Resilience partners at the Learning Space Technical Workforce meeting identifying and prioritizing learning agenda.
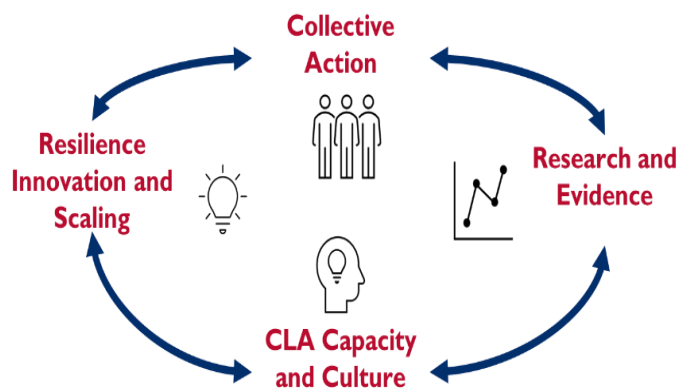
USAID ETHIOPIA RESILIENCE LEARNING ACTIVITY (RLA)

OVERVIEW

Chronic poverty and recurrent shocks are driving many of the same Ethiopian communities into crisis year after year. From acute events like disease outbreaks, extreme weather, and conflict, to protracted issues such as weak governance, ethnic strife and drought, severe shocks and longer-term stressors have both been increasing in frequency and duration.

USAID Ethiopia's resilience-building portfolio is among the largest and most complex in the world. USAID support is strengthening households, communities, and systems through a systems-based, integrated approach to address the root causes of chronic vulnerability.

The **USAID Ethiopia Resilience Learning Activity (RLA)** is a "learning sidecar" for USAID's resilience investments, working across USAID staff, offices, and implementing agencies (projects) to strengthen a culture of learning, sharing, evidence generation, substantiation, and triangulation. Ultimately, our aim is to build a common understanding and direct investments in resilience-building strategies and interventions that demonstratively result in more resilient households, communities, and systems. RLA is a five- year learning project implemented by the US-based small business, LINC, from 2022 to 2027.

The Four Components of Resilience Learning Activity

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Building a learning community through collective action

To generate learning, RLA is facilitating the collaboration, communication, and knowledge management for USAID and more than twenty USAID implementing partner projects working to increase resilience across the highlands and lowlands of Ethiopia.

Across all our resilience partners, RLA facilitates the development of a portfolio-wide Resilience Learning Agenda, joint learning initiatives, communities of practice on deep-dive issues, and sharing to inform the adoption of new, innovative practices.

Strengthening the evidence base through triangulation and substantiation

USAID/Ethiopia and its resilience partners are operating in a data-rich environment. However, findings from the traditional midline and endline evaluations and studies are often too late or not fully internalized. Resilience partners require the tools, processes, and expertise to understand what's working now, identify tipping points, and layering opportunities so that they can adapt more quickly. RLA works hand-in-hand with resilience partners to augment their toolboxes with complexity-aware, systems-based monitoring, and rapid feedback research methods. We help partners to examine their impact through mixed methods, applied research approaches that are quick turnaround and low resource, offering further opportunity for triangulation and substantiation of the evidence base.

Activity Name
USAID Ethiopia Resilience Activity (RLA)

Duration
August 2022 – August 2027

Activity Location
Ethiopia

Implementing Partners
LINC (prime), Environmental Incentives, JaRco Consulting, WI-HER

Main Stakeholders
USAID/Ethiopia and its Resilience Activity Implementing Partners

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ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

➢ Launched a resilience learning network composed of USAID staff and more than 20 implementing partners.
➢ Completed a Resilience Evidence Gap Analysis (REGA)
➢ Conducted a Gender and Conflict Analysis: "*The Effects of the Northern Conflict on Women and Men in the Amhara Region*"
➢ Developed a Rapid Feedback Guide for resilience partners.
➢ Facilitated and completed a Resilience Learning Agenda for USAID/Ethiopia and partners.
➢ Launched Communities of Practice to focus on high priority resilience learning questions.
➢ Established a shared knowledge management and collaboration portal.