



Building Communities of Care

WERA-IRN Annual Report

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Submitted by:

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Several of the initiatives started in 2019 are still underway. The systematic review of community development related to community resilience development within educational contexts, including collaborative community-based service provision, is still ongoing given the size of the review and the related international components. The different regional teams have been formed and are being trained in Atlas ti when undertaking a systematic review of this nature. Therefore, the smaller site and topic-specific reviews are still emerging across our partners from Brazil, Croatia, and South Africa.

Given the aim of establishing a comprehensive research program consisting of international team members, we are still targeting relevant funding opportunities. A grant proposal was submitted to the National Research Foundation in 2020, which was unfortunately not successful. We are now targeting the Trans-Atlantic Platform Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World (RRR), a collaboration between humanities and social science research funders from South America, North America and Europe.

The International Community Development and Resilience Consortium (ICDRC) is well underway. Given COVID-19, our social media footprint was not what was hoped. We are currently working on a social media strategy in which the resources we can be distributed in a meaningful manner. We are also continuing to use the International Community Development and Resilience Consortium (ICDRC) website to host information about the project (<https://www.resilienceconsortium.org/our-projects>). A video on community resilience has also been commissioned, using schools as examples in addition to a one-pager for frontline staff to use. The video is freely available on the website.

The edited book accepted for publication by Routledge titled: ***African Schools as Enabling Spaces: A Framework for Building Communities of Care*** is well underway. Chapters have undergone a first-round blind review and are currently in the second cycle of review. Unfortunately, given COVID-19, the timelines for submitting the book to the publisher had to shift to the second half of 2021.



Our team is still presenting on our work in a symposium at the 2020+1 WERA focal meeting. We have met online to discuss the symposium and anticipate meeting online a couple of time more before the online event. Prof Liebenberg will also be presenting a webinar at the University of South Africa entitled: Promoting community resilience for mental health outcomes: What we know and how we can research, in addition to ASI online interactive workshops (<http://www.asi-iea.ca/en/session-1-overview/>)

Finally, Prof Liebenberg is currently working on a funding application with Atlantic Summer Institute in Atlantic Canada to host a forum on support resources for children, youth and their families and communities. The forum aims to solidify stronger relationships between children, youth and their families, and the consortium.