

Preparedness and Resilience Working Group Lessons Learned



This paper is a synthesis of lessons learnt from the experience of NGO partners working on early warning early action (EWEA), preparedness, vulnerability reduction and resilience. The learning does not claim to be comprehensive, but can serve as a useful document, which captures some important lessons to help improve food security and livelihood humanitarian interventions. The diversity of issues addressed in this collection illustrates how inherently complex it can be when seeking to effectively link immediate lifesaving needs with longer-term interventions that address together hunger, poverty and climate change. To gain a full picture of the learning, the narrative presented here should be read along with the original learning papers that can be accessed directly through the links provided by each NGO partner.

2016

[Learning from experience: a review of early warning systems](#)

Moving towards
Early Action



EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

This review focuses World Vision's experience in EW for slow on-set hazards in Africa. Following a discussion on climate data and information are case studies of EWS that have been developed with key agencies.

These agencies include World Vision International, World Vision Ethiopia, SomReP, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); Interagency Standard Committee (Operating Procedures – El Niño, La Niña); the Met Office United Kingdom (UK), the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement – Forecast-based Financing; and the Start Network (UK) – Anticipation Window.

The findings distilled from analyses of case studies capture several opportunities and barriers.





2015

[Responding Early to Urban Crisis](#)

Concern Worldwide's Research on Indicators for Urban Emergencies

EARLY RESPONSE

The Indicator Development for Surveillance of Urban Emergencies (IDSUE) was a study funded by the United States Agency for International Development – Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and implemented by Concern Worldwide Kenya (Concern). The study was born out of growing interest in predicting and averting urban food security crises.

IDSUE was developed:

- 1) To determine indicators for early detection of humanitarian emergency situations and coping strategies
- 2) To develop surveillance systems for detection of early warning systems of a humanitarian emergency/crisis
- 3) To identify thresholds and triggers for action for defining when a situation has reached an emergency/crisis stage

Findings:

- Averages mask reality from the most vulnerable in the poorest slums
- The most vulnerable tend to be clustered in “hot spots”
- Greater numbers resort to negative coping strategies



2017

[Community Resilience: experience and learning](#)

RESILIENCE

This paper gives an overview of how Concern Understands Community Resilience and goes on to share learning emerging from programmes across the drylands of the Sahel and East Africa including Chad, Sudan, Niger, Kenya and Somalia as well as the more flood and earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

It shares new programme models and tools being used by Concern such as the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition Surge Approach and the Flood Resilience Measurement Tool.

Concern's approach to promoting gender equality and influencing overarching political systems and stakeholders to build resilience of the most vulnerable is also outlined.



**FOOD SECURITY
CLUSTER**

2018

[Improving Resilience in South Sudan: experience and learning](#)

RESILIENCE

The Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) programme sought to increase resilience to drought and floods for targeted communities, especially women and girls, while also contributing to evidence-based learning related to developing climate change resilience in complex and conflict-prone environments.

This paper summarises the following lessons, which the BRACED project in South Sudan generated:

- 1) Focus on the drivers of vulnerability (not the hazard)
- 2) Focus on systems
- 3) Policy and advocacy are core elements of programming
- 4) All activities should be aimed at finding sustainable solutions
- 5) Manage risk and protect development gains
- 6) Build in contingency funds and plans
- 7) Humanitarian interventions can provide an entry point for resilience programming
- 8) Layer, link, and sequence interventions
- 9) Resilience can be built in places with weak governance
- 10) Don't let the indicators determine the activities

2017

[Promoting Resilient Livelihoods at Solidarités International](#)

RESILIENCE

This internal learning paper seeks to:

- Clarify SI's position on the livelihood approach and the notion of resilience
- Provide operational tips on livelihoods assessment, programming and monitoring and evaluation to ensure that all SI staff have a shared understanding of these concepts. ([French version](#))



2017

Better farming practices for resilient livelihoods in saline and flood-prone Bangladesh

RESILIENCE

This study examines how SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL contributed to increasing the resilience of farming populations in Satkhira District, Bangladesh.

The project was specifically aimed at supporting households in the implementation of more resilient and diversified agricultural and livestock systems.

Lessons learnt:

- 1) Close collaboration with agriculture extension officers is key
- 2) Importance of sustainable access to inputs
- 3) Information is key
- 4) Demonstration plots are powerful tools to disseminate information
- 5) Transformation of agricultural products should be promoted (development of value chains)
- 6) Non farming livelihood options must be considered

2019

Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED)

Centre-Nord and Plateau-Central regions of Burkina Faso

RESILIENCE

This paper highlights the learning emerging from the Welthungerhilfe/Self Help Africa BRACED consortium project in Burkina Faso.

Lessons learnt and recommendations:

- Promote sustainable agriculture practices and strengthen support services (value local knowledge and agroecology principles, plant clinics, soil conservation such as Zai technique)
- Support value chain development to increase food security and reduce poverty (focus on staple crops, vegetables, poultry, forest products)
- Introduce entrepreneurial expertise and strengthen farmer organisation capacities
- Promote climate and weather related information via local media (e.g. radio)
- Gender mainstreaming: Increase income for women and empower women in decision making processes to increase effects on health and nutrition
- Partner with local NGOs, for higher project coverage and improved civil society capacities
- Partner with government extension services for increased sustainability

