Adapting slower measurement approaches to real-time decision-making

Resilience programs must adapt to change as quickly as shocks occur. Itad and Mercy Corps are exploring how data from existing monitoring and evaluation systems can be used to support adaptive management; to validate program modifications in real-time.

“The potential to change the paradigm from static M&E plans and fixed budgets to one where people ask ‘What kind of evidence do we have, and how can we use it to make timely decisions appropriate for a context?’ is something that managers and M&E staff are craving.”

Mercy Corps

Big Data for Resilience Analysis

With the increased frequency of climatic and non-climate-related shocks and stresses, it is becoming increasingly important to identify real-time, novel and cost-effective ways to monitor conditions across large geographies.

Flowminder Foundation, Mercy Corps and the Feinstein International Center are testing one such approach, utilizing the infrastructure of mobile phones. The proliferation of mobile phones has led to a passive, inexpensive production of big data. Indicators derived from mobile phone Call Detail Records (CDR) are being tested against individual well-being data collected through household surveys, to determine their suitability for predicting food security and to gain insights into quality of life across large geographies.

“In the long term, this type of work will provide additional insights into food security across territories and this information could be consumed by development and humanitarian practitioners, various bodies of the government and large donors.”

Flowminder Foundation

Keep innovating to strengthen the evidence base for resilience investments!

“Small investments to pioneer innovative measurement concepts can drive big change on the global resilience stage.”

Director, RMEL CoP

The Resilience Measurement, Evidence and Learning Community of Practice (RMEL CoP) is a growing network of over 250 resilience measurement specialists who collaborate with leading users of resilience evidence. Building on current resilience evaluation, research and learning approaches, we seek to innovate, incubate, and scale-up; together we can Measure up to the Resilience Challenge!
Small innovation investments in resilience monitoring, evaluation and analysis can yield big returns!

In an increasingly turbulent world, the term ‘resilience’ is commonplace in the language of public, private, and non-profit sector actors. Yet how do we know what actions actually strengthen resilience over time?

The Resilience Measurement, Evidence and Learning Community of Practice (RMEL CoP) convenes specialists in designing and testing evaluation, learning and research methods for resilience. Their purpose: to strengthen the evidence-base for resilience investments.

Innovation is about trying ideas that have the potential to move things forward; small financial awards can support brave concepts and unusual collaborations to stimulate this process.

Here we celebrate the work of four member teams, recipients of the RMEL CoP’s Innovation Awards. These teams are trying out real-time, right-sized and people-centered RMEL approaches, seeking to inform more impactful resilience practice around the world.

Reliable data for resilience decision-making must come from diverse constituencies

With over a billion people living in informal settlements worldwide, Slum Dwellers International (SDI) helps slum-dweller associations generate Know Your City (KYC) data and bring it into city planning.

This award enabled a unique collaboration between 100 Resilient Cities (100RC), Itad and SDI in Accra and Cape Town. The team modeled ways to share and integrate data from slum-dweller communities and data collection processes into city resilience-planning processes.

Through this work, the team demonstrated that city surveys do not always capture the community data needed for resilience planning. An enduring collaboration between city planners and slum-dweller affiliates is now flourishing.

“Applying different kinds of data to existing planning tools can support more resilient infrastructure for all.”

SDI and Global Infrastructure Basel (GIB) collaborated to connect global standards that drive resilient and sustainable infrastructure investment with local dialogue and data.

Applying GIB’s globally accepted infrastructure assessment tool — The SuRe® Smartscan — to SDI’s community-derived Know Your City (KYC) data, the team modeled the resilience strengths and weaknesses of informal settlements.

This provided actionable insights into how cities and investors can use KYC data to plan and budget for slum upgrading. Integrating a module that uses this data into the Smartscan can support other cities seeking to blend climate and development finance to increase the resilience of informal settlements.

“We showed that there is a way to facilitate dialogue between global decision-making about climate-resilient development and informal settlements. This opens people’s eyes to the opportunities.”

Slum Dwellers International