



How does BRACED monitor change?

To understand what does and does not work well in building climate and disaster resilience, the BRACED Knowledge Manager develops and tests a range of approaches and frameworks for measuring resilience.

During the first year of BRACED, we have:

- Moved from concepts to practice
- Rolled out a programme-level M&E framework to 15 projects across 13 countries
- Trialled qualitative reporting approaches at project- and programme-level
- Aggregated and synthesised context-specific data
- Reported at the programme level on how BRACED is building resilience so far

Developing programme-level M&E frameworks for resilience programmes is a relatively new area. So far, we have learnt a great deal from taking a programme-level view of how resilience is being built. This provides an opportunity for BRACED to improve its ongoing efforts as well as to contribute to the wider knowledge base.

What have we learnt?

Some key reflections and lessons have emerged from designing, implementing and reporting against the M&E framework.



Be clear about what 'counts': Measuring progress on resilience cannot be done with one simple indicator. Qualitative and explanatory frameworks help to better understand what works in resilience-building, why, and in which contexts.



Go beyond business as usual: Engaging with qualitative and explanatory frameworks requires M&E practices to go beyond accountability-driven exercises towards learning-based approaches. M&E experts and project managers also need to engage in more refined and complex data collection and analysis processes.



Pick your framework but know its limits: There are different options for rolling out programme-level M&E frameworks and systems, but each comes with its own trade-off in terms of flexibility and resourcing.



Plan for reporting at scale: Synthesising and aggregating context-specific data at scale requires time, resources and thorough methodologies. Timing should be aligned with project cycles to enable real-time learning at the programme level.

Through a 3-year,
£110 million UK
Government-funded
programme,
BRACED supports



across 13 countries
in East Africa, the
Sahel and Asia



to help up to
5 million
people...



... to become more resilient to climate extremes and disasters



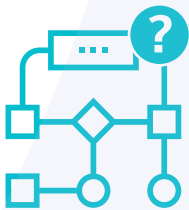
To build on this learning...

BRACED should be more critical and reflective when reporting results in order to meaningfully question project and programme assumptions and build a more thorough understanding of resilience in fragile contexts.

BRACED should further explore the advantages and disadvantages of quantitative outcome-level resilience indicators. More work is also required to quantify and understand progress in the face of actual shocks and stresses.

Donors should be pragmatic and realistic about what sort of outcome-level data and information can be expected in a three-year period. Prioritising annual data collection efforts against quantitative indicators may come at the cost of losing critical evidence about what works and what does not in building resilience to climate extremes and disasters.

Programmes like BRACED should share their M&E experiences in order to further improve collective practice within this relatively new area of work.



Question for further debate

These reflections seek to challenge BRACED and other resilience-building programmes, and ask:

How complex does M&E need to be?

The essence of resilience is that change and progress are not linear – so results reporting should not be linear either. There are no simple 'yes' or 'no' answers about whether resilience has been built and if so how. But could a more 'simple' M&E framework still capture the particularities and nuances of building climate and disaster resilience?

BRACED will continue to refine and test different approaches to monitoring and measuring pathways to resilience.

For more lessons learnt and insights from monitoring BRACED, read the full reports:



Reflections paper: Routes to resilience: Lessons from monitoring BRACED



Synthesis report: Routes to resilience: Insights from BRACED Year 1

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