



RESILIENCE MEASUREMENT PRACTICAL GUIDANCE NOTE SERIES

What is the series about?

The Resilience Measurement Practical Guidance Note Series synthesizes existing technical documents into pragmatic guidance to assist practitioners in integrating core aspects of resilience measurement into their program assessments, design, monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

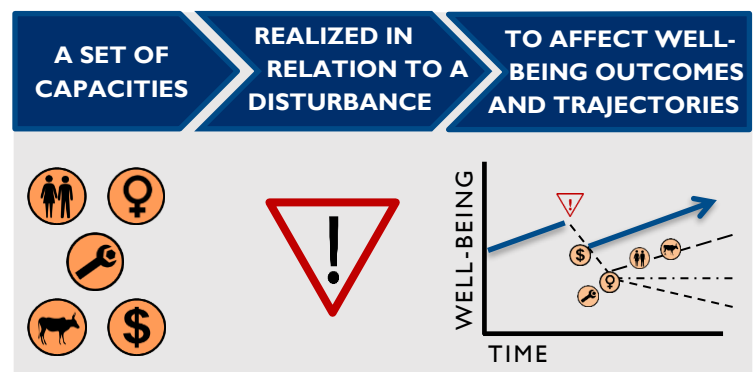
In five parts, the series introduces key concepts and guides practitioners through the process of resilience measurement, from assessment to analysis. Unlike many other program impacts (nutrition levels, poverty, etc.), resilience is not an end in itself but rather an ability that shapes how and why outcomes change over time. This makes resilience measurement different from measurement of other program concepts, thus the need for this guidance.

Who can use the series?

The intended users of this series are staff from USAID Missions, implementing partners and other field practitioners, and host governments. The Guidance Notes include content relevant for senior leadership, program managers, field practitioners and monitoring and evaluation specialists.

What is resilience?

USAID defines resilience as “the ability of people, households, communities, countries and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.” The ability to handle adversity and change without compromising future well being depends on a number of capacities and how they are used in the face of shocks and stresses. Resilience can be measured through these capacities and relating them to well-being outcomes as illustrated below.





1 Risk and Resilience Assessments

The first guidance note explains the process of a resilience assessment and provides guidance on how to:

- Design a resilience assessment process that informs and guides strategy development
- Operationalize the resilience assessment process
- Understand how to apply the outputs; i.e., how an assessment leads to doing work differently

2 Shocks and Stresses Measurement

The second guidance note explores the concepts of shocks and stresses, enabling practitioners to:

- Define and describe the major shocks and stresses in a program context (understand scale, frequency, etc.)
- Identify data sources/indicators to measure these shocks and stresses and describe how this data will be analyzed
- Understand how to incorporate such data into program design and adaptive project management

3 Resilience Capacities Measurement

The third guidance note offers guidance on adaptive, absorptive, and transformative capacities on how to:

- Understand the role of resilience capacities as part of a resilience Theory of Change
- Define context-relevant resilience capacities
- Identify indicators and data sources for measuring resilience capacities, and when and how to collect data

4 Resilience Analysis

The fourth guidance note supports practitioners to analyze resilience data, guiding them on how to:

- Define and prioritize analysis objectives (e.g., hypotheses or questions) that are testable and answerable through resilience analysis
- Understand the main analytical approaches used in resilience analysis including when and why to use them (e.g., what type of questions they can answer, what users can infer)
- Understand how to interpret and synthesize data in a way that informs and guides program design and adaptation

5 Resilience Measurement Design and Planning at the Activity Level

The fifth guidance note focuses on monitoring and evaluating resilience in the field, specifically on how to:

- Integrate resilience measurement into activity M&E plans based on activity size, scope, and complexity
- Understand when and what to monitor/evaluate for resilience programming in the context of a shock or stress; as well as in the absence of a shock or stress
- Select, adapt, or develop indicative questions, tools, and methodologies for monitoring and evaluating resilience based on the resources available



<https://goo.gl/Fj8H5Q> | www.usaid.gov/resilience | www.fsnnetwork.org/REAL | www.mercycorps.org/resilience

REAL is a consortium-led effort funded by the USAID Center for Resilience. It was established to respond to growing demand among USAID Missions, host governments, implementing organizations, and other key stakeholders for rigorous, yet practical, monitoring, evaluation, strategic analysis, and capacity building support. Led by Save the Children, REAL draws on the expertise of its partners: Food for the Hungry, Mercy Corps, and TANGO International.

The Resilience Measurement Practical Guidance Note Series was prepared by Mercy Corps in collaboration with the USAID Center for Resilience, TANGO International, and Save the Children.

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