Ch 5. Example how might we statement

How to craft a *how might we… so that* statement.

What is a how might we statement? It is a way of identifying and framing the problem to be solved. It allows workshop participants to brainstorm equitable resilience actions that are relevant, meaningful, creative, within scope of what your locality can tackle, and address root causes of resilience challenges and social vulnerability.

A h*ow might we* statement has two parts: *'how might* we' [take some sort of action] *so tha*t [a certain outcome happens].

Example 1, Before: *How might we* better map our flood risks?

What could be improved: This statement contains an embedded assumption that is mapping risks is a solution to building equitable resilience. It also forgot the *so that* part.

Example 1, After: *How might we* improve flood risk information *so that* all community members can make informed decisions that could reduce the potential impact of a flood on them.

Example 2: *How might we* reduce flooding in our community *so that* our community isn't impacted by floods.

What could be improved: This statement has a very big scope and might not be achievable; it also doesn't address priority populations' needs.

Example 2, After: *How might w*e improve the resilience of rental housing in our community *so that* low-income community members do not suffer as much from repeated flooding.

Example 3, Before: *How might we* reach more people to tell them to go to cooling centers during extreme heat?

What could be improved: This statement reflects the problem from the point of view of the communicator, not the recipient, doesn't differentiate who 'people' are, and presumes that the problem is a lack of information.

Example 3, After: *How might we* make sure that seniors, children, and other community members particularly affected by heat have the support they need *so that* they can better access cooling centers during extreme heat?

To learn more about how might we statements, click here [link to resources]