RESILIENCE LEARNING ACTIVITY

Strengthening resilience capacities, evidence-based resilience programming, and collaboration in the Horn of Africa

Following large-scale droughts that devasted the Horn of Africa in 2011-2012, USAID and other development partners began investing in a regional architecture and supporting coordination efforts to build resilience to future shocks in the region. Coordinated resilience programming has since seen positive results in the arid and semi-arid lands, including declines in households living below the poverty level and an increase in perceived resiliency amongst local communities.

However, there is a constant need for evidence-based learning to inform investments in resilience programming and adaptative management. To strengthen USAID's resilience programming in East Africa, the Resilience Learning Activity (RLA) will support regional, national, and local organizations and institutions in Northern Kenya, Somalia, and the Horn of Africa to undertake analysis while strengthening their capacities for analytics, facilitating learning for adaptive management, and improving knowledge management and communication to align with USAID's Journey to Self-Reliance and the Horn of Africa Resilience Framework. ACDI/VOCA leads RLA in Northern Kenya and the Horn of Africa and Mercy Corps leads activities in Somalia.

OBJECTIVES

Through partnership with local institutions and leaders, national government, regional actors, and implementing partners, RLA is focused on four outcomes:

INCREASED ANALYTIC CAPACITY FOR LOCAL AND HOST COUNTRY ORGANIZATIONS. The activity will ensure that local and regional partners have access to the most recent and accurate data. RLA will provide support to build local organizations' analytical capacities to conduct learning actions and the activity will clean and repackages data for use by local partners and build the ability for stakeholders to continue to collect and analyze data.

FACILITATED LEARNING FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT BY LOCAL AND HOST COUNTRY ORGANIZATIONS. With enhanced data access, RLA will seek to institutionalize USAID's Collaboration, Learning and Adaptation (CLA) process among stakeholders. A culture of adaptive management will drive local and regional actors to continue seeking improvements in their activities towards resilience.

IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION FOR LOCAL AND HOST COUNTRY ORGANIZATIONS. As communities, governments, and

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Activity Duration: 5 years (2019-2024)
Budget: $19,500,000
Activity Areas: Collaboration, data analytics, knowledge management and strategic communication, learning focused on resilience including agriculture, WASH, nutrition, livelihoods and market systems, livestock, and conflict mitigation
Geographic Areas: Northern Kenya, Somalia, plus HORN other HoRN countries (DRC, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda).

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institutions generate learning and improved resilience management techniques, RLA will help organizations better package information and strategically share it.

SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS FOR CLA ESTABLISHED AND STRENGTHENED. RLA will work closely with USAID to facilitate programming workshops through the Horn of Africa Regional Network (HoRN) and the Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG). As PREG Secretariat, RLA will provide backbone support and facilitate support activities that strengthen CLA and sequencing layering and integration (SLI) initiatives amongst the 37 PREG implementing partners.

METHODOLOGY

This activity will focus on building the skills, capabilities, and strengthening the resilience capacities of local government, local organizations, host country academic institutions, and communities through learning and adaptation programming that focuses on experiential learning and a facilitative approach that links analytics to learning and adaptation in real time and ensures that decision making is informed by evidence. The activity will utilize innovative tools, such as context-specific resilience profiles and user-friendly data visualization mapping, locally accessible communication platforms, development of a learning agenda, and will support facilitative leadership training and mentoring that creates an enabling environment for local partners and leaders to define and facilitate change at the local and host country level.

APPROACH

RLA will focus on three tenets in its work in Kenya, Somalia, and the Horn of Africa.

LOCALLY-LED
Programming will focus on the belief that development and humanitarian activities should be locally-led, locally-managed, and locally-driven. Creating opportunities for local partners and leaders to participate in decisions that affect their daily lives helps build trust in local government officials and institutions, promotes community ownership and buy-in, and enables future cooperation.

DATA FOR DECISION MAKING
The activity will identify processes of analyzing systems, the impacts of various shocks and stresses across scales, and identify needed resilience capacities. RLA will place emphasis on accessing existing analytics, not building capacity to do analytics.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT
RLA will expand upon the Collective Impact Approach utilized in the past under PREG Learning and HORN Learning, where the application of the five conditions for collective impact—common agenda, shared measurement system, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and backbone support—are the drivers for successful collaboration and resilience partnerships.

CONTACTS

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