

# GLOBAL RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

2020-2023 Synthesis Report

18 June 2024

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Cover photo: Kelvin Trautman, Kands Collective

#### **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.

# **Executive Summary**

The Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) advances resilience through identifying and scaling on the ground innovation, generating and sharing knowledge, and shaping policy. Established a decade ago, GRP unites governments, nonprofits, academia, and private enterprises to address complex climate change challenges affecting communities in the frontlines. Today, collaborating with a network of 80+ organisations, GRP's projects have demonstrated unparalleled transformative change. Founding signatory and champion of the Locally-Led Adaptation Principles and guided by cutting-edge research, GRP supports inclusivity and amplifies the voices of local communities in the Global South, helping to create a more resilient and sustainable world.

As we approach the milestone of our tenth anniversary, we take pride in reflecting on the progress we have made. 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.

This Synthesis Report consolidates the key findings and strategic implications from annual reports, spanning 2020 to 2023, as well as an independent Formative Evaluation undertaken in 2022. Over these years, GRP has made significant strides in advancing resilience practices, knowledge brokering, and policy advocacy. Key achievements include launching, incubating, and supporting the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) from a fiscally sponsored initiative under GRP to a standalone organisation, establishing and growing the Resilience Evidence Coalition and co-hosting the Resilience Evidence Forum, the largest gathering of resilience measurement and evidence professionals to date, co-initiating and supporting the Race to Resilience campaign, as well as co-initiating and acting as lead managing partner for the Resilience Hub, the home of the Race to Resilience at COP.

GRP has effectively adapted in the face of external and internal challenges and continued its focus on fostering resilience in communities vulnerable to the increasing effects of climate change. The report also provides reflections and lessons learnt to support the implementation of GRP's strategy for 2024-2029, focusing on building an engaged partnership, enhancing innovation, knowledge, and policy activities in light of the new strategy, and continuing to adapt and improve our internal processes.

## 1. Introduction

## Significant external developments

During the period (2020-2023), the COVID-19 pandemic, the increasing effects of climate change, as well as the increase in conflicts and violence starkly highlighted global vulnerabilities and the fragility of societal gains, pushing millions of people from poverty into extreme poverty. The pandemic underscored the critical importance of resilience, emphasising the need for transformation in the face of crises. Additionally, extreme weather events, financial crises, and synchronised food shocks have become more frequent and severe, disproportionately impacting the Global South.

During this period, GRP's efforts contributed significantly to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as Goals 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 10 (Reduce Inequalities), and 13 (Climate Action) through various initiatives. Notable achievements included investments in resilience and peace stability, mainstreaming resilience into finance, and mobilising partners for climate action. The partnership also focused on Goals 5 (Gender Equity) and 14 (Life Below Water) through incubating, providing fiscal sponsorship, and organisation development support for the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA). Overall, GRP's diverse and active partnership has been instrumental in advancing Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals) through the Resilience Evidence Coalition and the COP Resilience Hub.

Despite positive signals, the 2020-2023 period presented a mixed picture for adaptation and resilience. Key milestones included the first-ever Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, where countries committed to national adaptation plans by 2025 and implementation progress by 2030, as well as the groundbreaking agreement for a Loss and Damage Fund. However, the pledged US\$700 million to the Loss and Damage Fund to date falls short of the estimated US\$215-387 billion per year needed for developing countries.

The private sector demonstrated increased interest and commitment for adaptation action, although reporting and financial investments remain inconsistent. The loss of Prof. Saleem Huq, a pivotal figure in resilience, further underscored the urgency of confronting global challenges through increased collaboration. Looking ahead, the outcomes of COP28 indicate that the next two years will be crucial for establishing new climate finance goals and enhancing both mitigation and adaptation efforts to align with the 1.5°C target.

# Methodology and Scope for the Synthesis Report

The synthesis report is drawn from a review of the four annual reports submitted each year to Sida, as well as the independent formative evaluation undertaken in 2022. The review included an assessment of cumulative progress towards GRP's indicators and reflections on the long-term outcomes.

# **Progress Summary 2020-2023**

GRP's track record to date consists of two phases. GRP Phase I (2014-2019) focused primarily on accelerating resilience innovation through innovation challenges. During Phase I, Sida's contribution to GRP was set up through the "Guidance for Resilience in the Anthropocene: Investments for Development" (GRAID) programme at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. GRP Phase II (2020-2023) focused on balancing the portfolio of programmes across innovation, policy and knowledge activities. In GRP's Phase II, part of GRAID became incorporated into our knowledge work and many of the partners engaged in GRAID have continued to work with GRP, for example the Centre for Sustainability Transitions at Stellenbosch University.

#### Most significant changes

Most significant outcomes that GRP's activities contributed to include:

1. Elevated resilience and adaptation on par with mitigation and influenced other major actors on their resilience and adaptation framing and uptake

"GRP's increasing emphasis on this convening role was frequently praised, enabling the Partnership to support action on resilience from the top down, as well as from the bottom up. This shift has also raised GRP's profile, with the Partnership playing an important role as a convener at major global events. GRP's participation in such events has enabled it to raise the profile of resilience on the international stage, which is especially important within a context in which the development community's focus is aimed squarely at climate mitigation. Moreover, GRP's ability to support actors to collaborate after such events take place helps to ensure that momentum towards ambitious and actionable resilience commitments in policy and investment spaces is sustained."

- Excerpt from the independent Formative Evaluation, 2022

2. Built a pipeline of scalable resilience projects and increased the overall market for resilience solutions

"GRP's commitment to scaling initiatives through its Challenge Funds is valued within the resilience space, filling an important market gap [...] and putting the Partnership conceptually in quite a different place to other actors in the resilience space. Though initiatives that are both truly resilience-building and scalable are rare, GRP has on a number of occasions supported them where they exist, demonstrated their proof of concept, and then blueprinted and scaled them through external partners such as the World Bank. This focus on identifying and funding scalable initiatives is a unique offer, especially within a context in which the funding ecosystem in international development has a small appetite for risk. GRP thus provides an important missing element within the funding space for resilience through its Challenge Funds, clearly creating a space in which resilience innovation can flourish."

- Excerpt from the independent Formative Evaluation, 2022

3. Democratised resilience knowledge generation and strengthened the evidence and measurement community

"GRP has provided a space for Southern researchers to make a contribution to resilience. As GRP has transitioned between Phase I and Phase II, it has placed an emphasis on democratising knowledge generation. This has meant providing a platform to Southern practitioners to promote and exchange their on-the-ground knowledge of resilience, consolidating and synthesising this for other stakeholders, and then using GRP as a conduit to advance this knowledge more widely."

- Excerpt from the independent Formative Evaluation, 2022

4. Provided Global South actors with a platform to share their own resilience solutions, expertise, and evidence

"GRP has levelled the playing field between INGOs based in the Global North and community-based organisations based in the Global South, bringing them together under a single platform through the Resilience Knowledge Coalition."

- External Stakeholder, interview excerpt from the independent Formative Evaluation, 2022

# Achievements during 2020-2023 (GRP Phase II)

"GRP should be commended for the breadth of initiatives they have undertaken and the speed at which they have scaled them and developed partnerships for them, through the efforts of a very lean Secretariat."

- Excerpt from the independent Formative Evaluation, 2022

- Doubled down on nurturing, supporting, and scaling resilience innovations, notably through incubating the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA). The GRP's Secretariat's role in this has been fundamental to ORRAA's success, distilling lessons from its Phase I investments in building resilience on the ground into ORRAA's learning. fundraising, and grant making, hosting funding from Canada and UK Defra for coastal resilience building. Alongside this, GRP has diversified the funders supporting GRP's own innovation challenges, adding GEF/UNDP, MunichRe Foundation, and the Shockwave Foundation, as well as UK Defra, Canada, and US State via ORRAA. Through funding from GEF/UNDP, GRP worked with Lutheran World Relief (LWR)'s Mountain Harvest in Uganda and the Near East Foundation (NEF) in Sudan to provide small-scale farmers access to fairly-priced loans, as well as change perceptions around the risk they represent, and further foster stability. Through support from the Shockwave Foundation and the MunichRe Foundation, GRP has developed and grown the Resilient Agriculture Innovations for Nature (RAIN) challenge to convert seed-level innovative agricultural ideas that are meeting resilience needs in East Africa and scale them to sustainable business ideas.
- Advanced resilience knowledge and its brokering into practice, notably through the establishment of the Resilience Evidence Coalition (the Coalition), as a "network of networks" to provide access to knowledge, expertise, and collaborative learning, which rapidly grew to over 1700 active members. In 2023, GRP successfully designed and delivered the Resilience Evidence Forum,<sup>1</sup> the largest gathering to date of resilience, development, measurement and evidence professionals. The Seeds of Resilient Food Systems programme has generated and advanced knowledge on resilient food systems in fragile and vulnerable areas, working in tandem with projects supported through the RAIN Challenge to better understand their contributions to transformative resilience. The South to South Resilience Academies, a series of transdisciplinary collaborations has amplified, leveraged and coordinated leadership and expertise in the Global South.
- GRP has successfully positioned itself as a trusted leader in policy convening, collaboration and advocacy. GRP's relationship with the High Level Champions, COP26 unit and the UK Government, contributed to the Race to Resilience<sup>2</sup> policy being formally implemented through the launch of the pledge timeline at COP26. Since the launch, initiatives that had joined R2R with pledges announced to build the resilience of 4 billion people by 2030. GRP led the establishment and delivery of the first ever Resilience Hub at COP26 as the official home to the UNFCCC Race to Resilience Campaign. Since COP26, the Resilience Hub has gone from strength to strength. The COP26, COP27, and COP28 Resilience Hubs were visited by over 30,000 in-person attendees, and by an additional 50,000 online visitors to the Resilience Hub dedicated online platform. The COP27 Resilience Hub fundraising target of US\$1.5 million was surpassed to a total of US\$1.825 million, 80% of which was directly sourced and secured by GRP. Furthermore, GRP was one of the founding endorsers of the Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles,<sup>3</sup> which have now been endorsed by over 80 governments, leading global institutions and local and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.globalresiliencepartnership.org/resource/resilience-evidence-forum-2023-synthesis-report/. Accessed 14.12.2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/race-to-resilience-launches/. Accessed 14.12.2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.iied.org/principles-for-locally-led-adaptation. Accessed 14.12.2023.

- international NGOs. GRP enacts the LLA Principles in the design of convenings and events, as well as in the design, operationalisation, and reporting of our programmes.
- During this phase GRP focused on updating internal routines and procedures and had a number of system audits. GRP was supported by Sida, USAID, Canada, FCDO, UNDRR, UNDP, Irish Aid, Scotland, Shockwave Foundation, Munich Re Foundation, and a number of private sector sponsorships for the Resilience Hubs at COP 26, 27, and 28.

# 2. Cross-cutting themes

**About this section:** Discussion on key themes that recur across the annual reports, such as innovation in resilience practices, knowledge advancement and brokering, and policy advocacy and influencing. This section draws connections and contrasts between the reports' thematic discussions from 2020 to 2023.

# Surfacing, incubating, and scaling resilience innovation

From 2020 to 2023, GRP drove significant advancements in resilience practices through surfacing, incubating, and scaling innovation. This period has been marked by the development and scaling of innovative financial mechanisms, the establishment and expansion of multi-sector partnerships, and the promotion of knowledge sharing and capacity building regarding innovation practices. The following paragraphs provide a summary of GRP's innovation progress and achievements across these four years.

#### 2020: Building foundations for innovation

In 2020, GRP laid the groundwork for several key initiatives aimed at fostering resilience in fragile and conflict-prone areas. The collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) focused on identifying and nurturing financial mechanisms tailored to these regions. This effort culminated in a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) that attracted 32 submissions from diverse organisations across the Global South. These initiatives were supported by a newly appointed consultant who integrated into GRP's secretariat. Additionally, the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) was launched with the goal of driving \$500 million in investment into coastal natural capital by 2030. ORRAA's achievements in 2020 included the establishment of its Secretariat, the initiation of the Coastal Risk Index, and participation in significant global events such as the Paris Peace Forum, highlighting the project's potential to attract investment and support for nature-based solutions.

#### 2021: Expanding reach

The year 2021 saw GRP building on the foundations laid in the previous year, particularly through the expansion and operationalisation of ORRAA. ORRAA's membership grew to 51, with notable financial support from the UK's Defra and additional commitments from Canada. With GRP's support, the Alliance launched its first Ocean Resilience Innovation Challenge (ORIC), which surfaced innovative finance and insurance products aimed at building resilience to ocean risk. GRP also continued its collaboration with GEF and UNDP, selecting Lutheran World Relief (Uganda) and Near East Foundation (Sudan) to implement finance mechanisms that support smallholder farmers. These projects aimed to demonstrate that increased resilience can lower financial risks and attract more investment at reduced costs. Despite delays in funding agreements and challenges posed by the pandemic, GRP successfully adapted by refining its internal processes and setting more realistic timelines.

#### 2022: Scaling solutions and strengthening ecosystems

In 2022, GRP made significant strides in scaling resilience solutions and cultivating an enabling ecosystem for innovation. The Innovative Finance for Resilience initiative advanced with the projects in Uganda and Sudan, focusing on providing smallholder farmers with access to fairly-priced loans and fostering stability. The second call for the Ocean Resilience Innovation Challenge (ORIC22) resulted in nine shortlisted projects receiving mentoring and funding. GRP also launched the Resilient Agriculture Innovations for Nature (RAIN) Challenge, which attracted over 40 submissions and aimed to scale nature-positive agricultural solutions in East Africa. Furthermore, GRP deepened its engagement with business schools, organising workshops and pitching events to integrate resilience into

academic curricula and connect students with resilience projects. These efforts contributed to a growing body of knowledge and evidence supporting resilience practices.

#### 2023: Consolidating gains and overcoming challenges

The final year of the period, 2023, was marked by both achievements and challenges. GRP continued to support the implementation of projects in Uganda and Sudan, despite political unrest and health crises delaying site visits and activities. The third call for the Ocean Resilience Innovation Challenge (ORIC23) received 50 applications, demonstrating increased interest and participation. GRP's collaboration with ORRAA led to securing additional funding and expanding the impact of coastal resilience projects. The RAIN Challenge saw 18 projects shortlisted for further development, with plans for mentoring and leadership training in 2024. GRP also focused on accelerating transformative learning through knowledge brokering and co-production, conducting a study on failure in climate resilience projects and presenting findings at the Resilience Evidence Forum. These activities underscored the importance of continuous learning in order to ensure that novel solutions are adequately supported and that overall, the market for resilience innovation is growing.

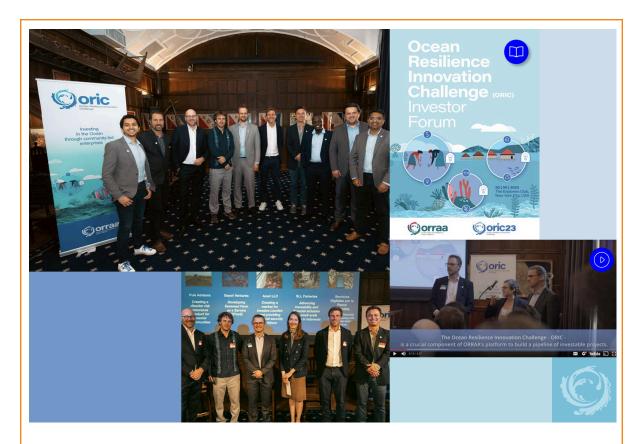
#### Summary

Over the four years from 2020 to 2023, GRP has made substantial progress in advancing resilience practices through innovation, strategic partnerships, and capacity building. The initiatives launched and scaled during this period have laid a strong foundation for future resilience efforts, particularly in fragile and conflict-prone regions. Despite facing significant challenges, including political unrest and global health crises, GRP has demonstrated the ability to adapt and sustain its impact. Looking forward, we will double down on our efforts to support innovative approaches to resilience building.

Success story: Incubating the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA)

#### At a Glance

- Between 2019 2024, GRP incubated the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) through fiscal sponsorship, innovation, MEL, communications, and operational support and capacity building.
- Through GRP, ORRAA received funding from the Government of Canada and UK's Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra).
- To date, ORRAA has directly invested into 40 projects to develop finance/insurance/policy products, which supported approximately 180,000 climate vulnerable coastal people.



#### **Outcome Description**

The Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) was launched in 2019 with the aim of creating the first of its kind multi-stakeholder alliance on ocean risk. As a convener, it unites insurers, banks, governments, academia, philanthropies and civil society to channel finance towards the Ocean and climate vulnerable coastal communities. Specifically, it pioneers ground-breaking finance products that incentivise blended finance and private investment into these regions. ORRAA aims to drive at least \$500 million of investment into coastal and ocean nature-based solutions by 2030.

Over the course of its existence, ORRAA has been successful in growing its membership and funding, bringing attention to coastal resilience to policymakers and civil society, investing in and scaling innovative finance products, and establishing itself as an independent entity. Since 2020, ORRAA has leveraged member contributions (monetary as well as in-kind) that drive innovation and investment into ocean resilience.

#### **Significance**

ORRAA is a truly unique initiative as a result of its ocean and finance focus. As is characteristic of GRP Initiatives, ORRAA emerged from a gap in the resilience space around multi-sector collaboration and ocean resilience. This strategic positioning has enabled it to gain a high profile on the global scene, thus promoting the concept of ocean risk at the COP and Ocean conferences. It has also opened GRP to new approaches to resilience, extending its reach beyond land-based habitats and gaining access to private sector players, specifically insurers and other financial institutions.

Furthermore, ORRAA's approach to innovation, bridging novelty and scale, is based on GRP's innovative approach. Its Challenges enable it to spot new initiatives, support and accompany them to reach scalable positions within the market. This practical approach to innovation has enabled it to maximise the pipeline of innovation in the resilience space and bring about true change to local coastal and ocean communities. Examples include insurance products and training for small-scale fisheries in the Philippines, empowering women to undertake the restoration of mangrove forests, or

the development of a blockchain-based digital platform providing real-time data on the seaweed production value chain.

#### Contribution

As ORRAA's incubator, GRP played, and continues to play, a valued role in its success. At its creation, hosting ORRAA within GRP's organisational structure helped expedite the Alliance's creation, allowing it to focus on its mission, providing it with access to government funding, and sharing both resilience and organisational expertise, and operational systems support. GRP continues to be an active contributor to ORRAA's work, as a member of its Secretariat and major contributor to the Ocean Resilience Innovation Challenge (ORIC).

ORRAA's emerging independence from GRP is another of its strengths, making it a model of sustainability for other initiatives. Drawing on support from GRP and embeddedness in the ocean community, ORRAA was able to develop in a dynamic way and gain independence. This autonomy, combined with the small size of its Secretariat, has promoted agility in the projects it undertakes and partners it works with. At the same time, ORRAA continues to work closely with GRP, drawing on its strengths in terms of innovation and MEL.

GRP was instrumental in helping to secure funding for ORRAA, as well as in building ORRAA's grant management track record. ORRAA, through GRP, has received financial support from the Government of Canada and the Alliance's governance and operational structures have been implemented. The Canadian grant was successfully completed in February 2022 and a further commitment was made directly to ORRAA. In 2021, funding has been provided to ORRAA through GRP by the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), with project implementation completed by June 2022, and final reporting completed by September 2022. In March 2023, DEFRA committed further funding to ORRAA through the Blue Planet Fund. The grant has also been managed by GRP during 2023, with a view to fully transfer the grant management and its implementation and reporting over to ORRAA in 2024.

GRP will continue to be an active contributor to ORRAA's work, as a member of its Secretariat and major contributor to the Ocean Resilience Innovation Challenge (ORIC). The Challenge, which launched in 2020, aims to identify and nurture investable projects driven from the ground-up, delivering a genuine impact in local communities and more broadly.

# Advancing resilience knowledge

The period between 2020 and 2023 saw the development and implementation of initiatives aimed at democratising knowledge, fostering collaboration, and building capacity across various sectors and regions. This detailed summary provides an in-depth look at the progress and achievements made in advancing resilience knowledge across these four years.

#### 2020: New foundations for knowledge brokering

In 2020, GRP co-created the Resilience Knowledge Coalition to provide access to diverse knowledge and collaborative learning elements. The Coalition was shaped by consultations with 27 organisations and 52 individuals, which identified the need for a coalition focusing on brokering, codifying, and mobilising knowledge to inform policy, investment, and practice. GRP transitioned the Resilience Measurement, Evidence, and Learning Community of Practice (RMEL CoP) into this Coalition, expanding its membership to over 400 members from 100 organisations. This initiative also saw the continued development of the GRP Solutions Platform in collaboration with Ona Systems Inc., aimed at capturing and advancing the latest resilience knowledge. Additionally, the "Voices from the Frontline" initiative supported communities in sharing their resilience stories during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting social resilience domains. The South to South Resilience Academies (S2SRAs) were launched, focusing on resilience challenges in South Asia, Southern Africa, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

#### 2021: Strengthening and expanding knowledge activities and programmes

In 2021, the Resilience Knowledge Coalition grew to become a network of networks, co-led by GRP, SouthSouthNorth (SSN)/Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)/Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC). The Coalition focused on peer-to-peer learning, agile online platforms, and applying knowledge through incubation and measurement support. The Coalition's activities included the development of a knowledge brokering strategy, hosting webinars, and supporting events like COP26. The South to South Resilience Academies expanded, with the Climate Resilience Academy for LDCs (CRAL) focusing on community responses to climate resilience, and the Southern African Resilience Academy (SARA) engaging in food system transformations, and the SIDS academy addressing climate, environment, and health. The "Seeds of Resilience for Peace & Stability" initiative began collecting and analysing local initiatives contributing to peace and stability in conflict-prone areas.

#### 2022: Consolidating knowledge efforts and initiatives

In 2022, the Resilience Knowledge Coalition continued to grow, with over 622 members and various capacity exchange activities, including webinars and sessions at significant events like Gobeshona, CBA, and COP27. The Coalition re-launched the Resilience Platform, adding resources on learning from failure and engaging 241 users. Knowledge brokering efforts included thought leadership on resilience measurement and collaboration with UNDP on the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace. The South to South Resilience Academies made substantial progress, with the second Climate Resilience Academy for LDCs (CRAL) focusing on loss and damage in South Asia, and with the second Southern African Resilience Academy (SARA) broadening its thematic scope, and the Climate Change and Health in Vulnerable Demographics Academy synthesising research on climate and health impacts. The "Seeds of Resilience for Peace & Stability" initiative expanded its database, generating evidence and engaging new partners. Alongside the maturing of these initiatives, GRP has spearheaded significant knowledge codification efforts, with a number of key report launches and working towards peer-reviewed papers in prestigious journals such as Nature. These included a

report on existing indicator-based tools to assess ocean risks and vulnerabilities, a joint report together with World Resources Institute (WRI) that focuses on how aligned COVID-19 stimulus packages across 66 countries have been with building climate resilience, as well as a joint report with Clyde and Co and Wellington Management on biodiversity liability and value chain risk, which included a practical framework to help companies enhance resilience in their own operations and the broader systems in which they operate.

#### 2023: Taking stock on resilience evidence

In 2023, the Resilience Knowledge Coalition was renamed to the Resilience Evidence Coalition. The Coalition, now with over 1770 members, focused on taking stock of the latest resilience evidence and measurement, culminating in co-hosting the Resilience Evidence Forum with USAID. The largest ever gathering on resilience evidence and measurement, the Forum convened over 200 in-person participants and over 1,000 further participants joined virtually, took stock of existing evidence and needs sparking further collaborations and capacity exchange across geographic contexts, sectors, and actors. The South to South Resilience Academies continued to generate impactful knowledge products, with the Southern African Resilience Academy focusing on equitable resilience and the Climate Change and Health in Vulnerable Demographics Academy addressing climate change impacts on health. The Seeds of Resilience for Peace & Stability project operationalised a framework for assessing transformative potential in peacebuilding initiatives. As part of these initiatives, GRP published a suite of key knowledge products, including the Resilience Evidence Forum Synthesis Report, launched a policy brief focusing on food insecurity, climate change, and conflict at COP28, and edited a transdisciplinary special issue on Resilience and Peace published by the scientific journal COSUST (Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability). GRP together with key partners ICCCAD, PIK, WRI, and WWF also carried out an analysis that concludes that the current global fiscal support of over \$20 trillion USD in response to COVID-19 is not yet building back a better, "greener", and more resilient future.

#### Summary

From 2020 to 2023, GRP made progress in advancing resilience knowledge through the Resilience Evidence Coalition, the South to South Resilience Academies, the Seeds of Resilience for Peace and Stability, as well as other thematic initiatives. These efforts have enhanced the understanding and application of resilience practices, fostered collaboration, and built capacity across diverse regions and sectors. Moving forward, we will continue our efforts to remain at the forefront of resilience science through targeted and strategic activities and programmes.

Success story: Growing the Resilience Evidence Coalition and Convening the Flagship Resilience Evidence Forum

#### At a Glance

- From 2020 to 2023, GRP facilitated the development of the Resilience Evidence Coalition, co-led with our Partners, ICCCAD and CDKN, which grew to over 1770 members.
- The Resilience Platform expanded into a comprehensive repository with over 450 resources in the form of stories, solutions, initiatives, evidence and measurement tools from various global initiatives serving as a central hub for resilience knowledge.

 The 2023 Resilience Evidence Forum (REF), co-hosted with USAID, was a landmark achievement, bringing together over 200 in-person and 1,000 virtual participants to take stock of the latest resilience evidence and measurement.



#### **Outcome Description**

The Resilience Evidence Coalition (the Coalition) started in 2020 to build a community of practice around resilience evidence and measurement emphasising the importance of Global South expertise and demand. Over the years, the Coalition continued to act as a "network of networks" facilitating a two-way flow of information between grassroots practice and broader research, policy, and investment frameworks. By the end of 2023, the Coalition comprised over 1700 members, actively engaging in resilience-building activities and contributing to global platforms such as COP and the Race to Resilience campaign. Over the years, the Coalition has focused on translating knowledge into action through capacity development activities, through the development and promotion of the Resilience Platform to track innovative tools and solutions, and through strategic knowledge brokering and facilitation.

#### **Significance**

The strength of the Resilience Evidence Coalition lies in its deliberate efforts to amplify voices and expertise from the Global South, addressing critical gaps to democratise resilience knowledge, thus fostering a more inclusive understanding of resilience globally. Through initiatives like the Global South Talent Pool the Coalition provides opportunities for young people to engage in GRP's work and actively participate in the running of programmes, such as designing and implementing the Knowledge into Use awards, various youth contests and amplifying the voice of the young people through social media at the COP26 and COP27 Resilience Hubs. The Coalition became a recognised space for mobilising knowledge into use and was selected as a Transformation Partner to the Race to Resilience, as well as the co-host of the Resilience Evidence Forum (REF) alongside USAID.

As a trusted thought leader and knowledge broker in the resilience space, the Coalition successfully engaged a wide range of relevant stakeholders in collective stock-taking of the latest resilience evidence available and its implications for policy, investment, and decision-making through the REF. The largest gathering on resilience evidence and measurement to date, the three-day interactive gathering brought together representatives of over 140 organisations, sparking further collaborations and capacity exchange across geographic contexts, sectors, and actors. By synthesising key messages into Synthesis Report, which underscored the importance of evidence in securing funding and driving policy changes for resilience enhancement, thus consolidating its influence in global resilience practice. Events such as REF have been instrumental in ensuring that resilience knowledge translates into actionable insights for policy and programming, solidifying the Coalition's position as an influential entity in advancing global resilience knowledge and practice.

#### Contribution

The Coalition's success has been underscored by its ability to engage a diverse range of stakeholders and foster meaningful collaborations. Through various activities such as capacity exchange, the development of an online platform, and knowledge brokering efforts, the Coalition has created a vibrant community of practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and investors. Its impact lies in the active facilitation and dissemination of learnings at key global events, as well as through webinars and online learning sessions. These amplify the reach of Coalition activities and its significance to a broader audience.

The Coalition's approach, characterised by a "learning by doing" ethos and a strong focus on Southern expertise, has garnered widespread recognition and support. The unique structure of nurturing a network of individual members rather than organisations, has enabled flexible engagement and facilitated wider Southern involvement in global resilience conversations. This complements GRP's Partnership offer, which only registered entities can apply to join.

# Policy advocacy and influencing

During 2020-2023, GRP has been instrumental in advancing resilience and adaptation policy efforts, particularly through our foundational and operational role in establishing the Race to Resilience, as well as through our role as leading managing partner of the Resilience Hub, the home of the Race to Resilience at COP. By focusing on locally led adaptation, digital inclusion, and mainstreaming resilience into finance ministries, GRP has facilitated numerous other initiatives aimed at building resilience at the grassroots level and integrating these efforts into global policy frameworks. The following summaries provide an overview of the progress and achievements made in advancing resilience policy across these four years.

### 2020: Setting the ground for COP26

In 2020, GRP focused on advancing resilience and adaptation actions, aligning with the recommendations of the Global Commission on Adaptation and the UNFCCC Marrakesh Partnership. The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a shift to virtual events, ensuring continued engagement and awareness. Key activities included virtual dialogues and webinars that elevated grassroots voices and highlighted the need for digital inclusion. Significant events such as the "Lessons from Adaptation Leaders" webinar and the London Climate Action Week sessions provided platforms for discussing locally led adaptation and resilience strategies. GRP also supported the UNFCCC High-Level Climate Champions in running Regional Resilience Dialogues, which informed the early conceptualisation of the Race to Resilience campaign. Additionally, GRP collaborated with the World Resources Institute (WRI) and other partners to integrate climate risk into financial planning, a concept to be formally launched at COP26.

# 2021: Foundational support for the Race to Resilience and the COP Resilience Hub

In 2021, GRP focused on amplifying the voices of frontline communities in global policy fora. The Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles gained momentum, with GRP acting as a founding endorser. This year saw GRP's significant involvement in the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, ensuring resilience actions were integrated across various sectors. The Race to Resilience campaign, launched at the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021, brought together initiatives aimed at building resilience for vulnerable communities. GRP's role in the Race to Resilience has been both foundational and operational. Building on the momentum around adaptation and resilience emerging from the United Nations Climate Action Summit (UNCAS), in September 2019, GRP supported the thinking of UNFCCC High Level Climate Champions around resilience through a deep-dive on resilience followed by a series of Regional Resilience Dialogues. These were co-hosted by GRP partner organisations to highlight region-specific priorities and actions on adaptation and resilience. They brought together diverse voices from grassroots community leaders and practitioners to regional development agencies and political leaders. The stories and learning from these dialogues fed into the formulation of the Race to Resilience campaign and in particular, into its explicit focus on people from vulnerable communities and groups. GRP's digital inclusion efforts continued, through supporting the participation of grassroots organisations in virtual events. Key events included the Gobeshona Global Conference and the 15th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation (CBA15). As a leading managing partner, GRP played a key role in launching the Resilience Hub at COP26, which provided a physical and virtual space for global resilience dialogues, marking a significant achievement in the resilience policy landscape. GRP's efforts also included the launch of the Catalytic Grants, which provided finance to locally led initiatives.

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## 2022: Consolidating the Resilience Hub

In 2022, GRP's work on mainstreaming resilience into finance evolved with discussions with USAID and the State Department, focusing on mobilising private sector resources for resilience linked to the US Government PREPARE initiative. The Race to Resilience campaign continued to gain traction, with GRP supporting the campaign's inclusive dialogue spaces ahead of COP27 through the Regional Resilience Hubs. GRP engaged in numerous policy events, ensuring diverse representation from the Global South. The Resilience Hub at COP27, supported by a broad coalition, showcased high-impact announcements and provided a space for global resilience dialogue. GRP also played a key role in advancing global frameworks such as the Global Stocktake and the Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda. Alongside these efforts, GRP provided foundational support and seed funding to the Roof Over Our Heads campaign, which aims to improve the lives of 2 billion climate vulnerable people living in informal settlements by 2050.

# 2023: Facilitating grassroots actors and the private sector to meaningfully engage in global policy processes

In 2023, GRP's focus on accelerating resilience implementation saw significant progress with the PREPARE Call to Action, engaging 31 companies in resilience initiatives. The Resilience Hub built on the momentum from Glasgow and Sharm El-Sheikh, focusing on nine themes that resonate with the priorities of the COP28 Presidency. These themes encompass discussions on finance, justice, the interconnection between health, climate, and resilience, and the challenges of resilience and adaptation. Over the years, GRP has engaged in activities to support funders to recognise grassroots networks as creators of effective climate solutions, while fostering partnerships to increase the flow of funding and technical support to grassroots communities. In 2023, GRP's work on accelerating implementation focused on continuing to support the Roof Over Our Heads campaign, which advanced its mission by hosting roundtable discussions and unveiling a progress report at COP28. GRP continued to prioritise inclusivity and capacity-building for grassroots actors, leveraging partnerships to enhance engagement mechanisms. Our efforts culminated in the Resilience Hub's success at COP28, underscoring the need for intensified action to meet global adaptation goals.

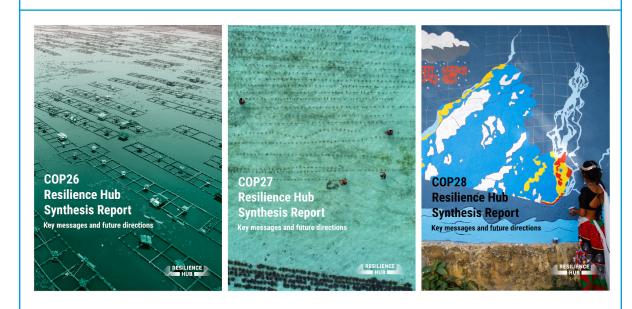
"The Resilience Hub is a fantastic space at COP28 where civil society and specifically women, youth, local and indigenous communities can showcase their solutions for a climate healthy and adaptive world. I'm looking forward to showcasing the achievements and promises of the Race to Resilience at COP28 in partnership with the Hub." — Razan Al Mubarak, (UN Climate Change High-Level Champion of the United Arab Emirates, COP28)

#### Summary

From 2020 to 2023, GRP has played a pivotal role in advancing global resilience and adaptation efforts. By fostering inclusive dialogues, supporting locally led initiatives, and integrating resilience into financial strategies and the private sector, GRP has made significant strides in building resilient communities and influencing global policy. At the heart of our policy efforts is our commitment to amplifying voices from the Global South to shape the global resilience agenda, ensuring that adaptation actions are sustainable, equitable, and impactful.

#### At a Glance

- In 2021, the Resilience Hub initiative was launched at COP26 in Glasgow and incorporated Regional Resilience Hubs across Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean with an aim to diversify voices in climate resilience discussions and amplify local perspectives.
- To date, the COP26, 27, and 28, have had over 30,000 physical visitors, 16,200 registered users on the bespoke digital platform, joining a total of 296 sessions.
- Facilitated by GRP's effort, funding was mobilised from the private sector to enable the delivery of the Resilience Hub covering staff time, construction and design, support for live streaming and digital inclusion of partners and support to grassroots organisations. Additionally, specific support was secured in 2023 to enable the participation of 16 grassroots and youth fellows in COP28 discussions, fostering diverse representation and active engagement in climate resilience dialogues.



#### **Outcome Description**

Since its inception at COP26, the Resilience Hub offers a unified space for diverse stakeholders to converge, collaborate, and foster action on resilience and adaptation. The idea of situating the Resilience Hub in the Blue Zone of UNFCCC COPs has delivered key uniting moments for the resilience and adaptation community across sectors, scales, and geographies. Its establishment marked a significant milestone, bridging physical and virtual realms to facilitate unprecedented engagement and showcase partner initiatives, particularly amplifying voices from the Global South.

Building on its success, the initiative maintained momentum through COP28, serving as a central conduit for diverse stakeholders to convene and drive action. Expanded engagement with grassroots and community-level actors, in conjunction with international partners, enriched dialogue and elevated traditionally marginalised voices within global climate discourse. In 2023, the Resilience Hub initiative continued to evolve, integrating Regional Resilience Hubs into its strategy for COP28. These regional hubs, spanning Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, played a pivotal role in amplifying local voices and priorities, ensuring broader representation and fostering inclusive participation in global climate deliberations. Over the years, the Resilience Hub

evolved to incorporate deeper engagement strategies and a more inclusive approach, fostering meaningful dialogue and action on climate resilience.

#### **Significance**

The Resilience Hub's significance lies in its role as a catalyst for collective action and systemic change in the realm of climate adaptation and resilience. Its emergence during COP26 marked a pivotal moment, bridging the gap between state and non-state actors and fostering meaningful dialogues. The Hub also demonstrated its crucial role in mobilising resources for resilience-building efforts by securing substantial private sector funding.

From the outset, the Resilience Hub and its integration of Regional Resilience Hubs significantly enhanced its impact and inclusivity. The Regional Hubs actively engage with local stakeholders through a variety of methods, including virtual and in-person events, international meetings, conferences, capacity-building workshops, and the creation of communication resources. These efforts maximise the voices of regional actors' and ensure that local priorities and lessons learned are effectively incorporated into global climate discussions.

#### Contribution

GRP, as a leading managing partner of the Resilience Hub, guided the development of an inclusive and engaging programme for COP. Working closely with Regional Resilience Hub leads, GRP ensured that regional priorities and perspectives were integrated into the overall Resilience Hub agenda. This collaborative approach facilitated the organisation of diverse activities, including workshops, events, and capacity-building sessions, aimed at maximising regional engagement and impact. GRP led to synthesising key findings from all hubs through the Resilience Hub synthesis report and, effectively communicating main findings to high-level decision-makers, including the High-Level Champions in setting global policy agendas.

GRP's continued commitment to inclusivity is exemplified by the Resilience Hub hybrid format programming allowing open-access digital platform which provides a window into COP for all stakeholders especially those typically excluded from these conversations. Half of the Resilience Hub visitors participated virtually with 50% connecting from the Global South, reflecting a commitment to equitable engagement and diverse representation.

GRP plays an instrumental role in building extensive networking and collaboration between private, public, and civil society actors. GRP spearheaded private sector engagement for COP26, working alongside the Atlantic Council to secure support from 21 major sponsors, including JP Morgan, Google, IBM, and the UNFCCC. In 2022 and 2023, GRP raised further funding to support the Resilience Hub's delivery demonstrating the private sector's strong appreciation for collaborative efforts. This collaboration went beyond financial contributions; sponsors actively participated in the program, becoming integral to discussions on advancing adaptation and resilience. Additionally, funding was secured to support the participation of 16 grassroots and youth fellows in COP28, fostering diverse representation and active engagement in climate resilience dialogues. This curated engagement has led to continued interest from sponsors to be involved in future Resilience Hub initiatives, demonstrating the Hub's success in creating lasting partnerships.

GRP will continue to identify gaps in resilience, advocating for inclusivity at every stage, and facilitating opportunities for reflection and learning have been pivotal in the Resilience Hub's accomplishments. Looking ahead, we aim to build upon these strengths, further enhancing our role as a leader in resilience programming and policy, and continuing to make meaningful contributions to global efforts in addressing climate resilience challenges.

# 3. Progress towards indicators and reflections on outcomes

**About this section:** Cumulative progress update across GRP's indicators during 2020-2023, including narrative reflections and analysis of how the activities and outcomes reported annually build towards the overarching longer-term outcomes and advance progress towards GRP's vision.

# **Progress towards indicators 2020-2023**

During 2020-2023, we have made substantial progress towards key indicators. The diagram below presents an overview of the cumulative indicator progress, and the following paragraphs provide a summary of the initiatives that have contributed towards key indicator progress. The following subsections outline where the indicator progress has come from during 2020-2023.

183,542

People supported

\$33,051,394

**Funds** leveraged

296 Sessions at

30,000+

Resilience Hub visitiors

the COP26, 27, and 28 Resilience Hubs

1,149

People trained

50,000+

Social media followers

214

Organisations recieving assistance

139

Partnerships Formed

8 Policies influenced

**82** Official GRP Partners

#### 2020

In 2020, indicator progress was limited due to the operationalisation of the new Sida agreement and focused fundraising efforts. GRP, as a co-host of the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA), collaborated with AXA-XL and Ocean Unite to launch six projects aimed at enhancing coastal resilience and reducing ocean risk. ORRAA was able to secure funding from the Canadian government, operationalised its structures, and launched the Ocean Resilience Innovation Challenge (ORIC), contracting initial projects with support from GRP.

Efforts were made to update GRP's Routines and Procedures (Operations Manual) to align with the SwedBio program at SRC. GRP also improved its time reporting system, requiring detailed daily reporting of staff working hours by project and activity to be submitted on a monthly basis. Alongside these administrative and structural improvements, the year also saw GRP working with partners (ICCCAD and CKDN) to assess community resilience amidst COVID-19, leading to the launch of the Voices from the Frontline, which published 36 stories and hosted webinars to promote peer-to-peer learning.

Due to COVID-19 global travel restrictions, physical events had to be rescheduled or replaced by virtual events on a case-by-case basis. GRP applies an adaptive management approach, which enabled us to swiftly readjust activities and work plans accordingly. Through this active approach, we were able to test tools and collect data in order to rapidly capture feedback from GRP partners. One example of this is the work we undertook to avoid 'digital exclusion' during the time of exclusively digital events, precipitated by COVID-19. GRP ran a survey and based on these findings, GRP was able to support 20 grassroots organisations with a year of access to the Zoom platform and capacity training on its use and facilitation techniques for running effective virtual meetings.

#### 2021

In 2021, training initiatives saw a total of 40 people trained, 27 through Resilience for Peace and Stability and 13 through the Climate Resilience Academy for South Asia (CRAL-1). Through GRP initiatives such as CRAL, SARA, Resilience for Peace and Stability and ORIC, 68 organisations received support and 53 partnerships were formed. ORRAA through GRP received funding from the Government of Canada and from UK's Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra). Additionally, it secured funding from SwissRe.

The first Resilience Hub at COP26 featured 154 events co-organised with over 80 organisations and 176 speakers addressing pressing resilience topics. The Hub's open-access digital platform provided access to COP for stakeholders unable to attend in person, attracting over 7,100 virtual participants and 23,000 website visitors with approximately 40% of registered participants joining from countries in the Global South.

The Resilience Knowledge Coalition expanded to 450 members and also launched the "Global South Talent Pool" internship programme to support young professionals from the Global South with the opportunity to work remotely in international development cooperation focused on building resilience. The Coalition also enhanced the Resilience Platform, a digital space that facilitates sharing of knowledge, tools, and best practices for resilience building.

#### 2022

The 2022 indicator progress reported towards mobilising direct and indirect funds included sponsorship through the Resilience Hub, funding for a three year innovation challenge on Nature Positive Agriculture called RAIN (Resilient Agriculture Innovation for Nature), and funding to run an innovation programme on 'Resilience for Peace and Stability, Food and

Water Security' from GEF/UNDP. Through projects supported with finance from Defra and the Government of Canada, and with innovation, MEL, finance and operations support from GRP, ORRAA reached a total of 165,215 people supported. A total of 70 people were trained through the Leadership Academy and 104 organisations received assistance from engagements with GRP initiatives – CRAL-2, SARA2, Seeds of Resilience for Peace and Stability, and ORIC. In 2022, 58 partnerships were formed, including the initiation of partnerships with four business schools (Yale School of Management, IMD Business School, Saïd Oxford Business School, and Cape Town Graduate School of Business) and the Global Network for Advanced Management (GNAM) to advance research, build capacity and resources base, engage MBA students in projects, and create a safe space to engage with the private sector around climate change and resilience.

The Resilience Hub mobilised funding from the private sector to enable the delivery of its programming and provided support for partners who led four Regional Resilience Hubs. These highlighted local priorities and solutions and connected 79 new grassroots and local adaptors to key global policy frameworks. The Hub at COP27 featured 72 solution-oriented sessions, co-organised with 72 organisations covering a broad range of topics on resilience. The Hub attracted over 10,000 physical attendees and 5,000 virtual attendees on the dedicated platform, with over 20,000 website users, 5,000 live stream viewers, and 17,000 recipients of daily activity updates.

The launch of call to action PREPARE to mobilise private sector commitments to resilience at COP27 saw 10 private sector companies signing up for targets amounting substantial finance leveraged. Notably, Pula, an agricultural insurance and technology company, has committed to increase their coverage to 100 million smallholder farmers across sub-Saharan Africa by providing insurance coverage by 2026. The smallholder farmers pay US\$20 for US\$200 dollars of insurance coverage. Insuring previously uninsured farmers can generate a direct positive impact for farming households across Africa, helping to secure their livelihoods by protecting them against the risk of financial losses due to climate-related events.

#### 2023

In 2023, GRP supported 3,461<sup>4</sup> people through the GEF-UNDP programme that aims to facilitate the access of smallholder farmers to low-cost capital. In Uganda, 28 farmer groups were established, with 924 people enrolled into Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). Unfortunately, the outbreak of civil war in Sudan has had an impact on the project, with a detailed account of mitigation actions provided as part of the respective annual report.

Additionally, ORRAA has supported 14,866 individuals. ORRAA through GRP was the recipient of a second agreement with Defra Blue Planet Fund and leveraged additional investment. The progress reported by the grantees supported by this funding ranged from incentivising sustainable fishing through microinsurance products, to advancing financing products for marine protected areas (MPAs).

The Resilience Evidence Coalition membership has grown to 1770 members, with activities focused on capacity exchange, an online platform, and knowledge brokering and thought leadership. Its flagship event, the 2023 Resilience Evidence Forum, convened over 200 in-person participants and over 1,000 further participants virtually, to take stock of existing evidence and spark collaborations and capacity exchange across geographic contexts, sectors, and actors. The three-day interactive gathering brought together representatives of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Please note that the final indicator progress from the GEF-UNDP programme will be higher, as grantees are due to submit their final reports and indicator progress in July 2024.

over 140 organisations, sparking further collaborations and capacity exchange across geographic contexts, sectors, and actors.

The Resilience Hub leveraged private sector sponsorships for COP28 and marked its third year. The Hub delivered ten days of events within the Blue Zone covering 70 sessions across nine themes addressing resilience action. The Hub programming involved 70 organisations, and reached 4.82m media coverage views worldwide, over 10,000 in person visitors and 4,100 participants engaging online. Additionally, the Hub supported 16 grassroots and youth participants to attend COP28 through an additional sponsorship.

As part of the GEF-UNDP programme, a total of 849 people in Uganda and 77 in Sudan received multiple training sessions on microfinance, organisational development, grants and loan management, sustainable organic practices, post-harvest handling, and the production and application of organic fertiliser. A total of 113 individuals have received training through the Leadership Academy and the South to South Academies, and 22 organisations have been supported through initiatives like RAIN and the ORIC challenges. As part of the PREPARE event at COP28, 21 new companies responded to Call to Action announcing additional targets of US\$2.1bn in finance leveraged.

## Reflections on progress towards longer-term outcomes

During 2020-2021, GRP's MEL activities and annual reporting did not follow an outcome based format. In light of the 2022 independent Formative Evaluations, as well as conversations with our key donors, we evolved our approach to MEL and associated annual reporting to follow an outcome based format under our three work areas: Innovation, Knowledge, and Policy. As part of the updated reporting structure, each initiative was associated with an immediate outcome, which laddered up to one of three intermediate outcomes:

- 1. Cultivate an enabling ecosystem for scaling resilience solutions, evidence, and investments
- 2. Diversify the voices that shape resilience innovation, policy, and knowledge
- 3. Accelerate transformative learning through knowledge brokering and co-production

The following sections will provide reflections on progress towards outcomes, with a focus on progress reported during 2022-2023. The second half of the Sida agreement also corresponds to the majority of progress against indicators reported (see Annex for details), as initiatives launched during 2020-2021 started to mature.

Progress towards intermediate outcome 1: Cultivate an enabling ecosystem for scaling resilience solutions, evidence, and investments

GRP has strategically focused on nurturing an environment where local innovators and entrepreneurs can flourish and have access to adequate resources and valuable connections in the broader resilience space. As part of this, we have provided significant support to incubate and nurture the development of the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA), which has matured from an initiative co-hosted by GRP and Ocean Unite into a standalone organisation. Incubating ORRAA has been made possible by lessons learnt during GRP's Phase I focus on mobilising investment into surfacing and scaling innovative solutions for resilience. While it could be argued that providing significant support to incubating new organisations could detract from GRP's own work programmes and initiatives, we believe that this is a valued and valuable addition to the resilience landscape and fills a critical gap – that of a multitude of new solutions, initiatives, and organisations that often lack the institutional capacity and memory to be able to scale their operations and implementation at

a fast pace. Learning from ORRAA's success (also proven by the significant indicator progress that GRP has directly contributed to), we are offering this as an ecosystem service for key Partners and initiatives such as the Roof Over Our Heads Campaign, and the newly established Climate Resilience for All organisation. In doing so, we lead by example in modelling a collaborative approach to resource, knowledge, and institutional capacity sharing that builds on the breadth and depth of our Partner organisations, and that sets GRP apart among other resilience focused initiatives.

While incubating other organisations and providing 'backbone' services to emerging resilience initiatives has been a key focus of our work to cultivate and enabling ecosystem for scaling resilience solutions, evidence, and investment, we have also developed a GRP-led Innovation Challenge on Resilient Agriculture Innovations for Nature (RAIN Challenge). Following our established innovation challenge model, targets nature-positive agricultural projects in East Africa. Novel solutions identified as part of a competitive process (a yearly challenge window) are provided with mentoring, leadership training, funding, and connections to further investment opportunities.

As part of our work to influence the enabling environment for innovation, we have developed a strategic engagement with prestigious business schools, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of resilience among students and faculty. Our objective is to ensure that wider business schools curricula are resilience-informed and that through a growing number of case studies and a growing body of evidence, we help shift the wider narrative of resilience as a business imperative. We have also promoted knowledge exchange and skills development through internships and collaborative research endeavours. This cross-sectoral exchange of knowledge and skills not only strengthens resilience efforts in the Global South, but also enriches academic discourse and helps develop practical insights in addressing resilience challenges.

Over this period, our work on mainstreaming resilience into finance has also seen considerable development, especially through our collaboration with USAID and the U.S. Department of State on the PREPARE Call to Action. The initiative focuses on mobilising private sector resources for resilience and promoting investment in local entrepreneurs and innovation in the Global South. By integrating resilience into financial strategies and engaging with the private sector, we are seeking to bridge some of the key gaps in adaptation finance. This role has included providing companies with access to the latest resilience and adaptation science, supporting advancements in resilience measurement techniques, and ensuring alignment with the Locally Led Adaptation Principles.

Progress towards intermediate outcome 2: Diversify the voices that shape resilience innovation, policy, and knowledge

As part of our efforts to diversify the voices involved in resilience innovation, policy and knowledge, a number of initiatives stand out. For example, the South to South Resilience Academies (S2SRA) bring together transdisciplinary teams of Southern-based knowledge partners and practitioners to work together towards solving some of the most difficult resilience challenges faced in the Global South. The Academies not only identify Global South needs and expertise, but also facilitate the dissemination and implementation of their knowledge, setting it apart from other initiatives.

As a recognised trusted convenor,<sup>5</sup> our work focuses on amplifying the voices of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and grassroots organisations in the Global South. Examples include our contribution to the Race to Resilience (R2R) campaign of creating inclusive

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Recognised by the Formative Evaluation as a key strength.

spaces ahead of and at COP26, 27, and 28 Resilience Hubs. These included awareness raising, funding, capacity development and communications to support the leads of the Regional Resilience Hubs to best deploy resources and efforts on the road to and at COP.

Aside from COP, GRP held inclusive events at various platforms, including UNFCCC MENA Regional Climate Weeks, Gobeshona, CBA, UNFCCC Bonn Intersessionals, UNFCCC LAC Regional Climate Weeks, UNFCCC Africa Regional Climate Weeks, New York Climate Action Weeks. These events had diverse representation from the Global South, with outputs curated by GRP. These were also used to inform key global frameworks, such as the Global Stocktake, Global Goal on Adaptation, and Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, to ensure that local asks meaningfully feed into global processes.

The Resilience Hub represents a culmination of GRP's year-long efforts in stakeholder engagement and advocacy, building upon the achievements of COP26, 27, and 28. It has evolved into a vibrant, inclusive space that fosters open dialogue and learning, driving a solutions-focused agenda on adaptation and resilience.

Progress towards intermediate outcome 3: Accelerating transformative learning through knowledge brokering and co-production

Over the last four years, we have intentionally broadened our mandate to accelerate transformative learning while staying at the forefront of resilience science. The Resilience Evidence Coalition has strengthened its role as a vehicle for putting the latest resilience knowledge into use through its activities. The Coalition is an example of GRP operating as in partnership, affording actors opportunities to collaborate with one another and with GRP.

Since the launch of the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA) at COP27, GRP has remained steadfast in supporting the Climate Champions Team, collaborating to advance the adoption and execution of its outcomes. The agenda is centred on amplifying climate adaptation and resilience across six key systems, with a foundational emphasis on nature and water. Numerous organisations and initiatives have embraced the SAA as the optimal framework for guiding their actions and fostering collaboration toward shared learning on adaptation and resilience.

#### **Enabling change with and through our Partners**

GRP is an inclusive and collaborative partnership that seeks to create a global movement for resilience that raises the profile and catalyses actions for resilience. Organisations in the Partnership bring together a broad range of skills, capacities and perspectives and provide powerful collaboration opportunities. Organisations who share GRP's vision, strategic focus, approach, and values are welcome to apply to become a Partner. In doing so, they also make certain commitments to strengthen the Partnership. The success of the Partnership is dependent on Partners working together. To do this, Partners are expected to work on specific actions under GRP's interlinked areas of work: Innovation, Knowledge, and Policy.

"GRP's 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

Collaborations and the activities being implemented help build the capacity of stakeholders in building systemic change that enhances resilience. We nurture values 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.

While only formal organisations are eligible to become Partners, the Resilience Evidence Coalition is a "network of networks" that connects over hundreds of individuals from across the resilience field with the activities of the Partnership.

# 4. Our Theory of Change

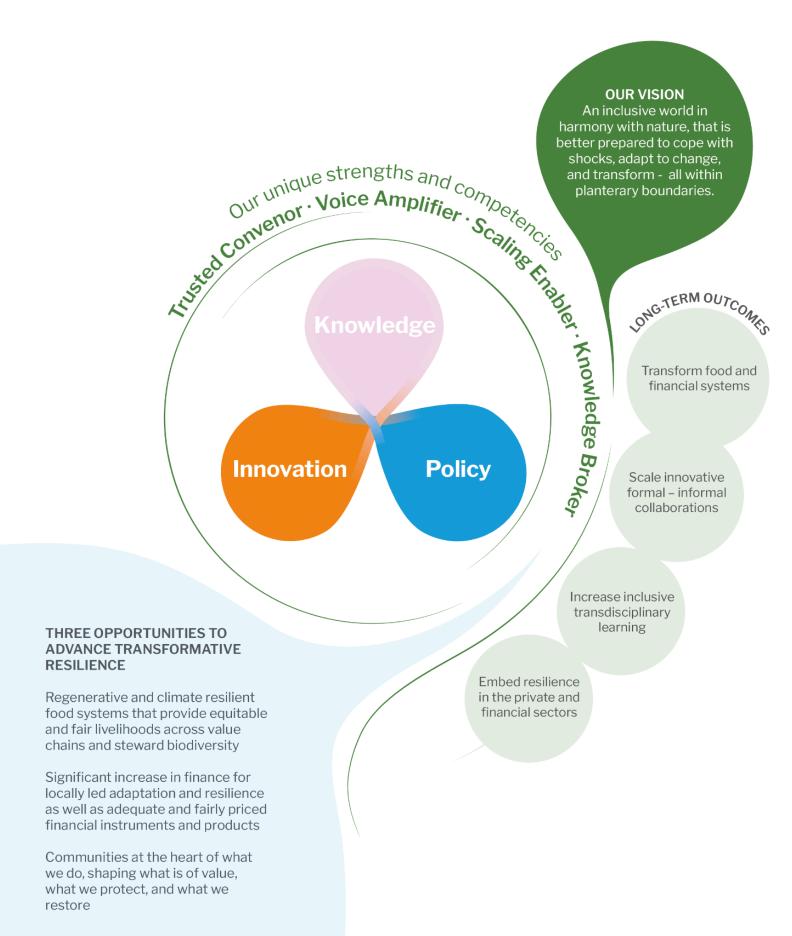
The Formative Evaluation report also identified a series of strengths and weaknesses with regard to GRP's Theory of Change (ToC) – the key organisational narrative that sets out how GRP structures its approach to enabling change, where and how it seeks to intervene, and the overall outcomes it seeks to contribute to.

In response to this, in 2023 we have evolved our Theory of Change and we have developed a five-year organisational strategic plan (covering 2024-2029), which can be found here. In keeping with the recommendations from the Formative Evaluation, the Theory of Change and Strategy are aligned with major donors' funding cycles but exist above them. Taken together, they define GRP's own priorities and will be used going forward to attract donor support for the overall direction and strategy. Our Theory of Change, visualised in the diagram below, was developed based on feedback from the independent Formative Evaluation and was tested in 2023 with Partners and our Advisory Council members to ensure the Partnership provides alignment and value add to its members. The narrative of the overall Theory of Change is as follows:

**IF** we mobilise our unique strengths and competencies as a **trusted convenor**, **voice amplifier**, **scaling enabler**, and **knowledge broker** through identifying and scaling on the ground **innovation**, generating and sharing **knowledge**, and shaping **policy**,

**THEN** we can significantly contribute to four long-term outcomes –

- **Transforming** food and financial systems;
- Scaling innovative formal informal collaborations;
- **Increasing** inclusive transdisciplinary learning; and,
- **Embedding** resilience in the private and financial sectors,
- **THEREBY** progressing towards our vision of an inclusive world in harmony with nature, that is better prepared to cope with shocks, adapt to change, and transform all within planetary boundaries.



# **5.** Reflections to support the implementation of GRP's 2024-2029 strategy

As we embark into a new strategy and implementation cycle, we will build on the key lessons learnt, namely that:

# Growing the market for and increasing the uptake of resilience solutions requires concerted efforts to support innovative products and services, as well as the entrepreneurs behind them.

We will double down on our commitment to mobilise financial flows into resilience solutions through our Innovation Challenges, as well as continuing to cultivate the wider enabling environment for resilience innovation through our work with larger private sector companies, business schools, technology providers, investors, and other key stakeholders. We have learnt that taking a systemic approach to innovation requires intervening at multiple levels. This insight informs our approach to innovation, ensuring that we tackle structural and functional barriers to enable a healthy ecosystem for scaling solutions. We will continue to do this through supporting entrepreneurs to develop their leadership skills, improving business models and product/service propositions, connecting investors and entrepreneurs, developing the business case for resilience investments, while seeking to shape the wider narrative about a growing market for resilience solutions.

# Ensuring the uptake of resilience evidence – what works and what doesn't – requires facilitation and dedicated knowledge brokering.

To support this, we will build on lessons learnt from GRAID, the Resilience Evidence Coalition, and our wider knowledge work. We will double down on creating spaces for inclusive transdisciplinary learning, through facilitating communities of practice and building the connective tissue between them. For learning to be transformative, it needs to be designed and implemented as an active and relational process, rather than a passive 'transfer of knowledge.' We will continue to do this through building trusted relationships with our partners, designing and hosting interactive learning processes and events, and ensuring that learning is mobilised back into decision-making.

# Successful advocacy and policy influencing requires trusted convenors.

We will build on our track record as a trusted leader in policy convening, collaboration and advocacy, ensuring that insights from our innovation and knowledge work areas inform policy processes. By fostering inclusive dialogues and creating platforms for diverse voices, particularly those from the Global South, GRP has established itself as a reliable and effective intermediary between local communities and global policy frameworks. Through consistent engagement and capacity development, we will continue in our role as a trusted convenor that brings together grassroots organisations, policymakers, private sector leaders, and international agencies to discuss and advance resilience initiatives.

# An engaging and proactive approach to partnership building is key to the success of the Secretariat's programmes and the overall Partnership.

We will continue to focus on ensuring that we build a partnership that is focused on adding value to our partners. To date, our approach of identifying and co-designing activities and programmes amongst partners has mostly been through direct engagements and

conversations. As part of the launch of the new strategy, we have undertaken a review of our Partnership Policy and consequently we have refreshed our offer and our ask to Partners. These have already been shared and socialised with Partners, with the new measures due to be implemented from January 2025. These include a structured calendar of engagements throughout the year (such as Partner Spotlight sessions, Onboarding Sessions, informal networking events during key in person global events), a yearly Partnership Learning and Feedback survey, as well as scheduled 1-1 calls with key points of contact from the Secretariat.

# The success of all the above is enabled by organisational learning, robust internal processes, and a positive and thriving work culture.

Over the last four years, GRP has made significant improvements to internal processes and organisational learning. Now spanning two entities in Sweden and South Africa, our policies, routines, procedures, and capacity are in place to ensure the successful implementation of our new strategy. Alongside these, GRP's work culture promotes a sense of belonging and purpose, where employees are engaged, productive, and committed to the organisation's success, aiming to not only attract top talent but also encourages continuous improvement and innovation. We will continue to monitor and improve these processes as appropriate to increase the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat.