

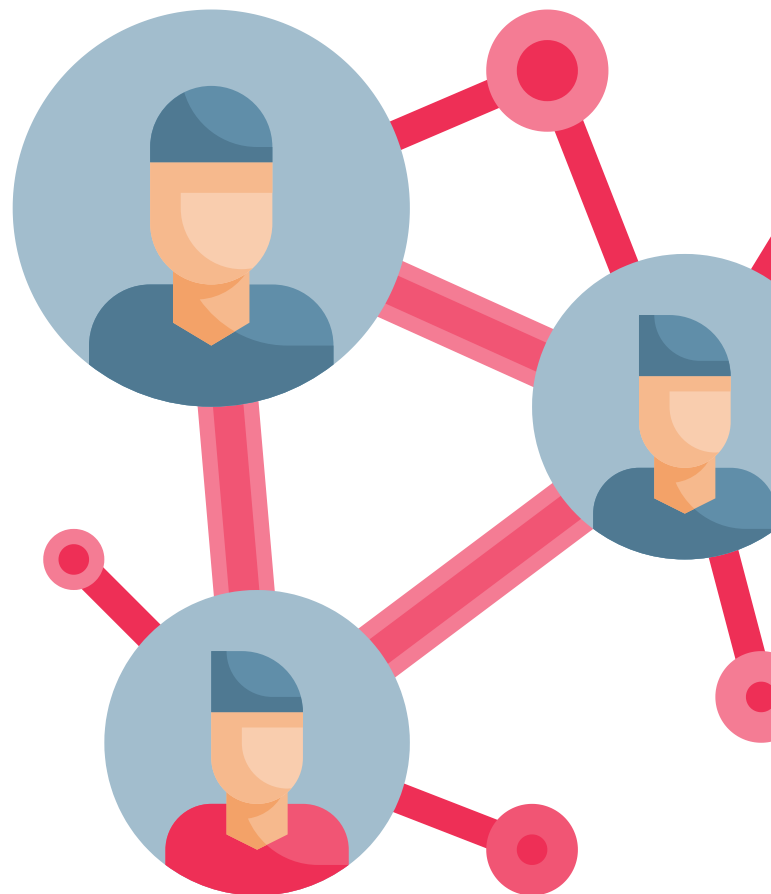
# STAKEHOLDER NETWORKS: LESSONS LEARNED

In this block, our focus shifts towards networks, the bedrock of effective collaborative governance. We have highlighted the significance of networks, which bring together a multitude of actors with diverse interests and influence, to collectively address the complex and multidimensional challenges posed by flood disasters.

Shared objective, trust and a collaborative spirit are key ingredients in formation of these networks. These elements collectively ensure the network's ability to address the ever-evolving challenges of flood risk management comprehensively.

## The essential features of an effective flood disaster risk management network are:

- shared ideas and goals,
- collaboration and coordination,
- participation and inclusivity,
- efficient information exchange, and
- adaptability.



# STAKEHOLDER NETWORKS: LESSONS LEARNED

## HOW ARE NETWORKS FORMED?

Formation of networks is driven by **mutual objectives**. In the context of flood disaster, these objectives can be varying from building resilience amongst communities, to working on local level infrastructure. This means that the objective to work on flood disaster risk management is not limited to the aftermath of the floods but invariably includes different objectives most importantly prevention of flood disasters. In order to work towards these mutual objectives, networks engage with one another by **building relationship** and having varying levels of **trust**.

As a resource exchange platform, Flood Disaster Risk Management (FDRM) policy networks are thus formed based on a reasonable level of **mutual understanding** of resource-related issues leading actors to converge on common rules (Crona & Bodin, 2006). Ideational similarities between network members are a key precondition for network formation and sustenance (Baulenas et al., 2021).

Networks are secured when there is transparent **communication** accommodating differing opinions and a mutual understanding on knowledge sharing, resource exchange and coordinated action across different actors such as governmental agencies, NGOs, community groups and private actors.



*Johann, 2022*

# STAKEHOLDER NETWORKS: LESSONS LEARNED

## STAKEHOLDER MAPPING EXERCISE

Please follow these steps for mapping out your personal FDRM network.

**Time required:** ca. 25 min

**Material required:** Coloured sticky notes, A4 size paper, rulers, pens and pencils .

- 1. Who are the members of your actual network?** Chose coloured sticky notes to differentiate your network members. E.g. state agency/department = green, non-state agency = yellow, communities = blue, research/academia = orange and yourself = pink.
- 2. Which network members are more central and closer to each other?** Place those closest to you clad together on one side of the paper provided and place those not so close to you away on the other side
- 3. How are the network members connected?** Connections within a network can be based on resources, information, sharing of strategies, mutual trust or shared ideas. Please draw lines between the network members that resemble the connections.
- 4. How can we reflect and strengthen your network?** Please present your mapped network to your table neighbours. They can provide feedback on the depicted network and how it could possibly be strengthened (e.g. more communication, additional network members, creating/ increasing trust, clarifying goals/values)?

# STAKEHOLDER NETWORKS: LESSONS LEARNED

## LITERATURE REFERENCES

Baulenas E, Kruse S, Sotirov M (2021) Forest and water policy integration: A process and output-oriented policy network analysis. *Environmental Policy and Governance* 31(5):432-450.

Crona B, Bodin Ö (2006) What You Know is Who You Know? Communication Patterns Among Resource Users as a Prerequisite for Co-management. *Ecology and Society* 11(2):7.

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