



Final report:

Co-creation space, TLS, and ARA strategy development support

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Project overview

Background

ARA is in the process of finalizing a suite of co-creation processes that could lead to new programme development (internally known as the co-creation space). This process consists of four co-creation spaces where the three co-creation spaces/processes are being led by SSN through the ARA and the fourth (urban resilience), is being led by IIED to retain all processes within the secretariat. IIED's scope of work will also include contribution towards the TLS workstream and its legacy, support towards ARA strategy development, to support ARA on public affairs and final steps on governance framework.

Scope

The scope of this project was three-pronged:

1. Urban Resilience

- a. Develop a co-creation space on urban resilience.

2. Tracking, learning, sharing (TLS)

- a. Produce a tracking, learning, and sharing strategy and ensure continuation in handover.

3. ARA Strategy

- a. Support the ARA's mission and workstream through guidance and introduction to funders and stakeholders.

Project synthesis

Urban resilience

The Urban Resilience stream of work sought to develop a new programme of urban resilience, known as a co-creation space. IIED was asked to lead a process for designing one such new initiative on urban resilience. At its core, this process was aimed at developing and fleshing out a design and theory of change for a new programme to tackle climate impacts in cities of the global South. This process led to the development of the Strengthening & Enhancing Contextual Urban Resilience (SECURE) process for co-producing solutions for tackling climate risk.

The initial scoping phase of this process involved understanding the key stakeholders and funders in this space. A donor landscape review was conducted to understand the dynamics and dimensions of donors with potential interest and funds for uptake and sustainability of the co-creation space. Subsequently, an evidence and stakeholder review informed the project team of the players involved. The evidence review was also helpful to produce a draft framework that would then form the basis for the following consultation.

The preliminary research helped to shape the design and objectives of a co-produced urban resilience program. Over the course of six months, we hosted regional consultations engaging over 125 local and grassroots activists, practitioners in South Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Through these workshops, we sought to better understand urban resilience risks and local interventions through each geographical context to co-produce a framework for

urban resilience that could guide interventions based on local contexts. Workshop participants were also engaged in a case study analysis process in which participants were invited to submit an abstract of a co-produced urban resilience intervention in their local area. Selected abstracts were invited to submit a full case study which was drawn on for specific analysis and evidence of dimensions needed for the framework.

These sessions and the framework development were developed with guidance from our Advisory Committee. Advisory board members were strategically engaged for their advice and guidance on the program development, program applicability and networking for uptake.

Some of the organisations that are part of the programme design process include providers and facilitators of finance such as USAID, the UN Foundation, UKFCDO, the World Bank, Fundación Avina; researchers from institutions such as London University, Nottingham University, IIED America-Latina, National University of Rosario; networks such as C40, Cities Alliance, Slum Dwellers International and ICLEI; and a number of civil society organisations from across the world.

Interest in the SECURE process from these consultation sessions were followed up in individual meetings with donors and practitioners including CDRI, UN Foundation, FCDO, C40, Avina, CECCG, USAID, UNDP and Wellcome Trust.

Specifics of the framework can be found in the published working paper, [Co-producing urban resilience solutions: the role of power and politics](#), and the attached draft of the SECURE process. Due to be published later this month is an IIED working paper on the application of the framework, a policy brief drawing the attention of policymakers to the framework and a blog to highlight and speak to the outputs.

Tracking, learning, sharing

The project team, with Aditya's lead, produced an abridged TLS strategy, which was published on the [ARA website](#). Aditya provided successful handover to the new TLS workstream Lead, Transition Research, with relevant guidance documents shared on the ARA teams. Missing components of the TLS members area of the ARA website was identified and integrated into ARA communications.

ARA strategy

Aditya contributed to the successful guidance, advice and introduction to relevant funders, stakeholders and activities during weekly ARA meetings and ARA co-chair meetings. His active engagement contributed to the ARA's mission and support to workstream leads.

Project impact

Impact and uptake

These three components of IIED's work with the ARA are demonstrating impact in different ways.

Urban Resilience: The Urban Resilience Co-Creation Space has resulted in the development of the Strengthening and Enhancing Contextual Urban Resilience (SECURE) process through deep engagement with the 125+ organisations. The SECURE process is starting to deliver

impact. First, it is the centrepiece of a new initiative funded by the UKFCDO aimed at developing GESI aligned local resilience plans in India and South Africa. Here the SECURE process will be employed by IIED, ICLEI and PRIA in the development of these plans leading not only to the delivery of an important policy output but also generating insights on how SECURE itself can be improved. Second, the core-tenets of SECURE are being embedded within an upcoming call of the UK-Canada framework research programme on Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE). The call will be focussed on eliciting innovative proposals on urban resilience in ASEAN countries. Third, the IIED team is in the final stages of discussion with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) about embedding SECURE in their organisational protocols and processes. CDRI intends to employ the process to identify infrastructural investments aligned with contextual political-economic characteristics of the geographies in which it is mandated to work. Fourth, the IIED team has been engaging with representatives from USAID who are keen to explore the usefulness of the SECURE process in developing new urban resilience programmes. Finally, a large number of organisations have formally expressed an interest in learning more about SECURE with a view to adopting it to shape decision making in different forms. This includes, C40 (potentially to shape a global water resilience initiative), UNDP (who has offered to broker engagement with UNHABITAT to jointly determine how SECURE may be used in the UN system), CECG (that has offered to scope the degree to which the tool could be used influence donor investment priorities) and the Wellcome Trust (who are interested to see if SECURE could be used to strategically catalyse collaborations between stakeholders in Science Policy Centres that they are setting up across Africa).

TLS: After developing the comprehensive TLS strategy, establishing TLS processes and piloting TLS activities in 2022, IIED successfully handed over the TLS initiative to Transitions Research (a research collective focussed on climate change based in India). The new phase of the TLS programme has been successfully initiated by Transitions Research that are fully in control of TLS activities.

Strategic Input to the ARA: IIED supported the ARA in a number of ad-hoc tasks aimed at strategic development and enhanced public profile for the Alliance. This included conceptualising high profile and well attended events at the Adaptation Futures conference, in CoP28 and at the Development and Climate Days (that runs alongside but outside CoPs). IIED also helped manage 10 additional micro-grants focussed on GESI. This apart, members of IIED's team attended all weekly meetings of the secretariat and weighed in on most matters relating to the successful day to day running of the Alliance.

With the framework modification to incorporate GESI and the practical implementation in two pilot regions, we hope to see continued interest and programmatic integration of SECURE in this next phase.