



Background

Global Flood Impact (UNDRR, 2020)
 - 44% of global natural disasters
 - 4.03 billion people affected
 - 1.2 million fatalities from 2000 to 2019

UK Flood Protection Challenge (House of Commons Committee, 2024)
 - £5.2 billion investment (2021–2027)
 - 200,000 properties protected
 - However, 203,000 properties are at increased risk

Growing Flood Risk (Environment Agency, 2025)
 - 6.3 million properties currently at risk
 - 1 in 4 homes could face flood risk by 2050

What's missing?

There is limited understanding of how engagement processes shape and strengthen community flood resilience in practice.

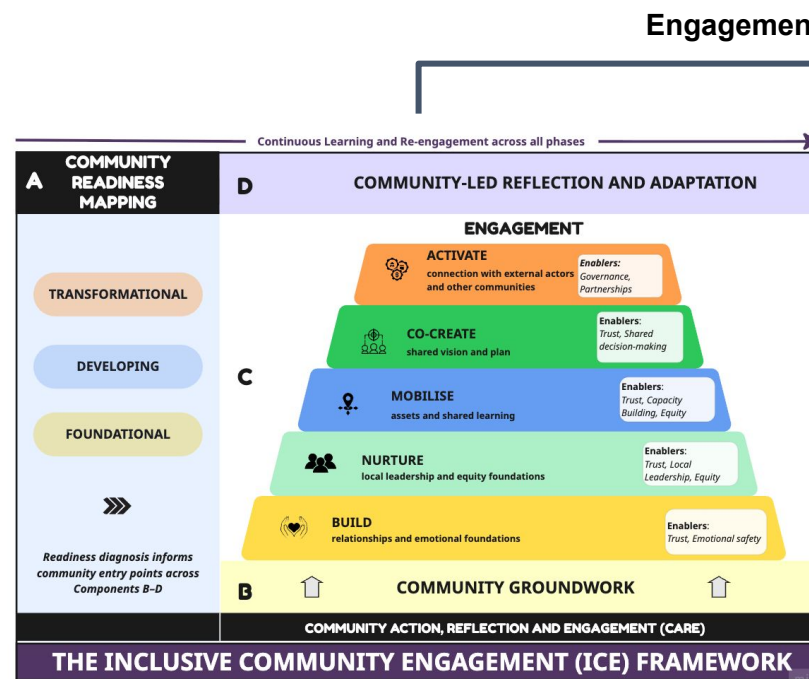
Aim

To examine how community engagement processes and community flood resilience assessment frameworks can be aligned to better understand, measure, and support resilience in socially diverse communities.



Integrating community engagement and flood resilience assessment

Community Engagement Framework

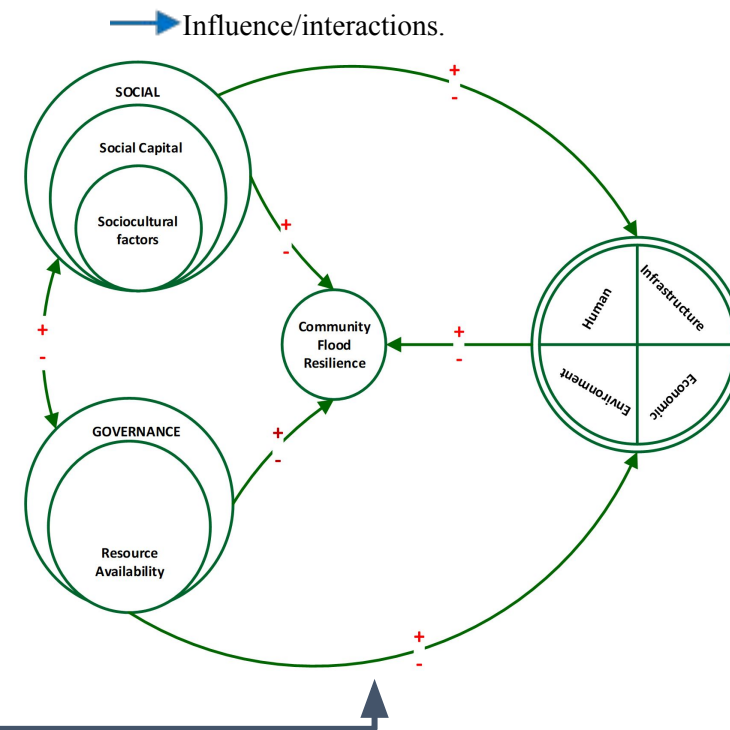


Behavioural and Social Resilience Capacities

- Awareness
- Trust
- Social capital
- Collective action

Community Flood Resilience Assessment

+/-: positive and negative effects.



Measured through indicators



Key Takeaway:

Strong community engagement helps people work together, build trust, and take action, which makes communities more resilient to flooding.

Methodology

- Interviews**
Flood risk management practitioners and stakeholders
- Focus Group Discussions**
Community engagement and resilience perspectives

Key Findings

- Social Capital (Bonding, Bridging, Linking) Strengthens Resilience
- Community Engagement Builds Resilience Capacity

Implications

- BETTER FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**
- Tailored preparedness, response and recovery across different social contexts
- MEASURING SOCIAL RESILIENCE**
- Demonstrating resilience gains beyond physical infrastructure

References

Ekundayo, O., Proverbs, D., Suresh, S., Pathirage, C., Olatunji, E. & Emonson, P. (2025). A Socially and Behaviourally Grounded Framework for Inclusive Engagement Towards Community Flood Resilience [Online]. Leeds Beckett University. Available from: <https://hdl.handle.net/10779/leedsbeckett.30399583.v1>

Environment Agency (2025) National assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk in England 2024.

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts (2024) Resilience to flooding. London: House of Commons.

Olatunji, E., Proverbs, D., Pathirage, C., Suresh, S., Cooper, J. and Capewell, L. (2026) Evaluating community flood resilience: an innovative social capital oriented framework. *Journal of Flood Risk Management*, 18 (4), article e70128. DOI: 10.1111/jfr3.70128

UNDRR (2020). The Human Cost of Disasters: An Overview of the Last 20 Years 2000–2019. UNDRR, PreventionWeb, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.