



SYNTHESIS OF

GLOBAL RESILIENCE CHALLENGE RESULTS

Global Resilience Partnership
September 2019

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Disclaimer

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Images

Front cover: Mahila Housing Trust; back cover: Groundswell International

Contents

Executive Summary	1
1. Context.....	6
1.1 The Global Resilience Partnership.....	6
1.2 Focus of this document.....	6
1.3 Shocks and stresses.....	7
1.4 Impact Pathways	9
2. Methodology.....	11
2.1 Assessing outcomes.....	12
3. GRP R1 Challenges in practice	14
3.1 Project descriptions	14
3.2 People supported	15
4. Exploring project outcomes	17
4.1 Grameen: Mobile extension for resilient value chains	17
4.2 Groundswell: Gender, agro-ecology, nutrition and policy	18
4.3 IFPRI: Experimenting with Risk-Contingent Credit.....	20
4.4 Mahila Housing Trust: Women's empowerment and urban resilience	21
4.5 Mercy Corps (HoA): Adaptive management and learning from failure.....	24
4.6 Mercy Corps (Sahel): Financial and climatic information-sharing.....	25
4.7 MetaMeta: Roads to the rescue.....	26
4.8 Producer's Direct: Using mobile tools and empowering youth.....	27
4.9 TAHMO: Climate information service attracting investment for scaling-up	30
4.10 University of Sydney: Disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR).....	31
4.11 Outcomes summary.....	32
5. Progress along Impact Pathways	35
5.1 Impact Pathway 1: Policy influencing	35
5.2 Impact Pathway 2: Finance and investment	37
5.3 Impact Pathway 3: Innovation and scaling.....	41
5.4 Impact Pathway 4: Knowledge and partnership.....	48
6. Conclusions.....	56
Annex 1: Grantees and their consortium partners	58

List of figures and tables

Figure 1:	Map of countries targeted by Challenge	10
Figure 2:	Step-by-step approach to data synthesis	12
Figure 3:	Total number of GRP beneficiaries	15
Figure 4:	Users of EWS or climate information	41
Figure 5:	Value of financial services	42
Figure 6:	Number of people trained in climate change adaptation.....	42
Figure 7:	Number of people receiving short-term agricultural training in food security.....	43
Figure 8:	Uptake financial services	45
Table 1:	R1 grantees and their projects.....	10
Table 2:	Visualization of shocks and stresses as they affected GRP projects.....	8
Table 3:	Relevant reporting sections of FNR template.....	15
Table 4:	Strength of evidence matrix	14

List of acronyms

ACPCU	Ankole Coffee Producers Cooperative Union
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
AoT	Area of Transformation
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters program
CAG	Community Action Group
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CTS	Crescent Takaful Sacco
DDAT	Deaf Disaster Assistance Team
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DiDRR	Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction
DPO	Disabled People's Organization
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
EER	External Evaluation Report
EWS	Early Warning System
FNR	Final Narrative Report
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GRP	Global Resilience Partnership
HH	Household
HoA	Horn of Africa
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IIPHG	Indian Institute of Public Health-Gandhinagar
IRS	Inclusive Resilience Scorecard
IT	Information Technology
LEAP	Linking Social and Financial Capital to Enhance Resilience of Agro-Pastoral Communities
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MHT	Mahila Housing Trust
MKK	Mifugo Kash Kash (Mercy Corps HoA)
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCDM	National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRDC	National Resources Defence Council (India)

PWD	People with Disabilities
RCC	Risk-Contingent Credit
RISE	Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced initiative
R1	Round 1
SATISFy	Satellite Technologies, Innovative and Smart Financing for Food Security
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMS	Short Message Service
TAHMO	Trans African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory
TRADER	Taking Risk out of Agricultural Trade for Relief and Development Enhanced with Resilience
UK	United Kingdom
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WEC	Women's Empowerment Case Study
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WW	Water Window

Foreword

Today in many parts of the world, shocks and stresses are increasing in frequency and intensity. In the extreme, this produces recurrent humanitarian crises that threaten lives and livelihoods, and are extremely costly to national and regional economies. More broadly these shocks and stresses can undermine hard-fought development gains - steadily eroding people's ability to escape and remain out of poverty. Strengthening resilience is the key to breaking this cycle.

While much of USAID's resilience efforts have focused on people and places subject to recurrent crisis, it has become increasingly clear that building resilience is essential to sustainably reducing poverty, hunger, malnutrition and other well-being outcomes everywhere we work. Our work with the Global Resilience Partnership contributes to our efforts to build resilience. Through this partnership, ten projects were funded which focused on transforming risks around shocks and stresses into opportunities. These projects were selected due to their innovative approaches to existing problems. This report sets out the main achievements of these ten projects and the important learning gained from the innovative approaches taken.

As you will see from this report, these projects achieved some impressive outcomes and generated very interesting learning. The range of the types of projects is of particular interest: from a focus on large-scale infrastructure, which influenced how roads are built in the Horn of Africa, to training and policy influencing to create approaches to disaster risk reduction which meet the needs of people with disabilities. There are projects which focused on improving access to finance, projects focusing on facilitating access to agricultural training for resilience and projects which improved access to markets.

Of specific interest is how the projects covered not only practical or technological solutions (for example Early Warning Systems) but also approaches to tackle less tangible and more complex social barriers to resilience, such as gender roles and disempowerment of particular groups. In particular, the work of Mahila Housing Trust is of interest in its focus on empowering urban slum-dwelling women so that they could identify and articulate their needs to local government institutions, and Producers Direct creating digital tools, the use of which was spread through intergenerational cooperation.

The report also highlights what makes for successful resilience projects. In particular, participation of stakeholders and close-relationships with government stakeholders meant that projects were meeting local needs, reducing possible barriers and helping to ensure the sustainability and longevity of intervention outcomes. Many resilience projects also found that layering of interventions was key, with different elements being brought in as the project developed and progress was identified. As such, it was particularly important that the projects had flexibility to change. They needed to have the space to be able to make changes to their approaches based on learning as they go along, as well as to adapt to the shocks and stresses that happened during project implementation.

I hope you enjoy reading this report. It highlights not only what works in creating a project that increases resilience, but also how to help make that happen. We look forward to building on these findings with our resilience work going forward.

Jami Montgomery

USAID Center for Resilience, Bureau for Food Security

Executive summary

Introduction

The **Global Resilience Partnership (GRP)** is a partnership of public and private organizations joining forces towards a resilient, sustainable and prosperous future for vulnerable people and places. GRP believes that resilience underpins the achievement of sustainable development in a more unpredictable world. One of the aims of GRP is to create a nurturing environment that enables great innovations to thrive, be tested and be scaled when ready. GRP provides grants to consortia of organizations working on the subject of resilience and tackling the world's most intractable problems.

To date, GRP has commissioned two challenge rounds: a **General Resilience Round**, known as Round 1 (R1), and a **Water Window** (WW) round, through which it works with 22 projects led by 21 grantee consortia in 16 countries across sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia.

Ten R1 projects were focused on transforming risks around shocks and stresses experienced across the geographies into opportunities, with the overarching objective of reaching millions of people. R1 grantees were funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Twelve WW projects were focused on building flood resilience among the most vulnerable people and places.

This synthesis stock-takes and synthesizes the progress made by the R1 projects. It looks at key outcomes and also examines progress along the four Impact Pathways, which are core to GRP's strategy to achieve impact and reflected in the design of all projects.

These Impact Pathways are:

1. Policy influencing
2. Finance and investment
3. Innovation and scaling
4. Knowledge and partnership

The synthesis explores grantees' narrative reporting guided by these pathways in combination with the data that the grantees reported on relevant GRP and USAID indicators. It identifies relevant outputs and outcomes and synthesizes the results under thematic areas relevant to the respective Impact Pathways and focuses on outcomes by project and across projects.

Much of the project results relate to resilience, which the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) guidance for R1 grantees defines as *“the ability to persist in prolonged crisis, adapt to and manage risks from sudden events and to transform positively in the face of change”*.¹

¹ GRP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance and Final Report Template for Round 1 Grantees, July 2017

Project-level results

Detail of the project's aims and activities are in Annex 1. The summaries below highlight the projects' progress, people supported (GRP 1), the most remarkable results and their enablers, where identified.

Project	GRP 1: People supported	Key learning
<p>Grameen Foundation received funding to build resilience among coconut farmers in the Philippines, who, despite forming the backbone of the country's top agricultural industry, are chronically poor and especially vulnerable to climate change</p>	<p>133,660</p>	<p>The suite of mobile extension tools developed resulted in users being able to act on weather information provided. Grameen's participatory approach created buy-in among partners, and consortium diversity enabled the delivery of integrated services that were better able to address the complex realities of beneficiaries. The Philippine Coconut Authority saw the advantages and embedded the technology within the government's operations. Another partner signed a contract to continue using data collected from the project to target smallholder farmers more efficiently.</p>
<p>Groundswell International engaged in building the resilience of communities in the Sahel's ecologically fragile dry lands, giving particular attention to women in the more vulnerable households.</p>	<p>60,021</p>	<p>As a result of the project, over 9,000 households in targeted villages adopted agro-ecological innovations. Of particular importance are outcomes around gender and women's empowerment, with women receiving training on farming methods and access to new credit groups. This resulted in more influence over family decision-making and improved capacity to generate their own income. Inclusive stakeholder engagement combined with a participatory approach created buy-in and contributed to adoption of agro-ecological practices. Demonstration days enabled village leaders and farmers to engage with policy-makers and generated media coverage.</p>
<p>Mahila Housing SEWA Trust received funding to empower women from slums in seven South Asian cities to take action against the most pressing climate-related risks facing their communities</p>	<p>135,275</p>	<p>MHT's multi-layered intervention had particularly strong outcomes in relation to women's empowerment, increasing women's agency to act, to link with key stakeholders and to make positive change to increase their resilience to climatic events. As a result of the project, 35% of households involved in the project have become less vulnerable to climate-related risks. The project also resulted in improved links between communities and municipal governments and increased knowledge and awareness, contributing to a reduction in vector-borne diseases. Transferability of its model enabled replication in cities across India.</p>
<p>Mercy Corps Horn of Africa helped livestock owners manage their</p>	<p>23,711</p>	<p>Through this project, 2,000 livestock-keeping households benefited from additional sales and a value chain financing product was piloted and</p>

Project	GRP 1: People supported	Key learning
assets and livelihood risks while simultaneously increasing their household-level productivity and wealth		adapted based on important learning. A participatory approach to project design helped break down barriers within the consortium and enabled beneficiaries to input into decisions affecting their resilience. Moreover, collection of project feedback helped identify an issue with the initial version of their financial product and informed its redesign.
Mercy Corps Sahel worked to strengthen the resilience of agro-pastoralists in Mali and Niger, by expanding their access to formal financial services	243,902	Key outcomes for this project include the number of people (227,992) receiving financial education messages, coupled with climate change adaptation training and access to loans and financial services. There were particularly strong outcomes in relation to women's involvement in financial decision-making, with the project using research into women's economic involvement to inform their activities. Mercy Corps' inclusive approach encouraged partners to invest to increase the project's geographical coverage. Stakeholders also identified new knowledge-sharing opportunities – giving the project national exposure.
MetaMeta introduced innovative designs and improved guidelines to harvest rainwater, prevent soil erosion and improve use of roadside land	3,063,375	This project used low-technology infrastructure interventions ensuring road water run-off was harvested effectively. By combining capacity-building and communication activities, MetaMeta brought together diverse groups of actors. With a government organization as part of the consortium, MetaMeta was able to create a critical mass of national and international practitioners specializing in the subject of roads for water – formalizing stakeholder buy-in and contributing to the project's sustainability.
Producers Direct aimed to ensure empowered smallholder households have access to systems, tools, data and information that increases value chain efficiency and inclusion, improves their market opportunities, economic growth and poverty reduction and ensures financial	332,500	This project used agricultural training, mobile tools and farmer-to-farmer learning to increase connectivity to markets, improve productivity and enhance diversification and profitability. Mobile tools are now being used to support resilience in Kenya and Uganda, and the mechanism for delivery (using youth workers) has affected intergenerational relationships. Training for the users of project tools and human-centered design enabled Producers Direct to solve technical challenges, empower the users and maximize benefits. Moreover, partner engagement in strategic planning secured partner buy-in and investment for project scale-up.

Project	GRP 1: People supported	Key learning
inclusion, especially for women and youth		
SATISFy – IFPRI	2,290	IFPRI is developing and piloting a Risk Contingent Credit (RCC) product for smallholder farmers in Machakos, Kenya. RCC is a financial product that embeds insurance in credit, in this case against drought risk. The underlying risk is captured through development of satellite-derived drought Index that integrates environment key variables (e.g. rainfall, vegetation and soil moisture) based on state-of -the - art remote sensors). The project is based around a Randomised Controlled Trial to assess uptake of the new product. Early evidence shows higher uptake of the RCC than the traditional loan. Further work is ongoing to examine reasons for and against uptake.
Trans African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory received funding to empower local communities and vulnerable farmers across Uganda with an innovative early warning weather system for severe weather	1,200,000	By setting up a network of weather stations and using existing mobile platforms, the project delivered early warning systems information to over 1 million people. As well as direct delivery of these services, the grantee developed important partnerships both nationally and internationally resulting in the sharing of weather data, valuable strategic national partnerships and future funding.
University of Sydney received funding to strengthen the voices of people with disabilities in the region, who are disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters and often overlooked in traditional disaster risk reduction efforts	22,068	University of Sydney’s inclusive approach centered around capacity-building brought together diverse stakeholders, fostered cross-sectoral relationships and resulted in new partnerships. It created a collaborative working relationship with a governmental organization, raised the visibility of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction, strengthened the knowledge base and skills of local authorities and created an opportunity to ensure disability issues would be addressed by a national action plan.

Cross-project findings

Several projects identified research, close relationships with government organizations, participation in policy events and layering of multiple interventions as key. We discuss these cross-cutting enablers together with their implication for resilience.

Research was essential to understand the policy climate and ensure projects were well aligned with relevant policies. It also informed numerous knowledge products targeting policy-makers as

well as donors and other practitioners interested in project innovations and the policy context in which they were implemented.

Close relationships with governmental organizations improved understanding and generated buy-in from government representatives, resulting in adoption of tools and approaches introduced by six projects (Grameen, Groundswell, MHT, MetaMeta, Producers Direct, University of Sydney), increasing the likelihood of sparking a transformational change.

Participation in policy events increased the exposure of grantees' work both nationally and internationally and enabled them to discuss their innovations in the context of wider policy and its influence and implications for resilience interventions.

Layering of interventions is a widely used approach to transformational change² adopted by all grantees. This increased adoption rates among Grameen's beneficiaries, enabled uptake of digital tools introduced by Producers Direct and ensured momentum of a capacity-building project implemented by the University of Sydney.

Moreover, layering of **capacity-building activities to ensure shared understanding, partner recognition and trust** enables stakeholder participation in project design and implementation, creates buy-in and increases the likelihood of project sustainability. This was documented by Groundswell, University of Sydney, Groundswell and Mercy Corps in the Horn of Africa.

² Combining activities (and actors) and linking them to knowledge-brokering processes is one of four main enabling processes through which Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) projects build resilience. See, for example, Routes to Resilience: Insights from BRACED Year 2. Summary. BRACED Knowledge Manager. Page 1

1. Context

1.1 The Global Resilience Partnership

One of the key objectives of the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) is to create an environment that enables great ideas to thrive.

‘There is a need for a safe space to test and scale disruptive, bold ideas for doing development differently. The [GRP] Challenges are a series of competitions hosted by GRP to tackle the world’s most intractable problems.’

The Global Resilience Partnership³

Through the GRP Challenges, the Partnership identifies innovative ideas with real-world impact and supports these initiatives to achieve their full potential, taking them to scale where possible. The outputs and outcomes from these Challenges are then taken up through GRP’s communication work, its policy and influence agenda and the monitoring, evaluation and learning workstream. GRP has commissioned two Challenge rounds: Round 1 (R1) and the Water Window (WW), through which it works with 22 projects and 21 grantee consortia, comprising 116 partners, in 16 countries across the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and South and Southeast Asia.

1.2 Focus of this document

This document presents the result of a synthesis conducted by Itad that identifies the outcomes of projects designed and implemented by R1 grantees. It synthesizes the evidence to produce findings relevant to each of GRP’s four Impact Pathways (as described in Section 1.4).

The R1 Challenge comprises 10 grantees selected from nearly 500 applications in a competitive process in May 2016. Table 1 presents the organizations leading the project consortia.

Table 1: R1 grantees and their projects

Lead agency	Countries of focus	Project
Grameen Foundation	Philippines	Building Resilience of Smallholder Farmers in Southeast Asia
Groundswell International	Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso	Resilient Rural Livelihoods in Ecologically Fragile Drylands of the Sahel
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Kenya	Satellite Technologies, Innovative and Smart Financing for Food Security (SATISFy)
Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT)	India, Nepal, Bangladesh	Devising Local Coping Mechanisms and Adaptation Technologies to Build Climate-Resilience Capacities of Urban Poor in South Asia
Mercy Corps, Horn of Africa (HoA)	Kenya, (Somalia, Ethiopia)	Taking Risk out of Agricultural Trade for Relief and Development, Enhanced with Resilience (TRADER)

³ GRP Challenge Update, March 2018

Lead agency	Countries of focus	Project
Mercy Corps, Sahel	Niger, Mali	Linking Social and Financial Capital to Enhance Resilience of Agro-Pastoral Communities (LEAP) in Niger and Mali
MetaMeta	Ethiopia, Kenya	New Roads for Resilience: Connecting Roads, Water and Livelihoods
Producers Direct	Kenya, Uganda,	Harnessing the Power of Technology to Catalyze Value Chain Efficiency Improvements to Build Resilience, Catalyze Inclusion and Reach Vulnerable Smallholders
Trans African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory (TAHMO)	Uganda	Meteorological Early Warning Systems to Build Resilience to Acute Climate-Induced Shocks
University of Sydney	Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia	Disability and Disasters: Empowering People and Building Resilience to Risk

Full project descriptions are enclosed in Annex 1 together with further details on the consortium-leading organizations and their partners.

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), each grantee received up to US\$1.45 million to implement and scale up their resilience solutions. The selection process took place over multiple stages. Applicants competed in Stage One and Stage Two for funding (up to US\$ 200,000) to articulate problems and develop solutions. In Stage Three all grantees were given 18 months and funding (up to US\$ 1,000,000) to implement their solutions. Towards the end of the implementation timeframe, nine projects were granted additional implementation time. Five projects were selected for additional funding (up to US\$ 250,000) and scaling support through the GRP incubator.







1.3 Shocks and stresses

Seven of the ten projects mentioned above were implemented in sub-Saharan Africa and three in South and Southeast Asia. The projects were designed in the face of a new reality in those geographies: disasters and shocks are occurring more frequently and chronic stresses are lasting longer.⁴ All projects work with local people and organizations across the geographies to help them adapt to and cope with these shocks and chronic stresses – ranging from rapid-onset climate shocks and growing urbanization to pandemics and conflict – and to thrive in a more resilient future.

The shocks and stresses experienced within the project target areas during the time of implementation included climate events as well as stresses caused by volatile political, security and socio-economic environments. Table 2 presents a summary of shocks and stresses experienced by respective grantees.

⁴ Hallegatte, Stephane; Bangalore, Mook; Bonzanigo, Laura; Fay, Marianne; Kane, Tamaro; Narloch, Ulf; Rozenberg, Julie; Treguer, David; Vogt-Schilb, Adrien. 2016. *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty. Climate Change and Development*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Pages 31–32

Table 2: Visualization of shocks and stresses as they affected GRP projects

Project	Climate shocks and stresses			Political and socio-economic shocks		
	Temperature increase/ drought	Rain increase/ flood	Typhoon	Political unrest/ conflict	Food insecurity	Economic/ market shocks
						
Grameen Foundation	El Niño	-	-	-	Decline in agricultural production	-
Groundswell⁵	Unreliable rainfall	-	-	Political unrest and growing insecurity	Chronic vulnerability	-
IFPRI	Unreliable rainfall Drought					
MHT	Heatwaves in India	Floods in Bangladesh and Nepal	Monsoons in India		-	
Mercy Corps HoA	National drought	-	-	-	Livestock disease	Meat export market volatility
Mercy Corps Sahel	-	-	-	Insecurity	-	-
MetaMeta	Drought/El Niño	-	-	-	-	-
Producers Direct	Temperature increase/ drought	Rain increase	-	-	Failed harvests	-
University of Sydney	-	Floods in Bangkok	Typhoon in Philippines	-	-	-

While variable rain patterns and temperature rise affected the work of Mercy Corps, MetaMeta and Producers Direct in the Horn of Africa and MHT in India, three grantees in South and Southeast Asia reported typhoons and floods. The University of Sydney, for example, reported that a typhoon in the Philippines in December 2016 and floods in Bangkok in July–August 2017 had caused delays to some of its project activities. El Niño caused the worst drought in decades for MetaMeta in Ethiopia and undermined the work of Grameen in the Philippines by affecting local coconut production. MHT reported heavy monsoons in India and additional flooding in Bangladesh and Nepal in 2017. Related to the fluctuating rain patterns in the Horn of Africa, Mercy Corps reported an outbreak of livestock disease that had struck in the region in June–July 2017 and affected livestock traders involved in its project.

⁵ The information in this table was taken from the FNRs. Groundswell had one English and one French report. ‘Unreliable rainfall’ and ‘Growing insecurity’ were taken from the French report; ‘Chronic vulnerability’ was taken from the English report.

Political and socio-economic instability further constrained implementation. Groundswell, for example, reported security problems in Mali, elections in Senegal and political unrest in Burkina Faso, which resulted in delays in project implementation and exacerbated the food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty of local populations, increasing their dependency on aid.⁶ Reported by Mercy Corps Sahel, a deteriorating security context in Mali and Niger limited the mobility of people and the availability of services. Additional challenges that affected Mercy Corps' work in these countries were caused by increased conservatism and prohibition of interest on credit, affecting lending to agro-pastoralists, which was a key component of Mercy Corps' project.⁷ Finally, economic developments overseas caused socio-economic stresses. Mercy Corps' project in the Horn of Africa, for example, was affected by economic shocks incurred as a result of unstable meat export markets.⁸

1.4 Impact Pathways





GRP worked closely with R1 grantees to turn many of the above shocks and stresses into opportunities, with the overarching objective of reaching millions of people, leveraging their initial investment and changing the resilience landscape.

'GRP's approach is required to enable people, households, communities, countries, and/or systems to cope with unforeseen events and transform in the face of sudden or protracted crises. At GRP, we believe resilience is about having the capacity to persist, adapt, and transform in the face of change.'⁹

The Global Resilience Partnership

GRP's strategy to achieve impact is guided by four Impact Pathways, which are reflected in the design of each of the eight projects. These pathways were used to structure parts of the projects' Final Narrative Reports (FNRs), which required grantees to answer the below questions.¹⁰

Section 3 of the synthesis explores grantees' narrative answers to these questions in combination with the data that the grantees reported on relevant GRP and USAID indicators. The identified outcomes are then synthesized under thematic areas relevant to respective Impact Pathways. Section 2 outlines the detailed methodology used to deliver the synthesis.

	1.	Policy influencing	What were the policy changes needed for the project to succeed and to take its results to scale? What actions has the project taken to influence and change policy?
	2.	Finance and investment	What are the potential investment opportunities for your project? Has the project mobilized any new sources of investment/funding? Clearly explain how GRP support facilitated the mobilization of reported resources.
	3.	Innovation and scaling	What opportunities can your project explore to ensure the sustainability of results? What steps have been taken to ensure project scale-up or exit (include scaling indicators)?
	4.	Knowledge and partnership	What knowledge events and partnership-building activities has the project engaged in? How has the project shared lessons and stories? What communications work has been executed?

⁶ Groundswell, FNR

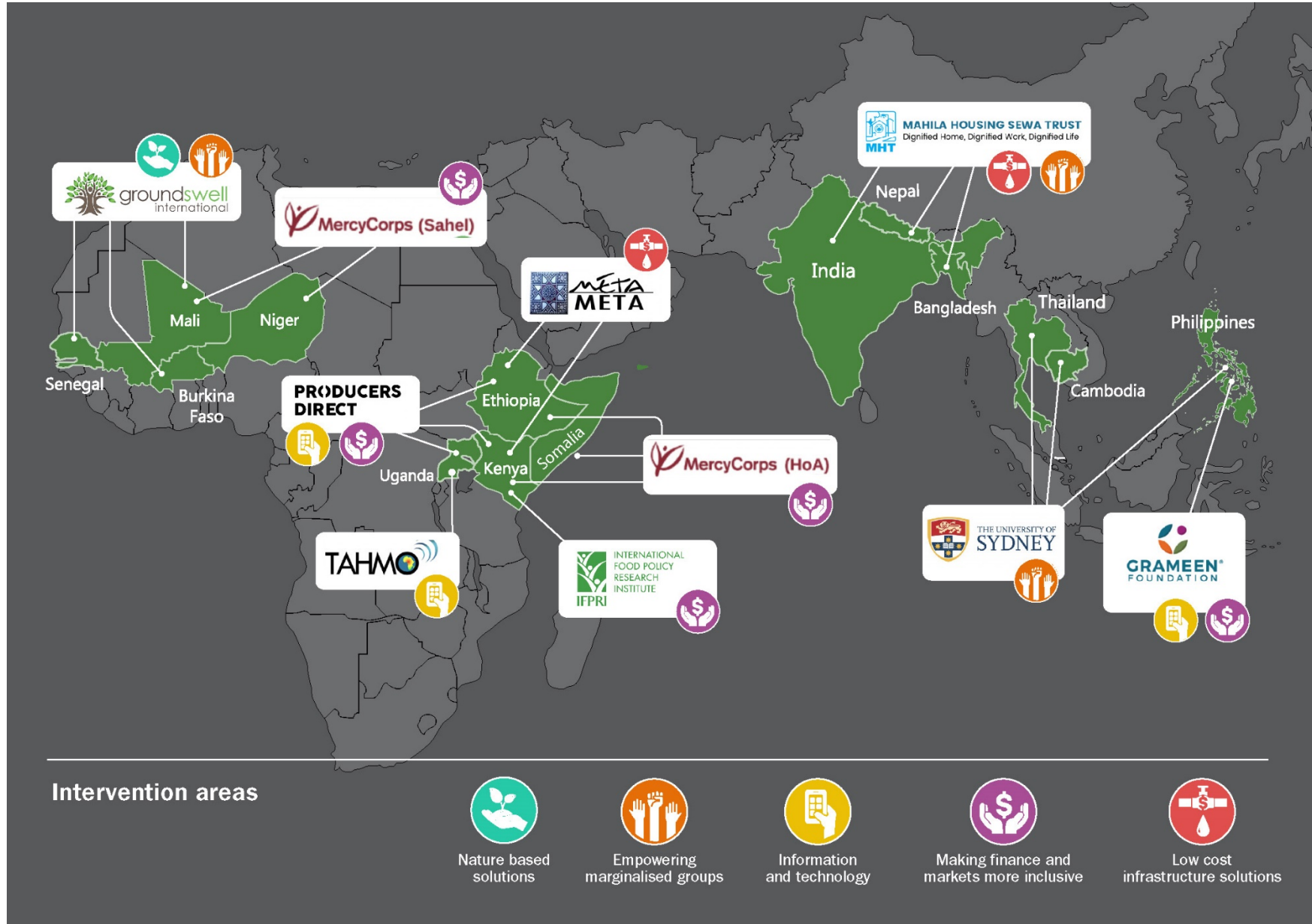
⁷ Mercy Corps Sahel, FNR

⁸ Mercy Corps HoA, FNR

⁹ The Global Resilience Partnership, available at <http://www.globalresiliencepartnership.org/aboutus/> (accessed 8 November 2018)

¹⁰ Emphases in bold added for the purpose of this synthesis.

Figure 1: Map of countries targeted by Challenge



2. Methodology

The synthesis draws primarily on **qualitative and quantitative data** provided by grantees in their FNRs, which comprise three sections: activity reporting (Section A), results reporting (Section B) and reporting of lessons learned (Section C) (see Table 3).

Table 3: Relevant reporting sections of FNR template

Activity reporting	Results reporting	Learning
<p>Section A detailed (i) progress against work plan activities. Grantees described the key activities accomplished. Grantees were also asked about (ii) opportunities and difficulties they had experienced and which activities had worked well and which ones had not.</p>	<p>In Section B, grantees outlined (i) data collection strategy and methods, including how they (and their partners) had generated evidence, and (ii) progress against selected USAID/GRP and project-specific indicators. Grantees were asked to describe progress against selected indicators. Quantitative reporting was accompanied by a brief narrative on each indicator with grantees reporting on outlining changes that had happened as a result of project activities and their project's contribution to such changes. Grantees were asked to provide (iii) Impact Pathway narratives by answering the questions detailed in Section 1.2 of this report. Finally, grantees described (iv) shocks or stresses that had taken place during the implementation of their project. Where relevant, they also included evidence of how their project had built resilience and reduced the effect of shocks or stresses on the well-being of their beneficiaries.</p>	<p>In Section C, grantees reflected on (i) what had been learned about their project during the implementation period and (ii) lessons learned against the three Areas of Transformation (AoT) by answering learning questions about inclusive decision-making, partnerships and resilience thinking.</p>

The synthesis draws on qualitative data reported in all three sections (A, B and C) with a particular focus on grantees' progress and learning in relation to each of the four Impact Pathways and key outcomes. We also collated information reported on shocks and stresses the grantees experienced during the project implementation period. The team initially reviewed the first six FNRs submitted by grantees in Q3 2018. Based on the available evidence, we created a coding frame, which we then used to code narratives in all reports. Additional data was then also used from Site Visit Reports and any external evaluations carried out for projects.

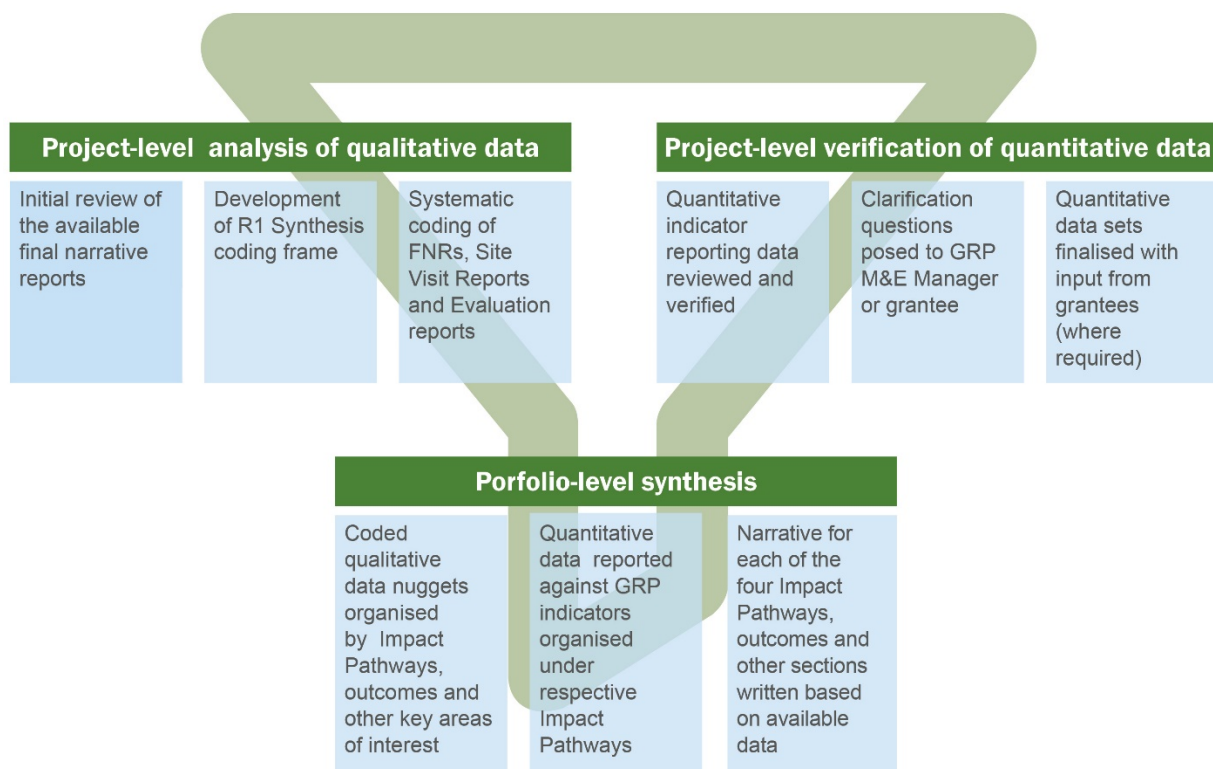
Synthesis of quantitative data comprised data verification and synthesis. We first reviewed all quantitative data grantees submitted in Section B of their FNR and identified any figures that seemed unreasonable or inconsistent with the data reported in quarterly reports. Inconsistencies were clarified with the relevant grantees to verify the figures. The team then identified the indicators that were most relevant to the four Impact Pathways and included them as part of the evidence to be presented in each of the respective sections of the synthesis report.

When the qualitative data had been coded and the quantitative data verified, the datasets were organized under respective Impact Pathways and narratives were written based on the available evidence.

The approach to the R1 synthesis was presented in the R1 synthesis approach paper, which GRP reviewed in August 2018. The feedback was reflected in the final approach.

The main limitation to the synthesis relates to the quality of the FNRs that were the primary source of evidence, and the extent to which grantees evidenced their answers to questions posed under respective Impact Pathways (these questions are also set out in Section 1.2 of this report).

Figure 2: Step-by-step approach to data synthesis



To mitigate this and ensure the reports were of the highest quality, the GRP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) team provided a written MEL guidance, one-on-one coaching during MEL clinics and on-going support via a MEL helpdesk – an email address dedicated to grantees’ MEL-related queries. Furthermore, a series of MEL webinars provided guidance on reporting against selected indicators. Beyond this, however, the team had limited control over the quality of FNRs, which the grantees were responsible for conducting using resources from their project budget.

Grantees reported quantitative data on a quarterly basis with GRP continuously monitoring submissions. The GRP MEL team verified grantees’ final quantitative reporting.

Grantees’ qualitative and quantitative reporting was further limited by the relatively short reporting timeframe. Grantees’ reporting focused largely on the activities delivered and their outputs. Outcome reporting was limited to short-term outcomes.

2.1 Assessing outcomes

An additional part of synthesis looked specifically at the outcomes the projects achieved. Each project had a set of specific outcomes against which it reported. However, beyond those indicator figures, we wanted to identify outcomes of particular interest in terms of innovation and potential impact on resilience. These areas of outcomes were identified through analysis of the external evaluation reports and the FNRs, as well as through consultation with GRP.

Coding for outcomes was carried out separately, with the researcher identifying key outcomes initially from external evaluation reports where available, and then also from FNRs. A descriptive code was given to each outcome identified, with codes differing across projects. Data was then analyzed by project and then across project.

The quantity and quality of this outcome-level data varied, especially where grantees had not submitted an external evaluation report. Data was reviewed for consistency and strength, using the following matrix.

Table 4: Strength of evidence matrix

Test type	Strong	Moderate	Weak	No evidence
Frequency	Evidence based on multiple and diverse stakeholders and source types	Evidence from multiple sources but with limited diversity in stakeholder or source type	Evidence from one source with limited numbers of stakeholders in agreement	No evidence found and/or contradicting position among stakeholders
Methodological	Evidence collected using recognizable, robust and transparent methods, which could include experimental (counterfactual design) or rigorous and large qualitative studies	Some evidence collected as in 'Strong' or methods do not use counterfactuals or sufficiently address the question of attribution but are recognizable techniques for assessing outcomes	Methods used are not considered to be sufficiently robust or clearly presented	Methods are either not presented or considered too weak to have faith in the results produced

3.GRP R1 Challenges in practice

The R1 grantees were varied in their aims and objectives, with project plans ranging from large-scale infrastructure development and policy influencing to community-level empowerment of women.

3.1 Project descriptions

Full descriptions of the projects can be found in Annex 1

Grameen Foundation received funding to build resilience among coconut farmers in the Philippines, who, despite forming the backbone of the country's top agricultural industry, are chronically poor and especially vulnerable to climate change. The team aimed to help farmers improve productivity, access financial services, expand market access and use early warning systems (EWS) to control pest and disease outbreaks.

Groundswell International engaged in building the resilience of communities in the Sahel's ecologically fragile dry lands, giving particular attention to women in more vulnerable households.

IFPRI received funding to address the challenge presented by uninsured risks, which is a major cause of low agricultural productivity in the Horn of Africa. It proposed a market-based innovative risk management solution in the form of Risk-Contingent Credit (RCC) – a social safety net that could mitigate drought risks for the rural poor and improve farm productivity and livelihoods.

Mercy Corps Horn of Africa helped livestock owners manage their assets and livelihood risks while simultaneously increasing their household-level productivity and wealth.

Mercy Corps Sahel worked to strengthen the resilience of agro-pastoralists in Mali and Niger by expanding their access to formal financial services. The project educated agro-pastoralist men and women to make informed decisions about their household finances and better manage risk. Using mobile banking and other technologies, the project aimed to bring 50,000 agro-pastoralists into the formal financial market.

MetaMeta introduced innovative designs and improved guidelines to harvest roadside rainwater, prevent soil erosion and improve use of roadside land. Central to this work was bringing together government authorities, water and climate experts and roadside communities.

MHT received funding to empower women from slums in seven South Asian cities to take action against the most pressing climate-related risks facing their communities: heatwaves, flooding, water scarcity and water- and vector-borne diseases. The team aimed to equip the urban poor with the tools and know-how to undertake vulnerability and risk assessments and implement their own resilience plans.

Producers Direct aimed to ensure smallholder households have access to systems, tools, data and information to increase value chain efficiency and inclusion, improve market opportunities, economic growth and poverty reduction and ensure financial inclusion, especially for women and youth.

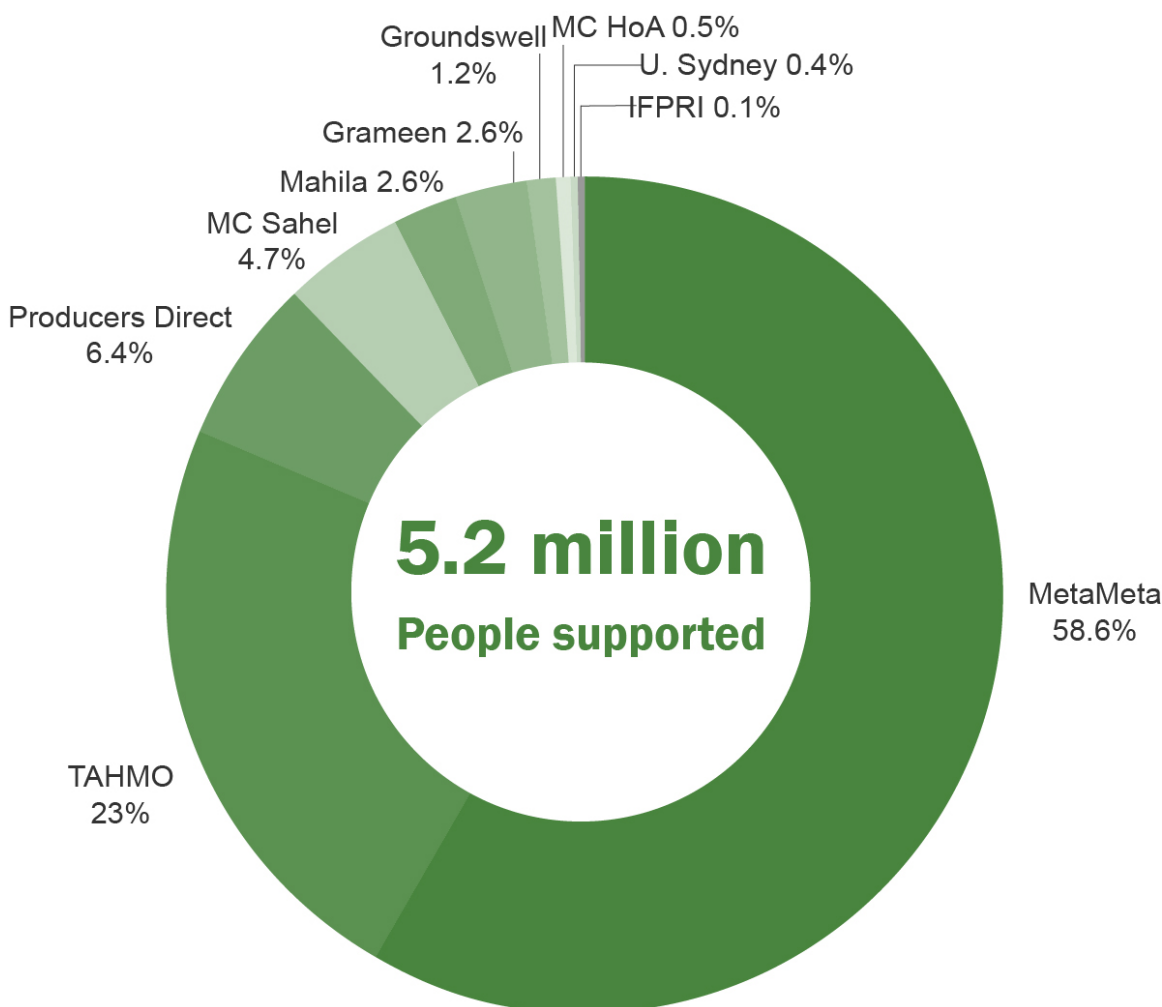
TAHMO received funding to empower local communities and vulnerable farmers across Uganda with an innovative early warning weather system for severe weather.

University of Sydney aimed to strengthen the voices of people with disabilities in Southeast Asia, who are disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters and often overlooked in traditional disaster risk reduction efforts.

3.2 People supported

R1 grantees aimed to support 4.5 million people by the end of their projects. By the end of their implementation timeframe, 10 projects had supported over 5 million beneficiaries (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Total number of GRP beneficiaries (% indicates individual grantee contributions towards total)



As Figure 3 illustrates, 58.6% of the overall number of GRP people supported was a result of **MetaMeta's** work in the Horn of Africa, where it co-creates solutions with governments in Ethiopia and Kenya to utilize roads for rain water harvesting, preventing soil erosion while enabling productive use of land. MetaMeta has implemented road water harvesting projects in Ethiopia and Kenya, as well as Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Tajikistan, Uganda and Zambia. Just in Ethiopia, the project benefited over 3 million people with R1 support funded by USAID through GRP.¹¹

MetaMeta claims that the project's success in Ethiopia and Kenya owed largely to its **collaborative approach**, which enabled local actors (road, water and agriculture authorities) to input into the project outputs and actively participate in its implementation.

¹¹ "In total, since 2015 (including 6 campaigns), 6,679,696 people have benefited in Ethiopia due to the inclusion of road water harvesting in the mass mobilization and the efforts on road side planting. Considering that several people will be addressed in subsequent moving campaigns, the "net" number is estimated to be 3,006,000 or 45% of total (MetaMeta, FNR). Figures on citizen participation in the mass mobilization campaigns have come from Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development offices in the regional states and are likely to be accurate (Yaron, G. (2018). Exploring the Cost-Benefit of Roads for Water in Ethiopia, GRP Case Study).

'What worked really well was bringing together all actors in knowledge events, letting them discuss and find solutions together... the co-generation of communication materials and publications helped to create a sense of partnership and ownership of the approach.'¹²

MetaMeta

TAHMO partnered with mobile operators and the Ugandan National Meteorological Authority to provide low-cost, on-demand access to weather alerts to Ugandan cell phone users and free access to all Airtel subscribers. **The project has seen the establishment of a network of weather stations and the delivery of EWS information to approximately 1.2 million people.** On an international level, important linkages have been made with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and TAHMO also has received support from IBM to deliver weather data to the Weather Channel.

A collaborative approach combined with **large-scale layered engagement** outreach through local farmers and radio enabled **Producers Direct** in Kenya and Uganda to reach out to a total of 332,500 beneficiaries. These mostly included smallholder farmers benefiting from improved access to farmer-to-farmer extension (Wefarm) and market information (2kuze) through digital tools. Design of the tools, which helped inform commercial decisions and promote on-farm diversification, was informed by beneficiary feedback. While rural radio networks spread awareness of the initiative and the benefits of digital tools, trained community agents (Wefarm Ambassadors) demonstrated use in target communities, enhancing uptake among smallholders as a result.

'Radio has been a key driver of growth in Wefarm user numbers throughout the project, with some of the radio shows aired on the larger Kenyan radio networks resulting in over 6,000 farmer sign-ups to Wefarm per show. On average, approximately 900 farmer sign-ups were achieved per show across Uganda and Kenya.'¹³

Producers Direct

Effective large-scale communication activities (radio announcements, trainings of ambassadors), combined with initiatives to engage, consult, empower and build the capacity of local actors, had a positive upward effect on the number of people benefiting from R1 projects.¹⁴ Section 5 discusses the potential of these design characteristics with regard to project sustainability.

¹² MetaMeta, FNR. Page 13

¹³ Producers Direct, FNR. Page 5

¹⁴ The nature of radio broadcasting makes it difficult to tell whether those messages were actually listened to or changed the behavior of their listeners as a result. We therefore consider such beneficiaries 'indirect'.

4. Exploring project outcomes

This section focuses on the outcomes achieved as reported by the grantees or as identified from external evaluation documents. Some grantees felt that the project time-scale was too short to truly demonstrate impact. However, all grantees could demonstrate outcomes, with some picking up on how those outcomes were leading to positive impact on creating resilience to climate shocks and stresses. This section will describe emerging outcomes from the ten grantees, before summarizing the key themes from across the grantees.

4.1 Grameen: Mobile extension for resilient value chains

Key outcomes

- Grameen Foundation delivered services to 26,732 beneficiary households comprising 133,660 family members – 67,498 female (50.5%) and 66,162 male (49.5%).
- 5 mobile extension tools were designed, of which 4 were piloted and the 5th is still in development.
- The value of financial services provided was US\$23,920.
- 1,290 people using EWS.
- 1,525 people received short-term agricultural training in food security.
- 1,290 people were trained in climate change adaptation
- 74 loans were granted by People's Bank of Caraga.

The project developed and piloted a suite of mobile extension tools to provide extension services and EWS, facilitate access to markets and registration with farm agents and allow for digital organic certification. Face-to-face support and training were also provided.

SMS information well received, with more than half of users acting on the information provided

As a result of the SMS-based extension information received, 86% of farmers who used the feedback system reported that they had learned appropriate actions to take in the case of dry weather, but only 58% put into practice recommended actions. Farmers were able to take appropriate action against pests after receiving information through the SMS EWS system and 57% of farmers who received 'too dry' weather EWS alerts acted on them. A total of 65% of farmers reported that SMS content on financial literacy was influential.

A mixed picture on increased productivity as a result of adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)

There is weak evidence of adoption of the GAPs delivered through the training. There is some partial adoption among two treatment groups of two GAPs (salt application and mulching) identified by the project and the Philippine Coconut Authority as having most impact on productivity. Treatment groups displayed slightly greater improvement than control groups in adoption of six out of nine GAPs. The control group outperformed treatment groups in the remaining three GAPs. Groups who only received EWS information, and not additional training and support, outperformed the control group in the adoption of only two GAPs.

Very high satisfaction among farmers from the all solutions group (who received additional training and support) with agricultural extension visits

Farmers reported high levels of satisfaction with elements of FarmerLink related to farm management and, in a large majority of cases, would recommend the project to others.

Particular success in influencing both the public and the private sectors

The Davao regional office of the Philippine Coconut Authority is now adopting FarmerLink tools as part of its field registration process, because it saw the efficiency of using a digital tool and the value of having access to real-time information and data analysis. Nationally, the Philippine Coconut Authority has confirmed its intention to sustain the project and to scale it up in other provinces post-grant.

The use of mobile tools introduced during the project has also been seen to have the potential to improve the efficiency of the inspection process for private sector coconut buyers:

'Partners save money and increase efficiencies when using mobile technology. Results showed (1) a 62% efficiency gain in the digital farm organic inspection process compared to manual processes of Franklin Baker, (2) that field officers can double their farmer outreach for farm inspection using the mobile tools, and (3) that the value of the efficiency gain is \$3,676 per field officer per year or \$47,788 per year if used by all 13 of the current field officers of Franklin Baker.'¹⁵

Private sector uptake leading to follow-on funding

The leadership of the People's Bank of Caraga saw the benefits of digital tools piloted by the project in making their processes more efficient and improving their knowledge of their client base. They can use the system to access farmer profiles and get a snapshot of their client base, which they can then use to target financial products appropriately. Further funding has therefore been secured from the People's Bank of Caraga to extend FarmerLink for 12 months, and the project has managed to secure a formal public-private partnership between the Philippine Coconut Authority and the People's Bank of Caraga to take FarmerLink forward.

4.2 Groundswell: Gender, agro-ecology, nutrition and policy

Key outcomes:

- 60,021 people within 148 villages across Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso were supported.
- 10,102 farmers applied 13 technology or practices, including tree-based farming, rapid compost, contour rock bunds, improved land clearing, gully erosion barriers and inter-cropping.
- An estimated 4,600 households benefited from equity-oriented interventions, largely savings and credit groups.
- 231 organizations received agricultural or food security-related organizational development assistance through the project.
- 18,000 people from the most vulnerable households benefited from nutrition interventions.
- National-level policy briefs were produced advocating for policy change by different stakeholders on agriculture for improved nutrition.
- Local governance strengthening enabled the modification of 5-year development plans and budget in 4 communes in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Agro-ecology practices widely adopted and improved nutrition and farm system resilience

Overall, more than 9,000 households in the 148 targeted villages adopted agro-ecological innovations. The adoption of agro-ecological practices has been greater than expected, with households in the targeted villages adopting at least one of the proposed innovations over two farming seasons.

¹⁵ FNR. Page 13

Some evidence suggests that yields for all farmers, including women farmers, have increased as a result of adopting these practices, that households are increasing their intake of highly nutritious foods and that farming systems are also now more resilient.

Governance systems were also put in place to support the promotion of agro-ecology for resilience:

- In Burkina Faso, Association Nourrir sans Détruire established agro-ecological committees across 95 villages and supported the integration of resilience activities into two municipal plans.
- In Mali, Sahel Eco supported the establishment/revival of 63 local village committees in order to promote agro-ecology. This resulted in communal resilience plans for two communes. Eight action research villages were also supported to integrate crosscutting issues of equity, empowerment and nutrition into their own plans for building resilience.
- Existing local governance structures displayed some changes in understanding and awareness of resilience, with capacity built to plan and strategize for resilience. There is also some evidence of budgets being modified to accommodate resilience activities at district level in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Empowering women translating into more equitable decision-making

A particularly important area of outcomes for this project is around gender and women's empowerment, with 2,761 women benefiting from interventions designed to address gendered inequalities and promote women's empowerment. Women displayed greater self-confidence and ambition as a result of their increased decision-making power, as noted by non-governmental organization (NGO) and project workers.

'They [women] no longer shy away from attending public gatherings. This also marks a significant change in cultural practice.'¹⁶

Through the project, women received training on agro-ecological farming methods and access to new collectively farmed plots and credit groups. As a result, women reported more influence over family decision-making around land and labor use and improved capacity to generate their own income. By so doing, they were making financial contributions to the household and increasing their status as decision-makers.

'Women generate their own income and are as a result financially empowered. Men have become more appreciative of the benefits of empowering women to generate income, because it means their wives can play a greater part in meeting the household financial and food security needs. To some extent, this reduces the burden of men, who are traditionally responsible for fully meeting these household's needs. Women were sensitized on the need to use household income to diversify food for a better nutrition – they are empowered to have a greater say in the household in terms of how to use this income. Lastly, women's groups have provided a key forum to convey important messages to its members, including how to best make use of their savings or loans for farming, and improved nutrition. This has empowered women to make more informed decisions at the household level.'¹⁷

The credit and savings groups also had positive outcomes in terms of increasing social capital for women both within and outside of the groups. The women took leadership roles in

¹⁶ WEC. Page 25

¹⁷ Ibid. Page 23

the credit groups, creating their own internal rules and working together to create systems that work best for them. They also guided women from neighboring communities to set up credit groups, sharing their knowledge and experiences and building solidarity with and among women in different communities.

There was, however, also evidence of tensions with husbands because of initial changes in the roles within the household and discussions around gender and resilience at community level. However, evidence of economic benefits helped ease these tensions.

‘Men are starting to witness how the women’s increased agricultural knowledge and increased income are benefitting their households. This is starting to change women’s status; husbands seem to be giving women a greater say in household decisions.’¹⁸

There is anecdotal evidence of shifting gender dynamics in villages where women are taking more control of decision-making and are less dependent on their husbands.

Community cooperation delivering environmental benefits

Another way in which inter-community cooperation and collaboration has increased is around ecological issues. As villagers learn how cooperation between communities is needed to best conserve environmental resources (e.g. one village seeking to regenerate tree densities needed the cooperation of neighboring villages not to destroy those trees), they are cascading the training so as to support their efforts. As communities start to look at the importance of the wider ecosystem instead of a household focus, the links between other communities are becoming important.

Influence of the project on partners to consider resilience and nutrition issues

The project reports that partners are now using a more focused approach to identifying the poorest households and that they are now integrating resilience strategies into their proposals. Groundswell's project partners/network members have improved their understanding of the need to integrate nutrition into agro-ecology programming, and have developed strategies and tools for doing so. Partner organization staff across target countries reported a new or improved understanding of the role of diversification in nutrition, and the potential impacts for communities they work with, resulting in concrete steps being taken to include nutrition in upcoming programming and planning. An example of this is in Mali, where Sahel Eco reports that medical staff in rural health posts have started to change their messaging to encourage villagers to eat a nutritious diet, rather than simply offering them curative measures to manage malnutrition.

4.3 IFPRI: Experimenting with Risk-Contingent Credit¹⁹

Key outcomes

- A risk-contingent credit product was developed which includes trigger points linked to a satellite-derived drought index and household/market information.
- Preliminary data shows that the uptake rate of the RCC loans are more than 10% higher than that of traditional loans.
- An end line survey for the 1,170 households in 5 sub-counties was carried out and completed in the month of May 2018.
- IFPRI obtained US\$430,000 in funding from 3ie to further evaluate RCC in Kenya, which is a key opportunity to build on GRP.
- Gained interest of banking partner to continue development of the product.

¹⁸ Ibid. Page 25

¹⁹ Final reports, and therefore final outcome data, are not available for IFPRI as of publication of this report.

Satellite Technologies, Innovative and Smart Financing for Food Security

The project proposed a market-based innovative risk management solution in the form of Risk-Contingent Credit (RCC), a social safety net to mitigate drought risks for the rural poor. RCC is a linked financial product that embeds within its structure insurance protection, which, when triggered, offsets loan payments due to the lender. RCC thereby seeks to address the challenge that lenders are reluctant to lend to farmers because of the financial risks associated with crop failure or radical decreases in market prices. Because RCC targets downside business risk, it simultaneously reduces financial risk and exposure.

The innovative financial product was communicated to farmers through a participatory game. Financial training was carried out with farmers, during which there was a public lottery to randomise a sample into three groups, traditional credit, RCC, or control (no credit). The randomized control trial showed higher uptake of the RCC than the traditional loan amongst risk-rationed farmers. It thus appears that the risk-balancing effect encouraged risk-rationed farmers to increase the use of credit.

There were some limitations around the implementation of the research project, with the randomisation process causing negative influence from those not selected for a loan, but also with the bank having to try and convince selected farmers to take a loan if they were not interested. There were also limitations due to delays in funding meaning that the timing for credit did not fit with the farmers' planting cycle. Additional external limitations were linked to the elections in Kenya which impacted on timing.

As a result of these limitations, the team feel that there is the need for further implementation to improve the loan rate and increase knowledge about uptake and links to production. IFPRI obtained US\$430,000 in funding from 3ie to further evaluate RCC in Kenya, which is a key opportunity to build on through GRP scaling support. Going forward, more work is being done to develop the product and build on what has already happened, with banking partners interested in further development of the product.

4.4 Mahila Housing Trust: Women's empowerment and urban resilience

Key outcomes:

- MHT supported 135,275 people.
- 114 women-led Community Action Groups (CAGs) with 1,355 women and 249 adolescent/youth representatives became functional in 7 cities of South Asia, which mobilized 27,055 slum families into community-based organizations.
- 35% of households involved in the project have become less vulnerable.
- MHT fostered multi-stakeholder partnerships in 7 cities reaching more than 280 experts, government officials and other representatives.
- The proportion of households 'less vulnerable' to climate-related risks increased by 16.6%, and moderate and highly vulnerable households decreased by 3.8% and 12.8% respectively.

Women's empowerment, voice and confidence to improve water quality and access

There is particularly strong evidence for outcomes in relation to women's empowerment, including in particular the building of women's social capital, community management of vulnerability, improved networks and knowledge- and awareness-building.

There is strong evidence from the qualitative evaluation report surrounding the empowerment of women through the strengthening of social capital, increasing knowledge and developing networks. The evidence demonstrates that the women's CAG were able to create positive change and important impacts on the lives of women living in the slums. In particular, there is evidence that key indicators such as reduction in water quantity and quality saw greater improvements in treatment communities.

1. 32.7 % increase in population having sufficient water during summers.
2. A significant number of households with decreases of respective risks and susceptibility by more than 20 % (relative to baseline condition).
3. More than 70 % (72.3%) of the HHs have reduced risk by 20% for 2 or more risks/susceptibility.
4. Significant increase in the proportion of lower-risk vulnerability group by 16.6 % and decrease in moderate-risk and higher-risk vulnerable population by 3.8 % and 12.8 % respectively.
5. Statistically significant reductions in vulnerability relative to pre-intervention period.
6. Statistically significant decreases in the risks for water quantity risk, water quality risk, Flooding risk, Heat stress risk and Social capital susceptibility'.²⁰

There is strong evidence of increases in women's confidence following training attendance, with women disputing decisions made by local government and other stakeholders, resulting in improvements to daily living conditions.²¹ There is particularly strong evidence of increases in municipal-level support, with women able to negotiate and advocate for their communities confidently:

'Empowering women to advocate in a non-confrontational/collaborative manner increases municipal support to address these [slum community] needs.'²²

'Gradually communities start realizing the importance of collective action and an effective leadership. The case of Bag Sewaniya-B in Bhopal offers insights into this community collectivization and empowerment process. The slum had a canal flowing next to the community, which was extremely polluted, and potentially a health hazard. During earlier meetings the women raised the issue several times with a sense of helplessness. MHT advised them to call the Chief Minister's Helpline Number to lodge a complaint. After a few days, the city's Sanitary Inspector visited the slum. He put some medicine/chemical treatment in the canal, which was hardly of any use. But he insisted that the community signed the official papers agreeing that the problem has been addressed. The community leaders returned to MHT seeking advice on how to move further. They were informed that they should not sign unless the problem is genuinely resolved. There was a lot of back and forth between the community and the local government for the next couple of months. But the canal was finally cleaned. This first victory provided a big boost for the community. The women who had taken an active role in this matter were nominated into the CAG, which became more engaged and active with each action.'²³

Improving resilience and reducing risk through better engagement

Another key outcome has been in relation to improved links between communities and municipal government, with communities being empowered to approach and work with (or

²⁰ QER. Page 31

²¹ Ibid. Pages 64 and 89

²² Ibid. Page 109

²³ Ibid. Page 89

challenge) these stakeholders. Municipal governments are also increasingly recognizing and championing the work being undertaken as part of the project. Examples of this include MHT finding further areas of collaboration within municipal departments in Ahmedabad, project activity success in Bhopal being recognized and supported by previously resistant municipal departments and MHT's solutions for making slum homes cooler being scaled up and added to city action plans in Ahmedabad. As a result of this work in Ahmedabad, MHT was recognized as a key stakeholder in the 2017 Ahmedabad city-level Heat Action Plan and won the Delhi Urban Labs Challenge to replicate efforts on heat resilience in Delhi. It also received funding from the National Resources Defence Council (NRDC) to take up its climate-resilience initiatives in India in relation to heat resilience in particular.

Community participation and engagement in climate-related risk management was greatest where MHT incorporated tangible benefits based on community demands. Longer-term work around addressing climate change behaviors was improved by the incorporation of short-term 'quick-win' projects that addressed immediate community need.

Building knowledge and awareness contributing to a reduction in vector-borne diseases

In Bhopal, the drive to improve understanding and management of vector-borne diseases saw a reduction in levels of larvae and community implementation of vector management, while in Ahmedabad, community-led initiatives to improve knowledge around water-/vector-borne diseases led to behavior change around hygiene and water quality and increased the use of water purifiers. 'Child Doctors' were trained to collect data on larvae presence, and this initiative increased community engagement and produced high levels of vector surveillance, especially in year one of the project, although this support dropped off in year two when CAG leaders took over the initiative.

Examples of innovative campaigns include a snakes and ladders game, which demonstrates issues of resilience and vulnerability, posters and folk media shows. There was also an animated film 'Ramaben's Story', which became popular with communities. These approaches have been shared at national and international events. Evidence shows that communities recalled the information they were given and put it into practice.

'The communities in Bhopal have a very high recollection of all the technical trainings. In fact, in the CAG experience sharing workshop organised in Bhopal in July 2017, most CAG leaders recollected in detail what was shared in each of the trainings right from basic information like "Dengue mosquitoes are day time mosquitos" to "Need for sewage lines to be 15 ft away from water lines.'²⁴

In addition to the wider community awareness-raising, technical training was carried out to build the capacity of CAG leaders to raise awareness and promote small-scale behavior change, and the CAG leader behavior change study demonstrated increased knowledge, behavior change and small resilience actions being carried out at individual and community level.

The community management of vulnerability is probably the most important area of outcomes. The key mechanism of change for the project, community-based vulnerability assessments, were carried out by almost 70% of CAGs, with more than one third subsequently developing community resilience action plans. Examples of these being put into action include the implementation of community-level infrastructure solutions such as the revival of wells in Ahmedabad, use of community water meters, plantations and landscaping. Following training on vector surveillance in Rahulnagar, the CAG used its newfound knowledge of the link between unsanitary conditions and infectious diseases to push for improved cleaning in their area. It also

²⁴ Ibid. Page 67

decided to contribute money to support the cleaners in their increased efforts, given the recognized value to the community.

4.5 Mercy Corps (HoA), Adaptive management and learning from failure

Key outcomes

- 2,000 livestock-keeping households benefited from livestock sales stimulated by the Mifugo Kash Kash (MKK) pilot.
- Crescent Takaful Sacco (CTS) (project partner and Islamic finance provider) disbursed US\$124,940 in loans.
- Important learning resulted about the role of Islamic principles in financial transactions around livestock value chains.
- Feed subsidy strengthened links between market actors.
- Small traders gained access to export markets.

Adaptive project management ensuring no harm was done and the product could be refined

By forging new linkages between market actors, the scheme was designed to support improved market functions and enhanced resilience to future drought within the livestock system. Given the limited time-scale of the project, the project team documentation stated that it would be *'irresponsible to claim that the project built resilience'*. However, important learning has been generated from this project as close monitoring made it possible to recognize that the pilot approach was not working. Adaptive project management allowed the pilot to be safely tested, stopped when problems were recognized and redesigned to better meet local needs.

'During the first three trade cycles, less than half of the 13 livestock trader groups involved made profit on the trade, and CTS lost money. Mercy Corps could not in good conscious advise CTS to proceed with the original six-cycle pilot plan. Instead, we agreed with CTS to press pause on the pilot. We reviewed evidence and learning, consulted with the traders and Islamic finance experts, and reconvened equipped to iterate our approach.'²⁵

Effective monitoring, flexible management and careful risk calculation allowed for effective and thorough testing of MKK.

'Mercy Corps was able to test MKK safely and productively during the pilot of MKK Mudharaba—surfacing learning to refine the product without detriment to the wellbeing of the target population. We attribute this success to our shock-responsive monitoring systems that quickly alerted us to potential issues, combined with a flexible and responsive management system that allowed us to pivot quickly and nimbly in response.'²⁶

Mercy Corps was therefore able to work flexibly with different funders and partner organizations to find a cost-effective way to design and pilot a value chain financing product. As a result of the field-testing and adaptation, a new product was developed and transferred. Though there was insufficient time to fully test the new product design and achieve Phase 3, Mercy Corps continues to partner with CTS through an extension of the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) program.

²⁵ FNR. Page 10

²⁶ Ibid.

A number of other mechanisms were put in place to allow for the piloting, including feed/fodder subsidies, which proved an effective means to strengthen links between market actors and to support traders while MKK was piloted. The subsidies for 2,145 vulnerable households stimulated fodder sales and supported traders to meet buyer requirements, and to minimize reputational and financial risks. Despite the pilot proving unsuccessful, it gave small traders who had previously sold in local markets access to export markets and benefited 2,000 livelihood-keeping households in Wajir county, Kenya, through livestock sales.

4.6 Mercy Corps (Sahel): Financial and climatic information-sharing

Key outcomes:

- The project reached 227,992 people through financial education messages broadcast on local radio.
- 15,769 people were trained in climate change adaptation.
- 8,320 members signed up with 312 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) in 107 villages in Mali and Niger.
- 88 groups (1,333 members, 88% women) received US\$153,000 mobile loans.
- 1,239 people took up financial services.

Higher than anticipated penetration of messages, improving use of financial services for climate risk management

The project targeted agro-pastoralists in Mali and Niger, providing access to financial and entrepreneurship training through radio and mobile platforms. The radio education and awareness campaigns reached a larger amount of people than was anticipated.

The financial messaging shared through radio aim to change behaviors that help households better absorb and adapt to climate shocks that affect production-based livelihoods – namely, drought, rainfall variability and land degradation. The design of the messaging is curriculum-based.

Evidence of increased access to financial services among agro-pastoralists

- 9,200 people from savings groups and cooperatives opened e-wallets or microfinance institution (MFI) accounts.
- 10,382 people have used an adapted financial product.
- 84 small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including farmers, have received agricultural credit.
- 330 organizations opened a mobile money or MFI account

Overall, there was an increase in the numbers of financial transactions carried out, as well as in the diversity of sources of financing for agro-pastoralist communities:

‘On an individual level, clients—vulnerable smallholders—are using the financial services successfully and express satisfaction to continue. These new relationships between MNOs and MFIs, between clients with formal financial institutions, increased financial education and smallholders’ access to resources that can support better management of climate shocks and stresses are all irreversible positive changes that can contribute to resilience.’²⁷

²⁷ FNR. Page 15

Women more involved in decision-making

In terms of the outcomes on women in particular, the project has had promising results, with the percentage of women involved in financial decision-making increasing from 9% to 23% in Niger and from 19% to 32% in Mali.²⁸ An important partnership during the project was made with the Mercy Corps project, which carried out anthropological research into women's economic involvement, the results of which were fed into LEAP, resulting in specific follow-up activities promoting shared financial decision-making.

Important outcomes in relation to influencing the system for sustainability

The LEAP project facilitated systems-level change in private sector providers of financial services and products, towards adapting to an agro-pastoralist client base. Private sector actors have indicated a desire to continue and expand provision of financial service to agro-pastoralist communities. Also, Malian partner organizations have begun to develop their own solutions to provide financial products and services to vulnerable groups, with the MFI now in contact with other projects to develop further products for farmers, with support from financial partners, and Planet Guarantee working with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Grameen Foundation and the World Food Programme on new projects inspired by the model developed by LEAP.

4.7 MetaMeta: Roads to the rescue

Key outcomes:

- 3,006,000 people in Ethiopia and 57,375 people in Kenya benefited.
- 84,254 ha in Amhara and Tigray regions of Ethiopia have seen beneficial road water management practices implemented.
- 32 institutions have been trained and have incorporated beneficial road water management in their operations.

Low technology infrastructure interventions reducing the impacts of El Niño

The project has benefited over 3 million people through putting into place road water management systems, with outcomes including road water harvesting in Tigray. This has increased soil moisture, even during exceptionally dry years in 2014 and 2015.

'Road water harvesting has increased soil moisture considerably since it was introduced in 2014. The effect also depended on the total rainfall in the particular year. Importantly, 2014 was a consecutive year of below average rainfall and 2015 an extremely dry El Niño year, but even so there was an increase in soil moisture.'²⁹

Collaboration with Regional Bureaus of Agriculture to construct road water harvesting structures mitigated the impacts of the severe El Niño drought in 2015/16 in Ethiopia.

Monitoring showed that, despite the drought, crop yields among farmers practicing water harvesting were higher than in previous years with higher rainfall. At the same time, road water harvesting ponds provided vital sources of water for livestock, thus reducing potential losses. Converted borrow pits as a tool for road water harvesting were seen to have a considerable positive effect on groundwater levels during the dry season.

²⁸ Ibid. Page 5

²⁹ FNR. Page 11

Shifting knowledge and practice through convening and training

Stakeholder engagement, capacity-building and partnerships are key to this project's success. The project has brought together road, water and agriculture/natural resource authorities by creating taskforces with members from the main institutions and by bringing all institutions together in workshop and training events. MetaMeta delivered 49 trainings, 12 external presentations and 37 trainings/workshops for farmers as well as government officials. These events reached an estimated 3,466 people. Participating government institutions included water and road management authorities and agricultural officers. Other participants included advisers to zonal administrators, heads of regional boards and other regional representatives, and crop and irrigation experts.

The project has facilitated high-level institutional and policy change, leading to increased awareness and promotion of road water harvesting, and better coordination of relevant stakeholders. Examples of this include the integration of road water harvesting into regional soil and water conservation efforts in two regions in Ethiopia, creating a National Coordination Committee in Uganda by bringing together main stakeholders at a national level and bringing together roads, agriculture and water authorities by creating taskforces in three Kenyan counties.

Showcasing MetaMeta's innovative approach to road water harvesting to a wide range of national and international actors working on road construction and management, including project stakeholders and potential donors, created opportunities for further investment, replication and scale-up.

'The potential investment opportunities are numerous and go along the following lines: [i] Incorporating road water management practices in current and future road construction and maintenance programs by working with national road authorities. [ii] Working with infrastructure and climate change funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the World Bank and the Billion Dollar Business Alliance. [iii] Incorporating road water management in landscape restoration/soil and water conservation programs. [iv] Working with micro-credit institutions to provide small loans to farmers to build the water harvesting structures.'

By combining capacity-building and communication activities, MetaMeta brought together diverse groups of actors. With a government organization as part of the consortium, MetaMeta was able to create a mass of national and international practitioners specializing in the subject of roads for water, formalizing stakeholder buy-in and contributing to the project's sustainability.

4.8 Producer's Direct: Using mobile tools and empowering youth

Key outcomes

- 918 people received agricultural training.
- 10,242 smallholder farmers were actively using mobile tools.
- 332,500 beneficiaries benefited, against a target of 300,000.
- 66,500 smallholder farmer households are using Wefarm, 2Kuze and other digital tools set up to support resilience in Kenya and Uganda.

Early evidence indicating improvements in productivity, profitability and risk management through diversification

Although the evaluation was conducted too early to be conclusive, indications are that exchanges, training and digital tools are proving effective in improving productivity, diversification and profitability, for young farmers in particular. Approximately 50% of smallholders reported increased confidence to mitigate climate-related risk as a result of

interventions. An external evaluation found increased resilience to climate change, as well as improved economic resilience for key groups. Producers Direct survey data revealed a 27% increase in mean reported income.³⁰

The external evaluators identified four main streams of support producing outcomes that contribute to the resilience of farmers:

- supporting farmers in growing well (productivity)
- supporting farmers in growing a diversity of products (diversification)
- supporting the mindset shift toward farming as a profitable enterprise (profitability)
- supporting connections between farmers (social connectivity).³¹

Development and use of mobile tools leading to increased connectivity to information and markets

The project identified how farmers used, or did not use, the mobile tools 2Kuze and Wefarm as well as other forms of digital communication, such as social media (WhatsApp and Facebook). As part of the project, Youth Ambassadors who were supporting the spread of the mobile tools were able to identify a range of barriers to consistent use. 2Kuze, for example, faced multiple problems in representing a reliable usable platform for farmers. Based on this initial experience, Producers Direct further invested in piloting, developing and rolling out the 2Kuze app, largely focusing on facilitating local sales of honey, coffee and tea.

'Supported by the GRP project, we have deepened relationships with our partners in Kenya and Uganda and have co-developed a business plan to sell products locally (coffee, tea, honey etc.), this is rooted in initial information provided by the 2Kuze platform demonstrating an interest in honey as an alternative income (linked to diversification to build resilience). In July 2018, Sireet OEP agreed to co-invest in this venture and we expect Kayonze and ACPCU (Uganda) to also co-invest to sell products locally and regionally, which will sustain this project long after the project closes, building off initial support from GRP, while also showcasing the key role of inclusive decision making and partnerships, as linked to key Areas of Transformation.'³²

Farmers used mobile tools creatively to connect with extension officers in different ways, making it possible to filter the information gained from platforms through experts with knowledge of the local context. The Wefarm platform's peer technical support was shown to have improved productivity and quality, and it has also begun to be used to find new markets. A sample of users showed that they were satisfied with the mobile extension tools, data that user data from the digital tools corroborated.

Youth Ambassadors' work mutually beneficial across generations

The outcomes for the youth involved in the project as Youth Ambassadors have been substantial, and the approach has been innovative in its reciprocal nature. While some farmers may not be able to use and apply the Wefarm platform well without the support of the Youth Ambassadors, this involvement with farmers means the Youth Ambassadors are developing skills by acting as translators and intermediaries for farmers using Wefarm, as well as increasing agricultural knowledge through exposure to the platform. They are also developing

³⁰ EER. Page 17

³¹ Ibid. Pages 9–10

³² FNR. Page 8

their knowledge and understanding through exchange visits and are able to suggest improvements and adaptations to the Wefarm platform based on their experience and knowledge.

Intergenerational connection over the mobile tools is also recognized as an important outcome for the project, with Youth Ambassadors and Youth Agents connecting with older farmers and learning from them while supporting the use of the platforms. Without these social connections, it is likely that uptake of the mobile platform would be limited among older farmers in particular.

There is also evidence that the project activities have helped shift attitudes and opportunities for youth. A particular focus of this shift has been the Youth Innovation and Centers of Excellence activities, which have supported youth farmers to create and lead scalable on-farm or near-farm enterprises, and provide opportunities and training so that young people can take leadership roles around enterprises.

The external evaluation found that project activities, particularly the Youth Ambassador role, had contributed to increased confidence among young people:

*'The training and development of youth overall, building leadership, confidence, communication skills, and ability to use technology effectively has been a boost to youth. The youth are gaining from being a Youth Ambassador, not because of the digital aspect, per se, but out of their increased access to high quality information. This is true also for young farmers who host trainings and exchanges. Being seen as a resource has lifted their confidence.'*³³

Direct livelihood outcomes – avoiding post-harvest losses and increasing productivity

The project has also been successful in improving links and access to markets through the Centers of Excellence and Youth Innovation Hubs. Through improving access to a range of different markets, including export markets, farmers are increasing income as well as being helped to avoid rotting produce, or to avoid being forced to sell at throwaway prices. The Center of Excellence in Sireet was particularly successful in brokering access to honey markets and supporting farmers to develop honey production.

*'The Centers of Excellence have been facilitating market linkages for their producers around a number of new, high-value enterprises such as beekeeping, fruit trees and perennial crops (avocado, coffee, pineapple, banana, and other fruits), aquaculture, horticulture (greenhouse and market gardens), poultry keeping and zero grazing.'*³⁴

Another element of the project – exchange visits and farmer-to-farmer learning – produced examples of increased productivity among participant farmers. Gilbert Misoi is an example of a farmer inspired by learning from exchange visits to implement new techniques, to diversify crops, to begin additional enterprises, thereby improving his productivity and profitability.

'Gilbert is a young farmer, and one of the two Youth Innovation Hub coordinators at Sireet OEP. Inspired by what he saw during the youth exchange visit to Kiambu (KENVO)—and with very little cash, using materials he had available to him such as local wood and inexpensive plastic sheeting—he built a greenhouse and started a poultry operation on his family's land. He is now growing tissue culture bananas, high value greens (such as black nightshade)

³³ EER. Page 19

³⁴ Ibid. Page 13

in the greenhouse, and a kitchen garden (with a rotating variety of market vegetables. He has also started beekeeping establishing one hive out of materials he had on hand (an old container), with immediate plans to build five more local style hives, and aspiration to establish 100 hives. At scale, these hives would yield approximately 1000 liters of honey annually. Selling the honey through 2Kuze, directly to Sireet will provide an additional \$3,000-\$4,000 per year to his family. That's 3–4 times the current mean annual income, representing enormous profit potential. Because of Gilbert's success and inspiration, his mother has now also diversified beyond tea, and is growing bananas, kale and intensifying her dairy production.'³⁵

As a result of the different components of the project, a shift in mindset among farmers was observed towards viewing farming as an enterprise with the potential for productivity and profitability. This resulted from experiencing and seeing success in terms of increased productivity and profitability as well as exchange visits and farmer-to-farmer learning, which helped farmers see how others were working profitably in challenging contexts. As a result, farmers displayed improved motivation, planned their activities more strategically and sought out new ideas and practices.

Farmers are also identifying a connection between diversification and climate change as well as between diversification and income generation. The new approaches and options delivered through the project are therefore contributing to a shift in attitudes towards farming as a viable, profitable occupation for young people. The activities, particularly the Youth Ambassador role, have also contributed to an important change in attitudes toward youth. Youth are seen increasingly as a resource worthy of investment, and as people capable of innovation and leadership.

4.9 TAHMO: Climate information service attracting investment for scaling-up

Key outcomes

- Approximately 1.8 million people have been invited to the 1-6-1 platform (on which EWS messages are shared) as unique users.
- 22 institutions have improved adaptive climate change capacity.
- Approximately 2 million people have been supported to adapt to climate change effects.
- Approximately 750,000 people have taken risk-reducing actions to improve resilience as a result of the information received.

Delivery of effective climate information and fostering new strategic alliances to improve resilience

This project has seen the establishment of a network of weather stations and the delivery of EWS information to approximately 1.2 million people. A majority of respondents to a survey found the weather-related information they received to be relevant and moderately effective. A total of 75% of respondents took action in response to the message received, thereby improving their anticipatory capacity to respond to climate risk. However, the majority of the respondents had not paid for the weather information service, and indicated that they would not be willing to do so, which has implications for the model going forward.

The project has resulted in important partnerships, both nationally and internationally. In Uganda, the concept of public–private partnerships for weather services was relatively new when the project started, but the project managed to create four such partnerships, with two important ones being with the Uganda National Meteorological Authority and the Kampala Capital City Authority. The process involved in establishing these partnerships was difficult but important

³⁵ Ibid.

learning has been taken from them. In addition, 19 local government organizations participated in the installation of the EWS and these have developed into useful networks across the country.

On an international level, important linkages have been made with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which sought the support of TAHMO for data in the Lake Victoria Basin in particular because TAHMO is the only organization that has a dense network of stations there. TAHMO will work with the WMO to support its on-the-ground work to improve data delivery. This project will help TAHMO share its data with WMO for validation and modeling. TAHMO also has received support from IBM to deliver weather data to the Weather Channel.

Investment and scaling-up

In terms of investment and scaling up the approach, €400,000 of new funding has been mobilized from the European Commission for follow-up activities. This follow-up project, Transforming Weather Water Data into Value-Added Information Services for Sustainable Growth in Africa, has received funding to provide weather and climate information in Uganda and Kenya, with the possibility of extending into other countries. The mobile provider Airtel has made in-kind contribution allowing for the continued provision of the 1-6-1 information service after the project end.

4.10 University of Sydney: Disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR)

Key outcomes

- 22,068 beneficiaries have been supported through DiDRR workshops, support activities and provision of DiDRR information.
- 912 people were trained; this includes people with disabilities and people from disabled people's organizations (DPOs), local and national governments and NGOs.

The project aimed to build knowledge and awareness around DiDRR in Cambodia, Philippines and Thailand and it did this through extensive stakeholder engagement, training and awareness-raising activities. In particular, the project worked to achieve the engagement of government stakeholders at local and national level in adopting DiDRR policy, and, as a result, high-level stakeholders, including regional and national institutions, NGOs and civil society organizations in all three countries, engaged with the project's mission to build knowledge and awareness around DiDRR:

- In Thailand, the project resulted in project beneficiaries contributing to the review of the national strategy on disaster management for disability conducted by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- In Cambodia, training and data collection raised the visibility of DiDRR and strengthened the knowledge and skills of local authorities. It also improved links between civil society advocating for people with disabilities and governance structures at local and national level.
- In the Philippines, the project allowed Deaf people to access interpreters and express their voices on disaster risk reduction (DRR), while the Inclusive Resilience Scorecard (IRS) approach closely aligned cities' requirements for DRR, gender and development, disability and accessibility planning.

An approach central to the project was the inclusion of people with disabilities as co-researchers, trainers and spokespeople. This built the confidence and skillset of this group of people, who are often overlooked and disempowered. In addition, this resulted in the beginning of cultural shifts around the perception of people with disabilities (PWD):

'PWDs [persons with disabilities] in the target countries have often been portrayed as passive recipients of assistance due to longstanding social, cultural and religious beliefs. This project challenged such beliefs by working

directly with PWDs to raise their confidence and empower them to become active contributors to DRR. PWDs were engaged as co-researchers, DiDRR trainers and spokespersons to advocate for DiDRR with their governments. For many PWDs, this was the first time that had ever had such engagement with their local governments, civil society or DRR organizations.’³⁶

The project has also resulted in the inclusion of Deaf people in the DiDRR Network through advocacy for the use of interpreters at network conferences and workshops. This has resulted in the needs of the Deaf community being included in decision-making:

‘This project has allowed Deaf people to access interpreters to express their voices on DRR. Through DDAT-DRR and other participating Deaf organizations, the DiDRR Network has recognized Deaf communities’ needs and now include them in their activities. Most recently, representatives of the Deaf community were invited to attend the first national DiDRR Conference held in Cebu in October 2017. DDAT [Deaf Disaster Assistance Team]-DRR will remain part of the DiDRR Network to ensure the needs of the Deaf community continue to be expressed in DiDRR dialogues.’³⁷

4.11 Outcomes summary

The evidence provided by grantees and highlighted in the preceding section outlines a range of outcomes that emphasize the layered approaches adopted to build resilience. These provide a range of different innovative approaches building on social capital, financial resilience, digital tools, value chain facilitation and public–private partnerships, among others. In particular, influence on other projects, policies and approaches, both national and international, is something achieved by all projects. Grantees have also demonstrated the complexity of achieving outcomes in relation to resilience-building, with projects describing how they have monitored progress and adapted approaches where necessary.

Despite the different project foci, there is a range of common areas of outcomes:

Outcome evidence area	Grantees
Building connections	MHT, Mercy Corps Sahel, Producers Direct, University of Sydney, MetaMeta
Knowledge transfer	MHT, Groundswell, Mercy Corps HoA, Producers Direct, MC Sahel, Grameen, University of Sydney
Policy and system influencing	University of Sydney, MHT, Groundswell, TAHMO, MetaMeta, Mercy Corps Sahel, Grameen
Empowerment of vulnerable groups	MHT, Groundswell, University of Sydney, Producers Direct
Livelihoods and food security	Grameen, Groundswell
Infrastructure and agro-ecology	MetaMeta, Groundswell, Grameen,
Financial resilience (including microfinance)	Mercy Corps Sahel, Mercy Corps HoA, Grameen, Groundswell
Digital tools	Mercy Corps HoA, Producers Direct, Grameen
Early warning and climate information systems	TAHMO, Grameen
Mindset shift	Producer’s Direct, MHT, University of Sydney

These outcome areas demonstrate how grantees are using direct approaches that may seem more ‘business as usual’, such as microcredit, extension training and community group formation, with elements that focus on building resilience through innovation, influence and social

³⁶ FNR. Page 10

³⁷ Ibid. Page 7

connectivity. These last three are particularly interesting as the grantees have gone beyond a focus on delivering clear, tangible outcomes to include outcomes that are harder to establish but can have far-reaching consequences in terms of people's agency to respond to shocks and stresses.

Key outcome area: empowerment and inclusiveness

Outcomes relating to the shifting of agency are those that are influencing culture, communities and systems in such a way as to make changes in the power people have to make positive change to improve their own resilience. Within the contexts of the grantees' work, there are mindsets and behaviors that limit the agency of particular groups in particular. A number of the grantees recognized this and made it a focal point of their work.

Inclusiveness was the focus of the work undertaken by the University of Sydney, resulting in Deaf people being empowered to take part in decision-making around DRR. The provision of interpreters, awareness-raising and training has resulted in PWD being engaged with institutions that are normally closed to them. This has been a really important outcome, with PWD able to communicate their experiences and needs in terms of disaster management, and connecting with key stakeholders who, through this engagement, are shifting their understanding of PWD.

Both MHT and Producer's Direct created mindshift changes around the influence and ability of young people. MHT's work with young people influenced how the community understood climate change and the role children could play in supporting resilience in their community. Producers Direct's work with Youth Ambassadors had very positive outcomes in terms not only of information-sharing and promotion of digital tools but also in relation to shifting mindsets to recognize the important roles young people can play in new approaches to farming, promoting new learning and leadership within communities.

Other projects delivered approaches that had particular outcomes on women's empowerment. MHT's focus on women's empowerment as a way of increasing resilience saw women's CAGs creating positive change such as improvements in water quantity and quality and improvements in daily living conditions. A critical project achievement was resilience action taken by around 16,800 people. As a result of the project, at least 35% of targeted families were able to move up the ladder on the vulnerability index.³⁸ ***This was achieved through education, but also, very importantly, through empowering women to communicate with municipal governments and organizations that could help make the changes needed to improve resilience.*** Building connections, both within communities through bringing women together in the CAGs ('bonding' social capital) but also outside of the community ('bridging' social capital) was another important outcome of this work, with women feeling that they knew how to connect to people who could make a difference to their daily lives.

By ***embedding gender in all outputs and outcomes***, Grameen's project enhanced the status of women in the coconut and cacao farming sector, with their participation at 51%. As a result of the project, women's involvement in agricultural activities increased together with their capacity. The project empowered women by exposing them to actionable SMS-based agronomic knowledge and information that they could easily access and apply to their farm.³⁹

Mercy Corps' LEAP project in the Sahel also resulted in ***women's empowerment by layering capacity-building and communication interventions***. The project trained community agents to lead face-to-face trainings and reinforced their learning through radio and other multimedia means. This resulted in an increase in the proportion of women involved in making financial decisions on behalf of the household from 9% to 23% in Niger and from 19% to 32% in Mali. Moreover, rural women showed significant uptake of the new delivery channels and the products offered and reported that access to phones had made management of the group account easier

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

and more secure.⁴⁰ Furthermore, female beneficiaries were satisfied with the financial products made available to them. Women's VSLAs, for example, expressed high interest in and satisfaction with using mobile money.⁴¹

How women work together was also a key feature of the Groundswell project. The participatory work with communities to consider gender equity and the focused training and credit schemes for women influenced the roles women played in households. It also improved social connectivity and social capital for women. A focus on training for women by the Mercy Corps Sahel project improved women's involvement in financial decision-making. Women in both MHT and Groundswell reported how they were forging links and coming together in ways they had not previously, and that these links gave them more power within their communities to create change to increase resilience within their communities.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Mercy Corps Sahel, FNR. Page 15

5. Progress along Impact Pathways

While Section 4 focuses on grantee outcomes, this section looks across all grantees at the activities they have undertaken against the Impact Pathways, including progress that has been made, enablers and challenges.

Grantees reported on the number of beneficiaries (GRP Indicator 1) as well as on additional USAID indicators that were required as applicable. For the purpose of this synthesis, we grouped the most relevant GRP and USAID indicators under each of the Impact Pathways. The syntheses of project outcomes, successes and lessons learned are guided by each of the four Impact Pathways.



5.1 Impact Pathway 1: Policy influencing⁴²

This section examines the area of grantees' influence on policy that they aim to change and/or depend on for success. As emerged in the outcomes considered in Section 4, all of the grantees provide strong evidence of outcomes relating to how they have built connections and partnerships and had an influence on policy or systems. Examples of this include MetaMeta influencing at strategic and policy level, Grameen influencing the private sector and MHT and Groundswell achieving outcomes through collaboration with local government.

In terms of progress against indicators, the key outcomes here relate to indicators 11.2 (Institutions with improved adaptive CC capacity) and 11.3 (Laws/policies on CC adaptation). MetaMeta, Tahmo and especially Mahila have contributed the most towards improving institutions adaptive capacity, whilst MetaMeta has been the main contributor towards getting laws and policies in place which relate to climate change adaptation.

This section specifically investigates actions that grantees have taken to achieve policy changes needed for their project to succeed and/or scale up. It outlines grantees' specific actions to influence policies that could advance success of their project. Finally, it identifies primarily enablers for policy influencing and points out policy events that enabled grantees to share their experience with policy-makers. Specific emphasis is put on Groundswell, MHT, MetaMeta and the University of Sydney, as these four projects have policy influencing as a key impact pathway.

Actions to influence policy

Many grantees found that the local or national policy context influenced the results of their work. Moreover, project success depended on the ability of policy-makers and local government officials to understand and be able to collaboratively address issues related to climate change that affect people within their administrative jurisdiction. Grantees' main approaches to influence policy included capacity-building and demonstration, research, close collaboration with governmental organizations and interaction with policy-makers in knowledge- and experience-sharing events.

Capacity-building and the demonstration of tools and approaches was one of the more direct approaches grantees applied to influence policy. While **Grameen** introduced public and private extension agents to digital tools to improve efficiencies in collecting and managing data on local producers, **Groundswell** organized multi-day 'caravans' in communities with successful resilience activities, to which it invited key local and government officials to showcase its innovative approach to building resilience in ecologically fragile drylands. In the Philippines, the

⁴² As none of the grantees reported on indicators relevant to policy influencing, there is no data available to inform infographic figures for Impact Pathway 1.

University of Sydney developed the IRS, a tool closely aligned with cities' requirements for DRR, gender and development, disability and accessibility planning. The tool is compatible with policy and performance frameworks and local governments can use it to guide budget allocations for gender, disability and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) projects.⁴³ **Producers Direct** used demonstration to share its experience and lessons learned. The team invited government representatives to attend events and trainings organized by the project. These included youth-led meeting in Kenvo in November 2017 and trainings delivered by a local partner, Sireet Outgrowers Cooperative, in Nandi. As a result of attending the training, for example, the local government partnered up with Sireet to offer agricultural trainings at the Center of Excellence to more people. Furthermore, Kayonza, the project's Center of Excellence in Uganda, won the United Nations Equator Prize in 2015. This enabled it to share its experience utilizing digital tools and working with youth to promote resilience with global policy networks.⁴⁴

Based on the evidence in the FNRs, **demonstration** played a crucial role in grantees' contribution to changes at the institutional level. **Groundswell's** demonstration days enabled village leaders and farmers to engage directly with policy-makers and generated widespread media coverage. While the projects implemented by **University of Sydney** and **Groundswell** created substantial potential for change, the outcomes of **Grameen's** demonstration efforts were more tangible. Demonstration of the efficiency of its use of technology for farmer registration and monitoring resulted in adoption by local private sector partners and subsequent inclusion in government operations.

To conclude, when well targeted and delivered, demonstration can create buy-in and contribute to the sustainability of projects or their components. It can also enable a more favorable political environment.

'Demonstrate the success of this approach to a growing number of local governments in an effort to integrate resilience thinking and policy into five-year development plan and budgets, and for them to exert pressure on national government (and donors) to create a more favorable political environment for this approach to resilience.'⁴⁵

Groundswell

Research has played a critical role in understanding the ways in which relevant policies influence projects and the likelihood of their success. For example, working with livestock owners in the Horn of Africa to manage their assets and livelihood risks, **Mercy Corps** conducted policy assessments to explore the influence of national policies on the behavior of various market and non-market actors. It also examined the influence of those policies on the impact that shocks and stresses had on pastoral populations and the ways in which they influenced pastoralists' behavior. The investigation identified a number of rules and regulations that were particularly influential on livestock trade in Wajir county in Kenya. The second pillar of Mercy Corps' research was analysis and consultation with Islamic scholars on the subject of the Islamic principal of Murabaha as it applied to the project.

Creating collaboration and links with governmental organizations

Partnerships with government representatives played a key role in ensuring project scale and sustainability. In the case of **MetaMeta**, for example, the Regional Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development in Amhara was Ethiopia's official implementation partner. Having this organization as part of the consortium enabled MetaMeta's lead partners to engage with multiple

⁴³ University of Sydney, FNR. Page 7

⁴⁴ Producers Direct, FNR

⁴⁵ Groundswell, FNR. Page 8

governmental organizations, which they also invited to join the Learning Alliance on Roads for Water. These were water, roads and agriculture authorities across departments at national, regional and local level. Working at this scale has resulted in the project benefiting millions of people through road water harvesting.

Close relationships with governmental organizations improved understanding and/or generated buy-in from government representatives, resulting in adoption of the tools and approaches introduced by six of the eight projects (Grameen, Groundswell, MHT, MetaMeta, Producers Direct, University of Sydney), contributing to their sustainability and/or that of their aspects.

Strong linkages with local and national governments were also critical for **Producers Direct's** work replicating and adopting innovative initiatives to build resilience in Kenya and Uganda. These partnerships were enabled through fortunate synergies between the project's aims and existing commitments in those countries to address the impacts of climate change as well as high unemployment among youth. Contributing to the sustainability of **University of Sydney's** work in Cambodia, the project's implementing partner established a collaborative working relationship with the National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM). This raised the visibility of DiDRR and strengthened the knowledge base and skills of local authorities to address disability issues. As a result of this relationship, Cambodia's national disaster Action Plan 2017–2020 will address disability.

Participation in policy events: **MHT** collaborated with the Indian Institute of Public Health in Gandhinagar and took part in four key policy events, including the launch of the 2017 Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan on 7 April 2017 and a Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Financing State Climate Actions on 23 May 2017, which significantly increased recognition of its work in Southeast Asia.⁴⁶

Summary

Approaches to policy influencing that produced the highest number of evidenced outcomes were demonstration activities and initiatives promoting partnerships with government representatives. Research was helpful to ensure local contexts and needs informed project components and outputs. It also informed knowledge products. Though potentially influential at scale, participation in policy events played a key role in spreading awareness of projects and their approaches to resilience, and related successes and lesson learned. However, as outlined under Impact Pathway 4, outcomes of these activities are difficult to track and more likely to take longer to materialize.



5.2 Impact Pathway 2: Finance and investment

All 10 grantees created opportunities either to mobilize investment to sustain implementation of their project and/or to scale to new geographical areas. This section first explores funding secured by projects by the time of final reporting – looking at Grameen, TAHMO, MHT and both projects implemented by Mercy Corps. The second part of the section explores potential investment opportunities identified by Groundswell, MHT, Producers Direct, MetaMeta and University of Sydney.

Funding mobilized by projects

Five projects mobilized finance from sources closely involved in project implementation. These were project partners (and partners of partners), as in the case of Grameen, MHT and Mercy

⁴⁶ MHT, FNR. Page 10

Corps Sahel, and non-GRP donors interested in sustaining outputs of projects initially funded by GRP. These were Producers Direct, TAHMO, MHT and Mercy Corps Horn of Africa.

Funding from project partners

Building resilience among coconut farmers in the Philippines, **Grameen** secured an additional contract with a partner organization to **continue using the data** collected from the project to target smallholder farmers more efficiently. During the time of final reporting, Grameen was in discussion with another project partner, the Philippine Coconut Authority, which could result in additional funding in the future.⁴⁷

MHT and **Mercy Corps Sahel** received funding from partners to **expand the scope of its work**. For example, when **MHT** became a key stakeholder in the Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan 2017, it received additional funding from a partner, NRDC, to replicate its initiatives, primarily the heat resilience agenda. Working to strengthen the resilience of agro-pastoralists in Mali and Niger by expanding their access to formal financial services, **Mercy Corps** signed agreements with two partners of its consortium partner in Mali, Soro Yiriwaso, both microfinance providers, to receive additional investments in the integration of the digital services it provides, to increase their geographical coverage and develop additional geographical products.⁴⁸

Donors

Two grantees secured additional funding from donors other than GRP by helping them **generate additional data** for research. **Producers Direct** obtained US\$250,000 from the World Bank to aggregate historical and current climate data with smallholder farmers, and US\$25,000 from numerous sources to scale up research initially funded by GRP.⁴⁹ **MHT** secured funding from the Urban Labs Chicago Trust for 1.5 years to implement the white painting of 250 slum households in Delhi. This is to be the subject of a comparative research study with non-intervention households to be conducted by the University of Chicago.⁵⁰

In terms of donor funding to expand projects, **Mercy Corps** secured funding for a second phase of TRADER, and a second reiteration of MKK Murabaha,⁵¹ a financial product improving livestock owners' availability and access to innovative and inclusive financial services, which is to be implemented in partnership with its Phase 1 partner CTS.

Potential investment opportunities

In addition to securing funding by the time of final reporting, five grantees identified numerous investment opportunities from a wider range of their stakeholders, ranging from governments and international donors to project partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

National budgets

Both **Groundswell** and **MHT** identified additional funding opportunities in public budgets through grant finance. Following **MHT's** presentation of approaches to combating heat stresses in urban slums, delivered as part of its project funded by GRP, the team submitted a proposal to the Indian Institute of Public Health-Gandhinagar for funding to set up a Community Resilience Laboratory where technical experts, community mobilizers and researchers could jointly work with slum dwellers to adapt, develop and test solutions to reduce heat as well as water vulnerability. MHT was also invited by the Department of Climate Change to submit a proposal for an infrastructure project. Both proposals were under review during the time of final reporting.⁵²

⁴⁷ Grameen, FNR. Page 8

⁴⁸ Mercy Corps Sahel, FNR. Pages 10–11

⁴⁹ Producers Direct, FNR

⁵⁰ MHT, FNR. Page 11

⁵¹ MKK Murabaha is a second iteration of Mercy Corps' pilot MKK Mudharaba

⁵² MHT, FNR

International donors

Groundswell and **Producers Direct** identified opportunities with donors other than GRP to invest in practices introduced and demonstrated by their GRP projects and to potentially scale them up.

In the case of **Groundswell**, project partners were leveraging key findings from the GRP project, including documentation of the process, methods, findings, results and case studies, to attract funding from donors as well as government support, targeting funding streams already earmarked for climate change adaptation (Nationally Determined Contributions), the regional arm of the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative, the Great Green Wall initiative and growing international interest in soil carbon sequestration.

To scale up components of its GRP project, **Producers Direct** is waiting to hear about the outcomes of its proposals for grant funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), OpenIDEO, Bridge Builder Challenge, Siemens Integrity Initiative and the Kenya Google Impact Challenge.⁵³

MetaMeta identified numerous investment opportunities, from multilateral funds and development banks to microcredit institutions well suited to provide loans to farmers.

'The potential investment opportunities are numerous and go along the following lines: (i) Incorporating road water management practices in current and future road construction and maintenance programs by working with national road authorities. (ii) Working with infrastructure and climate change funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the World Bank and the Billion Dollar Business Alliance. (iii) Incorporating road water management in landscape restoration/soil and water conservation programs. (iv) Working with micro-credit institutions to provide small loans to farmers to build the water harvesting structures.'⁵⁴

MetaMeta

Partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders

The creation of **vested interests** among consortium partners further incentivized collaboration and contributed to project sustainability. Respecting local market conditions, **Mercy Corps** let its partners in the Sahel sign agreements between MFIs and mobile network operators (MNOs) directly. This strengthened their commercial and social interests in the development of products offered by the project, increasing the likelihood that innovations would remain available beyond the GRP-funded phase.⁵⁵

'Each party has found its commercial and social interest in the development of the products offered. In their 2018 work plans, each partner included plans to improve upon this pilot phase as well as product design and implementation procedures on the technical side. As previously mentioned, several MFI partners (ADA, PMR) wish to capitalize on the LEAP experience and keep Mercy Corps as project manager and technical support.'⁵⁶

Mercy Corps Sahel

⁵³ Producers Direct, FNR

⁵⁴ MetaMeta, FNR

⁵⁵ Mercy Corps Sahel, FNR. Page 11

⁵⁶ Ibid.

Stakeholder buy-in also increased the number of opportunities to showcase the project and share experience in the region and resulted in the adoption of the project's innovations by other key actors. Financial literacy curricula developed as part of the LEAP project became of great interest to other key actors working on the same theme in the region. These included other NGOs and USAID.⁵⁷

'A MoU [memorandum of understanding] is being signed with ACTED [Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development]. The MFI partners and other projects are interested to leverage LEAP's experience in providing digital financial services to these beneficiaries in others areas. New digital products are being developed by our partner MFIs, targeting "tontines" and stockbreeders.'⁵⁸

Mercy Corps Sahel

Another example of the importance of stakeholder buy-in to securing investment came from **Producers Direct**. The Long-Term Sustainable Business Plan was developed in close collaboration with producer organizations in Kenyan and Uganda and informed by data provided by the 2Kuze platform, which, for example, indicated interest in honey as a preferred alternative income-earner. As a result, these partners became co-investors and committed to co-invest and sell products, including coffee, tea and honey, both locally and regionally – not only contributing to project sustainability but also scaling it out into new markets.⁵⁹ Demonstrating their commitment, each partner has committed an investment of US\$50,000 in the co-owned venture by Producers Direct and three producer organizations to sell co-branded products.⁶⁰

Grantees identified investment opportunities from **beneficiaries** themselves. In the **Groundswell** project, these were smallholder farmers in the drylands investing in agro-ecology practices introduced by the project. By investing in their land, labor, capital, seeds, tools, time and local know-how, these beneficiaries are likely to ensure the agro-ecology approach introduced by the project will sustain in the long run.

'These smallholders therefore represent a major cumulative potential for investment which can sustain itself in the long run (since this work is managed by the communities themselves), provided initial basic support is provided and an enabling policy framework is in place.'⁶¹

Groundswell

Finally, projects that established relationships with key **stakeholders** had the potential to generate additional investment through payment for their services. **University of Sydney** generated several investment opportunities whereby organizations working on DiDRR are likely to pay for additional services. These include disability awareness training, trainings for sign language interpreters in emergency settings and trainings on inclusive DRRM/climate change adaptation planning, as well as data collection on disaster risk for PWD.⁶²

⁵⁷ Ibid. Page 4

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Producers Direct, FNR

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Groundswell, FNR. Page 4

⁶² University of Sydney, FNR. Page 7

Summary

The main investment opportunities for project sustainability and/or scale-up were generated by the ability of GRP projects to demonstrate the value of the tools, services, partnerships and data they had created/generated to their stakeholders as well as national and international donors. This, combined with buy-in from project partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders, created investment opportunities in the outputs of those projects and attracted funding from national governments and international donors.



5.3 Impact Pathway 3: Innovation and scaling

Tools to increase resilience

The tools, or key project mechanisms, used by the grantees to increase resilience include: digital tools, EWS, financial tools (microcredit, insurance) and infrastructure-based approaches.

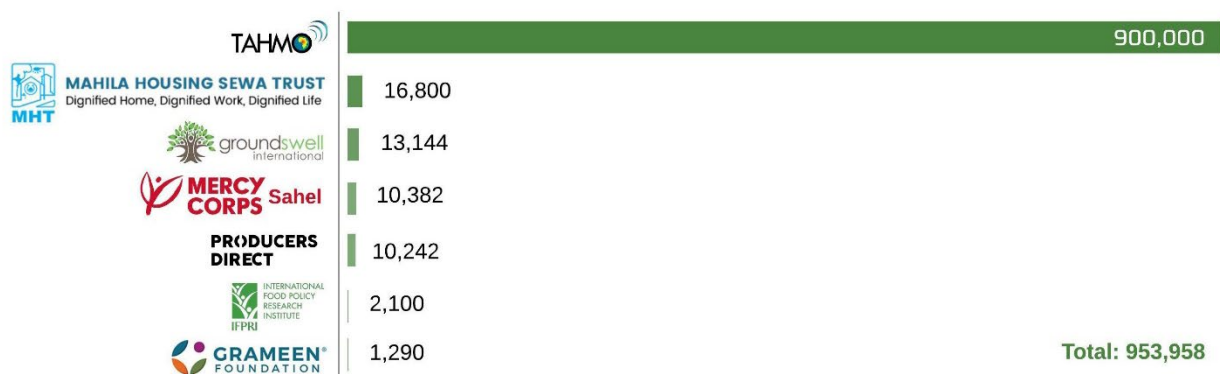
Innovative delivery tools

The **development, testing and adaptation of innovative delivery tools** was the central feature of three projects in particular: **Producers Direct**, **Grameen** and **Mercy Corps Horn of Africa**. In all cases, learning and adaptation were key to outcomes, with all three demonstrating how their understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the innovation resulted in necessary change and uptake. **Mercy Corps** found major issues with the acceptance of the tool, resulting in a change of approach and a re-launch. **Producers Direct's** uptake of digital tools had beneficial outcomes in terms of increased access to markets and improved agricultural practice and subsequent productivity. As with Mercy Corps, it also discovered a number of barriers to use of the products, learning from which it incorporated into its project. The efficiency of the digital tool developed by the **Grameen** project was recognized by the public and private sectors, with key stakeholders subsequently confirming their intention to sustain and scale up the project.

Early Warning Systems

Grameen and **TAHMO's EWS** used different approaches, with EWS being one part of the delivery for **Grameen** and **TAHMO** delivering EWS information through a range of different media including SMS, mobile communication platforms, radio broadcasts and email. **Grameen** used an SMS system combined with extension services delivering messages around agricultural practice and market access. In both cases, projects reported that people were putting the information into practice.

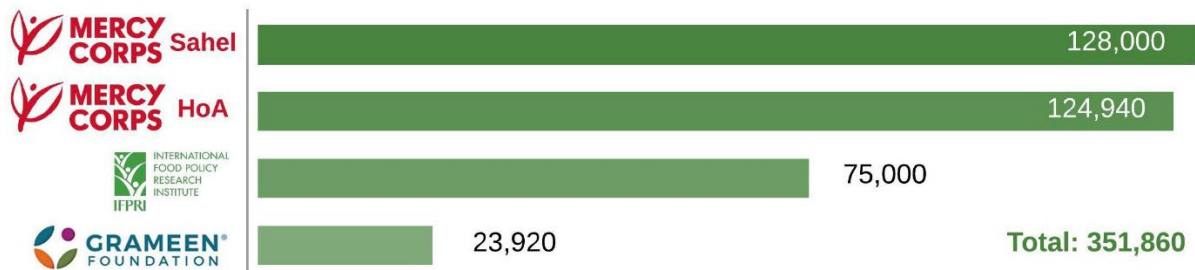
Figure 4: Users of EWS or climate information



Financial services for resilience

Mechanisms for building financial resilience included the development of particular tools (*Mercy Corps Horn of Africa*), education and information (*Mercy Corps Sahel*, *Grameen*) and microcredit (*Mercy Corps*, *Grameen* and *Groundswell*). *Groundswell's* approach to microcredit, working with women and linking it to access to communal land and agro-ecological training, produced positive outcomes in terms of increasing women's financial decision-making power at household level, as their incomes increased.

Figure 5: Value of financial services



The most diverse effects on financial knowledge and access to services came through *Mercy Corps Sahel*, whose financial message services by radio, via its online platform and face-to-face reached almost 250,000 people. At the same time, training and support to financial organizations opened up options for agro-pastoralists. As a result of this information, there is evidence that agro-pastoralists opened MFI accounts, used adapted financial products and received agricultural credits. There was also an increase in financial transactions and access to a wider range of sources of financing for agro-pastoralist communities.

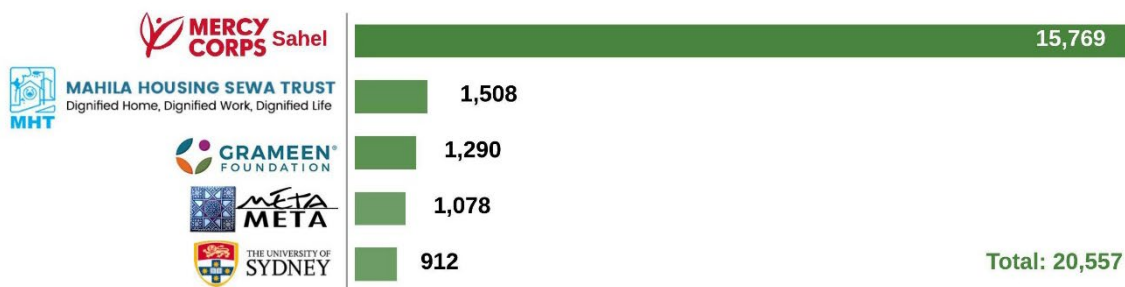
Resilient infrastructure

The only infrastructure-based project, *MetaMeta*, supported farmers through the rolling-out of the Roads for Water approach, developing road water management practices. The key result here is around the number of people benefiting, at over 3 million people in Ethiopia, where the practices have been rolled out through mass mobilization campaigns. The key to the widespread reach of this project lies in the partnerships built, through which national and international influence was made.

Capacity-building

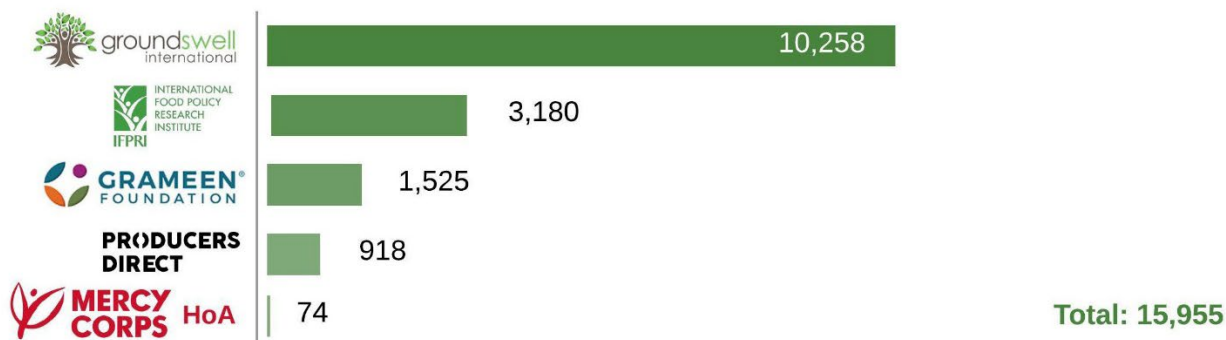
The most common capacity-building mechanism used relates to **training**, with the vast majority of the projects including some form of training or information exchange as part of their approach. In total, R1 grantees trained over 35,000 people – including staff of local partner organizations. The approaches used at community level are interesting, with *MHT* generating folk media and using cartoon films to tell the story of climate change and resilience, and *Mercy Corps Sahel* finding that radio broadcasts were accessed by a much higher number of people than originally thought.

Figure 6: Number of people trained in climate change adaptation



Producers Direct used a mixture of different knowledge-sharing techniques, including peer support, with farmers carrying out ‘exchange visits’, which were found to have beneficial outcomes. It also saw the value of intergenerational knowledge exchange, with both older and younger farmers reporting increased knowledge and changes in farming practice as a result of interactions around digital mobile tools. Different forms of **extension services** were also developed by a number of grantees, with both **Grameen** and **Producers Direct** using mobile technology to share information to a high number of farmers.

Figure 7: Number of people receiving short-term agricultural training in food security



Capacity-building activities also increased the chances of project scale-up and sustainability beyond the GRP-funded timeframe by providing local organizations with relevant skills and tools, introducing the concept of resilience to local communities and fostering new relationships among organizations working on related subjects.

Capacity-building was a key component of **MHT’s** work in South Asia primarily in this regard. The team plans to scale by providing training to local grassroots organizations on the project’s model and the use of tools it introduced. In addition, it will provide handholding support to implement a similar model in other areas. Having tested the transferability of its model, MHT reported that the initial very positive results offered a potential strategy for project scale-up.⁶³

Mercy Corps’ experience of working with agro-pastoral communities in the Sahel region to expand their access to formal financial services provided a lesson about the readiness of local actors and communities to participate in resilience projects. While the services were highly interesting for micro-entrepreneurs, the MFIs’ ground teams had difficulties correctly explaining the product to these actors. Furthermore, some of the targeted areas had low economic activity and the savings period was too long for them to adhere to. It was also challenging to boost demand for the services as some of the micro-entrepreneurs wanted to directly deposit the 20% financial guarantee that was required to qualify for credit. Mercy Corps addressed this challenge through continuous work with MFIs, through its consortium partners, to adjust and improve the financial services it offered. However, because of the short implementation timeframe, this will happen only after the GRP-funded project ends.

‘Continuing to build the foundation for inclusive decision-making requires access to information and education; however, it is not always easy to find literate people in villages who have the ability to duplicate financial education modules to village groups.’⁶⁴

⁶³ MHT, FNR. Page 11

⁶⁴ Ibid. Page 15

Where there were limited numbers of literate people in villages, like in Niger, for example, the project worked with teachers.⁶⁵ Both lessons learned speak to the importance of project outputs being targeted to user needs, which is discussed later in this section.

Stakeholder training played a key role in **Producers Direct's** approach to project sustainability. In this case, project team members were trained to manage and develop dashboards, which they shared with youth agents in Kenya and Uganda. The training enabled them to solve technical challenges and contribute to visualization and dissemination of data collected using the tools. This both empowered the users and gave the project a momentum and ability to adjust the tools to changing needs if necessary, such as adjusting the platform views to different audiences of various literacy levels.⁶⁶ Human-centered design played a crucial role in ensuring a maximum benefit from these dashboards for their users.

In the case of **University of Sydney's** work in South and Southeast Asia, training fostered relationship-building among DiDRR stakeholders across sectoral boundaries at the local and national levels in all three countries of implementation: Cambodia, the Philippines and Thailand. Joint workshops brought together diverse stakeholders and encouraged dialogue with the aim of co-identifying DiDRR issues and solutions. This resulted in new partnerships and increased visibility and engagement with local government and other organizations working on DRR.⁶⁷

'PWDs in the target countries have often been portrayed as passive recipients of assistance due to longstanding social, cultural and religious beliefs. This project challenged such beliefs by working directly with PWDs to raise their confidence and empower them to become active contributors to DRR... For many PWDs, this was the first time that had ever had such engagement with their local governments, civil society or DRR organizations.'⁶⁸

University of Sydney

In summary, capacity-building improved stakeholders' understanding of issues identified by those projects and the approaches the projects were promoting to address them. This subsequently improved stakeholders' buy-in to the project activities and increased the chances of the tools, approaches and relationships introduced or built by the project being used, nourished and sustained beyond the projects' timeframe.

Participatory approach

A participatory approach to project implementation played a key role in generating buy-in among project partners, which, as in the case of **Grameen, MHT** and both projects implemented by **Mercy Corps**, stimulated their investment in project components, contributing to sustainability (see outcomes under Impact Pathway 2), or resulted in project scale-up through the partners' adoption of specific project aspects and/or outputs.

In the case of **Groundswell**, for example, engagement of multiple actors and wider networks, combined with the project's participatory approach to implementation, fostered a sense of community and responsibility among its beneficiaries for the project activities. The buy-in contributed to sustained adoption of agro-ecological practices promoted by the project. In addition, Groundswell highlighted the importance of an appropriate **sequential process** of

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Producers Direct, FNR

⁶⁷ University of Sydney, FNR. Page 10

⁶⁸ Ibid.

intensification in order to ensure the intervention design is tailored to the local context and the needs of local communities.⁶⁹

Mercy Corps' participatory approach to work to improve access to financial services for agro-pastoral communities in the Sahel region highlighted the importance of ensuring volunteers are not only well trained, but also sufficiently motivated to deliver effective campaigns and increase interest and awareness (of the project's services and products) among targeted groups.⁷⁰ This participatory approach resulted in increased uptake of financial services by targeted beneficiaries.

Figure 8: Uptake of financial services



The percentage of women and men investing in the renewal of productive assets during the project period increased in both Niger and Mali. This was true primarily for women, with an increase from 0% to 7% in Niger and from 21% to 25% in Mali. The proportion of people with access to several financial resources also increased in both countries.⁷¹

Grameen's implementation partners were involved in regular check-in and communication activities, which ensured their buy-in and long-term ownership of the project.

'What worked quite well in managing the partnerships in consortium was the constant and simultaneous communication with op[erational] management and field officers to ensure the buy-in of the whole organization. The project team established "ways of working" systems with all partners ranging from weekly, monthly and quarterly activities and this ensured that partners are given the opportunity to be involved in iteration processes promoting ownership.'⁷²

Grameen

Initial 'hand-holding' played a key role in establishing this collaborative relationship between **Grameen** and its partners, which was critically important in the first months of the project. Each partner still had its business priorities and project work plans, which meant the project team had to consider realistic levels of engagements for partners within the project's timeline. The team learned the importance of striking a balance between organizational and business priorities and consortium goals.⁷³As a result of the close collaboration from the outset, the consortium partners had effective ways of working in place throughout the lifecycle of the project, which in turn ensured effective management of the project in the long run.⁷⁴

⁶⁹ Ibid. Page 8

⁷⁰ Mercy Corps Sahel, FNR

⁷¹ Mercy Corps Sahel, FNR. Page 14

⁷² Grameen, FNR. Page 10

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid. Page 11.

Mercy Corps' project in the Horn of Africa was designed in close collaboration with local stakeholders. Mercy Corps relied on beneficiary feedback to test assumptions underpinning the project design and encouraged community-led decision-making, which helped break down barriers within the consortium, but also connect actors across value chains. This enabled project beneficiaries to input into decisions affecting their resilience and well-being, while improved connectivity of value chains strengthened livestock market systems on which livestock traders and local communities rely.⁷⁵

To holistically address resilience-building, **MHT** had to coordinate a consortium of diverse partners from over 10 organizations, including universities, housing trusts, architects and DRR actors, as well as organizations working on advocacy and communication. MHT learned that splitting the large consortium into two tiers based on in-depth technical partners and knowledge partners not involved in core processes enabled streamlined communication and improved efficiency. Diversity within the consortium made it possible to look at issues through different lenses and work on addressing them collaboratively, as opposed to in silos.⁷⁶

MHT's partners appreciated this **inclusive and participatory** approach, claiming that this project was the first one to treat local communities as equal partners.⁷⁷ For **MetaMeta**, it was important to ensure all actors had something to contribute with and something to benefit from. This mutual benefit can be enabled by bringing the actors together in knowledge events where they can discuss and find solutions.⁷⁸

The above overview shows the importance of close collaboration with project partners and stakeholders from as early as project design. Buy-in resulting from timely implementation of participatory approaches contributed to project sustainability and scale-up in the case of **Producers Direct** and maximized the utility of **Mercy Corps'** project to targeted communities in the **Horn of Africa**. Furthermore, well-established ways of working and streamlined communication processes among partners allowed for timely inputs from partners from across multiple disciplines (**Grameen**, **MHT**). Frequent check-ins with stakeholders improved project implementation (**Mercy Corps Sahel**) and stakeholder capacity-building resulted in sustained adoption of promoted practices (**Groundswell**).

Focus on user need and experience

Project scalability was further enhanced by ensuring project outputs were tailored to the needs of their targeted users and providing them with maximum benefit. **Grameen**, for example, applied activity-based consulting to capture the efficiency gains of its partners. This enabled partner organizations to see the benefits of using mobile technology introduced by the project and the data it generated, as well as of the agricultural practices and tools (digital farm management plans), when adopted by their customers, who are also the project's beneficiaries. This led to the partners' adoption of the project tools as well as a review of their internal policies to ensure these did not prevent their wider uptake.

'During the project's implementation, senior leadership of the bank [partner organization] saw the benefits of using the digital tools in creating comprehensive farmer profiles that can be part of the loan application processes. They also saw the benefits of consolidated dashboards that provide a snapshot of their client base and... can be used in targeting appropriate financial products to different client segments... Because of this, the bank's CEO wants to require the use of the digital farm management plan to measure their client's adoption of good agricultural practices. They also plan review the

⁷⁵ Mercy Corps HoA, FNR. Page 13

⁷⁶ MHT, FNR. Pages 12 and 15

⁷⁷ Ibid. Page 12

⁷⁸ MetaMeta Research, FNR

policy on requirements for loan application to make it easier for farmers to apply for agricultural financial products.⁷⁹

Grameen

In other cases, tools introduced by GRP projects had to be redesigned to ensure their wider adoption and long-term use. **Producers Direct** expected its farmer-led approach to enable a continued organic, grassroots adoption and spread of digital tools long after the project closed, to be financially supported by funds from the World Bank. However, it became clear that the tools assumed a higher level of IT literacy among targeted users. Applying human-centered design to their redevelopment ensured that their new design was informed by users' feedback and met the needs of targeted audiences.⁸⁰

A concrete example of this was that farmers preferred using a paper-based record-keeping system, which resulted in limited uptake of the digital record-keeping app the project introduced. Human-centered design made it possible to refine and further adjust digital tools so they better met farmers' needs, increasing the functionality and uptake of those tools as a result. The redesign process was informed by beneficiary data collected as part of the pilot and further feedback was gathered from youth agents in workshops. Although the redesign improved the app's functionality, as confirmed by the youth and farmers involved in the piloting, it remains to be seen whether farmers and youth are sufficiently comfortable with analyzing and interpreting the data to support on-farm decision-making – one of the project's main objectives.⁸¹

Outcomes of the collaboration between **Producers Direct** and its project partner MasterCard Labs showcases the potential of this approach in terms of exit and scale-up. The partnership resulted in an opportunity to scale 2Kuze, a digital tool developed in partnership with the MasterCard Labs in Uganda. 2Kuze is expected to support 12,000 smallholders regionally by the end of 2018 and to build resilience, particularly of local women and youth, as it is specifically designed for use in unstructured value chains.⁸²

Mercy Corps in the Horn of Africa had to adjust the initial design of its financial product MKK Mudharaba, which was based on a trust-based-contract and imposed a high financial risk on project partner and financial intermediary CTS. In order to minimize these risks, CTS imposed limits on the autonomy of livestock traders it provided loans to. Using beneficiary feedback collected by the project, this issue was picked up, and the lead partner redesigned the product in an eight-month process enabled through adaptive management.⁸³

Overall, ensuring project tools met user needs and were adapted based on user-experience played a key role in promoting sustainability. In the case of **Grameen** and **Producers Direct**, using real-time data and beneficiary feedback to tailor project tools to the needs of users ensured buy-in from project partners, their uptake of the project tools (Grameen) and further investment (Producers Direct). Similarly, by adjusting its project's financial product to the local context, **Mercy Corps Horn of Africa** ensured its uptake among local livestock owners and mitigated the contextual risk to its sustainability. Finally, **University of Sydney** introduced a tool that identifies capacity needs in DiDRR. When public sector organizations identify such needs in the future, teams trained as part of the GRP-funded project can address them, ensuring the project's momentum beyond its initial timeframe.

⁷⁹ Grameen, FNR. Page 7

⁸⁰ Producers Direct, FNR

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Producers Direct, FNR. Page 8

⁸³ Mercy Corps HoA, FNR. Page 9

Summary

From the above-outlined clusters of approaches and concrete steps taken, it is evident that project tools and services contributed to sustainability of project results. We found evidence that a participatory approach to the design of project outputs improved their suitability to targeted contexts (and audiences), increasing user buy-in and uptake. This was further enhanced by capacity-building activities, which not only improved understanding of the resilience concept among stakeholders (**MHT**) but also created new connections and accommodated collaboration among its participants (**Mercy Corps Horn of Africa, University of Sydney**). Sustainability of project results was further enhanced by designing assessment tools and embedding them in targeted organizations to help them become aware of their knowledge gaps. These knowledge needs can then be addressed by professionals trained by the GRP-funded project (**University of Sydney**) contributing to the project's momentum. Last but not least, diverse consortia were well suited to address the complex realities of resilience projects and their beneficiaries.



5.4 Impact Pathway 4: Knowledge and partnership

Impact Pathway 4 presents evidence on knowledge events and partnership-building activities that the eight projects and their stakeholders engaged in. The grantees also reported on how the projects shared their stories and lessons learned and what communication work was executed. This section first presents examples of presentations, capacity-building activities and demonstration events delivered by the projects. Resulting outcomes are discussed, where relevant evidence is available. The second part explores the enablers and drivers for innovation and scaling. These include collaboration with partners and national governments and creation of buy-in among project stakeholders. It presents a number of examples of how specific activities and project outputs contributed to project sustainability and/or scaling.

Presentations

Grantees found that participation in events that are closely relevant in subject can provide opportunities to showcase project innovations; test their validity in new contexts; discuss sector-specific issues with peers and engage with key actors in the field, including donors and thought leaders; and create opportunities for synergies and scale-up.

Presenting in conferences and other subject-relevant events enabled grantees to discuss with, and in some cases influence, diverse groups of actors working in the resilience field. Presentations to audiences such as project stakeholders, potential donors and other key actors in the resilience sector put a spotlight on innovations introduced by the projects, created buy-in and in some cases even contributed to project sustainability and/or scale-up. Based on figures reported by the 8 grantees, we counted over 50 external presentations and 69 trainings (some of which were workshops) delivered during the 18 months of project implementation.

Presentations to external (often international) audiences were most commonly made on project-specific subjects. **Producers Direct**, for example, showcased its pioneering work in thematically relevant conferences in Rwanda in July 2018 and in Tanzania in 2017. Both conferences focused on agricultural value chain digitization and the role of digital tools in agribusinesses, with a primary focus on 'the last mile'.⁸⁴

Participation in events on subjects directly relevant to grantees' field of work enabled them to showcase their innovations and, in some cases, also test their validity in new contexts. **MHT**, for example, organized a Community-Based Resilience Academy in March 2017 to test the validity

⁸⁴ Ibid.

and transferability of its model, characterized by women leaders and grassroots implementers as key resource persons, in other cities.⁸⁵

Some of the projects did particular work around showcasing work on women's empowerment. MHT's objective to empower women from slums in seven South Asian cities to take action against the most pressing climate-related risks facing their communities⁸⁶ put women's empowerment at the heart of its mission and resulted in invitations to several events on the subject. These included the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February 2018, where MHT hosted a side event on the subject of women as community mobilizers in slum upgrading.⁸⁷

Other GRP-funded projects, like **Producers Direct** and **Mercy Corps Sahel**, shared or plan to share their experience in events on women's empowerment. This is likely to increase the scale and variety of their audiences and enables them to discuss their experience on women's empowerment.

Producers Direct presented in Acumen's panel on 'Beyond Dialogue: Integrating and Empowering Women in Partnership with Social Entrepreneurs' at the Skoll World Forum in Oxford, UK, in April 2018. This enabled it to discuss its resilience work in the context of women's role in agriculture, specifically focusing on women's access to and use of digital tools. Claire Rhodes shared the Producers Direct's experience on improving women's access to markets using digital tools, including successes, challenges and key lessons learned for scale-up. The forum focused on ways corporations and social enterprises work together to expand the role of women as entrepreneurs, employees, suppliers and customers in an inclusive economy and attracted philanthropic, public and private actors and investors (e.g. Unilever and Danone).⁸⁸

Mercy Corps Sahel planned to share the results of its work and lessons learned at a roundtable organized by CARE International on the socio-economic empowerment of women and savings group in Mali in December 2017. Its presentation was to be complemented by a filmed interview of women group leaders who had received credit from the project and volunteered to share their experience.⁸⁹

Presenting in events on the subject of women's empowerment enabled grantees to discuss their work in new contexts and with wider audiences, including potential new donors.

Knowledge events and capacity-building

Capacity-building activities enabled project teams to engage their stakeholders at international and regional scales (including government officials and other key actors) and to discuss technical issues with subject experts. In the case of **MetaMeta**, the demonstration effect of capacity-building activities also created opportunities for investment, replication and scale-up.

MetaMeta delivered 49 trainings, 12 external presentations and 37 trainings/workshops for farmers as well as representatives from government institutions. These events reached an estimated minimum of 3,466 people. Participating government institutions included water and road management authorities and agricultural officers. They also carried out training activities at the international level.

Showcasing **MetaMeta's** innovative approach to road water harvesting to a wide range of national and international actors working on road construction and management, including project stakeholders and potential donors, created opportunities for further investment, replication and scale-up.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ MHT's project description on GRP website at <http://www.globalresiliencepartnership.org/teams/coping-and-adaption-technologies/>

⁸⁷ MHT, FNR. Page 12

⁸⁸ Producers Direct, FNR. Pages 13–14

⁸⁹ Mercy Corps Sahel, FNR. Page 11

'The potential investment opportunities are numerous and go along the following lines: [i] Incorporating road water management practices in current and future road construction and maintenance programs by working with national road authorities. [ii] Working with infrastructure and climate change funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the World Bank and the Billion Dollar Business Alliance. [iii] Incorporating road water management in landscape restoration/soil and water conservation programs. [iv] Working with micro-credit institutions to provide small loans to farmers to build the water harvesting structures.'⁹⁰

MetaMeta

Similarly, to MetaMeta, **University of Sydney** trained its in-country partners to provide training on DiDRR. These trainings of future trainers enabled project partners to respond to numerous invitations to provide trainings and seminars on DiDRR, involving high-level government officials and major DRR actors in the project activities and increasing the potential of their buy-in. These included representatives from the following organizations: the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Thailand), Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (Thailand), Bangkok Metropolitan Authority, Thai Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross, Philippines city-level Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices, Philippine Federation of the Deaf, Philippine National Association of Sign Language Interpreters, NCDM (Cambodia) and Cambodian Red Cross.⁹¹

In summary, capacity-building activities were delivered at multiple levels and brought together diverse groups of stakeholders offering their participants an opportunity to learn and network. Trainings of trainers ensured the knowledge and skills introduced by the project remained with the project partners beyond the GRP-funded timeframe.

Knowledge-sharing opportunities

While presentations, capacity-building activities and demonstration events were planned for from the outset and formally included in project workplans, much engagement also occurred *ad hoc* and less formally by leveraging opportunities as they emerged. Many were knowledge-sharing opportunities initiated by project partners. Working in the **Sahel, Mercy Corps** held several working sessions with representatives from the World Bank, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the High Commissary for the Information and Communication Society of the Presidency of the Republic of Niger. Participants shared innovative experiences that had enabled the emergence of digital financial services in Niger as a result of the partnership among MNOs, MFIs and Fintech.⁹²

The team also leveraged knowledge-sharing events organized by government, including a knowledge-sharing campaign on financial management sponsored by the Mali government that brought together all main players in the sector. Given the campaign's geographic scale, the government's consent to the project's contribution was crucial. The workshop was successful and received national media coverage – enabling the project to share its goals and innovations with audiences across the country.⁹³

Furthermore, **Mercy Corps'** lead partner in Mali organized two events with youth and local communities to share experiences in financial management. These activities were aimed at inspiring youth to learn about financial management, employment, livelihoods and

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ University of Sydney, FNR. Page 4

⁹² Mercy Corps Sahel, FNR. Page 11

⁹³ Ibid.

entrepreneurship. Mercy Corps also took part in a slam poetry contest in urban schools of Bamako and worked with a traditional youth musical group to produce songs about money management and savings.⁹⁴

Similarly, partners' buy-in played a crucial role in identifying opportunities to share knowledge. In **Groundswell's** experience, each of the project's country partners identified key opportunities to contribute their new knowledge and skills in promoting resilience, primarily integrating nutrition, equity and women's empowerment, as well as field-level results, to various workshops and conferences. They presented at USAID-supported Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) learning events and also at the Food and Agricultural Organization agro-ecology symposium in April 2018 in Rome. Furthermore, each country partner reflected experiences and lessons learned in the design of new funding proposals and in conversations with potential donors.⁹⁵

MetaMeta sought to appreciate the unique strengths and contributions of project stakeholders (which in its case included road, water and agriculture authorities) and let them contribute to project design/implementation as their strengths are best suited. The team acknowledged that, to ensure uptake of project outputs, buy-in from stakeholders responsible for, or most affected by, the implementation of the project innovations must be ensured.

'What worked really well was bringing together all actors in knowledge events, letting them discuss and find solutions together. Also, the co-generation of communication materials and publications helped to create a sense of partnership and ownership of the approach. ... Building strong partnerships with implementers has been the main strength. ... Working with road authorities is vital for including beneficial road water management in design guidelines and procedures, and to enforce the regulations. However, road contractors are those who will implement the modified design, and thus are a crucial actor that hasn't been involved much during the process.'⁹⁶

MetaMeta

MHT reported that opportunities for collaboration with the city government occurred from time to time during the project period. Engagements included consultations, demonstrations, inputs into government-led activities and sharing experiences, and opened ways for the poor to raise their voice to government.

'Such opportunities have opened ways of collaboration between communities, government and other stakeholders with MHT as a facilitator, where poor can come forward to voice their issues in front of the city stakeholders and also support the government in devising the right solutions for community-level problems.'⁹⁷

MHT

Other opportunities emerged in the form of a favorable political climate. **Producers Direct** shared its experience with government officials, who were invited to take part in project activities with the objective of creating buy-in at both local and national levels. This was seen as critical for replication and adoption of innovations introduced by the project. In this instance, the GRP-

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Groundswell, FNR. Page 2

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ MHT, FNR. Page 8

funded team could tap into an existing window of opportunity, as national governments in both Kenya and Uganda were already committed to addressing climate change. As a result, the local government partnered with Sireet to scale out agricultural trainings at the Center of Excellence led by promoter farmers in the network on their demonstration sites/farms, with a focus on showcasing on-farm diversification to build resilience as well as sharing lessons learned with the suite of digital tools.⁹⁸

Though anecdotal, the evidence of beneficiaries generating lesson-sharing opportunities themselves shows the importance of stakeholder buy-in, flexibility and will. A female beneficiary of the **Producers Direct** project in the Ankole Coffee Producers Cooperative Union (ACPCU) was approached by a team from Intermón Oxfam, a Spanish organization that buys women-produced coffee from ACPCU. The team visited female farmers from whom they buy coffee and invited one of them to share her experiences. The beneficiary then traveled to Spain to share her experience of participating in the project and the digital model it introduced from the perspective of a woman working in coffee production. Intermón Oxfam also purchased coffee from 350 women at ACPCU who were participating in the GRP-funded project.⁹⁹

Furthermore, the project team developed partnerships with experts in climate change, which resulted in opportunities for scale-out of the project innovations. Partnerships with Climate Edge and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), for example, are likely to sustain and scale out the tools introduced by the project.

'Winning the World Bank's Collaborative Data Initiatives for Sustainable Development in 2018 has provided us an opportunity to further develop, sustain and scale tools we've launched with support from GRP – namely the logbooks/record keeping app and the dynamic data dashboards, as well as opportunities to develop further partnerships with experts in climate change to scale-up work to date (partnerships with Climate Edge and CIAT will further support building climate resilience).'¹⁰⁰

Producers Direct

A cornerstone to stakeholder buy-in was a shared understanding across the implementation consortium and targeted beneficiaries, mutual trust and, in many cases, participatory design and implementation.

Fostering partnership

Shared understanding

To create buy-in among stakeholders and maximize the project's results, **Groundswell's** priority was to ensure all partners, beneficiaries and local actors had a shared understanding of resilience. This involved capacity-building on resilience thinking and mainstreaming of the more comprehensive concept of resilience into existing programs, tools, structures and organizational attitudes, so they would better meet the needs of women and the most vulnerable people. A participatory approach to project design and implementation required a shared understanding of the resilience concept and its implications locally and leveraged a strong relationship with the project stakeholders and other key actors working on resilience in local communities, which formed a cornerstone of Groundswell's approach.

⁹⁸ Producers Direct, FNR. Page 12

⁹⁹ Ibid. Page 14

¹⁰⁰ Ibid. Page 8

'These relationships worked because we engaged in truly collaborative processes of identifying and prioritizing problems, seeking solutions and planning activities, and sharing responsibility for management... collaboration is successful when all actors are involved from the beginning, when the terms of the collaboration are set out in a protocol, actors respect each other, actors are patient, flexible and transparent.'¹⁰¹

Groundswell

In the experience of **University of Sydney**, a shared understanding of the importance of DiDRR among stakeholders formed a foundation to the project's sustainability and potential scale-out. The project team took part in 14 events, where it shared lessons learned and sought to create new partnerships, across the region and on the wider global stage.

These external presentations improved understanding of DiDRR among key actors in the region and increased the likelihood of demand for innovative trainings on the subject that were introduced by the project. Improved understanding of DiDRR resulted in more awareness of capacity needs within the targeted organizations, which could be addressed by partners of **University of Sydney** that had been trained on the subject as part of the GRP-funded project.

Collaborative implementation and trust

In addition to improving understanding and promoting buy-in among key actors in the field, generating trust and stakeholder buy-in was as important in ensuring project sustainability.

Mutual trust, respect and recognition of partners' strengths and inputs were critical ingredients for **Mercy Corps'** work in the **Horn of Africa**, enabling innovation, collaboration and efficiency within the consortium.

'[T]he mutual trust and respect that Mercy Corps had nurtured with CTS [partner] was critical for allowing us to test bold ideas (MKK Mudharaba) without collateral damage on the community or traders, and for supporting a collaborative process for building back better with MKK Murabaha. CTS learned of the importance of investing in building relationships along the entire value chain, including the end market actors, and maintaining consistent contact with these actors throughout the trade cycle.'¹⁰²

Mercy Corps HoA

Mutual recognition and trust within the consortium, in combination with a participatory and reflective approach to implementation, was ensured through regular meetings to review evidence and make decisions about the project design. The team learnt that building effective partnerships takes time, but, by having these in place, it could quickly identify issues with MKK Mudharaba and pause the pilot as a result and redesign the financial product to maximize its suitability for the targeted groups. This increased the likelihood of its sustainability and scale-out.

'Mercy Corps met with CTS on a regular basis to review evidence and learning from the pilot and take joint decision on the way forward. This process, rooted in commitment to shared learning and adaptive management, was critical for ensuring that we quickly identified and addressed the issues that arose with MKK Mudharaba and hit pause on the pilot. Through joint analysis and

¹⁰¹ Groundswell, FNR. Page 9

¹⁰² Mercy Corps HoA, FNR. Page 14

consultation with Islamic scholars, Mercy Corps and CTS determined that the Islamic principal of Murabaha, as applied to MKK, would help mitigate against the challenges introduced by Mudharaba, thus improving the potential profitability and scalability of the product while ensuring continued Sharia compliance.’¹⁰³

Mercy Corps HoA

In a similar way, **Grameen** enabled collaboration and participatory implementation through regular check-ins with each implementing partner, their timely training and monthly performance reviews, to identify successes, challenges and immediate next steps. This collaborative approach, underpinned by trust, enabled the project to leverage existing contracts of individual partners and offer services to farmers endorsed by the project partners – enabling those farmers to access a wider variety of services. This collaborative approach adheres to data security and privacy for partners’ data and had the following results:¹⁰⁴

‘This resulted in the following – Franklin Baker [partner] has endorsed an initial list of 70 farmers from their supply chain to access People’s Bank of Caraga’s financial products and services. In addition, farmers who were traditionally just project participants of the Philippine Coconut Authority were also able to access agricultural loans for cocoa intercropping in the province of Davao Oriental. Even at the field officer or agent level, collaboration is happening with government agents being oriented on financial products and services to be able to address farmers’ questions immediately.’¹⁰⁵

Grameen

Grameen found it necessary to reflect regular capacity-building activities and performance reviews in the workplan from the outset of the project. This should include a system for regular performance reviews to check and recognize high performance of partner organizations, refresher trainings and regular check-ins with partners’ teams delivering complementary activities. Related to this, capacity needs of field agents should be assessed and their appropriate training planned for. This includes preparation of guidance materials to encourage use of the project tools.¹⁰⁶

Social capital, such as networks built on mutual trust and effective collaboration, was a trait that spanned a number of projects, sparking stakeholder buy-in and putting them on a trajectory towards sustainability and scale-out. Grantees’ lessons learned teach us that creation of such partnerships takes time, effective and regular communication and, in some cases, capacity-building right from the project outset. Suitable processes and activities should therefore be thought about as part of project design and reflected in project workplans and budgets.

Summary

While engaging in knowledge-sharing events on project-specific subjects enabled grantees to discuss with, and in some cases influence, diverse groups of actors working in the resilience field, showcase their innovations and, sometimes, also test their validity in new contexts, presenting

¹⁰³ Ibid. Page 8

¹⁰⁴ Grameen, FNR. Pages 6–8

¹⁰⁵ Ibid. Pages 6–7

¹⁰⁶ Ibid. Page 4

their work in events on the subject of women's empowerment offered an opportunity to discuss their experience in new contexts and with wider audiences, including potential new donors.

Engaging diverse groups of stakeholders at multiple levels, capacity-building activities further increased the scale of audiences reached and the depth of their engagement. Capacity-building also generated interest among local actors, promoted collaboration to sustain projects' innovations and ensured that the knowledge and skills introduced by projects were sustained with their stakeholders beyond the project timeframes. Contributing to project sustainability and scale-up, demonstration activities created opportunities for investment and replication, and participation in accelerator events provided feedback on projects' business models, further enhancing their readiness for scale-up.

Further engagement was carried out less formally by leveraging *ad hoc* opportunities. Important drivers that created these opportunities were improved knowledge, shared understanding and buy-in among project stakeholders and key actors in relevant sectors.

6. Conclusions

The overall purpose of this synthesis was to take an evidence-based approach to summarizing the progress of R1 grantees towards their stated outcomes as well as to examine the challenges and enablers to that progress.

The 10 GRP R1 Challenges have supported 5.2 million people across 15 countries. They have provided early warning information to over 1 million people, trained 20,557 in climate change adaptation, generated US\$351,860 in financial services and provided short-term agricultural training in food security to 15,955 people. In addition, they have developed innovative mobile technologies, built social capital, influenced policy, overcome barriers to exclusion and created national infrastructure projects. The projects will continue to grow going forward, with many finding new investment through local, national and international donors and partners.

The areas of outcomes evidence the importance of building connections, influencing policies, transferring knowledge and empowering vulnerable groups in helping create shifts in resilience. Even where approaches appear more 'business as usual', for example microcredit, agricultural training and community group formation, the R1 grantees are combining these with elements of innovation, influence and connectivity to allow for the layering and adaptability required for resilience projects. Working closely with stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners has been extremely important here, enabling innovation to flourish to meet real and often changing contexts and needs.

Among them, the R1 grantees have achieved outcomes relating to a wide range of resilience-building activities, including high-level policy influence (University of Sydney, MetaMeta, TAHMO) development of innovative mobile technology (Producers Direct, Mercy Corps Sahel) value-chain based technologies (Grameen, Producers Direct), financial innovation (IFPRI, Groundswell, Mercy Corps HoA, Mercy Corps Sahel), community education and action (MHT, Groundswell) and climactic early warning systems (TAHMO, Mercy Corps Sahel).

As well as delivering on these areas of tangible outcomes, there has also been a strong and successful focus on inclusivity, with many of the grantees focusing their work around the inclusion of vulnerable groups, working with them to design approaches that work for them. These projects (e.g. MHT, Producers Direct, Groundswell, Grameen, Mercy Corps) have not only produced outcomes relating directly to the use of their approach but also influenced communities, resulting in shifts in intergenerational relationships (Producers Direct), the role of women in the community (MHT, Groundswell) and the agency of these groups to make a difference to their lives and those of their families.

Through adaptable approaches to project design, the projects have worked with communities to create approaches that work for them. This means not only that objectives were met but also that communities are adopting the approaches more readily and sustainability is better ensured. The way in which the R1 grantees have worked in partnership at different levels (with communities, local government, the private and public sector and other stakeholders) has been identified as an extremely positive enabler for the grantees. Not only does it create sustainable projects in terms of uptake, but it also meant that some grantees have secured additional funding or partnerships to keep their work going forward.

A number of other key enablers have emerged from R1 grantees:

Research was essential to understand the policy climate and ensure projects were well aligned with relevant policies. It also informed numerous knowledge products targeting policy-makers as well as donors and other practitioners that might be interested in project innovations and the policy context in which they were implemented.

Close relationships with government organizations improved understanding and generated buy-in from government representatives, resulting in adoption of tools and approaches introduced

by six projects (Grameen, Groundswell, MHT, MetaMeta, Producers Direct, University of Sydney), increasing the likelihood of sparking a transformational change.

Participation in policy events increased the exposure of grantees' work both nationally and internationally and enabled them to discuss their innovations in the context of wider policy and its influence and implications for resilience interventions.

Layering of interventions is a widely used approach to transformational change¹⁰⁷ adopted by all grantees. This increased adoption rates among Grameen's beneficiaries, enabled uptake of digital tools introduced by Producers Direct and ensured momentum of a capacity-building project implemented by University of Sydney.

Flexible project management was extremely important to enabling grantees to adapt to shocks and stresses during their project time, but also in response to learning on what did and did not work as they developed their projects.

Moreover, **layering of capacity-building components and activities to ensure shared understanding, partner recognition and trust** enables stakeholder participation in project design and implementation, creates buy-in and increases the likelihood of project sustainability. This was documented by Groundswell, University of Sydney, Groundswell and Mercy Corps in the Horn of Africa.

¹⁰⁷ Combining activities (and actors) and linking them to knowledge brokering processes is one of four main enabling processes through which BRACED projects build resilience. See, for example, Routes to Resilience: Insights from BRACED Year 2. Summary. BRACED Knowledge Manager. Page 1.

Annex 1: Grantees and their consortium partners

This annex contains titles, descriptions, consortia leads and partners for each grantee project. Information was adapted from <http://www.globalresiliencepartnership.org/>

Building Resilience of Smallholder Farmers in Southeast Asia

Consortium lead: Grameen Foundation

Partners: Chocolate de San Isidro; PBC; Philippine Coconut Authority; People's Bank of Caraga; Franklin Baker Company of the Philippines; Malagos Chocolates, Nutiva; Palantir; Stichting Progreso; Planet Labs; aWhere

Country: Philippines

Project type: Scale

Thematic area: Livelihoods, Technology, Innovative Financing

Grameen Foundation received funding to build resilience among coconut farmers in the Philippines, who, despite forming the backbone of the country's top agricultural industry, are chronically poor and especially vulnerable to climate change. The team helped farmers improve productivity, access financial services, expand market access and use EWS to control pest and disease outbreaks. Working with government, agribusiness and financial services partners, the team leveraged mobile technology to provide coconut farmers with real-time data and services to help strengthen their businesses and reduce losses to their families owing to extreme weather events and volatile markets.

Grameen's participatory approach created buy-in among partners, and consortium diversity enabled the delivery of integrated services that were better able to address the complex realities of their beneficiaries. This enabled partners to identify efficiency gains incentivizing their engagement. As a result, a regional office of the Philippine Coconut Authority saw the advantages of using technology for its programs and introduced several policies related to embedding the technology within the government's operations. Another partner signed a contract to continue using data collected from the project to target smallholder farmers more efficiently.

Key achievements

- Grameen Foundation delivered services to 26,732 beneficiary households comprising 133,660 family members – 67,498 female (50.5%) and 66,162 male (49.5%). This is 34% above the set target for GRP 1.
- Progress was a result of SMS-based extension and EWS provided in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority as well as more intensive 1:1 extension support through a suite of mobile tools.
- The evaluation focused on early markers of change, adoption of good agricultural practices and these showed positive results.
- Qualitative learning provides valuable insights on public-private partnerships, mobile tools for development and inclusive decision-making.



Resilient Rural Livelihoods in Ecologically Fragile Drylands of the Sahel

Consortium lead: Groundswell International

Partners: Association Nourrir Sans Détruire; Sahel Eco; Agrecol Afrique, ETC

Countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal

Project type: Scale



Thematic area: Livelihoods/Climate change – DRR

Groundswell International has engaged in building the resilience of communities in the Sahel's ecologically fragile dry lands, giving particular attention to women in more vulnerable households. The team helped small-scale farmers experiment with agro-ecological innovations to increase climate-resilient food production and dietary diversity in their communities, while also regenerating soils, trees and vegetative cover. By enhancing women's access to credit, land and water, the team aimed to empower female farmers in the process. These efforts were brought to scale by fostering intensive 'farmer-to-farmer' learning and exchange between communities, linking up with district government development programs and fostering more effective nationwide policies and programs to build resilience.

Large-scale and inclusive stakeholder engagement combined with a participatory approach created buy-in and contributed to sustained adoption of agro-ecological practices, with beneficiaries investing in agro-ecology practices themselves. Partner buy-in played a crucial role in identifying opportunities to replicate Groundswell's innovations (and share lessons learned) and demonstration days enabled village leaders and farmers to engage directly with policy-makers and generated widespread media coverage.

Key achievements

- 60,021 people within 148 villages across Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso were supported both directly and indirectly by the GRP project.
- 10,102 farmers applied 13 technology or practices, including farmer-managed natural regeneration (tree-based farming), rapid compost, contour rock bunds, improved land clearing, gully erosion barriers and inter-cropping.
- 231 organizations received agricultural or food security-related organizational development assistance through the project.
- 3 national-level policy briefs were produced advocating for policy change by different stakeholders on agriculture for improved nutrition.
- Local governance strengthening enabled the modification of 5-year development plans and budgets in 4 communes in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Satellite Technologies, Innovative and Smart Financing for Food Security (SATISFy)

Consortium lead: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Partners: Columbia University, Cornell University, Equity bank Kenya, Egerton University Kenya, Swiss Re, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development



Country: Kenya

Project type: Scale

Thematic area: Livelihoods, Innovative financing

The project received funding to address the challenge presented by uninsured risks, which is a major cause of low agricultural productivity in the Horn of Africa. It proposed a market-based innovative risk management solution in the form of Risk-Contingent Credit (RCC), a social safety net that could mitigate drought risks for the rural poor and improve farm productivity and livelihoods. RCC is a linked financial product that embeds within its structure insurance protection, which, when triggered, offsets loan payments due to the lender. RCC seeks to address the challenge that lenders are reluctant to lend to farmers because of the financial risks associated with crop failure or radical decreases in market prices. Because RCC targets downside business risk, it simultaneously reduces financial risk and exposure. This risk-balancing effect encouraged increased supply of and access to credit but also encouraged risk-rationed farmers to increase the use of credit.

Key achievements

- An end line survey for the 1,170 households in 5 sub-counties was carried out and completed in the month of May 2018.
- IFPRI obtained US\$430,000 in funding from 3ie to further evaluate RCC in Kenya, which is a key opportunity to build on GRP.
- Published a peer-reviewed article on credit rationing in Applied Economics based on the baseline survey.

Devising Local Coping Mechanisms and Adaptation Technologies to Build Climate-Resilience Capacities of Urban Poor in South Asia

Consortium lead: Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT)

Partners: HomeNet South Asia. Centre for Environment Education; EMBARQ India Geotech Consultant, Himadiri Enviro-Protection Consultants Pvt. Ltd, Indian Institute of Public Health (Gandhinagar), P H Shah & Co. Chartered Accountants, SELCO Solar Light Pvt Ltd, Urban Management Centre, Development Alternatives, Vandemataram Projects Private Limited, Freie Universität Berlin, Georgia Institute of Technology



Countries: Bangladesh, India and Nepal

Project type: Scale

Thematic area: Climate change – adaptation

MHT received funding to empower women from slums in seven South Asian cities to take action against the most pressing climate-related risks facing their communities: heatwaves, flooding, water scarcity and water- and vector-borne diseases. Through the improved availability of real-time micro data, the team could equip the urban poor with the tools and know-how to undertake vulnerability and risk assessments and implement their own resilience plans. Utilizing a network of woman advocates, it could empower these communities to influence city planning so that their cities adopt adaptation and resilience actions that reflect a pro-poor agenda.

MHT's multi-layered intervention delivered by a consortium of diverse partners encouraged mutual learning and opened ways for the poor to raise their voice to government. Transferability of its model enabled replication in cities across India, with research produced on this in Delhi. Both activities are to be funded externally. Participation in policy events increased recognition of the work in Southeast Asia.

Key achievements

- MHT supported 135,275 people (out of 125,000 targeted) through various awareness- and institution-building activities.
- 114 women-led CAGs with 1,355 women and 249 adolescent/youth representatives became functional in 7 cities of South Asia, which mobilized 27,055 slum families into community-based organizations.
- MHT fostered multi-stakeholder partnerships in 7 cities reaching more than 280 experts, government officials and other representatives.
- MHT was recognized as a key stakeholder in the 2017 Ahmedabad city-level Heat Action Plan and won the Delhi Urban Labs Challenge to replicate efforts on heat resilience in Delhi.
- NRDC funded MHT to take up its climate-resilience initiatives in India (especially heat resilience).
- MHT furthered its partnership with the Indian Institute of Public Health-Gandhinagar to study the impact of heat stress on slum families.

Mitigating Pastoralists' Risk: Livestock Trade in the Horn of Africa

Consortium lead: Mercy Corps

Partners: Takaful; Medina Chemicals; Kalif import and Export PLC, TANGO International, Economic Intelligence Unit

Countries: Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia

Project type: Seed

Thematic area: Livelihoods, Innovative finance



Mercy Corps became a catalyst for transformation in the livestock market system, increasing resilience for hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable people in one of the most shock-exposed places in the world: the Horn of Africa. The project helped livestock owners manage their assets and livelihood risks while simultaneously increasing their household-level productivity and wealth. The project aimed to benefit 50,000 vulnerable households.

Through policy assessments, Mercy Corps identified influential rules and regulations on livestock trade and related opportunities to influence policy. A participatory approach to project design helped break down barriers within the consortium and enabled beneficiaries to input into decisions affecting their resilience. Moreover, collection of beneficiary feedback on the project outputs helped identify an issue with the initial version of their financial product and informed its redesign. The favorable political climate has increased demand for innovations introduced by projects and created an opportunity for transformational change. The project has secured funding for its second phase.

Key achievements

- 23,711 beneficiaries were reached through the MKK pilot in Wajir county. By forging new linkages between market actors, the scheme was designed to support improved market function and enhanced resilience to future drought among the livestock system.
- As of the end of the project, CTS had disbursed US\$124,940 in loans.
- The MKK Mudharaba product underwent field testing ending in Sept 2017; learning from that testing informed the redesign of the product (MKK Murabaha); CTS began field testing MKK Murabaha in late November.
- Though there was insufficient time to fully test the new product design and achieve Phase 3, Mercy Corps will continue to partner with CTS through mid-2019 through an extension of the BRACED program.
- Mercy Corps performed an assessment of relevant national- and county-level policies on the livestock market system.

Linking Social and Financial Capital to Enhance Resilience of Agro-Pastoral Communities (LEAP)

Consortium lead: Mercy Corps

Partners: ASUSU SA, Airtel Money, Institute National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger Soro Yiriwaso, Orange Money, PlanetFinance, Universite Abdou Moumoundi de Niamey



Countries: Niger, Mali

Project type: Scale

Thematic area: Livelihoods, Innovative finance

Mercy Corps worked to strengthen the resilience of agro-pastoralists in Mali and Niger by expanding their access to formal financial services. The project educated agro-pastoralist men and women so they could make informed decisions about their household finances and better manage risk. This unlocked access to new credit options, including warehouse credit for farmers and tailored credit products for women's groups. Using mobile banking and other technologies, the project aimed to bring 50,000 agro-pastoralists into the formal financial market.

Mercy Corps' inclusive approach and demonstration encouraged partners to invest to increase the project's geographical coverage and develop additional products suited to the new geographical areas. Stakeholders also identified new knowledge-sharing opportunities – giving the project national exposure and enabling it to engage with diverse audiences through new communication channels.

Key achievements

- The project reached 227,992 people who listened to the financial education messages broadcast on local radio.
- Instead of the 25,000 people targeted through training, over 15,000 people were reached, as a result of field constraints in Niger.
- LEAP has facilitated the beginning of institutional change in the financial services system in Mali and Niger, by setting in motion mobile banking.
- 8,320 members signed up with 312 VSLAs in 107 villages in Mali and Niger.
- 88 groups (1,333 members, 88% women) received US\$153,000 in mobile loans.
- 22 subscriptions for the index-based micro-insurance product were registered in Djenne circle in July 2017 for US\$510. They are insured against drought for the 2017/18 season up to US\$3,450 in damages.

New Roads for Resilience: Connecting Roads, Water and Livelihoods

Consortium lead: MetaMeta Research

Partners: ASAL Consultancy Ltd, Mekelle University, Regional Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development Amhara

Countries: Ethiopia and Kenya

Project type: Scale

Thematic area: Climate change – adaptation, Technology



MetaMeta Research and partners received funding to transform the way roads – conduits for modern commerce and life – are planned and built in the Horn of Africa by introducing innovative designs and improved guidelines to harvest rainwater, prevent soil erosion and improve use of roadside land. By bringing together government authorities, water and climate experts and roadside communities – especially women and the poor – this team worked to ensure that road construction efforts produced multiple benefits for all communities and enhanced resilience.

By combining capacity-building and communication activities, MetaMeta brought together diverse groups of actors. With a government organization as part of the consortium, MetaMeta was able to create a critical mass of national and international practitioners specializing in the subject of roads for water – formalizing stakeholder buy-in and contributing to the project's sustainability.

Key achievements

- The project has supported over 3 million beneficiaries, including both medium- and high-intensity support.
- 4,348 people have received trainings and also trainings organized by implementing institutions (regional bureaus of agriculture) as part of internal capacity-building.
- 84,254 ha in Amhara and Tigray have seen beneficial road water management practices implemented.
- 32 institutions have been trained and have incorporated beneficial road water management in their operations.

Harnessing the Power of Technology to Catalyze Value Chain Efficiency Improvements to Build Resilience, Catalyze Inclusion and Reach Vulnerable Smallholders

Consortium lead: Producers Direct (previously Cafedirect Producers Foundation)

Partners: KALRO; Sireet Outgrowers Cooperative, Mabale Tea Factory, Gumutindo Coffee Cooperative, MasterCard Labs, Vodafone, Wefarm, Restless Development

Countries: Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda

Project type: Scale

Thematic area: Livelihoods, Youth, Technology

This project addressed the inefficient and fragmented value chains by utilizing technology to provide necessary data, tools and information to improve livelihoods, promote value chain inclusion and build resilience for smallholders. It identified the causes of this as being lack of production data, lack of logistics data, lack of relevant agricultural information and low financial literacy and inclusion. The project aimed to ensure empowered smallholder households had access to systems, tools, data and information that increase value chain efficiency and inclusion, improve market opportunities, economic growth and poverty reduction and ensure financial inclusion, especially for women and youth.

Training for the users of project tools and human-centered design enabled Producers Direct to solve technical challenges, empower users and maximize their benefits. Human-centered design improved functionality of the tools, and collaboration with one of its partners on the tool design resulted in an opportunity to scale the digital tool in Uganda. Moreover, partner engagement in strategic planning secured partner buy-in and investment for project scale-up. The project also obtained funding to aggregate climate data.

Key achievements

- 332,500 beneficiaries benefited against a target of 300,000.
- 66,500 smallholder farmer households are using Wefarm, 2Kuze and other digital tools set up to support resilience in Kenya and Uganda.
- Producers Direct has actively participated in a number of knowledge and policy engagement events.
- Kenya and Uganda Policy Review report (led by Kenvo) provided a synthesis of agriculture/business opportunities for youth engagement.
- Producers Direct, with funding from the World Bank, will be able to make further strides in refining the digital tools, continuing to support smallholder farmers to transition to resilient small-scale businesses.

PRODUCERS DIRECT

Meteorological Early Warning Systems to Build Resilience to Acute Climate-Induced Shocks

Consortium lead: Trans African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory (TAHMO)

Partners: African Centers for Lightning and Electromagnetics, Climate Change Adaptation Innovation, Earth Networks, Human Network International



Country: Uganda

Project type: Scale

Thematic area: Climate change – adaptation, Technology

TAHMO received funding to empower local communities and vulnerable agriculturists across Uganda with an innovative early warning weather system for severe weather across the drought prone Cattle Corridor, the accident-prone areas of Lake Victoria, Kyoga and Wamala, and Uganda's flash flood-prone highlands. Leveraging the prevalence of cell phones across the country, the team partnered with mobile operators and the Ugandan National Meteorological Authority to provide low-cost, on-demand access to weather alerts to more than 16 million Ugandan cell phone users and free access to all 8 million Airtel subscribers.

Key achievements

- Deployed 40 automatic weather stations across Uganda and trained eight UNMA staff on their installation and maintenance;
- Delivery of EWS and agricultural information to approximately 1.2 million people across the following pathways targeting the same population:
 - Close to 1.8 Million unique users have been invited to the 1-6-1 platform,
 - 450,000 of the people invited have been active users of the platform,
 - Another 420,000 respondents are receiving sms information in the CHAI Districts
 - An estimated 500,000 are receiving information via radio broadcasts.
 - About 500 decision makers are receiving information by email.
 - Approximately 750,000 people have taken risk-reducing actions to improve resilience as a result of the information received.
- TAHMO & CHAI are involved in the TWIGA project which received funding that enables the continuation of project activities in Uganda and enhance the scaling-up to Kenya and Mozambique.
- On an international level, important linkages have been made with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- TAHMO has received support from IBM to deliver data to the Weather Channel.

Disability and Disasters: Empowering People and Building Resilience to Risk

Consortium lead: University of Sydney

Partners: KPC Consultant Co. Ltd, Inclusive Development and Empowerment Agenda, Cambodian Disabled People's Organization, Stockholm Environment Institute Asia Centre; Monash University, Craigs Consultants International



Countries: Cambodia, Philippines and Thailand

Project type: Scale

Thematic area: Climate change – DRR, Policy and influence

University of Sydney, in collaboration with partners in Australia and Southeast Asia, received funding to strengthen the voices of PWD in the region, who are disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters and often overlooked in traditional DRR efforts. Taking a multi-action approach, the team supported the generation of knowledge, risk awareness and skills needed to help PWD gain the institutional and social support needed to effectively prepare for hazards and disasters. Through coordinated advocacy, they also worked to empower PWD to influence governmental resilience strategies and become champions of resilience in their communities.

University of Sydney's inclusive approach centered around capacity-building brought together diverse stakeholders, fostered cross-sectoral relationships and resulted in new partnerships. It created a collaborative working relationship with a governmental organization, raised the visibility of DiDRR, strengthened the knowledge base and skills of local authorities and created an opportunity to ensure disability issues would be addressed by a national action plan.

Key achievements

- 22,068 beneficiaries have been supported through DiDRR workshops, support activities and provision of DiDRR information.
- 912 people were trained; this includes PWD, people from DPOs, local and national governments and NGOs.
- In Thailand, project beneficiaries contributed to the review of the national strategy on disaster management for disability conducted by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- In Cambodia, training and data collection raised the visibility of DiDRR and strengthened knowledge and skills of local authorities.
- In the Philippines, the project allowed Deaf people to access interpreters and express their voices on DRR. At the policy level, the IRS closely aligned cities' requirements for DRR, gender and development, disability and accessibility planning.

GRP Challenge Results

5.7million

People supported
by GRP



1,100

Organizations
receiving
assistance



\$725,000

Value of financial
services support



90,000ha

Areas under innovations





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