

Perception and Knowledge of disaster risks and preparedness, the case of the city of Mohammedia Morocco

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Introduction

The city of Mohammedia is one of the cities threatened by the risks of disasters, both natural and technological, in Morocco. This is in view of the conditions under which these risks occur, For this reason, this article shows the perception of these risk by the city population, how aware they are of them, and how willing they are to face them. This article represents the first in the region to address this topic. To accomplish this, research was conducted with the population by filling out the form containing a set of questions related to the relationship of the population's perception of risks and measuring their knowledge of it. Being aware that people's perception of the risks existing in the region where they live helps a lot in the process of responding and mitigating damage, the results of this study show that there is a lack and lack of great interest among the population in the subject of disaster risk in their city.

- **Methods**

400 forms were filled out by the city population over a period of 3 months (09/03/2022-20/06/2022), in different formats either through direct interviews or through the link to the electronic form, and the samples were randomly identified provided that they are related to the city of Mohammedia, whether from the population or from its residents, respecting the distribution in the factor of age groups, gender, and residential areas of the city according to the administrative annexes.

The form consists of 12 questions in the research topic, in addition to 3 questions about personal information, and this form has focused on answering 5 axes.

- **Possible risks to the city of Mohammedia.**

- **Visualization of exposure to risks in the city of Mohammedia in general, and previously known risks in particular.**

- **Knowledge of projects and plans developed to reduce disaster risk in the city of Mohammedia.**

- **Feeling confident and safe towards the responsible authorities about dealing in the event of a fall.**

- **Participate in awareness activities about risks.**

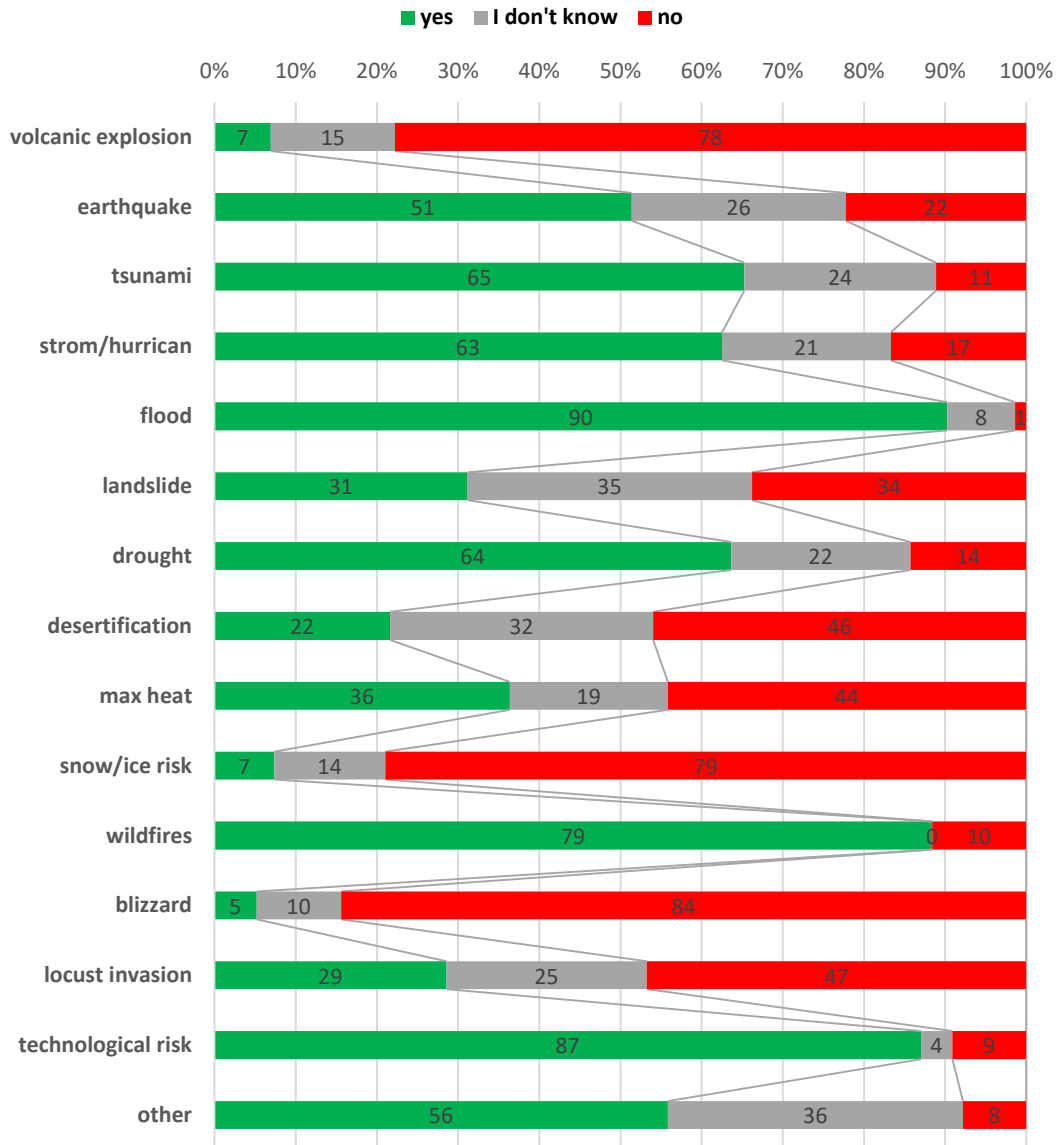
- **Methods of communication, exchange of information and preparation in the event of an risk.**

- **Results**

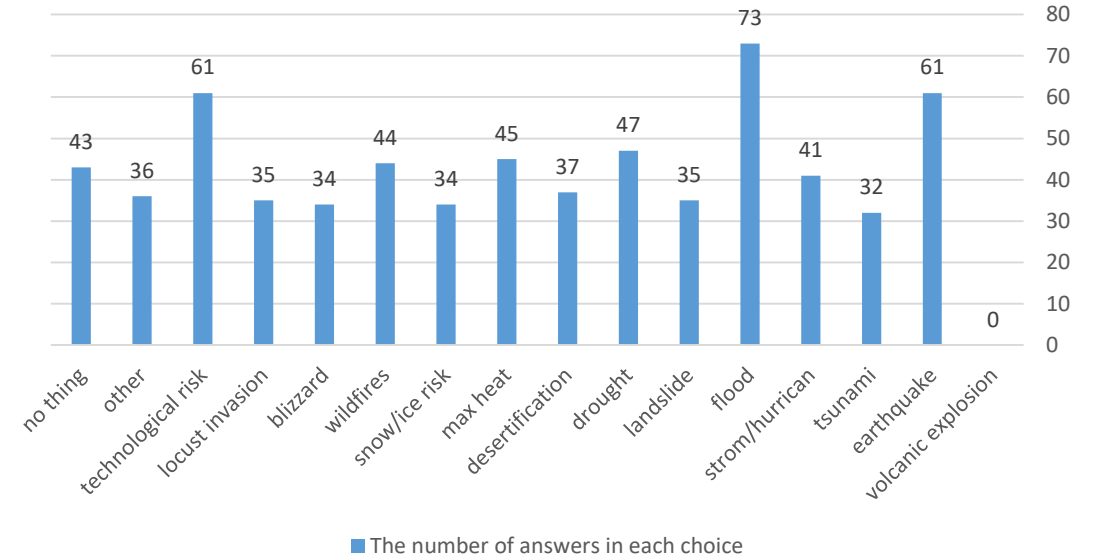
The gender component of the respondents is distributed in general equivalence, as the percentage of males questioned is 53% and the percentage of females is 47%, The ages included different ages divided by: 18 years or younger: 1.3%, 19-25 years: 27.6%, 26-35 years: 42.1%, 36-45 years: 18.4%, 46-55 years: 9.2%, 56 years and above: 1.3%. The places inhabited by the interrogators varied and included all 7 neighborhoods of the city.

The answers to the questions in the form are:

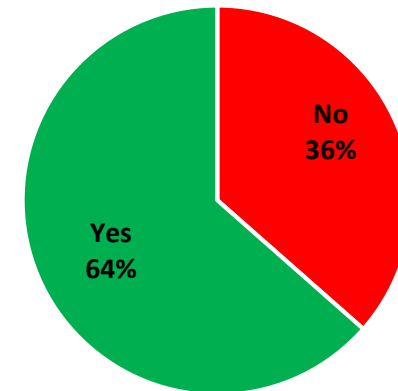
Q1: Is the city of Mohammedia exposed to these risks?



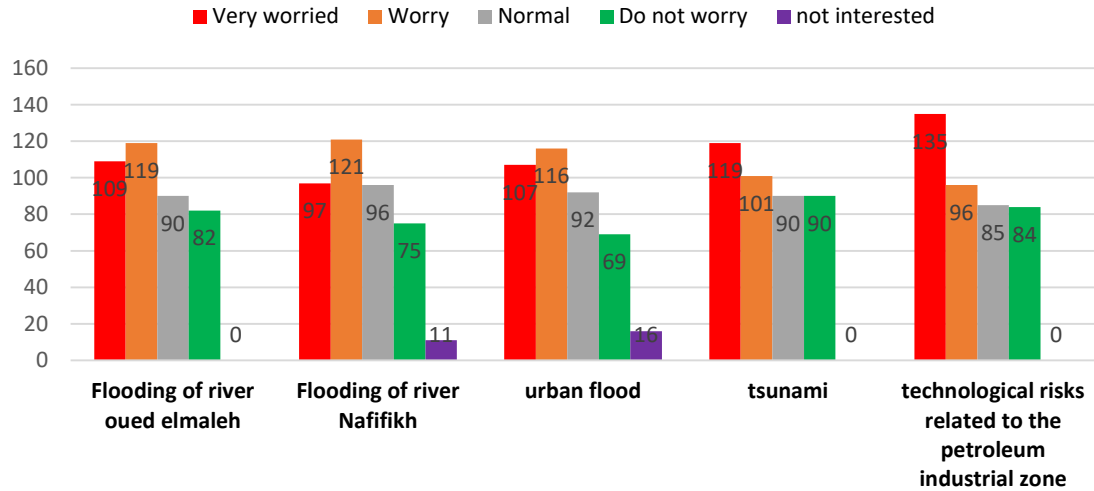
Q2: Have you ever experienced any of the following risks?



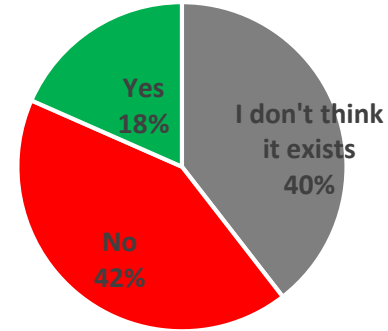
Q3: Are you aware of the major risks?
Which has the city of Mohammedia been subjected to over time?



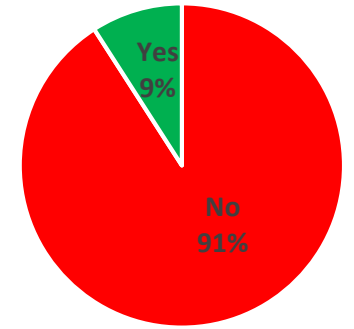
Q4: If you can imagine the following risks occurring
How worried are you about its impact on the city?



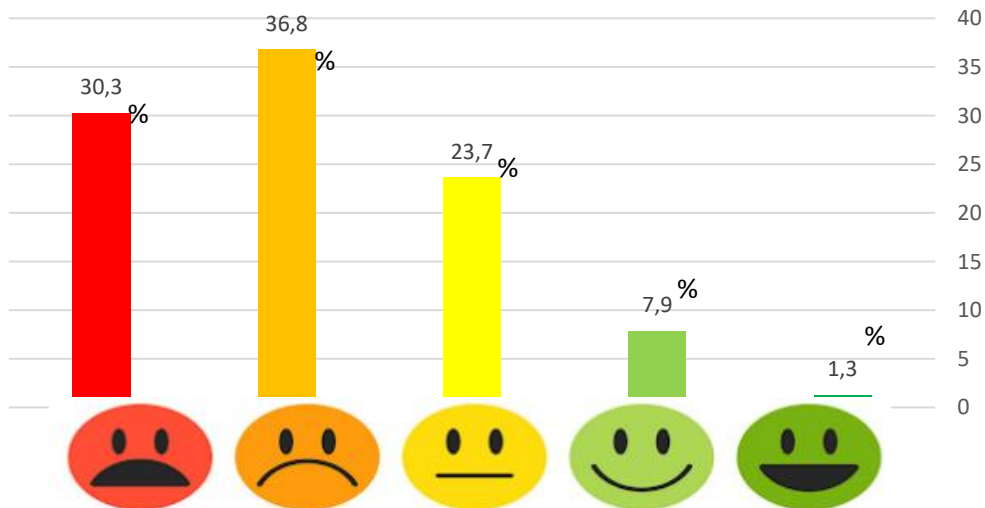
Q5: Are you aware of the disaster risk reduction projects in the city of Mohammedia?



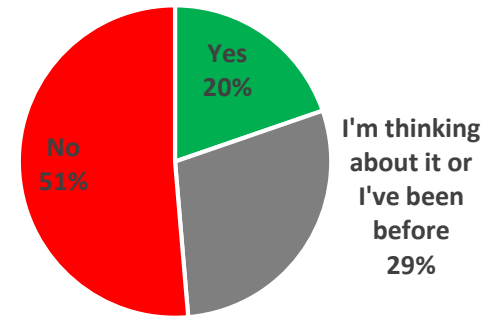
Q6: Are you aware of the city's disaster risk management plan?



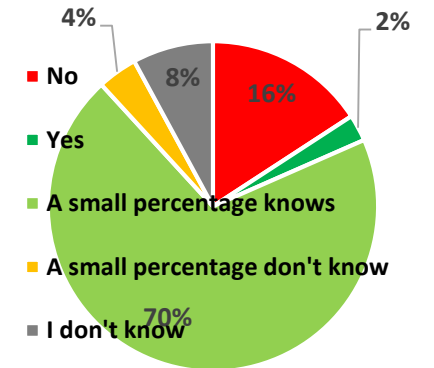
Q7: How do you feel about the attitude of the local authorities to deal with the risk in the city of Mohammedia in the event of a fall?



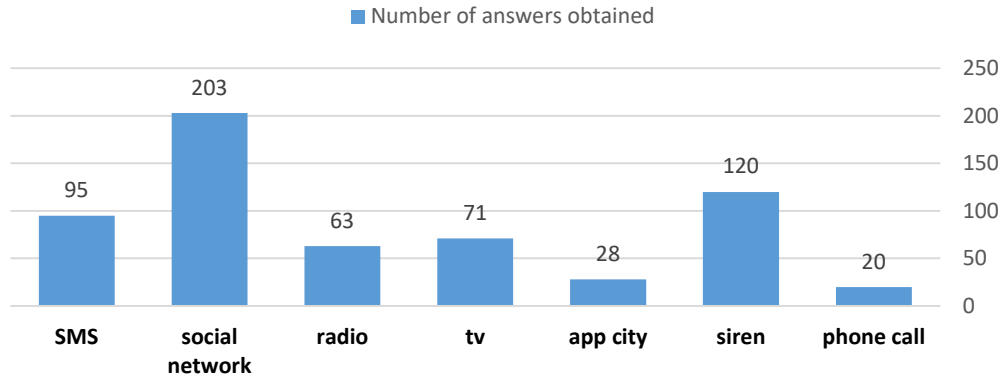
Q8: Do you study or participate in any activities related to risk education (association, school or other things?)



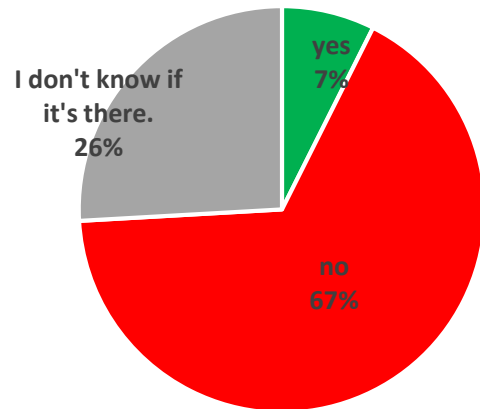
Q9: Do you think the city's inhabitants are aware of the potential risks and the appropriate action to follow?



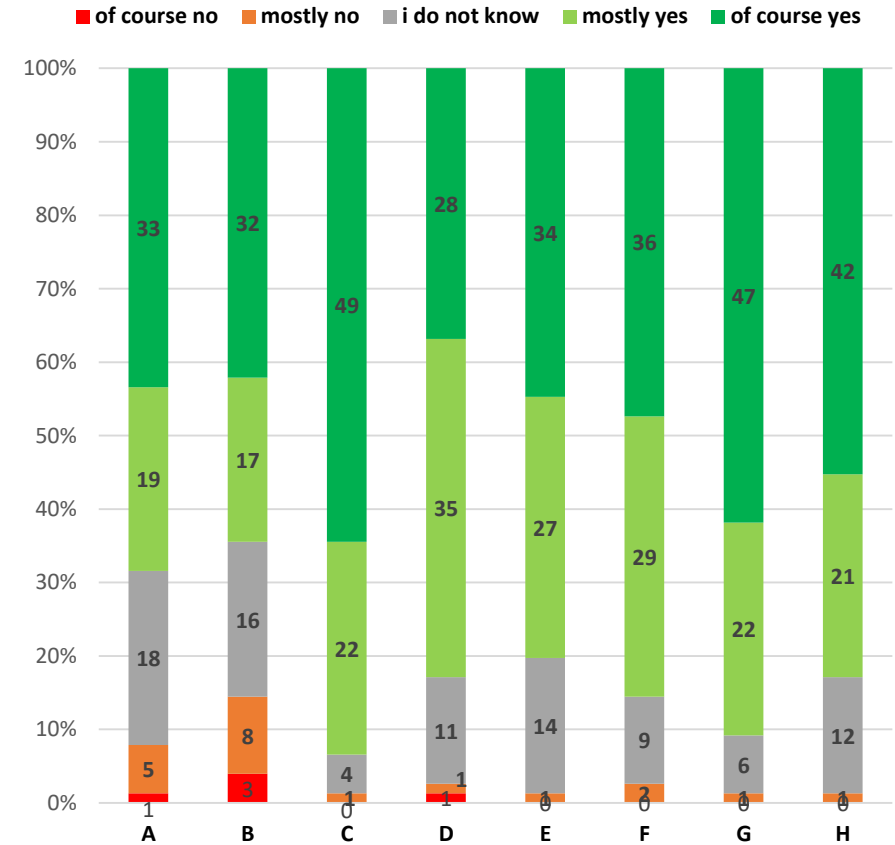
Q10: What do you think is the most effective means of communication for warning and exchange of information between the population and the competent authorities in emergency situations according to your ability and means?



Q12: Are you registered in the system of coverage against the catastrophic events of the system of insurance for physical damage and property?



Q11: Would you be ready to contribute to the following actions related to disasters and emergencies?



A : Participation in training Preparedness and volunteering - B : Collection of risk control data - C : Report risk - D : Report a simple case - E : share information about safe spaces and available resources - F : share information about safe and appropriate behavior to act - G : Exchange of useful information with citizens - H : Blood donation, lunch and shelter of affected people.

Conclusion

- This study is important due to the subject studied, although it does not address several levels such as gender, social, economic and educational level. However, through the results, several indicators have emerged showing the extent to which the city population understands the risks of disasters facing them. Therefore, in order to value these results, we recommend paying attention to the knowledge and awareness aspect for a population regarding knowledge first of all of the risks, and then secondly of working to teach appropriate actions in case of risk. This does not come in a short period of time, but it is a strategic plan that intersects with all levels, whether in the educational, health, security and infrastructure sectors within the city of Mohammedia. Therefore, the responsible authorities must take into account a set of observations, especially the negative, which showed the great work expected to improve and raise the culture of risks among the population, especially in some axes such as knowledge, behavior, methods of communication and exchange of information in situations of risk.