.

Johan Rockström

Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research



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The Global South Talent Pool has given me the opportunity to learn, grow and contribute to GRP's mission. On the ground, young people, women's groups and communities are all working on innovative, climate solutions. GRP amplifies voices, shares stories, and supports and nurtures innovative solutions to scale.

June Kimaiyo

Programmes Junior Officer, Global Resilience Partnership



Where we've come from: Reflecting on our first decade





50,000+ social media followers

Invested over USD **45 million** in resilience programming across the Global South

Projects supported by GRP have **won numerous awards** in recognition for their innovation and impact

296 sessions total at COP26, COP27 & COP28 Resilience Hubs Over **30,000** in-person and virtual visitors of the COP26, COP27 & COP28 Resilience Hubs

GRP Challenges have supported **7 million** people across **16 countries.**

• Provided early warning information to 1.4 million people

Provided capacity building support to over 1,500 organisations.



Spotlight on Roads for Water

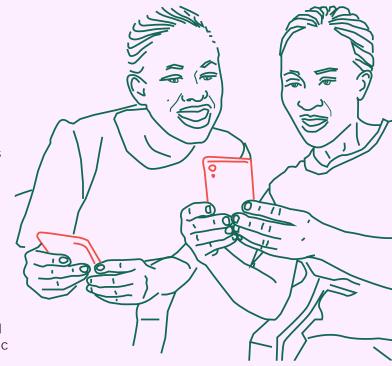
Scaling out to new countries and influencing development bank guidelines

MetaMeta Research's Roads for Water project intercepts damaging flood water on roads and guides it to recharge areas, storage places, or farmland, resulting in water and food security in typically insecure regions. The project has become national policy in Ethiopia and has been expanded to Yemen, Nepal, Bangladesh and Kenya. Additionally, guidelines about how to build roads have been created and accepted by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The project was previously supported by GRP's Global Resilience and Water Window challenges and is currently supported by our Resilient Agricultural Innovations for Nature (RAIN) challenge.

Spotlight on Agripath

Two former GRP challenge winners, farmbetter and Grameen Foundation team up

Farmbetter (an award-winning mobile application that provides tailored and actionable know-how for farmers) and Grameen Foundation (a digital platform that helps people in developing countries invest in their businesses, improve their farms, and save for their future) met and exchanged ideas through GRP. They consequently teamed up on the Agripath project, which offers a learning opportunity for the agricultural sector to improve access to advisory services, especially for women and youth. The project has received \$7 million in grant funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Spotlight on the COP Resilience Hub

The home for resilience at the UNFCCC climate summits

The Resilience Hub, an idea conceived by GRP, was created to address the challenge of fragmented and siloed conversations around resilience and adaptation at UNFCCC COP events. By providing an inclusive and dynamic space for open dialogue and learning, the Resilience Hub has successfully delivered key uniting moments for the resilience and adaptation community across sectors, scales and geographies at COP26 and COP27. In 2022, the Resilience Hub engaged 79 new grassroots federations and local actors and 80 international cross-sectoral partners in delivering a solution-oriented agenda that resulted in 28 high-impact announcements alongside action-oriented events. The Hub was supported by \$2.5M USD in private sector sponsorship, channelled via GRP to manage operational aspects. The hybrid format of the Hub allowed for inclusivity, with half of the visitors in 2022 attending and participating virtually, with 50% connecting from the Global South.



From left to right: Cristina Gamboa, Saleemul Huq, Mary Robinson, Sheela Patel, Nigel Topping and Gunzalo Munoz



Spotlight on the South to South Resilience Academies

Shifting global knowledge creation towards the Global South

The South to South Resilience Academies were established to democratise knowledge generation by providing a platform for Southern-based partners to share local insights into resilience, improve South-South collaboration, and promote the flow of knowledge from South to North. Through the Southern Africa Resilience Academy, GRP mobilised expert, southern-based, transdisciplinary teams that are addressing critical resilience challenges in the southern African region and beyond. By focusing on the development of policy-relevant, user-targeted, academic and non-academic knowledge products, the Southern African Resilience Academy has changed the voices and priorities that tend to influence global resilience narratives.

Where we're going: Refocusing in a complex risk landscape

Responding to compounding crises

We are now living in a climate changed world. Events like pandemics, extreme weather, financial crises, and synchronised food shocks propagate and interact more rapidly than in the past and with greater geographic spread. These events have a disproportionate impact on communities in the Global South, communities that are already on the frontlines of shocks and stresses.

The gap between the need for resilience and existing commitments is significant, with little progress made in bridging the adaptation and resilience finance gap. The amount of adaptation finance flowing to developing countries is currently five to ten times lower than what is needed (<u>UNEP, 2022</u>). The <u>Sharm El Sheikh Implementation Plan</u> acknowledges that \$4-6 trillion dollars will be needed per year for low-carbon, climate-resilient pathways. However, the previous pledge of \$100 billion per year by 2020 for low- and middle-income countries has not been met as of 2023. Closing the funding gaps bears key implications for justice, as it can help minimise loss and damage, leading to less suffering, fewer losses of lives and livelihoods, and more equitable development outcomes.

The current food crisis has been described as one of the worst crises of

the recent decades. It has resulted from a combination of events including an increasing number of conflicts, increased weather variability and extreme weather events, with prolonged droughts and floods, and economic uncertainty. Additionally, increases in food prices have been fueled by high energy and fertiliser prices and the onset of Russia's war in Ukraine, which affected global exports of wheat and other crops of major importance for global food security. With a projected 345.2 million people experiencing food insecurity and over 900,000 people experiencing famine-like conditions in 2023 (<u>WFP, 2023</u>), this represents a staggering increase of 200 million people compared to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. Groups most at risk include those in importdependent, climate change-affected, and conflict-prone countries, as well as those who rely on informal economies and vulnerable groups such as women and children.

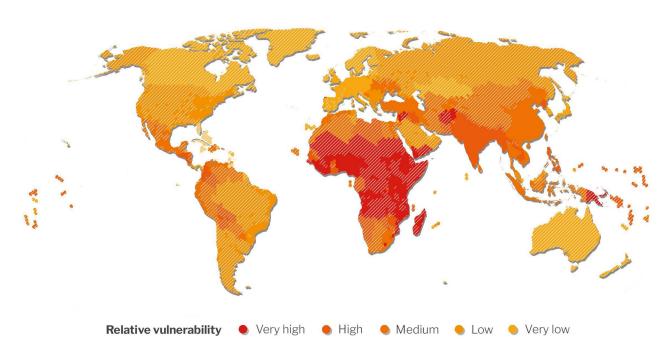
To succeed in scaling locally-led adaptation (LLA) and community-led resilience, we urgently need radical collaboration across scales and sectors.

The systemic and compounding nature of the challenges we face requires integrated, holistic responses that amplify synergies and co-benefits. There is a need for inclusive decision-making processes, facilitated collaboration, and the aggregation of funding for systemic rather than piecemeal approaches. Implementation requires developing localised understandings of risk and vulnerabilities as well as solutions, however they need to be supported through integrated, rather than issue-based funding, while putting those most affected and historically marginalised at the heart of these processes.



Geographic focus

Over the coming years we will continue to focus on building resilience where it is needed most. Places where this intersection is most accentuated include countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South and South East Asia and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific and Caribbean. The figure below (extracted from the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, 2022) shows the regions and local groups with observed high human vulnerability risk. GRP will therefore focus its efforts on <u>Official Development</u> <u>Assistance (ODA)</u> eligible countries that are vulnerable to climate change impacts, whilst also recognising that global drivers (e.g. trade, markets, or finance) are likely to be located elsewhere. Building systemic resilience requires working at the local and regional levels as well as tackling the global and more distant drivers.



Observed human vulnerability to climate change is a key risk factor and differs globally (a) Vulnerability at the national level varies. Vulnerability also greatly differs within countries. Countries with moderate or low average vulnerability have sub-populations with high vulnerability and vice vers:

Included in these regions are fragile and conflict-prone regions. We work in these areas to support people and places to strengthen their own resilience, so they do not slip further into conflict. While we do have activities in fragile and conflict-prone regions, we do not work in areas that are in active conflict.

The grey map on the opposide page depicts the geographic spread of GRP's activities (blue dots), as well as of the Secretariat. This spread corresponds with the map above that highlights areas of high vulnerability to climate change.



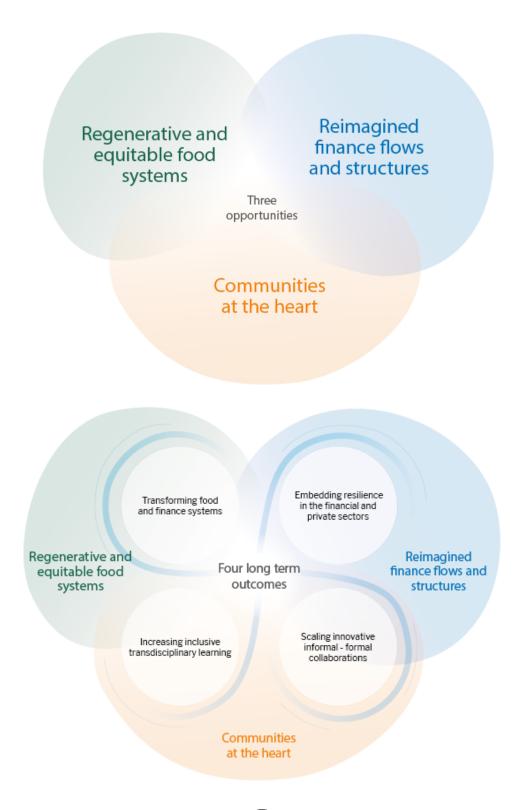
Reframing vulnerability

At GRP, we avoid using terms such as 'vulnerable people', as it implies that vulnerability is inherent to them. This has been a deliberate decision from many conversations with our Partners and Advisory Council members that are based in the Global South, including the late Professor Saleemul Huq (former chair of GRP's Advisory Council). Professor Huq often said that people in the Global South are not vulnerable, they are the ones who are resilient and at the frontlines of adapting to climate change. In addition, Sheela Patel, Director of SPARC, has also been advocating for avoiding terms such as 'marginalised' and 'vulnerable' by stating that people in the Global South are "warriors, not victims." By referring to groups of people as <u>vulnerable</u> we inadvertently take away their agency for action, adaptation, and change.

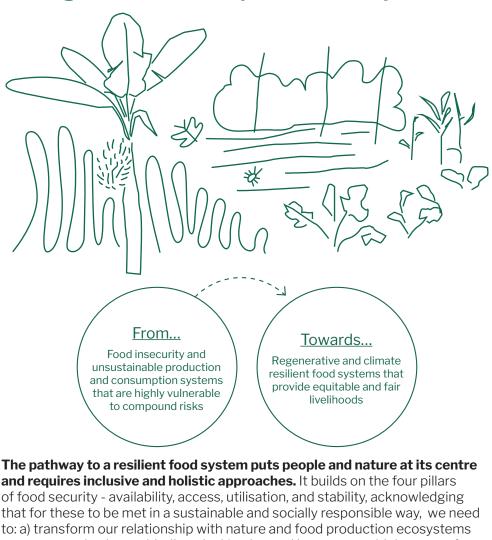
The <u>Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report</u> report highlights examples of local groups vulnerable to climate change across different contexts, which include Indigenous Peoples, urban ethnic minorities, smallholder coffee producers, older people, especially those poor and socially isolated, island communities, children in low-income communities, people uprooted by conflict, migrants, women and non-binary people, as well as people living in informal settlements.

People from these groups face more challenges in the face of increasing and compounding effects of climate change. When we use the term 'vulnerable', we ensure that we state what the group, community, or place is vulnerable to. For example, instead of using the term 'vulnerable community', we would say the community is 'vulnerable to flooding'.

Food, Finance, Communities: Three opportunities to advance transformative resilience



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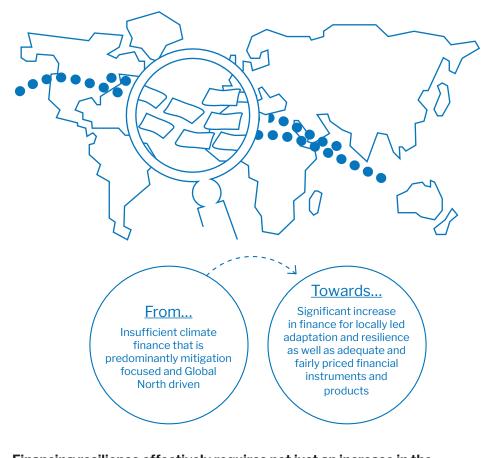


Regenerative and equitable food systems

and requires inclusive and holistic approaches. It builds on the four pillars of food security - availability, access, utilisation, and stability, acknowledging that for these to be met in a sustainable and socially responsible way, we need to: a) transform our relationship with nature and food production ecosystems to restore and enhance biodiversity b) value and integrate multiple types of knowledge in this process (such as scientific, local, and traditional among others), and c) address the challenges and needs of the most climate vulnerable and fragile regions. These holistic goals can be achieved through improved access to finance to support more resilient practices, digital opportunities that facilitate knowledge sharing, monitoring of environmental conditions and connection to regional markets, innovation and scaling of nature-based solutions. Importantly, interventions need to be based on a systemic understanding of the global risk landscape within which food systems are situated, recognising the challenges as well as the opportunities brought by the increasing connectivity between local and global food systems.

Financing resilience for smallholder farmers at scale requires long-term, catalytic, and blended finance that includes funding for de-risking capital and attracting private investment. This requires a broader approach of disclosing (physical, transitional) climate risks and identifying investible adaptation solutions across low– and middle-income countries and along the entire value chain. Stakeholders involved in scaling adaptation finance must include communities and local voices in the process to ensure the fit between context, needs, and solutions is adequate. In this process, food entrepreneurs and innovators require tailored support, mentoring, as well as capacity and leadership development, alongside strategic interventions that tackle structural and functional barriers and enable a healthy ecosystem for scaling solutions.

Reimagined finance flows and structures



Financing resilience effectively requires not just an increase in the absolute quantity of finance being pledged, but also a fundamental shift in perspectives around the quality, accountability and access to finance, with local communities and organisations being at the heart of discussions and investments. The diversification of private sector actors (such as big tech, or multinationals with global value chains), as well as the implementation of novel insurance products presents the potential to mobilise innovative solutions in ways that the public sector cannot.

Financing resilience requires pairing a localised understanding of climate risks with a systemic, multilevel approach to climate adaptation. This also requires accelerating innovation and scaling up the use of blended finance, while recalibrating the perception and assessment of risk to include the cost of inaction, as well as noneconomic co-benefits of adaptation and resilience action. Investing in adaptation and resilience helps prevent the need for relief capital to address the damages and salvage the losses from climate change.

Communities at the heart



As momentum for Locally-Led Adaptation grows, communities require the support of local, regional, and national governments, as well as of the private sector, to succeed. Improved collaboration, risk pooling, and trusted relationships are necessary both vertically and horizontally to enhance community access and deliver community-led resilience interventions. Implementation must acknowledge the heterogeneous nature of local communities, emphasising equity and justice in co-designing initiatives tailored to their unique requirements, which involves community access to flexible finance, ensuring fair distribution of benefits, and simplifying application and reporting procedures. Additionally, it is essential to consider the long-term process of capacity exchange and community development, which can be facilitated by bolstering the organisational resilience of local stakeholders, and enhancing the capacities of non-local actors to engage meaningfully at the local level and beyond.

Beyond access to finance, there is a need to consider the longer term process of capacity exchange and community development. This can be facilitated through building the organisational resilience of local stakeholders (such as community-led and grassroots organisations, as well as frontline organisations), as well as building the capacities of non-local actors to meaningfully engage at the local level and beyond. In addition, focusing on inclusivity and equity are critical for building trust and supporting collective action in responding to risk and change. More equal societies are less prone to instability and conflict, so prioritising equity and justice not only benefits local communities, but also contributes to broader stability and peace.

Our four long-term outcomes

1.

Transforming food and financial systems

As new adaptation and resilience technologies emerge, smallholder farmers and other potential resilience entrepreneurs often lack the necessary digital literacy, technical analysis, and interpretation capacities to benefit from them. These entrepreneurs need technical support, capacity exchange, and assistance in brokering partnerships to customise their solutions and increase their reach, scale and impact. Scaling solutions must also consider the need to "scale up" (expanding reach) and "scale deep" (rooting innovation within local and indigenous knowledge).

This requires strengthening the start-up and entrepreneurial ecosystem and nurturing a healthy community of stakeholders advancing resilience building solutions on the ground. A critical mass of innovators and other stakeholders (such as funders, investors, experts, professional service providers and relevant supply chain partners) are needed to create the gravity well required to crowd in even more initiatives and stakeholders into the sector. Given current demographic trends, particular attention must be given to supporting young people's entrepreneurship, especially in relation to innovative food and agricultural solutions for resilience.

Programme spotlight: Resilient Agriculture Innovations for Nature (RAIN) Challenge

RAIN aims to convert seed-level innovative agricultural ideas that are meeting resilience needs in East Africa and scale them to sustainable business ideas of interest to private investors and funders. Learn more <u>here</u>.





Scaling innovative formal – informal collaborations

Nearly one billion people – one in four urban dwellers – live in urban slums and informal settlements, making them particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, such as droughts and floods. There is a need to deliver climate justice for those most affected and to ensure equity by strengthening local capacity, facilitating experience sharing, and securing finance for practical approaches to scale existing solutions.

There is a continued need to elevate resilience into key global policy spaces at UNFCCC processes and other global discourse. Tackling this includes brokering innovative collaborations between formal and informal stakeholders, as well as ensuring that local voices are represented and amplified in global policy settings.

Programme spotlight: Roof Over Our Heads

ROOH – Roof Over Our Heads is a campaign that envisions delivering resilient, low carbon and affordable homes and improving public infrastructure to urban residents, particularly those living and working in informality. Learn more <u>here</u>.



3.

Increasing inclusive transdisciplinary learning

Inclusive dialogues are essential for breaking barriers and developing and implementing innovative solutions. With scarce spaces for transformative learning among resilience professionals at different points in their career – including a lack of spaces for learning from failure – there is a key need for collaborative processes for learning and reflection, supporting gender equitable leadership development, as well as mobilising the ensuing knowledge back into action and ensuring that measurement and evidence approaches are commensurate.

Addressing this through capacity development, knowledge brokering, and new storytelling approaches provides the opportunity to integrate different ways of knowing and being that are commensurate with the different ways in which people perceive, understand, and react to the risk of climate impacts.

Programme spotlight: Resilience Knowledge Coalition

With over 600 members, the coalition is a "network of networks" that plays an active role in sharing information and knowledge on resilience programming, policy and investments with its members. Learn more <u>here</u>.





Embedding resilience in the private and finanical sectors

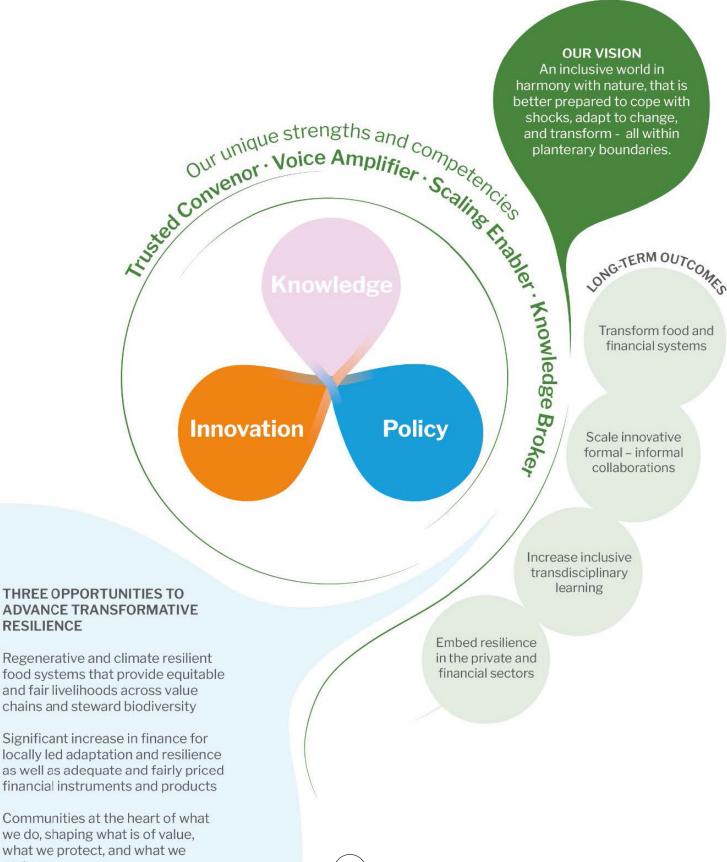
The private sector, financial institutions, insurers, and asset managers are demonstrating progress on integrating climate risk and resilience action as core to their strategies, operations, and reporting. The diversification of private sector actors (such as big tech, or multinationals with global value chains), as well as the implementation of novel insurance products presents the potential to mobilise innovative adaptation and resilience solutions in ways that the public sector cannot

Programme spotlight: PREPARE Call to Action to the Private Sector

GRP is the implementing partner of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience Private Sector Call to Action working closely with USAID and with input from the US Office of the Special Presidential Envoy on Climate. In this role, GRP connects companies to the best available resilience and adaptation science, supporting with the latest advances in resilience measurement, and linking the Call across our Partners and with our commitment to the Locally Led Adaptation Principles Learn more <u>here</u>.



Making it happen: Our Theory of Change



restore

How we intervene

GRP advances resilience through identifying and scaling on the ground innovation, generating and sharing knowledge, and shaping policy. GRP delivers a suite of strategic programmes that set out to add value to the work of our individual Partners, weaving together the following areas of work:

- Innovation: GRP identifies, supports and scales on the ground innovation.
- **Knowledge:** GRP generates and shares the latest knowledge, promotes learning and advances research.
- **Policy:** GRP accelerates ambition and action on resilience to shape policy and increase investments where it is needed the most.

Our work in innovation, knowledge, and policy is closely interconnected.

Our innovation efforts inform the knowledge we generate, and our policy work is influenced by both innovation and knowledge. We utilise our innovation projects as case studies and examples for research and policy development. The knowledge we generate and share, in turn, guides our approach to implementing innovations on the ground and informs our policy engagements. Working in this way we are able to leverage the full potential of the Partnership and create a whole that is stronger than the sum of its parts.

The GRP approach is founded in strong partnerships and designed to help Partners work together. Collaborations and the activities being implemented help build the capacity of stakeholders in building systemic change that enhances resilience. We nurture group dynamics of trust and mutual support, where Partners know their importance in contributing to GRP's vision. A collaboration of high quality among colleagues is essential. We aim to learn from each other regardless of mandates, roles or responsibilities, in contrast to working in silos. Our capacity to implement at scale is enabled through funding and support from a diverse array of funders, such as Sida, USAID, FCDO, UNDP, GEF, Shockwave Foundation, and Munich Re Foundation.

Our unique strengths and competencies

- We are a trusted convener, commanding a clear niche and a unique ability to broker relationships between actors working at different levels, on different issues, and in different geographies.
- We are a voice amplifier, engaging deeply with community-based organisations and enabling grassroots stakeholders to share their expertise and experience as part of key policy making processes.
- We are a **scaling enabler**, demonstrating expertise in addressing key market gaps through our proven innovation and incubation track record.
- We are a **knowledge broker**, building bridges between resilience knowledge and implementation through co-production, collaboration, and spaces for shared learning.

Through drawing on this blend of competencies and strengths, we believe we are strategically positioned to address the key opportunities for transformative resilience as set out above.

Enabling change through and with our Partners

As an independent and trusted partnership, GRP brings together organisations to identify interventions that contribute to increased resilience with a strong focus on the Global South. The role of the secretariat is therefore to add value to the existing programmatic work and strategies of our Partners. Working in this way we are able to leverage the full potential of the Partnership and create a whole that is stronger than the sum of its parts.

The Partnership consists of:

- **1. GRP Partners** Organisations active in resilience that share GRP's vision and values and who have formally joined the Partnership.
- 2. Advisory Council The Advisory Council is GRP's independent advisory body, selected from its Partners, and whose purpose is to enhance GRP's and its Partners' capabilities, resources, and networks to increase the scale and impact of their work by providing advice.
- **3. GRP Secretariat** A small team that convenes and catalyses actions by the Partners and implements specific activities on behalf of the Partnership.

While only formal organisations are eligible to become Partners, the Resilience Evidence Coalition (the coalition) is a "network of networks" that connects over hundreds of individuals from across the resilience field with the activities of the Partnership. The coalition is built on Principles of Locally Led Adaptation and co-created with stakeholders from the Global South and North.



Join us

Ten years ago, GRP was established to fill the gap in forging partnerships and driving innovation to advance resilience. Today, this need is greater than ever. The magnitude of global challenges has escalated, but at the same time, there are also tremendous opportunities for transformation, innovation and resilience building. The only way to tackle these challenges and grasp the opportunities is through partnership.

Join us on the path to a just, resilient, and transformative future!



GLOBAL RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

GRP is made up of 80+ organisations that have joined forces to advance climate resilience. We believe that resilience underpins sustainable development in an increasingly unpredictable world.

GRP is registered as a non-profit organisation in South Africa and co-hosted by the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University.

www.globalresiliencepartnership.org

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