RISK AND RESILIENCE: GLOBAL ACTION AGENDA
INTRODUCTION

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN A WORLD OF RISK AND UNCERTAINTY

Our society is under pressure from the disruptive and converging forces of climate change and other global trends, such as biodiversity loss, unsustainable consumption of natural resources, land and ecosystem degradation, rapid urbanization, demographic changes, and increasing social and economic inequalities spreading across national borders and continents. These forces are introducing unprecedented levels of risk and uncertainty across all facets of society. In this increasingly fragile and interconnected world, the topic of risk, including how people’s perceptions of risk influence their decisions, is increasingly relevant. How seriously we view certain risks relative to others informs the decisions that we each make daily when it comes to protecting ourselves, our families, and our communities.

Resilience presents a holistic and transformational approach for mitigating, absorbing, and responding positively to risk while also addressing the inherent uncertainty society will continue to face. Effectively responding to global risks and building resilience necessitates a collaborative, global approach. Key decision-makers and influencers across essential communities of practice – policymakers, government officials, business leaders, investors, infrastructure practitioners, academics, the media and more – are at the forefront of these challenges. However, they often lack credible intelligence, insights, tools, and research on risks, including risk perceptions, that would allow them to better assess and implement interventions and investments toward a safer, more resilient future.

INTRODUCING A GLOBAL ACTION AGENDA ON RISK PERCEPTION AND RESILIENCE

The World Risk Poll (WRP) is the first-ever global study of the perceptions and experience of risk, with data from 145 different countries. The WRP, led by Lloyd’s Register Foundation, presents a unique opportunity to better understand how risk perceptions influence decision-making and to better connect global research on risk perception with the tools and practices of risk reduction and resilience professionals. Through our partnership, Lloyd’s Register Foundation and Resilience Rising seek to leverage the World Risk Poll to foster new insights that will promote investment in and advancement of a wide range of actions and interventions across the communities of practice who are essential to building global resilience.

This Global Action Agenda was developed through a broad consultation process with representatives from academia, the private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations (see Acknowledgements).

Our goal in sharing this Global Action Agenda is to create a crowd-in effect with the broadest set of stakeholders and experts to engage either independently or in collaboration with Resilience Rising through our platform for collective impact. We seek to spur groundbreaking research, actions, investments, and dissemination mechanisms fundamental to realizing societal resilience.

WHY RISK PERCEPTIONS ARE IMPORTANT FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE

Risk perceptions – the subjective judgements that people make about the probability and/or severity of various risks based on their experiences and beliefs - inform the decisions that we each make personally and through our professions. Because risk perceptions inform the protective actions people take in advance of a threat or in response to one, they influence actual exposure to risk. Understanding individual and community biases towards or against specific risks, or blind spots relative to risk, can therefore help to more effectively reduce risk exposure. Access to better global data on risk perceptions and factors that inform them can support more targeted risk management policies and risk communication efforts that are central to enhancing global safety.

Collectively, we know that we are not prioritizing the right actions to effectively mitigate and prepare for disasters. This misalignment of effort can in part be traced back to inadequate risk communication. More effective risk communication – understanding where to target messaging on a spectrum from informing to persuading – can be achieved through a more nuanced understanding of how risk perceptions, including biases towards or against certain sources of information, vary across different demographics and geographies. There is also a need for a more multi-dimensional understanding of risk. The social side of risk – human factors such as trust, social vulnerability, and the influence of sociopolitical contexts – all complement measured data sets on exposure to hazards and physical vulnerability of the built environment. This social dimension has been and is still often lacking in risk reduction efforts. Connecting the World Risk Poll’s insights around perceptions with factual evidence on risk to inform policy and risk communication presents an opportunity to begin filling this gap.
This agenda presents a range of opportunities for the global risk and resilience community — and others — to take forward. It explicitly links additional research and derivative thought leadership opportunities to specific practitioner-focused “routes to impact” with identified roles and incentives for action and collaboration across practitioners. It emphasizes the importance of visualization, interpretation, and dissemination of the data to further “unlock” its value, make it actionable, and support broader reach and influence.

**PART A: CREATING ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS FOR PRACTITIONERS**

The global and longitudinal nature of the World Risk Poll presents an important bridge to unlock new insights that can fill gaps in practitioner knowledge, information, and capabilities. The agenda focuses on five key questions that the dataset can help answer to support consequent practitioner efforts at a global level:

A. What are key indicators or determinants of risk perception and bias?
   - Using correlations between the demographic data collected from the poll and the respondents’ answers to the poll questions to progress and expand our understanding of variables that would predispose someone towards or away from specific types of risk.

B. How does experience inform risk perception?
   - Comparing respondents’ answers about direct or indirect exposure to risks to their perceptions of risk to provide new insights on how experience shapes risk perception.

C. What are important gaps between risk perception and actual risk?
   - Comparing respondents’ perceptions of different types of risk to measured data on actual risk exposure to identify gaps in awareness or blind spots.

D. What information sources do people trust or distrust?
   - Extracting more insights from the poll questions related to sources of risk-related information and trust in different types of institutions and individuals.

E. What are key indicators of personal or societal resilience?
   - Leveraging individual or multiple indicators from the poll to generate additional insights.

**PART B: ROUTES TO IMPACT**

To influence safety and resilience outcomes, we must harness insights from the core research questions and mainstream them into the everyday actions and activities of practitioners to promote more effective decision-making. There are many “routes to impact” to drive risk reduction and resilience-building, including dissemination mechanisms for greater reach and influence. These opportunities are organized by scale of intervention — international or national — and are associated with different types of practitioners or stakeholders, including those in government, finance, business, and civil society. They have been categorized into three focus areas, highlighting specific interventions that can create tangible and lasting change.

1. Supporting the international risk reduction and safety agenda
2. Supporting more effective risk reduction and safety interventions at a national level
3. Influencing private sector investments and business decisions

The summary diagram (on the following page) identifies linkages between the new insights and the routes to impact. Highlighting these connections between insights and influence mechanisms is intended to foster collaboration between research, academia, civil society, and risk and resilience practitioners.
Supporting the international risk reduction and safety agenda

** Untapped Insights and Opportunities

- Use the latest data as a means of updating and validating traditional indicators.
- Examine data from multiple polls to analyze how public perceptions change over time.
- The natural hazard map can be used to correlate perceptions of natural hazards risk to actual risk exposures and potential outcomes.

** Supporting more effective risk reduction and safety interventions at a national level

- Use insights from the data, including in relation to various demographics within countries, to inform the training curriculum for Disaster Risk Management specialists.
- Use insights to identify gaps in understanding and inform the development of targeted risk reduction programs.

** Facilitating more effective risk reduction and preparedness efforts

- Use insights to inform the development of targeted risk reduction programs.
- Use insights to identify gaps in understanding and inform the development of targeted risk reduction programs.

** Prioritizing and customizing risk management programs

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** Supporting more informed business decisions related to growth, planning and supply chain

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As global risks grow in severity, frequency, and impact, we must identify and create the intelligence, tools, and solutions to take action to enable a safer, more resilient future. Better understanding risk perceptions and leveraging insights on human behavior and values in different parts of the world is essential to supporting more effective risk reduction efforts. Building societal resilience is a collective effort that requires collaboration across scales of government, sectors, regions, and communities. This is why we have developed the Global Action Agenda which will enable us to begin connecting high-level research to on-the-ground perceptions of risk in many traditionally underrepresented regions of the world.

This work has only just begun. Resilience Rising and Lloyd’s Register Foundation call on a broad collective of organizations, experts, institutions, and practitioners to act collaboratively, using data from the World Risk Poll and the unique resources they have access to, to harness new insights on risk perceptions to more effectively and efficiently prepare for and respond to global risks and uncertainty.

We call on:

**ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCHERS** to fill in knowledge gaps on risk perceptions, including in new geographies, working collaboratively across fields to create actionable insights that feed into practitioner-led solutions.

**FUNDERS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** to unlock the resources needed to fund critical research on risk and perception as well as interventions that value and enable the inclusion of social elements of risk.

**RISK AND RESILIENCE PRACTITIONERS** in the private sector and civil society to harness insights on risk perceptions to influence more effective risk and resilience programs, projects, and products.

**GOVERNMENTS** to better incorporate on-the-ground perceptions of risk into public policy and risk communications to harness the momentum of this action agenda to improve outcomes for all.
We would like to thank the following individuals for participating in the consultation process and sharing their expertise and perspectives on the topic of risk, risk perception and resilience. They do not represent the entire group of experts and individuals that contributed to the project.

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**ABOUT US**

Resilience Rising is a platform for collective impact, bringing together global and local mission-driven organizations, initiatives, and other entities to work in partnership and achieve systemic resilience to the world’s most pressing challenges. We face an increasingly complex and interconnected future intensified by multiple converging crises. Driven by a purpose to drive widespread, rapid transformation, Resilience Rising galvanizes leaders, advances thought leadership, and builds capability and momentum for a safer and more sustainable future with a proven, cross-cutting solution – resilience.

**Lloyd’s Register Foundation (LRF)** is a politically- and financially-independent global charity that aims to engineer a safer world through promoting safety and education. LRF focuses on the most pressing global safety challenges, establishing the best evidence and insight to understand the complex factors that affect safety, and by building partnerships for change. For a thriving ocean economy, Lloyd’s Register Group (LRG) and LRF work together to fund research, foster industry collaboration and develop action-oriented solutions.

**ARUP** Resilience Rising would like to thank our strategic partner Arup for providing technical support to this project.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

To learn more about the World Risk Poll and to access the complete data set, please visit Lloyd’s Register Foundation’s main website on the World Risk Poll.