

2011 First semester balance

In the first semester of 2011, natural disasters had a devastating impact on human society. Preliminary EM-DAT figures showed the occurrence of 108 natural disasters, which killed over 23 thousand people, affected nearly 44 million others and caused more than US\$ 253 billion of economic damages.

Sixty-one countries experienced a natural disaster, with 11 disasters (10%) happening in the Philippines alone. This country was mainly hit by severe floods and storms. However China, suffering from 8 disasters, counted the most people affected by natural disasters (25.9 million or 59%).

The March 3, 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the triggered fires and nuclear emergency situation had a devastating impact on the country. The Mw 9.0 earthquake, one of the largest quakes ever recorded worldwide, resulted in the loss of lives of over 20 thousand people, representing 86% of total mortality due to natural disasters in the semester. A total of 492 thousand people were affected and damages were estimated at US\$ 210 billion (83% of total).

A series of tornadoes that hit the United States in April and May caused more than 550 deaths and affected nearly 18 thousand people. The economic damages of these tornadoes were US\$ 14.5 billion.

Whereas 42% of disasters happened in Asia, 90% of total deaths and 73% of total people affected were from this continent. Moreover, Asia accounted for 83% of total economic damages brought by natural disasters.

Despite continuing efforts to make societies more resilient to disasters, a road still lies ahead for both developed and developing countries, as shown by disaster statistics. Disaster data do not only inform us on the impact of disasters, but also provide an evidence-base for gauging the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction measures.

Debarati Guha-Sapir, Director

Natural disaster* figures:

	2011 1st semester	2001-2010 1st semester average
No. of disasters	108	164
No. of people killed	23,638	52,579
No. of people affected	43,784,902	73,685,153
Economic damages (Million \$US)	253,230	35,356

*The CRED CRUNCH does not include epidemics as natural disasters unless explicitly stated

The 10 largest natural disasters over the first semester of 2011

By number of people killed

Disaster	Month	Country	No. killed
Earthquake	Mar	Japan	20,319
Flood	Jan	Brazil	806
Storm	Apr	United States	354
Cold wave	Jan-Feb	Poland	200
Earthquake	Feb	New Zealand	181
Flood	Jun	China	168
Storm	May	United States	142
Cold wave	Jan-Feb	Slovakia	122
Flood	Jan	Philippines	110
Cold wave	Jan	India	80

By estimated economic damages

Disaster	Month	Country	Damages (Million US\$)
Earthquake	Mar	Japan	210,000
Earthquake	Feb	New Zealand	20,000
Storm	Apr	United States	7,500
Flood	Jan	Australia	7,300
Storm	May	United States	7,000
Flood	Jun	China	1,143
Cold wave	Jan	China	205
Flood	Jan	Philippines	47
Flood	Jan-Feb	Philippines	12
Storm	Apr	China	8

By number of total people affected

Disaster	Month	Country	No. affected
Storm	Apr	China	22,000,150
Cold wave	Jan	China	3,800,000
Drought**		Kenya	3,500,000
Drought**		Ethiopia	3,200,000
Drought**		Somalia	2,850,000
Flood	Jan	Philippines	1,972,446
Flood	Feb	Sri Lanka	1,053,000
Flood	Jan	Sri Lanka	1,000,000
Flood	Jan-Feb	Philippines	638,418
Drought**		Uganda	600,000

**Most of these droughts started in the years before and are still ongoing in 2011.

All the figures presented in the CRED CRUNCH come from "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database"

Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)

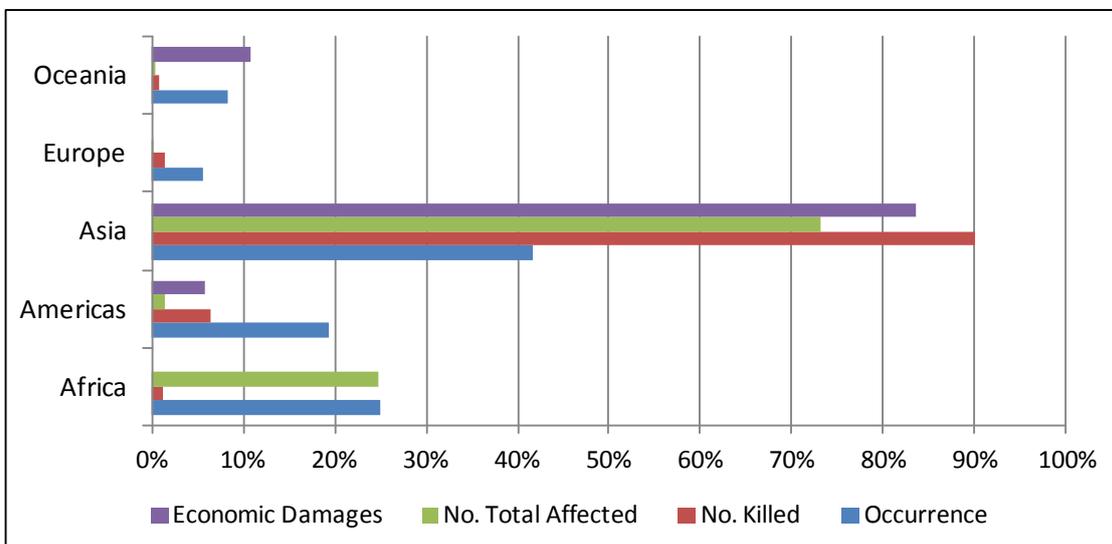
Université catholique de Louvain

30, Clos Chapelle-aux-Champs, Box B 1.30.15, 1200 Brussels, Belgium

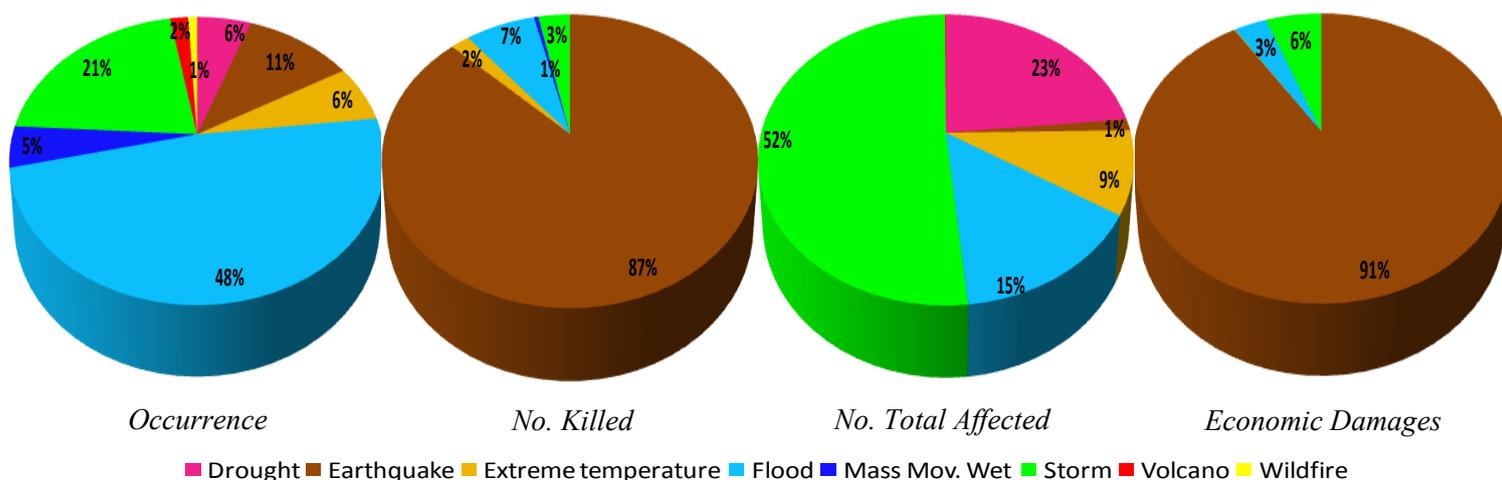
www.cred.be, contact@emdat.be

2011 First semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts: regional comparison

Continent	Occurrence	No. Killed	No.Total Affected	Damages (Million US\$)
Africa	27	279	10,833,560	-
Americas	21	1,538	648,503	14,500
Asia	45	21,290	32,070,303	211,427
Europe	6	334	25,019	-
Oceania	9	197	207,517	27,303



2011 First semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts by disaster type



CRED News

- ◆ CRED and UNDP/GRIP organized an Expert Working Group meeting on Disaster Loss Characterization on 7 Oct., 2011 in Geneva, inviting different actors from UN, reinsurance companies and international organizations. More information will be available soon on the EM-DAT website.
- ◆ The EC funded FP7 project emBRACE – Building Resilience Amongst Communities in Europe which is coordinated by CRED and University of Northumbria has recently been launched in Newcastle (www.embrace-eu.org).
- ◆ CRED will present its work on Disaster Loss Data at the IRDR Conference 2011, held from 31 October - 2 November in Beijing, China.
- ◆ CRED is pleased to announce the publication of two new articles: "Joshi P.C., Kaushal S., Aribam B.S., Khattri P., D'Aoust O., Marx M., Guha-Sapir D. (2011) Recurrent floods and prevalence of diarrhea among under five children: Observations from Bahrach district, Uttar Pradesh, India. Global Health Action, 4:6335" and "Joshi P.C., Guha-Sapir D., Vinay Kumar S. (2010) A qualitative account of the impact of disasters: The Case of flooding in Bahrach, Uttar Pradesh, Eastern Anthropologist, 63 (3-4): 479-492".

Please note that disaster data are subject to change as validation and cross-referencing of the sources is undertaken and as new information becomes available. For any enquiries please contact contact@emdat.be or visit www.emdat.be