



Photo: Kathy Stewart

What does community led resilience mean and how can it be achieved?

- *With a focus on recovery*

Professor David Sanderson

Dr Paul Barnes

Dr Tim Heffernan





Today

What is community led recovery?

Where are we currently?

How can community led recovery be achieved?

... with reference to resilience throughout



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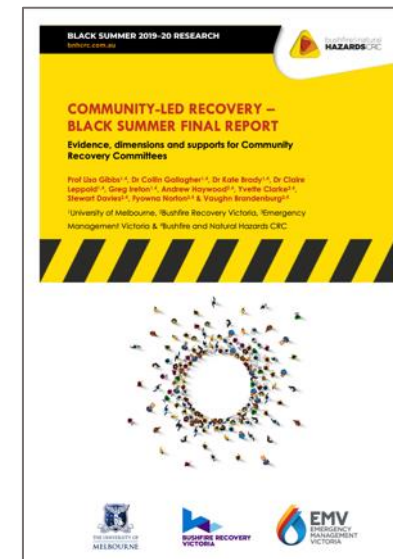
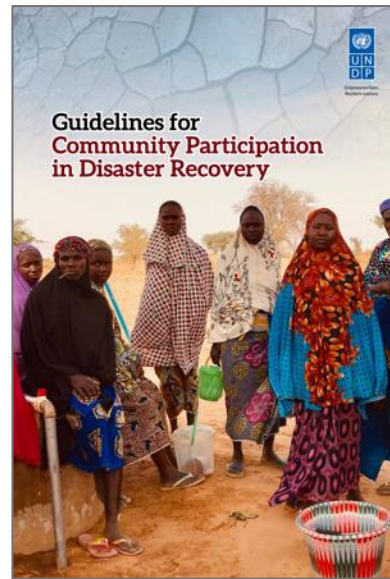
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What is community led recovery?

Community-led approaches ... are regarded as the optimal approach to sustainable disaster recovery, fostering self-reliance and self-determination - Gibbs et al, 2021

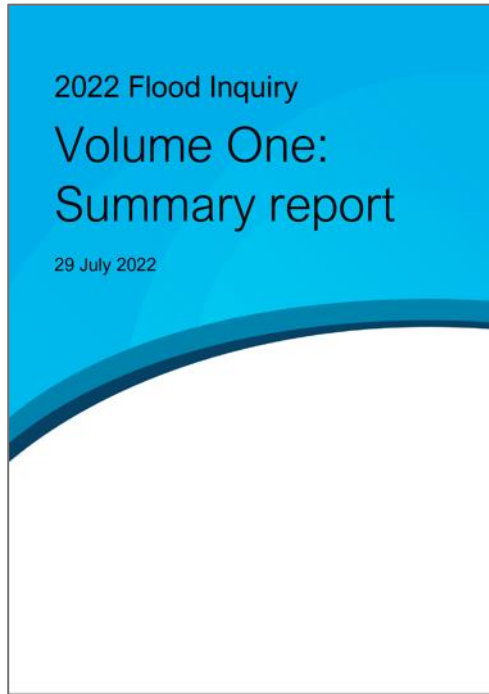
Successful recovery is community-centred, responsive and flexible, engaging with community and supporting them to move forward - Resilience NSW

Those most impacted should be able to shape their recovery - our survey



Some of the ingredients

place-based
inclusive
community-centred
ownership
dignity
trust
local
power
voice
respect
structure



“

The real difference has been made by grass roots community led initiatives. These initiatives have been vital in supporting people to navigate the clumsy and inadequate government response.

Anonymous – community member



But ..

It takes time and energy

Fractured communities

Loud voices can dominate

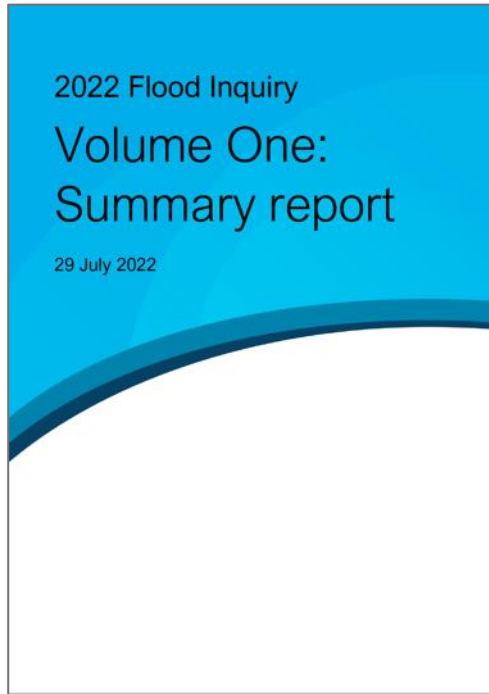
Marginalised people can be left out

Other disasters come along – is recovery possible?

External agencies have their own agendas

Exhaustion and burnout

People can be fickle



“

We are not recovering. We are suffering. We are losing the will to do anything, too exhausted, too confused. We are stuck. Stuck between applying for gov help, insurance issues, wet weather, physical exhaustion, mental health issues & in our case, the council & the future of our street.

Leesa Hallahan – community member



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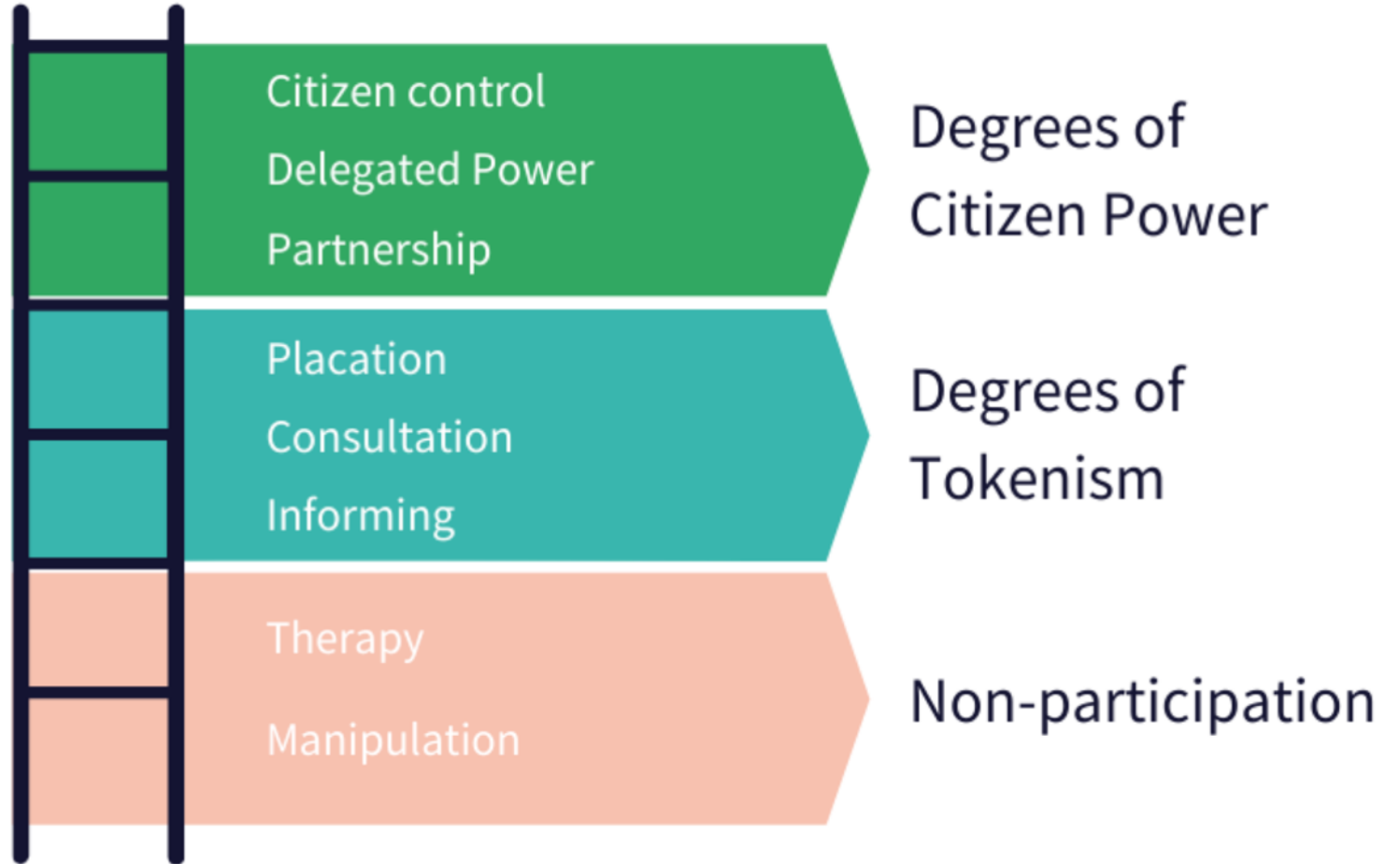


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Where are we currently?



Arnstein's ladder of participation (1969)



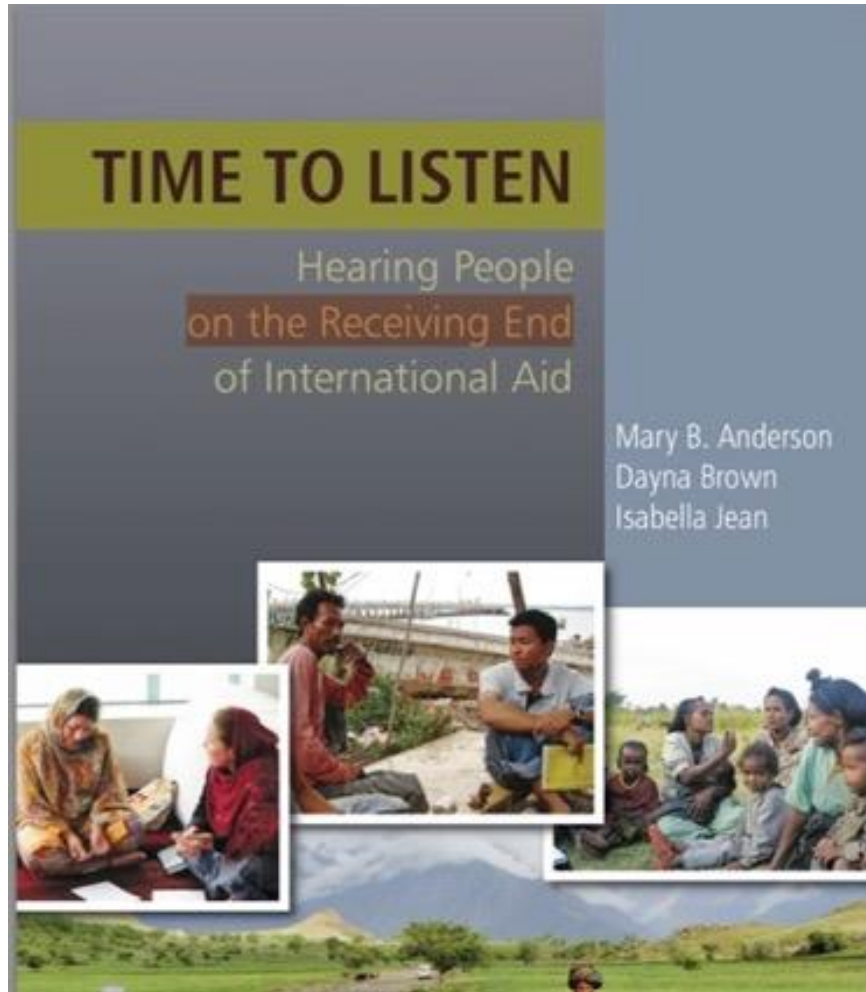
Source: commonplace.is



Local authorities complained that three months after the earthquake they felt like strangers in their own city - Haiti, 2010

Almost half of respondents feel they are not heard at all
- Pakistan, 2012

When women were asked if their problems are being addressed, 73% said 'very little' or 'not at all'
- Nepal, 2015



‘There are times that agencies do not provide what people need. The projects come from above, top-down. They should listen to the people’

- Community members, Myanmar

NSW in 2022

'Voices of people were not included. Only certain community members appeared to have the 'right' to be making decisions' - our survey

'Keep us engaged, we want to be part of this' - Aboriginal leader

Participants highlighted that recovery work should be led by community, with the government providing resources and support
- flood enquiry

Our survey


Have you been affected by a disaster in the past five years?

We are conducting an online survey on community-led recovery after a disaster.

The survey is part of a research project led by UNSW Sydney with the Resilient Towns Initiative on how community-led recovery after a disaster can best be supported.

The survey should take less than ten minutes to complete. Your responses are completely anonymous.


The survey can be found by following this QR code:




Or at this website:
https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a4gn1ii8lp78nj

With thanks

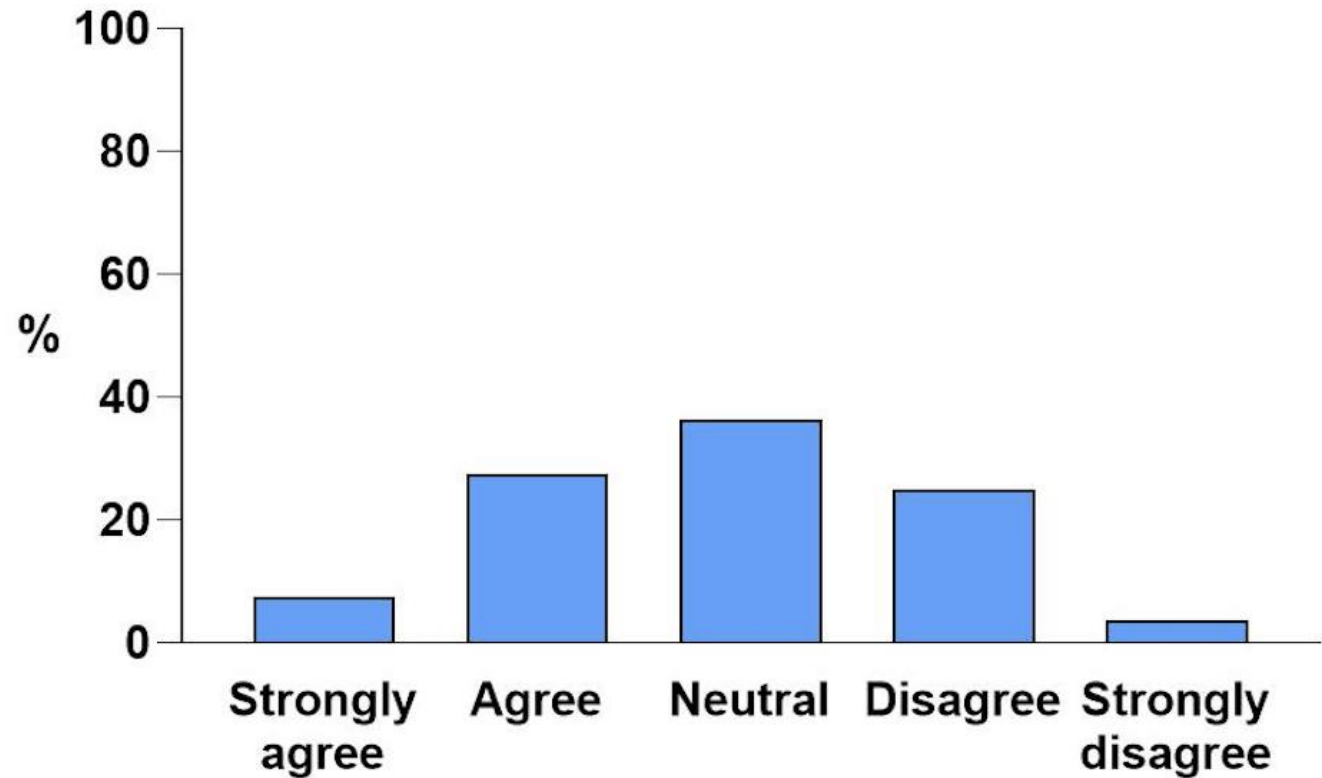
This research has received approval from UNSW Ethics (No. HC210846)

 Proudly funded by the NSW Government

Resilient Towns Initiative

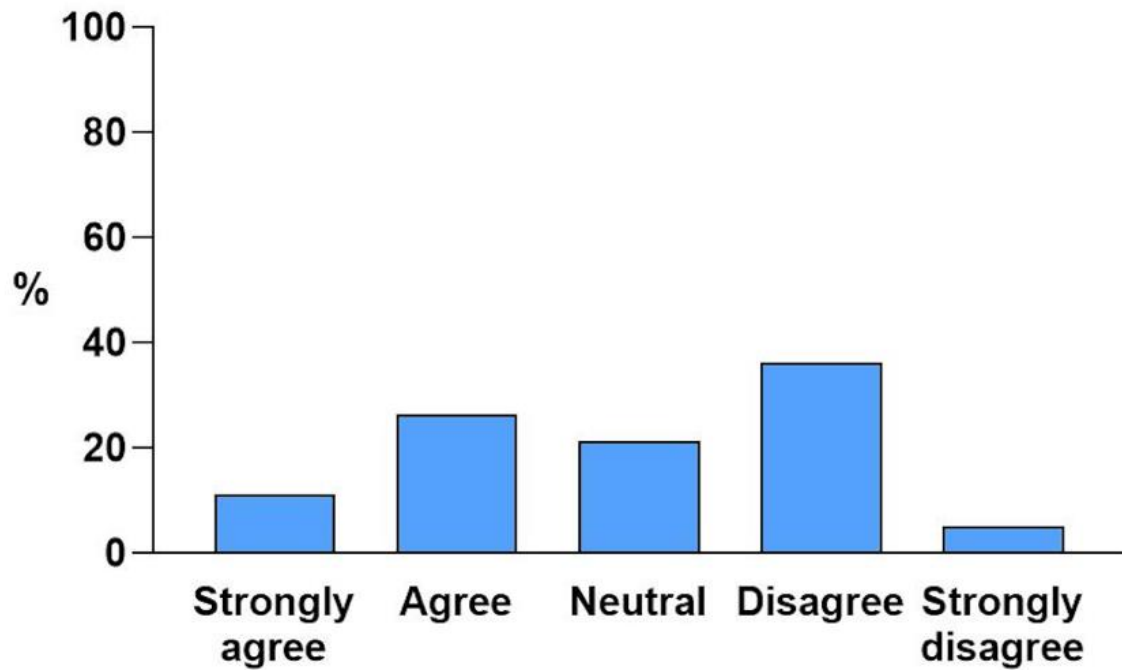


My voice was heard in the recovery

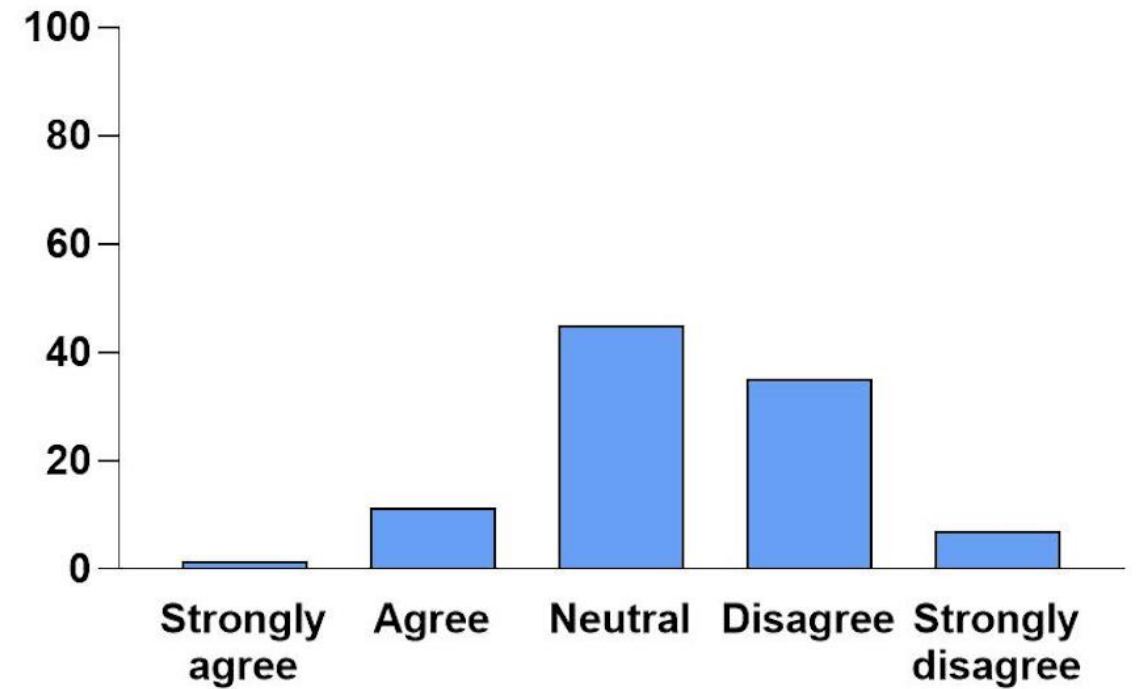




Community members were treated equally



Young people were involved



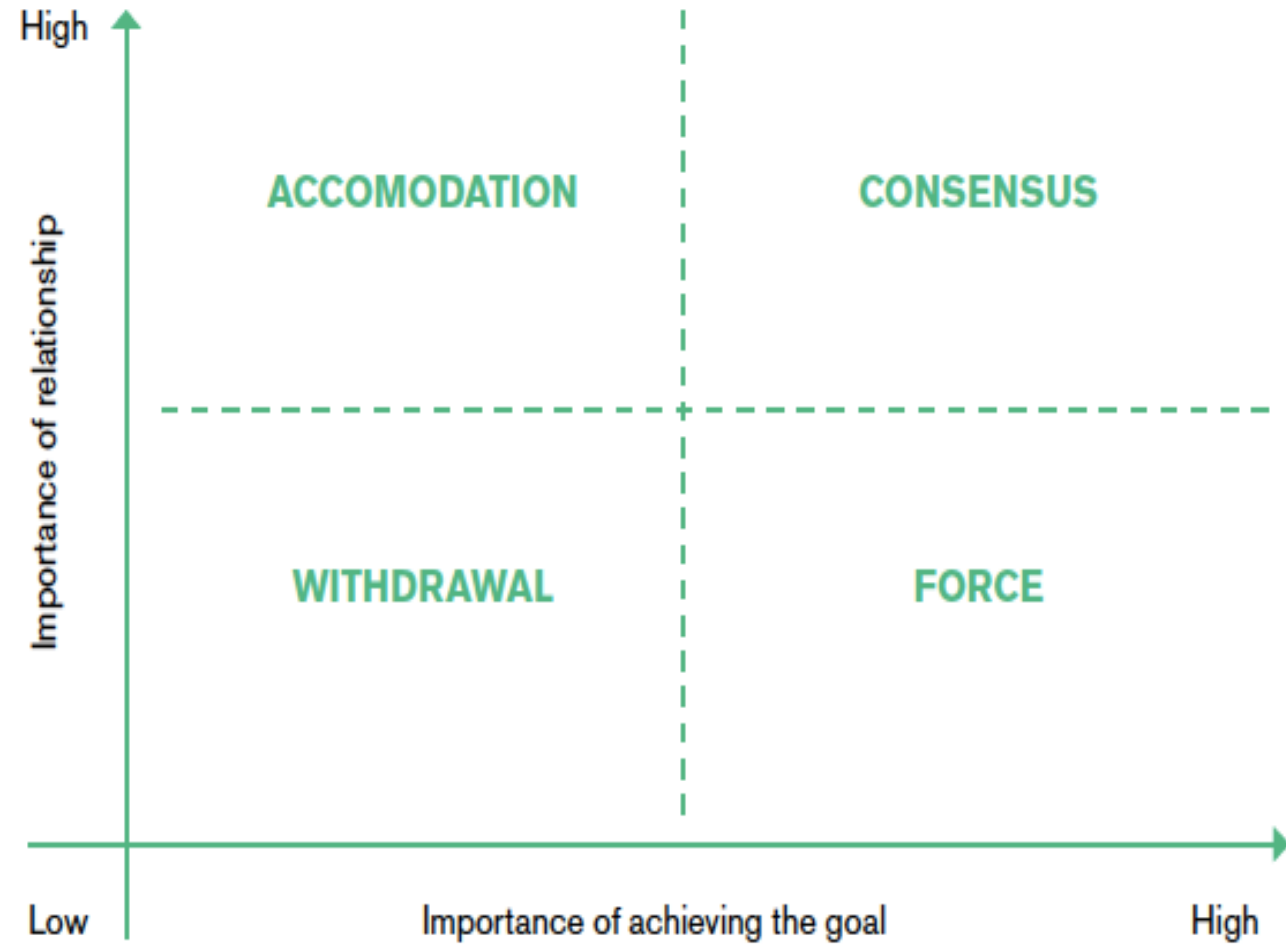


Why is supporting community led recovery so difficult?

- ‘Helpless victims’/saviour mentality
- Agency KPIs
- The pressure to spend
- Political pressure
- Product over process
- Timeframes



When your KPIs don't match with communities





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How can community led recovery be achieved?



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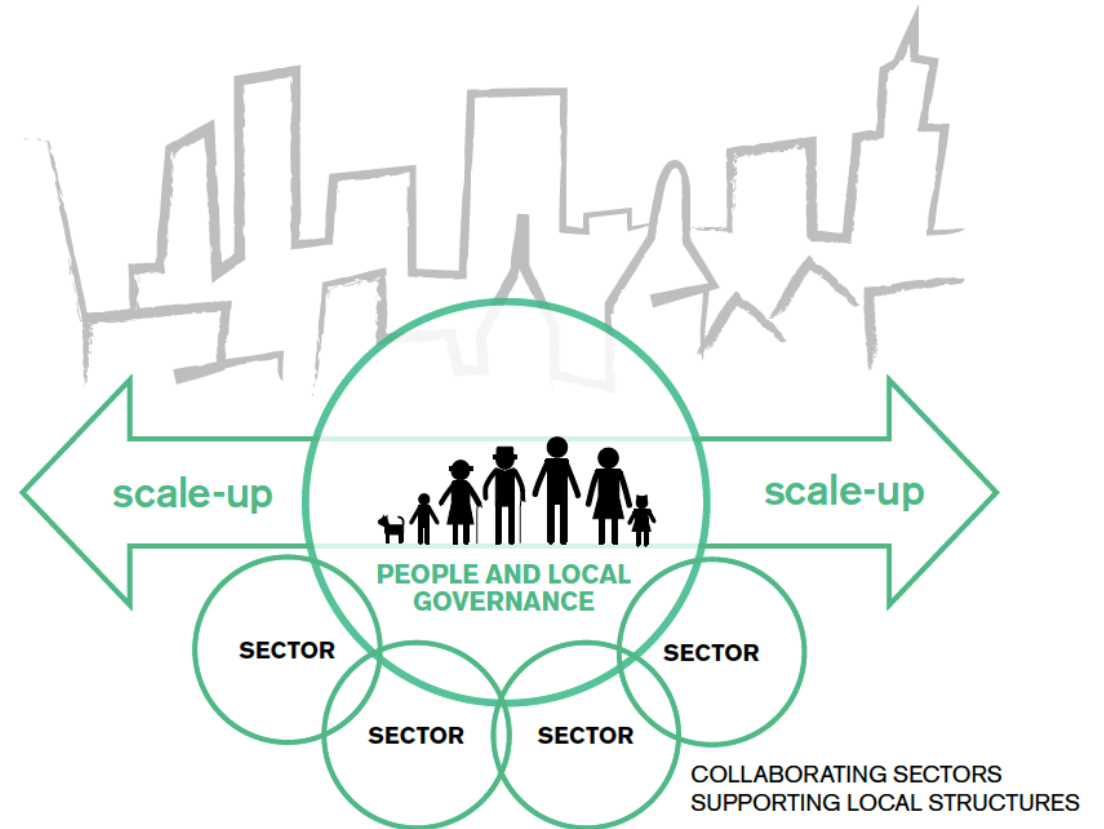
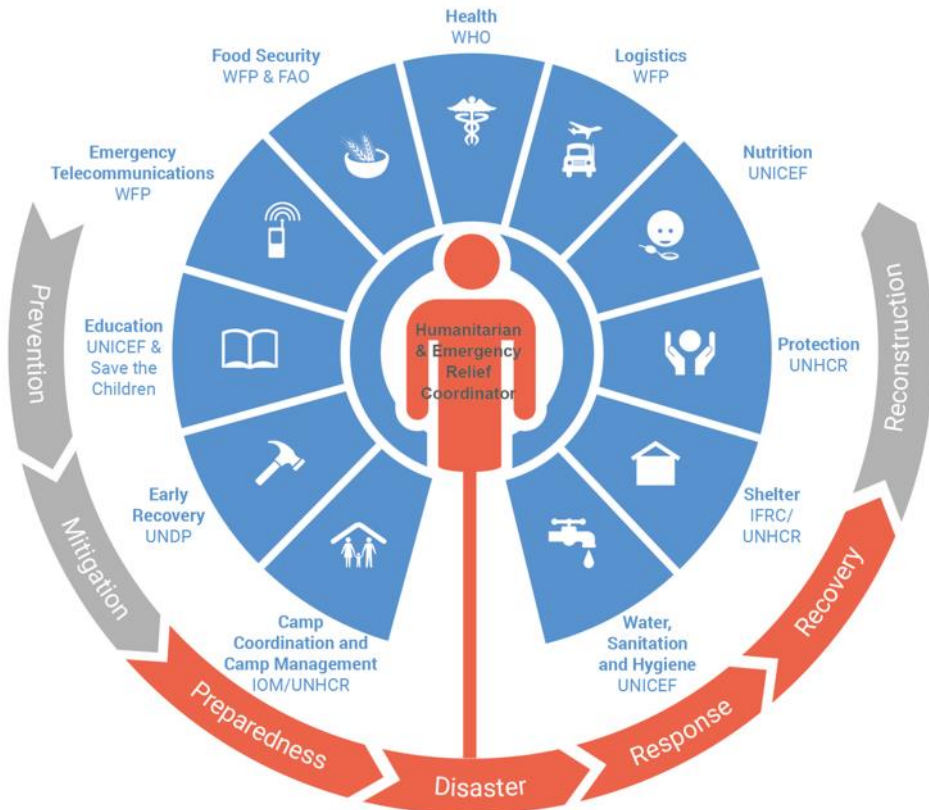
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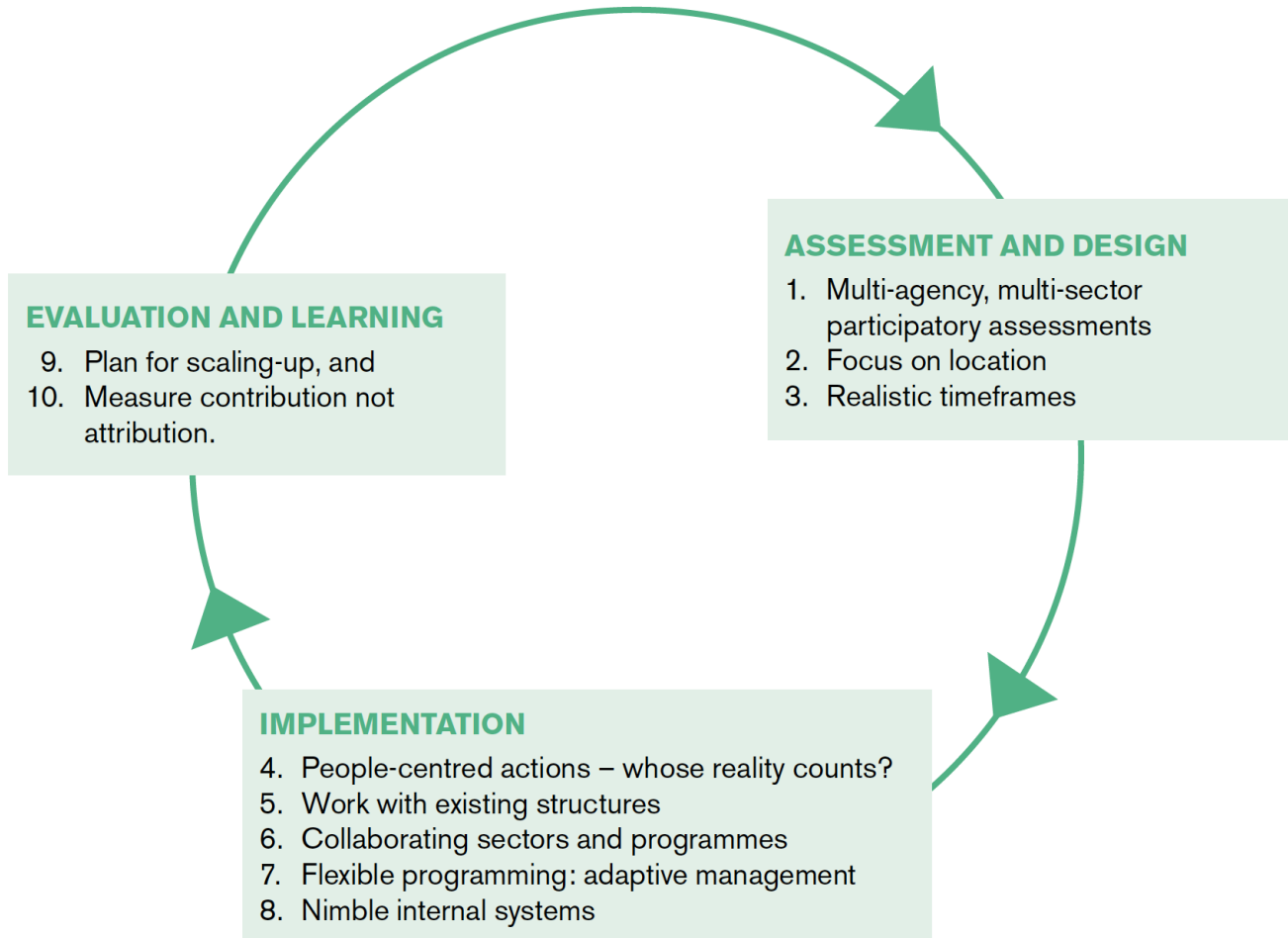
There's a lot of experience from elsewhere ...

Area based approaches (ABAs)

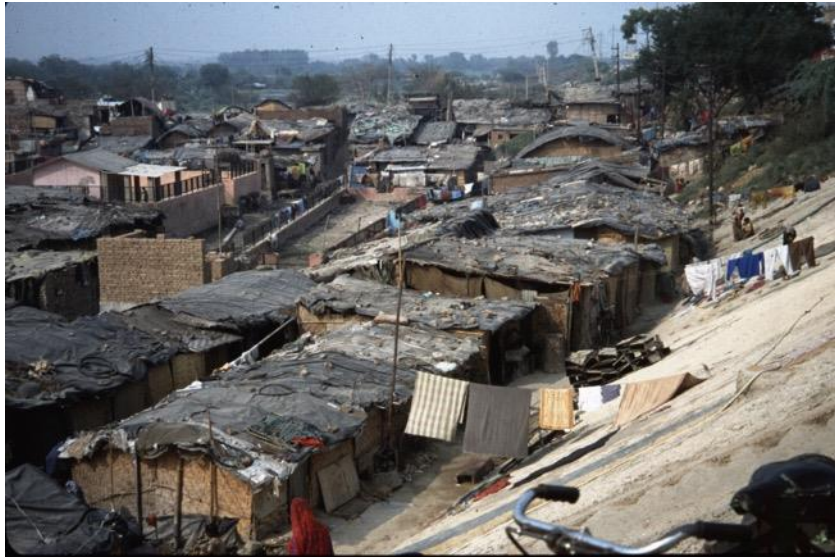
From this

... to this





“If there was a simpler approach then we’d be doing it!”



Action planning

... believes people are creative and capable, and that outsiders are convenors, catalysts and facilitators

- Problem based and opportunity driven
- Starting points, not end states
- Relies on local knowledge and skills
- Optimal ignorance



DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION
Building a Batlow preparedness plan

On Saturday 16th July 2022 a half day workshop was held in Batlow, organised by the Resilient Towns Initiative (RTI). This is the third community meeting RTI has held since November 2021 towards making Batlow a safer community in the event of a future disaster. Around 20 people attended, including local councillors, the Batlow Resilience Hub and personnel from SES, SES and Fire and Rescue. The aim of the workshop was to begin the process of designing a community-owned disaster preparedness plan. The workshop used the four steps for building a preparedness plan developed by the Australian Red Cross: get in the know, get connected, get organised and get packing.

Source: Preparing for emergencies, Australian Red Cross. See <https://www.redcross.org.au/emergency>

A World Café approach was undertaken where groups discussed each of the four steps. Participants were then invited to develop an action plan for one of the four steps that interested them the most for what actions are needed by when, by whom, and what resources might be needed. This report presents the outcomes from the workshop, namely the action plans for each step and notes from the World Café for each step.

What happens next?
This document is a first step. It is being circulated as widely as possible, with an invitation to all in Batlow to provide comments – what's missing? What needs adding to? Who needs to be included? Follow up events will further the development of the plan, with the aim of a completed, locally owned plan in place as quickly as possible. To provide comments or for further information please contact:

Jo Murrell, joanne.murrell@anglicare.com.au, M. 0490 707 543
Chris Blake, chrisb@redcross.org.au, M. 0400 484 942
Kate Johanson, lmjohanson@redcross.org.au, 0437 873 537
Andrew Rae, andrew.rae@recovery.gov.au, M. 0477 238 106

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Building a community preparedness plan Batlow Page 1

RESILIENT TOWNS INITIATIVE
SNOWY VALLEYS, NSW

Newsletter May, 2022
Proudly funded by the NSW Government

The Resilient Towns Initiative supports community-led disaster resilience, preparation, and mitigation across the Snowy Valley region, in association with Snowy Valleys Council, National Recovery and Resilience Agency, the Australian Red Cross, Anglicare, UNSW and RMIT University.

Throughout May further community meetings, workshops and individual business meetings were held in Courabryra, Khancoban and Talbingo. The meetings were well supported by local communities and have resulted in the initiative being able to begin to develop the first community plans for some of these towns. Feedback from these meetings have been distributed back to the communities, in order that their priorities can be recognised in the plan.

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

- SVC Careers Expo - Schools from around the SVC area.
- Cider fest in conjunction with Anglicare and Red Cross.
- Breakfast with Tumbarumba High School's SRC group to understand youth perspectives on creating safe towns.
- Community workshop at Elliott Way.
- SVC Bushfire Recovery - Joint Agency workshop.

Have you taken our survey yet?
Click links here

Bushfire Recovery SVC joint agency workshop
Laurel Hill





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In conclusion ...



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Systemic change is needed in how we understand and frame recovery



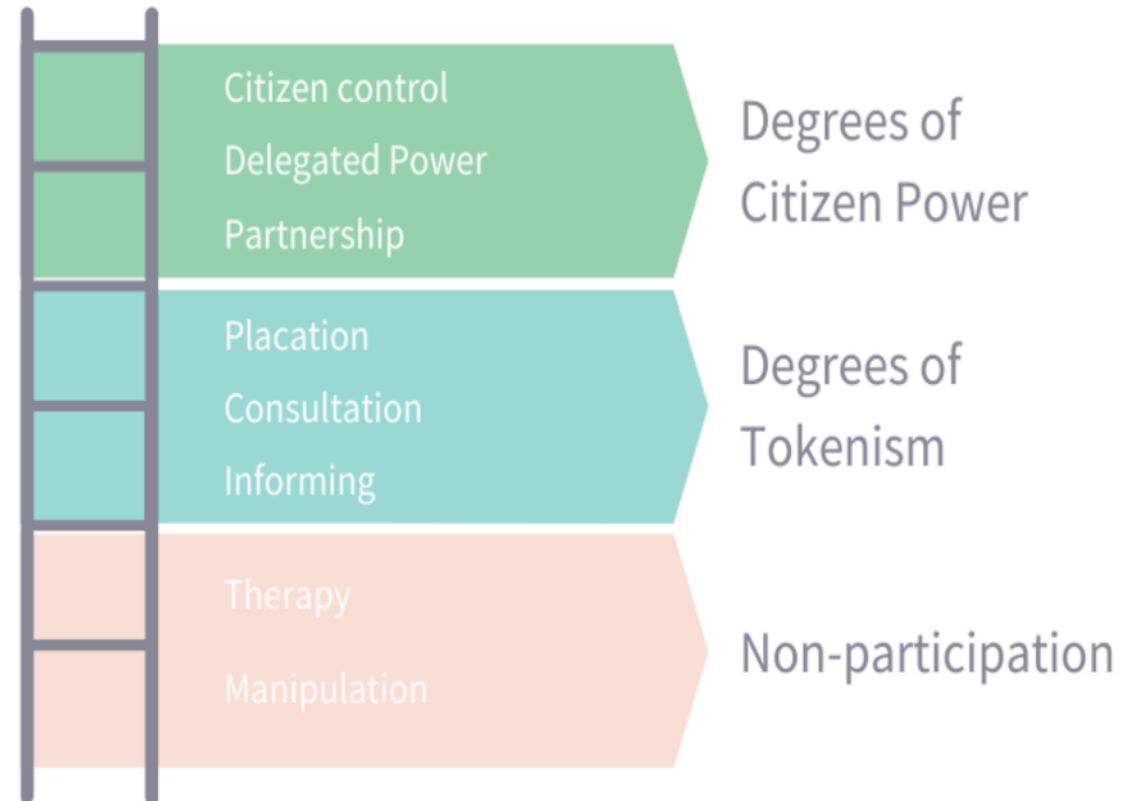
Tacloban, Philippines, 2013



Photo: with permission

Northern NSW, 2022

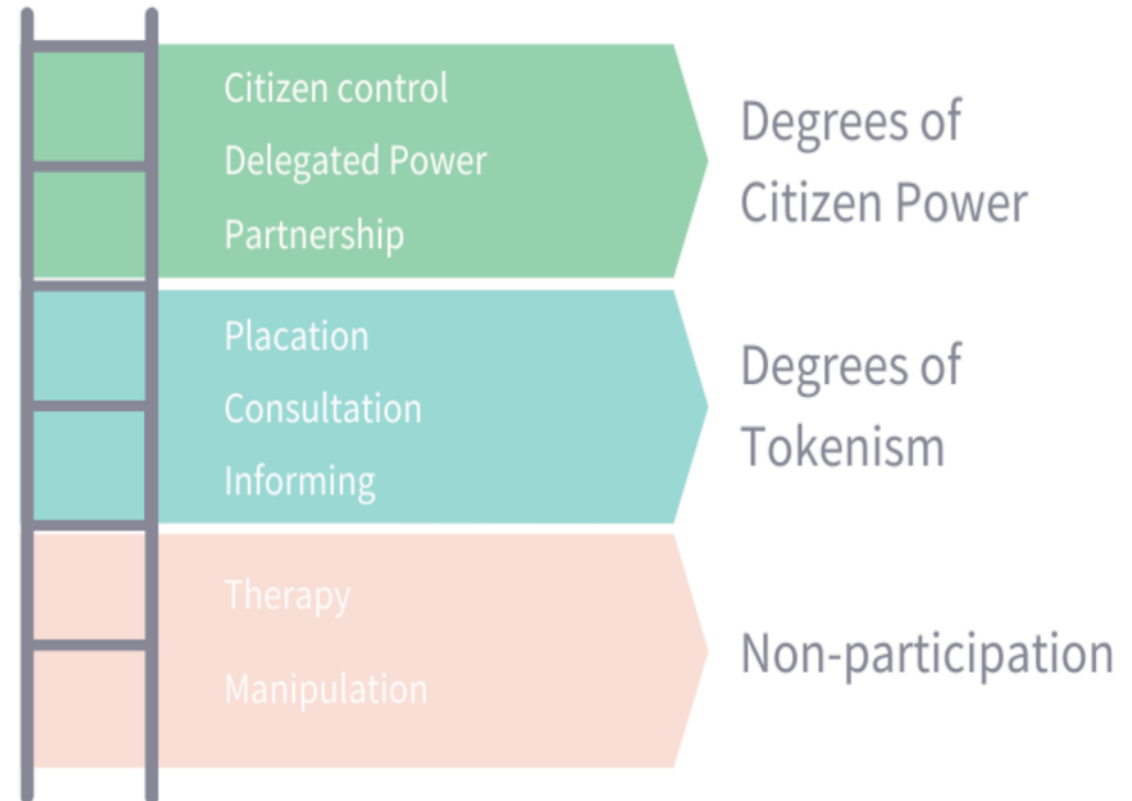
If we want community led recovery, *then* we need to ...



Source: commonplace.is

If we want community led recovery, *then* we need to ...

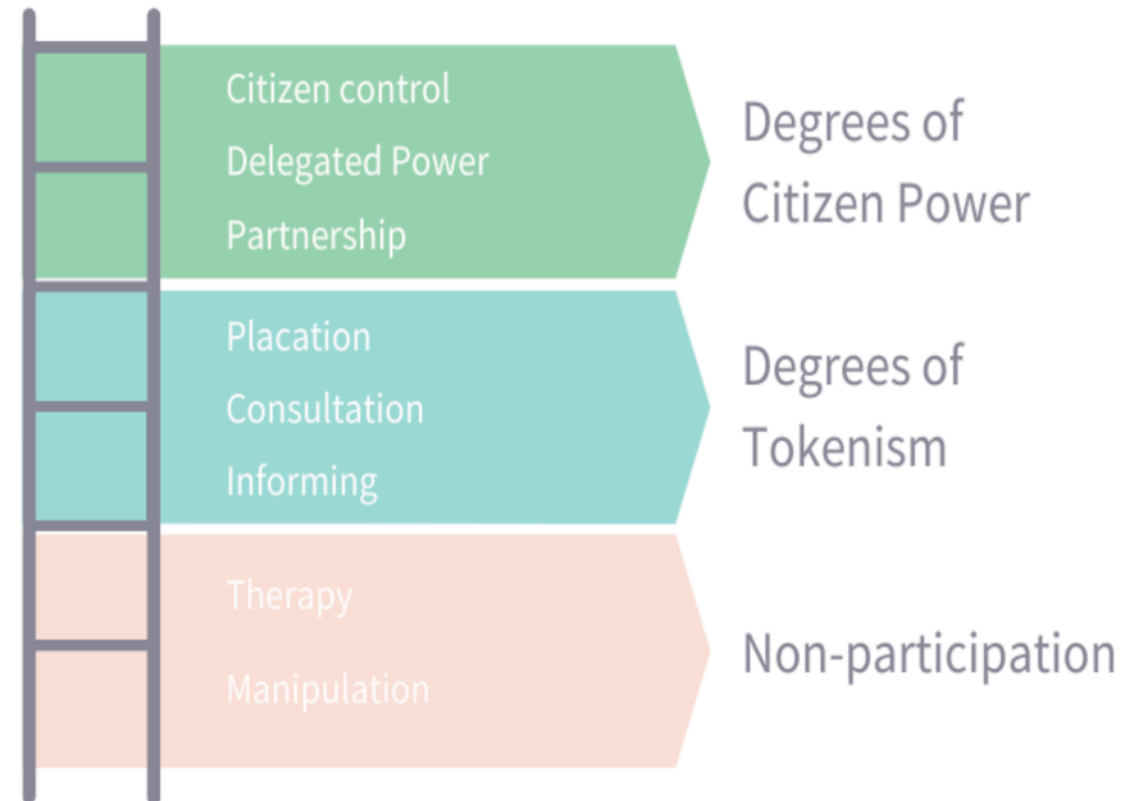
- Prioritise the underlying vulnerabilities each disaster exposes



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If we want community led recovery, *then* we need to ...

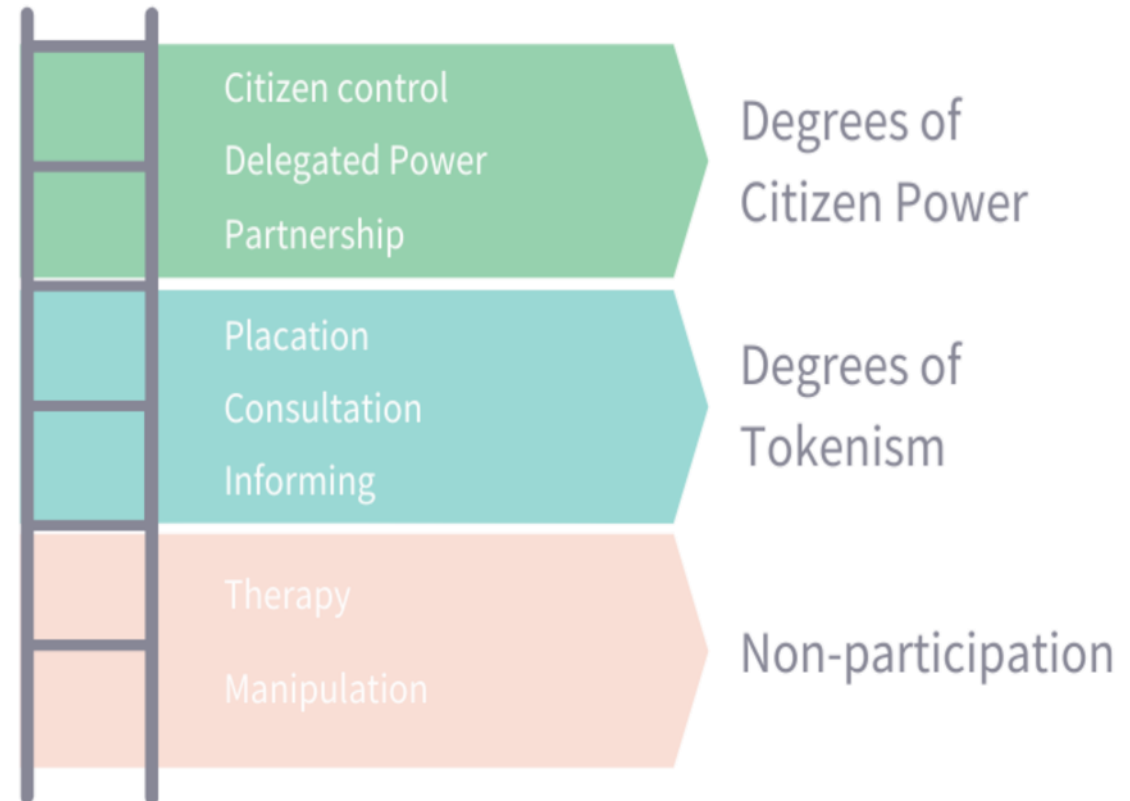
- Prioritise the underlying vulnerabilities each disaster exposes
- Recognise the limits of command and control - *'relief is the enemy of recovery'*



Source: commonplace.is

If we want community led recovery, *then* we need to ...

- Prioritise the underlying vulnerabilities each disaster exposes
- Recognise the limits of command and control - *'relief is the enemy of recovery'*
- Measure success differently - *measure process and progress*



Thanks

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