

CRED CRUNCH

“Disaster Data: A Balanced Perspective”

May 2005

The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) is proud to present its first CRED CRUNCH newsletter. As part of our objective of providing the international community with more analysis on the worldwide occurrence and impact of disasters, new issues of this newsletter covering various topics will be prepared and distributed at regular intervals.

All comments and suggestions on the newsletter, including the types of analyses that readers would like to see, are welcome. In this first issue, CRED CRUNCH presents analyses on the occurrence and impact of natural disasters in 2004.

2004 was clearly characterized by the Indian Ocean tsunami which accounted for nearly 94% of all recorded deaths from natural disasters for the year.

The global response to the disaster was unprecedented, both in terms of financial pledges from donor countries as well as from the extraordinary solidarity, compassion and support from around the world.

As disasters divert funds from development programs to emergency relief and recovery, the tsunami highlighted once again the need for the integration of disaster planning in development projects, including the obligation of disaster risk assessment in large infrastructure projects and the building of local capacities for disaster preparedness and response.

The development of early warning systems, though important, is just one element of disaster preparedness and mitigation. The ability of being forewarned of an impending disaster only highlights the importance of building local capacities to put into effect mitigation procedures, evacuate populations and mobilize skilled emergency services.

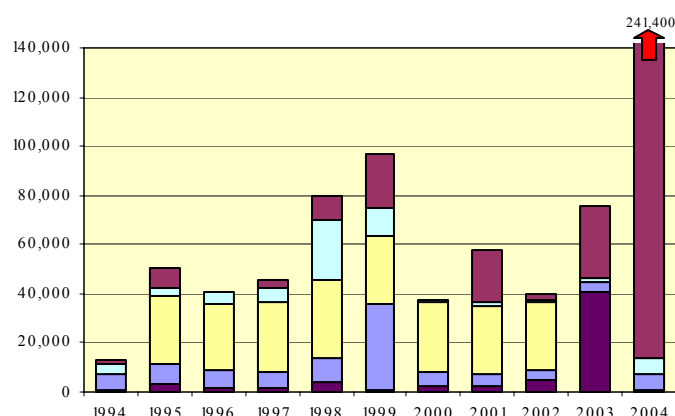
Finally, the substantial relief funds that were provided to the affected countries by donors and the general public further emphasizes the need for accountability and the efficient targeting of these resources to the beneficiaries.

Dr. Debarati Guba-Sapir
Director

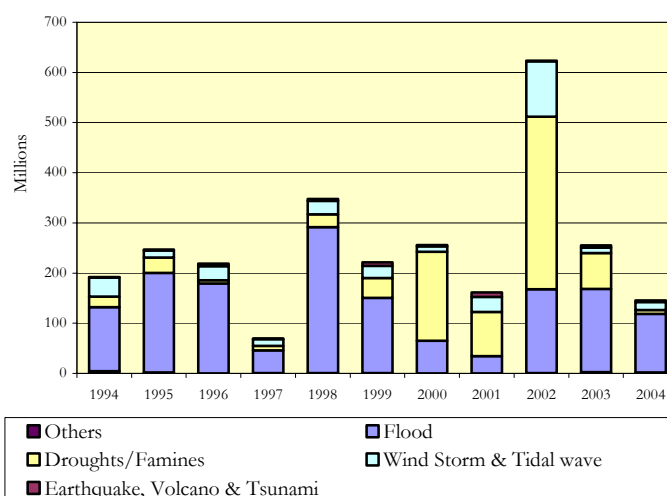
Natural disasters in 2004: summary

| | 2004 | 1994-2003 yearly average |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| No. of disasters | 360 | 307 |
| No. of countries affected | 123 | 104 |
| No. of people killed | 241,400 | 53,678 |
| No. of people affected | 145,564,751 | 259,240,867 |
| Economic damages (US\$) | 103 billion | 55 billion |

Annual number of deaths by disaster type



Annual number of people affected by disaster type



Others
 Flood
 Droughts/Famines
 Wind Storm & Tidal wave
 Earthquake, Volcano & Tsunami

About EM-DAT

The EM-DAT database includes disasters from around the globe, both natural and man-made, from 1900 to present that fulfil any one of the following criteria:

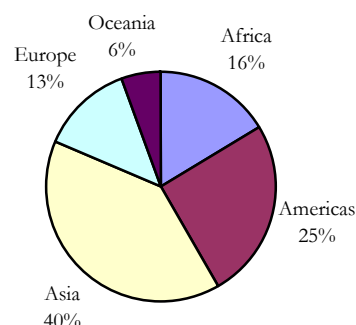
- 10 or more people reported killed
- 100 or more people reported affected
- a declaration of a state of emergency
- a call for international assistance

For each disaster, information is compiled on its characteristics and on its human and economic impact.

The database is validated and updated regularly and can be fully accessed on the internet.

For more information, please go to www.em-dat.net

2004 disaster occurrence by continent



The 2004 human impact: the 10 most affected countries

| No. of people killed | | No. killed/million inhabitants | |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Indonesia | 165,946 | Sri Lanka | 1,809.2 |
| Sri Lanka | 35,405 | Indonesia | 758.6 |
| India | 17,737 | Haiti | 668.9 |
| Thailand | 8,375 | Niue | 610.5 |
| Haiti | 5,422 | Grenada | 367.9 |
| Philippines | 1,918 | Maldives | 342.3 |
| Bangladesh | 1,002 | Thailand | 131.3 |
| China | 805 | Dominican Rep. | 79.7 |
| Dominican Rep. | 703 | Djibouti | 71.6 |
| Morocco | 628 | Seychelles | 37.5 |

| No. of people affected | | No. affected/100,000 inhabitants | |
|------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| China | 53,014,587 | Grenada | 56,604 |
| Bangladesh | 36,889,900 | Niue | 42,857 |
| India | 33,860,512 | American Samoa | 35,477 |
| South Africa | 4,015,000 | Bangladesh | 26,100 |
| Philippines | 3,262,978 | Vanuatu | 25,004 |
| Kenya | 2,312,000 | Swaziland | 20,744 |
| Peru | 2,145,043 | Djibouti | 14,045 |
| Madagascar | 1,032,429 | Jamaica | 13,247 |
| Nepal | 800,015 | South Africa | 8,560 |
| Sri Lanka | 739,306 | Peru | 7,787 |

CRED News

CRED recently published the book *Thirty Years of Natural Disasters 1974-2003: The Numbers* which analyses natural disaster occurrence and impact over the past three decades. To order this book, please contact cred@esp.ucl.ac.be

In collaboration with the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction of Columbia University, CRED is improving its methodology for droughts and famines.

Following an "Expert Consultation on Economic Data on Natural disasters" hosted by the Hazard Management Unit of the World Bank, CRED is consolidating its methodologies for economic data compilation and entry.

The next EM-DAT Technical Advisory Group meeting will take place in Washington DC in August.

CRED will be participating in June to the roll out meeting of the SMART protocol that will take place at the UNICEF headquarters in New York City.

The 2004 economic impact: the 10 most affected countries

| in absolute amounts (US\$) | | as a proportion of previous-year GDP | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Japan | 46.3 billion | Cayman Islands | 270 % |
| United States | 26.2 billion | Grenada | 202 % |
| Bangladesh | 7 billion | Maldives | 38 % |
| Indonesia | 4.6 billion | American Samoa | 30 % |
| China | 4.3 billion | Jamaica | 6.0 % |
| Cayman Islands | 3.4 billion | Seychelles | 4.8 % |
| India | 1.5 billion | Cuba | 3.9 % |
| Portugal | 1.3 billion | Bangladesh | 2.9 % |
| Sri Lanka | 1.3 billion | Madagascar | 2.0 % |
| Cuba | 1.0 billion | Sri Lanka | 1.8 % |

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 cred-crunch@em-dat.net