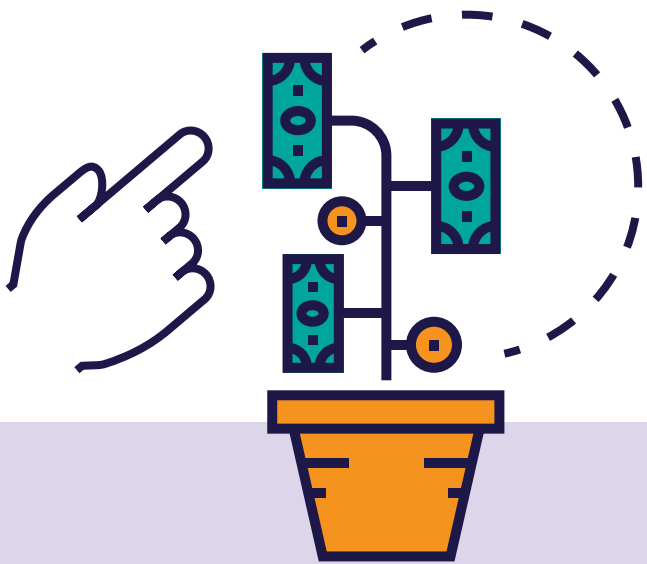


Focussing On Resilience

What do we mean by RESILIENCE?

Access means that organisations are financially more self-reliant and with it have the ability to better plan for the future; withstand shocks and seize on opportunities. All of Access’ work – from supporting organisations with enterprise development through to delivering blended finance – is in pursuit of improving the resilience of charities and social enterprises.



How do we measure resilience?

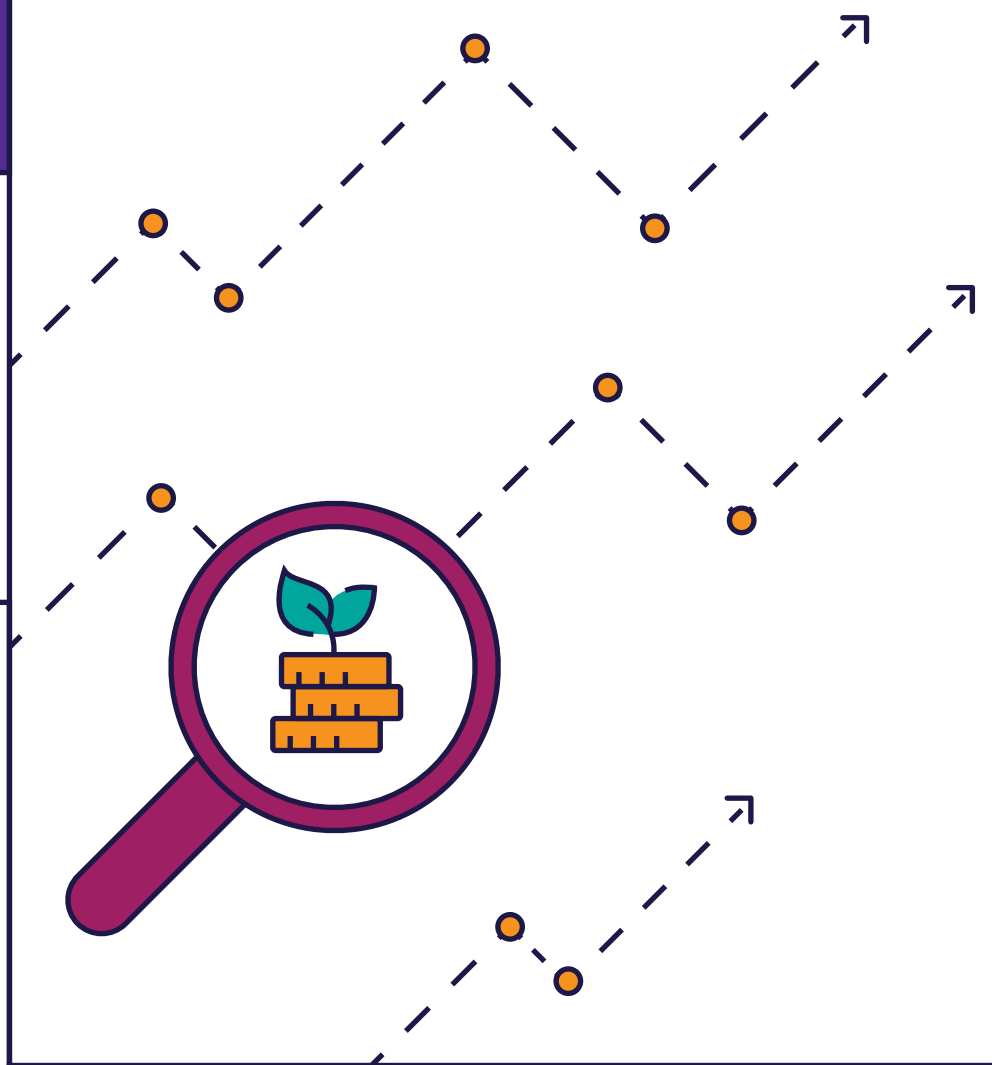
Financial metrics, (such as Net Current Assets, Total Net Assets, Turnover, Net Margin etc.) are important indicators of financial resilience. However, this data can take time to see, perhaps several years after investment or support.

Self-reported data: We therefore also need to ask organisations directly about their resilience. For example,

88% of Growth Fund investees in 2020 reported that the investment had been effective at expanding their activity

73% of Growth Fund investees in 2020 said the investment had improved their income

In 2019, **67%** of Growth Fund investees reported that they felt strongly positive about their organisation’s sustainability over the next 5 years.



“Source: Ecorys, Growth Fund Evaluators. Growth Fund is a partnership between Access, Big Society Capital and National Lottery Community Fund.”

Where possible, it is useful to triangulate these two approaches with *other metrics* that indicate an improved resilience. This could include a reduction in reliance on short term restricted funding or organisations earning more of their own income through enterprise activity.

Access’ 2018 evaluation of the Enterprise Development Programme showed that some organisations had successfully shifted their enterprising ideas from the early concept stage through to trading sustainably stage.

How does resilience measurement compare with social impact measurement?

Since Access is the Foundation for Social Investment it is important that our partners are helping us to support impactful organisations. However, when it comes to measurement of social impact there are some big challenges. Firstly, it is difficult to aggregate or represent the data across the charities and social enterprises we support in meaningful way as they are delivering different activities; in different ways; to different groups. Secondly, Access can’t claim to be generating the social impact, rather facilitating it to happen by supporting the resilience of charities. Therefore we believe that resilience is a more appropriate measure of our impact as a foundation.

