RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK

MINDEROO FOUNDATION

Brief

Version 1.0
June 2022

Framework Purpose & Audience

The Resilient Communities Framework was developed to support a systemic and whole-of-society approach to understanding and building disaster resilience at a community level.

The Framework provides a holistic model to catalyse and influence disaster resilience strategy, policy, practice and evaluation across Australia and internationally.

The Framework provides actionable and accessible tools for resilience practitioners, community leaders, policy-makers and funders to support resilience building efforts across sectors and disciplines.
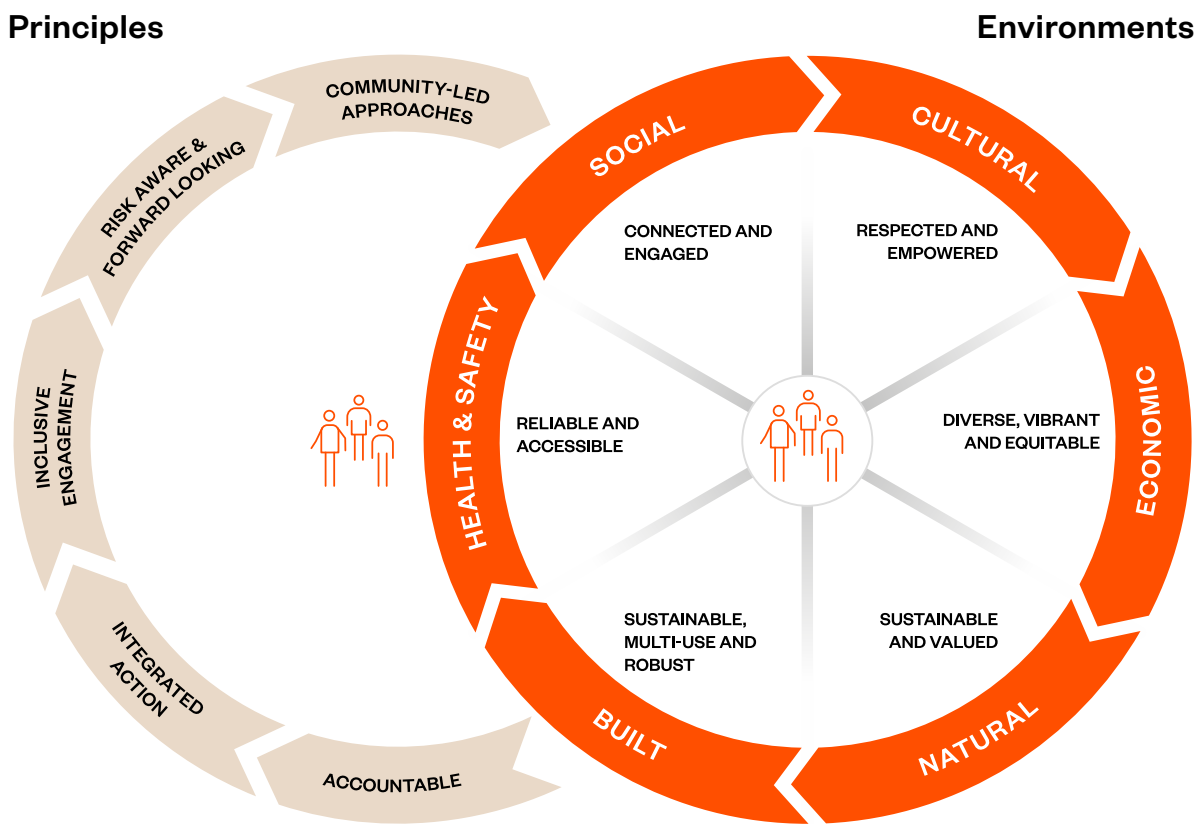
Community Resilience:

The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, and systems exposed to hazards to survive, adapt, and thrive in ways that improve outcomes in the next disaster event and improve community well-being more broadly.

Family at picnic table. Photo credit: Twenty20 Stock

Resilient Communities Framework

Building resilience is equally about *how* we approach our work as it is *what* we ultimately achieve as a result of the work. The Resilient Communities Framework is comprised of two mutually-reinforcing components – **the principles and the environments** – which are designed to holistically guide practitioners, community leaders, government officials and funders in their work within communities.

Principles   Environments

COMMUNITY-LED APPROACHES
RISK AWARE & FORWARD LOOKING
INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT
INTEGRATED ACTION
ACCOUNTABLE

SOCIAL — CONNECTED AND ENGAGED
CULTURAL — RESPECTED AND EMPOWERED
ECONOMIC — DIVERSE, VIBRANT AND EQUITABLE
NATURAL — SUSTAINABLE AND VALUED
BUILT — SUSTAINABLE, MULTI-USE AND ROBUST
HEALTH & SAFETY — RELIABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

Principles

Serve as a guide for how we should approach our work within a community, throughout all stages of a collaboration. The sole act of infusing these principles into how we plan, resource and implement our work, regardless of the level or scope of intervention, will contribute to a more resilient community.
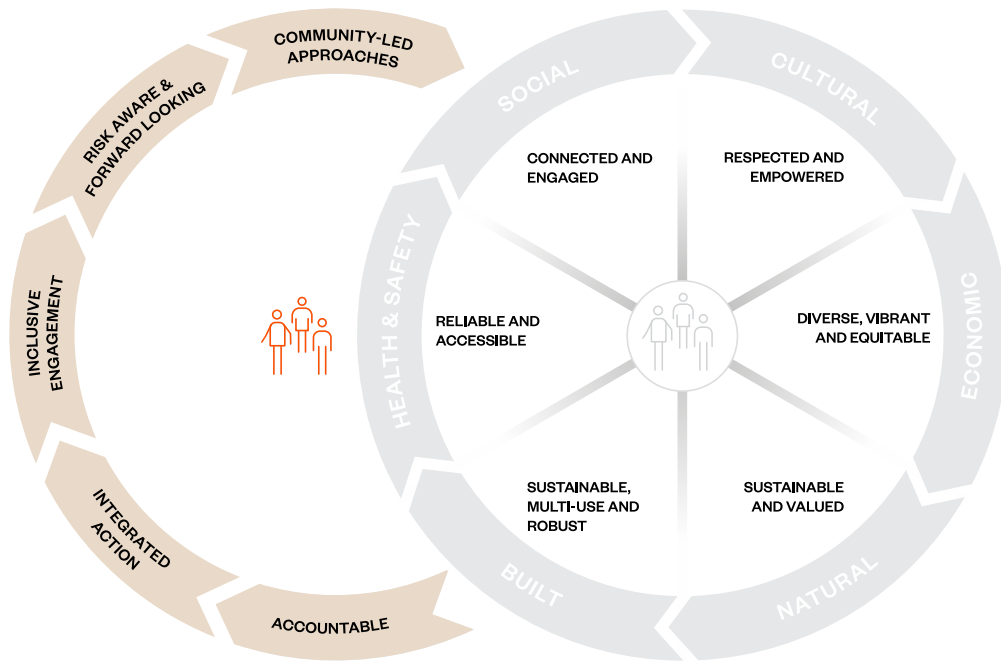
Environments

Provide a holistic view of the interconnected systems and assets that make up a community and the key qualities that we should foster as a result of our work. The state of these overlapping environments can either enhance or diminish a community's resilience.

Principles

Principles serve as a guide for how we should approach our work within a community, throughout all stages of a collaboration. Infusing these principles into how we plan, resource and implement our work contributes to a more resilient community. For example, community-led and inclusive planning builds trust between people and the larger institutions meant to serve them. This pays dividends whether the crisis is a fire, flood or pandemic.

Principles

Community-Led Approaches
Strengthen the ownership and decision-making power of community members, and ensure all efforts reflect and leverage a community's unique context, history, assets and local knowledge.

Risk Aware & Forward Looking
Draw from a wealth of knowledge and experience to understand and respond to risk, but recognise that the past is not always predictive of a changing future. Create a vision of a more resilient future that community members can align around.

Inclusive Engagement
Ensure broad and equitable participation of those who represent a community's diverse perspectives, priorities and histories.

Integrated Action
Align efforts across sectors and disciplines, utilising a collaborative approach to support and advance holistic, coordinated and shared outcomes.
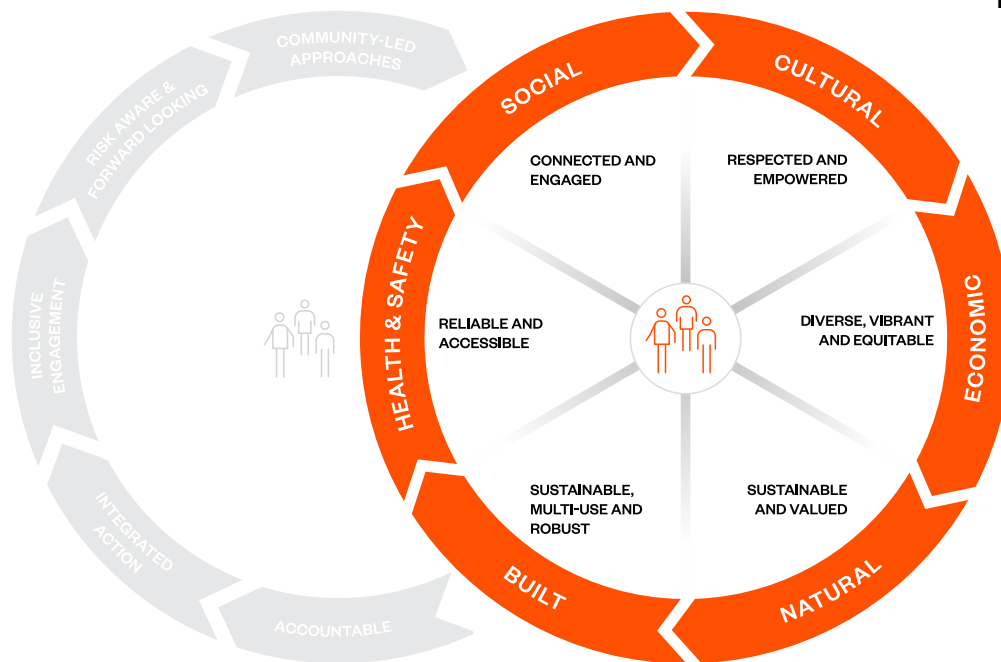
Accountable
Hold self and others accountable for decisions, actions and outcomes, including the responsibility for learning and continuous improvement, in a way that builds trust and promotes transparency and a sense of shared ownership.

Environments

Environments provide a holistic view of the interconnected systems and assets that make up a community and the key qualities that we should foster as a result of our work. The state of these overlapping environments can either enhance or diminish a community's resilience. For example, a community's ability to survive and thrive in the face of disaster depends on so much more than the strength of their built environment or exposure to natural hazards. It also depends on how equitable the economy is, how we respect and empower our diverse cultural histories, and how connected we are as neighbours.

Environments

Social
Connected and engaged
Social cohesion is prioritised and diversity is celebrated. Community leadership and governing mechanisms are clear, purposeful and trusted. Residents are empowered to create and participate in civic opportunities. Educational opportunities are varied, accessible and effective. Social infrastructure creates common ground between diverse residents and forms the basis of a larger sense of belonging and collective life.

Cultural
Respected and empowered
Community members' knowledge, histories and identities are valued and celebrated. Culturally informed knowledge and practises are utilised before, during and after disaster. Residents develop and engage in diverse cultural activities.

Economic
Diverse, equitable and vibrant
Economic activities do not entirely depend on one sector; the local and greater regional economy is thriving; there is sufficient investment in resilience-building; and there are minimal economic disparities between groups.

Natural
Sustainable and valued
Natural assets and ecosystems are understood, valued, invested in, and managed to maintain a wide array of services, safeguard culture and tradition, support local amenity, enhance biodiversity, and mitigate natural-hazard risk.

Built
Sustainable, multi-use and robust
Infrastructure promotes socioeconomic and ecological processes that enhance equity, wellbeing, and the functioning of natural assets and ecosystems. It is designed to withstand hazards, has appropriate redundancy, and is not overreliant on a single asset.

Health & Safety
Reliable and accessible
All residents feel safe, secure and informed. Essential and emergency services actively plan for all phases of the disaster cycle, and prioritise residents' and their own staff's physical and mental wellbeing. Comprehensive, transparent and contextually appropriate law enforcement promotes safety and security for all community members.

Using the Framework to Support Resilience Building Efforts

A key goal of the Resilient Communities Framework is to ensure practitioners can engage with the content through diverse entry points — whether that means focusing on a specific principle or a particular environment — so that they can directly respond to a community's unique priorities, while encouraging a holistic view of those priorities.
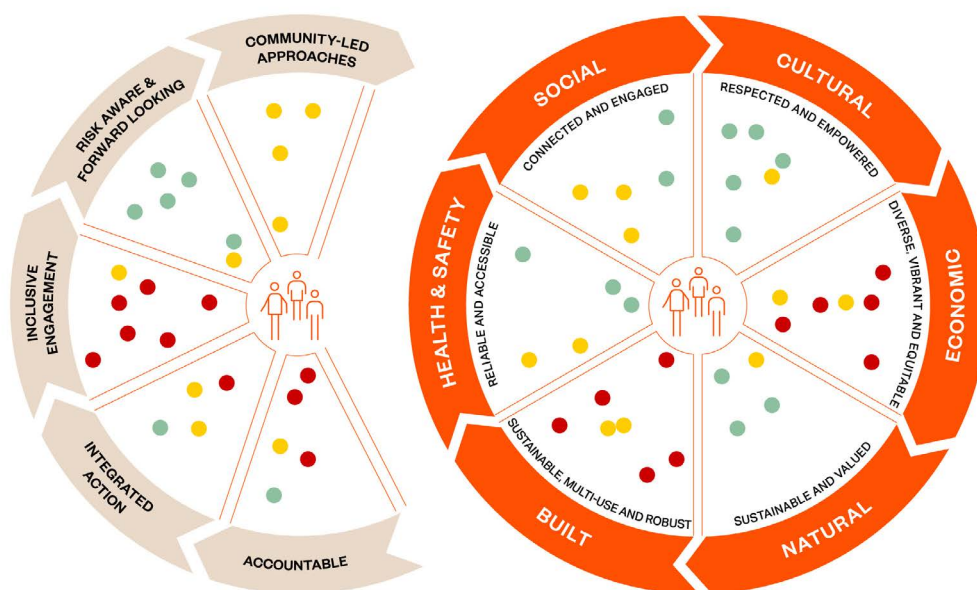
Two tools were developed to support flexible engagement with the Framework, and can be deployed sequentially or independently of one another.

Assessment & Prioritisation Tool

The Assessment and Prioritisation Tool is a qualitative exercise meant to shape a holistic conversation and assessment about a community's perceived strengths and weaknesses across environments and principles. By using red, yellow and green 'sticky dots', participants are able to quickly and effectively identify areas of alignment and divergence within a community, and the results can then be used to:

- Elevate and align on priority areas for resilience-building interventions.
- Track progress or changes in attitude over time, if used before and after an intervention, planning process or disaster event.
- Inform further study and data-driven analysis.
- Engage, familiarise and educate community leaders and stakeholders about the Resilient Communities Framework.

Example Assessment & Prioritisation Tool Output

Principles

Environments

Initiative Enhancement Tool

The Initiative Enhancement Tool is meant to encourage a holistic review of a project, program or policy to identify specific opportunities for enhancing the resilience value of the planned work — or ensuring multiple benefits across a community's environments — while helping to avoid unintended negative consequences. The tool provides a project, program or policy "owner" with a methodology and set of strategic questions across environments and principles that can be utilised in partnership with diverse stakeholders in the early design phases of an intervention.

SOCIAL: *Are diverse community members engaged in key decisions and leadership opportunities related to this program/project/policy?* (inclusive action, accountable, community-led approaches)

CULTURAL: *In the context of the program/project/ policy design, rollout and operations, how can we promote culturally-specific engagement and deep listening across diverse communities?* (community-led approaches, inclusive engagement)

ECONOMIC: *How can this program/project/policy help households and businesses in planning for disasters? Are there accessible support systems in place to financially prepare for and recover from these events?* (risk aware and forward-looking)

NATURAL: *How can this program/project/policy work across sectors to improve and align local policies and practices that preserve and value the natural environment?* (integrated action)

BUILT: *How can this program/project/policy facilitate a better understanding by the public of the risk assessment/risk mitigation for critical infrastructure? Is there a process to discuss it?* (community-led approaches, inclusive engagement)

HEALTH & SAFETY: *How can this program/ project/policy strengthen the ability of community government and public institutions to share critical information with residents?* (accountable, integrated action)

For more detail, please see the full Resilient Communities Framework

Kinglake and surrounding communities host bush fire recovery events on 19 July, 2009 in Kinglake, VIC, Australia. Photo credit: Raoul Wegat/Getty Images.

MINDEROO.ORG