

Community Based Resilience Approach in Finland

Lessons Learned from the Pärjätään
yhdessä – Development Project

Janne Leskinen,
Project Officer
Domestic Disaster Management Unit
FRC HQ



Kuva: Joonas Brandt



Finnish Red Cross 

A Finnish Red Cross volunteer visiting a local person during the January 2018 winter storm, when big areas suffered from prolonged power cuts in Kainuu region.

Finnish Red Cross – 141 years

Finnish Red Cross



- One of the worlds oldest associations in the movement, founded 1877
- Active in almost every municipality
- Approx. 80 000 members, 40 000 active volunteers, 102 000 blood donors annually



HELP WITH YOUR HELP

Roles in the Finnish Red Cross

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

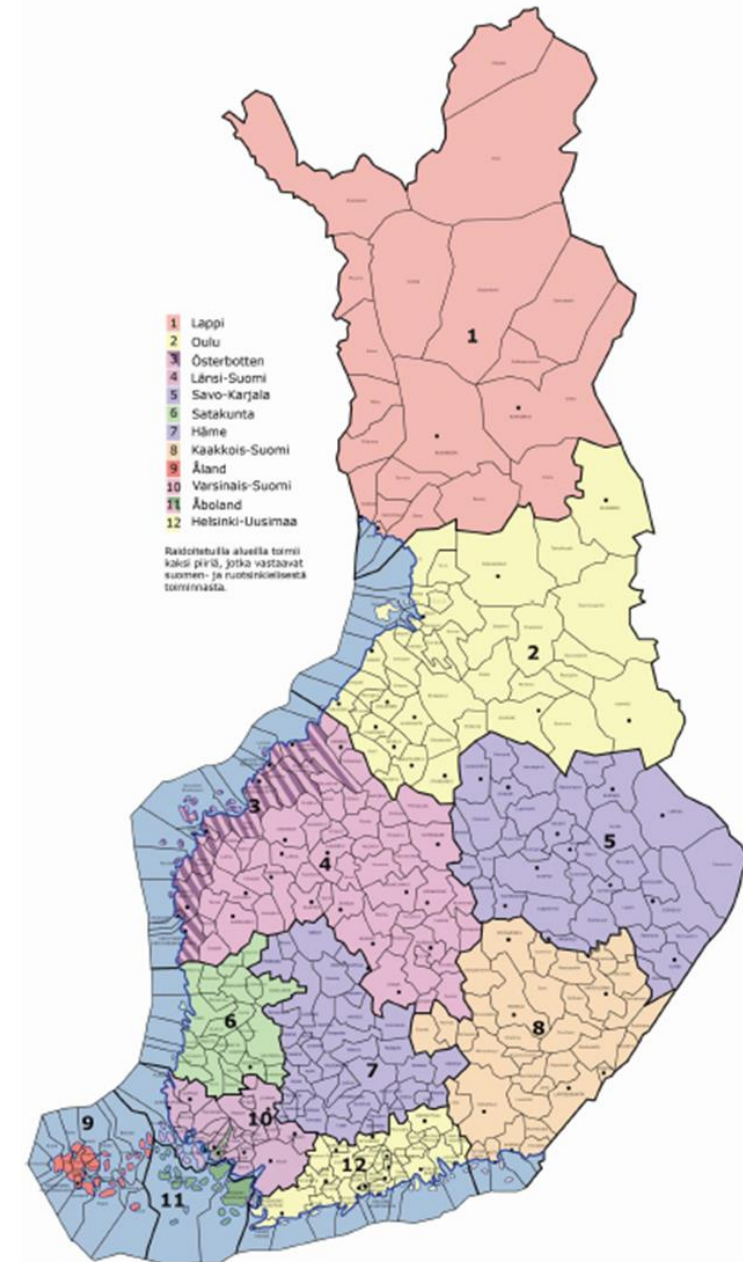
- International aid (disaster relief, development cooperation)
- National programmes, campaigns (support, development)
- Organisational services (IT, economy, HR)

DISTRICTS

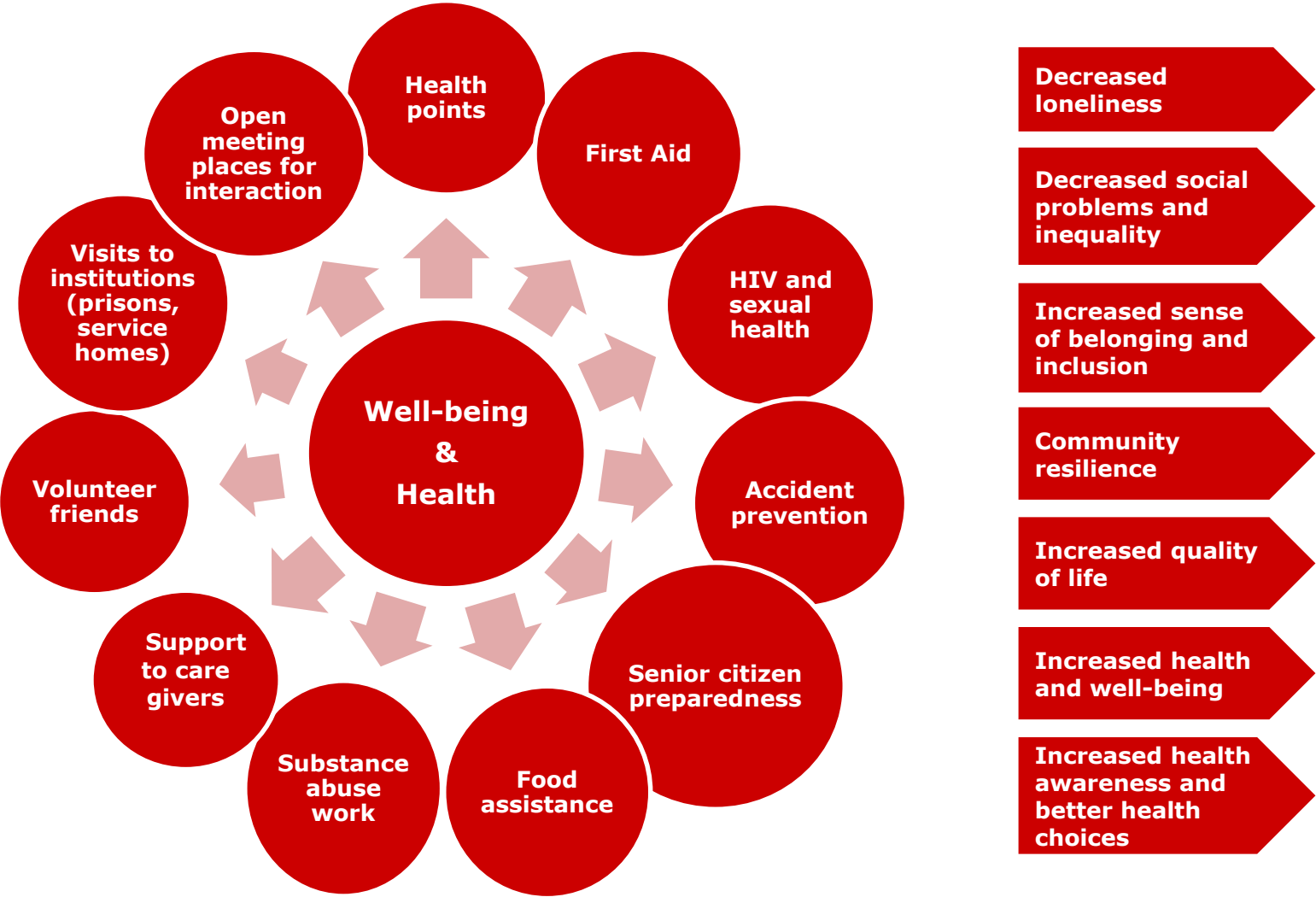
- National aid
- Implementing themes, activities, programmes
- Support to key volunteers and branches

LOCAL BRANCHES

- Volunteers
- Local aid
- Executing themes, activities, programmes



Increased health, well-being and resilience through volunteer action





Individual's
psychosocial
wellbeing and
capacity

communality, inclusion,
social safety networks,
Local and regional
preparedness

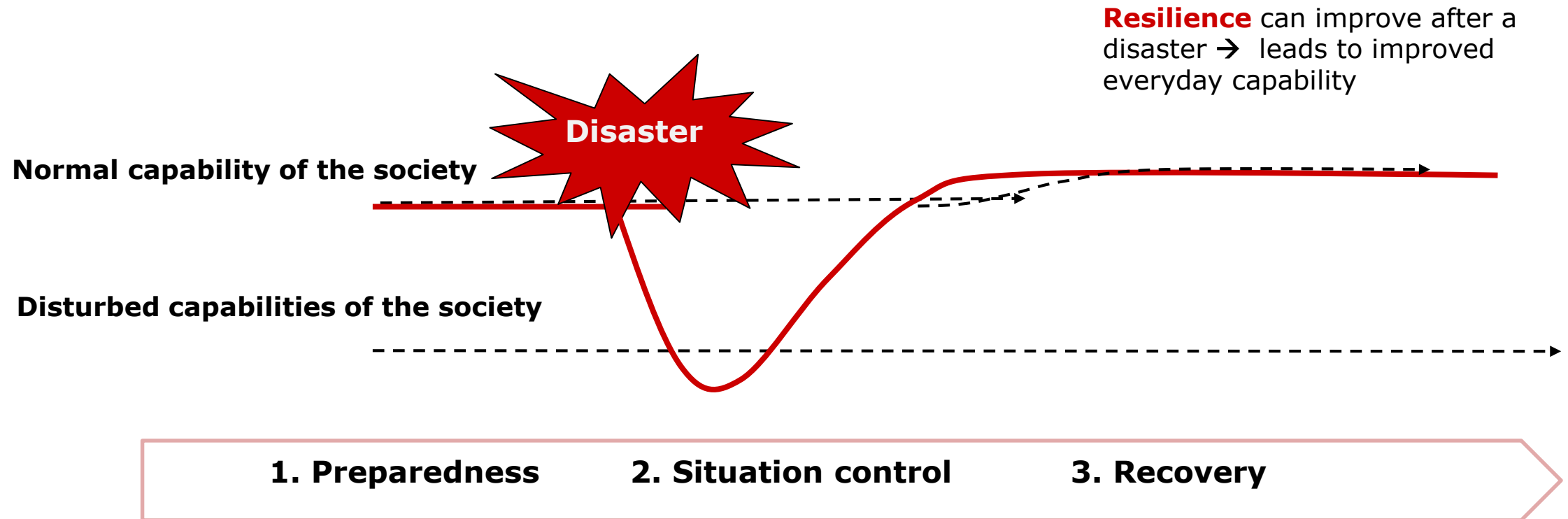
Trust on societal
structures and
Mechanisms



The international
connectedness of
the society,
infrastructure and
continuity of the
society

NGO's in disaster preparedness

The aim of preparedness is to prevent and limit damage, enable helping activities and speed up the recovery



Background for the Red Cross Mandate in NGO/CSO Coordination



Vapaaehtoinen
pelastuspalvelu

The Voluntary Rescue Service (Vapepa) is a network of volunteer helpers made up of 52 different Civil Society Organisations. Coordinated by the Finnish Red Cross



2014 Memorandum of Understanding with Finnish Red Cross and Ministry of Social Affairs and Health



MINISTRY
OF THE INTERIOR

FINLAND

2018 Memorandum of Understanding with Finnish Red Cross and Ministry of the interior

Pärjätään yhdessä - Resilience Development project

- A 3 year development project funded by STEA (Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations). Piloted in Satakunta and Lapland regions.
- The Aim is to improve **resilience** through community engagement, focusing on everyday security.
- Why? Nature of societal change in Finland.
- We bring local communities, local NGO's and local authorities together to plan, train and to communicate.
- Coordinated from Mia Vettenranta in Satakunta Pori and by Veli-Matti Ahtiainen in Lapland.
- Includes major Finnish NGO's as partners and local smaller actors

Process of Good CSO Preparedness



Elements for a good local resilience



Lessons learned in the project (1/2):

- Building resilience cooperation networks is time consuming and requires a lot of effort, therefore it is best if coordination is carried out by someone in an official capacity (e.g municipality)
- All potential actors must have a genuine chance to contribute
- All stakeholders must benefit from the cooperation
- Maintaining a resilience network require's constant upkeep and local ownership of the network

Lessons learned in the project (2/2):

- Cooperation is useful for all types of actors as they learn to know each other and their functions before needed
- In situations when the network is needed one always needs to improvise but prepared plans are helpful
- NGO's have huge potential in supporting authorities and society in resilience