

Reality of Resilience is an initiative run by the BRACED Knowledge Manager. BRACED aims to build the resilience of up to 5 million vulnerable people against climate extremes and disasters.

➤ www.braced.org/reality-of-resilience

✉ Contact the Learning Team at learning@resilienceexchange.net

Reality of Resilience

LEARNING FROM CLIMATE EXTREMES

Reality of Resilience facilitates the generation, collection and dissemination of real-world examples of resilience interventions during floods and droughts. How does it work?



1. MONITOR EXTREME EVENTS

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre monitors satellite information, rain gauges and flood models to detect where extreme rainfall may lead to flooding, and where lack of rainfall or soil moisture deficits may lead to drought.



2. ISSUE NOTIFICATION OF EXTREME EVENT

When a predefined "danger level" is exceeded, the Climate Centre sends a notification of a possible extreme event (flood, cyclone, drought) to BRACED partners on the ground to verify the remotely sensed information.



3. LEARN ABOUT RESILIENCE

BRACED partners, journalists and thematic experts document and share how project interventions helped beneficiaries anticipate, absorb and adapt to the extreme event, possibly avoiding a disaster. Shared successes and challenges can help inform the wider resilience community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Q: Why does Reality of Resilience focus on learning after climate shocks and stresses occur?**

A: It is crucial to document instances where communities are resilient during extreme events so we can understand what is effective at building resilience.

- **Q: Does Reality of Resilience only focus on success stories?**

A: No, we think it's equally valuable to document challenges. When interventions work in unexpected ways, or are unable to withstand an extreme event, it is an opportunity to share ideas, learn, and improve. Reality of Resilience facilitates this process.

- **Q: Why are extreme events monitored remotely?**

A: Sometimes an extreme event occurs and no one is impacted. We want to ensure we detect those events and understand where little damage occurs, and why. Many BRACED projects work over large, remote, areas where information is difficult to get to; using remote monitoring also helps ensure we know about extreme events quickly.

- **Q: Can you send me an alert before an extreme event occurs?**

A: No. The monitoring tools used in Reality of Resilience observe what has already happened on the ground. The Knowledge Manager does not have the authority to give early warning of extreme weather, but you can contact your National Meteorological Agency for short-term, local forecasts. The BRACED Knowledge Manager supports BRACED projects through provision of publically available forecasts and guidance on seasonal forecasts through the internal Climate & Weather Help Desk.

- **Q: Does Reality of Resilience consider indigenous knowledge?**

A: Yes. The Knowledge Manager works with BRACED projects to ensure that the voice of the local communities is amplified through Reality of Resilience. Indigenous forecasting methods and traditional adaptation strategies can be shared through blogs, crowdsourcing, interviews and videos.

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO LEARNING FROM CLIMATE SHOCKS AND STRESSES THROUGH REALITY OF RESILIENCE?

STEP 1: After an extreme climate event occurs investigate the following key questions at the local level:



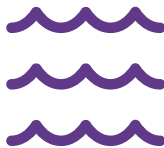
Extreme event

- How does this extreme event compare with previous events in this area (magnitude, location, length, type of event)?
- Was the climate extreme predicted?
- Was a warning issued?



Interventions

- Did the resilience-building intervention(s) work as expected or were unforeseen challenges encountered?
- What other factors may have enabled or constrained adaptation in the affected area (e.g. conflict)?



Impact

- What groups are most affected? Least affected? Why?
- How did indigenous coping strategies or local policies help to reduce the impact of this extreme event?



Learning

- What can your project learn from this extreme climate event?
- How can you use this knowledge to improve your project, and influence local and national policy to promote effective resilience-building?

STEP 2: Share your insights with BRACED partners and the wider resilience community using the following methods:



Document the extreme event with pictures and video of what happened



Interview beneficiaries, project implementers and experts



Write blogs and articles answering key questions



Complete monitoring and evaluation assessments of interventions

Send to learning@resilienceexchange.net for posting on the Reality of Resilience webpage.

STEP 3: Consolidate ideas and encourage learning by leading or contributing to an online discussion forum and/or webinar.



STEP 4: Co-write case studies informing donors, resilience projects and policymakers about your work.



The views presented in this paper are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of BRACED, its partners or donor.