



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESILIENCE

Autumn 2019

NCR Practitioner and Responder Workshops 2019



Here at the NCR we wanted to find out about the current challenges and issues facing Scotland's practitioners and responders during the recovery phase of an emergency. We wanted to look at how we might be able to help overcome these challenges, and so we travelled around Scotland, holding a series of workshops to ask the practitioner community just what the current obstacles are to effective recovery after a natural hazard incident, such as storms or flooding.

We held three workshops over two months, one in Glasgow, one in Aberdeen and one in Musselburgh and invited along the country's resilience practitioners and responders. Each workshop started with an introduction from Ailsa Mackay, NCR Centre Manager, followed by a series of presentations from some of our delegates, describing their own experiences of recovery.

Delegates were then asked a series of three questions;

- What do we mean by recovery?
- Thinking about how we have defined recovery, what are your recurring issues?
- Thinking about the issues you have heard today, can you offer any ideas or examples of best practice to help overcome these?



With a scribe at each table, we recorded all the discussions taking place in the room ready for us to take them away, analyse and prioritise the areas for action. So our next we will collate all of the challenges and ideas raised during all three workshops to then create a gap analysis, identifying where the NCR might be able to help fill a gap. We might do this by finding relevant research, commissioning research if it doesn't already exist, by funding a project or simply by connecting the right people.

We would like to thank everyone who came along to our workshops and those who helped to make them happen. But if you weren't able to make it, or if you did attend, but have something to add, we have an online survey that you can complete with your recovery challenges and reflections. Simply visit: <http://bit.ly/NCRrec> before Friday 25th October 2019.





Community Resilience as a context for learning

Alison MacLennan, *Resilient Individuals and Communities Development Officer, Education Scotland*

Supporting Young People and Their Communities to Prepare For, Respond To and Recover From Adverse and Challenging Situations

I am currently 19 months into a 23 month secondment as Resilient Individuals and Communities Development Officer supporting schools to embed Community Resilience as a context for learning. The National Centre for Resilience is one of my post's funding partners.

Over the last 14 months I have had the privilege of working closely with 10 "Pathfinder" Schools from across Scotland, each one with a resilience focus pertinent to its geographical, climatic, social or economic situation. This has been facilitated through 4 Network Days, school visits and professional dialogue.

This project has shown how the principles of preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergency situations can be practically applied to the lives of children through the education system and their personal relationships, giving them the tools they need to be resilient individuals and a key member of a resilient community:



Preparing For: In order to develop "Community Resilience" we have to start with the individual young person in an environment he or she feels safe; with people he/she knows and trusts. Relationships are key in supporting young people and their families to build resilience; equipping them to individually acquire the skills or toolkit needed to collectively come together as an effective community ready to respond.

Responding To: The schools work in partnership with their local and wider community, collaborating with parents, coming together to make a difference to their physical and social environments and getting to know each other.

Recovering from: The recovery process might be ongoing over a long period of time - supporting children who are facing Trauma or Adverse Childhood Experiences such as flooding, damage to homes through high winds and heavy rain, parents separating, bereavement, illness etc.





Skimming the Cream

Dr Liveness Banda and Dr Bettie Kawonga, *Animal Science Department Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (LUANAR) Malawi*



Developing potential to: learn from each other, co-design research, build networks and, develop dairy farmers' resilience. Meetings and exchanges between Malawi and Scotland, our experiences.

We had an opportunity to put up a project proposal in collaboration with Dr Helen Baxter from the National Centre of Resilience (NCR) at University of Glasgow and Prof David Roberts of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). The proposal was submitted to University of Glasgow's small project Global Challenges Research Fund and was successful. The aim of the project was

to initiate a research and collaboration network for the mutual benefit of dairy farmers in Malawi and Scotland. Key to the activities of the project was collaborator exchange visits to both countries to have a preliminary understanding how the effects of changing climate and unpredictable weather patterns cascade through time and affect dairy farms' and farmers' resilience.

Dr Helen Baxter and Prof David Roberts visited Malawi in May 2019. We then came to Scotland in June 2019. We had both been to Dumfries before, so we were looking forward to being back but with a different perspective to learn and gain experiences. Helen had kindly shared our program in advance so we had an idea of our busy and exciting schedule for the week ahead.

Our first day started with great connections with old and new acquaintances from SRUC and University of Glasgow, followed by a tour around the facilities at the NCR and SRUC's Dairy Research and Innovation Centre in Dumfries. The next day saw us visit two contrasting dairy farms, a highly mechanized farm and grassland-based farm; and later the SRUC Barony Campus. We already knew that the dairy farms in Dumfries were totally different from most dairy farms in Malawi. Dairy farms in Malawi and Scotland differ in terms of herd size, milk yield, facilities and access to inputs and services. However, it was amazing that despite these differences, the challenges that the dairy farmers faced in both countries were similar. Some of the common issues included the need to support farmer wellbeing and farm productivity amidst climate change induced challenges, working out succession plans in running farms with regards to youths that may not be interested in farming, as well as price volatility issues.

The workshop we had on the third day in Glasgow was a further eye opener. Project collaborators and other stakeholders shared experiences, generated lessons and summarised key issues that could help us move forward. The workshop was also an opportunity to connect with more experts and generate research ideas. Our visit culminated in attending the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh where we had a chance to have discuss farmer resilience with various stakeholders including notable politicians. Our experience was amazing, and it will go a long way in shaping our contribution to not only dairy research and outreach, but also other agricultural systems.





Aspiring Communities

Elizabeth Pettersen *Resilience Project Manager, British Red Cross*

British Red Cross's Aspiring Communities project aims to give communities and individuals the tools to feel more empowered and

confident to act in a crisis, whether a personal crisis or one affecting the whole community, through the provision of highly localised training support and resources.



The project works towards:

- Making communities and individuals feel more resilient with a greater capacity to cope with a personal and/or community-wide crisis
- Individuals having a greater propensity to act in an emergency and support others in the community
- Communities and individuals feeling more empowered and involved in delivering solutions to the priorities that they have identified
- Individuals having built their confidence and learnt new and useful skills that will benefit them and their community



The project focuses on extreme rural island communities on Orkney and Shetland, where transport and other resources are scarce, which often results in local response to crises.

Local teams have been carrying out community consultations through questionnaires and individual one-to-one engagement to identify gaps in provision and resilience priorities in advance of co-developing solutions with community groups.

The project is due to close on 31.03.2020.



Funding available



We are currently accepting funding applications for projects which have the potential to increase Scotland's resilience to natural hazards.

Funding is available up to £35,000 for projects commencing April 2020 and which will complete within the 2020/21 financial year. The closing date for applications is 31st January 2020.

For more details and our application form, please visit our website or contact us using the details below.

You can keep up to date with our activities via our Twitter page @ResilienceScot and the NCR website: www.gla.ac.uk/ncr

Or contact us at nationalcentreforresilience@glasgow.ac.uk

To unsubscribe from the NCR mailing list, please reply to this email with the word UNSUBSCRIBE.