

Spotlight on the Philippines: an historical perspective and the latest on Tropical cyclone Haiyan

EM-DAT figures cast light on the historical impact of disaster in the Republic of the Philippines, from 1900-2012. In this period, there were 531 recorded disaster events, 60,059 fatalities, economic damages of 10.5 billion USD with just under 160 million people affected (see A). Although sporadic geological events, such as the 1976 Earthquake have significantly marked mortality figures (6,000), the recurring narrative centres on frequent impacts from powerful tropical cyclones. The Philippines have experienced a number of high-impacts storms, for example the 1991 TC Thelma killed 5,956 people, and more recently in December 2012, TC Bopha claimed 1,901 lives (see B). From a disaster type perspective, data for the Philippines shows a higher proportion of storm related events (58%), and significantly greater share of storm impacts 68% mortality, 78% total affected and 77% of total economic losses (see D). Whereas the wider SE region highlights a mixed picture, where deaths from storms cause near equal percentage as earthquake events (43% and 45%), and economic damages largely dominated by floods (55%) rather than storms, 19% by comparison (see C). The pervasiveness of TC's, compared to SE region, is largely due to at-risk location of the Philippines, situated at the nucleus of tropical cyclone (typhoon) activity. The latest data on TC Haiyan suggests it will top the three categories of impact, making it deadliest natural disaster in Philippines modern history, affecting the largest number of people and inflicting the greatest economic losses. As of 29/1/2014/, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council places the burden of mortality from Haiyan at 6,201 (+1,785 still missing) with 28,626 injured, 16 million affected and 4 million displaced. The economic damages have reached approximately 838 million USD, with models estimating that total damages are likely to fall between 6.5 and 14 billion USD.

Debarati Guha-Sapir, Director

By estimated economic damages

Disaster	Month	Year	Damages (Million US\$)
TC Bopha	Dec	2012	898
Flood	Sep	1995	700
TC Pepeng	Sep	2009	585
TC Mike	Nov	1990	389
Earthquake	Jul	1990	370
TC Pedring	Sep	2011	344
TC Fengsheng	Jun	2008	285
TC Megi	Oct	2010	276
TC Angela	Nov	1995	244
TC Ruby	Oct	1988	241

A) Overall Natural disaster* figures for the period:

	1900-2012	2013
No. of disasters	531	16
No. of people killed	60,059	8,382
No. of people affected	159,933,005	26,367,431
Economic damages (Billion US\$)	10.5	1.1

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

B) The top 10 natural disasters in the Philippines 1900-2012

By number of people killed

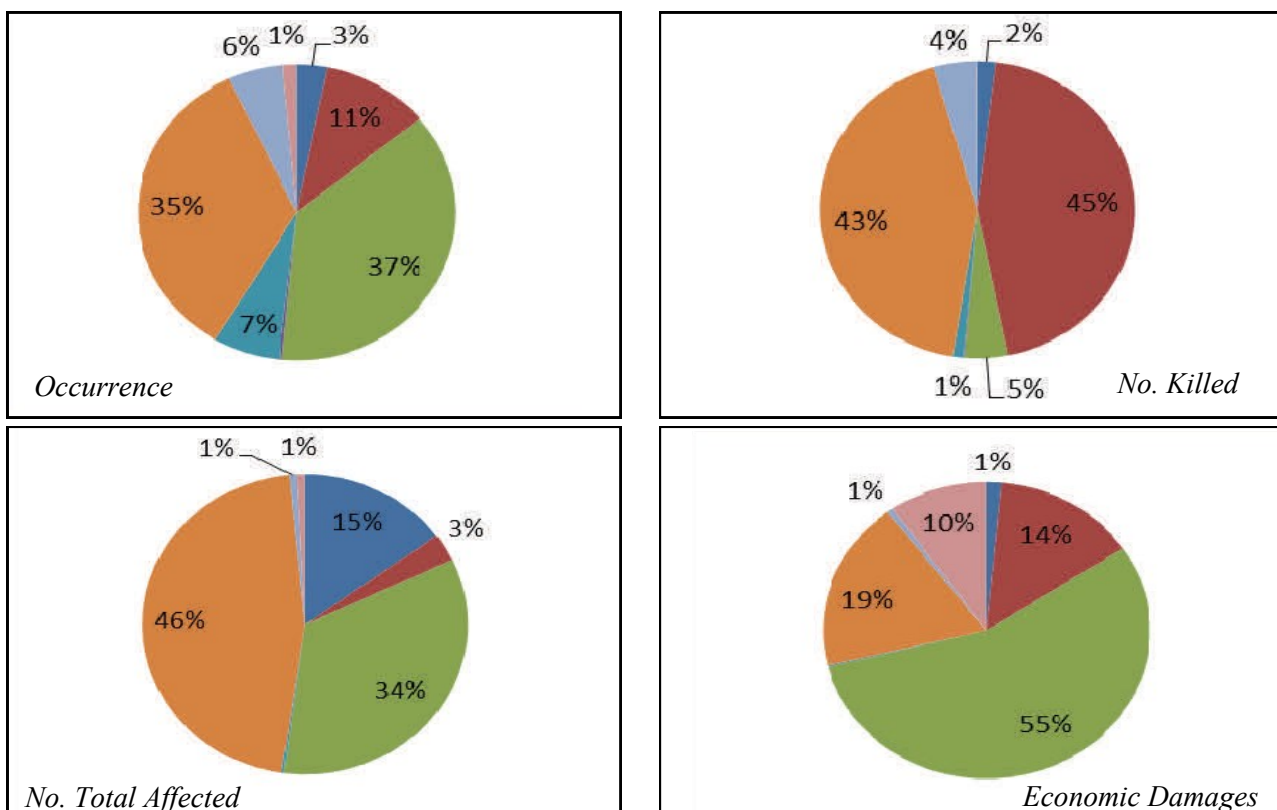
Disaster	Month	Year	No. killed
Earthquake	Aug	1976	6,000
TC Thelma	Nov	1991	5,956
Earthquake	Jul	1990	2,412
TC Bopha	Dec	2012	1,901
TC Winnie	Nov	2004	1,619
TC Joan	Oct	1970	1,551
TC Washi	Dec	2011	1,439
TC Ike	Sep	1984	1,399
TC Durian	Nov	2006	1,399
Volcano	Jan	1911	1,335

By number of total people affected

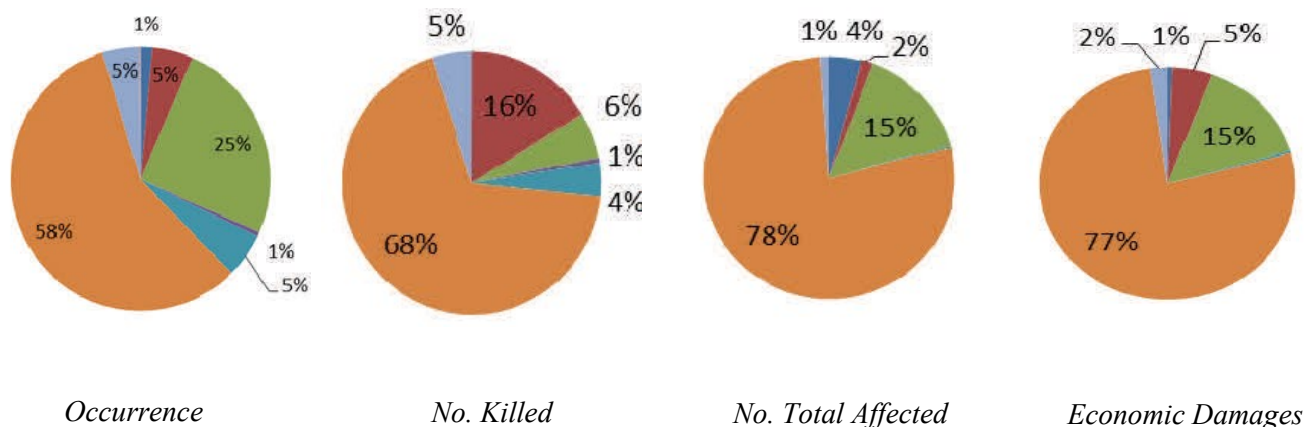
Disaster	Month	Year	No. Affected (Million)
TC Bopha	Dec	2012	6.25
TC Mike	Nov	1990	6.16
TC Ondoy	Sep	2009	4.90
TC Fengsheng	June	2008	4.79
TC Pepeng	Sep	2009	4.48
Flood	Aug	2012	4.45
TC Babs	Oct	1998	3.90
TC Xangsane	Sep	2006	3.84
TC Vera	Nov	1973	3.40
TC Ruby	Oct	1988	3.25

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

C) 1900-2012 natural disaster occurrence and impacts by disaster type: South-Eastern Asia region (%)



D) 1900-2012 natural disasters occurrence and impacts in the Philippines by disaster type (%)



■ Drought
 ■ earthquake
 ■ flood
 ■ mass movement wet
 ■ Mass movement dry
 ■ storm
 ■ wildfire

CRED News

CRED is delighted to announce the following new publications:

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DISASTERS – CRED (2013) People affected by conflict: Humanitarian needs in numbers. CRED: Brussels.

RODRIGUEZ-LLANES J., VOS F. and GUHA-SAPIR D. (2013) Measuring psychological resilience to disasters : Are evidence-based indicators an achievable goal ? in Environmental Health, 12: 115

GUHA-SAPIR, D. and ALTARE C. (2013) The burden of armed conflict: a public health approach, in: *Micro-Level Perspective on the Dynamics of Conflict, Violence and Development* (Edited by P. Justino, T. Brück, and P. Verwimp), Oxford: Oxford University Press .

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