RESILIENCE EVALUATION, ANALYSIS AND LEARNING

Informing policy and improving resilience programming through strategic analysis, capacity strengthening, and knowledge sharing

The Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning (REAL) Award is a consortium-led effort funded by the USAID Center for Resilience. It was established to respond to the growing demand among USAID missions, host governments, implementing organizations, and other key stakeholders for **rigorous yet practical** monitoring, evaluation, strategic analysis, and capacity building support related to resilience.

Through a **diverse and broad range of activities**, the REAL Award seeks to respond to emerging needs in the field among the implementer and donor community. From technical guidance notes to evaluative research reports and practitioner-focused capacity-strengthening activities, REAL promotes best practice in resilience program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and learning.

The growing interest in resilience was prompted by the repeated drought crises in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, followed by increasingly frequent and intense large-scale, complex crises globally. A key element in the evolution of resilience in the development context has been the continued refinement of resilience data collection and analysis of resilience at multiple scales.

Led by Save the Children, the REAL Award draws on the expertise of its diverse partners: Food for the Hungry, Mercy Corps, and TANGO International, to promote evidence-based policy, program design, and implementation guidance. All partners have been intricately involved in building the intellectual capital around resilience concepts, analysis, measurement, learning, and knowledge management related to resilience-related program design and implementation for USAID.

REAL Products and Activities

Resilience Measurement Practical Guidance Note Series

This series is comprised of pragmatic guidance to assist practitioners in integrating core aspects of resilience measurement into their program assessments, design, monitoring, evaluation, and learning. In five parts, the series introduces key concepts and guides practitioners through the resilience measurement process, from risk and resilience assessment to resilience analysis.

Resilience Evidence Forum (REF) and Technical Meetings

The Resilience Evidence Forum was held in Washington, DC in October 2017. Almost 200 participants gathered to share and consolidate the emergent evidence and methodological approaches to resilience analysis; discuss ramifications of evidence for resilience policy and programming; and identify future directions and priorities. In addition, REAL has convened consultations among technical experts to discuss emerging priorities for resilience analysis such as *Assessing the Value for Money (VfM) of Resilience Investments*, *Strengthening Resilience in Fragile Contexts*, and *Integrated Positive Deviance Methodologies.*

Thought Pieces and Concept Notes

In thought pieces and concept notes, REAL tackles frontier topics to contribute to the discussion and evolution of emergent aspects of resilience analysis. In *Measuring Resilience Across and Between Scales and How to Do It,* the importance and the challenges related to the measurement of resilience across and between scales are discussed. The note *Integrating Gender into Resilience Analysis: A Conceptual Overview* outlines proposed gender-related considerations when applying resilience to conceptual and measurement frameworks.

Resilience Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Workshops

REAL workshops build capacity among resilience program and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) staff from USAID and implementing partners on topics such as how to conduct a resilience analysis, often with a specific geographic focus. For example, practitioner-focused regional workshops held in Kenya and Thailand focused on how USAID and implementing partner staff can use resilience data to inform and improve programming decisions and to adaptively manage projects in their respective regions.

Resilience Research Reports

These rigorous technical reports provide comprehensive analyses of a range of resilience-related, empirical data collected in project– and/or country-specific settings. The goal is to create a better understanding of the relationships between resilience programming, resilience capacity, and well-being outcomes, which can build the evidence base for improving and adapting resilience programming in these specific contexts, including Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Nigeria.

Strategic Analyses of Resilience

REAL consortium members have carried out a number strategic resilience analyses to inform USAID policy, country-level programming priorities, and emerging technical issues. Prominent examples include:

- Deep dive analyses of data to inform the redesign of the PRIME Project in Ethiopia
- Deep dive analysis of nutrition data from Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Lands (REGAL) in Kenya and Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) in West Africa
- Analysis of Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) to examine poverty dynamics in Nigeria