

## **Global Resilience Partnership Global Resilience Challenge FAQs**

### **Q: What is resilience?**

**A:** The Global Resilience Partnership (Resilience Partnership) defines resilience as the ability of people, households, communities, countries and systems to mitigate, adapt to, recover from, thrive, and learn in the face of shocks and stresses, in order to reduce chronic vulnerability and enable sustained development, inclusive growth, and learning and transformative capacity. Building resilience is a progressive and long-term process that goes beyond humanitarian relief and development investment by addressing a wider set of inherently connected challenges that collectively prevent communities from achieving and maintaining development gains.

### **Q: What is the Resilience Partnership?**

**A:** The Resilience Partnership is a new model which seeks to solve today's complex and interrelated resilience challenges by better aligning humanitarian and development planning; developing new models for accessing, integrating, and using data and information; advancing evidence-based tools and approaches to help prioritize and scale up the most promising resilience investments and innovations; and connecting civil society and governments with private sector resources and expertise.

### **Q: What is the relationship between the Global Resilience Challenge and the Global Resilience Partnership?**

**A:** The Global Resilience Challenge (Challenge) is the first activity and a central component of the Resilience Partnership.

### **Q: What is the Global Resilience Challenge and what is its purpose?**

**A:** The Challenge is a three-stage competitive grant process that will bring together multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary teams to identify and help solve the toughest obstacles to building resilience for populations in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and South and Southeast Asia. Teams that are selected to advance in the Challenge will collaborate to build and implement bold and innovative solutions that overcome those identified barriers. The objectives of the Challenge are to promote resilience by developing and testing novel solutions that address local contexts and then to implement and scale the most promising solutions in each region.

Through this process, the Challenge will improve our understanding of regional vulnerabilities, strengths, and interdependencies, while fostering collaboration, increasing capacity, and building resilience on a large scale. As best practices for resilience are developed, the Challenge will open opportunities for communities to learn from each other within and across regions. Ultimately, the Challenge aims to improve the lives of millions by enabling the most vulnerable to build resilience to acute shocks and chronic stresses, thereby escaping from poverty and the cycle of crisis.

### **Q: What are the types of things that might be funded under the Challenge?**

**A:** Inherent to this Challenge is the recognition that solutions for building resilience are as diverse and interrelated as the problems themselves—from chronic malnutrition and health shocks, to climate change, to economic and political instabilities, and a myriad of other vulnerabilities. Under this Challenge, problem identification and solution development is deliberately structured as a field-driven process led by the winning teams. We expect teams to apply cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary, collaborative thinking to identify the gaps, needs, and barriers that must be overcome in order to build resilience to shocks and stresses. The range of shocks and stresses facing each of the three geographic regions is diverse. As such, it

is expected that this Challenge will fund a diverse range of promising solutions that overcome the critical problems identified.

**Q: How can people apply?**

**A:** Teams will be able to apply to compete in the Challenge between September 19 and November 30, 2014. Teams can learn more about the Challenge and will apply to it via the Challenge website portal located at [globalresiliencepartnership.org](http://globalresiliencepartnership.org).

**Q: Who should apply?**

**A:** Interested individuals will be encouraged to form diverse teams, drawing people from various backgrounds, sectors, and organizations, with an emphasis on including local and regional stakeholders. For example, team composition may include rural and urban planners, sociologists, economists, scientists, engineers, financiers, innovators, academics, natural resource managers, humanitarian workers, and civil society members. Team members will collaborate to identify the most critical barriers to building resilience and then to develop comprehensive solutions that overcome these persistent issues.

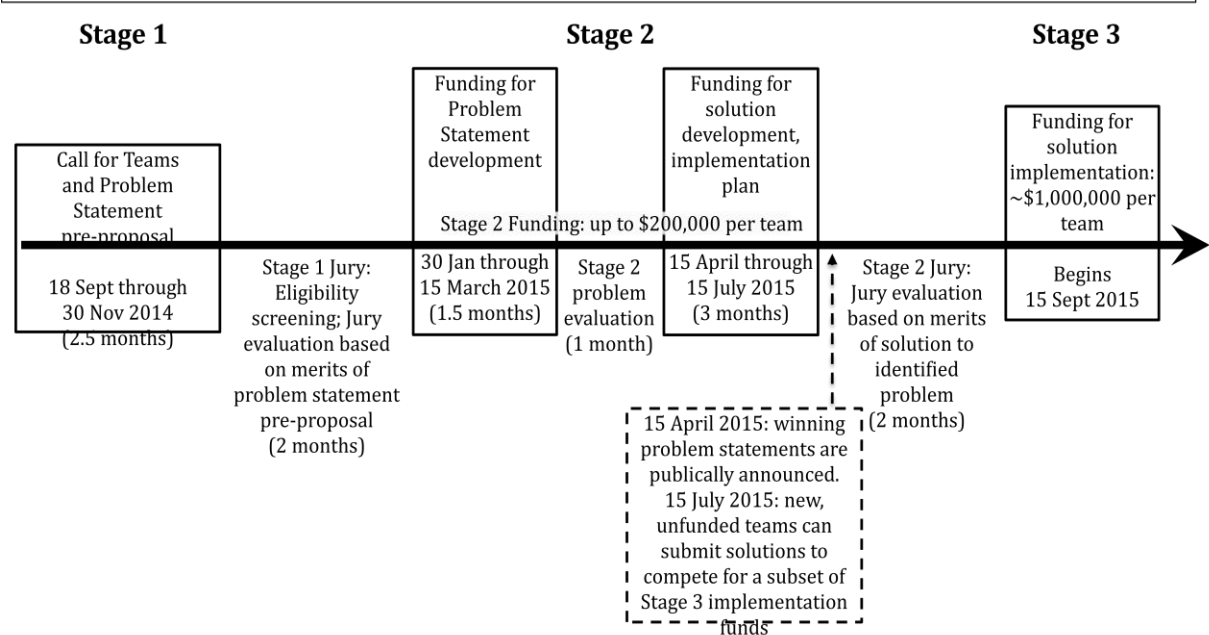
**Q: Does the team need to reside in the region to be eligible?**

**A:** As the Challenge is intended to be a regionally led process, we encourage substantive involvement from organizations and individuals in the focal regions. Participation by at least one regional or local partner on each team is required, but the entire team does not need to reside in the region to be eligible.

**Q: What is the timeline for the Resilience Challenge, when will awards be made, and what will be the size of the awards?**

**A:** The Challenge opens on September 19, 2014, with a launch event at the Frontiers in Development Forum in Washington D.C.

**Figure 1.** Timeline of the multi-staged Challenge. At Stage 1, teams compete for funding to be used in Stage 2. At Stage 2, teams receive funding to develop a Problem Statement, a solution, and solution implementation plan. Teams then compete for Stage 3 implementation funding. Once Problem Statements are publicized, new, unfunded teams can enter the competition for a reserved amount of Stage 3 funding (dashed box).



In the first stage of the Challenge, diverse, cross-sectoral teams will assemble and submit a pre-proposal that identifies the critical obstacles to building resilience in the teams' focal region. Teams who best demonstrate the commitment, creativity, and capacity of their members to address barriers to resilience will be invited to advance to the next stage of the Challenge where they will receive funding (up to \$200,000) to further develop their problem statement and to develop a bold, innovative, scalable solution. In the Challenge's final stage, teams who have built the most transformative solutions will receive funding for implementation (up to \$1,000,000). Implementation funding will be distributed in the Fall of 2015; the overall timeline for implementation funding is roughly one year after the Challenge opens. For more information, refer to the *Source Document for the Global Resilience Challenge*, posted online at [globalresiliencepartnership.org](http://globalresiliencepartnership.org)

**Q: What is the incentive for teams to apply?**

**A:** At the second and third stages of the Challenge, the Resilience Partnership will provide monetary awards to the winning teams. The teams who identify the most promising, scalable, and inventive solutions will be awarded implementation funds in the Challenge's final stage. The Challenge is an innovative, team-driven process that gives the most collaborative teams the chance to identify and solve some of the most complex problems. It allows those teams to turn their best ideas into reality, and to let the teams take credit for their work.

**Q: How many people will be on each team?**

**A:** Team size will vary according to each team's needs—this is a decision for the teams to make. Teams that successfully advance in the Challenge will have diverse, multi-disciplinary membership and will have demonstrated a credible and locally driven understanding of the barriers to building resilience in their focal region. Teams will be able to add new members in order to build their capacity and expertise as needed.

**Q: What are “wildcard” teams and how does that work?**

**A:** The Resilience Partnership will accept proposals for consideration from new teams for additional “wild card” funding for Stage Three awards. Previously unfunded teams (teams that did not receive Stage Two awards) may submit a proposal for a locally implementable and regionally scalable solution and implementation plan addressing one or more of the Approved Problem Statements announced by the Resilience Partnership.

On April 15, 2015, approved Problem Statements will be published online, allowing unfunded teams to enter the competition for a reserved subset of Stage Three funding. As a result of this “wild card” funding stream, up to three new teams will be awarded Stage Three funding. Wild card teams will be subject to the same criteria as teams in Stages One and Two.

**Q: How and by whom will applications to the Challenge be judged?**

**A:** Criteria have been developed by which to evaluate applications and deliverables associated with each stage of the Challenge. Jury composition will include independent experts in a broad range of development fields, USAID staff, and Rockefeller Foundation staff. Finalist teams will be selected based on their composition and the quality of the work proposal submitted. The most competitive team entries will balance deep expertise on specific issues with practical design capabilities. For more information on evaluation criteria, refer to the *Source Document for the Global Resilience Challenge*, posted online at [globalresiliencepartnership.org](http://globalresiliencepartnership.org)

**Q: Are the teams who apply to the Challenge expected to provide co-funding?**

**A:** No. Once teams are selected to advance into the next stages of the Challenge, the Resilience Partnership will provide funding to teams. Teams are welcomed to seek supplemental funding from within their organizations or beyond, but that is not an expectation.

**Q: Why is the Challenge focused on the Sahel, Horn of Africa, and South and Southeast Asia?**

**A:** The Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and South and Southeast Asia are among the most vulnerable regions in the world, and the frequency and magnitude of shocks and stresses affecting these areas continue to increase. Each of these geographies is vulnerable to a range of impacts, including but not limited to climate shocks, health crises, rapid population growth, and destabilization from conflict over natural resources, political conflict, or both.

- In **the Sahel**, climatic events such as irregular rainfall, drought, and desertification have led to chronic food insecurity.
- In **the Horn of Africa**, the population is primarily agrarian, pastoral, or both. Recurring natural and climatic events such as droughts, floods, famine, and even ash contamination from volcanic activity negatively affect food security, agricultural and livestock assets, and economic development.
- **South and Southeast Asia**, home to more than two billion people across a highly varied geography, face a diverse range of shocks and stresses—from resource scarcity to natural disasters like coastal storms and flooding—that typically disproportionately affect urban and rural poor.

**Q: How can I learn more about the Challenge?**

**A:** For more information about the Challenge, the Global Resilience Partnership and how you can get involved, follow @grp\_resilience on Twitter and visit [globalresiliencepartnership.org](https://globalresiliencepartnership.org). Visitors to the website are encouraged to subscribe to email alerts and receive information about webinars and other information events to be hosted by the Resilience Partnership.

**Q: I still have an unanswered question. Who can help me?**

**A:** All correspondence, including questions regarding the Challenge, should be directed to: [challenge@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:challenge@globalresiliencepartnership.org). All questions concerning the Challenge will be accumulated, and over the course of the Challenge, consolidated responses will be posted periodically to the Challenge website, [globalresiliencepartnership.org](https://globalresiliencepartnership.org).