

## Introduction to community engagement for disaster resilience

### Speed read

- Community engagement is a critical component of emergency management and action to reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience.
- Resilience cannot be developed for, or on behalf of, communities, and communities need to be supported to develop their own strategies for resilience.
- Effective community engagement relies on the sharing of information, understanding, decision-making, responsibility and resourcing within and between communities and partners.

### Key points

**Focus on the strengths of a community to maximise inclusion and participation. A strengths-based approach leads to better quality engagement and more effective disaster resilience outcomes.**

Recognise the right for all to participate and the importance of listening and acting respectfully. This will help to identify communities' specific needs and any systemic barriers that could stop people from participating.

**There are six principles of community engagement for disaster resilience:**

1. Place community at the centre
2. Understand the context
3. Recognise complexity
4. Work in partnership
5. Communicate respectfully and inclusively
6. Recognise and build capacity

**There are five approaches to community engagement:**

1. Partner designs and delivers to community
2. Partner leads with community input
3. Community and partner work together
4. Community leads with partner support
5. Community designs and delivers

**There are five elements of a community engagement process:**

1. Understand the community
2. Establish and strengthen relationships
3. Plan and prepare
4. Implement and monitor progress
5. Review and evaluate

**Plan for review and evaluation.** Have a clear plan that focuses on outcomes and results. Monitor throughout implementation. Gather and analyse data and evidence to contribute to shared learning and a growing evidence base.

# Quick Guide

## Take action

- Save or print the principles of community engagement so they are easily accessible. These can be found in the ‘Principles’ quick guide on the Knowledge Hub.
- Use the [Practitioner’s Guide: How to choose between community engagement approaches](#) (AIDR 2020)
- Use the [Program logic template](#) (AIDR 2020)

## More information

- *Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience Handbook* (AIDR 2020)  
<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/handbook-community-engagement/>