
**Rapid Analysis of the Poll Surveys and Feedback from
the Avoidable Deaths Network’s Special Session entitled
“Responding to Domestic Fires and Coastal Flooding: Lessons from UK, India and
Cambodia”**

Background

The Avoidable Deaths Network organised a closed Special Session titled “**Responding to Domestic Fires and Coastal Flooding: Lessons from UK, India and Cambodia**”, facilitated by Disaster Alert for the Nigeria Red Cross, the Nigerian Fire Service and the National Emergency Management Agency

The Session was held on 5 February 2021 virtually, commencing at 11 AM until 12.45 PM GMT.

The Session was delivered by five esteemed speakers:

- I. **Mr David Wales** (Founder, SharedAim) presented on “The UK Fire and Rescue Service - An Overview and Research Insights”.
- II. **Dr Amaka Adekoya** (Senior Programs Manager, Trauma Care International Foundation, Nigeria) presented on “Factors Affecting Fire Emergency Response in Nigeria: the TCIF Perspective”.
- III. **Mrs Denise Corsel** (PhD Candidate, School of Business, University of Leicester; Operations Manager, ADN) presented on “Lessons from the Livelihood-Based Flood Response in Cambodia”.
- IV. **Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett** (Associate Professor, University of Leicester; Founding President, Avoidable Deaths Network) presented on “Principles of Disaster Response: Lessons from Odisha, India”.

The panel of speakers was introduced by Mr Victor Okoro, the Founder and Executive Director of Disaster Alert.

In order to analyse the immediate impact of this Special Session, two-point poll surveys were used. The polls (first and second) were held at two different points during the Session.

The first poll was conducted before the presentation of the first speaker (Mr David Wales) and any of the invited speakers. The first Poll consisted of two questions:

1. Do you have any prior knowledge on disaster response?
2. Based on your current knowledge (i.e., up to the point of starting this Special Session), please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of the topics, where 1 = not at all confident, and 5 = very confident.

The second poll was conducted after the last speaker’s talk (Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennet). This poll survey consisted of only one question. This question was a repetition of Question 2 from the first poll.

3. After attending this Special Session, how would you rate your level of confidence on the usefulness of the topics, where 1= not at all confident, and 5= very confident.

Results

29 participants took part in the first poll and the results are as follows:

Q1: Do you have any prior knowledge on disaster response?

- 14 participants (48%) answered “yes”
- 8 participants (28%) answered “a little”
- 7 participants (24%) answered “no”.

Q 2: Based on your current knowledge (i.e., up to the point of starting this Special Session), please rate your current level of confidence on the usefulness of the topics, where 1= not at all confident, and 5= very confident.

- 10 participants (34%) rated “very confident”
- 9 participants (31%) rated “moderately confident”
- 4 participants (14%) rated “only slightly confident”
- 3 participants (10%) rated “not at all confident”
- 3 participants (10%) rated “somewhat confident”.

For the second poll, 22 participants took part, and the results for Question 3 are as follows:

- 13 participants (59%) rated “very confident”
- 8 participants (36%) rated “moderately confident”
- 1 participant (5%) rated “somewhat confident”

Analysis

By conducting the poll at two different points within the Special Session, it is possible to compare the data in order to understand the impact of this Special Session.

According to the first poll, a majority of participants (52%) had more or less ‘no knowledge’ or ‘a little knowledge’ on disaster response. About 48% of the participants had confirmed that they had ‘prior knowledge on disaster response’. For the second question on the usefulness of the topics, a majority of the participants (65%) rated ‘very confident’ or ‘moderately confident’.

After attending the Special Session, 59% of participants rated their level of confidence as ‘very confident’ and another 36% rated their level as ‘moderately confident’. If these two categories are combined about 95% of the participants are either “very confident” or “moderately confident”. This is a positive outcome because a majority of the participants had ‘no knowledge’ or ‘a little knowledge’ on disaster response prior to the Special Session.

Conclusion

All the participants enjoyed learning the outcome of the results immediately. Participants, themselves, were also surprised to see the outcome. Nevertheless, there are several limitations to using this method. Qualitative or subjective inputs are difficult to gather through these quick poll surveys. Also, if a participant does not have a smart phone or other advanced phone screen, the poll survey can exclude participation. Furthermore, one should be conscious of the fact that the poll survey data are self-assessed by the participants and as such could be biased. Mindful of this bias, the impact of the Special Session could be

complemented gathered through semi-structured feedback form. However, this was beyond the remit of this Special Session because this event was organised by ADN's organisational partner, Disaster Alert and email addresses for the participants were not gathered by the ADN Team. Thus, it was not possible to send out feedback forms.