

2010 First semester balance

Preliminary EM-DAT figures for the first semester of 2010 showed the occurrence of over 160 natural disasters. These events killed almost 230,000 people, affected 107 million others and caused over 55 billion US\$ of damages. Once again, the year was marked by a mega disaster: the earthquake that hit Haiti, one of the poorest countries of the world, on January 12. The human impact of this disaster on a single country ranks at the top for the last decade with at least 222,000 people killed and over 3 millions people affected, of which 2 million were displaced. This single event will change regional disaster trends, as for the first time since 1900, the American continent was hit by one of the deadliest natural disasters ever recorded. Floods and storms were the two most reported types of disasters, accounting respectively for 46% and 26% of disaster occurrence. Floods and droughts in China were the cause for the majority of affected people. In terms of persons killed, 3 earthquakes rank in the top 10, respectively the earthquake of Haiti, followed by the one that hit China in April, killing over 2,200 people and, last but not least, the earthquake that hit Chile in February killing at least 562 people and affecting 2 million others. This last event also ranks as the costliest disaster, with 30 billion US\$ of damages.

It is interesting to note that the magnitude of the Chili earthquake (8.8) was much larger than that of Haiti (7), yet the scale of human impact was incomparable. The factors that account for this difference are well known and include depth, soil types, location related to populated places - factors over which humans can have very little control. On the other hand, urban planning, effective governance and the preparedness of local inhabitants are factors that we can influence. We now have to ensure that we address these factors in other vulnerable places.

Debarati Guha-Sapir, Director

Natural disaster* figures: 2010 first semester (January-June)

	2010 1st semester	2000-2009 1st semester average
No. of disasters	162	170
No. of people killed	229,474	30,474
No. of people affected	107,127,776	121,387,931
Economic damages (Million \$US)	55,263	30,712

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

The 10 largest natural disasters over the first semester of 2010

By number of people killed

Disaster	Month	Country	No. killed
Earthquake	Jan	Haiti	222,570
Earthquake	Apr	China	2290
Earthquake	Feb	Chile	562
Landslide	Feb	Uganda	388
Flood	Jun	China	322
Hurricane Agatha	May	Guatemala	287
Flood	Ap	Brazil	256
Heat wave	Mar-May	India	250
Cold wave	Jan	Poland	212
Cold wave	Jan	Bangladesh	135

By estimated economic damages

Disaster	Month	Country	Total damage (million US\$)
Earthquake	Feb	Chile	30,000
Earthquake	Jan	Haiti	8,000
Flood	Jun	China	6,300
Flood	May	Poland	3,200
Storm	Feb	United States	2,000
Flood	Feb	Portugal	1,800
Storm	Feb	France	1,650
Storm	Mar	Australia	1,380
Flood	May	Hungary	0,357
Drought	Bol	China P Rep	0,100

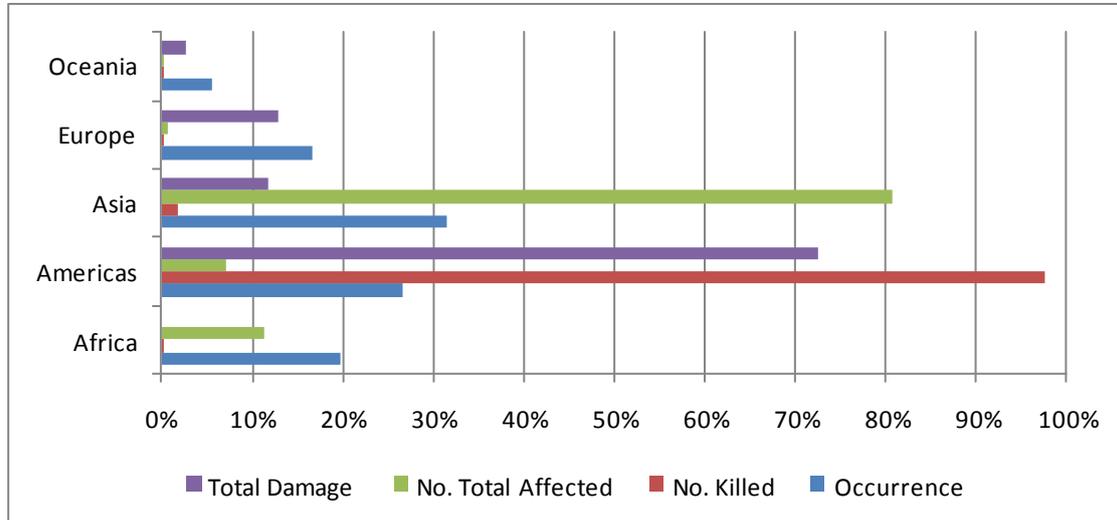
By number of total people affected

Disaster	Month	Country	No. affected
Drought		China	51,000,000
Flood	Jun	China	29,000,000
Drought		Niger	7,700,000
Earthquake	Jan	Haiti	3,700,000
Earthquake	Feb	Chile	2,600,000
Landslide	May-Jun	China	2,100,000
Drought		Chad	2,000,000
Storm	Jan	China	1,500,000
Cold wave	Jan-May	Mongolia	769,000
Drought		Mali	600,000

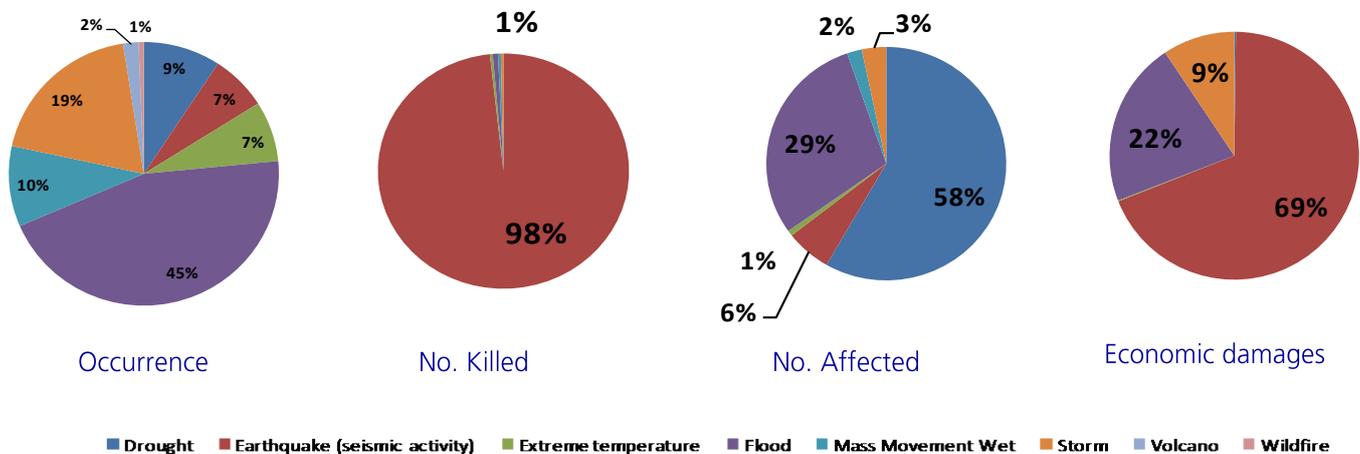
All the figures presented in the CRED CRUNCH come from "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database"

2010 First semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts: regional comparison

Continent	Occurrence	No. Killed	No. Affected	Damage (Million US\$)
Africa	32	650	12,042,283	0
Americas	43	224,124	7,662,172	40,158
Asia	51	4213	86,647,098	6,536
Europe	27	461	713,776	7,137
Oceania	9	26	62,447	1,430



2010 First semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts by disaster type



CRED News

- ◆ CRED is pleased to present the Fourth Edition of the « Annual Statistical Review: Numbers and Trends 2009 ». In the 4th Edition, 2009 disaster figures are analyzed and compared with previous years. The report can be downloaded at: http://cred.be/sites/default/files/ADSR_2009.pdf
- ◆ MICRODIS Symposium on Disaster Impacts Assessment in Asia, Park View Hotel, Hue City (Vietnam), 25-27 August 2010
- ◆ The CE-DAT team is organizing a training on surveys and assessments for Irish NGOs Goal and Concern in Dublin at the end of September. For more information, please contact [David Hargitt](mailto:David.Hargitt@cred.be)

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