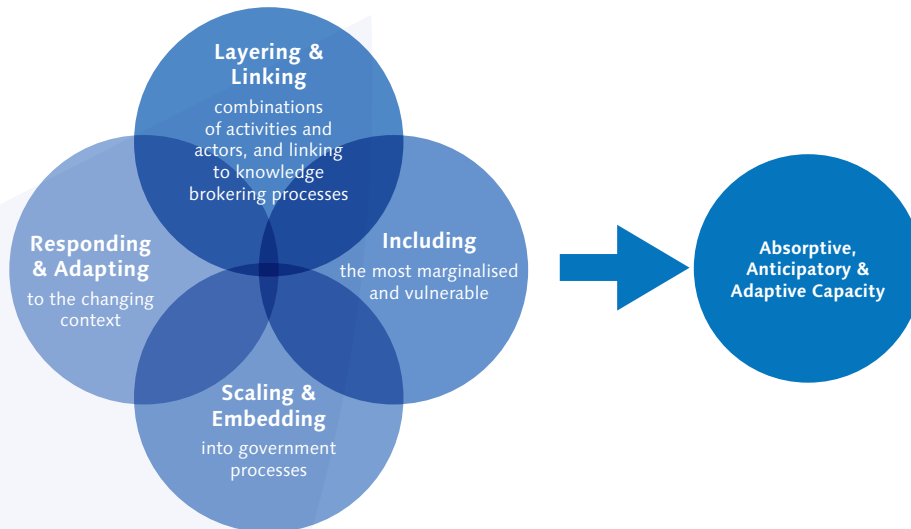


How is BRACED building resilience on the ground?

BRACED is the biggest global effort to build resilience locally, in highly vulnerable places, yet at scale. Two years into the projects' implementation the BRACED Knowledge Manager has collated and synthesised evidence from project monitoring reports, to understand how resilience is being built on the ground. This year we were able to deepen our understanding, identifying four main enabling processes through which BRACED projects are building resilience:



Findings have raised critical questions and answers which help us move towards greater understanding of what it takes to design and implement resilience-building programmes.



To what extent does the quantity of activities compromise the quality of delivery? Activities alone are not enough to build resilience at the community level, they need to be integrated, tailored to the context, and sequenced to ensure quality.



If inclusion of the most vulnerable groups is not central to a project's design, to what extent can BRACED claim to be inclusive? Building resilience requires equality: projects must move beyond fostering participation of the most vulnerable towards addressing the root causes of exclusion.



Should the success of resilience projects be judged using the same 'results' criteria? Context matters: there are different trajectories for resilience-building and progress should be relative to the starting point.

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



If projects are not challenging their design and assumptions, can we consider this to be resilience programming? Resilience programmes need to move beyond responding and learning-by-doing towards more meaningful flexible and adaptive programming.



To what extent can resilience building and transformational change happen from the bottom-up? Reaching scale and embedding change is possible at a local level, but the scope for success is limited without complementary investments at the national and regional levels.



Are all capacities equal? Building adaptive capacity is essential for strengthening resilience: projects must address the trade-offs between realising short-term priorities and providing for longer-term community needs.



Can programmes build resilience without using long-term weather and climate information? The access, translation and use of long-term weather and climate information is crucial to build adaptive capacity and transformational change.

Reframing the debate

Findings and evidence from BRACED allow us to raise a specific set of questions that challenge and reframe the debate towards practical implications for resilience programming.

What is essential in resilience programming, and what is feasible? Given the complex nature of resilience-building, programmes can quickly become large and complicated, and in practice, even when all of the boxes are ticked, efforts may still fall short of delivering 'resilience programming'. In practice there are essential elements of resilience programming but they need to be balanced with what is feasible within each context, and what approaches and processes are most effective within each context to achieve meaningful change.

What does it take in each context to progress along resilience trajectories? There is variation in the starting points for resilience-building in different contexts, and different trajectories of change. Instead of focusing solely on 'results', resilience programmes should look at the extent to which projects can support stakeholders within their context to move along development pathways, while also building capacities to enable coping, adaptation and transformation in the face of climate and disaster risk.

What should monitoring and evaluation efforts focus on? Focus on resilience as a process emphasizes the need to move away from ticking boxes against resilience outcome indicators, to monitoring and measuring the processes that programmes follow, to ensure that they are designed, tailored and delivered in a way that meets a longer term need within each context.

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



Synthesis report: Routes to resilience: Insights from BRACED Year 2



Reflections paper: Routes to resilience: Lessons from monitoring BRACED year 2

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