

Revealing resilience

Individual resilience measurement

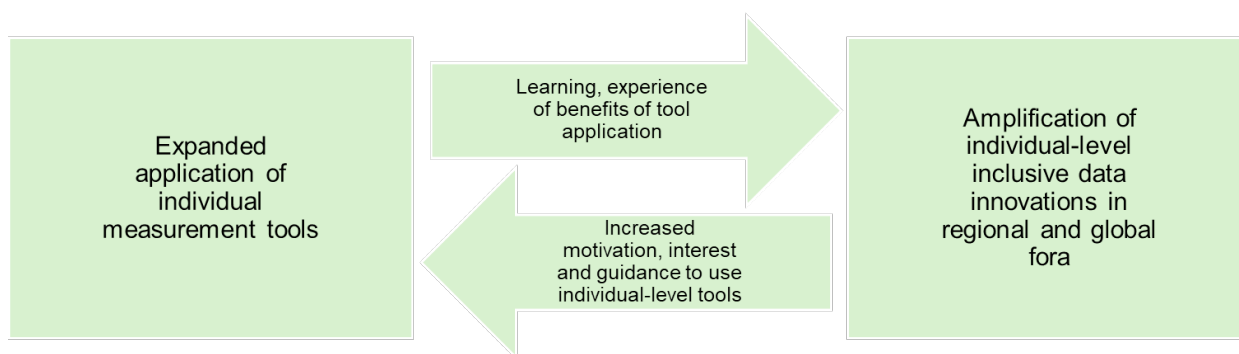


Summary

Climate change impacts each individual differently. Understanding lived experiences of different groups is fundamental to strengthening climate adaptation responses. This initiative expands application and advocates for use of individual-level tools for measuring gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)-resilience, poverty and inequality, building on previous research and partnerships. It involves:

- **Expanding use** of measurement approaches and strengthening related capacity with partner organisations undertaking climate-integrated WASH and other sectoral work in Asia and the Pacific
- **Increasing visibility and awareness** of inclusive and intersectional data innovations, to influence regional and global development and climate adaptation measurement frameworks and approaches

The initiative is led by the University of Technology Sydney-Institute for Sustainable Futures (UTS-ISF) with the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) and runs from September 2025 to June 2026.



The challenge

Resilience is multidimensional and experienced by individuals, with differentiated impacts of climate change shaped by factors including gender, age, disability and the intersections of these. Yet development programming, and **measurement of poverty and inequality, typically focus at household or community level**.

Understanding individual differences in climate impacts is particularly important for programs in areas such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food and energy, where a focus on technical aspects of climate resilience can obscure gendered, individual implications. Equally, global data systems tracking development goals are often structured to use household-level rather than individual-level data, making it more difficult to see how individual characteristics shape circumstances and masking the experiences of some of the most vulnerable people.

The approach

This Australian Government-funded initiative supports selected partners to **apply individual-level measurement tools** in their programs, drawing out learning and benefits of those insights to support evidence-informed and responsive climate action. It also uses IWDA and UTS-ISF **engagement at a wide range of regional and global fora** across gender, climate, statistics and post-2030 agenda discussions, to share key messages and insights on the importance and value of individual-level measurement, and available tools.

Want to collaborate?

If you have interest in individual resilience measurement or are applying such tools in your work, we would love to hear from you.

Contacts: Juliet Willetts (Juliet.willetts@uts.edu.au) and Jo Crawford (jcrawford@iwda.org)

Additional team members: Melissa Bungcaras, Jess MacArthur and Georgina Robinson from UTS-ISF; Amelia (Millie) Greaves, Dr Gayatri Ramnath and Cliantha Dawit-Dessay from IWDA

Tools for individual resilience, poverty and inequality measurement

ACROSS SECTORS

Equality insights and Equality Insights Rapid

equalityinsights.org

Equality Insights is a quantitative and gender-sensitive measure of multidimensional poverty that collects individual-level data to reveal how poverty varies based on gender, age, disability or other characteristics, including within households. It considers 15 dimensions—clothing, education, energy, environment, family planning, food, health, relationships, safety, sanitation, shelter, time use, voice, water, and work—plus assets, to provide insight into multidimensional poverty and financial circumstances.

qualKit

waterforwomen.uts.edu.au/qualkit

A curated set of qualitative monitoring and evaluation tools to explore gender equality or social inclusion-related changes associated with WASH programs. Includes methods such as micronarratives, photovoice, stories of transformation, positive deviance, q-sorting methodology, life histories and more.

Individual subjective resilience scale

[website coming soon](#)

A validated scale to measure individual climate resilience with reference to climate events such as floods and drought with emphasis on intra-household differences, adapted from the Subjective Self-Evaluated Resilience Score. Developed by UTS, currently under-going peer-review.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Water, sanitation and hygiene gender equality measure (WASH-GEM)

waterforwomen.uts.edu.au/wash-gem

The WASH-GEM is a novel quantitative measure designed to assist practitioners and researchers in exploring gender outcomes associated with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs for women and men. Online training is available [here](#).

IWISE-12 and IWISE-4

ipr.northwestern.edu/wise-scales

The Individual Water Insecurity Experiences (IWISE) is a survey tool to quantify how often people experience 12 common water-related disturbances to emotional well-being or disruptions in daily activities.

Sanitation Quality of Life index

sanqol.org

The SanQoL-5 is a validated index that measures people's experience of sanitation with five questions about privacy, disgust, safety, shame, and disease.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en

The FIES is an experience-based metric of food insecurity severity. It is used to estimate the percentage of a population that faces difficulties in accessing enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life.

Gender equality for food security

wfp.org/publications/power-gender-equality-food-security

The GE4FS measure combines the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and a gender equality component. The gender equality component is made up of 18 mostly yes/no questions that cover five dimensions of empowerment: decision-making ability, financial self-sufficiency, freedom from violence, reproductive freedom and unpaid labour.