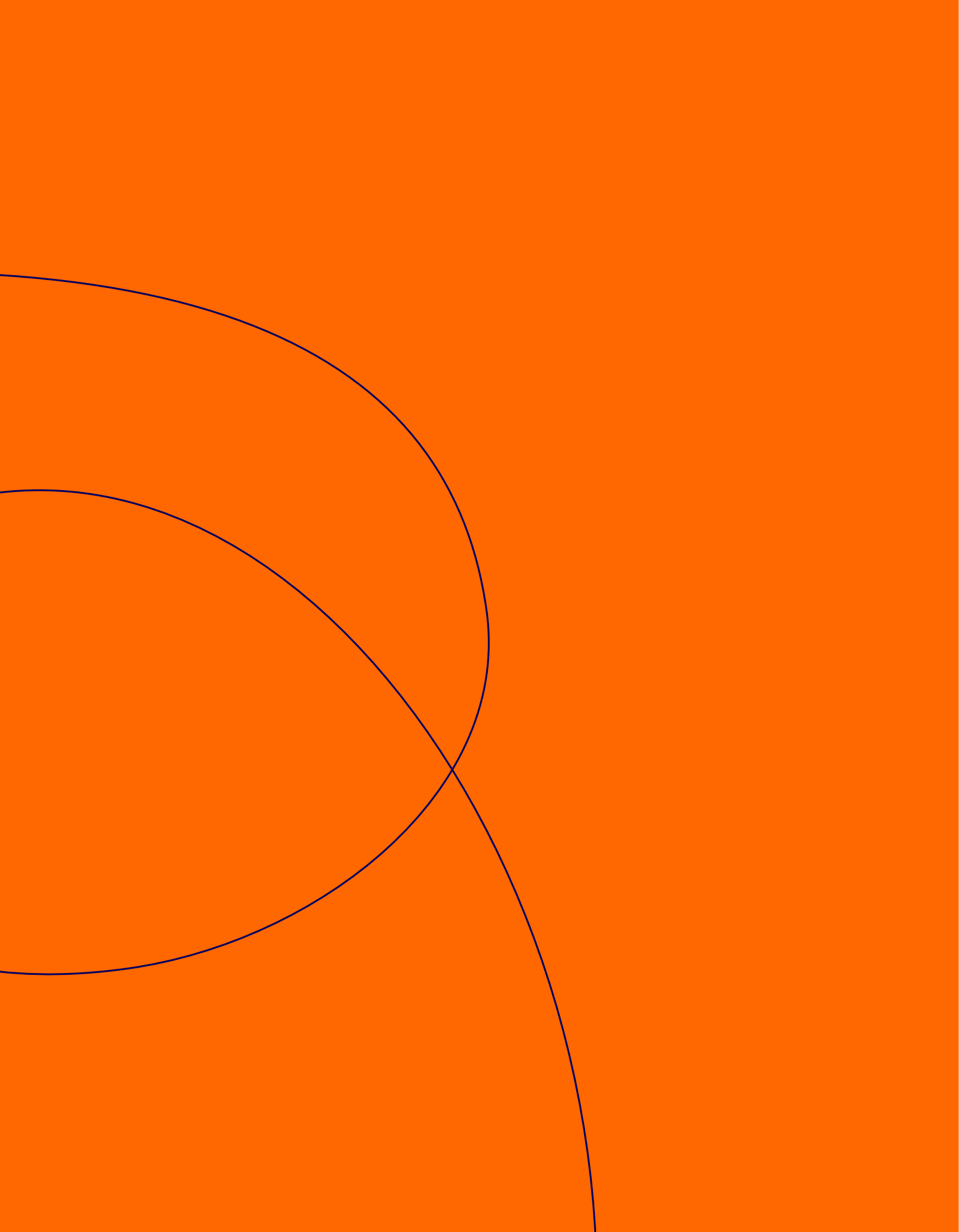


Talk to your street



Practical steps and inspiring examples
for a resilient community

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for a resilient community

Maarten Westerduin en Lisette Pronk



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Beatrice de Graaf

Foreword

Dear reader,

The history of resilience is long and comprehensive. But it starts small, with local initiatives by people like you. This is how it has always been in the history of the Netherlands. Yet, as a professor of history and researcher in the field of security, crisis, and social resilience, I see time and again that too much is written and invented for people at a level that is way above their heads. Theoretical frameworks, best practices, and policy proposals only gain real meaning when they are rooted in concrete communities; in neighborhoods, streets, and communities. They only mean something when they are embedded in the fabric of everyday social relationships. That is exactly why the initiatives highlighted in this booklet are so valuable.

In the past, in the Middle Ages and early modern times, resilience was always something for cities, guilds, and communities. In our postmodern age, resilience has increasingly been narrowed down to something for the individual: it is about our personal resilience, about individual prevention, and about our self-reliance in times of crisis. But in order to face the future, we need to take those lessons from our distant past seriously again. True resilience is never the domain of a few individuals. It is something that is created – and strengthened – by collective commitment, common trust, and shared responsibility. In my research on the resilience of different societies in a comparative and historical perspective, I always emphasize how crucial it is that people in crisis face their obstacles as a group, together. Their chances of survival depend on the quality of their social ties, the willingness to cooperate, and mutual solidarity.

This booklet offers a workable bridge between abstraction and practice. It does not offer a comprehensive policy vision, but rather a practical manual. The insights are based on concrete experiences and examples of cooperation by

neighbors. What can people do for each other in times of crisis? It is a plea for autonomy and community; for self-reliance and co-reliance. Especially in times of uncertainty, social tensions, or threats, it is not the walls or alarm systems that ultimately make us strong, but the people around us, the relationships we cherish, and the willingness to take responsibility together.

I'm very glad that Rabobank (I've been a customer since my youth) is supporting this publication. A bank that – from its cooperative origins – not only focuses on individual capital in your account, but also actively contributes to the social capital of the community. If we know anything from history, it is that you need social capital to weather a crisis. That is why it is also our task to provide that social capital to others who cannot keep up.

That is why I wholeheartedly recommend this booklet. It is for everyone who is willing to invest in mutual trust, social cohesion, and local resilience – whether you are active in a neighborhood initiative, thinking about local safety, or just want to be a good neighbor. So that a crisis does not become a moment of isolation, fear, or survival of the fittest, but an opportunity to build a resilient and engaged community together.

I hope that this booklet will contribute to more connection, understanding, and decisiveness in neighborhoods throughout the Netherlands.

With warm regards,

Beatrice de Graaf
Professor of History Utrecht University and scientific director of the Adapt Academy



*A resilient
community belongs
to everyone.*

Why focus on resilience now?

We live in a time when crises are no longer something from distant countries or the distant future. Power outages, digital disruptions, extreme drought and forest fires, floods – the likelihood of these things happening is increasing. And the pressure on emergency services is huge during such a crisis. The government is therefore calling on citizens to be better prepared.

Recently, every household in the Netherlands received the booklet “Prepare for an Emergency”. In that publication, the government encourages everyone to get an emergency kit and to make their own emergency plan for when the power goes out or when there is no internet. The advice is to discuss this with neighbors, friends, and family.

Emergency services, such as the fire brigade, also emphasize that cooperation with residents is becoming increasingly important. Especially in the event of wildfires, floods, a chemical incident or contaminated drinking water, fast communication, local knowledge, and mutual coordination can make a big difference.

The government’s call is a signal to many people: the world has changed and it is important to think about what we can organize ourselves. It raises the question: how strong are we as a community? Not only nationally, but especially in our own street? Because what good is an emergency kit for your neighbor if she lives alone and her medication has to be kept cool? What do you do when your children are still at school and you have to flee a wildfire in a hurry?

Suppose the power goes out one evening. Not for an hour, but for a whole day or even longer. The lights stay off, phones run empty, the network is overloaded or fails. People ask each other: “Is your power out too?” At moments like that, it becomes clear how quickly we start looking for information and contact. And how valuable it is if neighbors already know who is vulnerable without electricity, who has medical knowledge, or who keeps the peace and can bring structure.

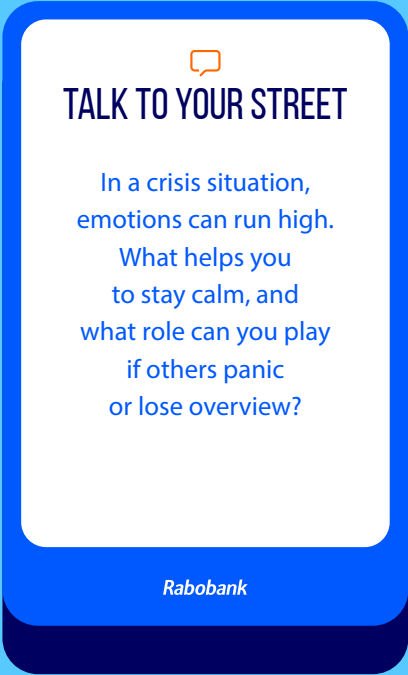
This is where the story of the resilient community begins
In several places in the Netherlands, local residents have taken the initiative themselves to find out how they can better prepare for an emergency. Among others in Doorn, Wijk bij Duurstede, and Austerlitz. As initiators in Doorn and as authors of this booklet, we discovered that real resilience does not

arise from big plans or protocols, but from neighbors who know each other and know how to find each other when necessary. Just one app message can connect neighbors and ensure concrete actions are taken.

This booklet is therefore a follow-up to the national call. The emergency kit recommended by the government helps you to be prepared individually, and this inspiration guide shows how you can prepare together. How you, as a street, neighborhood, or residential complex, can build trust, knowledge, and practical agreements in small steps. And how you can prevent panic or chaos from getting the upper hand when things get really tense.

This is not a manual that says: “This is how it should be done”, but rather an invitation. What works in one neighborhood can also work elsewhere. It is the story of local residents who decided not to wait any longer and discovered how much power there is in just getting started together.

These examples mark a broader reality: resilience starts close by, in the immediate environment. Knowing each other, knowing what is going on, and thinking ahead about how you can act together when the circumstances are suddenly different. Not heavy or complicated, but realistic and applicable.



‘No neighborhood is prepared for a crisis when everyone is only watching out for themselves. But if you know each other, trust each other, and have already thought about what you can do together, you are strong.’

A message from a resident on the Doorn neighbourhood app



The structure of this inspiration guide

This inspiration guide offers a starting point to work toward your own resilient neighborhood step by step.

In **chapters 1 to 3**, we take you through the approach of a neighborhood in Doorn and show you how you can take these first steps yourself. With examples, tips, and tools to get started right away in your own neighborhood.

In **chapter 4**, you can read how residents of Wijk bij Duurstede and Austerlitz are working on a resilient community. You'll discover how different – but also how feasible – local resilience can be.

In **chapter 5**, you will find the ten most important success factors that can make any community initiative grow. **Chapter 6** shows which points of attention, nuances and context you can take into account when you want to build a resilient community. And in **chapter 7**, you will find a step-by-step plan for setting up your own resilient community.

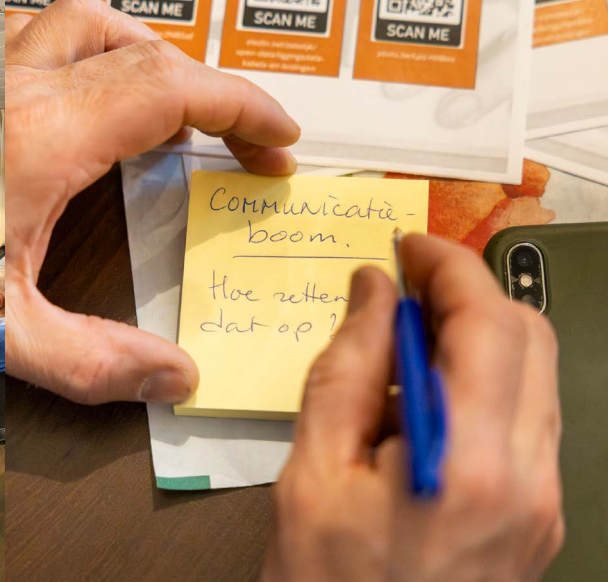
Throughout the book you will find various question cards to help you start a good conversation with your neighbors.

We wish you lots of inspiration!

Lisette Pronk and Maarten Westerduin
Initiators of the resilient community in Doorn



Maarten Westerduin and Lisette Pronk



Just get started

The question was simple: “Who wants to think about how we can be more resilient together if something serious happens?”

A few days later, we were brainstorming with eighteen neighbors in a local living room. People of different ages and backgrounds. Some knew each other well, others not so much. We were connected by one question: what can we do as a group to be better prepared for an emergency?

That question was clearly on the minds of several local residents, but no one knew exactly how to go about it. That turned out not to be necessary. During that very first meeting it became clear that you can just start. Without a blueprint. Without organization. Only with curiosity – and the guts to say: let’s see where we end up.

While the coffee was being passed around, we made an inventory of interesting topics. We decided to start with one concrete theme that was on the minds of most people: power outages. After another call for volunteers, two neighbors were keen to look into that topic.

Gradually, more and more people stepped forward to add their thoughts. In a neighborhood meeting, we included the rest of the neighborhood – about 260 households – in our initial findings and more people were able to contribute ideas about the theme of resilience. To our surprise, about a hundred people attended. We had also invited the mayor to underline the importance. He was happy to attend, as it was a great way to strengthen the connection with citizens.

During that evening, a neighbor who works for an energy supplier talked about the risks and consequences of power outages. Residents asked questions, shared their own experiences and discovered how helpful it is to look at this together. Another neighbor gave a demonstration on how to cook without gas and electricity, using simple tools that everyone has at home.

We used post-its to identify what other concerns people had and what opportunities there were. This is how working groups spontaneously stepped forward onto other themes.



Why it works

Everyone understands that safety affects us all and that in times of need we are dependent on each other. As a result, it feels natural for people to participate. When something is relevant, people only need a little push to get moving.

Movement arises because someone takes the first step: an invitation to a first meeting with interested parties. The feeling that you can contribute something with minimal effort is enormously motivating. It also prevents people from getting stuck in complexity or waiting for ‘others’ to pick it up.

What helps is that this theme – a resilient neighborhood – belongs to everyone. It is not dictated by the local council, an organization, or by politics. As a result, no one feels left out and everyone can join.

The tone for concrete action was set.



Best practices to get started

- **Start in your own neighborhood and limit it to that.**
The resilient neighborhood in the Ludenkwartier in Doorn consists of 260 households. With a larger group, you quickly risk losing the real connection..
- **Let neighbors join**
Are you starting with a street app or group app with the neighbors on the same floor of your flat, for example? Then look at how adjacent streets or areas can connect. Everyone knows someone in the area.
- **Choose a logical moment.**
Choose a theme that is relevant now or that is recognizable for everyone, that fits within the broader theme of ‘resilience’.
- **Don’t expect a massive turnout.**
You can achieve a lot with a small group.
- **Communicate clearly what the goal is.**
The goal is resilience, not creating social events or social cohesion (which follows automatically).
- **Focus on one action at first.**
As soon as more people feel ownership, the initiative will expand automatically.



Getting started yourself

Who can you start with tomorrow?

1. **Form a small starting group.**
Approach a few neighbors who are open to an initial conversation. A living room, hall, café, or other common space is all you need.
2. **Start with one question.**
Let everyone answer the question: “What would make our neighborhood stronger if something serious happened?”
3. **Choose one theme together.**
Which question lingers? Which topic evokes the most curiosity? That is your starting point.
4. **Start an in-depth group.**
A small group dives deeper into that one theme: collecting, asking questions, involving people.
5. **Share your initial findings.**
A message in the neighborhood app, a short meeting, or a flyer is enough to let others participate.

The first invitation in the neighborhood app of the Doornse Ludenkwartier looked like this:

Dear neighbors, there is a lot of talk in the media about preparing for possible crises. What is often mentioned is the importance of the local community: together we know and can do more when it comes to being resilient.

I would like to brainstorm with a number of neighbors about the possibilities we have to do something ourselves. This is not about discussing the chance of a crisis, but about thinking practically how we as a neighborhood can join forces in such an event.

Would you like to participate in a (first) brainstorm on <date>? Please express your interest via a private message.



TALK TO YOUR STREET

Your daughter calls you at work and says, “the water smells very strange”. She doesn’t trust it. What do you advise?

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2.

Kitchen tables are the engine

During the first meeting, we noticed that there were simply too many topics to discuss all at once. Power outages, fire safety, vulnerable neighbors, communication... It was too big for one group, but perfect for exploring in small, committed clubs. That is why, after that first meeting, the starting group placed a new call in the neighborhood app in Doorn: "Who wants to think about the theme of electricity outages or power failure?"

"I didn't have to think long about that," says Jurriaan Coomans. "That's my line of work. I work at grid operator Alliander, find the subject very interesting and knew: I can contribute something useful here. So I raised my virtual hand. Roeland, a neighbor who works for an energy supplier, did the same. We joined the group of residents who had already started thinking about a resilient neighborhood."

This is how the concept of the "kitchen table" was born: a few residents who naturally form a working group, because they are dealing with one issue related to resilience. Not because they are experts, but because they have an interest in or connection to the subject. Together they find out what the effect is of a specific emergency and what concrete preparations the neighborhood can make for it. Everyone brings something. Knowledge, skills or just time and involvement.

The power lies in simplicity: people sit down together – at someone's kitchen table – share their questions and discover that together they know more than each on their own.

In our neighborhood in Doorn, five kitchen tables are currently active on the following topics:

- **Power outage:** What do we do in the event of a prolonged power outage? How do we stay connected?
- **Preventive care:** What do vulnerable residents need when things get tense?
- **Wildfires:** How do we prevent panic when a fire breaks out in our wooded neighborhood? What escape routes are there?
- **Communication:** How do we reach everyone – even without the internet?
- **Structure and finances:** Where do we find budget for things we set up together?

There are still kitchen tables planned about water, nutrition, and maintenance. The structure is light and flexible. No statutes, no obligations, but a common goal: a resilient neighborhood. Every kitchen table has a table host: a resident who invites, asks questions, and keeps structure. This way it remains practical and there is a shared responsibility.

There is no hierarchy between the tables. Each table has its own way of working but they do like to learn from each other. Once a quarter, the 'coordination table' meets, where the various table hosts exchange experiences. There they also discover where the overlap is. This helps them to come up with actions that benefit everyone.

New topics present themselves automatically when something appears in the news. And when the group's energy drops or everything has been sorted out, it's time to dissolve the kitchen table – and the accompanying app group.



Why it works

A kitchen table belongs to the neighborhood and works for the neighborhood. This is the place where the real work is done. The participants of the kitchen table think, find out and experiment, so that other neighbors can trust that important issues are being considered. That gives peace of mind and a sense of control; very important things in a crisis.

Small groups make the kitchen tables workable, personal, and concrete, ensuring that the tasks remain clear. People with similar interests or expertise find each other. No one needs to know everything: Everyone contributes what they can. The informal setting quickly creates trust and a sense of joint responsibility. The fact that the meetings are always at someone’s home makes them accessible and cozy.



Practical tips for kitchen tables

- **Keep the group small.**
Five to seven people is ideal, but you can also start with just two people. You’ll find that people naturally start joining when things become more concrete.
- **Divide the tasks and keep it practical.**
Who monitors the process, keeps in touch with the neighborhood, or keeps a record of everything? Provide small, achievable steps to the members of your group.
- **Make short reports.**
Share a few sentences about what was discussed via WhatsApp or Signal.
- **Monitor volunteering capacity.**
Give people the space to be less active – temporarily or permanently.
- **Share the insights.**
For example, during a themed evening, share a vlog or a flyer recording your findings. After each kitchen table meeting, make a short report for the neighborhood and share it in the WhatsApp or Signal group.
- **Be entrepreneurial.**
Organize a demo, invite an expert, test an idea, do an experiment. It doesn’t need to be big – small initiatives also make impact!



Getting started

1. **Organize a kitchen table focused on one theme.**
Ask who would like to delve further into that specific topic. Everyone can contribute from their own talent, experience, or interest.
2. **Explore the topic from different angles.**
What do you see happening in the neighborhood?
Who is depending on each other? Where do you see opportunities for collaboration?
3. **Make a list of questions.**
Not: What do we have to arrange?
But: What do we want to understand first? What can we learn from?
4. **Think about where you can get information.**
Partner up with someone from the neighborhood or with an organization to gather information.
5. **Share your insights with the rest of the neighborhood.**
Give short updates in the neighborhood WhatsApp or Signal group, a flyer, or during a neighborhood gathering – whatever suits you.



TALK TO YOUR STREET

You are well prepared for a possible disruption of the payment system.
You have more than enough cash at home.
But what about neighbors who have a smaller budget?

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Tips for the table host

- **Keep the atmosphere informal.** Trust comes easier at a kitchen table than in formal meetings.
- **Be curious.** As soon as you start dictating how you see it and have already thought of everything, people drop out. Start your kitchen table session with some open questions: “What brings you here? What is your background? How do you feel about this?” This way, you’ll quickly discover common ground and people’s strengths.
- **Monitor the meeting room.** Equality requires maintenance. Speak up when someone takes up too much space or seems to fade into the background. This way, you’ll continue to learn together and make all voices count.
- **Find the balance between directing and empowering people.** For example, use an agenda as a guide, but be open to any outcome.

Case study

The power outage kitchen table

The first working group that started in Doorn was the kitchen table “Power outages”. Below, participant Jurriaan Coomans gives a look behind the scenes.



Jurriaan Coomans

From neighborhood meeting to kitchen table

When we decided to organize a larger meeting to involve more people, it was clear that power outages had to be the main topic. In the Beatrix residential care center, my neighbor Roeland and I took care of the technical part. We told everyone how the electricity grid works, what happens in your house when the power goes out, what timelines to expect, and the impact on your daily life. The reactions from the group were positive and curious. People had very interesting questions that don’t typically come up when you’re chatting with your neighbors.

The starting group also asked another question: “How do we proceed?” The idea arose to form working groups that would further consider what we can do as a community to become more resilient. They were deliberately called “kitchen tables” to make it clear that it is and remains accessible. This is how our kitchen table Power Outages was created. Not consciously planned, but very logical as a follow-up to the neighborhood evening in the Beatrix.

What was very nice was that three other neighbors joined our kitchen table, all with completely different backgrounds:

- a neighbor from the IT world, specialized in vital processes;
- a neighbor who has his own installation company, focused on solar panels, air conditioners, and home batteries;
- a neighbor who works on resilience at Schiphol.

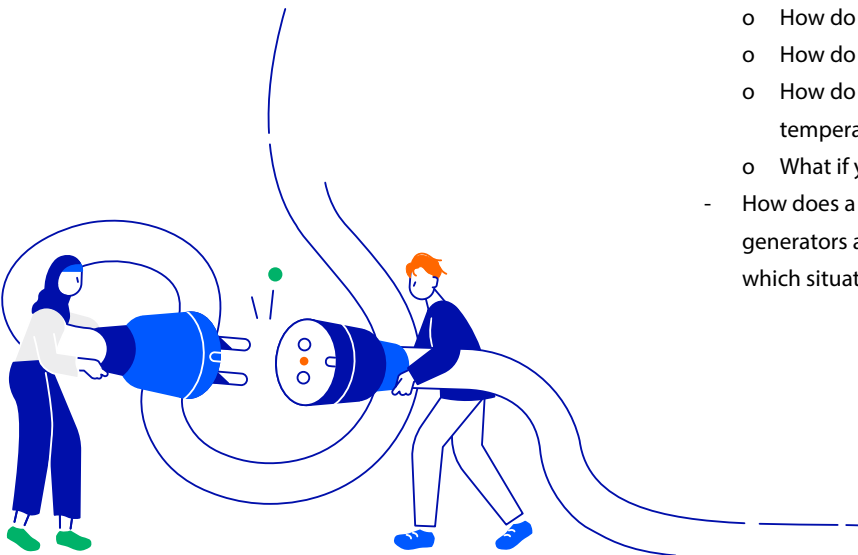
This diversity of expertise makes the kitchen table strong. Everyone looks at things from a different perspective, leading to solutions you would never have found on your own. It also makes the kitchen table fun to be a part of. We’re all interested in electricity and are now meeting like-minded people in our community thanks to this initiative.

How to develop a kitchen table (without a plan

The first meetings were about exploring. What are we going to do? What do we want to achieve? How often do we meet?

We meet about once a month, always at someone’s house. And toward a neighborhood meeting a little more often. I have taken on the role of so-called “table host”. Beforehand, I think about how we can streamline the conversation a bit along an agenda. I put it on the app and we stick to it during the meeting. Someone else takes notes very easily. After what we wanted to discuss, we almost always continue to talk about other topics (often electrical-related). The atmosphere is casual, with a cup of tea or a beer.

It feels like cozy neighborhoods and a working group at the same time, without obligations. You can cancel. You can take a break. You can get in or out whenever it suits you. That’s exactly why it stays fun.



The first results

Initially, we asked ourselves: what can we arrange collectively? We have thought about whether we as a neighborhood can buy a generator or battery together, for example. But honestly, that just wasn’t realistic. Who would be the owner? Where would the battery be located? Who would take responsibility for arranging the necessary maintenance? Who would get access first? Considering those challenges, as well as the often high costs at limited operating hours, we let go of that idea. Ultimately, not every idea requires the involvement of all 260 households at the same time.

We then investigated what each resident can do themselves and how we can give concretely support them. That did get us much further.

We are now working on a roadmap

- How do you prepare for a three-day power outage? Or do you want to be prepared for a week without power? Or for a month?
 - o How do you cook?
 - o How do you keep yourself warm?
 - o How do you keep your medication at the right temperature?
 - o What if you need transportation??
- How does a generator work, what types of generators are there, and which one is useful in which situation?

Adapting our way of working

We’ve also had plans that didn’t get off the ground. For example, we wanted to organize an in-depth evening for residents with very technical questions about home batteries, generators, and so on. It turned out that too few people wanted to make time for that.

Instead of seeing that as a failure, we turned it around. We chose to include this information clearly in our roadmap, so that everyone can read it in at their own time. That actually fits our way of working much better.



Cross-pollination

When we were working out the roadmap, we came to the conclusion that a lot of questions that residents have about power outages are not just about electricity itself. They are about concrete (life) needs.

For example, people would ask, “My father lives alone, how will I know if he’s safe if the power goes out and the cell towers stop working?”
Or: “How long can I keep my house warm if the power goes out?”

At first, you automatically think of technical solutions: extra batteries, emergency chargers, generators. But if you look closer, you see that the community’s real needs are about security, accessibility, and mutual agreements. We realized that some of these concerns were actually questions for other kitchen tables. For example, the “Communication” kitchen table could think about fixed meeting points, communication trees, or ways to physically reach each other if digital resources fail. And the “Care” table could explore the specific needs of vulnerable residents, for example about how they can keep their medicines cool.

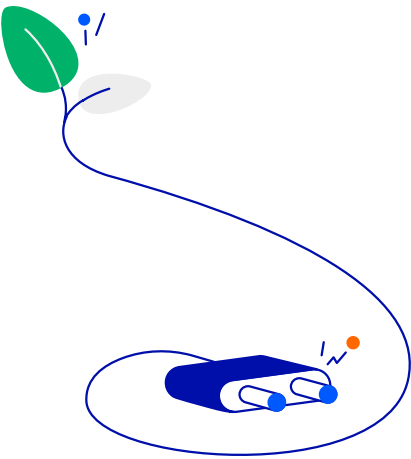
This automatically creates cross-connections between the tables. We map out which aspects of daily life would be affected if the power goes out and what’s realistic in terms of technical solutions. Other tables think about which solution best suits a specific need.

Since we organized the first kitchen table, we like to inspire and support the newer tables. We show them how we’ve approached the question at the center of every kitchen table: “What community needs do we want to be able to meet?” We also share which technical issues or possible obstacles we ran into while organizing our Power outage kitchen table, so that other tables can prepare themselves.

Why people participate

I think people stick around for three reasons:

1. **It’s fun.** Nobody is obligated to be here, so everyone who joins is actually interested and enthusiastic. We puzzle, think, laugh, and learn.
2. **It is casually organized.** We make a small agenda in the community app in advance. Someone writes down the list of actions. The notes shouldn’t be long and complicated, but clear and actionable so that actually make progress.
3. **You really get to know your neighbors.** I have been living here for 1.5 years and thanks to the kitchen table, I’ve gotten to know my neighbors and meet people in my community who have the same interests as me. After the first neighborhood evening, I was addressed a few times as “the electricity guy”.



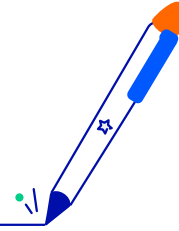
What works well?

- **It’s our own initiative.**
No one tells us what to do.
- **We provide clarit.**
The advice of a good neighbor is a lot more reliable than that of a company or an institution.
- **It is small, manageable, cozy, and practical.**

Do you have any learnings and tips?

- **Don’t obsess over the idea that “we have to do everything together as a neighborhood.”**
If you find out what works, everyone can choose their own tailor-made solution and use what works for them.
- **Use the needs of your community as your starting point.** Take a good look around to see which kitchen table can best answer a certain question.
- **Find each other, together you know more.**
Cross-pollination is the best way to prepare.

Notes



Question cards



TALK TO YOUR STREET

What experience from your work or personal life could be useful for the neighborhood?

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TALK TO YOUR STREET

Where would it make sense to meet if the internet and telephone failed?

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TALK TO YOUR STREET

In which crisis situations
can you manage yourself
and in which situations
is it useful to
work together?

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TALK TO YOUR STREET

Are there any technical people in the area who can come together to think about the maintenance of installations?

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TALK TO YOUR STREET

Suppose the power goes out.
How do you continue
to communicate with
each other?

Would a communication diagram for the neighborhood be a good idea?

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TALK TO YOUR STREET

Check whether you know who in your street could be vulnerable in the event of a power outage or crisis situation.

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Involve the whole community

After a few months, we decided to organize another neighborhood evening with the resilient community group in Doorn to involve and inform interested people from the entire neighborhood. We once again highlighted one theme and invited experts to explain that theme and give local residents the chance to ask questions. The kitchen tables also shared their insights and results. This time, the theme was “mental and physical resilience”.

The Van Braam Houckgeest barracks – the home base of the Marine Corps – seemed like a suitable location to us. We chose this location because some people asked if the neighborhood could be in extra danger because of this barracks being nearby. They also wanted to know what the Ministry of Defence does and what they would have to do themselves if a crisis were to happen.

We were welcomed with open arms. Brigadier General Lenny Hazelbag, Director of Strategy & Knowledge at the Ministry of Defence, was happy to participate in the panel discussion we organized. Eddy van Hijum, Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, also joined. They explained how people can prepare for certain scenarios and answered questions from local residents.

A neighbor who spent some time working in Malawi also told us about his experiences there. It was very insightful to hear how people in other cultures deal with crises and setbacks. “It is best to work from autonomy, involvement and expertise,” he advised. “That’s what keeps people motivated.” Because we expected another large turnout and everyone had to register with their name exactly as it’s written in their passport (requirements of the barracks), we digitized the

registration. We’ve continued to use digital registration since then, because it saves a lot of work. The few people who aren’t able to register themselves this way can always reach out to us, and we arrange it for them. We use the neighborhood app to announce the community gatherings (a save the date), for the actual invitation, and for reminders about the upcoming event. We also put a flyer in everyone’s mailbox with a QR code to the digital registration form. One neighbor reached out even though they weren’t able to attend, saying they would really have liked to be there.

Just like the kitchen tables, the community evenings are very open. Everyone can think along, participate, or just collect information. It is not about inciting panic about potential crises, but about inviting proactive thinking in times of peace. Inspiration seekers from outside the neighborhood are also welcome, but the goal is not to turn it into a massive gathering. We encourage people from outside our neighborhood to start their own resilient communities in their neighborhoods as well.

The third big community evening in Doorn is about forest fires, organized in collaboration with the fire brigade and the safety region (veiligheidsregio – a collaboration between municipalities intended to facilitate regional cooperation in dealing with crises, disasters, and disruptions of public order). At this gathering, experts will address questions like: What are the risks here locally? What should you do if such a forest fire starts? What does the escape route look like? What are escape options? What do you take with you and what do you leave behind? What means of transport should you choose and what should you avoid? Based on the discussion of those questions, a kitchen table will develop a targeted action plan.

We will make use of the knowledge that has already been developed in the neighboring village of Austerlitz. The evening will take place at a secondary school. Involving young people in the project makes it extra fun. Because why shouldn’t a high school senior like Lucas be able to lead the panel discussion?



Why it works

Neighborhood evenings provide transparency, ownership, and the sense that the initiative is by and for everyone. A significant amount of the residents have responded positively, because the theme of resilience is recognizable, practical, and universal. The group size is such that people get to know each other better.

Because the invitation is neutral and practical, rather than politically charged or panic-inducing, people are inspired to keep connecting. An additional advantage: the neighborhood evenings also provide more connection between local residents from different streets. That connection isn't necessarily a goal, but a beneficial result of the joint effort.



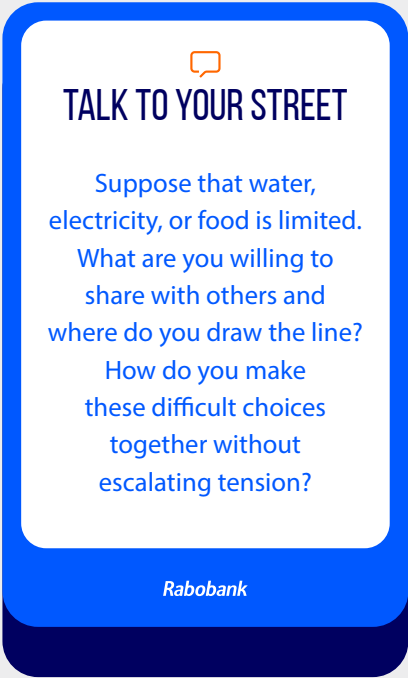
Tips for organizing a community evening

- **Choose a day and time when most people can attend.**
Does your neighborhood have many young families or many elderly people? Keep this in mind for the highest possible turnout.
- **Create a digital registration form.**
For example, using Microsoft Forms.
- **Choose the right timing to hand out flyers.**
Make sure that the flyer does not arrive in the mailbox on the same day as the advertising brochures.
- **Share the results of previous kitchen tables.**
Concrete, tangible, usable. If necessary, organize a demonstration.
- **Provide a mix of professionalism and conviviality.**
Tight time management, but warm and accessible. Don't huddle together in a group "of the organization", but remain open to welcome new people personally.
- **Be creative with things that cost money.**
Let people bring their own drinks and possibly bake something themselves or ask for a voluntary contribution. See what suits your neighborhood and keep it as accessible as possible.



Getting started

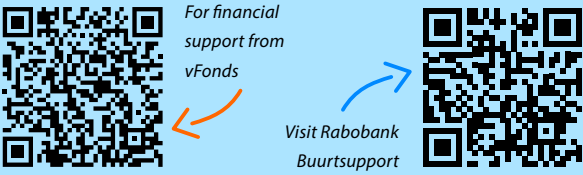
1. **Form a group with four to six people who would like to organize the meeting.**
A mix between people with an affinity with the theme and people who like to roll up their sleeves is ideal.
2. **Find a location that strengthens the connection with the neighborhood.**
For example, a residential care center, a community center, or a school.
3. **Choose one theme to highlight and an expert to match.**
Look for it close to home: "Does anyone in the area know someone who works in the fire brigade, in defence, etc?" Also make an inventory of the table hosts who can share something interesting about their topic.
4. **Think about how you can make it extra fun and interactive.**
For example, have people bring the government's booklet about the emergency kit to the first meeting. What questions does the content of the booklet raise? Discussing the booklet together should already inspire some actionable ideas.
5. **Make a clear schedule for communication.**
 - o Send an app message about two months in advance: *save the date*.
 - o Send the official invitation about one month in advance – both via the app and via a flyer – with the agenda, location, time, and a registration link (QR code).
 - o In the meantime, send a reminder via the app. 'There are already x registrations' inspires others to join.
 - o Send a reminder one week before the date with the deadline for registration.



Contribution to costs

coffee/tea and printing. Schools, healthcare institutions, and local entrepreneurs are also often willing to think along or sponsor. Don't be afraid to ask if they want to support the initiative. Many organizations like to make a social contribution.

Your neighborhood initiative may also be eligible for financial support from the Vfonds (which will make up to €5000 available per application from May 2026) or via Rabobank Buurtsupport.



4.

Inspiring examples from other neighborhoods

The Ludenkwartier in Doorn is not the only neighborhood that has united around the theme of resilience. There are similar initiatives all over the country. For inspiration, you will find two examples in this chapter: Wijk bij Duurstede and Austerlitz.

The website of the National Association of Active Residents (Landelijk Samenwerkingsverband Actieve bewoners) also contains inspiring examples of communities that are actively working on resilience.

Wijkvereniging Ermelo-West – Mapping out the needs of the neighborhood

In Ermelo-West, they map out what resilience means for the neighborhood. With a questionnaire, they investigate what their fellow residents need, and what knowledge and skills are available in the neighborhood.

StadsOase Spinozahof – Strengthening community and collaborating with institutions

In the Centrum district of The Hague, residents are expanding their networks by involving people who now play a small role in the bigger picture in the neighborhood. They are also working on a good relationship with local authorities, so that they can communicate well in the event of an emergency.

Working group maasburen.nl – “Well prepared for a disaster”: setting up a communication network

In the municipality of Mook en Middelaar, they see that the consequences of small-scale disruptions are minor when you're well prepared. That is why they disseminate information about resilience via a local knowledge platform and map out what knowledge and expertise is available in the neighborhood.

See more examples here.



Taking action yourself, other tips and inspiring examples....



Wijk bij Duurstede

How one question set an entire street in motion.

‘We thought: this is about us, so let’s get to work’



André van der Meer

Sometimes a big change starts with a small moment of recognition. For two neighbors from a quiet neighborhood in Wijk bij Duurstede, this happened during Rabobank’s Mauritshuis symposium, in January 2025, on the resilience of the Netherlands.

“It was said that neighborhoods should also take action themselves,” says André van der Meer, resident of Wijk bij Duurstede. “But how exactly was not concrete. When my neighbor and I walked out, we said to each other, ‘This is important. Shall we see what we can do ourselves, just in our street?’” That question became the spark for an initiative with concrete actions.

From app group to neighborhood meeting

The street (with about 44 households) already had a WhatsApp group for small requests for help; shopping for a sick neighbor, or a report about a found cat, for example. The two neighbors posted a simple message, without drama: “Who would want to think about what we can do with our street if there are long-term disruptions, such as days without power or internet?”

The response was overwhelmingly warm. About 60 to 70 percent of the neighbors responded positively. “That immediately gave me energy,” says André. “Apparently the subject had been on many minds for some time, but no one had taken the step to talk about it together.”

They organized a first meeting in the local theater. A special evening where neighbors not only recognized each other from walking by, but suddenly saw each other as allies. People who could make a difference for each other in a real crisis.

What do we already have “in-house”?

The meeting started with the questions: What if a disruption lasts longer than three days? What is needed and what do we already have to offer in our street? This inventory was further elaborated in smaller action groups.

There turned out to be a rich mix of knowledge and skills available in the street. A firefighter, a nurse, an ICT specialist, several technicians, and an expert in solar energy. There were also people with organizational talent, communication skills, or who can coordinate well – equally important skills.

In addition, the following was examined: what resources are already available? A striking number of neighbors turned out to have items that can be valuable in a crisis: a generator, a battery, a camper with a gas stove, or solar panels.

Another question that quickly came up was: what if general practitioners, pharmacies, and hospitals cannot open a digital file? The solution turned out to be surprisingly simple. Everyone now requests all their medical files from the pharmacy, writes down their allergies and crucial medical data, and hangs it in the meter cupboard, because that is the place where the fire brigade looks first. Small steps can save lives. André: “We’ve mapped out who needs care or is extra vulnerable if things go wrong. Now it is clear who is dependent on medical equipment, medication, or extra support.”

All these insights have been recorded in a list, so that the collective knows who can offer what or who needs extra help in case of an emergency. It gives a shared perspective of what is going on and especially of what is possible.

Group coordinators: Four houses, one point of contact

The neighborhood decided to keep it simple and humane: they divided the 25 households that wanted to actively participate into groups of four houses. Each group has a group coordinator: a trusted neighbor who knows what is going on and can streamline communication. To each other, to the police and emergency services, and to the municipality.

“The group coordinators are just neighbors who like to keep an overview and who can act quickly in a crisis,” André emphasizes. “We will work out the model further in January.” The goal is peace and clarity, especially when the outside world gets noisy.

The key to success is simple: let people do what suits them. Some want to actively help, others just want to stay informed. Everything is valid. “We will always keep the door open for neighbors who aren’t joining yet,” says André. “Even though they do not yet see the need to take active measures, they can certainly come to us if necessary.”

Long-term scenarios

“What if the crisis lasts for a long time?” a number of residents wondered. An action group has also started working on this. “Then other questions will arise,” says André. “How do you keep it safe? If there is no power for more than a week and the supermarkets run out, there is a chance that people will start looting. A neighborhood watch will be organized for this purpose, which will patrol if necessary. And a group coordinator keeps in touch with the municipality.”

A neighbor who has worked as a pastor in Mali for a long time said that they use whistles there when there is danger. “It’s much more effective than a pager. We immediately bought a few.” This way, you can see that you can also apply simple, practical examples from other countries here.

What also helps is that some neighbors have set themselves up to interpret news and risks based on their knowledge and experience. André: “We want to prevent people from panicking because of fake news. ‘Check it with us first,’ is the motto. No fear. No rumors. Just clear, honest information. That gives peace of mind.”

One step ahead of the municipality

When the neighborhood contacted the municipality, it quickly became clear that they weren’t ready yet. “We had sorted out things that they still had to think about,” says André. “But they were happy with our initiative and were open to our insights. We now have a permanent contact person who can visit the town hall if necessary.”



What works well?

- **An existing app group makes the start easily accessible.**
- **Take stock first, organize later.** Knowledge, talents, resources: you already have much more to offer than you think.
- **A small, active core group gets the initiative off to a smooth start.** Then give everyone a task that suits them.
- **Only share good, verified information.** No rumors, no speculation. Calm is more effective than panic.
- **Use simple solutions.** A whistle in case of danger, paper-based medical information, a group messaging app with clear rules. Simplicity wins.

What are the insights?

- **A realistic timeline helps.** The process sometimes moves more slowly than some neighbors would like. That’s fine: Hopefully, none of this may be needed, but as a community, you’ll be prepared.
- **Participation won’t come naturally to everyone.** That’s fine. However, make sure everyone is informed, but don’t force anyone. Involvement grows naturally.
- **Keep it human and small-scale.** A neighborhood initiative is not an institution. It is a group of people who want to help each other. Warmth, humor, and realism will take you further than any procedure ever could.

Austerlitz

The village that puts out its own fires

How an independent-minded community developed a complete wildfire plan – and even turned it into a lesson about wolves.

Austerlitz is a village with a regional reputation for taking care of its own affairs. Tucked away among the forests, those woods are not only around the village – they are part of the people too. It is a community of doers – traditionally workers, foresters and also many entrepreneurs. People who don't wait around for others when they can handle things themselves.



You see it in the small things. When buses stopped running in the evenings and weekends, residents set up a simple “ride-along bench” so neighbors could help each other get to the train station. When cars were speeding through a dangerous crossing, they simply painted a zebra crossing themselves. A few years later, the municipality made it permanent. These are examples of everyday resilience.

Behind these initiatives stands the same source of village spirit that has been there for decades: Vereniging Austerlitz Belang (Austerlitz community association), founded in 1945.

As the forest grows drier, the village grows more alert

Around 2019, something fundamentally changed. Summers became drier. The national forestry service, Staatsbosbeheer, introduced a new pruning policy that left pruning debris on the forest floor. For the residents of Austerlitz, it felt like a fuse that was slowly getting longer.

“For us, this was a very real risk, but when we raised our concerns to Staatsbosbeheer, we were brushed off,” says Hester Storsbergen, a concerned resident of Austerlitz. She stresses that she is speaking in a personal capacity, not as a board member of Austerlitz Belang. “Yet, we kept asking questions at the municipal level for three years. Eventually, the municipal authorities organized an informational meeting. About sixty people showed up, asking sharp, critical questions. The municipality then suggested to set up a working group. That moment led to a shared sense of determination: If no one else was going to take this on, then we would. We set up our own wildfire working group, a team of eight people.”

Emergency response plan

In 2023, the working group started developing the so-called ABBA plan (Austerlitz wildfire citizens alert), after it became clear that the municipality of Zeist did not yet have an official emergency response plan in place. The plan is built around evacuation routes, clear information, emergency scenarios, and straightforward communication. While putting the plan together, the working group came across an alarming realization: The delay



between the first report of a wildfire and the NL-Alert message of the national alert system can be as long as an hour and a half. “That changes everything,” says Hester. “In a wildfire situation, you need to act in minutes, not hours. Given Austerlitz’s location, preventive evacuation can be a matter of life and death.”

They also discovered that sheltering in the village is not an option. The municipality does have a list of potential shelter locations in the event of a wildfire or imminent threat, but without clear agreements. Moreover, only one road is suitable as an evacuation route. In the event of a wildfire, it is crucial to prevent traffic from entering the village, for example, parents attempting to pick up their children from school.

The working group decided to identify safe locations outside the forested area as assembly points for residents. They developed an evacuation card to be placed in the utility closet, where electricity, gas, and water meters are located. The card is designed with clear pictograms that remain understandable, even in moments of panic. It shows how to evacuate (cycling is safer than driving!), which direction to take, what to bring with you, and where the safe assembly points are for older residents and children. They also produced a short video in which the waitress from the local pub explains the best way to evacuate. By hearing the information from someone they know, residents feel less patronized.

It has now been agreed that evacuations will take place via the paved road. And thanks to coordination with the municipal authorities, Staatsbosbeheer, and Utrechts Landschap (the regional conservation organization), emergency services now know which forest paths they can use in the event of an evacuation.

A dedicated task force

To enable faster action, a wildfire task force was established: A group of seven residents who, during Phase 2 of extreme drought, actively monitor whether there are any wildfires near Austerlitz, assess the risks and, if necessary, issue a preventive flight advice.

In recent summers, several small fires occurred in the surrounding area. Residents became more aware of the danger and were asking pressing questions: Where is the fire? Do we need to leave? Is it safe? The wildfire task force quickly became very busy. This made it clear that, the task force can also play a role in reassuring residents.

Following consultations with the municipality and the Utrecht Safety Region (VRU), the ABBA plan was formally included as an information document for the VRU. The current focus is on determining how the local task force can be provided with accurate information. The village is leading the way, the authorities are following.

New threat: The wolf

As the threat of wildfires increased, another risk emerged: the wolf. First, residents saw videos showing a wolf standing face to face with a dog. Not long after, a small dog was actually attacked. Many children play right on the edge of the wolf’s habitat. Residents turned to the district manager and the municipality, but no one took a clear position. As Hester recalls: “The municipality was honest. They said they still knew too little about it.” Once again, a local resident took the initiative. Together with a few others, he organized an information meeting. A small group attended, including people with extensive knowledge of – and hands-on experience with – wolves. The second meeting, a year later, drew a much larger audience. What was most striking, however, was what followed. In collaboration with a wolf expert and the local school, several residents developed a child-friendly lesson on wolves, featuring an animated wolf and plenty of room for students to ask ques-tions. The lesson was first tested with the teachers to ensure the information was accurate and that children would not be unnecessarily frightened. It was not until a year later that an official educational package became available from the province, at which point the local initiative came to an end. After further encounters between wolves and children, the municipality issued guidance advising parents not to let children play in the forest, and to enter wooded areas only

in groups. In the summer of 2025 the advice was given to avoid the forests around Austerlitz altogether. Residents began looking for ways to keep each other informed. Alongside the WhatsApp group “Informatiegroep Wolf” (wolf information group), a second WhatsApp group was created “Wolf gezien” (wolf sighted).

Guarding against assumed self-reliance

Austerlitz’s strength is also its vulnerability. “The municipality tends to assume that we will take care of things ourselves,” says Hester. “And often we do, but it takes a great deal of time and energy, and not everything should rest on the shoulders of volunteers.”

Hester wanted to develop a local version of the initiative from Groningen called “Eerste Hulp Ben Jij” (first aid is you). It addresses questions such as: What experience, knowledge, and resources do we have within the community in the event of a disaster? Who can do what during an emergency? Because it strengthens self-reliance, it seemed like an ideal candidate for municipal support, but there was no budget available. And when the question was raised: “What if there is a fire and the power goes out at the same time? Even the church bells are operated electronically,” the response was: “That will never happen.” A week later, the emergency services’ communications network was temporarily unavailable. Since then, battery-powered megaphones have been included in the budget and incorporated into the ABBA plan.

It works

Because risks are discussed regularly and remain highly visible, more and more residents now keep an emergency grab-and-go-bag ready. People know where to go and they know who may need help. In addition, the village has learned how valuable it is to share knowledge with other communities. An increasing number of villages, communities, and rural estates are reaching out to the wildfire task force to exchange experiences and lessons learned. Cooperation with the municipality has improved as well: Austerlitz designs the flyers and distributes them locally; the municipality prints them. The fire department is involved in planning evacuation routes.



What works well?

- **Be clear about what you need, in the absence of a response take action yourself, then ask for help again.**
This creates clarity, urgency, and direction. It also makes it easier for the municipality to support you
- **Use local knowledge.**
Every village has more expertise than you might expect – from forestry to firefighting.
- **Provide clear and simple information.**
In moments of panic, visuals work better than text.
- **Monitor risks yourself.**
With the right information, a local task force can respond faster than a national alert system such as NL-Alert.
- **Work together with residents and schools.**
Both children and adults understand risks better when they are informed openly and honestly.

What are the lessons learned?

- **Work together with the municipality and province where possible, but do not wait for them to act.**
Unnecessary delays can create dangerous situations.
- **Don’t make assumptions such as: “That will never happen.”**
Recent events around the world show that nothing can be taken for granted.
- **Don’t take on everything yourself.**
Be aware of what is the responsibility of the municipality or the province, and what you can reasonably do as a volunteer.



Ten success factors for a resilient community

The examples from Doorn, Wijk bij Duurstede, Austerlitz, and many other communities show that there ten key factors that encourage people to get involved (and stay involved) in building a resilient community.

1. *This topic affects everyone*

Safety is a universal concern. Everyone understands that in an emergency, people depend largely on one another. This makes it easy for residents to get involved and increases motivation. Working together on resilience strengthens the community as a whole.

2. *A clear and simple organizational structure*

Make sure everyone knows where to go and how they can participate. Keeping the structure simple creates clarity and makes the initiative feel like it belongs to everyone. At the same time, people are free to join in or step back. That flexibility matters.

3. *A balance between autonomy, commitment, and skills*

Everyone contributes in a way that suits them. People can make their own choices, feel seen, and use their talents. Everyone has something to offer. In the Doorn neighborhood, for example, a resident in their eighties took on the task of distributing flyers.

4. *Everyday life as the starting point*

Resilience is about how people live together day to day: laughing together, helping one another, keeping an eye on the street. Small changes in daily routines make a neighborhood safer and more pleasant. No complex policies, just neighbors looking out for each other.

5. *Knowing why you are involved*

You do it for yourself: to feel safe and at home. You do it for the neighborhood: because you are stronger together. Keeping this purpose visible helps sustain motivation.

6. *Close to home and action-oriented.*

Focus only on issues that matter in your neighborhood. This keeps the work practical, relevant, and easy to understand. Concrete actions give a sense of self-direction.

7. *Sharing experiences*

Share what works, but also what is difficult. Avoid policy jargon, use real experiences from residents instead. That creates connection and inspires others.

8. *Strong links with external partners*

Police, the municipality, health care organizations, and schools are part of the neighborhood, not standing over it. Let them connect to what is already happening locally. This way, formal and informal safety efforts strengthen one another.

9. *A regular schedule that continues*

Regular, recurring activities and familiar formats keep the initiative moving forward. This is not a project with an end date, but a lasting way of working together. And don't be afraid to let go of a topic along the way. If things develop differently than expected, something else will come up.

10. *Good communication throughout the neighborhood*

Make sure the initiative is visible. Use flyers, the neighborhood WhatsApp group, vlogs, articles in the local paper, and, if possible, a shared website. Everyone stays informed, and everyone has a chance to take part. What people see, they understand. That is what makes the community stronger.



6.

The Revis Lyceum in Doorn sees opportunities to involve young people more closely in their local environment. The school has asked the initiators of the resilient community in Doorn to explore whether there could also be room at the kitchen tables for research projects by young people. In this way, the next generation becomes involved in something that many people see as important.



Things to take into account

Autonomy, commitment, and competence

Initiators need to be clear about what they are saying yes to. Without clear agreements, there is a risk that they will become overloaded with all kinds of tasks and expectations. That is why it is important to make conscious choices about what you do and do not take on, and to keep the actions manageable.

Be explicit that participation is voluntary: Everyone should feel free to take a step back – temporarily or permanently – if needed. As long as people gain energy from their involvement, they stay engaged naturally. Therefore, keep things enjoyable and light; once it starts to feel like pulling and dragging, that is a signal to stop or slow down.

Also, do not work toward a final point where “everything is considered done.” Each resilience topic has its own natural lifespan. Some topics require ongoing attention, such as community care networks, while others are completed at some point or become relevant again when a calamity occurs.

What people experience as threatening can vary

What people experience as threatening can vary per generation – and even from person to person – and it can also change over time. If you don’t take that into account, you may miss surprising and meaningful perspectives.

Young people, for example, often feel deeply connected to the topic of resilience, but from very different angles than adults often assume. While adults often think of threats such as war, power outages, wildfires, or cyberattacks, young people are more concerned with questions such as: How can I recognize fake news? Which sources can I trust, and which not?

That is why it is important to keep listening carefully to what people experience as threatening or relevant crises. It also helps to actively reach out to age groups who may not easily join kitchen-table conversations or neighborhood meetings.

Does this work in every community?

As initiators of the “resilient community” in Doorn, we are regularly asked whether our approach would work in every community. In our view, the answer is yes. Wherever people form a community – whether in an apartment building, on a single street, or in a high-end residential district – there are opportunities for residents to organize things themselves. Connection and self-reliance are possible everywhere. In some communities, people may be more individualistic, while in other communities there may already be strong social ties. However, when it comes to the shared interest of improving safety, this difference doesn’t seem to matter. People are generally willing to work together when it concerns their collective safety.

The underlying principles of the approach in Doorn – taking small steps and building contact through action – can be applied in any community. At the same time, every community faces different risks and challenges, as shown by the examples of Wijk bij Duurstede and Austerlitz. As a result, the way the approach is implemented will differ from one community to another.

Role of the government and partners

During a crisis, the government focuses on managing the emergency, while responsibility for local resilience lies with the community itself. Municipal authorities, safety regions, fire services, and other organizations can be valuable supporting partners, but they are not the owners of the initiative.

It is therefore important to ensure that a community initiative does not become an extension of the government, nor a private alternative to municipal policy or an existing neighborhood association. It is also important to keep the focus clear: This initiative is about community resilience, not about broad advocacy or topics such as informal caregiving or green space management. That said, the community is of course free to take the lead on this.

Step-by-step guide to building a resilient community

Based on experiences from Doorn, Wijk bij Duurstede, and Austerlitz.

1.

Start small: One question, one invitation

Every resilient community starts with someone who is willing to ask a simple question: “Who would like to think about how we can support each other and stay strong if something happens?”

- Post a message in the community or street app, or distribute a flyer.
- Invite a few neighbors you know, trust, or who simply seem curious.
- Meet at someone’s home and explore which concerns, opportunities, or questions people have.

Starting small works. The topic matters to everyone, so people are often quick to join.

2.

Find out what’s on people’s minds – and what resources are already there

Before organizing anything: Map the situation together.

- What concerns, risks, or issues are people facing in our neighborhood, street, or apartment building?
- What knowledge and skills do community members have?
- What resources or facilities are already available in the community?
- Who may be vulnerable or need extra support?

Mapping the situation provides direction, creates a sense of calm, and helps avoid rushing into formal structures.

3.

Choose one topic to start with

Resilience is a broad topic. Choosing a clear focus makes it manageable.

For example:

- Power outages.
- Care for vulnerable community members.
- Communication without internet.
- Wildfires or flooding.
- Heat, food, or safety.

A clear and recognizable topic helps bring people together and gives everyone a concrete starting point.

Do you live in an apartment building or residential complex?

If so, there may be additional challenges, such as:

- Elevators that stop working during a power outage.
- Older residents on upper floors who may need assistance.
- Fire safety in stairwells.
- Locked entrances when communication fails.
- Access for emergency services.

Think about evacuation routes that fit a multi-story building, agree on assembly points, and appoint one coordinator for each hallway or entrance.

4.

Explore the topic further in a small group

Five to seven people is ideal.

- Pick a local, shared place or someone’s home to meet. Keep it simple, personal, and informal.
- Focus on one main topic, or on a few households.
- Choose someone to send the invitations and to keep structure.
- Divide other roles: One person keeps in touch, another takes notes or records decisions.
- Work step by step: What can we do ourselves? What do we want to learn? Who can support us?

The strength lies in working together in a small, informal, and practical way.





Resilience starts small, grows through cooperation, and stays strong when people share their knowledge.

This publication has been made possible by Rabobank, and is based on community initiatives in Doorn, Wijk bij Duurstede, and Austerlitz

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*Every
neighborhood
can begin –
today, with one
question and one
conversation.*

Power outages, wildfires, floods or cyberattacks: The risk that we will face situations like these is increasing. The government encourages people to keep an emergency kit at home and to make plans for emergencies. But preparation doesn't stop at your front door. When a real crisis happens, your neighbors matter more than anything in your emergency kit.

This inspiration guide shows how neighbors can work together to build resilience in their street, neighborhood, or apartment building. Through real-life stories from Doorn, Wijk bij Duurstede, and Austerlitz, you will discover how small steps can make a big difference.

You will read how conversations around the kitchen table grow into neighborhood meetings, how shared knowledge and involvement become visible, and how residents make practical agreements together for times of crisis.

Talk to your street is not a manual that tells you what to do. It is an invitation to begin. With one question, one conversation, and the awareness that much of what is needed is already there – in the people who live round you.

Not every
community has to
reinvent the wheel.
Together,
we become stronger.



Lisette Pronk and **Maarten Westerduin** are the initiators of the resilient community in Doorn. One question kept coming back: How did you approach this? That question led them to share their experiences and to explore how other communities come together and organize themselves. Rabobank proudly supports this initiative, helping neighbors across the Netherlands connect with one another and build greater resilience together.

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