



UNISDR

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



Risk Information & DRR

*Andy McElroy UNISDR
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Question

Why did Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 devastate the tiny island of Tulang Diyot yet not one person was killed there?



Answer

Because for years this man has worked with his community in the municipality of San Francisco so that they are:

1. Aware of the hazard risk they face & can better prevent/mitigate it
2. Organised to continually monitor any changes to this hazard risk
3. Able to appropriately prepare & respond to hazards



Mayor Al Arquillano





Question

Why did Cyclone Paradip kill 10,000 people or more when it struck the coast of Odisha, India, in 1999, while 14 years later a storm of similar magnitude – Cyclone Phailin – killed ‘only’ 36 people on the same stretch of coast?



Answer



*The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik
with UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlström*

Because Odisha has made ‘zero casualties’ a political priority and has reinforced this policy goal through better use of risk information which itself informs better preparedness.

‘I thank the meteorological department for its accurate prediction of the storm that played a major role in our preparedness.’ - Chief Minister





Question

Why do elderly people living in one of the poorest and most hazard-prone districts of Manila sleep more soundly at night these days?



Answer



Rizal council member Arnel Alvarez

Because this man and his team have extensively mapped the local hazards (see map walls at the local council office) **and** taken consequent action based on that information. One development is that all houses in Rizal which are home to infirm elderly people are badged with a colour-coded sign outside signifying a resident who is in need of help in the event of evacuation





Question

Why would most hearing-impaired and deaf people living in New York City vote for a return of former Mayor Michael Bloomberg?



Answer



***Silent alarm:** chaos everywhere but deaf man is unaware of impending danger*

Because during and after Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Mayor Bloomberg's disaster bulletins were all interpreted into sign language by Lydia Callis. 'She translated the important words of the mayor to anxious viewers across the country and also provided clear, coherent and animated explanations to millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans.' – ***Time Magazine***



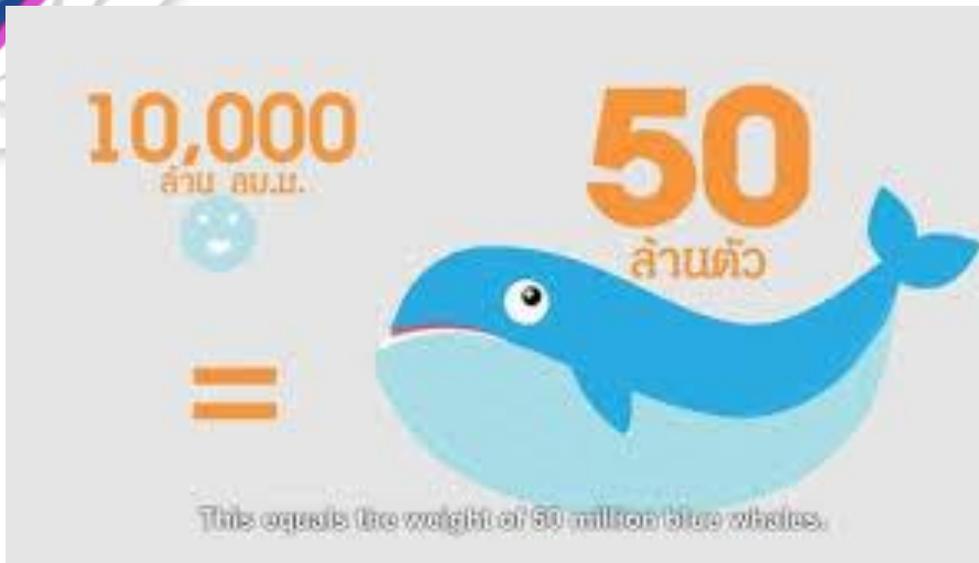


Question

Why did millions of Thais trust two 26-year-old part-time filmmakers more than the authorities or traditional media for their source of information during the 2011 floods?



Answer



Because during a period of political turmoil and coordination & communication challenges from the usual trusted sources, social media emerged as the ‘go to’ source of information as well as public debate on the ‘politics’ of the disaster





Question

Why do the people of Stepanavan, Armenia – a small city in the mountains near the Georgian border – know what the HFA is and are very aware of how to protect themselves from natural hazards?



Answer



Because this man Mayor Mikayel Gharakeshishyan has made disaster risk reduction a priority of his city & has personally led advocacy efforts with citizens to reduce risk. Hazard risk assessments have been updated and shared. Citizens who have had the opportunity to engage directly with the Mayor on future planning





The overall answer to all these questions

In one word:

Information



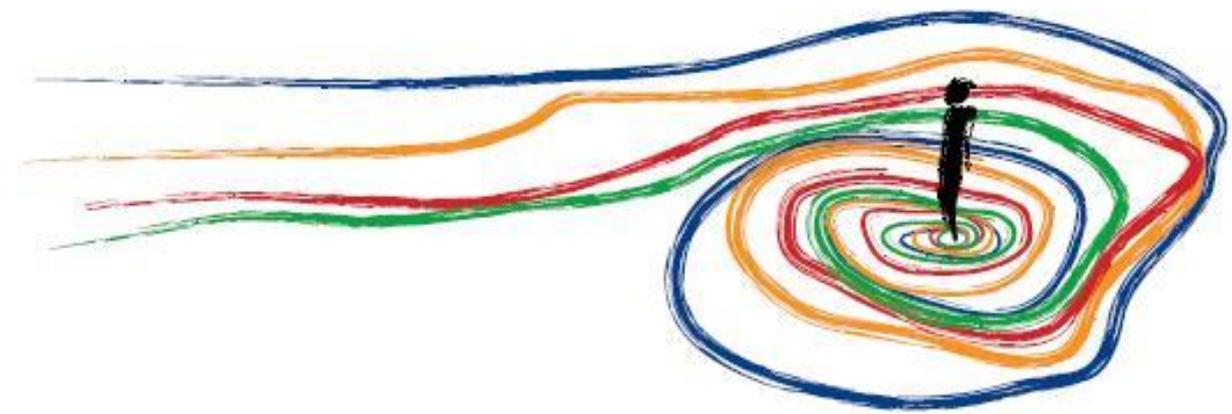


The overall answer to all these questions

In one sentence:

Up to date, understandable and publicly available hazard and risk information has been used as a basis to reduce disaster risk accumulated in the past as well as to prevent the forming of new disaster risk in the future





Thank you

<http://www.unisdr.org>

