

# We will be better prepared

A story of community disaster preparedness



Being prepared for disasters saves lives. Older people can play an important role in preparation activities – as leaders, teachers and mentors. This is a story about how older people’s leadership helps saves lives in emergencies and helps communities rebuild and recover.



There has been heavy rain for two days. If it continues, the river could flood our home. We need to get ready in case we need to evacuate.



What should we do?



Aunt Gabby has a radio and can see the river from her window. She will let us know if there are government warnings or the river gets too high. In the mean time, we must prepare.



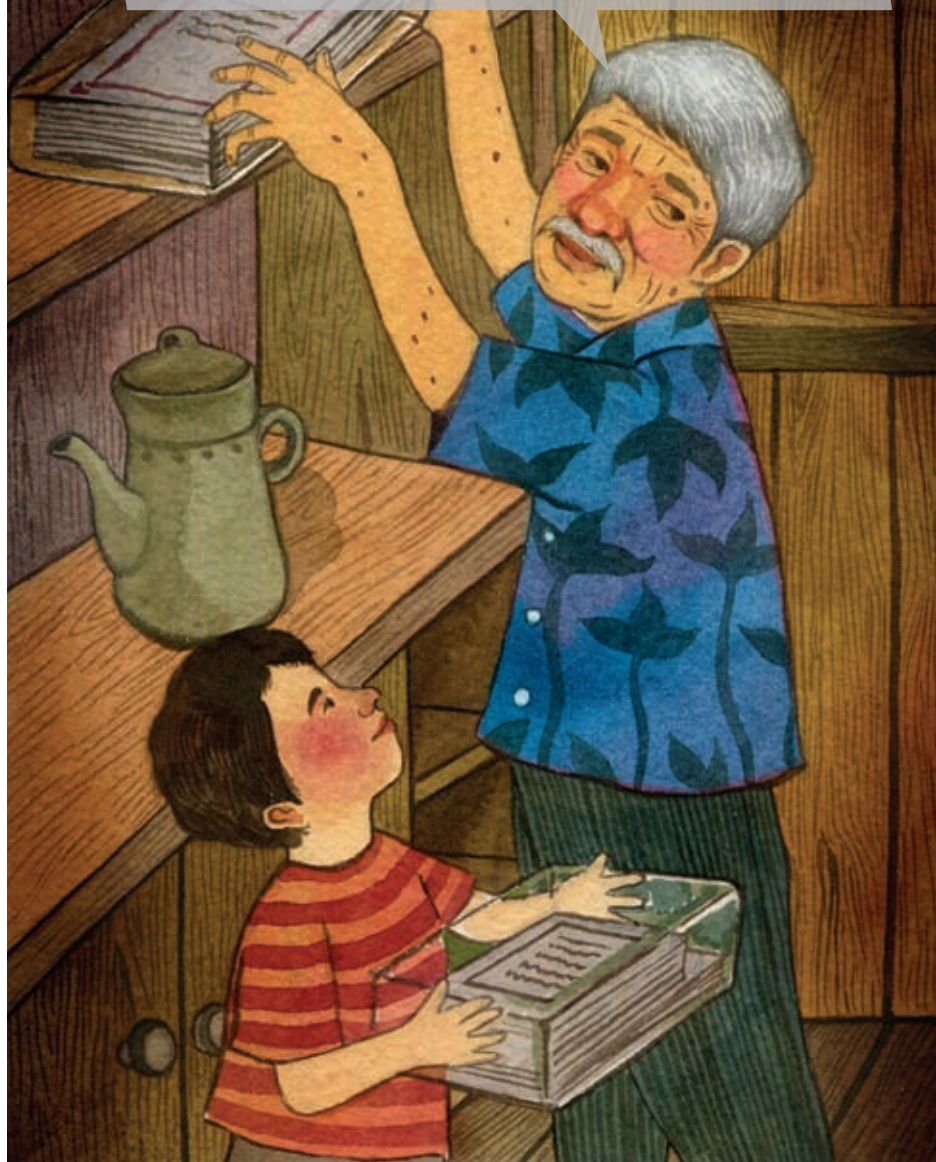
We must pack an evacuation bag. We need dry clothes, non-perishable food, cooking equipment, water, a torch, my medicine and your school books.



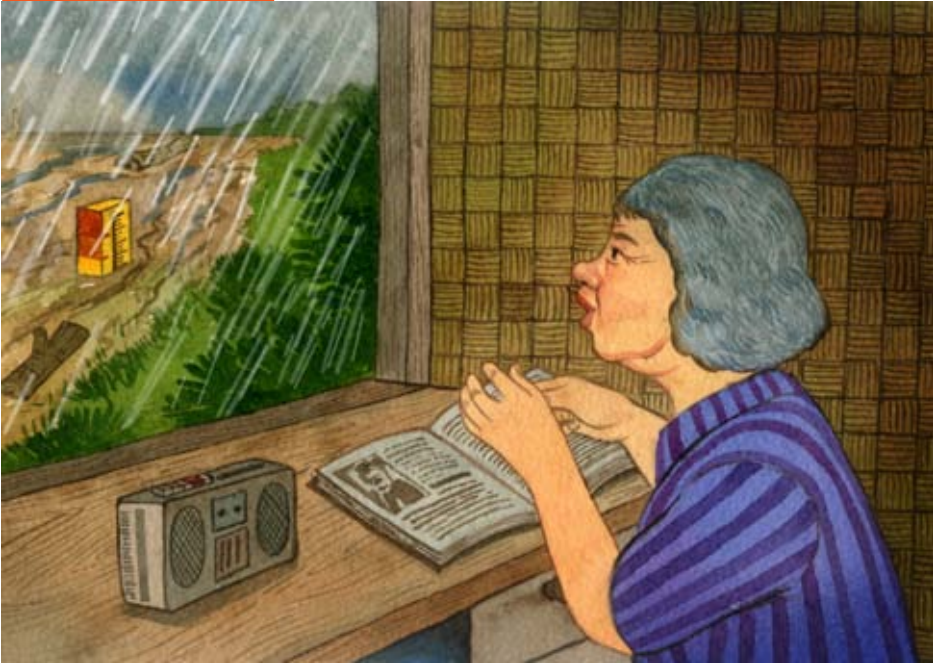


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We'll take our most important documents with us if we evacuate. But we can't carry everything. Wrapping our precious things in waterproof bags and putting them in high places gives them more chance of surviving a flood.



Two days later



**warning**

**more rain...**



**floods!**

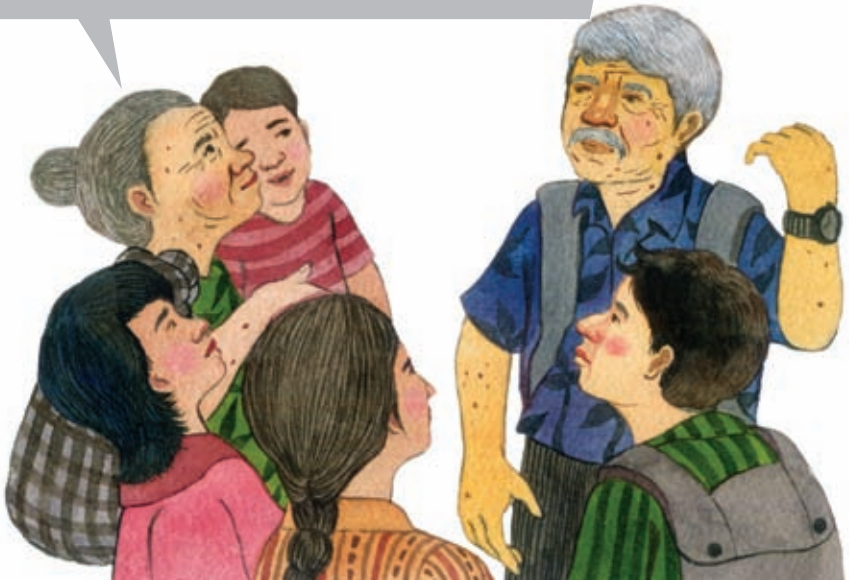
The river has reached the critical level and the radio news says more rain and flooding is coming. It is time to evacuate, we need to tell all the neighbours!





It is time to evacuate.

We'll go to the community hall on the hill. Our older people's association decided it's the best evacuation centre. It's on high ground, the building is sturdy with lots of room, and there are emergency supplies.



Son, remember we decided you would help Uncle Amando get to the evacuation centre. He has trouble walking and no family to help him.

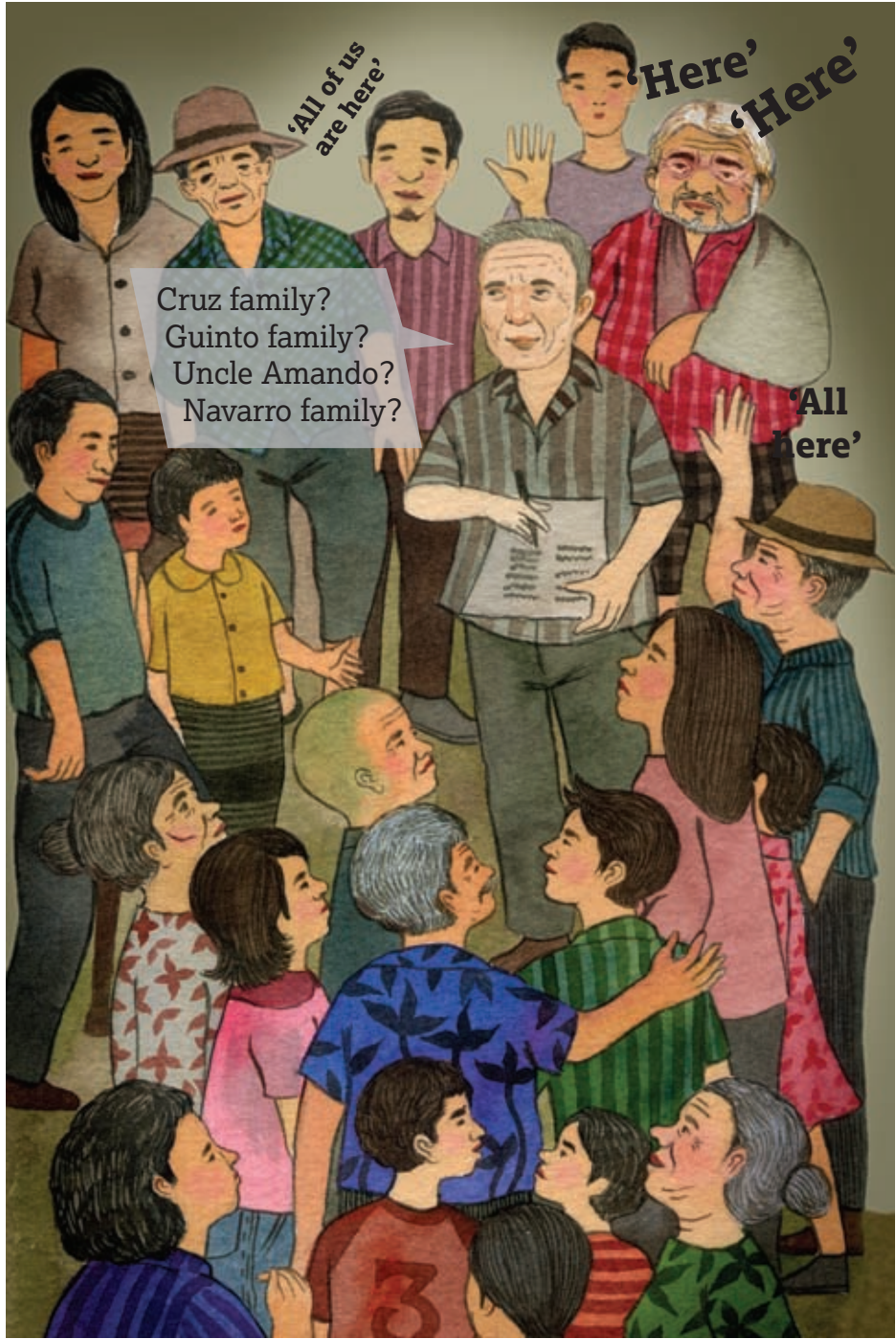


**Uncle Amando**

We will take the route we decided on during our disaster risk reduction meetings. There are no hazards like flooded streams that way.







*'All of us  
are here'*

*'Here'  
'Here'*

Cruz family?  
Guinto family?  
Uncle Amando?  
Navarro family?

*'All  
here'*

I am so relieved everyone from the community is here. The last family to arrive said 10 homes are underwater.

We are lucky we had the evacuation plan to rely on.







We've been waiting in line for this toilet for an hour.

I'm glad the evacuation centre has been stocked with enough food, but in future we must make sure there are enough toilets.

We also need to make sure there is enough medicine.



We need to work together to find out who has been worse affected so we can make sure they get help quickly. If we get photos and information to our NGO partners and the local government, they will know we need help.

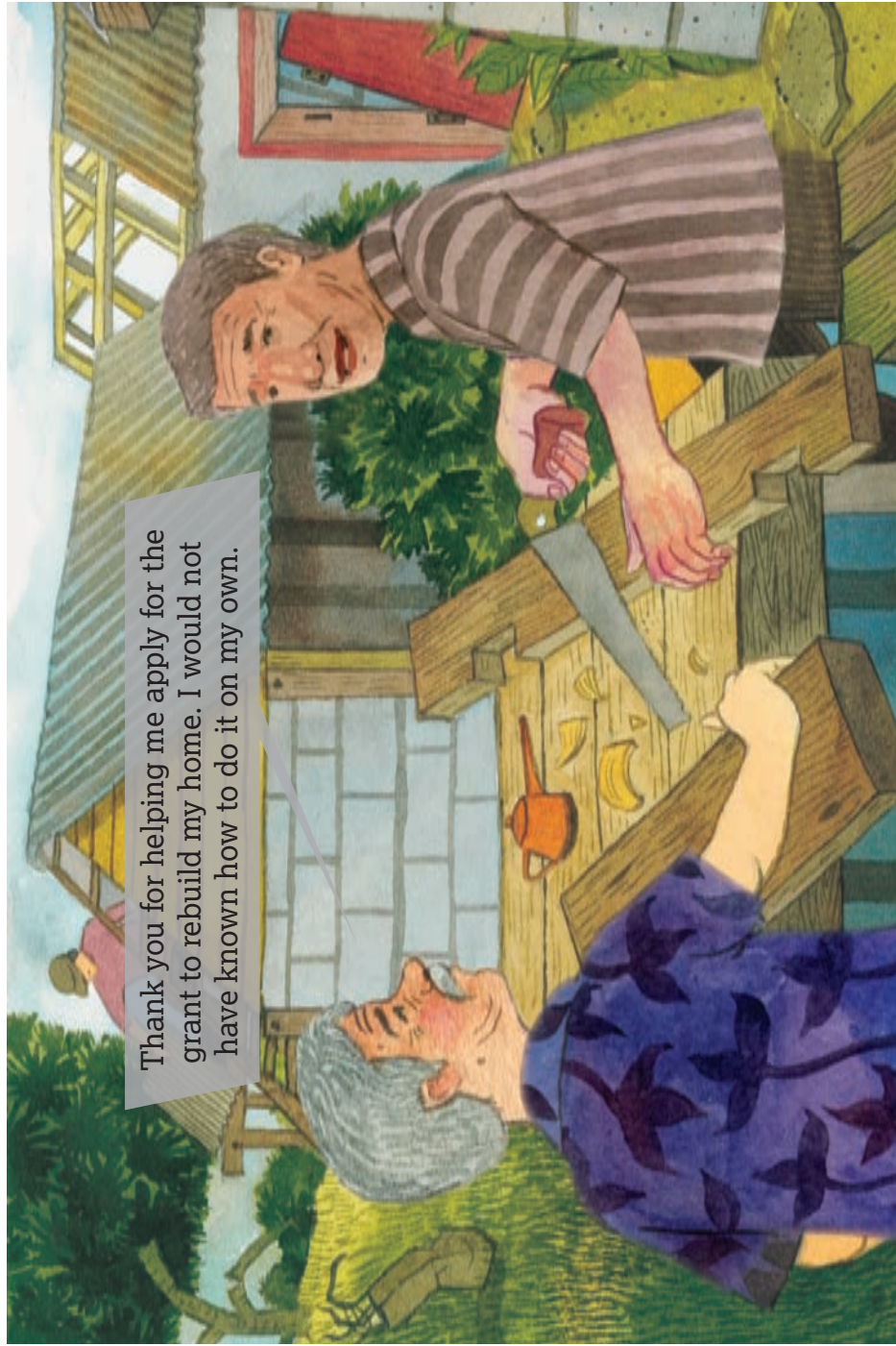


I don't know what I would have done if you hadn't organised this food. I had nothing to eat but I can't walk all the way to the aid distribution points. I was worried I would miss out.





Thank you for helping me apply for the grant to rebuild my home. I would not have known how to do it on my own.





I am grateful for the assistance I have received, but I wish I had been better prepared. If I had planned how to take my pigs and chickens to safety, I would not be worried about my income now. I will be better prepared for the next disaster.

We will all be better prepared.



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# Evacuation bag checklist

If you live in a disaster-prone area, keep a bag packed and ready to take with you if you have to quickly evacuate your home

## The bag should contain:



Warm clothes



A blanket



Dry food, such as rice and biscuits



Bottled water



A torch



Spare batteries



Small radio (if available)

At the first indications of a possible disaster, such as unusually heavy rain, pack the other things you need to take when you evacuate, such as:



Important documents such as birth certificates, ID cards and passports, house registration papers and bank pass books



Your medicine



Money



Children's school books