

COMMUNITY RESEARCH REPORT 2023

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO DISASTERS & ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY ISSUES

**CAHAYA
SOCIETY**
EDUCATION FOR ALL

Photo Credit Maspolin

"The biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand, we listen to reply"

Stephen Covey

Report by:

Asrin Utong

Lia Ellyana

Field researcher:

Wadzkir Abd Hamid

Randy Kevin

Radzmil Angking

Mukti Hassan

Nor Shera Naddil

The Cahaya Society, with assistance from the Cahaya Alumni Club and the Cahaya community, carried out this investigation in this study entirety. The contents of the pictures in the study are copyright reserved by Cahaya Society.

Contents

1	Abstract	1
2	Findings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methodology.....• Demography.....• Locality & duration	2
3	Safety issues	5
4	Type of Disasters <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disaster effects.....• Disaster management.....• Disaster supports.....	8
5	Challenges in the field.....	12
	Recommendation.....	13
6	Appendix.....	14-19

ABSTRACT

The Cahaya Society launched this community research as a project to map and gather sample data for more long-term advocacy activities with vulnerable groups in Sabah, Malaysia. Although this study focuses on disaster and security issues, including how to comprehend the community's abilities and potential in terms of risk and disaster management, the numerous challenges and factors found primarily relate to the basic requirements of the community.

Risks and disasters pose the biggest security threats to vulnerable communities due to numerous crucial factors such as demography and a lack of adequate internal or external support. It is commonly understood that vulnerable communities are groups that lack access to basic necessities and comprehensive assistance from government. As a result, unmanaged slums and houses on water are one of the demographic causes that contribute to hazards and disasters.

In addition, there have been some initiatives by civil society organizations, however they are limited and less diverse.

As a result, this community studies seek to analyze concretely the issues and demands of the community, particularly in regard to dangers and disasters in their surroundings. This is critical to document so that risk and disaster education in the community is the major topic when stakeholders in this country discuss a safe community and people.

All data, information, and research findings in this study are for the collective use of all Malaysians, particularly advocates and social workers who work tirelessly in the field to ensure that no one deserves to be left out.



FINDINGS

This report is a post-analysis that has reached a consensus by the research team after examining the data and samples collected from the community in the field.

> | METHODOLOGY

This research is being conducted through direct interviews in various locations, taking into account simple statistics such as age, gender, ethnicity, and so on. Before commuting to the field to carry out the study, ten (10) field researchers were appointed and went through a Research Workshop that included field observations and general analysis.

> | DEMOGRAPHY

The study includes 100 respondents from the community surrounding Sandakan, and the data is kept in the organization's database. Each locality collected a total of 20 samples as respondents.

Respondents must be at least 17 years old and from vulnerable communities such as immigrants, undocumented workers, and refugees.

> | LOCALITY & DURATION

The research team selected five (5) primary places for the investigation, namely Cahaya Learning Center (CLC), Cita Budi, CLC Kuari 3, Teratak Ilmu, and Opak Lestari. One is on an island, two are far from the city, while the others are near the city.

This research was carried out from September 11 until September 20, 2023.



This study's sample consists of community members aged 18 and up. Nonetheless, involvement from respondents aged 36 to 60 years is larger, owing to the fact that age is a significant and responsible component of the family unit. This entails providing assistance and making decisions for all family members.

This study is entirely focused on Sandakan, Sabah, which is located on the east coast of Sabah and is comprised of numerous major districts including Sandakan, Semporna, Tawau, and Lahad Datu. The majority of population are from the Bajau, Suluk, and Bugis ethnic groups, and the area has been designated as the Eastern Sabah Security Zone (ESSZONE) by the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM). Sabah's East Coast is also adjacent to numerous neighboring Celebes Sea countries, including Sulawesi (Indonesia), Sulu (Philippines), and Borneo (Malaysia).

According to the findings of this study, the majority of respondents are Suluk, followed by the Bajau ethnic group and a few other ethnic groupings. The ethnic engagement is also affected by the choice of the locality for this study because the population composition in the locality has an ethnic majority, which validates the findings of this study.

The selection of CLC Kuari 3, a Community Learning Center administered by the Indonesian Consulate in Kg. Gum-Gum, has expanded the ethnic distribution of responders among Indonesia's Eastern ethnic groups.

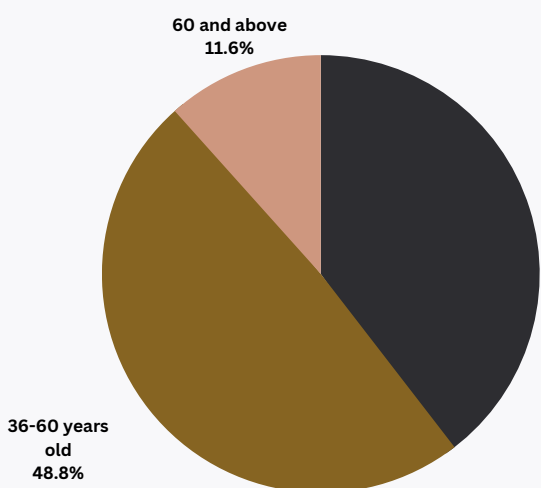


Chart 1.1- Age

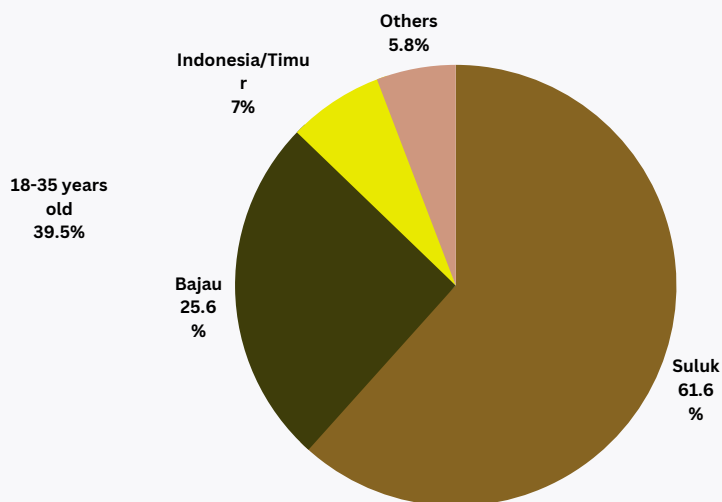


Chart 1.2- Ethnic

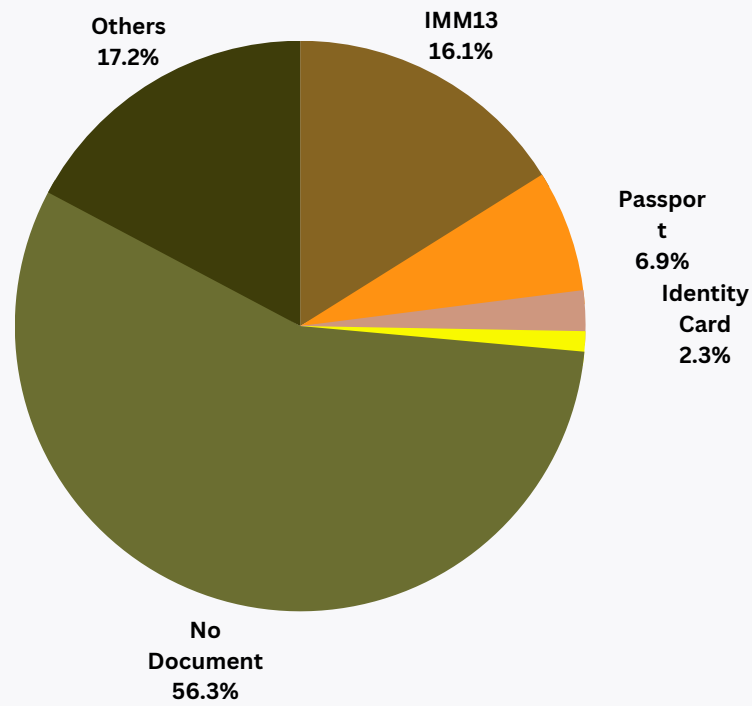


Chart 1.3- Document

The location for this study was chosen based on the initial hypothesis as a probable disaster area with a high probability of a security threat.

As a result, all of the chosen areas include slum housing, houses on water, and temporary community settlements. As a result, the majority of respondents in the study lack a legitimate identity document.

Only 2.3% of all respondents had a valid identity card. The remainder are vulnerable groups that lack the same basic access as local citizen communities.

However, due to their location in places that have the potential to experience disasters and have negative post-disaster repercussions, these vulnerable populations are the population that is most at risk in terms of security and disaster.



SAFETY ISSUES

The major subject of this study's observation is safety. However, the focus of this data collection is on overall community safety, which includes elements of risk and disaster. This includes naturally disasters that occur naturally. All respondents (87%) believe that their neighborhood is unsafe.

Observations in the field also revealed that unsecure communities are the result of trauma and anxiety caused by disasters that have previously happened to their communities and villages. This element becomes the most important variable when a series of natural disasters occur and must be faced without any assistance in the form of disaster preparation knowledge (pre-disaster) or post-disaster.

The 13% who believe they are still safe are owing to demographic considerations, such as living in locations with lower disaster risk, like near towns. As a result, there is no history of disasters or risks. This is in contrast to coastal, overwater, islet, and hillside areas.

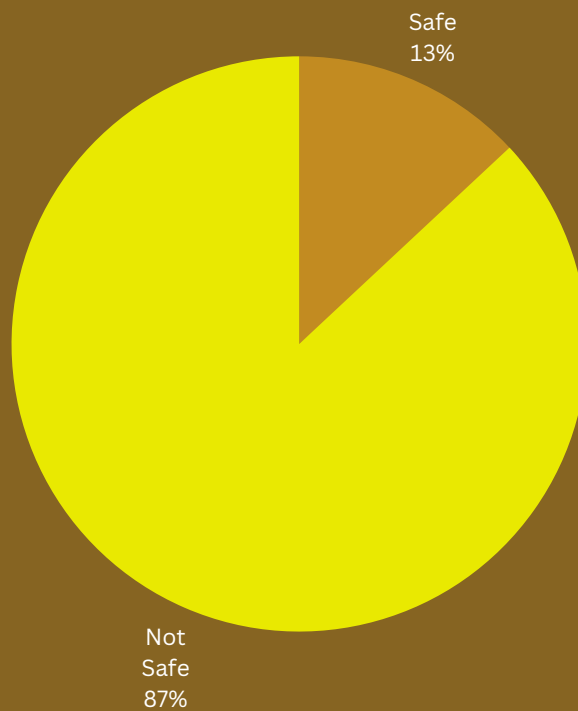


Chart 1.4- Safety Issues

TYPE OF DISASTERS

The data gathering also revealed that the majority of respondents who felt unsafe were from coastal communities and island demographics.

In addition to storms, flash floods, and landslides, the majority of communities (50%) have dealt with the risk of tidal phenomena. Demographics of communities that are on water and small islands between endangered and risky areas. The community also views high tides, or the abrupt rise in water levels at the same time during the monsoon season, to be the most dangerous disaster.

The East Coast of Sabah maritime community's economic activities, particularly those in coastal areas, are based on the sea. As a result, their understanding of the Monsoon Transition period is remarkable. This is also an early warning of disasters and safety issues, such as high tides accompanied by thunderstorms and flash floods.

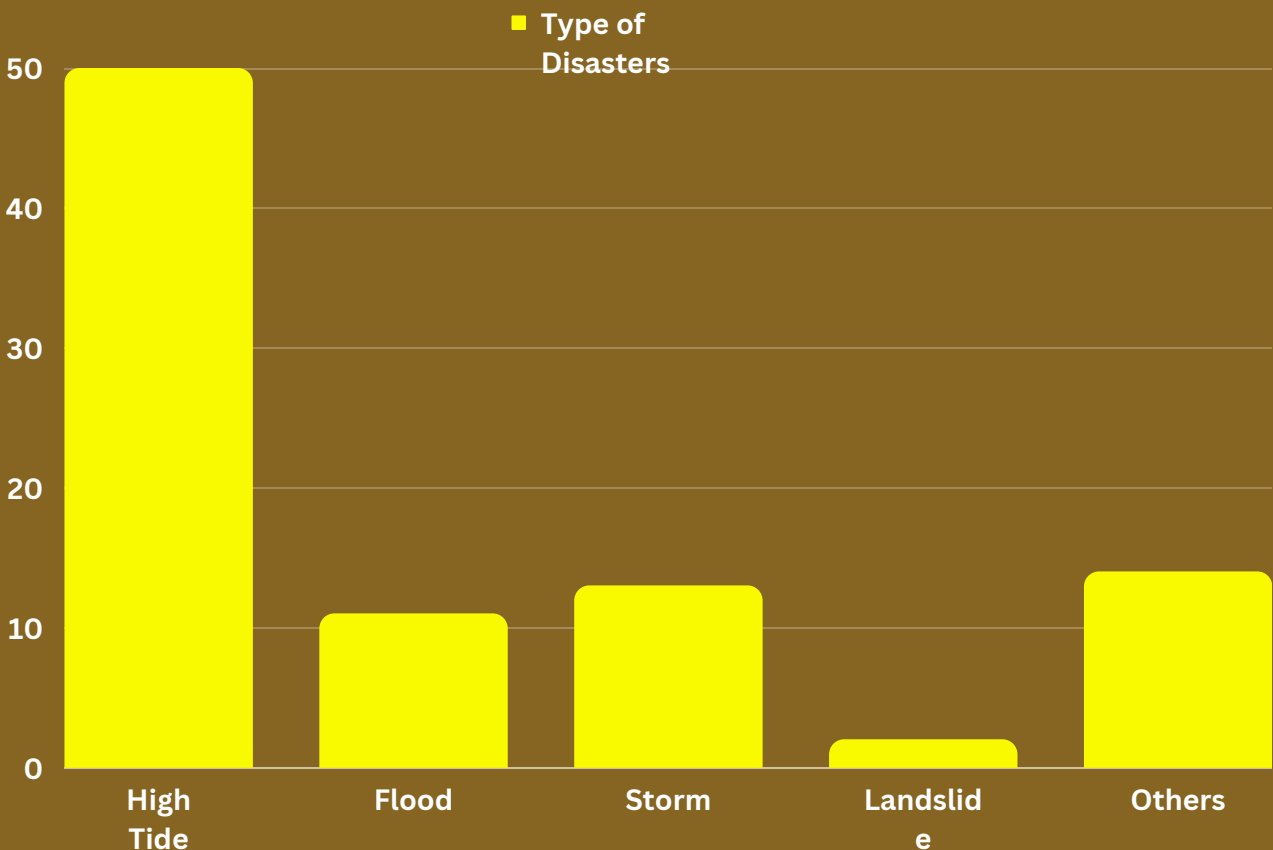


Chart 1.5- Type of Disasters

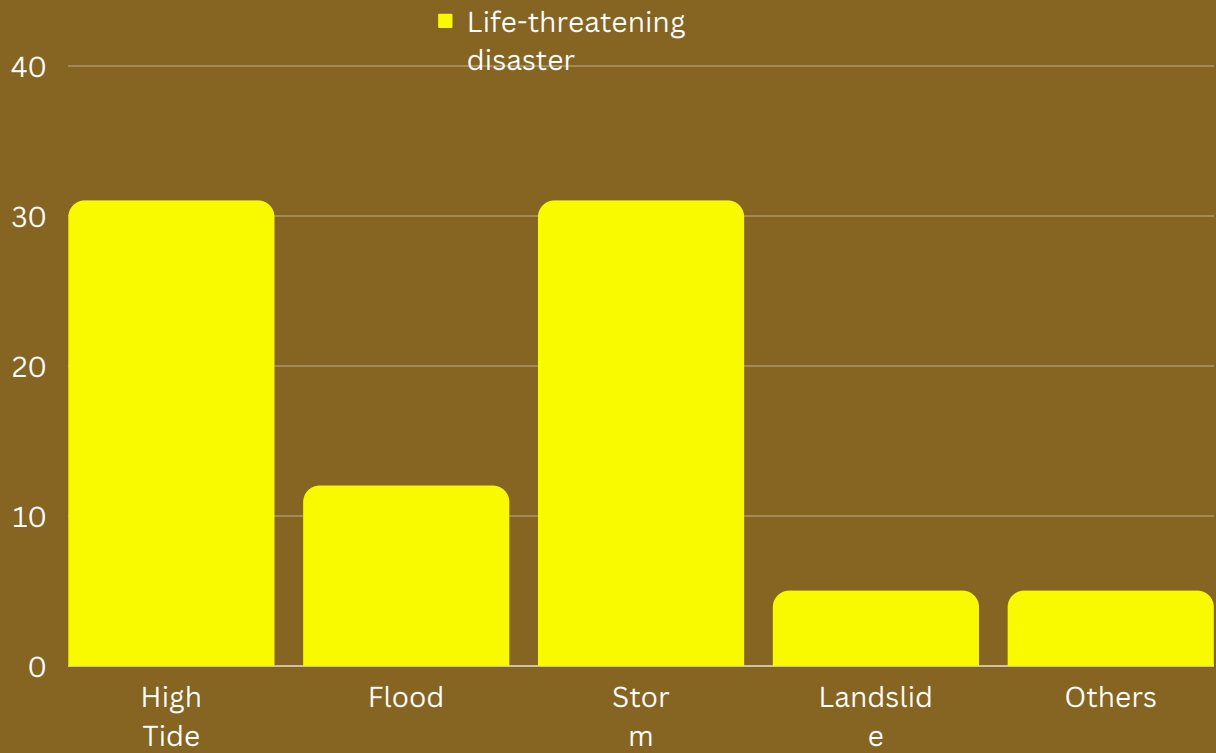


Chart 1.6- Life threatening disaster

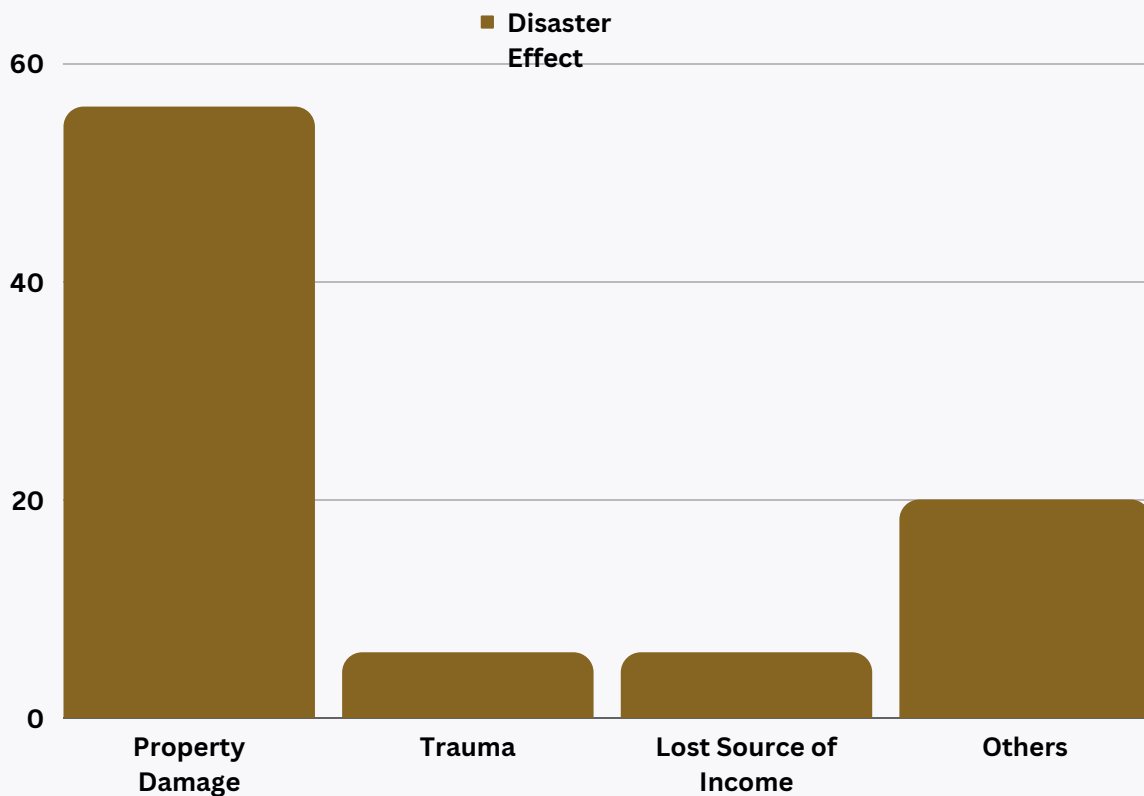
Disaster	Locality	Risk
High tide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-the-water residence • Small island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge/house collapsed • Disruption of marine economy activity
Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low land • Slum settlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge/house collapsed
Landslide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillside • Industrial area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life threatening

Disasters that have occurred have left marks. Despite this, the impact of disasters on those with vulnerabilities is different since agencies and governments do not give particular attention to them. This is a placement factor that is widely regarded as invalid.

However, the risk of disaster remains a concern, particularly because it may threaten life and cause death. More than half of all respondents agree that disasters in the past and in the future have had a substantial influence on property.

This includes community facilities such as bridges (main roadways) and suraus (shelter) that they share and utilize together. Aside from the housing and other requirements. This has a major impact because vulnerable groups do not have socioeconomic advantages and most of them rely solely on daily wage jobs.

Furthermore, employment loss as a result of the tragedy, followed by trauma, has become an impact of the disaster that the community has had to face. This is a continuation of many other consequences that the community must bear and confront jointly.



DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is a strategy that should be the primary source of assistance for communities at risk. Even after accounting for demographic factors and a lack of access to basic necessities, this Disaster Risk Management is capable of training and empowering communities in the face of future disasters through preparedness, monitoring, and action and recovery strategies implemented by the community itself.

Almost 70% of respondents in the study admitted to having no strategies or methods for dealing with disasters (pre-disaster). Despite having experienced a variety of disasters, communities do not obtain training or educational support to build a common disaster risk management plan.

Less than half of those interviewed are prepared to deal with disasters. Observations in the field indicate that this group is more knowledgeable and has access to current information, including the ability to understand external communication in order to acquire advice on disaster risk.

Accurate information, effective communication, and awareness campaign materials are also important in ensuring that vulnerable communities are aware of Disaster Risk Management.

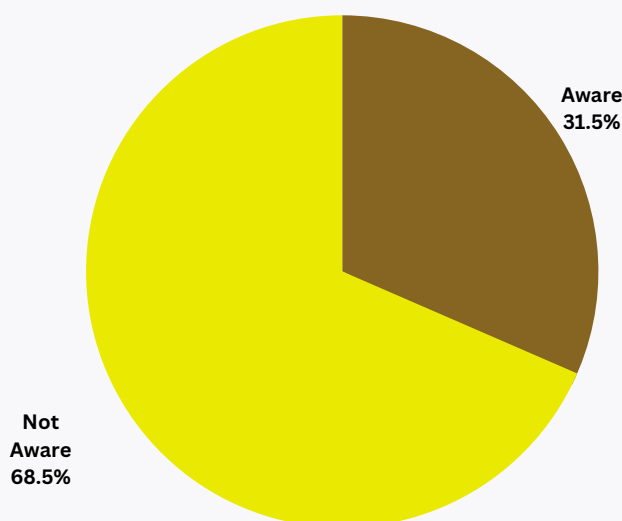


Chart 1.7- Disaster Risk Management

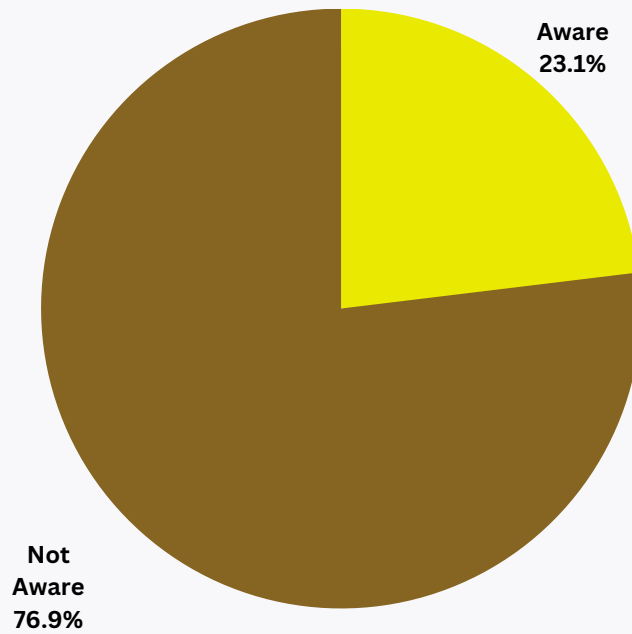


Chart 1.8- Post-disaster management knowledge

The majority of respondents also did not get information or have any awareness of disaster risk monitoring, as well as simple things to do when a disaster strikes, such as putting together an emergency kit. This has made things difficult for the community because the current tragedy can only be anticipated but not correctly forecast.

Accordingly, about 80% of respondents are unaware of any Disaster Risk Management (post-disaster) strategy. This is due to a lack of disaster risk management (pre-disaster) preparation.

Aside from a lack of assistance and training, some respondents do not believe it is a necessity. Communities that lack sustainable empowerment are unable to mobilize disaster risk, particularly post-disaster risk, within their groupings.

However, this is related to a number of other factors that contribute to a lack of awareness about disaster risk management, such as the absence of ongoing campaigns, language and communication issues, information gaps, and insufficient support from stakeholders and civil society organizations.



DISASTER SUPPORT

Everyone who is exposed to disaster risk will undoubtedly be affected, particularly those who lack planning, strategy, and mitigation. Vulnerable groups are those in the country that have restrictions on economic activity, movement (due to documentation), and basic requirements involving public facilities.

As a result, we discovered that Basic Supply Assistance is the most essential support both before and after a crisis. This comprises food supply packs, children's and women's health kits, and psychosocial help, as the risk of this disaster affects victims' emotional and mental health.

This is followed by the community's desire to deepen the practice of Disaster Risk Management through any training and ongoing empowerment. This can be a more effective preventative element than simply providing material assistance. In the field, we discovered that the community is prepared for disaster-related education, which must include issues of language, communication, information, and long-term and accurate capacity building.

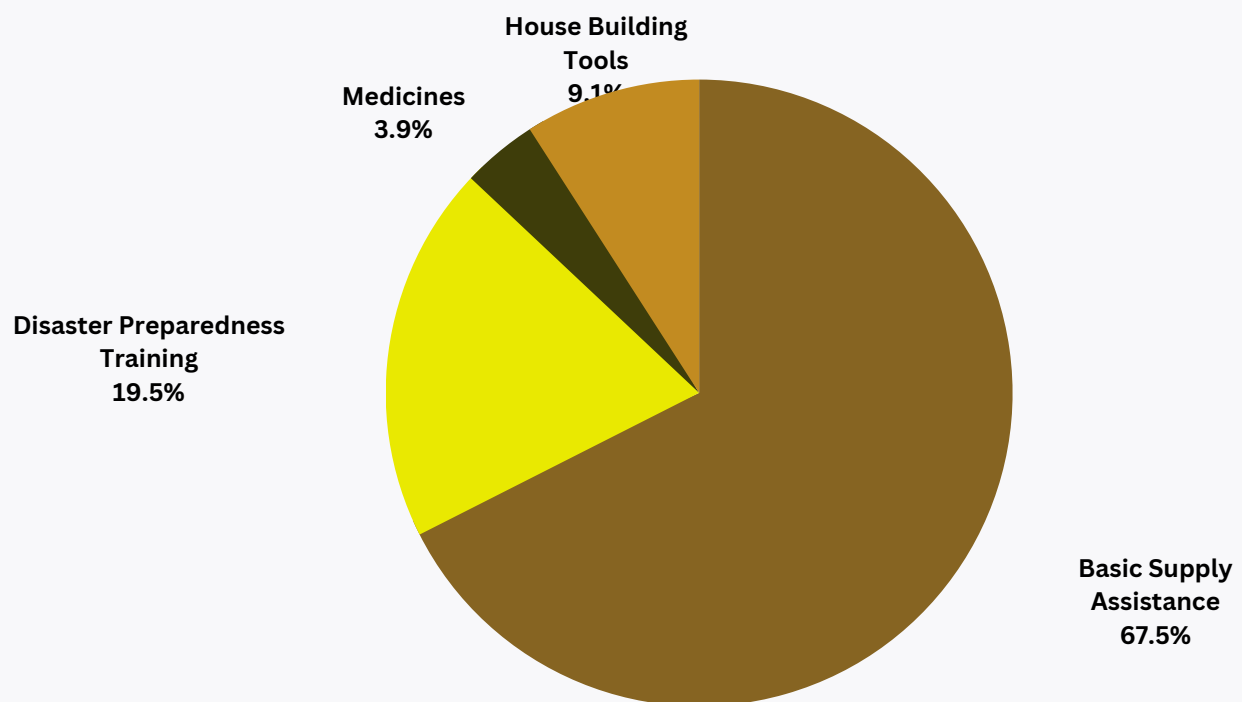
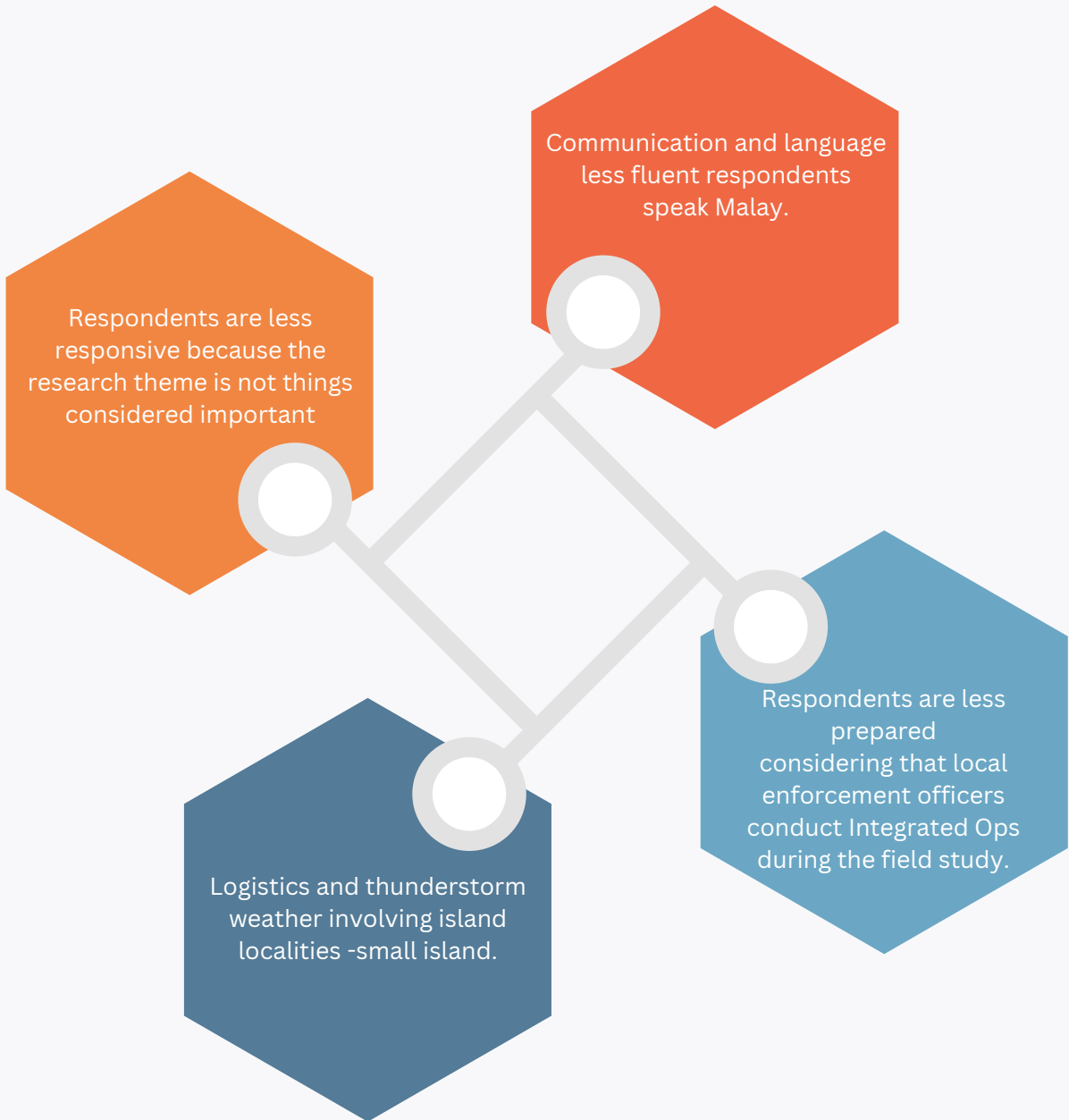


Chart 1.9- Disaster management

CHALLENGES IN THE FIELD



RECOMMENDATION

Cahaya Society, as a pro-community education advocate team, would want to propose broad proposals as a progressive and proactive step to ensure that this issue is addressed collectively throughout the country.





SURAT PERSETUJUAN

Saya, _____, dengan ini membenarkan **Pertubuhan Pendidikan Anak Cahaya Sabah** di Sabah, Malaysia (ataupun dirujuk sebagai ("**Cahaya Society**") untuk mengambil gambar diri saya:

1. Saya membenarkan Cahaya Society mengambil gambar saya
2. Saya faham dan benarkan gambar-gambar ini diambil sebagai sebahagian daripada pelaksanaan **Kajian Komuniti bertajuk Memahami Respon Komuniti Terhadap Isu Bencana & Isu Keselamatan Lingkungan**.

Kajian Komuniti ni bertujuan untuk pengumpulan data dan pemetaan serta sebahagian daripada pelaksanaan beberapa aktiviti yang akan dilaksanakan kelak. Dengan ini: Saya membenarkan Cahaya Society untuk menggunakan dan menerbitkan gambar -gambar ini diluar bidang program ini, untuk kegunaannya pada masa depan, antara lain untuk:

- Meningkatkan pengetahuan dan pemahaman tentang isu-isu undocumented/stateless (tanpa negara) - Meningkatkan kesedaran melalui kempen, aktiviti promosi, strategi komunikasi dan komunikasi awam - Dokumentasi dan promosi kerja Cahaya Society

- Makluman kepada penderma, rakan kongsi, media dan orang awam tentang program dan aktiviti Cahaya Society.

Saya faham dan setuju penggunaan gambar-gambar saya di masa hadapan mungkin melibatkan, tetapi tidak terhad kepada penerbitan, bahan promosi, risalah, laporan, rencana, pembentangan, pameran dan paparan di laman sesawang Cahaya Society dan saluran media elektronik pihak ketiga yang lain.

Saya faham ciri-ciri sesi penggambaran dan tujuan kegunaan gambar-gambar, dan dengan ini memberikan kebenaran saya untuk penggunaan di atas. Saya juga faham mana-mana gambar yang diambil mungkin dipaparkan di persekitaran awam.

Saya mengakui bahawa Cahaya society tidak diwajibkan untuk menggunakan gambar-gambar yang diambil.

Dengan ini, saya memberikan Cahaya Society pelepasan daripada tanggungjawab ke atas apa-apa kerosakan atau kerugian secara langsung atau tidak langsung yang saya, anak-anak, keluarga atau komuniti setempat alami berkaitan penggunaan mana-mana gambar bagi kegunaan kajian komuniti ini atau kegunaan Cahaya Society di masa hadapan.

Saya faham dan setuju bahawa Cahaya Society memegang hak cipta terpelihara dan sebarang harta intelek lain berkaitan gambar-gambar yang diambil, dan Cahaya Society boleh menggunakan dan menerbitkan, dan memberi kuasa kepada pihak ketiga lain untuk digunakan dan diterbitkan, tanpa kebenaran saya.

Saya mengakui tidak akan menerima sebarang pembayaran untuk sesi penggambaran atau penggunaan gambar yang diambil, dan tiada bayaran atau pertimbangan selanjutnya akan dilaksanakan.

Saya faham kandungan surat persetujuan ini selepas:

- Membaca Klausula di atas: YA / TIDAK

- Klausula di atas dibacakan kepada saya: YA / TIDAK

Saya dengan sukarela membuat deklarasi dan memberi persetujuan untuk gambar diri saya diambil oleh jurugambar yang mewakili Cahaya Society.

Nama: _____

Tarikh: _____

Tempat: _____

PERTUBUHAN PENDIDIKAN ANAK CAHAYA SABAH (CAHAYA SOCIETY)

Lot 2, Tingkat 1, Blok D, Bandar Ramai-Ramai, Jalan Leila, 90000 Sandakan, Sabah. T: 089-666915 * P: +010-219 5408 * cahayasociety@gmail.com * www.cahayasociety.org

**KAJIAN KOMUNITI 2023:
MEMAHAMI RESPON KOMUNITI TERHADAP BENCANA
DAN ISU KESELAMATAN LINGKUNGAN**

BAHAGIAN A: DEMOGRAFI

1. Nama : _____
2. Umur : _____
3. Etnik : _____
4. Bilangan isi : _____
rumah
5. Jenis dokumen :
 IMM13
 Passport
 Kad Pengenalan
 Sijil Lahir
 Tiada
 Lain-lain: _____

BAHAGIAN B: KESELAMATAN LINGKUNGAN

1. Apakah status keselamatan dalam lingkungan anda?
 Selamat Tidak Selamat
2. Apakah bentuk ancaman keselamatan dalam lingkungan anda?
 Bencana Alam Kebakaran
 Kriminal/Keganasan Lain: _____
3. Berapa kerapkah ancaman keselamatan dalam lingkungan anda berlaku?
 Seminggu sekali Sebulan sekali
 Setahun sekali Lain: _____
4. Apakah usaha bagi memastikan keselamatan lingkungan anda terjamin?
 Wujudkan Jawatankuasa Keselamatan
 Mendapatkan sokongan luar
 Lain: _____

BAHAGIAN C: BENCANA & KESELAMATAN

1. Apakah jenis bencana yang anda pernah alami?
 Banjir Tanah Runtuh Lain: _____
 Air Pasang Ribut/Taufan

2. Menurut anda, apakah bencana yang mengancam nyawa?
 Banjir Tanah Runtuh Lain: _____
 Air Pasang Ribut/Taufan

3. Apakah kesan daripada bencana tersebut?
 Kerosakan Harta Benda Kemalangan/Kecederaan Lain: _____
 Hilang Punca Pendapatan Trauma/Gangguan Emosi

4. Apakah tindakan anda ketika menghadapi bencana?
 Berpindah Lain: _____
 Mencari Perlindungan

5. Adakah anda mengetahui cara menghadapi bencana (pra-bencana)?
 Ya Tidak

6. Bagaimanakah anda mengetahui cara menghadapi bencana (jika di atas, Ya)
 Latihan oleh Agensi Latihan oleh NGO
 Spontan Lain: _____

7. Adakah anda mengetahui cara menghadapi pasca-bencana?
 Ya Tidak

8. Bagaimanakah anda mengetahui cara menghadapi bencana (jika di atas, Ya)
 Latihan oleh Agensi Latihan oleh NGO
 Secara Semula Jadi Lain: _____

KK/PUSATKAJIANCAHAYA/CS2023

9. Siapakah golongan paling terancam ketika bencana?
() Warga Emas () Kanak-Kanak () OKU
() Lain: _____
10. Bagaimanakah anda mengurus emosi/trauma pasca bencana?
() Sesi Kaunseling () Bantuan Psikososial
() Sokongan Keluarga () Lain: _____
11. Apakah sokongan yang anda perlukan sebelum menghadapi bencana?
() Latihan persiapan bencana () Bantuan bekalan asas
() Lain: _____



Picture 2.0- Research at Cahaya Learning Centre (CLC)



Picture 2.1- Research at Teratak Ilmu



Picture 2.3- Research at Cita Budi



Picture 2.4- Research at Opak Lestari



Picture 2.5- Research at CLC Kuari 3

Disclaimer:

The organization will not be held liable if the image is used without the consent of the original owner. Any personal use of the material is strictly prohibited and the organization has the right to take appropriate action if a third party uses the material without permission.



Contact:

Pertubuhan Pendidikan Anak Cahaya Sabah
(Cahaya Society)

Lot 2, First Floor, Block D, Bandar Ramai-
Ramai, Leila Road, 90000, Sandakan, Sabah

www.cahayasociety.org
cahayasociety@gmail.com
089-666915