

RESILIENT CITIES

Future Cities
Research Institute



VISION

How to make cities as well as communities and citizens more resilient, agile and adaptable to climate change and other global challenges



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RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Open, Transparent, Reflective, Inclusive, People-centric



image: ggoss.org



image: idrr.cbm.org

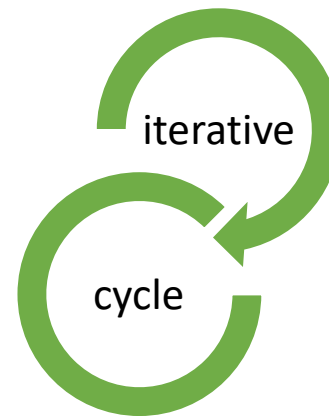


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Resilient Cities Theme

Future Cities
Research Institute



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Lancaster University



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Understanding Senior Citizens' Needs During
Disaster Response
(UNDERSTAND)



Specialised diets, medicine, and medical care (Fernandez et al. 2002)

Less tolerant to change (Durant Jr 2011)





Objectives

To identify the senior citizens' needs in order to optimise the design and enhance the performance of urban disaster management in Malaysia

To help build an equitable and age-inclusive disaster-resilient urban space for the ageing population

Photo Contest

Workshops

Focus Group Interviews

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

DISASTERS IN MALAYSIA

Are you aware of the natural disasters that are happening in Malaysia? Future Cities Research Institute (FCRI) Resilient Cities Project is calling for impactful photographs of natural disasters in Malaysia (eg: flood, landslide, tsunami). Winning photographs will be exhibited at FCRI virtual exhibition.

DEADLINE EXTENDED: 10 MAY 2022

PRIZE:
Grand prize (RM500x1)
1st Runner up (RM300x1)
2nd Runner up (RM200x1)
Consolation (RM50 x 30)

SCAN HERE for submission details



Senior citizens who are flood survivors

Key stakeholders working on disaster management and response

Findings – Elderly Flood Survivors

I didn't want to evacuate unless necessary

*'Many didn't think the water would rise.'
'there were 8 cats, I can't be taking them to other people's place.'*

I panic

*'We were all confused and couldn't understand the situation.'
'Many uncontactable. Didn't know whether anyone left, or anyone stayed . There are those that died. There were a lot of things.'*

I need assistance to evacuate

*'I paralysed, stayed on the bed, the water was rising more and more. No help.'
'My son paddled sampan (to rescue me)'
'My grandson brought me and their grandpa out of the house.'
'We didn't see them (government) at the first sight and they only came after a few days, which was useless.'*

I was afraid

*'This is the first time I was so afraid at such an old age.'
'They (NGOs) gave us happiness. There was singing and a dinner party for us. They gave us [food] to eat and brought something for us to use. They are very experienced so that we can forget our worries.'*

I need financial help

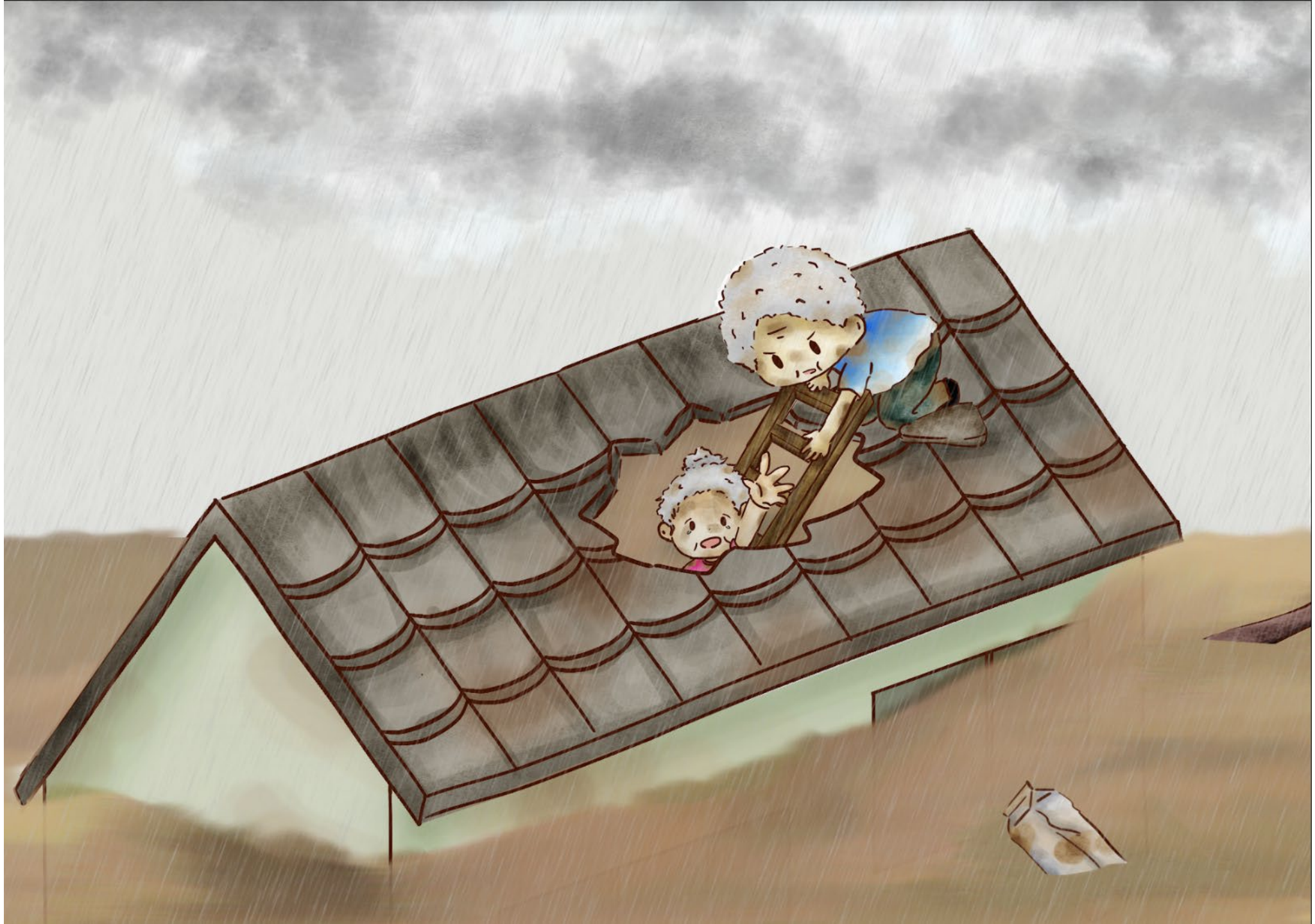
*'A total of nearly 40,000 was spent. This was the worst time of my life.'
'Even the insurance company didn't entertain me. Until now.'*

I need assistance to clean-up my house

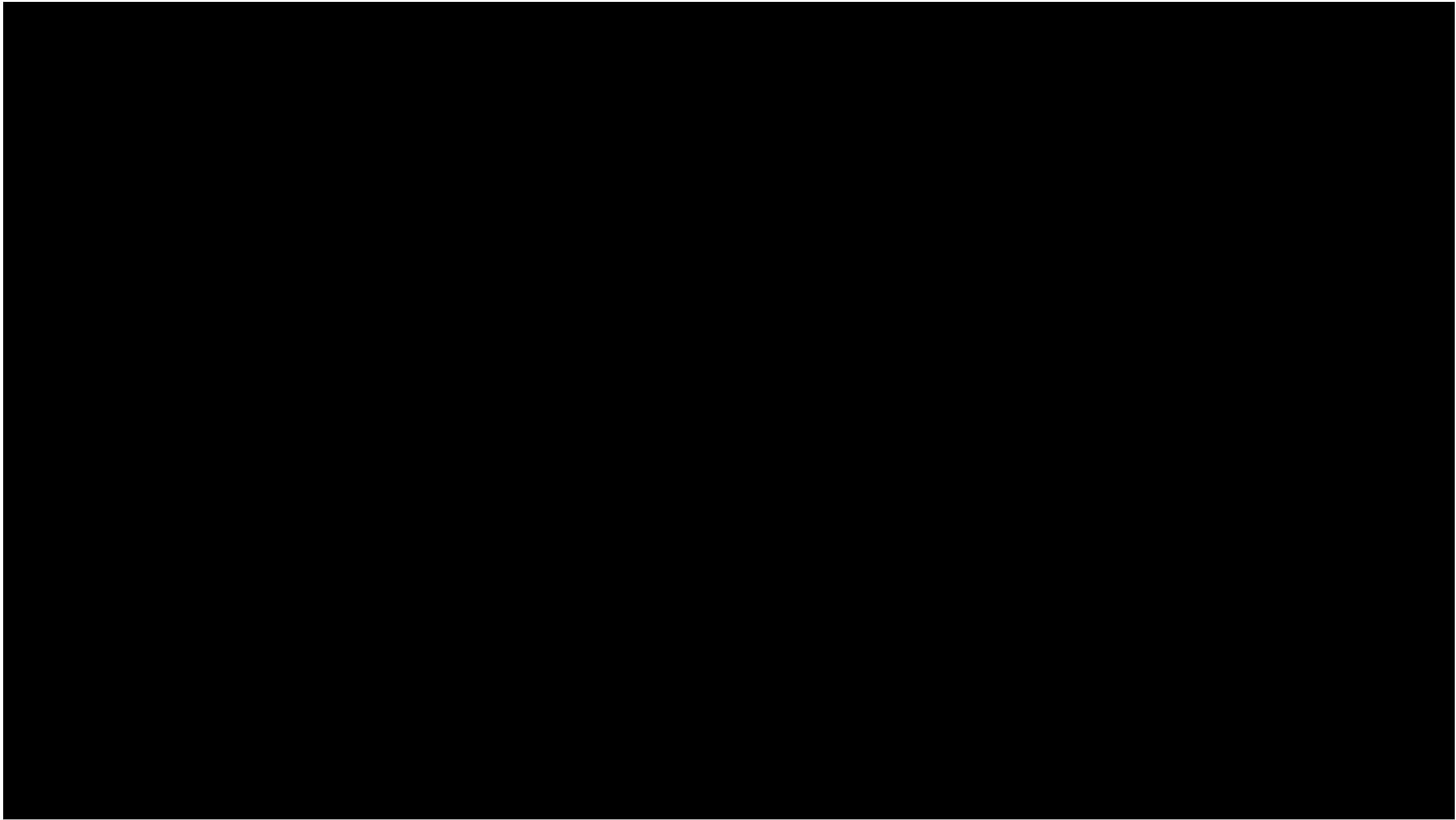
'People from the Buddhist Temple came to help me wash the floors, cleaning and packing.'

Our community's bond is strengthened

*'This time, there was no difference between the three major ethnic groups. Everyone was holding hands, and we kept holding hands across this bridge, that bridge.'
'We don't see any people from the government, only the people.'*







Findings – Disaster Response Operators

Government

No disaster response policy made specifically for senior citizens; hence, dependency to community leader

'These communities, under the (community head), will identify who falls under the priority category ... "bomba" (fire fighters) gives priority to these categories to rescue them earlier during floods with the help of (community head)... will point towards which house to go first that falls under the priority category.'

The Challenges

- 1) Low community preparedness (esp. areas that have never been flooded)
- 2) Large scale flood overload rescue operations
- 3) Interrupted communication network during disaster
- 4) Government responders communicate among themselves, no effective communication channel between the government and NGOs

NGOs

Elderly are not the first to be cared for

'Truth be told, while we talk about the importance of the elderly in an emergency, normally, they will not be the first to be cared for.'

The Challenges

- 1) Low community preparedness
- 2) Elderly refuse to evacuate
 - 'Their memories are tied to a location, when you take them out, they will be very confused because they are leaving a place of comfort.'*
 - 'They also mentioned that they would want to die in their own house if it comes to that.'*
- 3) Medical condition and malnutrition among elderly
 - 'They may have some medical conditions. And when you are stuck without enough food and water, delusion sets in.'*
- 4) Lack of training
 - 'The elderly for us were tougher because we did not have the experience to help them evacuate.'*

Findings – Disaster Response Operators

Government

We need a Targeted Rescue-Plan

'Targeted-approach allows us to know who we should rescue first. For example, we focus first on the houses at low-level ground, then the houses that have elderly residents. We also need to categorize the elderly – Healthy or not? Bedridden or not? Living alone? Living with elderly spouse? ... So, the way is to have weighted criteria.'

NGOs

We need a Targeted Rescue-Plan

'we try to help as many people near the area of our drop-off point. It would be more effective that way when compared to patrolling the entire residential area.'

We need to have Government-NGOs cooperation

'We need to have systems in place to streamline things faster. But there is a reason why (government) prohibits NGOs from stepping in, because they say we do not have the capacity. But that is the reason why we need their help to allow us to have that capacity.'

We need to create awareness and build the elderly capacity at the local level

'The conversation must start with the right group of elderly. Teach the active aging people first. Then we continue from there. Engage at the lowest level first.'

Conclusion

Better coordination
among all disaster
response
organizations

Improve local
community
preparedness

Need targeted
approach

Cheering up the elderly is as
important as providing
necessities during disaster
response