**Diagram Community Connections**

**Overview**

# **Objective**

To create a diagram of the current social connections that exist in your community. The diagram will help you identify where trust already exists and where it needs to be strengthened, as well as the flow of information and resources to support resilience actions.

# **Preparation**

**Who will be involved:** core team

**Suggested activity length:** 1-2 hours

**Materials:** white board or paper, at least 7 different color markers, and any existing lists of audiences, including ERB’s Community Connections Table.

# **Output**

A diagram of the current social connections that exist in your community. You may add to the diagram as you progress through the ERB process, to show new connections that are built through resilience planning.

# **Next Steps**

The diagram will help you prioritize and decide who you should engage and how you should approach engagement as you write your community engagement plan (next activity).

# **Example of Completed Community Connections Diagram**

An example diagram describing the actors in a given area that communicate, collaborate, and share resources.


**Diagram Community Connections**

**Instructions**

1. Take the actors from the Community Connections Table, or any existing list of contacts/key informants/stakeholders you might have and write them on your white board or paper in circles. Each actor is in its own circle. Use different colors for each circle according to the sectors they belong to (e.g., government, non-governmental organization (NGO), religious group). They can have more than one colored circle. ​**Don’t forget to add your agency/group as an actor.**
2. Draw arrows between the actors that often communicate with each other, share/give resources, and/or collaborate on projects. Point the arrows in the direction of each type of flow; use a two-way arrow to indicate two-way communication or other type of bi-directional relationship. You can also use different colors of arrows to indicate different types of flows (e.g., red for information flows, black for resource flows).
3. Once your team has finished adding actors and arrows, reflect and discuss the patterns you see in what you’ve drawn.
   1. Which actors have the most connections? What types of connections are they (e.g., resources, communication)?
   2. Are there any actors that are central in your diagram?
   3. Which actors are currently disconnected from other actors? Why might that be? Are there any disconnects/gaps due to inequities, historical racism, distrust, or justice issues?
   4. Are any actors missing?
   5. Do you see any patterns related to the type of actor (more of one-color circle than others)?
4. Discuss how your diagram can help you target certain groups for engagement, and which connections might need more attention.
   1. How could you connect with groups that are currently disconnected? ​
   2. Which groups might be the hardest to reach?
   3. Are there equity or justice considerations between groups that you should acknowledge or be mindful of, such as lack of trust between certain groups?
   4. Are there certain actors that can help build more connections? How can you partner with them or bring them into the ERB process?