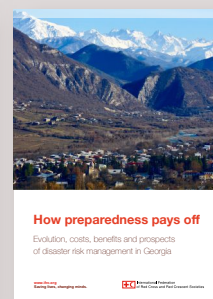
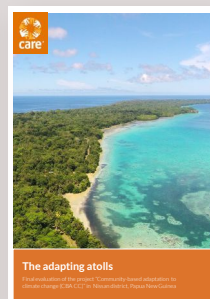


# Banyaneer reports

Rigorous research.

Professional presentation.



## What makes a good report?

- One that is based on sound research?
- One that addresses all research questions?
- One that makes practical recommendations?

Of course, it is all of the above. But there are other crucial aspects that make a good report: **it has to be read, understood, and used.**

Let's be honest: **many evaluation reports are read by few people** beyond the executive summary. Most are not published or shared outside the commissioning agency. Every humanitarian and development worker is (and should be) busy with his or her tasks at hand. So it is not surprising that even many technically sound reports do not fully reach the attention of their target group. That is unfortunate - as it implies that a lot of good work is not used as effectively as it could and should.

At Banyaneer, we understand this dilemma and do our best to address it: as much as possible, we give **initial debriefing presentations** after the completion of field research - allowing us not only to discuss, review and validate preliminary findings with field teams - but also to ensure that some critical information is understood (and followed up). Whenever possible, we also summarize a final report in a PowerPoint presentation (often in bilingual formats), making it **easy to share findings** and recommendations with colleagues and counterparts.

But there is something about the reports themselves that we focus on: **grasping and retaining the reader's attention.** Whether a report is for external use or not, we submit them in a reader-friendly and professional layout with a well-written narrative as well as with photos, charts, tables, and case studies. These illustrate key points - and many infographics get messages across more effectively than a descriptive text could.

Let us have a look at the features of Banyaneer reports - that make them stand out as **effective communiques of their underlying research.**

## Addressing research questions

In order to ensure that we cover all questions posed by the terms of reference, we develop a **research matrix** during the inception stage. This lists all key questions and shows the tools with which they will be addressed. We provide this matrix ahead of the field research (usually as part of inception reports).

## Rigorous research

Collecting evidence is the foundation of all studies - in order to yield robust results, we always aim to triangulate sources and tools. This often includes the combination of quantitative methods (surveys) and qualitative means (interviews, group discussions, trend analysis, hazard mapping, capacity assessments etc).

For instance, we usually combine longitudinal (before/after) and horizontal (target/control groups) comparisons with dose-response analysis, trend analysis and group discussions in **impact assessments** - this allows us to not just check *whether*, but also *why* projects have created a specific impact (or not).

In our four studies that included **cost benefit analysis** (CBA), the methodological rigor was particularly crucial - after all, the identified benefit-cost ratios depend on accurate assumptions and calculations.

For **household surveys**, we master various sampling techniques, electronic data collection, and professional data analysis. Thanks to the two statisticians on our team (who provide remote support), we can often present patterns before we leave the country.

In terms of **qualitative tools**, we are experienced in numerous techniques - enabling us to identify lessons learnt and to explore causalities in a participatory manner.

In fact, **our name Banyaneer** relates not just to the Banyan tree itself - which is a symbol of resilience across Asia - but also to the community discussions that are traditionally held in its shade.

### Concise and convincing narratives

When we write our reports, we strive to keep the main text body as concise and convincing as possible. Most of our reports are **no longer than thirty pages** (plus appendices) - and brought to life by photos, charts, and illustrations (see below). We concentrate on the critical aspects in the main text, and offer additional information in footnotes and appendices.

We **substantiate** our findings and recommendations, and present them in **plain language** - aware of the fact that most readers may not be native English speakers. Short, active sentences trump over long structures and jargon.

### Clear design and structure

Our reports have a clear **structure** and are usually presented in three sections of background, findings, and implications. Each section is divided into chapters, and longer chapters into sub-chapters. Flat hierarchies support clarity in reading, and allow for skimming if time is too scarce (key words are also usually set in bold font to assist busy readers).

Crisp and clear design further assists in the reading process and renders our reports ready for publication (we generally promote publishing to enable wider learning).

### Practical recommendations

All of our consultants have project management experience, and we know that a long list of unwieldy or unfeasible suggestions is of little value. The recommendations in our reports must pass the four tests of being (a) evidence-based, (b) concise, (c) feasible, and (d) supported by sufficient guidance.

We formulate recommendations in short sentences and then explain the reasoning in one or two paragraphs. Furthermore, we usually prioritize them as crucial, important, or desirable. In most cases, we provide an overview table in the executive summary.

### Use of photos

"A picture is worth a thousand words", the saying goes. Good photos **take the reader to the scene**: those unfamiliar with a project's setting get an impression of the sites, the interventions, the people.

While our consultants are not professional photographers, we share a passion for photography and have advanced skills, using professional DSLR cameras.

Upon request, we use a **flying camera** to illustrate patterns of risk or achievements. The **best photos go into our reports** - and help gain or retain readers's interest (there is nothing more dull than two facing pages filled with nothing but text).

We also share photos with our clients, who can use them in their publications (provided that photo credit is assigned to us). See some of our photos on our [Facebook page](#).

### Case studies and Most Significant Change stories

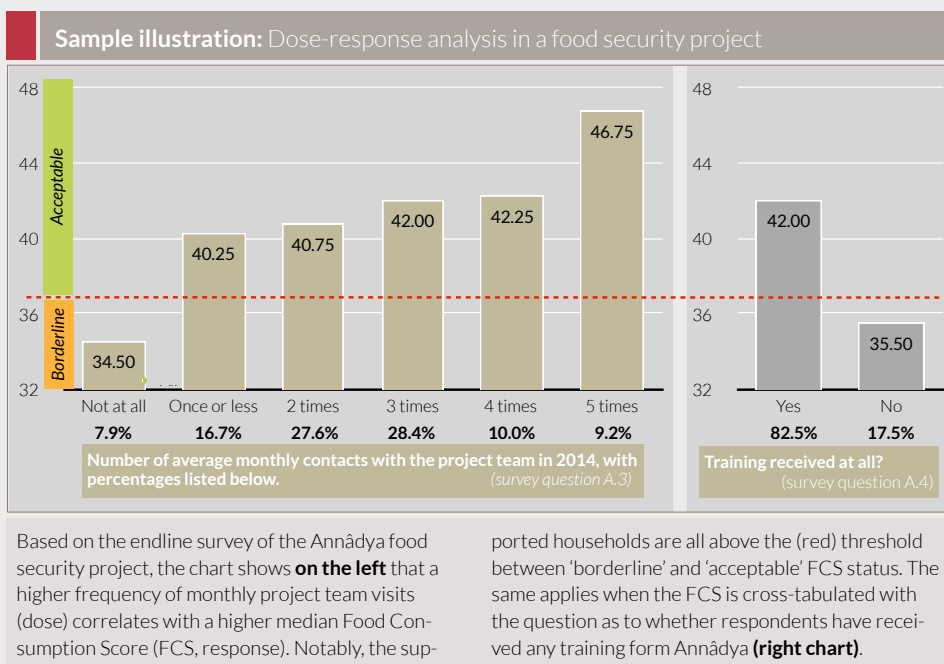
Individual stories of beneficiaries - often captured and selected through a shortened version of the Most Significant Change (MSC) process - are vivid ways to bring concepts like 'effectiveness' to life. Beneficiaries speak and share how projects have impacted their lives. In many cases, these stories reveal surprising insights, showing how interventions can make a difference 'beyond the logframe.'

### Charts, tables, infographics

Our reports are interspersed with illustrations that highlight key findings (see a sample below). We do not use illustrations to simply make the reports more attractive, but to underscore our findings.

Our reports usually contain customized maps of the project area, trend analysis charts (with disaggregated trajectories for women and men), colour-coded tables that highlight the extent to which objectives have been achieved, and indices that help interpret complex survey results.

**Have a look at the reports we produced in our first five years - some of them have been published (see ['view report'](#) hyperlinks).**





**Breaking the waves**  
Impact analysis of coastal afforestation for disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam

**Breaking the waves.**  
**Impact analysis of coastal afforestation for disaster risk reduction in Vietnam.**

Vietnam | 2011 [view report](#)  
Client: IFRC  
P. Bolte, F. Barnaby, Nguyen C., M.F. Rahmadana

An impact and cost-benefit analysis of a 17-year old afforestation project (mangroves, casuarina, bamboo) at the Red River Delta in which we quantified protective, economic and environmental benefits.



**Uphill struggle against risk**  
Impact analysis of community-based disaster risk management in Sri Lanka

**Uphill struggle against risk.**  
**Impact analysis of community-based disaster risk reduction in Sri Lanka.**

Sri Lanka | 2012  
Client: IFRC  
P. Bolte, M.F. Rahmadana

Landslides and flash floods are major hazards for the people in Sri Lanka's mountainous interior. The study finds risk reduction measures effective and argues for a more comprehensive approach.



**After the storm: recovery, resilience reinforced**  
Final evaluation of the Cyclone Nargis operation in Myanmar, 2008 - 2011

**After the storm: recovery, resilience reinforced.**  
**Final evaluation of the Cyclone Nargis Operation in Myanmar, 2008 - 2011.**

Myanmar | 2011 [view report](#)  
Client: IFRC  
P. Bolte, F. Barnaby, M.F. Rahmadana

The study analyses the recovery efforts along the lines of OECD/DAC criteria. Its recommendations informed the transition to 'regular' Red Cross work, and are useful for similar future emergencies.



**Risk awareness comes first**  
Evaluation of the first disaster risk reduction programme of the Lebanese Red Cross

**Risk awareness comes first.**  
**Evaluation of the first disaster risk reduction programme of the Lebanese Red Cross.**

Lebanon | 2012  
Client: Lebanese Red Cross  
P. Bolte

The evaluation of a disaster risk reduction (DRR) highlights the discrepancy between perceived and actual risk (earthquakes, fires), and suggests mainstreaming of DRR as well as awareness-raising.



**The long road to resilience**  
Impact and cost-benefit analysis of community-based disaster risk reduction in Bangladesh

**The long road to resilience.**  
**Impact and cost-benefit analysis of community-based disaster risk reduction in Bangladesh.**

Bangladesh | 2012 [view report](#)  
Client: IFRC  
P. Bolte, D. Eucker, M.F. Rahmadana

Comparing target and control communities, the study finds that community-based risk reduction has been highly effective. It suggests that livelihood support shall have greater focus on adaptive capacity.



**Final evaluation report**  
Owner-driven housing project in Kilinochi, Sri Lanka

**Final evaluation report: Owner-driven housing project in Kilinochi, Sri Lanka.**

Sri Lanka | 2012  
Client: German Red Cross  
M. Mylius, P. Bolte, M.F. Rahmadana

The evaluation of a project with shelter, livelihood and water/sanitation components finds effective post-conflict recovery efforts but points to inherent challenges (e.g. inflation) that need to be tackled.



**Baseline study**  
Building coastal resilience to reduce climate change impact in Thailand and Indonesia

**Baseline study:**  
**Building coastal resilience to reduce climate change impact in Thailand and Indonesia.**

Indonesia, Thailand | 2012  
Client: Care Germany/Luxembourg  
D. Eucker, M.F. Rahmadana, P. Bolte

The survey amongst 1,440 households rigorously assesses patterns of risk, vulnerability and resilience. It concludes that climate change adaptation and poverty reduction measures need to go hand in hand.

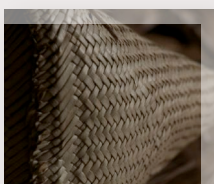


**Final evaluation report**  
Owner-driven housing and community assistance project in Mullaitivu, Sri Lanka

**Final evaluation report: Owner-driven housing and community assistance project in Mullaitivu, Sri Lanka.**

Sri Lanka | 2012  
Client: German Red Cross  
M. Mylius, P. Bolte, M.F. Rahmadana

The evaluation of a sister project to the one above comes to generally positive findings and highlights the importance of specific livelihood training ahead of cash grant disbursement.



**Weaving a culture of resilience**  
A gender-sensitive approach to disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands

**Weaving a culture of resilience.**  
**A gender-sensitive approach to disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.**

Vanuatu & Solomon Islands | 2012  
Client: French Red Cross [view report](#)  
H. Bill, P. Bolte [view manual](#)

This consultancy led to two products - a report on gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction, and a manual for community facilitators. While focused on the Pacific, many tools are applicable elsewhere.

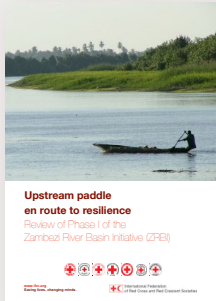


**Of networks, norms, and trust**  
The role of social capital in reinforcing community resilience

**Of norms, networks, and trust.**  
**The role of social capital in reinforcing community resilience.**

Myanmar, Nepal, PR China | 2012 [view report](#)  
Client: IFRC  
P. Bolte, D. Eucker, M.F. Rahmadana

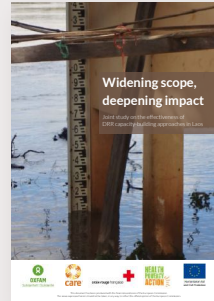
Looking at nine urban and rural communities and reviewing relevant literature, the study illustrates how social capital (e.g. networks, collective action) can be built upon when reinforcing resilience.



**Upstream paddle en route to resilience. Review of Phase I of the Zambezi River Basin Initiative (ZRBI).**

Southern Africa (seven countries) | 2013  
Client: IFRC  
B. Reichel, P. Bolte, D. Eucker

The review of this cross-country, cross-sector initiative finds progress (development of organizational capacity, improved living conditions) but identifies challenges mainly due to incomplete funding.



**Widening scope, deepening impact. Joint study on the effectiveness of DRR capacity-building approaches in Laos,**

Lao PDR | 2013  
Oxfam Solidarité, Care, French Red Cross, HPA  
P. Bolte, B. Orłowski

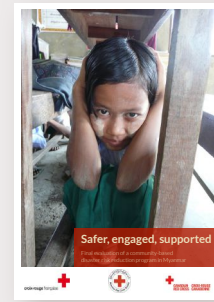
This study looks at six disaster risk reduction projects and concludes that capacity-building approaches should be fine-tuned on a case-by-case basis, and include more coaching where needed.



**A guide to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.**

Global | 2013 [view report](#)  
Client: IFRC  
P. Bolte

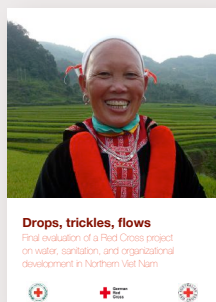
Banyaneer reviewed, edited, re-structured and designed this guide based on a draft version created by IFRC and National Societies. It provides practical guidance for different contexts and sectors.



**Safer, engaged, supported. Final evaluation of a community-based disaster risk reduction program in Myanmar.**

Myanmar | 2014  
Client: French Red Cross  
S. Marr, F. Barnaby, M.F. Rahmadana, P. Bolte

The evaluation of a three-year project in coastal regions of Myanmar finds that capacities of Red Cross branches and village teams have been strengthened - a good foundation for further programming.



**Drops, trickles, flows. Final evaluation of a Red Cross project on water, sanitation, and organizational development in Vietnam.**

Vietnam | 2013  
Clients: German Red Cross, Australian Red Cross  
P. Bolte, S. Marr, M.F. Rahmadana

Based on community workshops, interviews, organizational capacity assessments, and our first survey using electronic data collection (1,200 respondents), the study analyses the impact of a Red Cross project.



**The fabric of resilience. Final evaluation of the project "Building and deepening resilience in Eastern Indonesia."**

Indonesia | 2014  
Client: Oxfam GB  
P. Bolte, D. Sitompul, M.F. Rahmadana

Implemented through local partners, the project raised disaster preparedness, links to governments, and social capital. The evaluation suggests greater roles of partners and support in follow-up actions.



**Baseline survey report: Strengthening farmers' organizations' voices in policy dialogue on food security and nutrition.**

Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos | 2013  
Client: Welthungerhilfe  
P. Bolte, S. Marr, M.F. Rahmadana

The report highlights the different contexts in the regions supported by the project, and concludes that farmer groups will need to bring tangible benefits to become sustainable interlocutors with governments.



**Living with the sea. Endline survey report for the project "Building coastal resilience to reduce climate change impact in Thailand & Indonesia."**

Indonesia, Thailand | 2014  
Client: Care Germany/Luxembourg  
M. Mylius, M.F. Rahmadana, P. Bolte

The comparison between baseline (also done by Banyaneer) and endline surveys shows most communities more resilient - mangrove afforestation and seaweed processing are project highlights.



**Against many odds, a fight for food security. Mid-term review of the Annâdya project (Laos, Cambodia).**

Cambodia, Laos | 2013  
Client: Université libre de Bruxelles  
P. Bolte, M. F. Rahmadana

This mid-term review shows effective progress towards targets but identifies water availability as a gap. The review led to addition of ponds and water systems and to tracking of inter-seasonal variability.



**Classrooms as the entry points to safer schools and communities. MSC study of the Disaster Preparedness for Safer Schools project.**

Nepal | 2014  
Client: American Red Cross  
S. Marr, P. Bolte

In this Most Significant Change study, school children report how their lives have been changed by the project. Banyaneer also prepared a short film as part of this consultancy. [view film](#)



**Empowerment and participation.**  
**Good practices from South & South-East Asia in disability inclusive disaster risk management.**  
 Indonesia, The Philippines | 2014 [view report](#)  
 Client: Handicap International  
 P. Bolte, S. Marr, D. Sitompul

Enable, engage, extend: on the basis of good practice cases, the report recommends key principles for full integration of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management programmes.



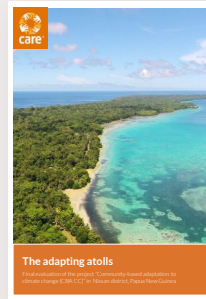
**Food, rain, water, risk: the uphill struggle to adapt.** Evaluation of the MAKAA'S project on community-based adaptation in Timor-Leste.  
 Timor-Leste | 2015 [view report](#)  
 Clients: CARE Australia, WaterAid  
 D. Eucker, P. Bolte, B. Orłowski

The first of three evaluations of community-based adaptation shows how livelihoods were adapted to greater variability, and how water management was enhanced across two watersheds.



**Mainstreaming nutrition.**  
**Mid-term review of the LEARN project in Myanmar.**  
 Myanmar | 2014  
 Client: Save the Children  
 S. Marr, P. Bolte

The review of the LEARN project (which aims to mainstream nutrition into the programming of the 41 partners of the LIFT multi-donor fund) recommends adjustments to enhance communication.



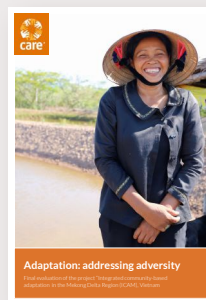
**The adapting atolls.** Evaluation of the project "Community-based adaptation to climate change (CBA CC)" in Nissan district.  
 Papua New Guinea | 2015 [view report](#)  
 Client: CARE Australia  
 P. Bolte, B. Orłowski

The second study in the series looks at a remote atoll, where 'core groups' became very innovative promoters of climate-smart agricultural techniques - a sound approach for similarly remote areas.



**Strong nets, strong communities.**  
**Evaluation of the CBDRR and IPCD programs in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, India.**  
 India | 2014  
 Client: Canadian Red Cross  
 P. Bolte, S. Moore, B. Orłowski

Based on a survey amongst 2,270 respondents and community workshops in 27 project-supported and comparison villages, the evaluation is a nuanced analysis of project results (health, DRR, livelihoods).



**Adaptation: addressing adversity.** Evaluation of the project "Integrated community-based adaptation in the Mekong Delta Region (ICAM)."  
 Vietnam | 2015  
 Client: CARE Australia  
 P. Bolte, B. Orłowski

The third study focuses on a project in the Mekong Delta, where the effects of climate change and local degradation interplay. The evaluation finds a strong project role in advocacy to local government units.



**More food, more secure. Final evaluation: The Annadya project in the province of Attapeu (Lao PDR) and Rattanakiri (Cambodia).**  
 Cambodia, Laos | 2015  
 Client: Université libre de Bruxelles  
 P. Bolte, B. Orłowski

The evaluation finds substantial improvements in food security (across seasons), water access, and recognizes the broad uptake of promoted food production technologies.



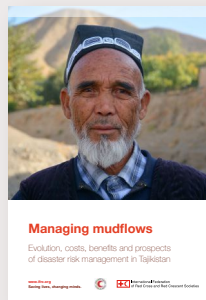
**Connecting the dots towards greater resilience.** Baseline survey: Tindog Tabang Leyteno (TTL) program - Leyte province, the Philippines.  
 The Philippines | 2015  
 Client: American Red Cross  
 P. Bolte, B. Orłowski

The baseline survey amongst 600 households included thorough supervisor and enumerator training and inspired the development of our baseline training course as well as the resilience radar.



**Cambodia - Prak village: more food, more resilient.** Case study of the Annadya project.  
 Cambodia | 2015 [view case study](#)  
 Client: Université libre de Bruxelles  
 P. Bolte

This case study illustrates the impact of the Annadya project in one village - it highlights increased rice output, the adoption of household ponds and vegetable gardens, and overall village trends by sector.



**Managing mudflows.** Evolution, costs, benefits and prospects of disaster risk management in Tajikistan.  
 Tajikistan | 2015  
 Client: IFRC  
 P. Bolte

The cost-benefit analysis (CBA) finds that mitigation and preparedness measures have been very cost-effective - in particular, where structures helped protect livelihoods as well as houses.



**How preparedness pays off.**  
**Evolution, costs, benefits and prospects of disaster risk management in Georgia.**

Georgia | 2016 [view report](#)  
 Client: IFRC  
 P. Bolte

**How preparedness pays off**

Evolution, costs, benefits and prospects of disaster risk management in Georgia

The second of two cost-benefit analyses (CBA) goes beyond the benefits of mitigation (reduced hazard losses), showing that disaster risk management brings social, economic, and organizational co-benefits.



**Integration reviewed.**  
**Mid-term review of the integrated approach in the Haiyan recovery programme in the Philippines.**

The Philippines | 2016  
 Client: German Red Cross  
 P. Bolte, K. Jenkinson

**Integration reviewed**

Mid-term review of the integrated approach in the Haiyan recovery programme in the Philippines

The mid-term review commends efforts in integrated recovery programming and points to specific adjustments in remaining implementation, and to options for enhanced integration in future operations.



**The value of farmer groups.**  
**Strengthening farmers' organizations' voices in policy dialogue on food security and nutrition.**

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar | 2016  
 Client: Welthungerhilfe  
 S. Marr, P. Bolte

**THE VALUE OF FARMER GROUPS**

Final evaluation: Strengthening Farmers' Organizations' Voices in Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Nutrition

This evaluation of a project for which Banyaneer had conducted the baseline finds that links between farmer groups and local governments have improved - consolidated groups add value for the wider village.



**Baseline survey report -**  
**DRR in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.**

Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan | 2016  
 Clients: Austrian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross  
 P. Bolte, B. Orlovsky

For this baseline, we trained survey supervisors, who then formed and trained data collection teams in three countries. The survey results were analyzed by Banyaneer. The report calls for multiple channels to greater disaster preparedness and livelihood resilience.



**Of health, water, and other dividends of peace.**  
**Final evaluation of a health, water and sanitation project in Myanmar's Kayin State.**

Myanmar | 2016  
 Clients: Malteser International & ADRA  
 S. Marr, Su Myat Yin Chaw, P. Bolte

**Of health, water, and other dividends of peace**

Final evaluation of a health, water and sanitation project in Myanmar's Kayin State

The evaluation shows how a project in remote post-conflict areas of Kayin State helped enhance access to health, water and sanitation. With a separate endline survey completed, we explored patterns of causality.

## Let us banyaneer your work...

If you are planning a baseline survey, a mid-term review, or an evaluation, **let us know in advance.** We are a small consultancy; knowing early that a possible study is 'in the pipeline' allows us to reserve our resources for the services you require.

Did you know that we also offer other types of support? Get in touch to discuss how we can best assist your team.

**Project design\*** Building on the insights from more than 35 studies, we help designing projects related to DRR, livelihood, food security, water, sanitation, health and nutrition. We are experienced with EU requirements and processes, and apply lessons on effective delivery.

**On-demand support** Whether you would like us to review a survey sample or your logframe, whether you have a question on statistics or need an M&E plan: we offer remote or in-country support to address your needs. On request, our statisticians can provide professional data analysis.

**Training** Our portfolio of training courses currently includes (a) basic monitoring, (b) baseline survey techniques, (c) applying the resilience radar, (d) behaviour change communication, and (e) exit strategies. See our training portfolio for further details.

**resilience radar** This free tool is designed to help project teams measure the resilience of target groups, and to consider a holistic approach to planning and implementation. See the resilience radar manual for further details.

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\* In order to avoid possible conflicts of interest, we do not offer evaluations of projects that we helped to design.