

Community Partnerships for Disaster Planning: The EnRiCH Project Experience

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uOttawa



EnRiCH

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The EnRiCH Collaboration

- Community-based participatory research focused on **inclusive engagement and fostering collaboration to enhance resilience** among high risk populations
- Bringing together expertise from front line response organizations, community associations, governance and policy, academia, research and knowledge translation, health economics, community health promotion, disaster management and national security.
- **Asset or functional capability-oriented approach**

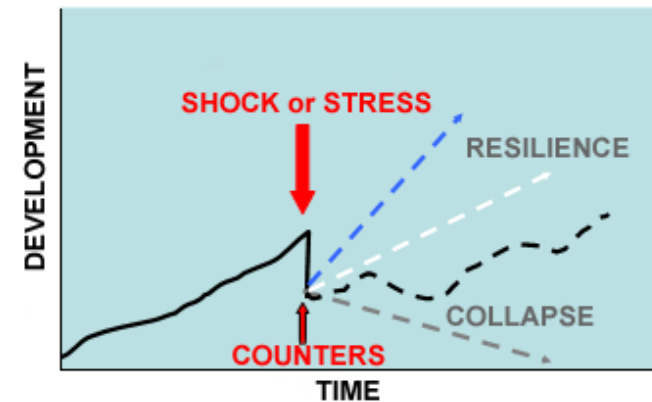
www.enrichproject.ca



Images of Resilience



Figure 1 - Concept of resilience



Resilience
The Courage to Come Back

Community: Ottawa

- House A: retired couple, both mid-70's; the woman had a hip replacement 4 months ago
- House B: working couple, 4 boys (4 yrs old, 14, 16, 18)
- House C: retired couple, both mid-70's; husband had heart attack in 2012, wife has history of depression



Aspects of Community Resilience

- Resistance, Absorption, Restoration (Kahan et al., 2009)
 - End states or outcomes
 - Build back better
- Key concepts (Chandra, 2011)
 - Engagement
 - Partnerships
 - Sustained local leadership
 - Education about risks
 - Access to services (eg. Health services)
 - Integration of preparedness and wellness
 - Repaid restoration of services / networks
 - Individual preparedness & self-sufficiency
 - Targeted strategies to empower and engage high risk populations
 - Financial resiliency – families and businesses



Lessons from EnRiCH

1. **Awareness and relationships** are key factors to engage communities to become more resilient
2. **True engagement** is reaching out – and then really empowering people to participate
3. **Asset-based approach** requires changing the lens through which we see different groups in the population

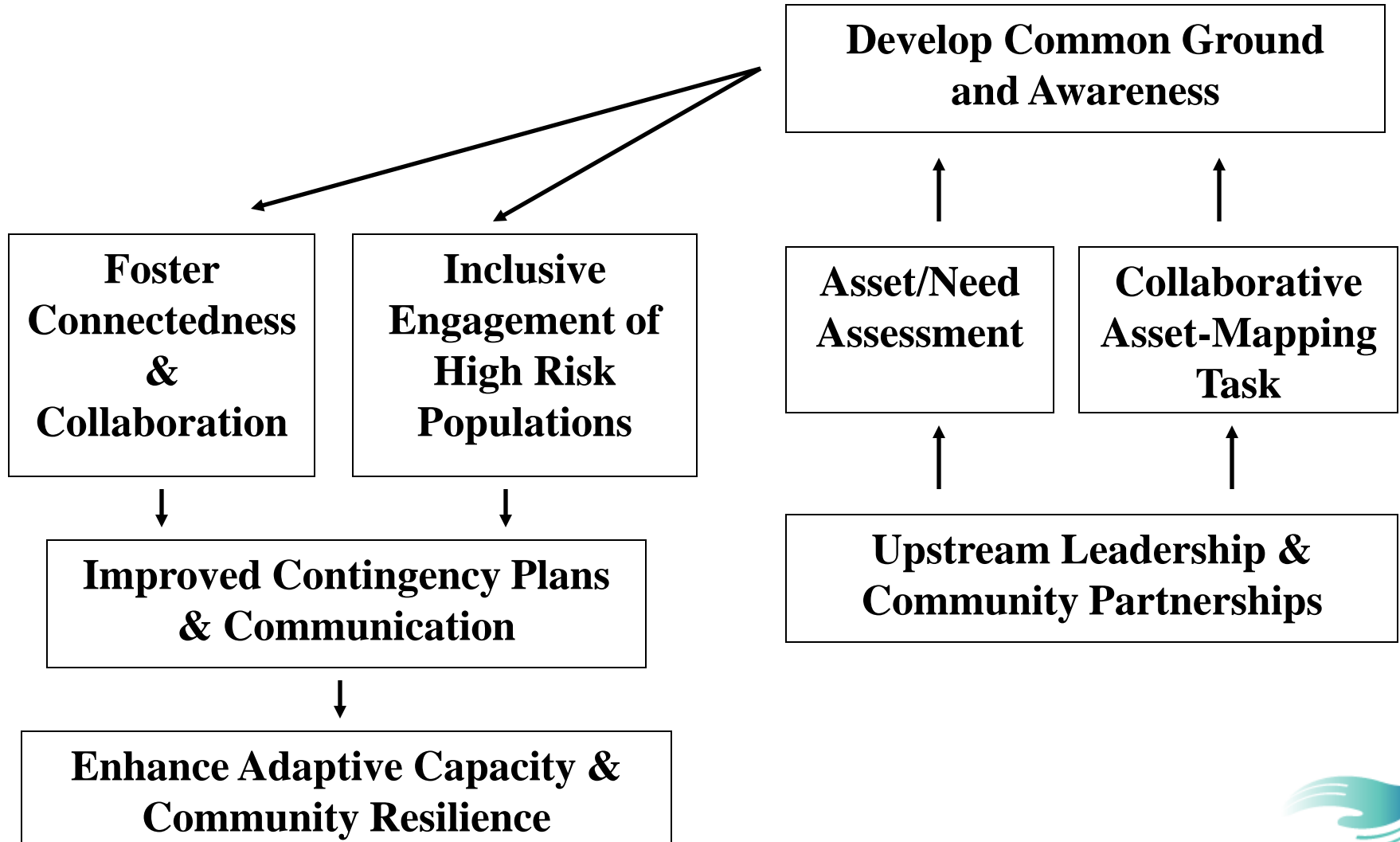
- Disasters are characterized by disproportionate impacts on marginalized and otherwise high-risk groups.
- Vulnerability to disasters is increasing due to
 - Population growth / density
 - Inadequate hazard knowledge
 - Rising rates of poverty and homelessness
 - An aging population and infrastructure
 - Increased social inequities (Enarson & Walsh, 2007)
- Because emergencies cause a disruption in social and physical environments, it is important to consider those with functional limitations that could be at greater risk



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EnRiCH Intervention Framework



EnRiCH Community Intervention

The EnRiCH Community Intervention was designed as a template for communities to tailor to their own context and priorities

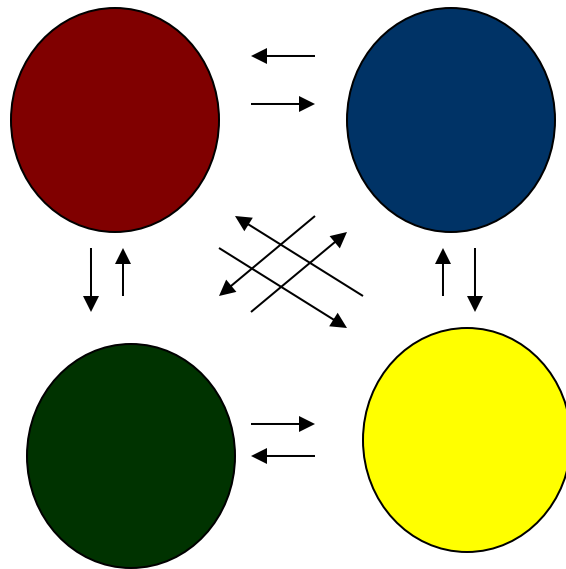
1. Asset/Need Assessment (focus group using SIM format)
2. EHRIT Orientation and Networking Session
3. Online Collaborative Planning Task (8-10 weeks)
4. Table Top Exercise

The EnRiCH Manual is available at

<http://enrichproject.ca/publications-and-resources.html>

Asset/Need Assessment in Target Communities

- Focus groups using Structured Interview Matrix (n=143)
- Survey to assess connectedness before and after the focus groups
- Qualitative theme analysis



Instructional Video for the SIM
available at:
<http://www.enrichproject.ca/publications-and-resources.html>

“I very much like this format versus other traditional [focus group] methods. This format allowed for each person’s response and for an interactive flow. [It] moved along efficiently and maintained the momentum of conversation”

“The process was very useful and seemed to truly collect useable useful information”

“I enjoyed it... it kept everyone engaged and ensured that everyone got to participate”

“Very good discussion. I think the most important thing from this is the fact that multiple organizations came together and started a conversation”



EnRiCH

SWOT Analysis:

Internal

- Availability of general training/educational opportunities
- Preparedness plans in place
- Lessons learned from past disasters/experiences
- Built infrastructure (eg: large facilities for shelter)
- Diverse response and support organizations
- Existing MOUs
- Informal supports
- Close-knit community

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- Lack of training and educational opportunities in working with high risk individuals
- Lack of community awareness
- Need for improved contingency plans
- Lack of attention to high risk individuals in the planning process
- Transportation infrastructure (eg: location of railway could potentially cut off the community)
- Limited public and accessible transportation
- Shortage of human resources
- Community reliance on response organizations
- Need for accessible communication
- Individual finances
- Large vulnerable population (ie: seniors and people with disabilities)
- Need for improved connectedness and collaboration between agencies

W

Positive

- External resources & networks (eg: neighbouring communities, counties, and provinces)
- Funding and resources from provincial and federal governments
- Knowledge exchange between agencies
- Learning from experiences of other communities
- Military assistance
- Role of media during an emergency

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- Weather conditions
- Physical geography
- Funding
- Information dissemination by media
- Over reliance on external opportunities
- Built infrastructure (eg: limited access in/out of province)

T

Negative

External

EnRiCH Functional Capabilities Framework

(O'Sullivan et al., 2013) (www.enrichproject.ca)



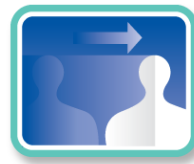
COMMUNICATION



HOUSING



AWARENESS



MOBILITY /
TRANSPORTATION



PSYCHOSOCIAL



SELF-CARE & DAILY
LIVING TASKS



SAFETY &
SECURITY

The acronym CHAMPSS is used to outline 7 categories of functional capabilities:

- Communication
- Housing
- Awareness
- Mobility / Transportation
- Psychosocial
- Self-Care & Daily Living Tasks
- Safety & Security



EnRiCH
ENHANCING RESILIENCE AND CAPACITY FOR HEALTH
PROMOUVOIR LA RÉSILIENCE ET LES RESSOURCES POUR LA SANTÉ

Emergent Themes

1. **Recognize the expertise** of a) community members who have functional limitations and b) people who work in organizations that provide support for people with functional limitations
2. **The expertise from the community can be used to train** the response community, inform contingency plans, and ensure appropriate supports are available when needed
3. **Social capital was enhanced** as participants interacted and worked together on the asset-mapping task
4. **Leadership is needed to create and champion opportunities** for collaboration and building relationships

Bridging Health Promotion & Crisis Management

- Inclusive engagement and recognition of the expertise of community members are **consistent with a 'Whole-of-Society' approach** to disaster and emergency management (WHO, 2009; FEMA).
- **Adaptive capacity is supported through connectedness and strong relationships** between different sectors and organizations in a community (Norris et al., 2008).
- **Upstream transformative leadership** (Caldwell et al., 2012) is needed to champion this type of paradigm shift to promote inclusive engagement and acknowledge of peoples' potential contribution

But HOW? By...

1. **Creating opportunities to build awareness and relationships** –these are key factors to engage communities to become more resilient
2. **Reaching out to community stakeholders to engage them** – and then really empower everyone to participate
3. **Changing the lens to look for assets** within individuals, organizations and communities

The 1st EnRiCH International Conference (2012)

- The EnRiCH International Conference on Whole-of-Society Engagement was held in Ottawa, Ontario, November 2012.
- Approximately 100 participants attended the conference, representing regions across Canada, United States, United Kingdom, and Germany.
- The webinar of the full conference is available at <http://enrichproject.ca/publications-and-resources.html>.

Thank-you!

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