CRED CRUNCH

2008 First semester balance

The first semester of 2008 was one of the worst ever recorded in EM-DAT. Indeed, once again, the world witnessed the extreme vulnerability of our society to natural hazards. Cyclone Nargis and the Sichuan earthquake, two historical events, resulted in the death of over 225,000 people.

Cyclone Nargis, which hit Myanmar in May and claimed 138,366 lives, is the third deadliest cyclone ever recorded in EM-DAT, while the Sichuan earthquake is the third deadliest disaster in recent Chinese history with 87,476 people killed.

From January to the end of June 2008, 101 natural disasters were reported. They killed 229,043 people, affected more than 130 million others and caused over 34 billion $US of damages. Floods and storms were the two most reported types of disasters, accounting respectively for 40% and 33% of the disaster occurrence. In terms of impacts, even if the figures are highly influenced by the two aforementioned major events, it is worth to note the large number of people that have been affected by floods (44 million), most of them in China.

Asia remains by far the region most affected by natural disasters in terms of human and economic impacts, but also in occurrence. This is mainly due to the fact that China has been one of the most affected countries in of this year's first semester. Even if only 8% of the reported disasters occurred in china, seven out of ten people affected by disaster in the world were Chinese. Furthermore, these disasters accounted for 84% of the reported economic damages.

This 2008 first balance, confirmed that natural disasters remain an important humanitarian issue that requires continued and improved disaster prevention and mitigation efforts.

Dir. Debarati Guha-Sapir

Natural disaster[2] figures: 2008 first semester (January-June)

	2008 1st semester	1998-2007 1st semester average
No. of Disaster	101	174
No. of people killed	229 043	8,768
No. of people affected	130,505,312	105,897,081
Economic damages (in Million $US)	34,934	15,076

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

The 10 largest natural disasters over the first semester of 2008

By number of people killed

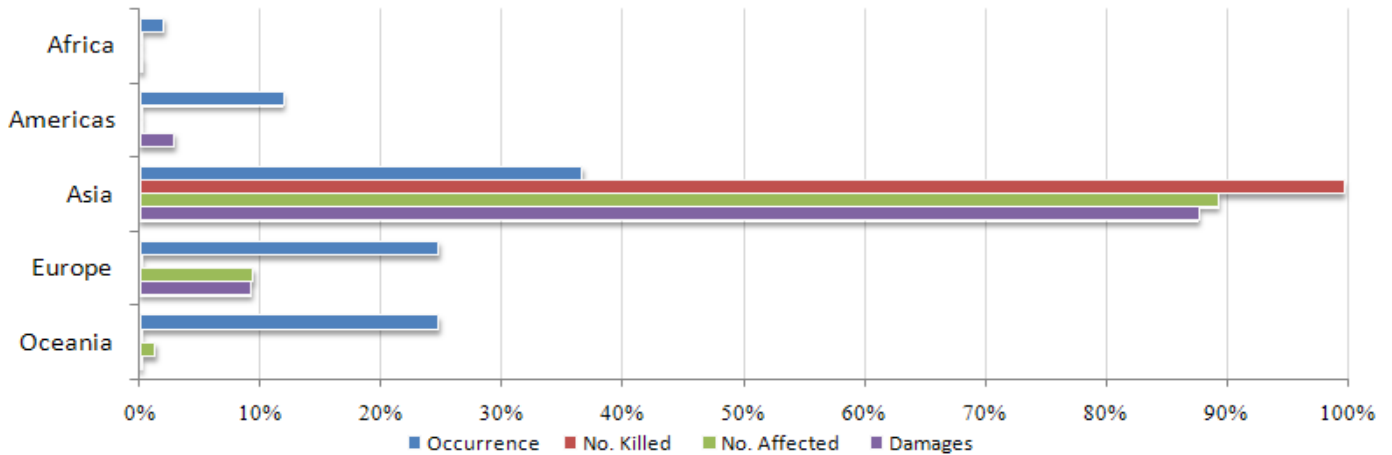| Disaster	Month	Country	No. people killed
Cyclone Nargis	May	Myanmar	138,366
Earthquake	May	China P Rep	87,476
Storm	January	Afghanistan	1,317
Typhoon Fengshen	June	Philippines	573
Cyclone 'Ivan'	June	Madagascar	93
Flood	June	China P Rep	76
Flood	January	Tanzania	72
Flood	May	China P Rep	64
Extreme temperature	January	China P Rep	60
Storm	June	United States	59

By estimated economic damages

Disaster	Month	Country	Economic damages (in Million $US)
Earthquake	May	China P Rep	20,000
Extreme temperature	January	China P Rep	7,500
Storm	May	United States	3,000
Flood	June	China P Rep	2,000
Extreme temperature	January	Tajikistan	850
Storm (Emma)	June	Germany	770
Storm (Emma)	June	Austria	225
Storm	March	United States	175
Flood	June	Kazakhstan	130
Flood	January	Australia	90

By number of people affected

Disaster	Month	Country	No. people affected
Earthquake	May	China P Rep	45,976,596
Flood	June	China P Rep	40,000,000
Storm	May	United States	11,000,009
Drought	April	Thailand	10,000,000
Extreme temperature	January	China P Rep	7,800,000
Typhoon Fengshen	June	Philippines	4,000,826
Cyclone Nargis	May	Myanmar	2,400,000
Extreme temperature	January	Tajikistan	2,000,000
Storm (Halong)	May	Philippines	1,062,468
Flood	June	Philippines	875,339

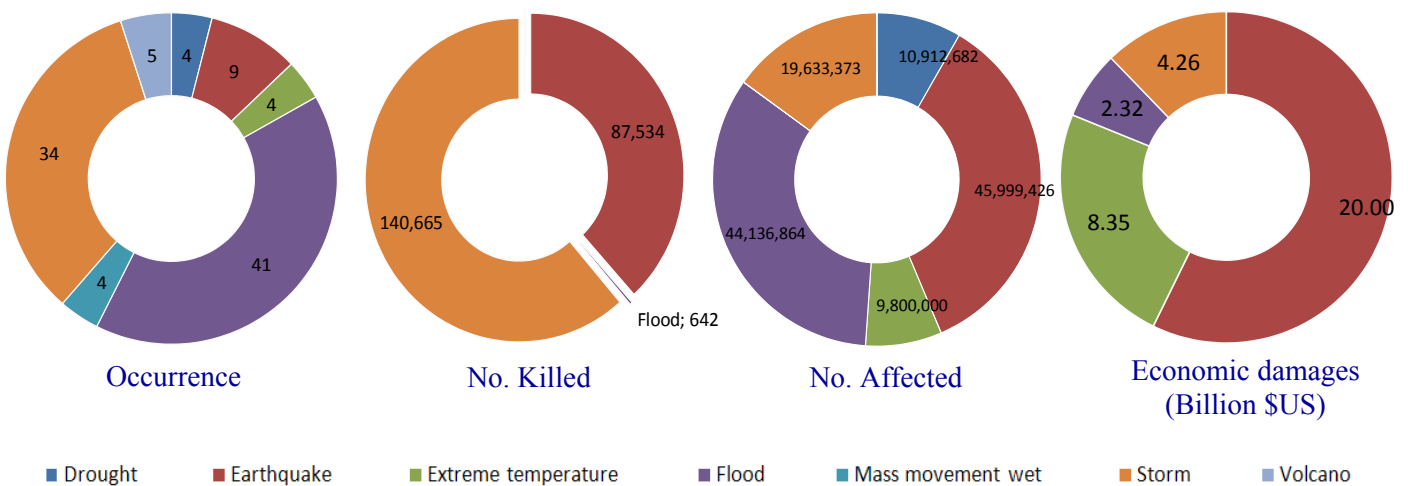*All the figures presented in the CRED Crunch are coming from "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database"*

2008 First semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts: regional comparison

	Occurrence	No. Killed	No. Affected	Damages (in Million $US)
Africa	25	352	1,682,974	1.26
Americas	25	340	12,264,082	3,220
Asia	37	228316	116,549,382	30,627.99
Europe	12	27	5,874	995
Oceania	2	8	3,000	90

2008 First semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts by disaster type

Occurrence   No. Killed   No. Affected   Economic damages (Billion $US)

■ Drought ■ Earthquake ■ Extreme temperature ■ Flood ■ Mass movement wet ■ Storm ■ Volcano

CRED News

- In collaboration with the Global Risk Identification Program (GRIP) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), CRED is currently **listing the existing disaster data collection initiatives**. In this framework, we would like to invite the persons who are in charge or simply aware of interesting disaster databases, to submit these initiatives on our dedicated portal:www.disdat.be.

- **International Symposium on Documenting Mortality in Conflict Situations November 6th and 7th, 2008** - Fondation Universitaire, Brussels, Belgium

  The aim of the symposium is to strengthen the scientific basis for documenting mortality in conflict situations by drawing on recent progress in field epidemiology, demography, forensics and statistical analyses, as well as build bridges between these disciplines and develop complementary approaches. For more information, please contact olivier.degomme@uclouvain.be