



Financial Inclusion and Resilience to Climate Variability

Towards a Shared Research Agenda

May 29-30, 2018

IFPRI Headquarters
1201 Eye St, NW
Washington, DC 20005



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Event Details

Tuesday, May 29, 2018 | 1:00 PM–6:15 PM EDT

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 | 9:45 AM–3:00 PM EDT

Rigorous research demonstrates that improved access to formal financial services can help the poor deal with income shocks, whether they are weather-related (such as drought or floods), threats to health and well-being, or other unexpected challenges. As the effects of climate change intensify, appropriate financial services play a crucial role in building household resilience to climate variability and disaster risk. Further evidence is needed to better understand (i) how to design effective financial products and services, including insurance, savings, credit and payment systems, to meet the needs of populations facing climate-induced disruptions to their livelihoods; (ii) the trade-offs between different products and combinations of products; and (iii) the impact of financial inclusion on resilience to climate variability and disaster risk.

In response to this challenge, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), Mercy Corps, and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) have joined forces to convene researchers, donors, and practitioners in a roundtable on financial inclusion and resilience to climate variability. Through the event, key stakeholders will take stock of existing evidence, identify important gaps in the evidence, define and prioritize open research questions, and advance a research agenda on financial inclusion and resilience. Insights from the event will be incorporated into an evidence brief on the key findings and open research questions on financial inclusion and resilience to be published in mid-2018.

May 29, 2018

12:30 – 1:00	Registration and coffee
1:00 – 1:15	Welcome <i>Annie Duflo, Executive Director, IPA</i> <i>Daniel Gilligan, Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division Deputy Director, IFPRI</i>
1:15 – 1:30	Opening Remarks Why is resilience useful as a concept? From a practical perspective, where do we need more evidence to design financial products that meet people’s needs in a risky world? <i>Josh Ling, Director of Financial Inclusion, Mercy Corps</i> <i>Jon Kurtz, Senior Director of Research and Learning, Mercy Corps</i>
1:30 – 2:10	Measuring resilience This presentation will establish a common understanding of what resilience is and acknowledge the challenges in measuring it, setting the stage to identify gaps in the available evidence. <i>Chris Barrett, Deputy Dean and Dean of Academic Affairs, Cornell SC Johnson College of Business</i>
Research series: <i>The following series of presentations focus on reviewing the current state of evidence on the impact of financial inclusion on household resilience to climate variability and other major shocks. Researchers with experience working in each area will present a review of the evidence, and practitioner and/or donor discussants will share how they have applied (or could apply) the research results to their work, followed by audience questions and discussion.</i>	
2:10 – 2:55	Risk management and investment decisions Risk reduces incentives to invest, perpetuating poverty for those who are most vulnerable. Policies that encourage adoption of formal insurance can lead to more productive agricultural investments, and there is emerging evidence on the effect of other financial services on risk-taking behavior. <i>Shawn Cole, Associate Professor, Harvard University</i> <i>Josh Ling, Director of Financial Inclusion, Mercy Corps</i>
2:55 – 3:15	Coffee break
3:15 – 4:00	Remittance and cash transfer payment systems Digital payments enhance the impacts of risk-sharing by lowering transaction costs and expanding the social network able to contribute, including across borders. Digitizing cash transfer payments is cheaper, reduces leakage, and saves time for recipients. <i>William Jack, Vice Provost for Research and Director, gui2de, Georgetown University</i> <i>Leesa Shrader, AgriFin Accelerate Program Director, Mercy Corps</i>
4:00 – 4:55	Savings to smooth consumption Formal and informal savings products designed to reduce transaction costs, increase liquidity, improve mental accounting, and leverage peer support networks encourage emergency savings in poor households and, in turn, have positive effects on consumption smoothing and welfare. <i>Megan Gash, Independent Consultant</i> <i>Silvia Prina, Associate Professor, Northeastern University</i>
4:55 – 5:15	Closing remarks <i>Berber Kramer, Research Fellow, IFPRI</i>
5:15 – 6:15	Cocktail reception

May 30, 2018

9:45 – 10:15	Breakfast
10:15 – 10:30	Welcome
10:30 – 11:15	<p>Women’s financial inclusion and resilience</p> <p>A panel of researchers, practitioners, and donors will speak on the opportunities and barriers for financial inclusion to be a tool to promote resilience among women.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Kelly Jones, Research Fellow, IFPRI</i></p> <p><i>Panelists: Clara Delavallade, Economist – Africa Gender Innovation Lab, World Bank</i> <i>Mayada El-Zoghbi, Strategy, Research, & Development Lead, CGAP</i></p>
11:15 – 12:00	<p>Financial inclusion, resilience, and migration</p> <p>A panel of researchers, practitioners, and donors will speak on the opportunities and barriers for financial inclusion to be a tool to promote resilience among migrants and through migration.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Sara Murray, Electronic Cash Transfer Program Manager, Mercy Corps</i></p> <p><i>Panelists: Kate Ambler, Research Fellow, IFPRI</i> <i>Austin Davis, Assistant Professor, American University</i> <i>Michelle Hassan, Associate, Bankable Frontier Associates</i> <i>Barri Shorey, Deputy Director of Livelihoods, International Rescue Committee</i></p>
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	<p>Evidence gap working groups</p> <p>Practitioners, donors, and researchers will be grouped together to identify key open research questions around a specific dimension of financial inclusion and resilience.</p>
2:00 – 2:45	<p>Building a shared research agenda</p> <p>This panel will reflect on the key insights from the event and discuss the direction for a financial inclusion and resilience research agenda that can inform investments in this field.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Rebecca Rouse, Financial Inclusion Program Director, IPA</i></p> <p><i>Panelists: Xavier Giné, Lead Economist, World Bank</i> <i>Tiffany Griffin, Adviser, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Strategic Analysis, USAID Center for Resilience</i> <i>Sara Netzer, Emergency Food Security and Livelihoods Senior Director, Save the Children</i> <i>Beth Rhyne, Managing Director, Center for Financial Inclusion</i></p>
2:45 – 3:00	Closing remarks