REAL Short Course in Resilience Measurement

Session 1: Risk and Resilience Assessments

Agenda

• Introduction
• Presentation
• Breakout Session
• Report Back
• Q & A

Presenters

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Introduction

THE USAID RESILIENCE MEASUREMENT
PRACTICAL GUIDANCE NOTE SERIES

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Guidance Note 1
Risk and Resilience Assessments

What this is:

Step-by-step guidance on:

• Risk & Resilience Assessment planning & design
• Data collection
• Analysis
• Using results for strategic planning

What this isn’t:

• A prescriptive technical manual
• A comprehensive literature review of all existing Risk & Resilience Assessments
Why do a risk and resilience assessment?
What’s different about risk and resilience assessments?

**Resilience assessments:**
- Sector-neutral
- Includes systems dynamics, landscape applications
- Interacting, cross-scalar factors over time/space
- Mixed-methods & adaptive management
- Focus on current & potential resilience capacities
- Flexible applications

**Other assessments:**
- Often single-sector
- Small-scale application (community)
- Rely on cross-sectional “snapshot” data
- Usually do not assess root causes of risk
Mercy Corps STRESS
Case Studies

Supported by USAID Center for Resilience/ Resilience Evaluation, Analysis & Learning (REAL) Grant

What have we done well? Where can we improve?

Generalizable resilience assessment learnings

Guidance Note 1: Risk and Resilience Assessments
A Learning Journey

STRESS process makes people learn what really resilience is and because of the practicality of it, it makes people question what they’re really doing. It makes them say—we were calling this resilience but I don’t know if I’m really doing it that way. The STRESS process provided more knowledge to the program team to be more intentional, to be systems thinking.

—STRESS Participant, Karamoja
That’s great...what does it take?
# Approximate Level of Effort Matrix

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LOW</th>
<th>MEDIUM</th>
<th>HIGH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimated Time</strong></td>
<td>5-10 weeks</td>
<td>3-8 months</td>
<td>&gt;8 months</td>
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<td><strong>Purpose, Scope &amp; Scale</strong></td>
<td>Fewer sectors or development outcome</td>
<td>Wider range of sectors, development outcomes and geographies</td>
<td>Broad range of sectors, development outcomes and geographies</td>
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<td><strong>Data Collection &amp; Sampling</strong></td>
<td>Reliance on existing analyses combined with limited field work and limited primary data</td>
<td>Increased use of primary data with moderate geographical resolution and limited external technical studies</td>
<td>Primary mixed method data at a high-level of spatial resolution supported by secondary data, perhaps multiple rounds</td>
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<td><strong>Analysis</strong></td>
<td>Validate existing knowledge, limit timeframe of trend analysis and capacity characterizations</td>
<td>Longer-term trend analyses with deeper characterization of risks and capacities</td>
<td>Complete trend analyses coupled with in-depth characterization of risks and capacities</td>
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<td><strong>Outputs</strong></td>
<td>Revisions to existing theories of change, shorter planning horizons</td>
<td>Revised or new theories of change and knowledge products</td>
<td>Detailed theories of change and/or detailed knowledge products, long-term planning</td>
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How can they work?
Risk and Resilience Assessment Process
What can they show us?
Five Guiding Resilience Questions

Figure 2: Conceptual framework for understanding resilience in particular social, political, economic, and ecological context based on the five resilience questions.  

1. Target Group
2. Systems / Context
3. Shocks / Stresses
4. Interaction with Capacities and System Dynamics
5. Well-being Outcomes (i.e. Food Security)

- Resilience for Whom?
- Resilience of What?
- Resilience to What?
- Exposure
- Sensitivity
- Resilience Capacities (Capitals, Resources, etc.)
- Resilience through What?
- Nothing. (Avoided Disturbance)
- Bounce back better
- Bounce back
- Recover, but worse off
- Collapse
- Resilience to What End?
For example: Resilience Assessment, Systems Map
The decline of pastoralism in Karamoja, Uganda
For example: Resilience Assessment, ToC Theory of Change for Karamoja, Uganda

TOC Empowered Karamoja: Citizens play a leading role in and benefit from state institutions, markets, management of natural resources, asset building, and social services.

- **Improved Economic Opportunities**
  - Alcoholism, GBV, HIV, Under Nutrition
  - Rainfall variability
  - Crop Production
  - Livestock
  - Industry, Businesses, service sector
  - Decent, safe and sustainable labor and migration opportunities

- **Sustainable Natural Resource Management**
  - Effective water resource management
  - Sustainable range land management
  - Equitable control and access over land and water
  - Land and watershed degradation

- **Improved Education**
  - Improved enrolment and retention rates in formal and informal school systems
  - Access to information and knowledge
  - Access to vocational training
  - Improved governance of education institutions

- **Improved Health**
  - Under nutrition, alcoholism, HIV, communicable disease outbreaks
  - Functioning Market System
  - Improved WASH
  - Knowledge and practice of quality health behaviours
  - Reduced morbidity and mortality

Guidance Note 1: Risk and Resilience Assessments
How can we use the results?

Assessment results are versatile and can be fit for purpose:

- Transformational Learning
- Systems Analyses
- Program Design Ideas
- Learning Documents
- Theory of Change
- Research Plan + M&E Framework
- Resilience-building targets & strategies
Learning from Resilience Assessments

- Synching expectations & commitments: be accountable to the learning journey
- Importance of internal and external communications
- Translating from results into sustainable action
- Supportive enabling environment necessary for resilience implementation
Q & A