

# Core community-level influences fostering proactive preparedness

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## Research Questions

This research addresses two substantial gaps in the disaster literature by answering:

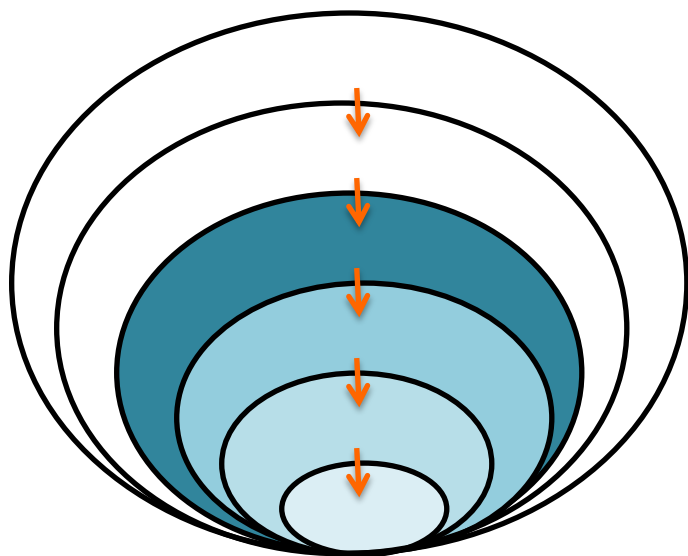
**Q1: What are crucial community-level preparedness activities & how can they objectively assessed?**

**Q2: What community characteristics influence individual & community preparedness?**

## Unit of Analysis

Community is a highly ambiguous construct with multiple layers. We choose as unit of analysis:

### Local Government



- closest form of government to the public
- primary responsibility for preparing & responding
- authority to implement & reinforce state laws/regulations and to develop own

## Research Design

Because little is known in this area we started with qualitative research:

### Data Collection:

- episodic interviews → narrative & conceptual knowledge
- participant observation → actions/interactions & taken for granted knowledge

### Participants & Sampling:

- purposeful & snowballing
- 15 community members & leaders
- Length: 32.24 h (average: 2.09 h)

### Analysis:

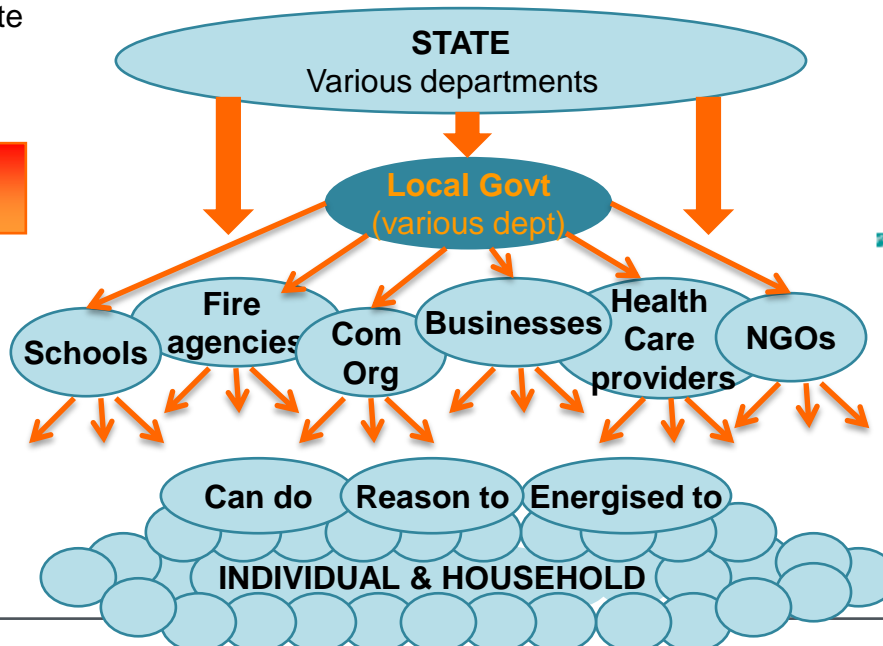
- grounded theory analysis techniques
- qualitative analysis software Atlas.ti

## Q1: Core Community-level Preparedness Activities



Degree of preparedness at the community-level & degree to which LG communicate what they do & plan to do influences individual preparedness directly & indirectly.

## Q2: Key Actors



## Q2: Interaction between Community & Individuals

**Central theme: Community spirit**  
**Process: Negotiating responsibility-trust-respect between community members & leaders**

### Local Government

- safety priority culture & climate
- attracting & selecting "good/right" people
- collaboration & cross-functional teams
- two-way communication, requesting & using local knowledge, developing capacities, supporting, acknowledging, monitoring

### Can Prepare

- self-efficacy, support, outcome expectancy
- knowledge, physical abilities & practical skills
- perceived costs & laws/regulations

### Reasons to Prepare

- growing up &/or living in LG
- having sense of belonging & attachment
- recognising interdependence → reciprocity
- accepting responsibility for self & others
  - risk perception & identifying need
- using of capabilities & making a difference
- leaving-staying decision & reinforcing



### Energised to Prepare

- passion, joy, fulfilment, & peace of mind
- anxiety/worry/concerns & apathy

### Goals/Envisioned Future

- keeping self & family safe
- building safe, enjoyable, vibrant community
- expanding self (knowledge & skills)

## Next Steps

- finalising questionnaires developed based on qualitative data
- testing the model empirically