



**2019 seep**  
**Annual Conference**  
***Building Resilience***  
***through Market Systems***  
October 21-23 | Arlington, Virginia

**Request for Proposals & Abstracts:  
Member-led Peer Learning Sessions  
and Innovation Challenge Poster Sessions**

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**October 21-23, 2019**

**Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel  
1700 Richmond Highway  
Arlington, Virginia 22202 USA**

**#SEEP2019**

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## CONFERENCE THEME AND TECHNICAL TRACKS

This year's theme – ***Building Resilience through Market Systems*** – will highlight proven and experimental strategies that harness the potential of the market to support people, enterprises and communities that are highly vulnerable to the shock-stress-shock cycle. Shocks and stresses are increasing in frequency and intensity around the globe. Climate and weather variability, population dynamics, local and global price shocks, illness and disease, political instability, and conflict are intersecting in complex ways that threaten the lives and livelihoods of people and erode hard fought development gains. Consequently, SEEP members are becoming increasingly focused on strategies that identify opportunities to mitigate risks and decrease vulnerabilities for priority populations including women, smallholder farmers, refugees, internally displaced persons and other marginalized groups. Market systems approaches are an important means to this end.

The 2019 SEEP Annual Conference will highlight insights and supporting evidence for more effective responses to the most challenging questions we are tackling now and in the future.

*How can access to markets contribute to greater resilience for vulnerable households? How are financial services, formal and informal, contributing to increased resiliency? What is the role of social capital and social networks in nurturing resilience and supporting livelihoods? How can we more effectively engage the private sector? What are the specific challenges to advancing resilience in thin markets and fragile contexts? Can women's empowerment and gender equality serve as a source of resilience? How can we better harness data to strengthen market resilience overall?*

The conference theme is articulated around four technical tracks:

1. *Fostering Resilience through Financial Inclusion*
2. *Leveraging Markets for Resilience in Fragile Environments*
3. *Gender Equality as a Resilience Strategy*
4. *Data and Resilience*

### Track 1: Fostering Resilience through Financial Inclusion

*Financial Inclusion* seeks to make financial services accessible, at affordable costs, to all individuals and businesses regardless of their net worth and/or size. In this way financial inclusion supports broad-based participation of poor and marginalized groups in financial intermediation processes. Evidence shows financial inclusion, from both formal and informal services, has a positive impact on increasing household resilience to external shocks (several resources are noted below). This track will explore both proven and innovative strategies to develop resilience in financial systems, communities, and households; and will look at products, services, and technologies that help households and enterprises better mitigate risks associated with climate variability, illness and disease, political instability, and conflict.

The selection committee will be looking for sessions that illustrate financial inclusion's contribution to resilience (not financial inclusion standalone) across a broad array of contexts. If

desired, you may provide your definition of resilience at the forefront of your proposal submission to allow reviewers to contextualize it and further understand your approach. Financial services should be construed as all types of financial products and services including but not limited to cash transfers, remittances, payments, insurance, savings, credit, supply chain transactions, etc.

#### Key questions and areas of inquiry:

- How can market systems approaches be applied to achieve resilience and financial inclusion objectives?
- How can financial services--including remittances, insurance, and/or government payments--help to build resilience?
- What targeted design innovations can increase the resilience impact of financial products and services for different groups, such as women and youth, refugees?
- What role can the private sector play in promoting financial inclusion and improving the enabling environment for resilience outcomes? For example, supporting and diversifying financial systems, improving regulatory environments, utilizing blended finance approaches for financial inclusion, or other examples of a meaningful private sector role in driving change.
- How can digital financial services help households mitigate or respond to shocks and stresses?
- What financial inclusion models and approaches have successfully been used in different contexts, such as an urban vs. rural dynamic, to build resilience?

#### Illustrative session topics:

- Examples of new product design features for formal financial services that support clients in responding to a variety of shocks and stresses (e.g. climate shocks that affect many people versus health shocks that are more individualized)
- Introduction of new finance models that support financial inclusion through: introducing Financial Technology solutions, developing local capital markets, addressing issues that discourage private investors, or responding to other challenges to promote innovative financial solutions.
- Examples of addressing barriers faced specifically by women, that limit their access to and use of financial services, such demand-side, supply-side and legal/regulatory barriers
- Lessons learned on building resilience through multi-stakeholder partnerships between NGO and private sector actors, with particular emphasis on local actors and/or local capacity building for resilience.
- Demonstrations of savings groups and self-help groups offering informal financial services that support household and community-level resilience
- Examples of how digital financial services--including savings, payments, and remittances--have been used to help households mitigate, respond to, and recover from shocks
- Discussion of insurance products that reduce the impact of shocks on households, such as health insurance and agricultural insurance, and the lessons learned on the uptake, use, and benefit from these services
- Evidence of the use of financial services, including income management/ cash flow smoothing products, that reduce vulnerabilities and improve household capacity to anticipate shocks and stresses
- Examples of approaches (policy/regulatory, private sector led, development partner led) that can stimulate innovation in financial products and services that promote resilience

### Relevant resources:

- <https://www.poverty-action.org/sites/default/files/publications/Building-Resilience-Through-Financial-Inclusion-January-2019.pdf>
- <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/10296.pdf>
- <https://www.cgap.org/sites/default/files/researches/documents/Brief-Navigating-the-Next-Wave-of-Blended-Finance-Aug-2018.pdf>
- [https://www.g20-insights.org/policy\\_briefs/financial-inclusion-for-women-a-way-forward/](https://www.g20-insights.org/policy_briefs/financial-inclusion-for-women-a-way-forward/)
- <https://www.unCDF.org/article/3951/igniting-sdg-progress-through-digital-financial-inclusion>
- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08958e5274a31e0000026/Climate\\_finance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08958e5274a31e0000026/Climate_finance.pdf)
- <https://globalindex.worldbank.org/basic-page-overview>

## Track 2: Leveraging Markets for Resilience in Fragile Environments

Fragile contexts characterized by weak governance, thin and aid-dependent markets, distortionary economic policies, and frequent exposure to a range of ecological, social and economic shocks create unique challenges for market systems development. Given the complexities of crises, strategies for building resilience must be tailored to the context, be it rapid or slow-onset crises, natural disasters, conflict, or forced migration. To respond effectively, humanitarian and development actors must continually adapt and pivot based on shifting circumstances. Similarly, the processes of innovative ideation – testing new or adapted solutions, and scaling those solutions – play a critical role in building resilience.

This track will focus on promising approaches that successfully use the potential of markets to build resilience in fragile settings. In this track, we will examine how public and private sector actors address systemic constraints that hinder access to and participation in markets. We will also explore how market engagement at the individual, household, and community level can build resilience for local populations and the local market system itself. Finally, we'll learn how innovation, adaptation, shared value and social capital facilitate long term, durable solutions for resiliency.

### Key questions and areas of inquiry:

- How can humanitarian and development actors best collaborate with humanitarian coordination mechanisms such as cluster systems, cash-based working groups, and other systems to facilitate adoption of market programming?
- What role do development actors have in fostering and scaling processes of innovation in collaboration with the private sector, government, donors and other actors?
- Within the local ecosystem of market actors, how can we contribute to and facilitate shared value creation—where business solutions effectively address social concerns while generating economic or resilience benefits?
- How can the public sector—including governments, state-owned enterprises, and public universities—be leveraged to support and develop market systems interventions that build resilience?
- What are the unique challenges and solutions for applying market systems approaches to build resilience among vulnerable groups with diverse needs, such as forcibly displaced people, youth, people with disabilities, older people and others?

- In the context of prolonged crises, how can social capital among local actors be strengthened and leveraged to foster resilience?
- What are the best ways to overcome challenges in bringing a market-based approach to places with widespread subsidies (from donor programs or governments) and other distortionary policies?
- How can we work effectively with donors to layer and sequence funding in way that supports resilience?
- How do we incentivize the uptake of successful market systems innovations by private sector actors outside of direct project intervention?
- What practices should practitioners and other stakeholders adhere to in order to 'do no harm' when implementing market approaches in challenging contexts?

### Illustrative session topics:

- Interventions that successfully use market-based approaches to create strong linkages between humanitarian response and longer-term economic development programs
- Examples/approaches for adapting market-based tools and assessments to protracted conflict settings
- Studies, analyses and implications of leveraging social capital to mitigate risks and build resilience of local market systems
- Strategies and tools that foster absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacities within market systems
- Evidence and examples that demonstrate how market systems innovations can be scaled up, even in fragile contexts
- Success stories that show how market actors have --on their own accord-- taken up and scaled market innovations first introduced by humanitarian and development actors
- Methodologies, tools and systems diagnostics for quickly identifying leverage points in fragile market systems
- Discussions of how behavior change methodologies were used to improve resilience with specific groups or in specific areas
- Examples and approaches for using shared value as a way to increase resilience
- Examples of donors and implementers working together to shape humanitarian funding to complement and support future development programs and outcomes

### Relevant Resources:

- <https://www.mercycorps.org/research/can-market-systems-development-build-resilience-fragile-contexts>
- [https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/media/k2/attachments/CARE\\_Resilient-markets-briefing-paper\\_2016.pdf](https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/media/k2/attachments/CARE_Resilient-markets-briefing-paper_2016.pdf)
- <http://fic.tufts.edu/assets/The-currency-of-connections-January-2019-2.pdf>
- <https://beamexchange.org/market-systems/>
- <https://beamexchange.org/resources/167/>
- <http://katalyst.com.bd/archivephasethree/>
- [https://www.marketlinks.org/sites/marketlinks.org/files/resource/files/Market\\_Systems\\_for\\_Resilience\\_final\\_508\\_Compliant.pdf](https://www.marketlinks.org/sites/marketlinks.org/files/resource/files/Market_Systems_for_Resilience_final_508_Compliant.pdf)
- <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2018/08/17/from-fragility-to-resilience-recommendations-for-strengthening-usaids-self-reliance-approach/>
- <https://braced-rx.org/>

## Track 3: Gender Equality as a Resilience Strategy

Gender-based inequalities and social exclusion are key factors undermining people's and community's capacities to cope with and recover from shocks. There is growing evidence of the numerous ways in which women and men are distinctively vulnerable to displacement, climate change, economic downturns, illness and disease, and related stresses, as well as how they mobilize different capacities to build their resilience. Adopting a gender lens helps practitioners to develop a deeper understanding of the different experiences between men and women as well as to design better programmatic responses that take gendered social norms and access to resources into consideration.

This track will explore how gender relations – the relation of power between men and women – are a critical factor in women's economic empowerment and influence resilience strategies at the household and community levels. The committee is interested in exploring gender approaches around: increasing investment in the face of risk; strategies for risk reduction; facilitating risk preparedness; and responding positively and proactively when a shock hits.

### Key questions and areas of inquiry:

- How can resilience-building strategies address gender inequality? What additional tools and approaches are needed to reduce risk and maximize success of women in economic activities for increased resilience?
- How does access to housing, land and property influence the resilience strategies of women and men?
- How do women's mitigation strategies differ from men's? What role does women's agency play in their ability to employ effective strategies?
- How do we promote behavioral change (change in harmful social norms) in market systems programming to ensure that women are economically empowered and resilient to shocks and stresses? How can men be more effectively engaged in these processes?
- How can digital financial services and financial technologies support resilience for women?
- How can gender equality be addressed in fragile contexts in ways that promote resilience while not increasing risks for women and girls?
- What role can women's organizations and women's collectives play in building local resilience? What role can men play in influencing positive change?
- Does the awareness of successful women in business contribute to women's persistence in their own economic endeavors through challenges? How do role models and/or mentors support the building of resilience for women's businesses?
- How do we support more resilient households to enable young and adolescent girls to remain in school and increase their lifetime earning potential? What role can men and boys play?
- Can the circumstances associated with women's integration into the labor force undermine resilience for women and the household? Do employment strategies for women adequately consider these risks?
- Does increasing household resilience enable women's ability to engage in more profitable and stable economic opportunities? How do these opportunities further support greater resilience?



### Illustrative session topics:

- Examples of women's collectives defining and shaping policies that affect resilience (citizenship rights, access to and control over resources, climate change policies, etc.)
- Discussing financial technologies that help women better mitigate risks and respond to shocks and stresses
- Providing examples of workforce development programs for women that integrate resilience perspectives, strategies, and measurements
- Sharing strategies that promote the visibility and leadership of women in value chains – from owning individuals owning farms, to chairing collectives, to acting in groups in more profitable positions in the chain – as a means to strengthen system resilience
- Introducing tools for consulting women and girls on their perceptions of vulnerability and resilience, as well as the barriers they experience as they enter economic activities, and their goals and aspirations
- Providing lessons learned from programs where men and boys are encouraged to play a role in changing gender norms
- Examination of the role of women in preparing for and showing leadership in recovering from disasters

### Relevant resources:

- <https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/development-blog/how-to-put-gender-equality-at-the-heart-of-resilience-work>
- <http://www.genderanddevelopment.org/issues/23-3-resilience/resources-resilience/>
- <http://www.braced.org/contentAsset/raw-data/2c7330b8-0124-47a7-b3bf-211cd121d629/attachmentFile>
- <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/292353/bp172-no-accident-resilience-inequality-of-risk-210513-en.pdf;jsessionid=3E47260523313475EBEEB28268E57865?sequence=1>
- <https://www.cliohaiti.org/IMG/pdf/gd-gender-inequality-resilience-071117-en.pdf>
- <https://www.odi.org/publications/9967-gender-and-resilience-theory-practice>
- <http://www.measuringresilience.org/gender-and-resilience-webinar/>

## Track 4: Data and Resilience

Over the past decade there has been a heightened focus on fostering resilience and a consolidation of perspectives within developing countries and fragile contexts. Yet there remains limited empirical evidence on how market systems, including private-sector approaches, support resilience capacities. As a community, humanitarian and development practitioners are still grappling with how to measure change, particularly systems-level change. Because resilience is a multi-faceted concept, understanding how systems-level change supports or negatively impacts resilience adds to this challenge.

Sessions in this track will illustrate how we use proven and emerging measures, methods, and evidence for strengthening the resilience of households, communities and market systems and how we empower people with data. The committee is interested both in new data and ways of measuring, as well as new uses or analysis for existing datasets. Because different definitions of resilience are used by different organizations, if desired, you may provide your definition of resilience at the forefront of your proposal submission to allow reviewers to contextualize it and better understand your proposal.

### Key questions and areas of inquiry:

- What are examples of innovative or successful partnerships for generating, sharing, and using data for building resilience at the market, community and household level?
- How do we better leverage data from private sector sources to inform resilience strategies?
- What unexpected data sets can inform markets systems approaches to build resilience? For example, how is data relating to climate, public health, market prices, soil, etc. being used?
- What are the current uses of “newer” technologies (e.g., remote sensing, crowdsourcing, SMS data, modeling/predictive analytics, blockchain, etc.) for understanding and monitoring resilience at the system, community and household level? What are the benefits or limitations to such technologies? What are the risks and opportunities within fragile settings?
- What is our responsibility as development practitioners for consistently cycling extracted data back to program participants? How can this be done in a way that fosters agency and supports household and community resilience?
- What are the key attributes for ‘good’ evidence for measuring resilience of diverse market actors--and how do these attributes vary by actor group?
- What is the current state of evidence on market systems and resilience? What exists, what are the gaps, what are the challenges to building the evidence base?

### Illustrative session topics:

- Demonstrate how data is made actionable for those most vulnerable to shocks and stresses in order for them to drive their own journey to self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods
- Provide examples of how Big Data sources are being integrated into traditional program approaches to ensure interventions are more responsive to climate change, natural disasters, and other shocks experienced by markets, communities, and households
- Present examples of the use of blockchain to document and track resilience of systems (value chains, for example), communities or households.
- Lessons on how we can learn from community quality improvement processes; using conversations around data translation, learning and action to support more resilient markets
- Illustrations of how locally-sourced data—where citizens are engaged in the process of data collection—can be relevant and timely at the scale at which decisions are made.
- Examples of partnerships between practitioners and business-to-consumer, business-to-business, consumer-to-consumer or government actors who sell or make available data, such as satellite companies, national registries, MNOs, financial service providers, and climate and weather data companies.
- Describing specific opportunities for the use of data and artificial intelligence in market systems in fragile and conflict-affected settings
- Explanations of how to use imperfect data for development program decision-making. This includes examples of successful uses of incomplete data to inform program or policy decision-making; and identifying alternative analytical approaches for the future
- Thinking outside of the box: providing examples of creative methodologies to test or analyze the link between market systems and resilience
- Liberating data for use by market actors: taking stock of critical data gaps and pursuing data capture and use opportunities
- Introducing promising practices in data translation—how development partners can reshape program data for use by program participants. Relevant content may provide insights on how program data can be used to:
  - foster agency and empowerment among program clients/participants



- shape the architecture of decision-making among market actors
- catalyze social and behavior change

#### Relevant Resources:

- <https://www.iisd.org/project/big-data-resilience>
- <https://www.thesourcemagazine.org/g7-countries-can-help-farmers-access-data-building-resilience/>
- <https://www.gfdrr.org/en/open-data-resilience-opendri-initiative>
- <https://www.resilienceatlas.org/about>
- <http://www.measuringresilience.org/gender-and-resilience-webinar/>
- [http://www.technicalconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Report-5-The-influence-of-subjective-and-psychosocial\\_18Feb2016.pdf](http://www.technicalconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Report-5-The-influence-of-subjective-and-psychosocial_18Feb2016.pdf)
- [http://www.measuringresilience.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ITAD\\_Report.pdf](http://www.measuringresilience.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ITAD_Report.pdf)
- <https://www.iisd.org/library/big-data-resilience-storybook>
- [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1867/0717118\\_Resilience.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1867/0717118_Resilience.pdf)
- <https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/impactevaluations/water/jordan-liberia-imputing-modeling-and-measurement-world-imperfect-data>
- <https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/imperfect-data-increases-uncertainty>
- <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/19918>
- <http://www.undatarevolution.org/2014/10/08/say-want-data-revolution/>
- <http://opendataresearch.org/project/2013/oddc>
- <https://www.urc-chs.com/projects/health-evaluation-and-applied-research-development-heard>
- <https://www.mcsprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/CHS-Benin-OR-Report.pdf>
- [http://www.ideas42.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ideas42\\_The-Power-of-Heuristics-2014-1.pdf](http://www.ideas42.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ideas42_The-Power-of-Heuristics-2014-1.pdf)

[Conference Theme and Technical Tracks](#) | [Shape the Agenda](#) | [Peer Learning Sessions](#) | [Innovation Challenge \*\*New!\*\*](#) | [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) | [Submit a Proposal or Abstract](#)

## SEEP MEMBERS SHAPE THE CONFERENCE AGENDA

The SEEP Annual Conference brings together leading development organizations, funders, research organizations, and private sector actors dedicated to promoting more inclusive markets and financial systems. The conference offers a highly interactive platform for attendees to connect, engage and learn from each other about shared challenges and opportunities. Last year's event convened 400+ participants from 45 countries representing 180 organizations.

Every year, SEEP member organizations contribute to the SEEP Network Annual Conference agenda, creating a highly unique and valuable learning experience. The Conference theme and technical tracks are inspired by SEEP member priorities and are based on feedback from prior year conference evaluations. The SEEP Annual Conference is designed with the support of an entirely member-led Advisory Committee to build on the existing base of knowledge in the sector. Through member-hosted sessions, SEEP members provide thought leadership on critical issues relevant to the conference theme and technical tracks.

This year, SEEP member organizations have two opportunities to shape the Conference Agenda:

### Chair and organize one of twenty (20) Peer Learning Sessions

Peer Learning Sessions present the experience of multiple organizations addressing similar objectives in relation to the conference theme and technical tracks. Our aim is to collectively learn from both successes and failures and to discover how to adapt these lessons to different contexts. Peer learning sessions utilize a variety of session formats to inform and engage participants.

### Participate in the Innovation Challenge as one of five (5) finalists **NEW!**

The Innovation Challenge provides SEEP members with the opportunity to share promising innovations that are still in early stage implementation that relate to the conference theme and technical tracks. The objective is to bring visibility to emerging approaches while prompting reflection and dialogue. Innovations are presented through interactive poster sessions that solicit direct feedback from conference participants.

***The deadline for the submission of Peer Learning Session proposals and Innovation Challenge abstracts is Friday, May 31, 2019.***

## PEER LEARNING SESSIONS

### Session Selection Criteria

#### 1) Opportunity for Learning

Content should center on key learning questions that are potentially applicable to broad audiences, especially practitioners. Learning objectives should represent important and unique contributions to the existing base of knowledge. Proposals should provide convincing insight into specific problems and their respective solutions, drawing lessons that can influence practice and -- when possible – policy making, donor strategies, investor priorities, and research agendas.

#### 2) Promising Practice

Sessions should feature experiences that are highly replicable and transferable to a variety of contexts, identifying essential skills, capacities and conditions for successful implementation. Lessons may be drawn from successes and failures. Proposals should describe in quantitative terms who is reached through the interventions, directly and indirectly, and detail proven or potential pathways to replication and sustainable market system change. Preference will be given to experiences that have reached scale or present evidence to support that they are on track to expand.

#### 3) Collection and Use of Evidence

Sessions must demonstrate evidence about how interventions affect the people, the institutions, and/or systems that they intend to influence. Preference will go to sessions that show evidence as obtained through robust M&E and/or the application of appropriate qualitative, quantitative or mixed method research methodologies. The methods used to collect and analyze evidence should be shared.

#### 4) Diversity of Perspectives

Session panelists should reflect a rich variety of perspectives. Generally, this requires drawing from the experience of more than one organization. Preference will be given to proposals that incorporate individuals involved in direct implementation of programs or field-based research protocols. Participants on the panel may include representatives from non-SEEP members, including research organizations, local and national partner organizations, businesses, government agencies, donors, or investors. Session hosts are expected to secure commitments from panelists prior to submitting the proposal. All speakers are expected to register for the conference.

#### 5) Contribution to Conference and Track Themes

Proposals must demonstrate how they advance a strong and coherent learning agenda around a selection of key questions identified in the track description, while supporting the overall conference theme.

#### 6) Interactive Presentation and Audience Engagement

Lecture-based PowerPoint presentations do little to engage an audience and foster learning. We encourage the use of interactive presentation styles that rely on graphics, digital media, data visualization, storytelling and other formats to convey key messages. Regardless of the

session format you chose, the design of your peer learning session needs to take into account diverse learning styles, stimulate audience engagement, and invite dialogue.

## Suggested Session Formats for Peer Learning Sessions

We propose the following four (4) session formats for your consideration to promote optimal learning and engagement. You will be prompted to indicate which format will be utilized in the online proposal submission form. Session hosts may also propose an alternative format that meets the learning objectives of the session in an engaging manner.

### 1. Armchair Chat

Experts are interviewed by a moderator, followed by spontaneous interaction with the audience through facilitated Q&A.

#### **Purpose:**

This format helps share the knowledge and perspectives of thought leaders through a prepared interview and questions sourced from the audience. It works best when the interviewees are acknowledged experts and the discussion is participant-driven. The Armchair Chat can be more effective than the traditional PowerPoint presentation in conveying new information to an audience - as the audience will identify for the expert, through their questions, the information that is most pertinent and interesting to them.

#### **Contributors:**

- 2-3 expert interviewees
- 1 interviewer (directs conversation based on questions sourced from audience)

#### **Process:**

The conversation begins with the interviewer asking a selection of pre-selected questions. Further questions are gathered on index cards or through the app from the audience either before the session or in real-time. The conversation continues, with the interviewer using audience questions as a guide.

#### **Suggested Timing:**

- 15 min: Welcome, introduction of the format, description of problem or challenge, and presentation of the interviewees
- 25 min: Initial conversation between interviewer and experts
- 40 min: Audience-driven conversation between interviewer and expert
- 10 min: Conclusion, evaluations and thank you

### 2. Quick-fire Forum

A series of presenters give short, strictly timed, high-energy talks exploring multiple angles or approaches of a central theme.

#### **Purpose:**

This format allows an audience to hear from several relevant voices or perspectives—and encourages presenters to focus on the most cogent, significant elements of their work according to a rapid succession of carefully designed slides. It is particularly useful for presenting multiple

approaches or methodologies, discussing interrelated topics, and presenting “the latest” news or updates. This format also includes conversations between the expert presenters and the audience.

**Contributors:**

- 1 facilitator
- 3 presenters

**Process:**

The facilitator introduces the learning objectives and sequence for the session. In a pre-prepared slide deck, each speaker has prepared a series of slides that appear in quick succession of 15 seconds each (4 per minute), automatically advanced. Presenters keep pace with the rhythm of the slide carousel while sharing perspectives and insights within the allotted timeframe. Each individual quick-fire presenter shall not exceed 10 minutes. You may view video examples from the [Ignite website](#), for inspiration on how to build engaging quick-fire presentations.

Following the presentations, each table will collaboratively discuss provocative questions prepared by the presenters; 1-2 questions per table. The presenters will be stationed at the tables to support the reflection process. Each table will have 2-3 minutes to report out, followed by facilitated Q&A with the presenters.

**Suggested Timing:**

- 10 min: Welcome and introduction
- 35 min: 3 Quick-fire talks (10 minutes each)
- 15 min: Each table collaboratively address 1-2 discussion questions prepared by the speakers
- 25 min: Reporting out and facilitated Q&A with the speakers
- 5 min: Conclusion, evaluation and thank you

### 3. Expert-led Roundtables

Participants engage in provocative expert-led roundtable discussions to explore core elements of program design and implementation.

**Purpose:**

This format allows participants to hear from multiple experts as well as the chance for a more intimate discussion with technical experts on a topic of interest to them.

Round tables are designed to be a “deep dive” into more detailed elements of strategy design, implementation, monitoring, or evaluation. Each group will be led by a different session contributor and will be focused around “real life” cases of problem solving. Group leaders are encouraged to build upon topics presented during the panel presentation by sharing stories and practical applications while promoting dialogue with participants through open-ended questions and solicitations of opinions.

**Contributors:**

- 1 facilitator (to introduce, present learning objectives, and keep time)
- 3 contributors
- 2-3 additional experts to facilitate table discussions

**Process:** Session contributors present on their work through an informative panel presentation. Presentations highlight key concepts that will be explored in more depth in facilitated round table discussions. Participants form groups around learning questions proposed by the panelists for each table. Session contributors lead discussions with participants. Facilitator summarizes key lessons and conclusions for all participants.

**Suggested Timing:**

- 10 min: Welcome, introduction, presentation of learning objectives, and format
- 40 min: Presentation from contributors on panel
- 30 min: Expert-led roundtable discussions and reporting out
- 10 min: Conclusions, evaluation and thank you

#### 4. Debate

Experts representing opposing perspectives on a critical issue engage in open debate, with audience participation.

**Purpose:** This format helps clarify, deepen, and propel forward the dialogue around critical and controversial issues in a field and introduces a forum to constructively discuss varying and contradictory perspectives.

**Contributors:** (*this session format may accept up to 5*)

- 1 moderator
- 2 debaters or 2 debate teams (2 representatives from each side acting as a team)

**Process:**

In a classic debate format, there is one side supporting a resolution (affirmative team) and one side opposing the resolution (opposing team). The moderator frames the debate and keeps time. Each side presents a prepared opening, provides a rebuttal to the opposing side, presents closing arguments, and answers questions from both the moderator and the audience. At the conclusion, the audience is asked to vote for the side of the debate they found to be most compelling. Audiences can also be polled at the start of the discussion to measure how attitudes changed or didn't change as a result of the debate.

**Suggested Timing:**

- 10 mins: Welcome, introduction of the format, framing the resolution by the moderator
- 7 mins: The first speaker on the affirmative team presents arguments in support of the resolution
- 7 mins: The first speaker on the opposing team presents arguments opposing the resolution
- 5 mins: The second speaker on the affirmative team presents further arguments in support of the resolution, identifies areas of conflict, and answers questions that may have been raised by the opposition speaker
- 5 mins: The second speaker on the opposing team presents further arguments against the resolution, identifies further areas of conflict, and answers questions that may have been raised by the previous affirmative speaker
- 5-10 mins: Recess to prepare the rebuttals
- 3 mins: The opposing team begins with the rebuttal, attempting to defend the opposing arguments and to defeat the supporting arguments without adding any new information
- 3 mins: Rebuttal of the affirmative team
- 6 mins: Each team gets 3 mins each for closing statements with the affirmative team having the last opportunity to speak



- 20 min: When the formal debate is finished, members of the audience are given an opportunity to ask questions and to contribute their own thoughts and opinions on the arguments presented. Timing for each person is limited to 1-2 minutes to enable multiple and diverse reactions.
- 10 min: The audience votes and winner is announced, evaluation, and thank you

## How to Submit a Peer Learning Session Proposal

To propose a Peer Learning Session, the Session Chair must complete and submit the [Peer Learning Session Proposal submission form](#) by **Friday, May 31**. As you develop your proposal, please reach out to us at [annualconference@seepnetwork.org](mailto:annualconference@seepnetwork.org) with any questions or concerns you may have.

The authors of both accepted and rejected proposals will be informed during the **week of July 1**. If your session proposal is accepted, the Technical Track Lead will work with you to fine-tune your session.

All Session Chairs must acknowledge complete understanding of and adhere to SEEP's [Presenter Policies](#). Please read thoroughly as some of our policies have changed.

## INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Innovations are dynamic processes which focus on the creation and implementation of new or improved products, services, or organizational models that lead to substantial improvements in addressing development challenges<sup>1</sup>. Successful innovations are those that result in improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, quality or social outcomes and impacts.<sup>2</sup> Innovation may involve an existing process or product adapted to a new context, or it can be something novel.<sup>3</sup>

The SEEP Innovation Challenge provides SEEP members with the opportunity to share promising innovations that are still in early stage implementation and that relate to the conference theme and technical tracks. This session format is designed as friendly competition to bring visibility to new approaches and garner feedback from peers.

### Interactive Poster Sessions and Stopwatch Pitches

Through an interactive poster session and lively innovation pitches, finalists will receive feedback on their innovations from conference participants. Like an academic poster session, finalists will design and present a formal poster showcasing their innovation. Poster boards will be displayed in gallery style on the first day of the conference for participants to visit and engage with the innovators.

On day two of the conference, each finalist will perform a timed, 7-minute 'innovation pitch' with the poster displayed on large screens to conference participants in an open plenary session. Audience members will use a digital polling tool to rate and evaluate each innovation and determine the overall winner of the Innovation Challenge. The winner of the competition will receive a prize and be publicly recognized during the SEEP awards ceremony at the close of the conference.

### Selection Criteria for Innovation Challenge Abstracts

Proposals for Innovation Challenge posters will be collected in the form of Abstracts that will be selected according to the following criteria:

#### 1) Recognition of a specific problem or challenge

*What is the problem you are trying to solve, and why is it important? How does the problem impede or negatively impact resilience?*

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<sup>1</sup> USAID Innovation and Development

<sup>2</sup> ALNAP 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Concept Note

<sup>3</sup> OCHA Occasional Policy Paper: Humanitarian Innovation The State of the Art

## 2) Ideation of a creative solution or novel idea that addresses a problem or seizes an opportunity

*What is the proposed solution to the problem? How does the solution address the barriers to resilience as identified in the problem statement? What makes the solution innovative?*

## 3) Implementation that tests, adapts and evaluates the innovation

*Describe how the solution was implemented, what was the context, outcomes and impact? What evidence do you have that demonstrates the innovation supports, leads to, or fosters resiliency? Did the innovation address the problem as intended? How did you adapt the process or product based on local contexts, lessons learned, etc.?*

## 4) Diffusion of successful interventions – taking them to scale and promoting their wider use

*What are the factors that demonstrate scalability of the innovation? What are some of the considerations, barriers, challenges that need to be addressed in order to scale? How might the innovation transform a sector or commonly held practice in a way that leads to systemic change?*

## 5) Relation to the conference themes

*How does the innovation advance the conference theme? What is the innovation's contribution to learning under one of the technical tracks?*

## How to Submit an Innovation Abstract

Applicants must complete and submit a one-page abstract (500 words or less) through the [Innovation Challenge Abstract submission form](#) by **Friday, May 31**. There may only be one applicant per proposal, and each applicant must come from a SEEP member organization in good standing. *Not a member, but interested in joining SEEP? Contact us at [membership@seepnetwork.org](mailto:membership@seepnetwork.org).*

SEEP's Annual Conference Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives from SEEP member organizations, staff and an external consultant, will review the proposals and select five that best meet the criteria outlined above. The authors of accepted and rejected abstracts will be informed during the **week of July 1**. All finalists must acknowledge complete understanding of and adhere to SEEP's [Presenter Policies](#).

[Conference Theme and Technical Tracks](#) | [Shape the Agenda](#) | [Peer Learning Sessions](#) | [Innovation Challenge \*\*New!\*\*](#) | [Key Dates and Deadlines](#) | [Submit a Proposal or Abstract](#)

## KEY DATES & DEADLINES

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>April 10</b>             | Release of Request for Proposals & Abstracts   |
| <b>May 31</b>               | Deadline for proposal submissions  |
| <b>Week of July 1</b>       | Notification of acceptance/rejection   |
| <b>Months of July/Augus</b> | Ongoing support to Session Chairs and Innovation Challenge Presenters from Advisory Committee track leads                    |
| <b>July 15</b>              | Session Chairs must confirm their panelists<br>Speaker and Presenter headshots and bios are due (50 words)                   |
| <b>August 21</b>            | Speakers and Presenters are required to register and pay by this date<br>End of early bird registration                      |
| <b>August 31</b>            | Notification of scheduled time slots to Session Chairs   |
| <b>September 30</b>         | Last day to <a href="#">book hotel stay</a> at discounted SEEP Group Rate \$251/night plus hotel tax (closes at 5 pm US EDT) |
| <b>October 4</b>            | Electronic file for the poster is due for the Innovation Challenge Presenters  |
| <b>October 14</b>           | Final electronic presentation materials are due for Peer Learning Sessions   |
| <b>October 21</b>           | SEEP Member Day: AGM, Table Talks and Concurrent Meetings  |
| <b>October 22-23</b>        | SEEP Annual Conference   |

## SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL OR ABSTRACT

To submit a Peer Learning Session proposal, please complete the [Peer Learning Session Proposal submission form](#) by **May 31**.

To submit an abstract, please complete the [Innovation Challenge Abstract submission form](#) by **May 31**.

Please make sure that you have carefully and fully read this document and our [Presenter Policies](#) before submitting a proposal or abstract.

If you have any questions or difficulty completing either of the forms, please email [annualconference@seepnetwork.org](mailto:annualconference@seepnetwork.org).