Disastrous Coverage

Kunda Dixit
www.nepalitimes.com

These don’t make news

> Hunger and malnutrition

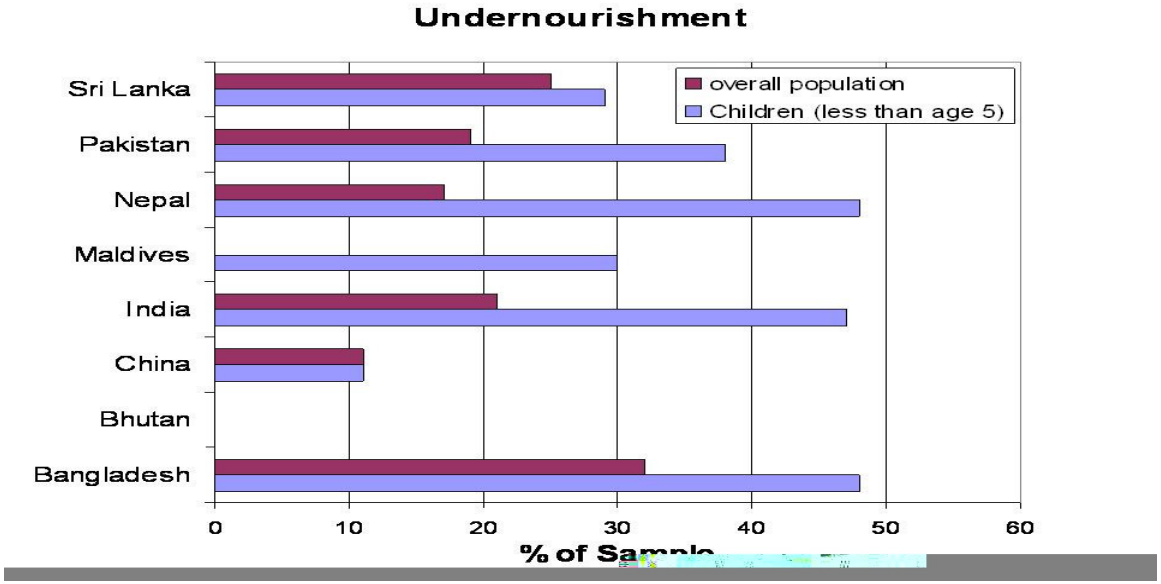
> Poor mothers dying at childbirth

> Children dying of vaccine-preventable diseases

> Domestic violence

> Worsening pollution trends

> Erratic rains, droughts, climate change



Types of disasters

> Loud emergencies
> Silent emergencies
> Sudden disasters
> Slow disasters
> High-profile crises
> Hidden crises

Un-natural disasters

- Floods
- Droughts
- Epidemics
- Harvest-failures
- Erratic weather
- Climate change

Communicating crisis

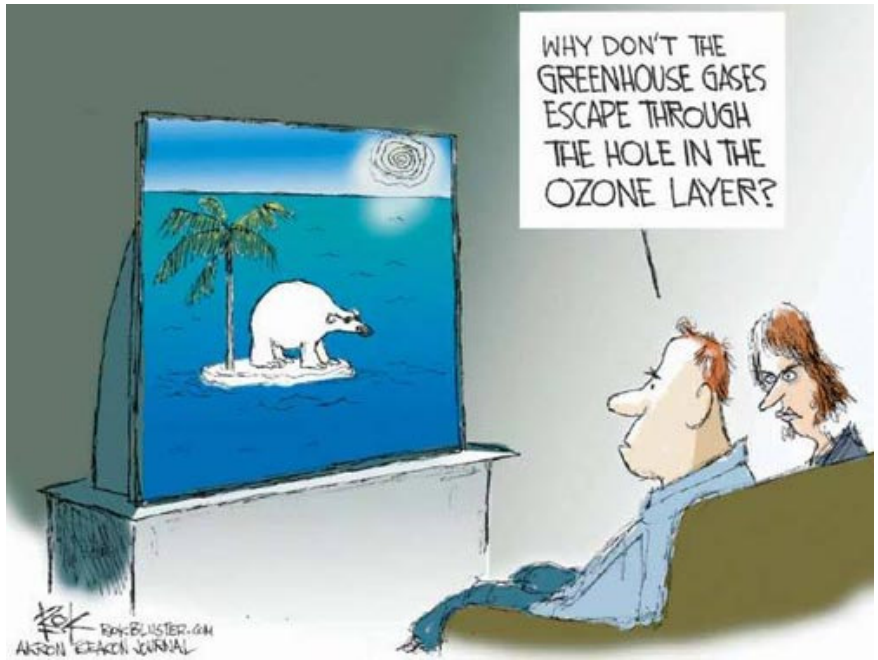
> Why communicate?

> Who to communicate to?

> Choice of media

> Understand the media, shrinking news space

> Media is not just journalism



Crowding out other crises

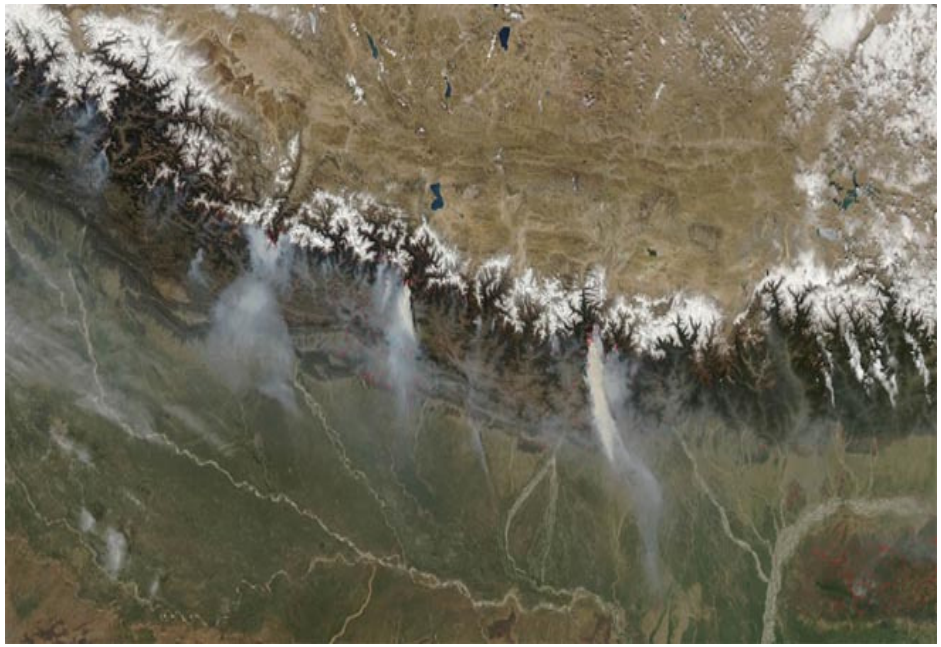
> Governance, social injustice, poverty, inequity, disease, pollution, unsustainable growth

> Don’t look at climate change in isolation

> Climate crisis just makes existing problems worse

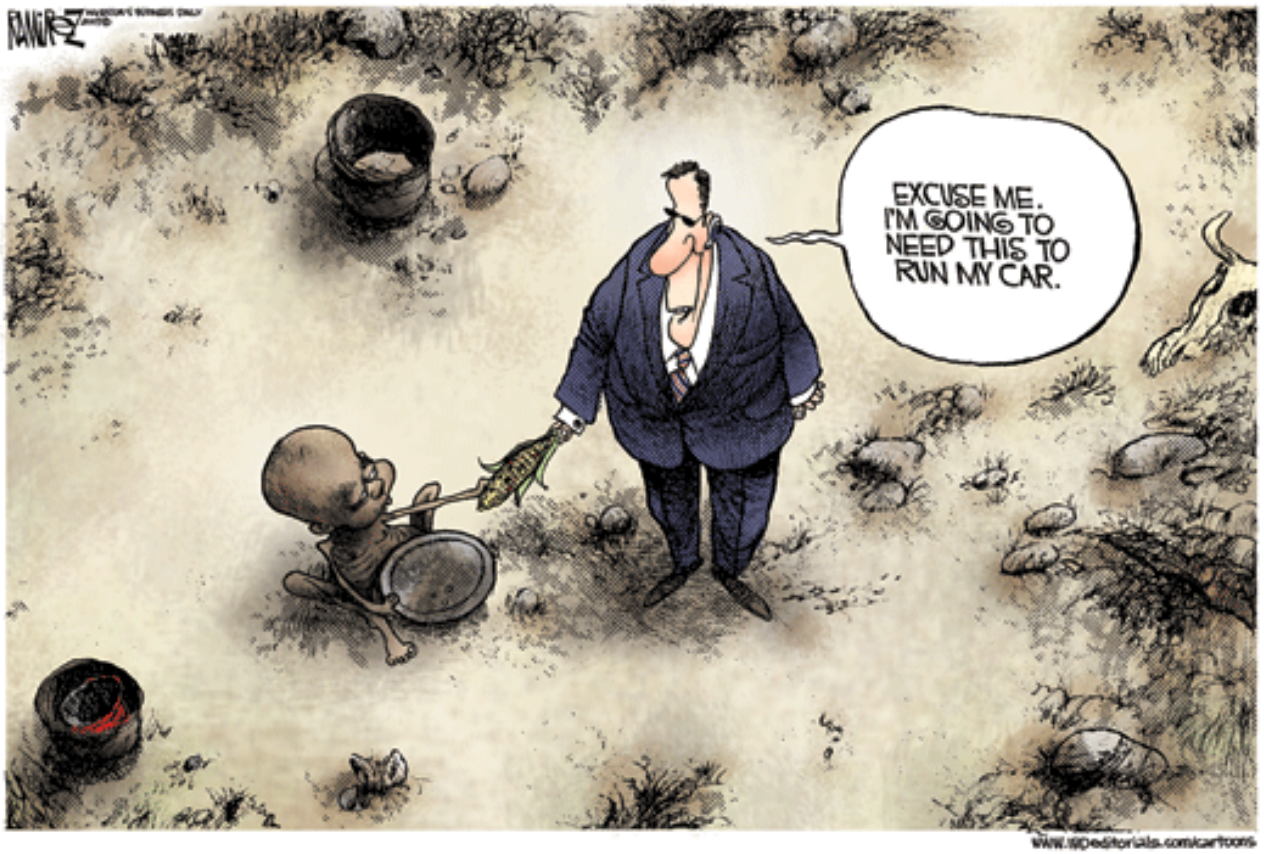
> Awareness about multiple disaster preparedness

> Use economic, not ecological arguments



Message to policy makers

>Explain the science
>Political economy
>Montreal to Kyoto
>Hazard mapping
>CDM
>Funding?
>All action local



Message to public

>Don’t cry wolf
>Beware media hysteria
>Community mobilisation
>Disaster preparedness
>Do’s and don’ts for vulnerable populations

Global awareness…

…local action

It’s a Rich Man’s world

The Nation

WEDNESDAY, December 29, 2004

B120

THE TOP 10 VEHICLES [B-96]

TSUNAMI AFTERMATH

Shocked world bands together

■ Biggest international aid operation in history gets underway ■ Death toll at least 51,000 including over 1,500 in Thailand

Most of the dead are tourists

The latest

DEADLY trail

Islands shifted, Earth wobbled by quake

Appeal for blood

Princess Maha Chakri

TIME

JOE KLEIN ON IRAQ ■ BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN: GIDDY-YEP, I'M GAY

New Orleans Blues

It's worse than you think. Three months after Katrina, the city still suffers

BY CATHY BOOTH THOMAS

“Were any tourists killed?”

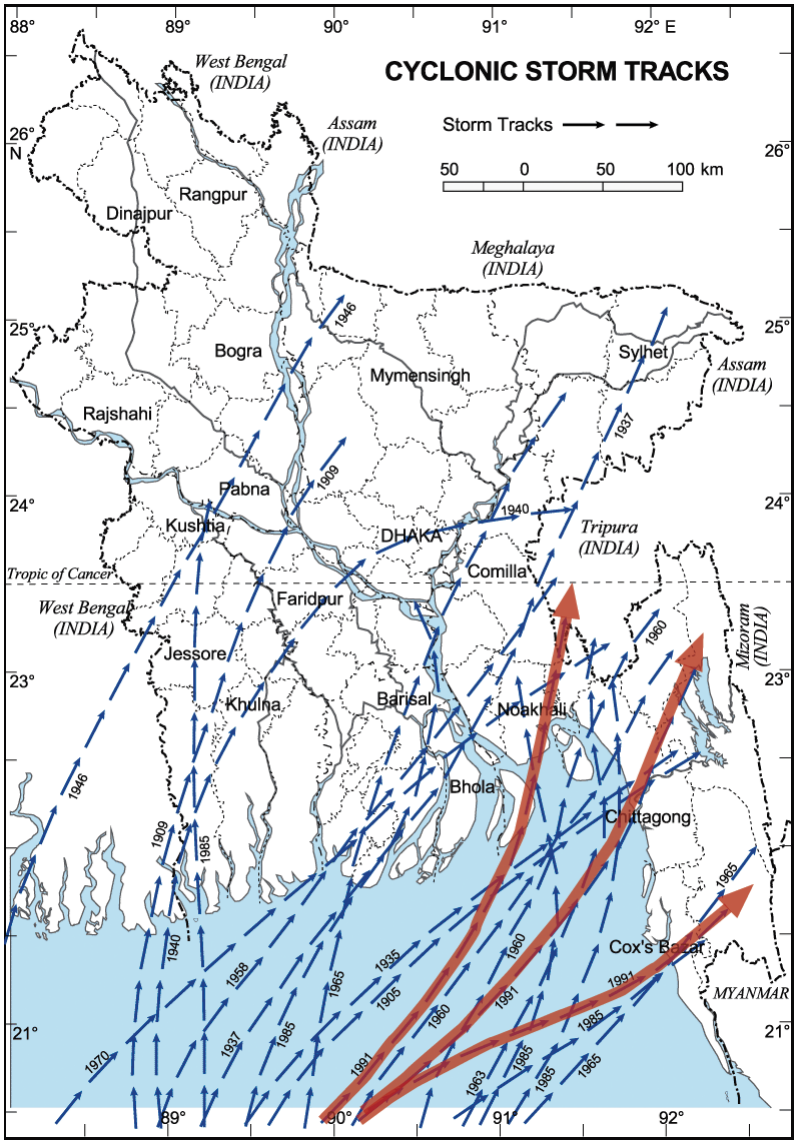
Everyone has the same story

…how is my coverage different?

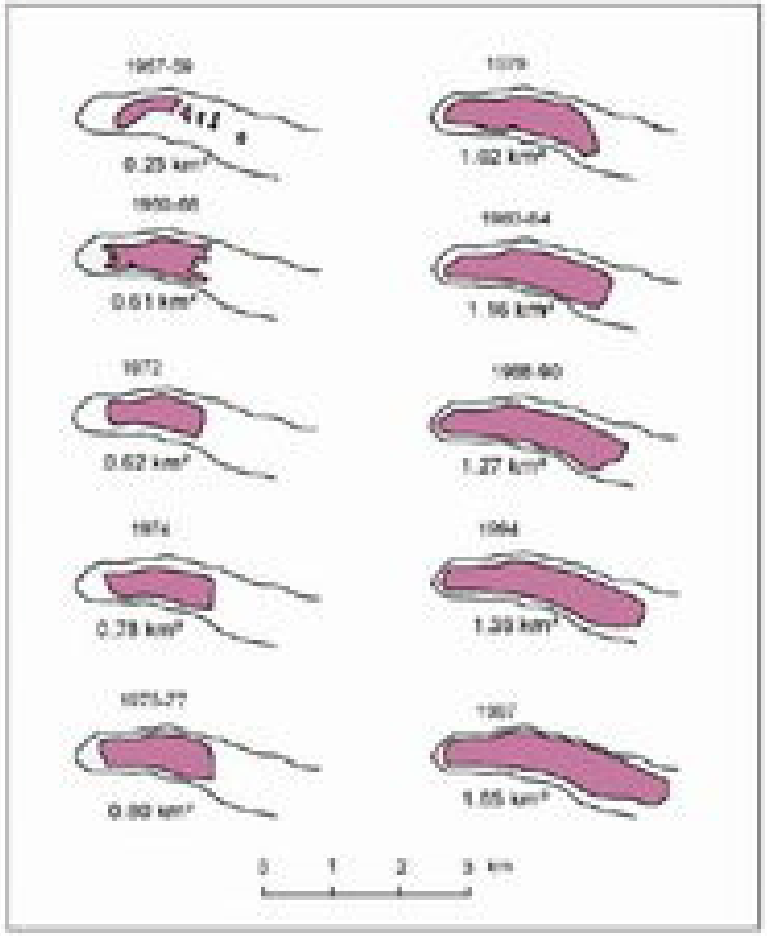
Media is always there…

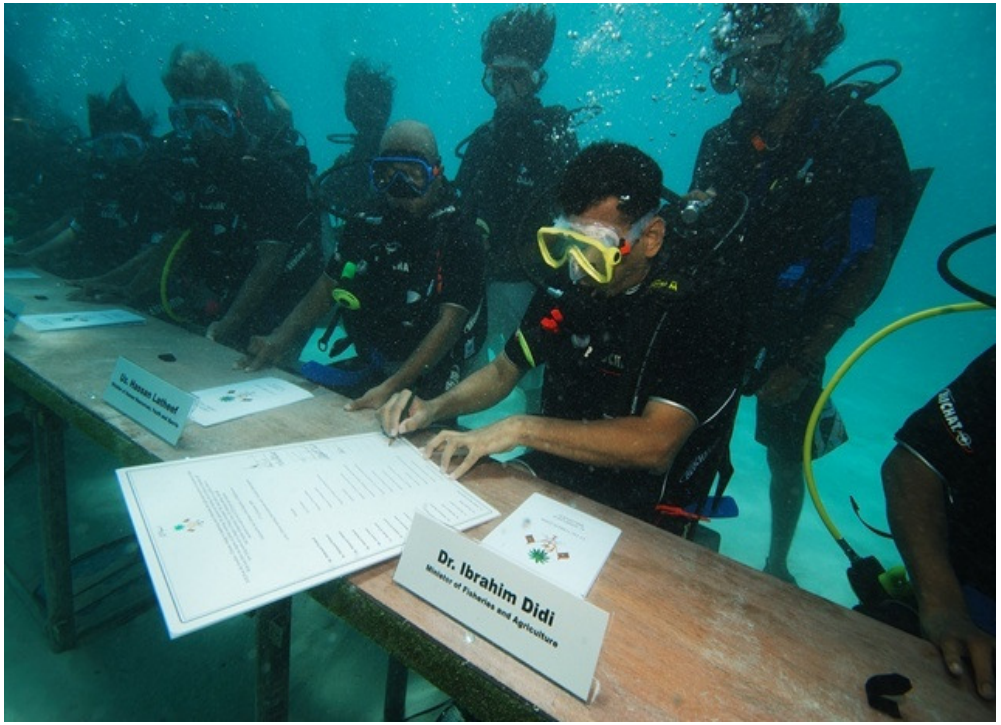
…after it happens

Good news is no news



“Let us know when it bursts.”




Dr. Ibrahim Didi
Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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* Or so claim well-funded naysayers who still reject the overwhelming evidence of climate change. Inside the denial machine. By Sharon Begley

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