

Public risk perceptions of climate change and disasters in the Philippines

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Climate change

- ▶ Climate change is threatening the earth's ecosystems and human communities worldwide:



Health



Agriculture



Water supply



Economy



Increase in disasters

Problem statement



The burning of fossil fuels



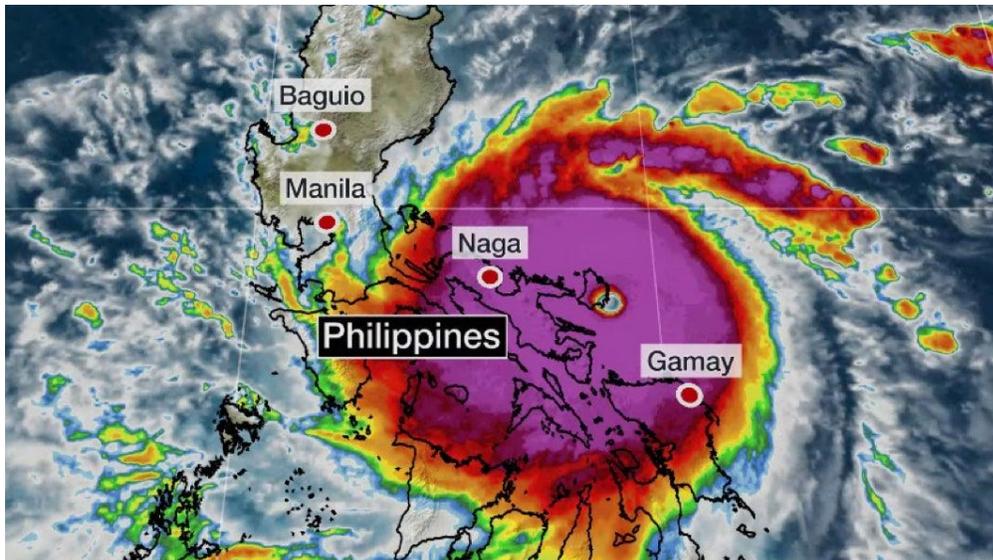
The pollution of the ocean



Deforestation

Why this research topic?

- ▶ The Philippines is the third-most vulnerable country to climate change and one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world.



Research questions

1

- **What are the public risk perceptions of climate change and disasters in the Philippines?**

2

- **How can we improve disaster risk management in the Philippines?**

Methodology

- ▶ **Online survey**
- ▶ **Experts and citizens**
- ▶ **People who have lived in the Philippines for more than 1 year and currently live in the Philippines.**
- ▶ **Objective to collect data on public risk perceptions, with a main focus on climate change and disasters → typhoons in the past 2 years (Typhoon Goni and Rai).**
- ▶ **Snowball sampling method**
- ▶ **Data analysis: Atlas.ti**

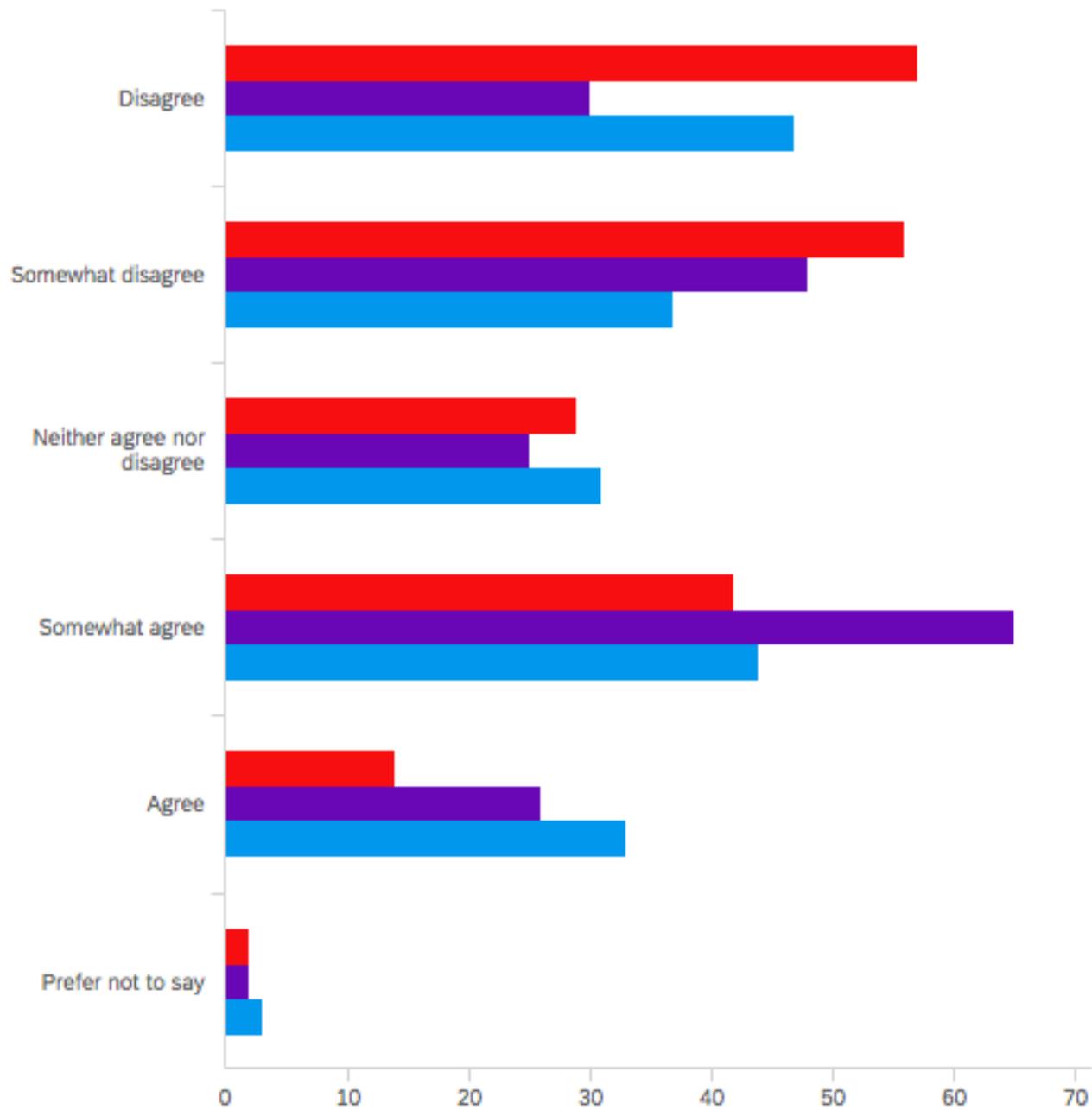
Importance of public risk perceptions

- ▶ **Understanding public risk perceptions to know why people take certain actions or not regarding climate change and disaster risk preparedness.**
- ▶ **Risk perceptions are influenced by: previous exposure to disasters, personal experiences, news media and policymakers.**
- ▶ **Evidence that policymakers can use to design awareness raising strategies, make informed policy decisions and improve disaster risk management to build resilience.**

Results

What are people's risk perceptions of climate change and disasters in the Philippines?

- ▶ **Out of 234 respondents, 85% live in the Philippines and 62% live in an area affected by disasters.**
- ▶ **85% perceive climate change as an emergent problem as it leads to more disasters.**
- ▶ **Results imply that people are concerned when they think of (80%) climate change and (92%) disasters.**
- ▶ **People believe that climate change will lead to a higher frequency of (34%) floods and (35%) typhoons in the future.**
- ▶ **Fearful as climate change has a negative impact on their community and the economy.**



- There is good disaster risk management in the Philippines
- Inhabitants are evacuated on time when there is a disaster
- I trust the government to tackle climate change and disaster-related issues

Results

1) Disaster risk management

28% disagree that there is good disaster risk management.

- ▶ **55% did not receive any support, those who did: relief goods, food and financial aid.**

2) Early warning systems

- ▶ **39% somewhat agree that inhabitants are evacuated on time.**
- ▶ **95% mention they have been warned about typhoons, days before the typhoon.**

3) The government

- ▶ **24% does not trust the government to tackle climate change and disaster-related issues.**
- ▶ **“learned how to be self-reliant”; “no support from the government”; “lack concrete programs to manage it effectively”; “too focused on enriching themselves”...**

Policy recommendations

- ▶ **“The government should take the issue of climate change more seriously and respond faster”**
- ▶ **“Always prepare” and “inform people”**
- ▶ **“Educating the public on climate change and disaster risk preparedness”**
- ▶ **“More sustainable actions”**
- ▶ **“Ensure more advanced forecasting tools in disaster risk management”**
- ▶ **“Ensure better implementation of policies” and “adapt to climate change”**
- ▶ **“We need more volunteers” and “citizens and policymakers should take action”**

Conclusion: take home message

- ▶ **We are responsible for the future of this planet.**
- ▶ **Your voice and actions matter.**
- ▶ **Reduce eco-anxiety: from fear to hope.**





Thank you for listening

Any questions?