

# Interdisciplinary Pressure Cooker Event on Risk Communication

## Evaluation Report

*Understanding Risk 2018, Mexico*



**Organised by:**



**With financial support from:**



# Executive Summary

Many young researchers and professionals work in silos within their own disciplines and lack opportunities to think about how scientific information can be communicated to those who need it most. Improving risk communication will maximize the use of available scientific knowledge and encourage users to take more risk-informed decisions. New interdisciplinary training and capacity-building approaches are needed to develop applied tools and techniques for risk communication that integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines such as risk modeling, environmental and social science, media and communications, urban planning, information and communications technology, and community engagement.

## What Did We Do?

The Water Youth Network (WYN) and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), with support from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), FM Global, and NASA, organized the Interdisciplinary Risk Communication Pressure Cooker event at UR2018. Thirty-five young professionals and researchers, representing 13 countries and a range of disciplines, came together at this event to address risk communication challenges in the Mexican municipalities of Iztapalapa in Mexico City and Dzilam de Bravo in Yucatán. The challenges were prepared collaboratively by the organizers, local-level stakeholders, Mexican-based researchers, and a team of mentors composed of different topic-specific specialists. The event aimed to build the capacity of these young professionals and researchers to work across disciplines and co-develop innovative risk communication solutions.

## What Were the Outcomes?

*The event produced new insights into designing interdisciplinary solutions and enabling interdisciplinary teamwork.* It allowed participants to jointly develop solutions and gave them the opportunity to express ideas based on their discipline-specific expertise. The event helped participants step outside their comfort zone, although the time constraint kept some participants (e.g., environmental scientists and engineers) from contributing their ideas in depth. Even so, participants were able to develop interdisciplinary solutions and propose risk communication outputs for real issues facing the study areas.

*The event helped build a community of young professionals and researchers on risk communication who think differently about working with other disciplines.* The participants exchanged experiences with their peers from different disciplines across the world. The community has now partly been absorbed into the Water Youth Network Disaster Risk Reduction team and will continue to engage with the Understanding Risk Community.

*The event gave participants opportunities to apply their new skills in local contexts across the world.* The participants gained new knowledge of the wide variety of risk communication mechanisms available, built interdisciplinary teamwork skills, and learned to make the target audience central to the process of designing a communication approach.

“We sometimes forgot to make use of these different backgrounds.” —*Urban planner, Germany*

“One of the really valuable aspects of this event will be the network that has been created, which I have no doubt will be an incredibly useful resource to all of us in the future.” —*Environmental scientist, United Kingdom*

“I will think a lot more about who my audience is, and how I can tailor my ideas (and my presentation of those ideas) to my specific audience and their own backgrounds, interests, and concerns.” —*Civil engineer, United States*

### **What Did We Learn for Future Events?**

*Trust youth—and let them lead.* This event was designed and implemented by a team of young professionals with support and guidance from experienced mentors. The youth organizations rose to the occasion to deliver innovative and creative content that inspired both peer-to-peer and intergenerational learning. Providing youthful participants and organizers with funding, trust, and space will ensure similar events in the future.

*Strengthen interdisciplinary participation.* The event showed that some disciplines are more difficult to engage than others; there were comparatively few applications from creative disciplines (e.g., the arts, graphic design) and community engagement specialists.

*Provide context for real-life challenges.* Real-life case studies were selected; case study specialists were available to guide teams; and a post-event field trip was arranged to one of the case study areas. Teams should be provided with as much local contextual information as possible to develop meaningful solutions.

*Time constraints affect outputs.* The event was designed as an intense 24-hour pressure cooker. This created strong relationships between the participants, but did not allow for very detailed solutions.

### **Thank you!**

We want to say a special thank you to NERC, FM Global, NASA, and others for funding youth participation at this event, and to all the support mentors, case study specialists, and volunteers who helped to make the event a success.

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# Introduction

The field of disaster risk reduction is inherently interdisciplinary in all its aspects. This becomes more apparent in risk communication, a field of research and practice cutting across social, behavioural, and natural sciences, technology and practice. Although there is a growing body of data and expertise in understanding, monitoring and predicting risk from environmental hazards much of this data and expertise does not reach the individuals, communities and organisations who can use it to communicate and manage risks. These investments in monitoring, research and capability can only achieve their full potential value if disaster risks are communicated effectively, empowering individuals and groups to pursue the risk-informed development options that are best for them. However, effectively communicating risk information to affected communities and local-level stakeholders is one of the biggest challenges faced by researchers and practitioners, including those in Mexico.

Young professionals and researchers rarely have an opportunity to think differently about traditional science, share their innovative ideas on risk communication and learn from peers from different educational and professional backgrounds, and geographical settings. They require new training and capacity building to work across disciplines and develop applied tools and techniques that integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines such as risk modelling, environmental science, social science, media and communications, urban planning, ICT and community engagement. Furthermore, the young generation of today are experiencing the changing dynamics of communication and technology offering huge potential to develop innovative solutions on risk communication.

For this reason, the [Water Youth Network \(WYN\)](#) and [Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery \(GFDRR\)](#), with support from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), FM Global and NASA, organised the Interdisciplinary Pressure Cooker Event on Risk Communication during the 2018 [Understanding Risk Forum](#) in Mexico City on May 14th and 15th, 2018.

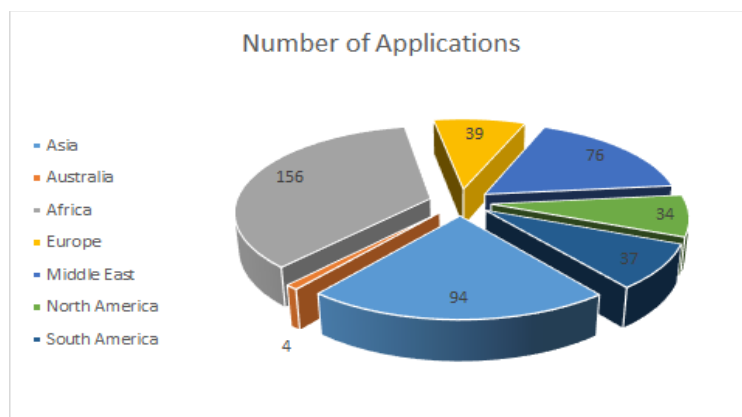
The event was designed with an underlying idea that bringing together young professionals and researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds could offer new innovative insights and creative perspectives to develop effective risk communication strategies tailored to the users' needs. The event additionally aimed to build capacity of these young professionals and researchers to work across disciplines under 'pressure' and co-develop solutions.

# What did we do?

The Risk Communication Pressure Cooker event at the [Understanding Risk Forum](#) successfully brought together 35 young professionals and researchers from different disciplines and 13 countries to work on existing risk communication challenges in the Mexican municipalities of Iztapalapa, Mexico City and Dzilam de Bravo, Yucatan. The full programme for the event can be found in [Annex 1](#).

## Participant selection

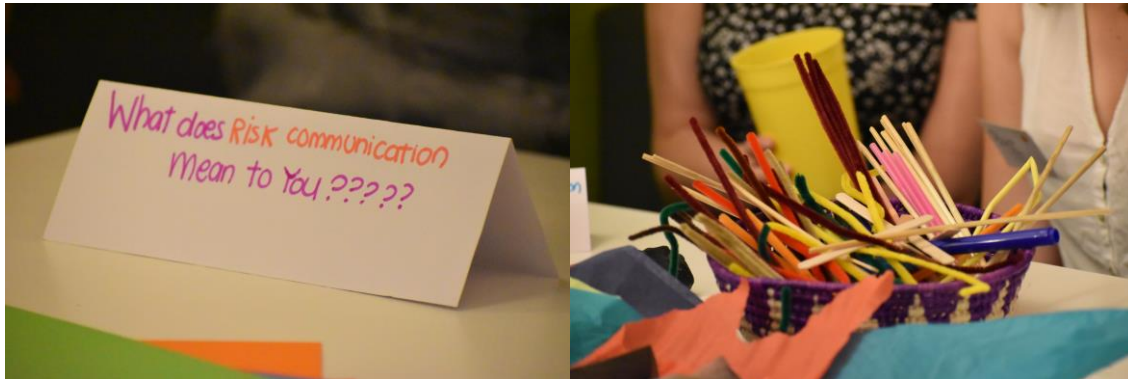
The event received 440 applications from 74 countries. There were 156 applicants from African Countries, 39 from Europe, 94 from Asia, 76 from Middle-East, 34 from North America, 37 from South America and 4 applicants from Australia. The applications were initially screened to remove ineligible applicants. A team of WYN reviewers then completed a first review by scoring each applicant twice (two different reviewers) based on the level of experience and motivation. Those scoring 7 points or above (out of a possible 10 points) went through to stage two. The applications were then grouped into those that were eligible for each funding organisation - FM Global, NERC and NASA; and participants that were self-funded. The funding organisations made the final decision about the applicants they would fund upon agreement with the WYN review team. All self-funded applicants who met the threshold were offered a place. The WYN team checked for regional, gender and disciplinary diversity.



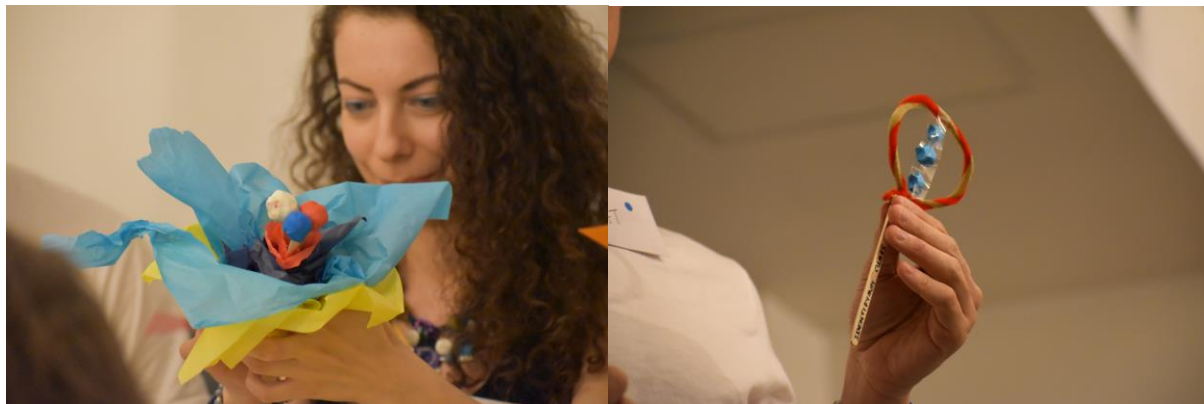
38 applicants were offered a place in the event and due to unforeseen circumstances three applicants withdrew their applications. Additionally due to last minute travel and visa circumstances, three further participants could not physically join the event, however, they did still participate remotely and thus the number of participants remains at 35. The participants represented 13 different countries. Unfortunately, funding constraints and limited space made it difficult to enable participation from African youth. The gender split was 60% female and 40% male. The original balance was 50:50 but due to the withdrawn male applications this led to a 60:40 split. A list of the 35 participants and their affiliations can be seen in [Annex 2](#).

## Creative networking

The event started on Sunday (13th May) with a preparatory creative networking activity where participants were asked to portray a tangible output (e.g. sculpture) that represented what risk communication meant to them. They were provided with creative materials and asked to create something about the meaning of risk communication for them.



The participants were then split into five different disciplinary teams at different tables - risk modellers and engineers, social sciences, environmental sciences, urban planners and designers, and media and communication specialists. Starting at one table and discipline, each participant was asked to explain their creation to the group.



Interestingly the participants showed their relatively common understanding of risk communication by highlighting the importance of focusing on people and keeping the messages simple and clear to be easily understandable. It felt like the participants were well prepared to take on the challenge and shared a common understanding about what risk communication is. There were some interesting differences between the participants' creations.

This exercise helped the participants to get to know each other before the real challenge began the following Monday morning (14th May) and helped them to identify the different disciplinary backgrounds, which contribute to effective risk communication. The participants expressed their feelings before the event in a short video [here](#).

## 24-hour Pressure Cooker event

### The People

Participants were split into 5 teams, following discipline, gender and regional balance; and each team was presented with a unique challenge, based on case studies from Iztapalapa (Mexico City) and Dzilam De Bravo (Yucatan) in Mexico. Both Iztapalapa (see [here](#)) and Dzilam de Bravo (see [here](#)) are multi-hazardous locations with a mix of hydro-meteorological and geological hazards. They also both have high levels of poverty and a history of activities that contribute to significant levels of vulnerability to such hazards leading to significant damage, loss, and disruption to infrastructure, housing and consequently the local economy. In such complex situations, development of risk communication strategies is a complex task.

### The Challenges

Each team was presented with a slightly different challenge based on their selected case study. See example below for Team 1 focusing on flood prone households in Iztapalapa. The other challenge in Iztapalapa included households in the fracturing zone (Team 2) and households facing resettlements processes (Team 3). In Dzilam de Bravo, the challenges focused on households that are dependent on the fishing industry (Team 4) and schools (Team 5).

#### Example Challenge

*Your team has been hired by a local government office in **Iztapalapa** for a research consultancy to come up with a risk communication strategy including outputs targeted at **households located in the flooding zone** of Iztapalapa. As a part of your communication strategy you will need to develop an output tailored specifically for a selected vulnerable sub-target group.*

The challenges were prepared through a collaborative process including the organisers, local-level stakeholders, Mexican-based researchers, and team of mentors composed of different topic-specific specialists.

### The Task

In considering their challenges and developing their solutions, the teams followed three main iterative steps:

1. Understanding the risk context and audience at risk
  - Review case study sheets to understand the risk and context
  - Understand the audience by developing audience profiles for the target group specifically highlighting their characteristics and relationship with risk, making assumptions as needed.
  - Agree on one vulnerable sub-target group within households (e.g. low income, disabled)



2. Identifying the expected outcomes and impact of the proposed risk communication strategy
  - Outline “big” long term changes you want to influence (long term impact)
  - Outline the smaller changes that need to happen for the big changes to occur (short and/or medium terms outcomes)
  - Be specific about the expected changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices/ actions.
3. Detailed development of a risk communication strategy
  - List possible communication outputs (focusing on challenges and key message/channel characteristics)
  - Think about how these connect to your audience profile and their expected behaviour change
  - Decide on the most appropriate output

The teams had to produce a 4 page document outlining their risk communication strategy and submit this at 4am on Tuesday May 15th . Their final task was to prepare a presentation for the judging committee at 9am the next day.

### **The Day....and Night**

The day started with presentations from each of the case study specialists followed by a detailed presentation on the three step process. Each team was given an information pack including their challenge brief, detailed information about the case study, and copies of the key presentation slides. Each team was coached by an early career researcher to motivate and support as required throughout the 24 hours, but they were not leading the team.



During the 24 hours, at predefined time slots, teams had an opportunity to receive feedback from case study specialists (i.e. local-level stakeholders and/or researchers working in the case study areas), risk communication specialists, and topic-specific specialists (i.e., on risk modelling, data science, urban planning, and risk preparedness). The participants learned about communities at risk through pre-conducted interviews - see [here](#) for Iztapalapa. The feedback sessions ensured that the solutions developed were informed by the state-of-the-art science

and practice, but also representative of the local needs. There were two observers who watched the teams closely taking notes on the interdisciplinary working process for academic purposes. See [Annex 3](#) for a list of coaches, topic specific specialists and observers that supported the teams.



## Judging risk communication strategies

After almost 24 hours of intense work, the teams got an opportunity to present their risk communication strategy to a panel of judges, including Simone Balog-Way (GFDRR), Lisa Robinson (BBC Media Action), John Rees (NERC, British Geological Survey), Louis Gritz (FM Global), Sandra Cauffman (NASA), Emilio Alejandro Berny Brandt (National Autonomous University of Mexico), and Luis Eduardo Perez Ortiz Cancino (Iztapalapa Municipality Department of Civil Protection).



The teams were judged based on the following criteria:

- Decision-making process
- Identification of expected outcomes and impact
- Appropriateness of output for target audience(s) and aims (outcomes and impact)
- Originality, creativity and innovation
- Clarity of documentation and presentation
- Applicability

Each team presented for 10 minutes and were challenged by the judges for 10 minutes of questioning. The judges had an evaluation form in which they scored each criteria. Following the presentation, the judging committee convened with coaches and observers to discuss the results. After much deliberation, they decided on a winner.

The winning team, Team 5, named itself S.A.F.E.R (Servicio Actualizado de Formación para Escuelas Resilientes). As the team focusing on schools in Dzilam de Bravo, they developed a guide to risk communication tailored to teachers of children aged 9-12. The team designed fun and educational ways to integrate risk communication into regular subjects such as making a neighborhood flood map for a geography lesson. The details of their approach can be read in their final document [here](#). The winning team presented their strategy during a technical session organized by NASA and ImageCat at the main UR forum called [Communicating Earth Observation Data: A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Actions](#).

An additional prize was awarded to the team that showed the best way of interdisciplinary working. This was awarded to Team 2, the team focusing on households affected by fractures and subsidence in Mexico City. Their team showed very strong connection, dialogue and full utilisation of the different disciplines of their team members. Their solution can be found [here](#).

The outcome documents from the three remaining teams are linked here: Team 1 - flooding in Iztapalapa (see [here](#)), Team 3 - resettlement in Iztapalapa (see [here](#)), and Team 4 - coastal flooding in Dzilam de Bravo (see [here](#)).





## Field visit

An additional part of the event was an organised visit to Iztapalapa Department of Civil Protection so the participants could learn more about risk communication practice on the ground. The group arrived at Iztapalapa to find that the earthquake warning system had just been triggered by a M5.3 earthquake to the south west of CDMX. The group got a demonstration of the earthquake monitoring and reporting systems with the Mexican Seismic Alert System (SASMEX) map, using the event that had just occurred. In addition to monitoring seismic activity through a network of sensors through Mexico, SASMEX can also broadcast alerts and warnings.

Earthquakes are just one of the risks in Iztapalapa. So Luis Eduardo Perez-Ortiz, Director of Civil Protection for the municipality, continued the tour by showing the control room for the Iztapalapa Multiple Early Warning System (SMAT). The busy room contained a mix of civil protection workers and police, manning desks in front of a wall of monitors. These displays showed a range of information, including a SASMEX display. It was explained (and demonstrated via one of the wall displays) how WhatsApp groups were used in Iztapalapa both to communicate with the public (giving information and alerts) and to create a dialogue for people to report potential problems that may exacerbate the risks from natural hazards. For example, subsidence and ground fissures in the area can crack buildings, making them more susceptible to damage in earthquakes, while litter and blocked drains can aggravate flooding.

To increase awareness of natural hazard risks and the SMAT warnings, a mobile education truck has been developed. The truck combines a mobile classroom with a flood warning system demonstration. So far, it has had an estimated 20,000 users from across Iztapalapa who learn about the meteorological and geographical basis of natural hazards, the damage they cause and actions that can be taken. A series of posters accompany these presentations and link to the SMAT warning system, covering six stages of warning and preparation in the event of heavy rains as well as guidance on specific actions, such as taking shelter, keeping drains clear, and preparing emergency bags.





Having started in the control room, the visit was concluded in the home of Margarita, a local resident. Located on a street especially prone to flooding, with house doors located below the level of the road, her home was being used to trial metal flood barriers that could be fitted into doorways. Her roof was also the site of SMAT warning speakers, which are used throughout Iztapalapa to broadcast messages (such as those demonstrated on the truck) across the municipality in an emergency.



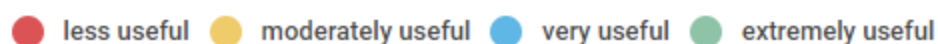
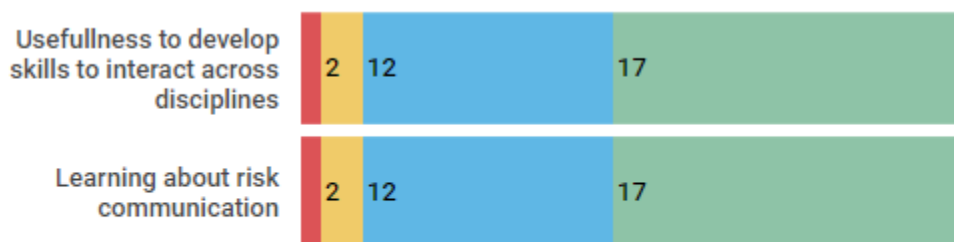
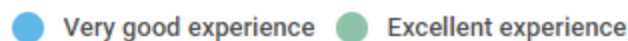
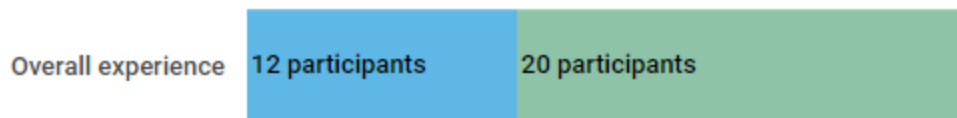
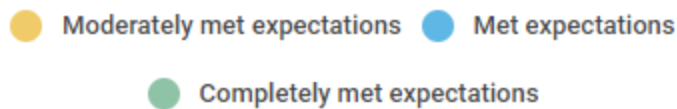
A short overview of the whole Pressure Cooker event can be watched [here](#).

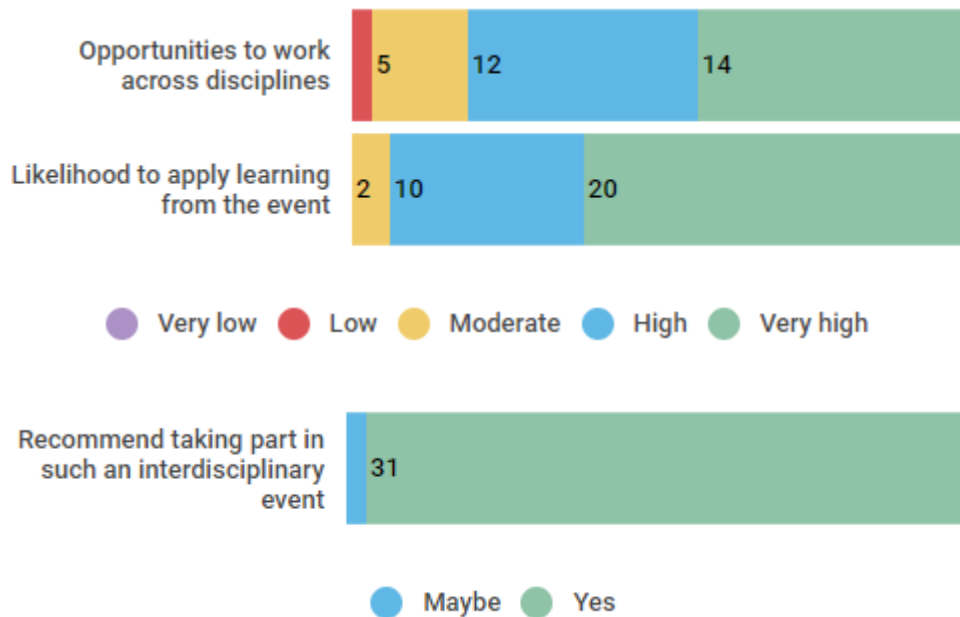
# What were the outcomes for participants?

Based on the feedback from the survey of 32 participants, their overall experience was very positive and their expectations for the event were successfully met, as highlighted in the figures presented below.

Based on the feedback results, the following three key outcomes were identified for the participants and are further discussed in this section.

- Improved capacity building on interdisciplinary teamwork
- Forming an interdisciplinary community of young professionals and researchers on risk communication
- Gaining opportunities for apply new skills in their local contexts





### **Interdisciplinary teamwork**

Bringing together interdisciplinary teams proved very beneficial for participants to learn more about teamwork.

- It allowed participants to think of many different risk communication outputs that they couldn't have thought about individually.
- Participants learnt from the intense process of working together with different disciplines and how to take into account their points of view to complement each other.
- It taught participants how to listen to each other's ideas and think about how to integrate different perspectives.
- They learned how to manage individual personalities to optimise collaboration.

*"The balance between listening and debating vs making the decision"* Environmental Scientist, USA

*"I would try to maximize the specific skills of every team member by distributing more focused tasks"* Engineer, Mexico

*"Learning how to manage the 'alpha' and 'omega's within the team - how can every member be proactive and participative all throughout despite the differences in personality/character, how a group can agree/disagree when it comes to generating ideas and doing it in a healthy and professional manner"* Urban Planner, Philippines

The inter-disciplinary teamwork challenged participants to:

- Interpret language and terminology used by different disciplines
- Balance the focus on individual skill-sets and maximise the use of them. Even though the challenge outcome was communication, the natural sciences should have been utilised to a greater extent to identify the natural science that needs to be communicated.
- Stay focused on the outputs. All teams converged to a similar community focused participatory approach, potentially due to a lack of focus on the expected communication output and inclusion of the natural science related aspects.
- Work under time pressure. The limited time meant that the teams didn't have as much space for challenging ideas from different disciplines - there was a sense of 'letting go'.

*"I think that the best of all was to see how my colleagues thought about the different possible solutions. There were different approaches (technical, artistic, mass communication, etc). In that sense I think that I learned some different ways to approach a problem."* Social scientist, Mexico

*"Sometimes it was frustrating as the project ideas were not always relevant to my expertise but I guess that was the point of the exercise."* Environmental Scientist, UK

*"It would have been helpful to have a reminder to keep thinking from the perspective of your own discipline, because even though we all came together, we sometimes forgot a bit to make use of these different backgrounds."* Media and Journalism Specialist, Germany

*"Despite mixed teams the fact that many of us took a similar approach was interesting. I wonder if the challenge of risk 'communication' rather than broader risk management gave more scope for social oriented disciplines to take the lead."* Social Scientist, UK

*"It surprised me how open "hard" scientists were to the softer ideas, and how necessary it is to bring these two points of view together."* Urban Planner, Argentina

### ***Forming an inter-disciplinary community of young professionals on risk communication***

It was very evident that the participants formed strong bonds with the other participants and supporting mentors throughout the course of the event.

- The participants exchanged experiences with other participants and learned new perspectives from different disciplines on risk communication and deepened their knowledge on risk communication strategies.
- The participants enjoyed interacting in a dynamic, energetic, friendly and casual environment, while appreciating the committed nature of their fellow participants and organising team.
- Having the event at the beginning of the UR conference meant that they had a strong groups of friends to engage with throughout the main UR conference. There was a sense of community and togetherness after the 24 hours.



*"We all became such fast friends, teammates, and colleagues -- that was the best part!"*  
Environmental Scientist, USA

*"One of the really valuable aspects of this event will be the network that has been created, which I have no doubt will be an incredibly useful resource to all of us in the future."*  
Environmental Scientist, UK

*"Being with everyone in this shared experience and coming out on the other side was a great feeling."* Social Scientist, USA

*"I feel blessed to be surrounded by such an amazing group of intellectuals and yet are bounded by a common passion and a mission to help the world better understand risk"* Urban Planner, Philippines

### **Applying the lessons and new skills in their own context**

- The participants expressed interest in testing and implementing the new interdisciplinary insights into risk communication in their own countries.
- There is a sense that participants are now more open to risk communication solutions that are not strictly science based and learned to think about how to improve their communication with scientists to get the information they need.
- Participants expressed interest in involving other disciplines in their project work and their ability to now be more conscious of the different approaches by different disciplines.
- The participants put a lot of effort into understanding their target audience (persona) and in the future they will think more about tailoring risk communication solutions to that audience.

*"Involve risk communication as a process and not a product!"* Environmental Scientist, Colombia

*"I'll actively seek to include people from other disciplines in my projects"* Data Specialist, Poland

*"I will spend more time thinking from the user perspective and returning to the user personas."*  
Environmental Scientist, New Zealand

*"I also will think a lot more about who my audience is, and how I can tailor my ideas (and my presentation of those ideas) to my specific audience and their own backgrounds, interests, and concerns"* Engineer, USA

*Picturing the people we were talking in the study case, so we never forgot that even though it was an hypothetical challenge, it was real people."* Engineer, Mexico

# What did we learn for future inter-disciplinary events?

**Developing interdisciplinary teams.** The quality of the applications received will determine the organisers' ability to craft perfectly interdisciplinary teams. Every effort was made to have at least one representative from 5 different disciplines. However, it was very challenging to find strong applications from those with creative skills e.g. designers. Furthermore, there were limited applications from those who had extensive experience working directly with communities. Many of the participants reflected on this and requested more participation from these disciplines.

- ★ Place additional effort in ensuring participation by creative disciplines and community specialists - foster stronger links with NGO's and design-focused universities

**Developing diverse teams.** The selection committee made every effort to ensure a diversity of participants from a gender perspective. However, the ability to select geographically diverse participants was challenging. The funders (FM Global, NERC) could only fund participants from specific countries. So the event had participants from very specific countries, with zero fully-funded participants from Africa and East Asia. Fortunately, some self-funded participants from these regions provided more diversity. But this will not always be the case. The committee recognized that geographic diversity would be challenging. However, due to time and funding constraints, the committee felt it was more important to get people into the room rather than spending a lot of time pushing the funders to expand their geographic requirements.

- ★ Understand from the beginning the limitations and flexibility of potential funders
- ★ If doing these events at UR, work with the World Bank to identify if they are sponsoring young professionals from their client countries. *Note: often the WB will not know about these individuals until much closer to the event, potentially making it more difficult to create teams.*
- ★ Identify and approach potential funders early on and explain the importance of geographic diversity
- ★ Understand what reporting requirements exist for funders

**Assigning the challenge brief.** It's easy for the teams to go off on tangents and forget the key expectations. This resulted in solutions being quite development project focused rather than solely a risk communication strategy. Furthermore, as the challenge was framed as a communication problem and the teams were expected to really think about the people aspects, the hard sciences felt less of a direct need to engage and thus solutions were less science-

focused. The target groups were broadly defined for the teams but they additionally had to define sub-target groups. Although the participants learned a lot during this process, they spent a considerable amount of time developing these profiles.

- ★ Clarify the brief by bringing the participants back in plenary at specific points during the day and reminding them of the task at hand and giving general pointers on the expectations.
- ★ Emphasise the role of the coaches in reiterating the required task
- ★ Emphasise the need to still include the science and look at how to communicate it
- ★ Find a balance between the level of detail provided in the challenge and time available so as to still enable creativity and not enforcing a template. E.g. provide user profiles. so that gives more time to invest in other aspects of the challenge.
- ★ Work with the coaches on the development of the brief ahead of time.

**Maximise skills of interdisciplinary teams.** Placing emphasis on who the different disciplines are in the group can help make sure each person approaches it from their perspective and not generally. If the participants knew each other better they may have challenged each other and their specific skill-sets more.

- ★ The participants name tags could specifically highlight their disciplines to make it easy for other teammates to remember their strengths.
- ★ A preparatory networking event could introduce the teams such that they already have had time to get to know each other.
- ★ Emphasise the role of the coach to facilitate bringing in the perspectives of different disciplines
- ★ Add in debrief points for discipline specific learnings at specific points during the day and at the end
- ★ If sufficient time is available, spend a portion of time in groups with single disciplines so they agree on how to approach the challenge and then regroup into interdisciplinary teams. This would require one single case study and challenge brief.

**Case study information availability and local context.** Participants were very appreciative of the efforts to ensure the case studies represented real challenges.

*“The coaches were great at keeping us on track and the paperwork was enough to guide us without limiting us. The case studies were well chosen and REAL, it felt like we might be able to make a real difference – much better than working on theoretical situations.”* Environmental Scientist, United Kingdom

However, when developing any case study it is very challenging to find detailed information about the local context. Ideally the more information and engagement with the local stakeholders the better but this is limited by logistical challenges, available contacts, and their willingness to engage. Participants also suggested that the case study specialists could provide more probing and challenging feedback. Furthermore, the field visit was not organised as part of the challenge but for the participants to learn more and reflect. Many participants would have liked this to be part of the challenge and suggested having it before the event. The possibility to do this will be completely dependent on logistics and in our case was not an option.

- ★ If possible, organise a field visit before or during the event.
- ★ Ensure that case study specialists are encouraged to provide challenging feedback and that they also get a chance to develop rapport with each other and a process for providing such feedback to the groups before the feedback sessions begin.

**Managing limited time and physical tiredness.** The pressure cooker event is designed to push participants to their limits under intense time pressure. Many participants found the physical exhaustion challenging, yet managed to deliver their solutions successfully. Ideally the participants would have more time to get over jet-lag before starting the 24 hour event or could engage in a much longer event over a few days. This needs to be decided on a case-by-case basis, evaluating options and dealing with logistical constraints. To reduce the pressure in getting familiar with the case study during the 24 hours some participants suggested being provided with the case study information before the event. The organisers did consider this option but decided against it in order to start the challenge at the same level by all participants.

- ★ Increase the length of the event if possible.
- ★ Provide participants with more information about the event beforehand so they can prepare and make the most out of the short amount of time.
- ★ Assign time on the agenda for longer breaks.





# Towards an interdisciplinary community on risk communication

The Water Youth Network and Understanding Risk communities are committed to keeping this newly generated interdisciplinary community on risk communication alive. The community is not only between the young professionals and researchers but also expands to the wider professionals and academics that supported the event. This is being done in the following ways:

- **WhatsApp group.** The whatsapp group of all the participants created during the event remains active for sharing opportunities and events. The participants have already had several social meet-ups regionally proving the power of the friendships created during the event.
- **Contact details and social media.** Contact details and social media handles have been shared between participants to enable them to contact each other about specific work opportunities as required. There has already been post-UR knowledge exchange visits between the different UK academic institutes to discuss risk communication.
- **WYN Disaster Risk Reduction Team membership.** 23 participants expressed interest in becoming members of the Water Youth Network Disaster Risk Reduction Team. This will enable the WYN to absorb this newfound network of young professionals and researchers on risk communication and introduce them to an existing global network.
- **Follow up WYN activities.** Jointly with the participants the WYN can continue organising capacity building events and projects on risk communication. These will at a minimum include organising another pressure cooker event at Understanding Risk 2020 and utilising the remaining event funds to support local capacity building events or projects.

You can stay updated on blogs published as a result of the event (currently xx) and follow WYNs activity in the Understanding Risk Community [here](#): For those who have not been part of the event but would like to get involved with the WYN DRR team please register [here](#) and email [l.cumiskey@wateryouthnetwork.org](mailto:l.cumiskey@wateryouthnetwork.org). You can find details on how to get involved in the Understanding Risk community [here](#).

## Acknowledgements

Once again a very big thank you to all the organisers, funders, mentors and case study specialists (see list in [Annex 3](#)) that made this an unforgettable and unique event. We are looking forward to the next pressure cooker event!

thank you!

## Annex 1: Programme

# RISK COMMUNICATION PRESSURE COOKER

## DAY 1: MAY 14TH

# PROGRAM

- 09:00 OPENING REMARKS
- 09:20 DRM IN MEXICO
- 09:35 IZTAPALAPA CASE STUDY
- 09:55 DZILAM DE BRAVO CASE STUDY
- 10:15 VIDEOS FROM LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS
- 10:35 ~ COFFEE BREAK & TEAM ALLOCATION ~
- 11:00 RISK COMMUNICATION & CHALLENGE STEPS
- 11:30 WORKING SESSION 1: PROBLEM UNDERSTANDING
- 13:00 ~ LUNCH WITH UR PARTICIPANTS ~
- 14:00 CONT. WORKING
  - | CASE STUDY SPECIALIST VISIT |
- 15:00 WORKING SESSION 2: OUTCOMES & IMPACT
- 16:00 | COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST VISIT | & COFFEE
- 16:30 WORKING SESSION 3: COMMUNICATION STRATEGY
- 18:00 | TOPIC SPECIFIC FEEDBACK |
- 19:00 ~ BUFFET DINNER ~
- 20:00 CONT. WORKING
- 22:00 WALK TO HOTEL AND SET UP
- 22:30 | CASE STUDY SPECIALIST VISIT |

## DAY 2: MAY 15TH



WATER YOUTH NETWORK



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



23:00	CONT. WORKING
02:00	TEAM SWAP FEEDBACK
02:15	CONT. WORKING
04:00	REPORT SUBMISSION + REST
07:00	HOTEL BREAKFAST   PITCH PREPARATION
09:00	JUDGING AT SALON DE DIRECTORS (OPEN SESSION)
11:00	PRESSURE COOKER EVENT CLOSED (POST JUDGING SESSION FOR ORGANISERS)
16:30	UR FILM SHOWCASE + RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT
18:00	FREE EVENING

## DAY 3: MAY 16TH

08:15	FIELD VISIT IN MEXICO CITY (OPTIONAL)
12:30	RETURN TO HOTEL ONE (NO LUNCH ARRANGED)
14:00	FEEDBACK SESSION (ONE HOTEL)
15:00	UR 2018 OPENING





## Annex 2: List of participants

Name	Gender	Nationality	Role	Position
Lucy K Buck	Female	British	Environmental scientist	UCL, PhD student
Joanna Pardoe	Female	British	Social Scientist	London School of Economics - Postdoctoral Research Officer
Avinoam Baruch	Male	British	Environmental scientist	PhD candidate at Loughborough University
Anna Twomlow	Female	British	Graphic design and communication specialist	PhD student at Imperial College London
Sarah Jenkins	Female	British	Social Scientist	PhD candidate, Experimental Psychology, University College London
James Scott Whiteley	Male	United Kingdom	Environmental scientist	PhD Student at University of Bristol/British Geological Survey
Katie Smith	Female	British	Modeller	Drought Analyst and Modeller at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
Eloisa Beling Loose	Female	Brazil	Media and journalism specialist	Researcher
Victor Marchezini	Male	Brazil	Social Scientist	Researcher at the Brazilian Early Warning and Monitoring Center of Natural Disasters (Cemaden)
Supriya Krishnan	Female	India	Architect and Urbanist	Research Consultant (Disaster Risk Resilience).
Repaul Kanji	Male	Indian	Modeller	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee
Girinath Reddy Munagala Venkata	Male	India	Social Scientist	Postgraduate Student in Disaster Management
Mohammad Faiz Alam	Male	India	Modeller	Independent consultant (water resources) with International Water Management Institute
Sunayana Sen	Female	Indian	Graphic design & communication specialist/ Media	South Asia Programme Manager at Resurgence Urban Resilience Trust
Eduardo Hernandez Samaniego	Male	Mexico	Modeller	Masters student
Martha Lilian Llanos Rodríguez	Female	México	Environmental scientist	CEO of CliMet
Palmira Consuelo Cuellar Ramirez	Female	Mexico	Atmospheric Scientist	Latin American Network of Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology- Founder & CEO.

Maria del Carmen Landa	Female	Mexico	(Urban) planner	100 Resilient Cities, Program Manager
Carlos Rodrigo Garibay Rubio	Male	Mexico	Social Scientist	National Center for Disaster Prevention
Sarah Welsh Huggins	Female	USA	Engineer	Emergency Management Specialist, Dewberry
Yaprak Servi	Female	Turkish	Engineer	Disaster Risk Management Consultant at the World Bank
Anthony Cario	Male	USA	Social Scientist	Emergency Management Specialist
Nathaniel Tan	Male	Singaporean	Media and journalism specialist	Communications and Partnerships Manager at Lloyd's Register Foundation Institute for the Public Understanding of Risk
Laura von Puttkamer	Female	German	Media and journalism specialist	Blogger and freelancer at parCitypatory
Olivia Taylor	Female	British	Social Scientist	Project manager and research assistant
Aga Kreglewska	Female	Polish	ICT or data specialist	Event Coordinator for Missing Maps London / Data Project Manager at Kubrick Group
Jennifer Joy Chua	Female	Filipino	(Urban) planner	Resurgence - Programme Advisor and Business Development
Aftab Uz Zaman Khan	Male	Bangladesh	Modeller	Project Officer, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) <a href="http://www.rimes.int">www.rimes.int</a>
Cristian Camilo Fernández Lopera	Male	Colombia	Environmental scientist	National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) of Colombia. Role: Specialist in risk knowledge
Carlos Martin Demaria	Male	Argentina	Social Scientist	Content Director in NexorRD NGO, and Risk Analysis and Reduction in Buenos Aires Province
Martina Ferrarino	Female	Argentina	Social Scientist	Deputy Chief Resilience Officer at the Buenos Aires City Government
Anna Linden Weller	Female	USA	(Urban) planner	Student at University of Maryland's program in urban planning, specializing in climate mitigation
Rebecca Guerriero	Female	USA	Environmental scientist	Resurgence.io – Advisor (current); Graduate Research Assistant (2017), London 2017
Tyler Barton	Male	USA	Environmental scientist	Ph.D. researcher in Disaster Risk and Resilience, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand
Clarisa Diaz	Female	USA	Graphic design and communication specialist	New York Public Radio News and Journalism Team

## Annex 3: List of organisers and supporters

Role		Name	Organisation
<b>WYN Organising Team</b>	Project leader	Lydia Cumiskey	Water Youth Network
	Challenge development lead + coach	Robert Sakic Trogrlic	Water Youth Network
	Challenge development support + coach	Gabriela Guimarães Nobre	Water Youth Network
	Logistics and Communications Lead	Miguel Trejo	Water Youth Network
	Challenge development support + coach	Nhilce Esquivel	Water Youth Network
	Participants selection lead	Javed Ali	Water Youth Network
	Participants selection support	Adele Young	Water Youth Network
	Participants selection support	Dewi Dimyati	Water Youth Network
<b>Steering Committee</b>	GFDRR organiser	Simone Balog-Way	GFDRR
	Funder	Ruth Hughes	NERC
	Challenge development support	John Rees	BGS/ NERC
	Funder	Louis Gritzso	FM Global
	Risk Communication specialist	Lisa Robinson	BBC Media Action
<b>Core mentors</b>	Iztapalapa case study specialist and Risk Communication specialist	Bob Alexander	Rural Livelihood Risk Management Consulting
	Dzilam de Bravo case study specialist	Alejandra Perea	Researcher
	Risk Communication specialist	Iain Stewart	University of Plymouth
	Observer and Risk Communication specialist	Jacqui Cotton	Environment Agency
	Risk Communication specialist and coach	Anna Hicks	British Geological Survey
	Risk Communication specialist and coach	Matthew Lickiss	University of Reading
	Risk Communication specialist	Mark Harvey	Resurgence
<b>Case study specialists</b>	Iztapalapa	Enrique Guevara	Consultant for Iztapalapa Civil Protection Department
		Rafael Martin	Consultant for Iztapalapa Civil

			Protection Department
		Luis Eduardo Perez-Ortiz	Director Iztapalapa Civil Protection Department
		Emilio Berny	National Autonomous University of Mexico + Yucatan resident
	Mexico (generally)	Flavia Tudela	Consultants for Mexico Resilience Agency
		Rebeca Juárez Arellan	Consultants for Mexico Resilience Agency
		Antonio Contreras Estrada	Mexico Resilience Agency
		Carlos Alonso	Mexico Resilience Agency
<b>Topic specific specialists</b>	Risk Modelling	Irasema Alcántara-Ayala	Institute of Geography, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
		Andrew Kruczkiewicz	International Research Institute for Climate and Society, The Earth Institute, Columbia University
		Elizabeth Cervantes	Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua
		Philip Ward	Institute for Environmental Studies, VU Amsterdam
		Emilio Berny	National Autonomous University of Mexico
		Christopher Wieczorek	FM Global
		Tom Roach	GM Global
		Marcial Zazueta	ERN Mexico
	Data	Miriam Gonzalez	Humanitarian Open StreetMap
		Rachel Green	University of British Columbia/NASA Ames Research Center
		Jenna Williams	NASA Ames Research Center
		Jordan Bell	Research Associate, NASA

	Planning and preparedness	Shristi Vaidya	Deltares
		Andreas Burzel	Deltares
		Jessica Seepersad	Emergency Management Coordinator, NASA
	[+ Funder]	David Green	Disasters Programme lead, NASA