



NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2025 Flood Impact Study

Summary of Key Findings

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Overview

For the past four years, the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) has surveyed the community sector on their recovery from the 2022 floods and their contribution to disaster recovery and resilience in the Northern Rivers.

The 2025 survey was sent to 270 Northern Rivers-based not-for-profit organisations and groups between 3rd March to 13 April 2025. At the conclusion of the survey period a total of 128 responses were received.

This report presents a summary of key findings from the survey and provides insights into the critical role that small community-based organisations play in supporting disaster response, recovery and resilience and the challenges they face.



128

Community organisations
responded



60%

were small organisations
with less than 5 staff



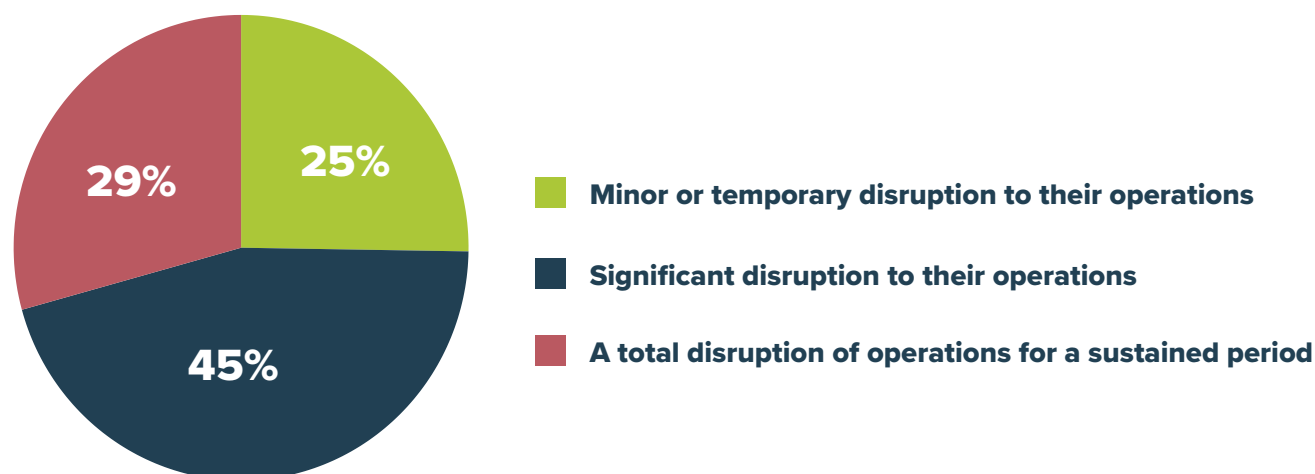
37%

were entirely
volunteer-led

To what extent have community organisations recovered following the 2022 Floods? What are the key challenges that remain?

The survey results showed that while community organisations were gradually recovering from the impact of the 2022 floods, the impact of the disaster was still being felt.

77% of survey respondents reported that their organisation was impacted by the 2022 floods.



Organisation Recovery Rating for 2025

 **7.5**
out of 10

increased from
6.7/10 in 2024
6.4/10 in 2023

Lasting impacts of the 2022 floods on organisations

55%

Ability to meet increased
demand for services

52%

Ability to attract / secure funding

52%

Poor mental health / wellness
of staff and volunteers

32%

Ability to attract / retain
members & volunteers

27%

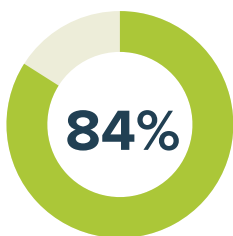
Ability to attract / retain staff

21%

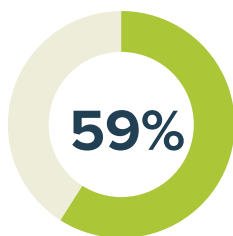
Other

To what extent did community organisations in the Northern Rivers contribute to disaster response and recovery efforts following the 2022 Floods?

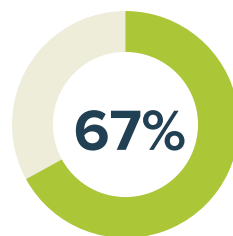
The survey results showed that the majority community organisations who responded reported that they continue to be engaged in disaster recovery and resilience work, even when it is not their core mission or purpose.



of respondents supported
communities to recover
following the 2022 Floods.



are currently supporting
communities to recover
from the 2022 Floods.

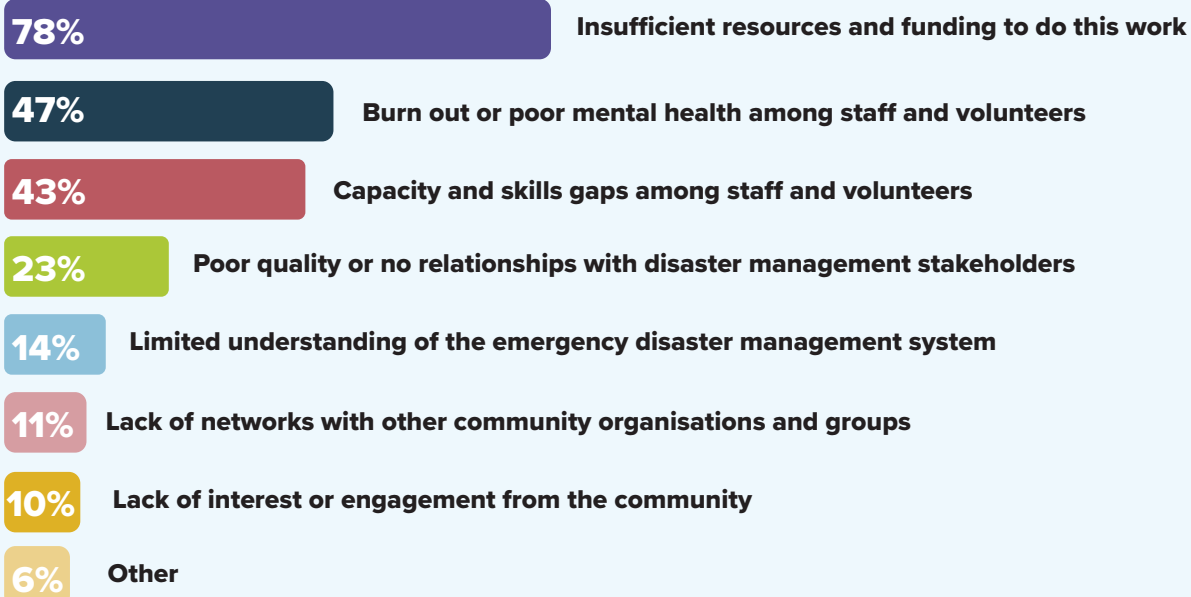


are supporting communities
to prepare and build
resilience for future disasters.

To what extent are community organisations being resourced to support their role in disaster response and recovery and how have funding patterns changed over time?

The survey results showed that 82% of community organisations reported experiencing at least one barrier to contributing to disaster response. The most significant barrier was insufficient resources and funding to do this work.

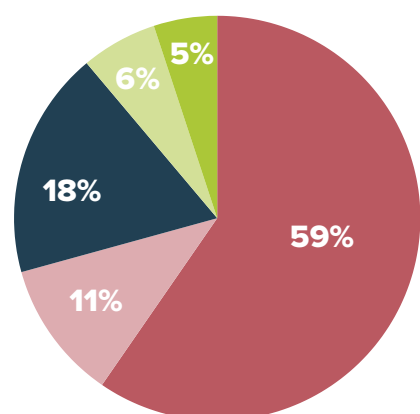
Barriers experienced by community organisations in contributing to disaster response, recovery and resilience



How the amount of funding received to support disaster recovery and resilience has changed in the last 12 months.

More than three quarters (79%) of respondents said they had applied for funding to support their disaster recovery and resilience work since the 2022 floods, with the vast majority (92%) reporting that they had received funding from at least one source.

Of those organisations who had received funding for disaster response, recovery and resilience work since the 2022 floods, most said the amount of funding available had decreased significantly in the past 12 months.



The most common barrier reported in securing funding for disaster response, recovery and resilience was that it was not aligned with their needs or the programs and services they were offering.

Barriers experienced by community organisations in securing funding for disaster response, recovery and resilience



You can download a copy of the full report of the 2025 Flood Impact Study on our website www.nrcf.org.au