



BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

towards one billion actions

STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN IMPLEMENTING AN INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY OF INITIATIVES FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Context Driven

- ▶ Community resilience must arise “without recipes”
- ▶ Resilience promotion should be done according to the experiences of the neighbourhood
- ▶ All interventions need to consider knowledge and identification of community members
- ▶ Each initiative needs to favor the individual community environment

Multi-Sectorial

- ▶ Initiatives should impact on the economic, social, environmental and political levels
- ▶ Commitment from various levels of stakeholders, especially the community itself, is crucial
- ▶ Programs in other sectors should be complemented by the initiative

People Centered

- ▶ Relies heavily on people, on the commitments of individuals and their collective work within local groups
- ▶ Active participation from the community should lead to self-sustainability
- ▶ Involve a coordinator, volunteer or official that lives in or is part of the community

Locally Sourced

- ▶ Based on obtaining resources locally, as to rely as little as possible on national aid and international cooperation to have high impact at low cost



A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

... is knowledgeable, healthy and can meet its basic needs



... is socially cohesive

has economic opportunities



... has well-maintained and accessible infrastructures and services



... can manage its natural assets



... is connected



WHAT ARE INITIATIVES FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES?

3 MAIN OBJECTIVES

Knowledge

Assist communities as they identify risk-informed, holistic approaches to address their underlying vulnerabilities.

Action

Encourage communities to adopt demand-driven, people-centered approaches to community resilience strengthening.

Connectedness

Promote community connectedness with outside organisations that can provide resources and services that cannot be provided locally.

Resilient Community interventions are not programs; therefore a single group or organisation cannot implement them. However, a lead organisation can function as a local, national or regional coordinator for their promotion and implementation.

Resilient Communities interventions should remain open initiatives in which all people can be agents of change in their respective communities, as well as in other communities where they might provide support.



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STEP 1

Promoting the Initiative

TAKING THE 1ST STEP

An organisation or an individual needs to take the first step to lead the initiative, bring actors together and promote actions.

MAPPING POTENTIAL LOCAL PARTNERS

▶ Include participants from all segments of the community to bring various perspectives

▶ These are some of the groups that could be important to include: Businesses, professional organisations, faith-based groups, ngos, teacher/parent associations, health departments, clinics or hospitals, minority populations, schools and universities, emergency management offices.



*Use criteria such as status, thematic specialty, interest, and ability to determine the specific organisations or persons you will reach out to.

Very important: make sure to include local leaders be they formal or informal.

ENGAGING POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Lead organisation

▶ Present your colleagues with the benefits of the initiative and why you should lead the process.

Public authorities

▶ Ideally, the specific actions and activities of the Resilient Communities Handbook will be adopted by the local government and integrated within its services to the community.



Community

- Explain and promote resilience through:
 - Dialogue, community participation
 - Citizen mobilisation
 - Increase in the presence of partners and volunteers.
- Identify potential leaders by considering:
 - Identification with the organisation and its values
 - Acknowledgement of their environment and positive leadership
 - Communication skills, sensitivity and proximity to community problems
 - Awareness of the power of transformation
- Plan and convene a meeting with members of the community
- Explain the initiative in detail and listen to feedback from the community.
- Suggest and plan for a date near the first official meeting

Private sector

- Ensure sustainability by obtaining support from the private sector.
- Identify
 - Local businesses with social responsibility programs
 - Businesses that can make in-kind contributions
 - Companies that have a particular interest in the community
 - Establish contact and submit a proposal
 - Cater your proposal to the interests of your potential partners
 - Ask for something specific
 - Don't forget about in-kind contributions
 - Explain the scope and methodology
 - Highlight the benefits to the company and the community
 - Listen carefully to the needs and interests of the company
 - Exchange ideas and establish a dialogue

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STEP 2

Community-led Assessment



The focal point for resilient communities will engage stakeholders and the community in an assessment of needs.

RESULT: SHARED VISION FOR ACTIONS TO BUILD RESILIENCE

TOOLS FOR ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Participatory tools to help communities identify some of their common challenges include:

- ▶ Brainstorming
- ▶ Transect walk
- ▶ Mapping of local vulnerabilities and capacities
- ▶ Seasonal calendar

For additional information refer to Resilient Communities Handbook

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT IS AFFECTING US?

- ▶ Choose and apply participatory tools to understand risks and vulnerabilities
 - Concepts should come from the community
 - Consider the most relevant tools for your specific context
- ▶ Identify community representatives
 - Include different age groups
 - Include persons from other vulnerable areas, if applicable
 - Ensure gender balance in the group
 - Select representatives from different families
- ▶ Organise a series of meetings
 - Participants will present their priorities to become more resilient and challenges they face

SHARED VISION

WHAT IS OUR PLAN?

- ▶ Each age or vulnerable group determines the primary actions for community resilience
 - Through dialogue, they define common actions
 - Together, they develop micro-projects for resilience
- ▶ Here are some questions the groups should address:
 - What do we need to do?
 - What do we have to address shocks and stresses?
 - What can we do on our own?
 - What can we achieve with others?

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STEP 3

Community Managed Implementation

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IS ONLY TANGIBLE IF IT TRANSLATES INTO THE ABILITY TO GET THINGS DONE

ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Specific actions and initiatives will depend on each individual context, but tangible activities are essential to building resilience.

Examples of initiatives to build resilience: a) developing an evacuation route; b) an early warning system; c) a place to exercise; d) well-maintained environments; e) spaces to walk, play at any time; f) learn first aid; g) learn to play guitar, or create choirs of family music.

Key indicators:

Generated by the communities

Sustainable over time

Low cost

Have high participation

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE

Different groups involved in the process should talk within and between them.

The community should:

- ▶ Meet at least once a month to Celebrate and enjoy their actions
- ▶ Talk about the resilience initiatives in the neighbourhood and what lessons have been learned
- ▶ Present the progress achieved through the implementation of the resilience initiatives
- ▶ Identify new initiatives
- ▶ Create spaces for learning and training, among others.

MEETINGS ARE DIFFERENT FROM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings are more formal spaces used to discuss the initiative among representatives and stakeholders and should happen throughout the year.

Events and activities engage a larger population - there should be at least 3 resilience activities throughout the year.

First Resilience Meeting Checklist

- Coordinate with the community leader to prepare meeting
- Community leader to convene key members in the community, set the date, time and place for the monthly meetings.
- Promote a relaxed dialogue environment during the meeting
- Record and document experiences, approaches and solutions identified during the meeting

Start-up Resilience Event Checklist

- Identify 2 to 5 persons who wish to join and plan together
- Agree on the event date with community leaders
- Identify and book a space for the event. Organize logistics, such as transportation, snacks, chairs, etc.
- Invite the community to participate in the event

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STEP 4

Linking With Others

THE ONE BILLION COALITION FOR RESILIENCE IS CENTERED AROUND **CONNECTEDNESS**

••••• Connect with the **#1BnCoalition** community using these tools •••••

OneBillionCoalition.org

- ▶ Online resource with tools and information
- ▶ Connect with others from the #1BnCoalition
- ▶ Take action by following step-by-step guides
- ▶ Pledge to a build a coalition

Community Resilience Marketplace

- ▶ Online platform that connects community needs with partners
- ▶ Post what your community needs to become more resilient
- ▶ Opportunities to volunteer, provide services or financial aid to other communities

Universal App Program

- ▶ Download the First Aid App and learn how to help during an emergency
- ▶ Download the Hazard App and be more prepared for disasters
- ▶ Currently available in 77 countries
- ▶ Access other Apps

STEP 5

Monitoring

Community work is cyclical: the community evolves and so do its priorities

- ▶ Renew discussions on local needs on a regular basis
- ▶ Keep the community plan updated
- ▶ Review existing initiatives and the progress on resilience building
- ▶ Establish a multisectoral monitoring group



STEP 6

Building Networks

No single organization, network, or even coalition, can help one billion people become more resilient

- ▶ The community should look for opportunities to participate at the city, national, regional, and even global levels
- ▶ Build partnerships to advocate at higher levels to build resilience
- ▶ Use online tools to connect to the global #1BnCoalition community

