



The purpose of a pilot is to show feasibility rather than to deliver a specific goal. Piloting the co-created solutions that have been prototyped by participant groups during the Conversation Events (see [Module 7](#)) helps to test them on a small scale, before scaling them up more widely. The results of piloting will reveal what elements might need adaptation or changing, and what this means in terms of financial, material, and human resources.

This module looks at the piloting process and how to analyse the pilot so that the findings can feed into scaling up, sustainability, and policy recommendations. It highlights who may carry out the pilot and the importance of advocating at an early stage, with funders and other sources for financial support of and beyond piloting.

This module provides guidance on the following:

- What are the benefits of piloting a co-created solution?
- Who will carry out the pilot?
- How to plan the piloting?
- How to collect and analyse data?
- How to share the findings of the pilot?
- How to advocate for resources for piloting and beyond?

What are the benefits of piloting a co-created solution?

Piloting a co-created solution yields various advantages. For example, it allows you to do the following:

- Assess the solution's **viability** and effectiveness in addressing local AMR challenges
- Verify the solution's **feasibility**
- Confirm outcomes of small-scale testing
- Identify necessary resources for scaling-up
- Enable timely amendments or reject the solution, if necessary
- Create a budget for future scalability
- Demonstrate implementation on a larger scale with refinements
- Provide evidence for gaining support from key stakeholders, including policy-makers

GLOSSARY

Viability: The ability of something to be sustainable.

Feasibility: The possibility and ability of something being done.



Who will carry out the pilot?

If solutions are to be sustainable and move towards scalability, it is important that the core implementation team or the facilitators do not take on the primary responsibility for the piloting.

Ownership for local solutions is critical and should be as local as possible, even if this involves lobbying or advocating for policy change. Those taking on ownership could include participants of the Conversation Events, community leaders/stakeholders from Conversation Events and piloting setting, and stakeholders, including representatives from health and agriculture departments, NGOs who can support the piloting, and local and national policy-makers. However, in some ICARS projects, pilots may be carried out and funded by ICARS.

Example from a Responsive Dialogues project

In the **Zambia** project, the team did not pilot the co-created solutions, however they did learn that some of the co-created solutions were piloted by community participants and healthcare facility staff. The team continues to share the co-created solutions with stakeholders and partners with the hopes of these being scaled to national level.



How to plan the piloting?

There are fairly standard steps involved in planning a pilot, and you can use a framework or template for guidance. Remember that as the piloting of the co-created solutions is part of the Responsive Dialogues process and builds on the outcomes of the Conversation Events, this should be reflected in the various sections of the piloting plan. See [Section 6](#) for the *Template: Pilot Plan*.



How to collect and analyse data?

In the pilot, collect data about various aspects of the solution, including the process followed and the impact the pilot had, for example, how it changed attitudes, knowledge, and/or behaviour.

Some pilot projects collect data at specific time points, for example, prior to the pilot (baseline data), during the pilot (midline data), and after the pilot (endline data). This helps to enrich the approach to the outcomes and guides the course correction required during the piloting stage.

Consider how to involve participant groups, local, and other stakeholders in analysing the outcomes of the pilot. This is an opportunity to seek out and use inputs from all those who have participated. It empowers and acknowledges local community stakeholders, while enriching local ownership of the project, as well as equitable decision-making and partnerships.

Key questions to guide the analysis and refine the solution:

- How did collaboration, consultation, communication, and trust work in the pilot between participants, communities, and stakeholders? How could this be strengthened for scale-up?
- How did everyone perceive the outcomes of the pilot? What worked well? Why? How relevant was the solution to the local context?
- What problems/challenges were encountered? Why? How did those involved work to solve these problems?
- What needs to be changed or refined prior to scale-up?
- How can you use this opportunity as an iterative process to pursue more sustainable solutions?
- What assets, strengths, and resources in the community were used? How can these be enhanced for the scale-up?
- How can you use everything that you have learnt to plan and facilitate the scale-up, with long-term goals and commitments?

See [Section 6](#) for *The Analysis Phase* which lists further questions to guide the analysis.



How to share the findings of the pilot?

On completion of the piloting, share the findings (outcomes and process) with all stakeholders involved in the Responsive Dialogues project, including participants, communities, and others. A Stakeholder Feedback Workshop is a key opportunity to discuss this, but use other forums, including regular AMR meetings, to share this information. See [Module 9](#) for more about *Organising and Running a Stakeholder Feedback Workshop*.

Based on the analysis, in collaboration with participants, stakeholders, government officials, and policy-makers, decisions will be made regarding the feasibility and viability of the co-created solution: either it is deemed unfeasible, requiring no further scaling; feasible without modification, allowing for immediate scaling; or necessitating contextualisation, adaptation, or modification before scaling-up.

How to advocate for resources for piloting and beyond?

While the funds of some Responsive Dialogues projects will cover the piloting of some co-created solutions, and even the next steps to scalability, in practice many projects will not have enough funding. Innovative approaches to piloting, particularly low resource solutions, include partnering with the community or with NGOs that may provide resources and funding. If the piloting shows that the solutions should be scaled up, then it may be necessary to advocate with funders and other sources for further funding.

Planning tips

- Encourage local **communities to take ownership** and implement co-created solutions.
- **Demonstrate the impact** of the co-created solutions (and the Responsive Dialogues approach) in discussions or meetings with local partners and potential funding sources.
- Build a **broad base** of support from several funders and technical partners. Keep communicating with them throughout the project to maintain their interest and to give feedback on progress.
- **Allocate some of the Responsive Dialogue project budget** to planning the piloting and scale-up.
- **Invite selected funders** to the Stakeholder Feedback Workshop, and actively follow up with them afterwards. Take potential funders to field sites.
- Clarify who will take **ownership** of the scale-up.



Checklist of guidance in this module

Tick completed activities/tasks and those that still need completion.

Activities	Yes	To do
The benefit of piloting co-created solutions is understood		
Who will be involved in carrying out the pilot/s is identified		
A pilot plan is developed		
The outcomes of the pilot are analysed		
Pilot findings are shared with others		
Resources for piloting and beyond are advocated for		

