

# Survivor and community-led crisis response



## What is sclr?

Survivor and community-led crisis response (sclr) supports and resources individuals and communities responding to humanitarian and protection crises, whether sudden onset or protracted. The approach grew from research into how people respond to crisis, recognising that they are always the first and last responders in any context. It uses microgrants to transfer power and resources to existing and emergent self-help groups and organisations that mobilise during every crisis, allowing for the rapid provision of additional assistance to scale up interventions and increase their impact.

## Why sclr?

**People-led:** explicit transfer of decision-making power and resources to individuals and communities affected by crisis allowing them to maximise their contributions and impact.

**Strengths-based:** builds on the wealth of local knowledge, capacity and energy found in all crisis affected populations and identifies opportunities for self-help invisible to outsiders.

**Real-time learning:** participatory action learning in crises (PALC) creates consistent cycles of feedback and learning that catch potential problems or weaknesses early while allowing successes to be scaled up.

**Local accountability:** PALC processes build on local social values and systems of community to create horizontal accountability and conflict sensitivity, supporting checks and balances throughout the group microgrants process.

**Safe-to-fail:** moving from a 'failsafe' approach that rigidly controls outcomes and constrains innovation and adaptability, sclr manages risks, allowing an acceptable level of mistakes through which communities learn and grow their response.

**Social cohesion:** through supporting the collective action of multiple self-help groups sclr improves social cohesion, as well as providing opportunities for marginalised groups such as women and people with disabilities to take charge of their own responses.

**Resilience:** allowing people affected by crisis to undertake their own multiple initiatives naturally leads to a nexus approach that tackles immediate survival and protection needs, embraces local well-being and allows for longer term processes addressing root causes of vulnerability.

First we lost our lives, then we lost our dignity in the way that we were treated by international humanitarian agencies. They paid no attention to our own capacities to cope with the crisis.

Volunteer - Gaza City





## Core components of sclr

### Participatory action learning in crises (PALC):

community mobilisation and facilitation that combines appreciative inquiry, identifying locally relevant do-no-harm mechanisms and supporting experiential learning and information sharing to identify and support community self-help groups (SHGs) through the sclr process.

**Group microgrants:** a system of rapid, accountable and do-no-harm small cash grants as one means to enable and scale up collective action by citizens to enhance survival, protection, well-being, recovery and transformation.

**Skills training:** swift roll-out of training that SHGs consider will increase the scale, effectiveness and impact of their initiatives.

**Connecting:** actively linking and networking SHGs horizontally within the crisis and vertically to other organisations and programmes that can support resilience.

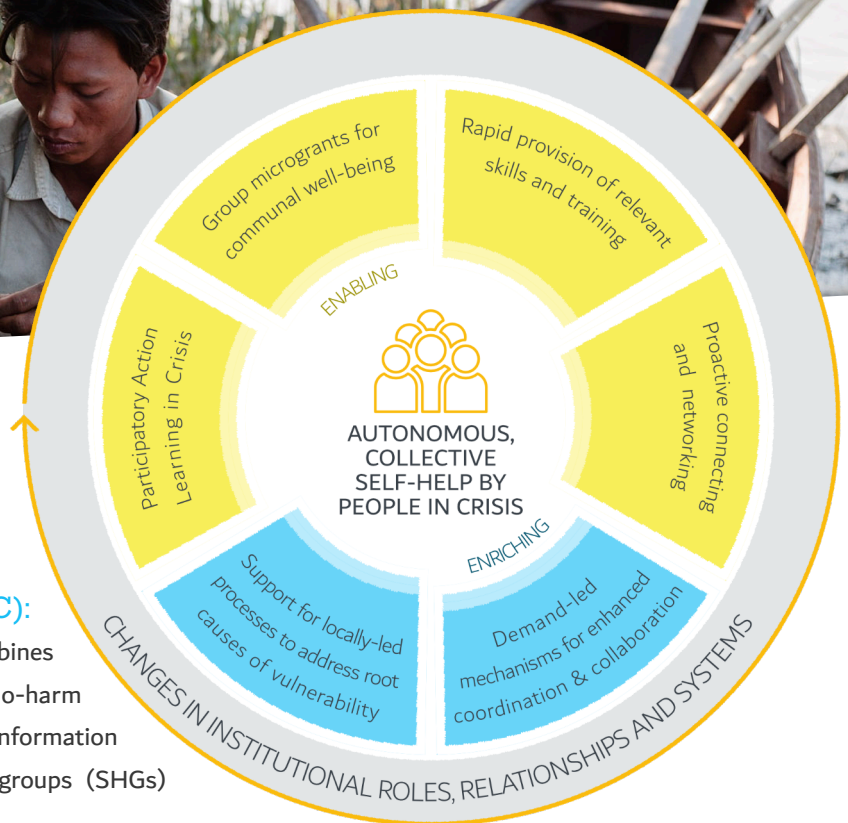
**Coordination:** for protracted crisis responses support the development of locally relevant mechanisms for improving coordination, collaboration and information sharing.

**Resilience:** proactively seek opportunities for local groups to initiate and sustain transformative process for tackling root causes of vulnerability.

**System change:** promoting meaningful changes in organisational cultures and institutional relationships to allow the approach to become standard practice in humanitarian programming.

## Sclr in practice

In **Sudan** communities have developed their own self-protection activities, funded education for children and adults and supported peacebuilding. Women in **Marsabit, Kenya**, used cash grants to build communal water storage and launch new livelihood opportunities. In **Haiti** one group installed solar-powered street lights, while others built channels to defend against yearly flooding. In the **West Bank** communities re-established a school bus service and reconnected mains electricity. In **Myanmar** cash grants were used at scale to provide food and basic necessities to devastated communities, and to address rat infestation in fields, the consequences of HIV-AIDs and psychosocial trauma from conflict. In **Mindanao, The Philippines**, self-help groups have used cash grants to repair homes after earthquakes as well as meet immediate needs following typhoons. These examples illustrate how sclr helps communities develop their own responses, to address needs across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and respond to changing needs and opportunities.



Local2Global Protection is an initiative by organisations and individuals within the humanitarian sector pushing for institutional change and transfer of power to people and communities affected by crisis. For more information see [local2global.info](http://local2global.info).