



# 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



*Supported by the*  
**BILL & MELINDA**  
*GATES foundation*

## Event Details

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

**Wednesday, May 30, 2018 | 9:30 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, 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.

The organizers will be working on an evidence brief on the key findings and open research questions on financial inclusion and resilience in the lead up to the event. The insights from the event will be incorporated into a final version to be published in mid-2018.

**May 29, 2018**

12:30 – 1:00	<b>Registration and coffee</b>
1:00 – 1:15	<b>Welcome</b> Annie Duflo, IPA
1:15 – 1:30	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Jon Kurtz and Josh Ling, Mercy Corps 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?
1:30 – 2:00	<b>Measuring resilience</b> 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>Presenter: Chris Barrett, Cornell University</i>
<b>Research series:</b> <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>	
2:00 – 2:45	<b>Risk management and investment decisions</b> 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>Presenter: Shawn Cole, Harvard University</i> <i>Discussant: Josh Ling, Mercy Corps</i>
2:45 – 3:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
3:00 – 3:45	<b>Remittance and cash transfer payment systems</b> 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>Presenter: Billy Jack, Georgetown University</i>
3:45 – 4:40	<b>Savings to smooth consumption</b> 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>Presenter: Silvia Prina, Northeastern University</i> <i>Presenter: Megan Gash, Consultant</i>
4:40 – 5:10	<b>Closing remarks</b> Berber Kramer, IFPRI
5:10 – 6:00	<b>Cocktail reception</b>

**May 30, 2018**

9:30 – 10:15	<b>Breakfast</b>
10:15 – 10:30	<b>Welcome</b>
10:30 – 11:15	<p><b>Women’s financial inclusion and resilience</b></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, IFPRI</i></p> <p><i>Panelists: Mayada El-Zoghbi, CGAP; Tricia Callender, Women’s World Banking</i></p>
11:15 – 12:00	<p><b>Financial inclusion, resilience, and migration</b></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, Mercy Corps</i></p> <p><i>Panelists: Kate Ambler, IFPRI; Barri Shorey, International Rescue Committee; Austin Davis, Yale University</i></p>
12:00 – 1:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
1:00 – 2:00	<p><b>Evidence gap working groups</b></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><b>Building a shared research agenda</b></p> <p>This panel will reflect on the key insights from the workshop 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, IPA</i></p>
2:45 – 3:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>