



## Building Communities of Care

### WERA-IRN Annual Report

*May 2019 – April 2020*

Submitted by:

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In our submission we proposed a systematic review of community development as it relates to community resilience development within educational contexts, including collaborative community-based service provision. This review was to be conducted from 01 June 2019- 30 June 2020, with the writing component completed by the end of July 2020. This review is well under way. Given the size of the review, and the related international components, we anticipate completing this work close to the original deadline, at the end of August 2020 (rather than the end of June 2020).

In addition to the core focus of our KS, smaller site and topic specific reviews are emerging across our partners. These include reviews of the literature available with contexts such as Brazil, Croatia and South Africa. Similarly, a review exploring management styles relevant organisations engaged in community development work has been initiated amongst some of our network members.

The second component of our work during this first year has been focused on the development of an international research program. To this end a comprehensive research program has been developed and the international team is now looking for relevant funding opportunities. Consequently, the research plan has been written up in various research proposals. Currently, site specific proposals are being finalised for submission and/or have been submitted for review in South Africa, Brazil, Croatia, New Zealand and Canada.

Additionally, our network has been expanded by 11 new members. Seven of these new members are actively involved in either site specific components of the knowledge synthesis and/or currently working on funding applications. We have also recently developed a twitter handle (@resiliencecons1) and a LinkedIn profile (The International Community Development and Resilience Consortium (ICDRC)). As we increase the number of resources we are developing we will be making greater use of these social media resources as a means of connecting with others in the field.

Similarly, given that we are at the end of the first year of the project, we are currently using the website of the The International Community Development and Resilience Consortium (ICDRC) to host information about the project (<https://www.resilienceconsortium.org/our-projects>). As the project grows, we will develop a separate page containing more detailed information and findings from our work.

In terms of outputs, an edited book has been accepted for publication by Routledge titled: ***African Schools as Enabling Spaces: A Framework for Building Communities of Care***. The mission of the book



is to provide a theoretical and applied framework from which intersectoral stakeholders can work. The scope of the book covers the different components of the school system across Africa. Stakeholders outside of the formal education system, but with a vested interest in education will also be included. These conceptual and applied frameworks are necessary given the current social milieu in which children find themselves. Increased demands, violent conflicts, lack of stability and social strain are but a few challenges impacting children's development negatively. This context has placed extraordinary demands on schools and staff, necessitating a renewed understanding of how to better support children's developmental needs. Resilience research findings suggest a holistic and integrated community focus.

Finally, our team had intended presenting on our work in a symposium at the 2020 WERA focal meeting. This event has been postponed until 2021, and we continue to be excited about the prospect of sharing our work then.