

Natural disasters¹ in 2012

In 2012, 310 natural disasters were recorded in the EM-DAT database. They claimed 9,930 lives, affected over 106 million others and caused economic damages of US\$138 billion.

There were no mega-disasters in 2012 in terms of human impact. The largest disaster of 2012 in terms of mortality was Typhoon Bopha in the Philippines that resulted in 1,901 deaths. It was the strongest tropical cyclone on record to hit the southern Philippine island of Mindanao and affected over 6 million persons.

Globally, Asia was once again the continent most affected by natural disasters, both in terms of occurrence, persons killed and persons affected. On the other hand, 63% of economic losses occurred in the Americas, mainly due to Hurricane Sandy that hit the Eastern seaboard of the United States in October (50 billion US\$) and a drought that affected 62% of the contiguous United States (20 billion US\$). Other notable disasters in term of economic impact were the two earthquakes that hit Northern Italy in May and which resulted in 15.8 billion US\$ of damages.

Though the majority of economic damages from natural disasters in 2012 came from developed nations, the impact of disasters on less-developed economies should not be overlooked. For example, the damages caused by Cyclone Evan on Samoa represented almost 20% of the country's GDP. Similarly, floods in Pakistan resulted in losses equal to 1.7% of the country's GDP.

It is only by addressing the links between poverty reduction and disaster-risk reduction that the international community can lessen the impact disasters have on developing nations.

Debarati Guha-Sapir
Director, CRED

Economic impact in 2012

10 most affected countries

In absolute amounts (US\$ billion)		As percentage of GDP	
United States	85.7	Samoa	19.9%
China P Rep	21.0	Haiti	3.8%
Italy	17.2	Fiji	1.7%
Pakistan	2.6	Pakistan	1.3%
Philippines	1.8	Madagascar	1.0%
Russia	1.8	Philippines	0.8%
United Kingdom	1.1	Italy	0.8%
Australia	1.0	Comoros	0.6%
Iran Islam Rep	0.9	United States	0.6%
Mexico	0.8	Kenya	0.4%

Natural disasters¹ in 2012: summary

	2012	2002-2011 yearly average
No. of country-level disasters	310	380
No. of countries affected	115	118
No. of people killed	9,330	106,890
No. of people affected	106,087,958	245,683,632
Economic damages (US\$)	138 billion	131 billion

¹The CRED CRUNCH newsletter does not include epidemics and insect infestations as natural disasters unless explicitly stated.

Human impact in 2012

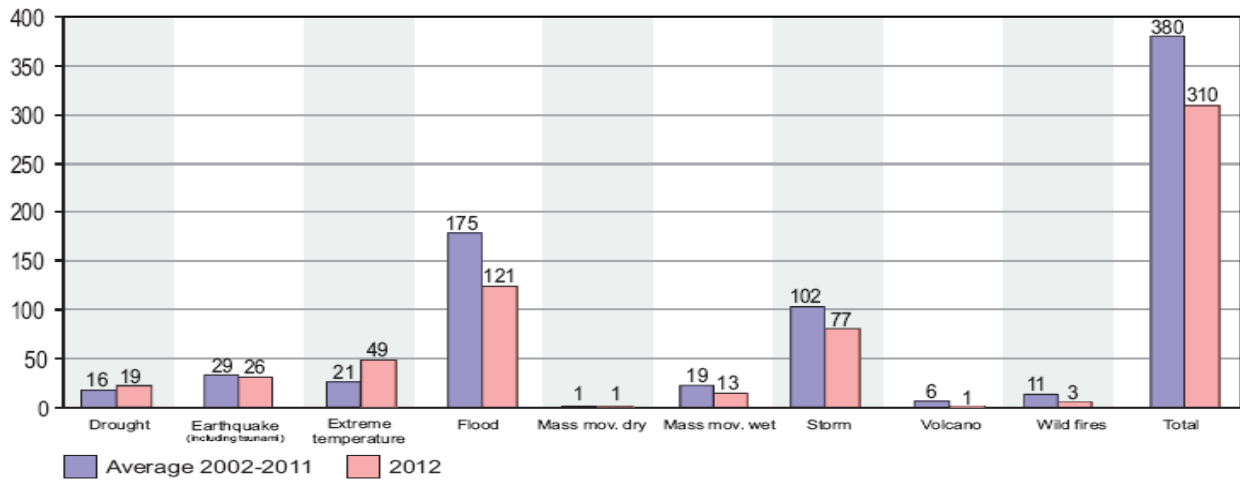
10 most affected countries

No. of people killed		No. killed/100,000 inhabitants	
Philippines	2,360	Samoa	6.4
China P Rep	771	Philippines	2.6
Pakistan	671	Fiji	2.0
India	483	Afghanistan	1.5
Russia	414	Haiti	1.3
Nigeria	378	Lithuania	1.0
Afghanistan	372	Korea Dem P Rep	1.0
Iran	312	Peru	1.0
United States	291	Papua New Guinea	0.9
Peru	288	South Sudan	0.6

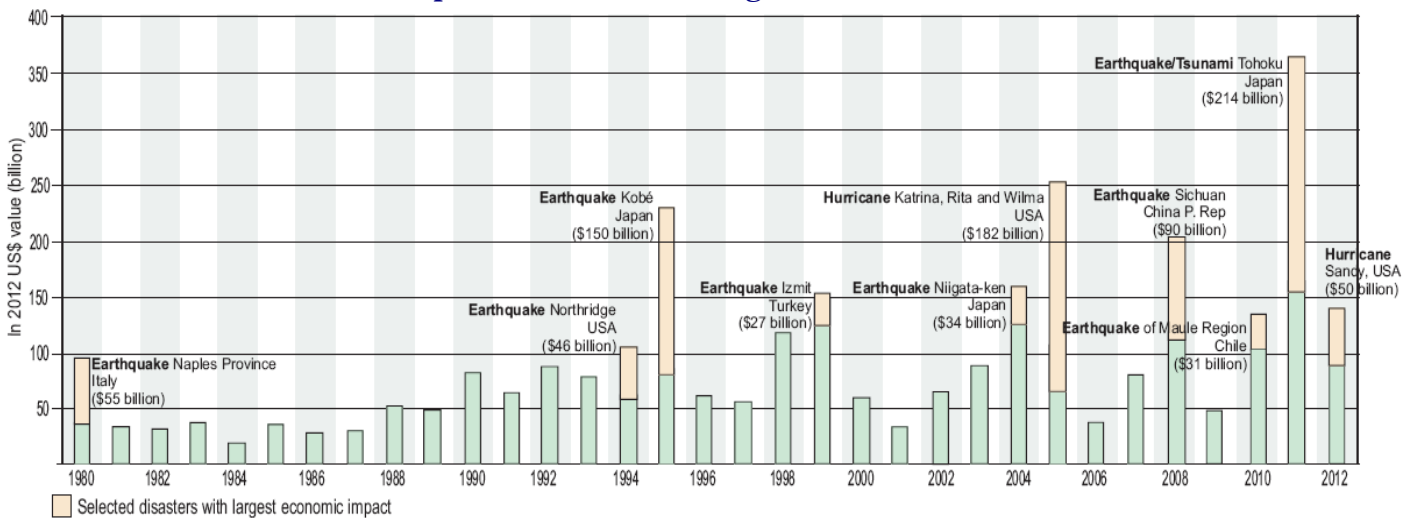
No. of people affected (million)		No. affected/100,000 inhabitants	
China	43.1	Somalia	30,016
Philippines	12.5	The Gambia	22,839
Nigeria	7.0	Paraguay	22,417
Pakistan	5.1	Chad	19,635
India	4.3	Philippines	13,583
Kenya	4.0	Korea Dem P Rep	13,541
Sudan	3.3	Malawi	13,430
Korea Dem P Rep	3.3	Zimbabwe	12,854
Somalia	3.0	Sudan	10,795
Chad	2.2	Kenya	10,439

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

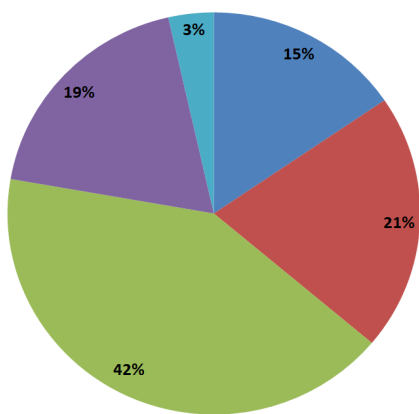
Natural disaster occurrence by disaster type



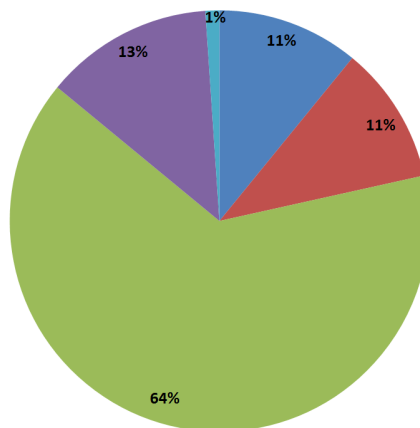
Annual reported economic damages from disasters 1980-2012



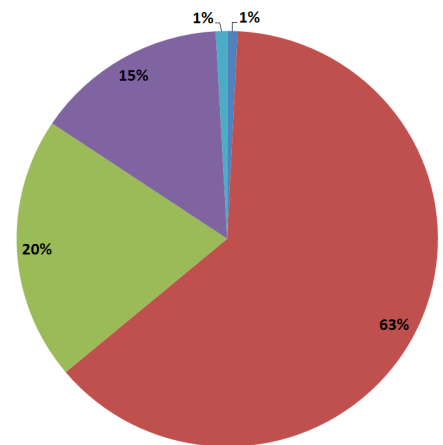
disaster occurrence by continent (%) 2012



Disaster mortality by continent (%) 2012



Disaster economic costs by continent (%) 2012



■ Africa ■ Americas ■ Asia ■ Europe ■ Oceania

CRED News

CRED is pleased to announce the publication of a new book. *The Economic Impacts of Natural Disasters*, edited by Debarati Guha-Sapir and Indhira Santos, is being published by Oxford University Press and is estimated to be available soon. The book provides an overview of the general trends in natural disasters and their effects by focusing on a critical analysis of different methodologies used to assess the economic impact of natural disasters.

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