Government of Western Australia
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Public Health Advocacy Institute

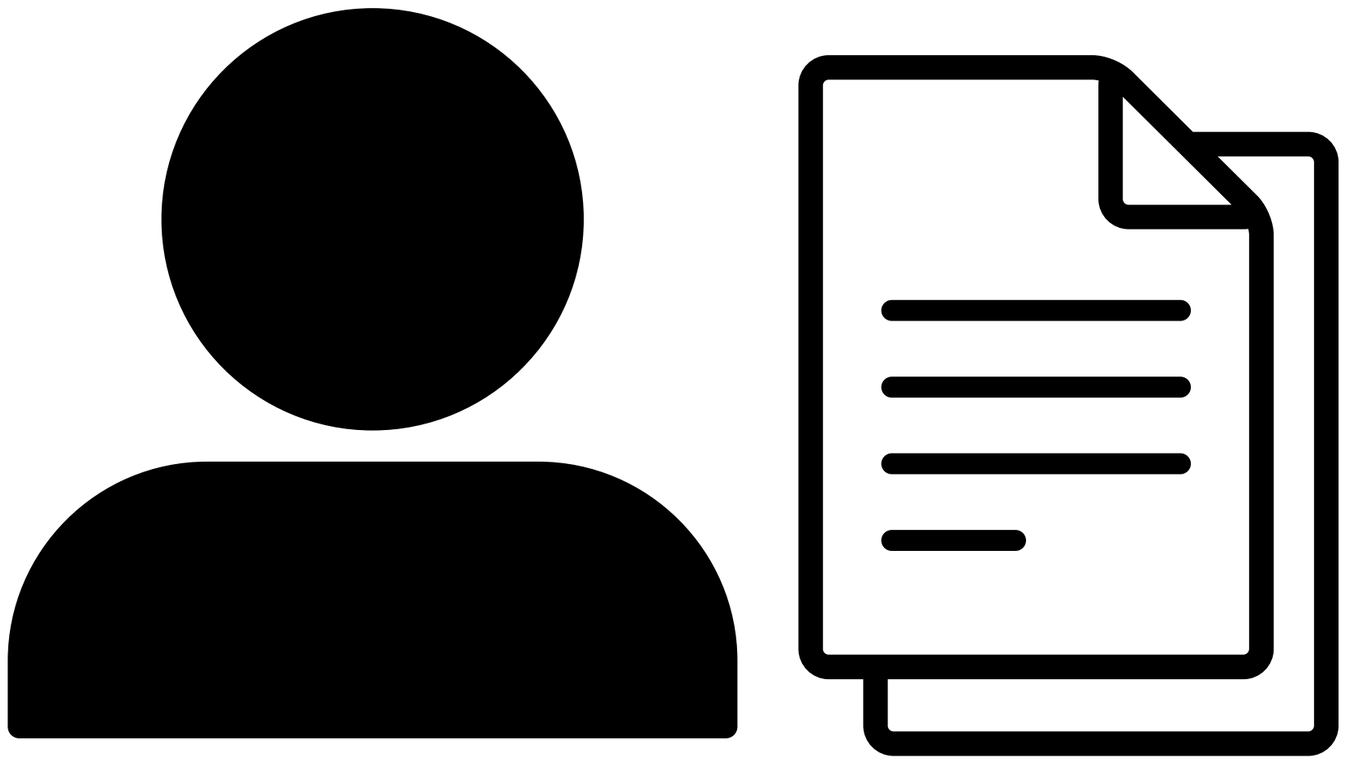
ECU EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY
Nutrition and Health Innovation Research Institute

FoodCommunity
working together to improve food security

2023
project cycle no.1

MIDWEST FOOD COMMUNITY

‘Address’ Stage Briefing Paper



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Acknowledgement:

The Food Community team would like to thank all participants for their valuable contributions and time towards this project, and for their ongoing efforts in supporting food security across Western Australia.

Midwest Food Community project

Food security is having regular

physical **social** **economic**

access to healthy food that meets people's needs for a healthy life

Key determinants of food security:

The Food Community Project aims to:

food security initiatives across WA regions, to support food security action.

Address Stage

24 initiative interviews explored 24 initiatives

Government and community initiative staff/volunteers participated in an interview, to understand how their work contributed to systems change. It's all about facilitating a transition to a more effective way of supporting food security, across the whole system of initiatives.

Systems Change Map

A map was created to show how the initiatives contributed to systems change, across nine Focus Areas. The map was used to identify key Focus Areas, and 'windows of opportunity' to strengthen with people running food security initiatives.

Action Planning Workshop

Participants were invited to a results-sharing and action planning workshop in May 2023. During the workshop, interviewed participants co-designed individual action plans for their initiatives, with the Food Community team. Participants were supported to identify actions they could undertake to strengthen their initiative's contribution to food security in the Midwest region. Participants also brainstormed potential new food security initiatives to fill service provision gaps in the current system.

Results

24 initiatives explored in interviews

60 partnering organisations

Types of initiatives:

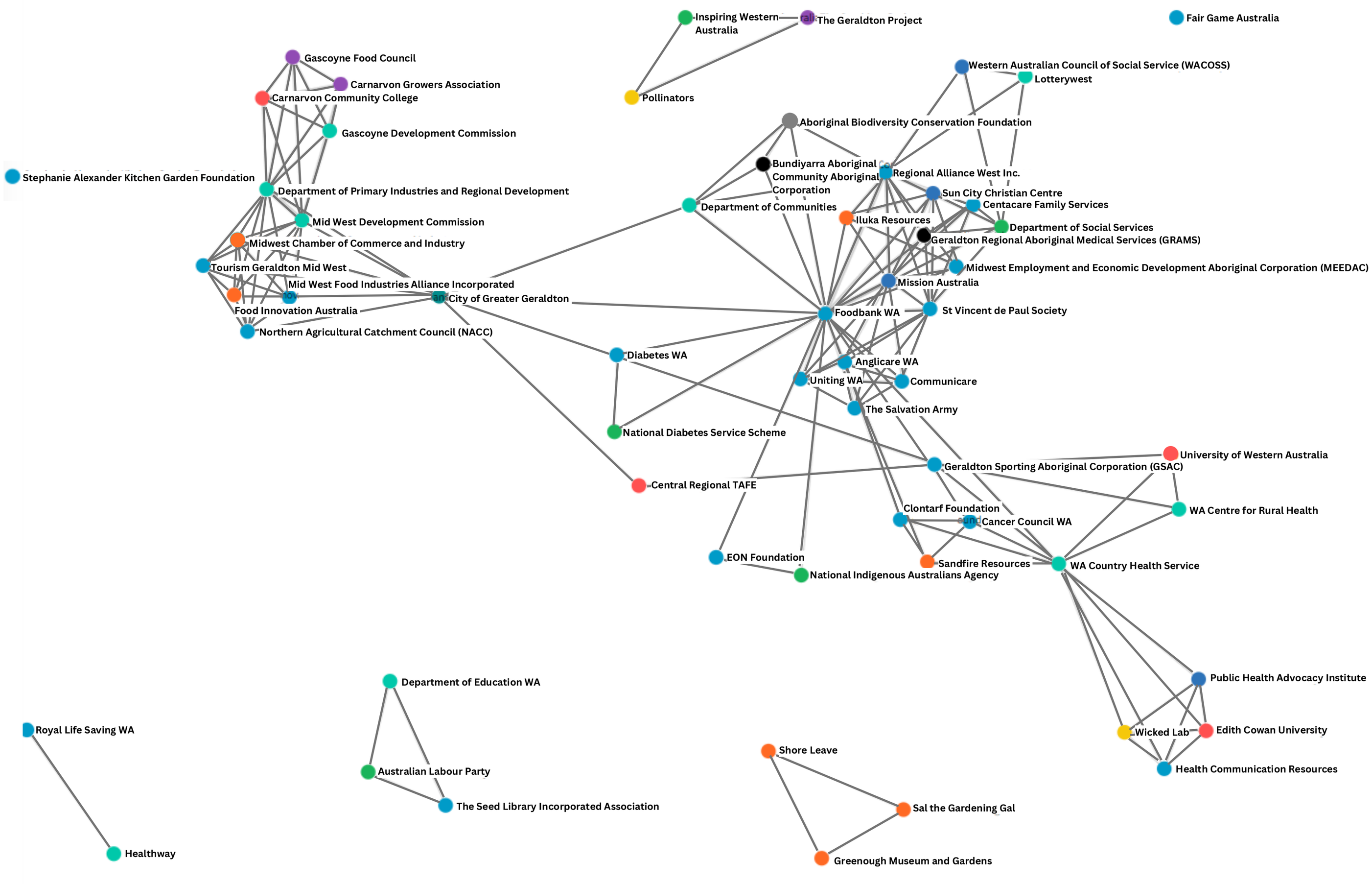
- **11x** food literacy and/or health promotion initiatives
- **7x** emergency food relief and/or community programs
- **3x** networks and/or alliances
- **2x** farmers markets and/or food events
- **1x** community garden

Initiative food security aspects:

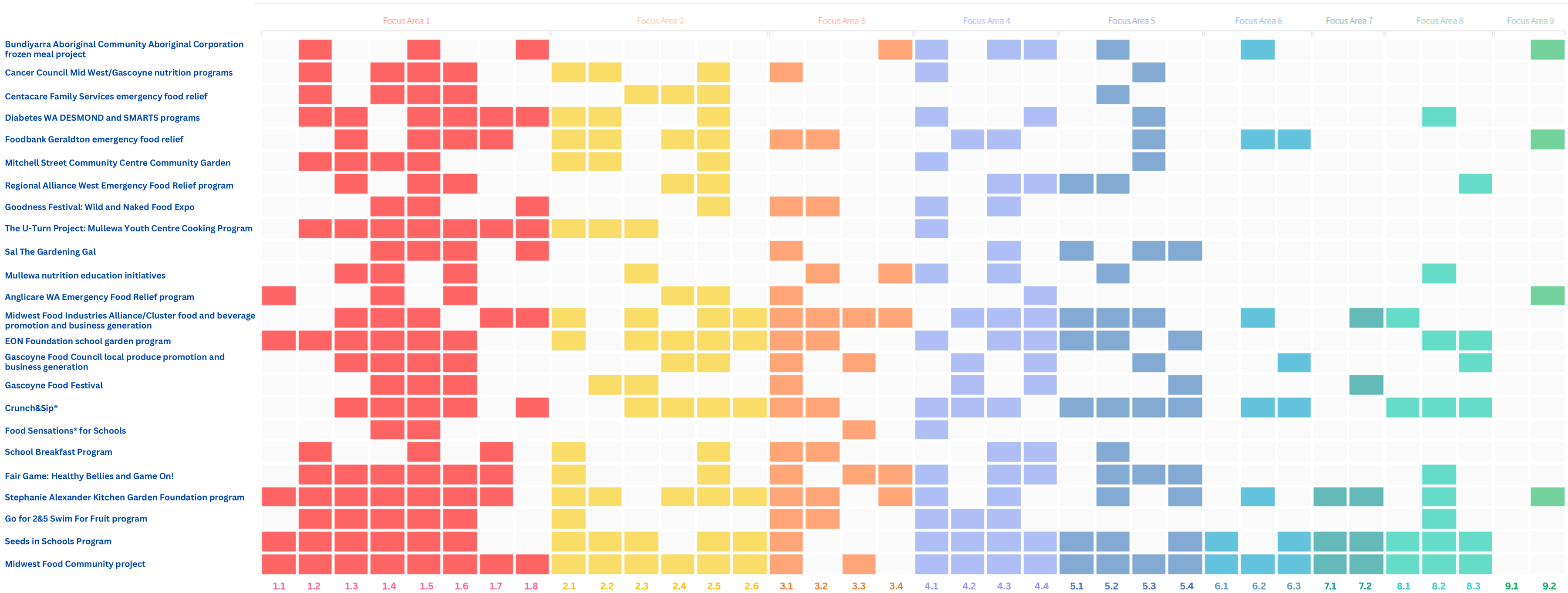
- **10x** food availability
- **12x** food access
- **11x** food utilisation
- **1x** stability
- **1x** agency
- **2x** sustainability

Partnership Map

The partnership map outlines the relationships that are currently established between initiatives and other organisations. This could include partnerships, sponsors or key stakeholders.



Systems Change Map



Focus Areas initiatives possessed:

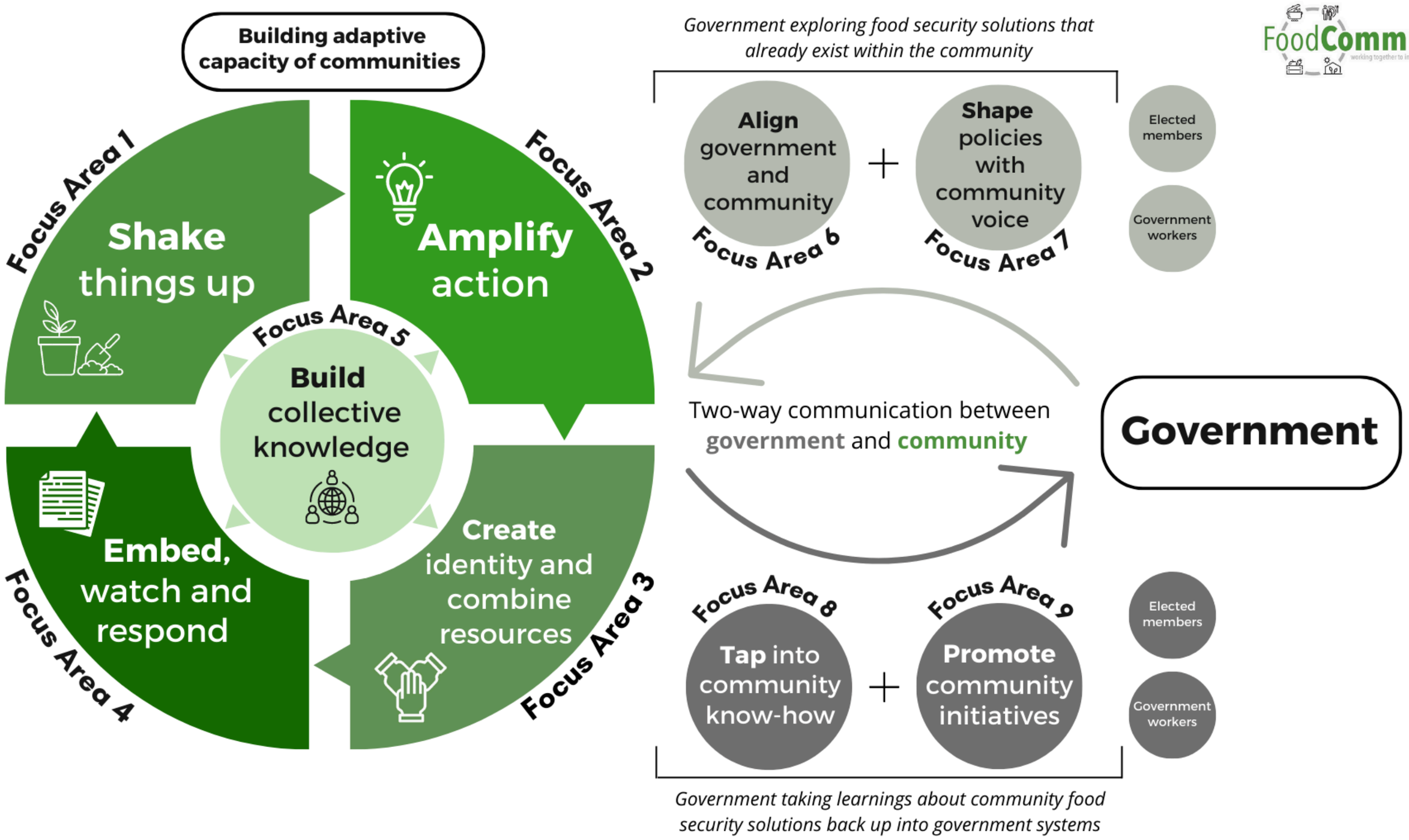
1. Shake things up
2. Join up and ripple out
4. Embed, watch and respond
5. Build collective knowledge

Windows of opportunity

Focus Areas to strengthen:

3. Create identity and combine resources
6. Align government and community
7. Shape policies with community voices
8. Tap into community know-how
9. Promote community initiatives

Food Community Focus Area Framework



Model adapted from Zivkovic, S. (2014). *Determining and increasing the social impact of an active citizenship education program*. [PhD thesis, School of Education, University of South Australia]. Adelaide.. and Green Adelaide. (2021). *Greening Marion pilot*. City of Marion. https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/services-we-offer/environment/nature-and-biodiversity/greening-marion

Next steps

Initiative leaders, organisations and government stakeholders will be encouraged to collaborate and identify how current initiatives can be adapted to strengthen their contribution to systems change. These specific adaptations are based on identified windows of opportunity and have been outlined in individual initiative action plans.

The Food Community team will follow up with initiative leaders to progress the actions outlined in their action plans, and the prioritised new food security initiatives.