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2018: EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AFFECTED 60 MILLION PEOPLE

GENEVA, 24 January, 2019 – Earthquakes and tsunamis accounted for the majority of the 10,373 lives lost in disasters last year while extreme weather events accounted for most of 61.7 million people affected by natural hazards, according to analysis of 281 events recorded by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) in its EM-DAT (International Disaster Database).

Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, said: “No part of the globe was spared from the impact of extreme weather events last year. Examined floods, droughts, storms and wildfires affected 57.3 million people, underlining once more that if we want to reduce disaster losses, then we must improve how we manage disaster risk.

“Time is running out for limiting global warming to 1.5°C or 2°C. We have to be equally active about climate change adaptation which means reducing disaster risk in our cities, avoiding the creation of new risk by better land use, stronger planning regulations and building codes, safeguarding protective eco-systems, reducing poverty, and taking active measures to reduce exposure to rising sea levels.”

The 2018 toll of 10,373 lives lost compares with an annual average of 77,144 deaths recorded between 2000 and 2017, averages which are inflated by large-scale loss of life in catastrophic events such as the Indian Ocean tsunami (2004), Cyclone Nargis (2008) and the Haitian earthquake (2010). There were no such mega-disasters in 2018 but loss of life from major natural hazards appears to be on the decline likely due to improving standards of living and better disaster risk management.

Seismic activity including earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic activity disrupted the lives of 3.4 million people last year and claimed more lives than any other hazard type, including Indonesia (4,417), Guatemala (425) and Papua New Guinea (145).

About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which seeks “the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses, in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.”

About CRED: CRED is based in the Institute for Research on Health and Society (IRSS) at UCLouvain in Brussels. CRED has been active for over 40 years in the fields of international disaster and conflict health studies, with activities linking relief, rehabilitation and development. CRED promotes research, training and technical expertise on humanitarian emergencies, particularly in public health and epidemiology.

Floods continued to affect the largest number of people, 35.4 million people, including 23 million people in Kerala, India. They caused 2,859 deaths including India (504), Japan (220), Nigeria (199), and Korea DPR (151).

Storms affected 12.8 million people last year and caused a recorded 1,593 deaths. It is anticipated that storms, particularly due to hurricanes Florence (14 billion USD) and Michael (16 billion USD) and typhoon Jebi (12.5 billion USD), will be the costliest type of disaster of 2018 once final economic losses are compiled.

Wildfires in Europe and North America claimed a record number of lives as Greece (126) had the deadliest European wildfire on record, and the United States (88) had its deadliest wildfire in over a century, and costliest wildfire on record (estimated 16.5 billion USD).

The CRED statistics highlight that 9.3 million people were affected by drought worldwide, including Kenya (3 million), Afghanistan (2.2 million), and Central America (2.5 million), including migration hotspots Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Insufficient reporting from drought and extreme temperatures events hinder a better understanding of these events worldwide.

Dr. Debarati Guha-Sapir, head of CRED at UCLouvain, said: “The impact of all disasters, particularly drought and extreme temperatures are notoriously poorly reported, especially from low-income countries. The human impact of these events, are difficult to quantify, but it needs to be done urgently, especially in order to report on specific SDG target indicators. Therefore, innovative approaches that measure progress in resilience and the adaptive capacity of communities needs to be addressed by appropriate UN agencies.”

UN member States are committed to reducing disaster losses and implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the global plan for reducing disaster losses which has a clear focus on reducing mortality and the numbers of disaster affected people, as well as reducing associated economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure.

Death Toll by Disaster Type (2018 vs. average 21st Century)

Event	2018	Average (2000-2017)
Drought	0	1,361
Earthquake	4,321	46,173
Extreme temperature	536	10,414
Flood	2,859	5,424
Landslide	282	929
Mass movement (dry)	17	20
Storm	1,593	12,722
Volcanic activity	878	31
Wildfire	247	71
Total	10,733	77,144

Source: EM-DAT (International Disaster Database)

Top 10 Countries by Number of People Affected (2018)

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	Country	Total Number of People Affected
1.	India	23,900,348
2.	Philippines	6,490,216
3.	China	6,415,024
4.	Nigeria	3,938,204
5.	Guatemala	3,291,359
6.	Kenya	3,211,188
7.	Afghanistan	2,206,750
8.	USA	1,762,103
9.	Japan	1,599,497
10.	Madagascar	1,472,190

Source: EM-DAT (International Disaster Database)

Top 10 Countries by Total Death Toll (2018)

	Country	Total Death Toll
1.	Indonesia	4,535
2.	India	1,388
3.	Guatemala	427
4.	Japan	419
5.	China	341
6.	Nigeria	300
7.	United States of America	298
8.	Pakistan	240
9.	Korea DPR	237
10.	Philippines	221

Source: EM-DAT (International Disaster Database)

Total Number of People Affected by Disaster Type (2018 vs. average 21st Century)

Event	2018	Average (2000-2017)
Drought	9,368,345	58,734,128
Earthquake	1,517,138	6,783,729
Extreme temperature	396,798	6,368,470
Flood	35,385,178	86,696,923
Landslide	54,908	263,831
Mass movement (dry)	0	286
Storm	12,884,845	34,083,106
Volcanic activity	1,908,770	169,308
Wildfire	256,635	19,243
Total	61,772,617	193,312,310

Source: EM-DAT (International Disaster Database)

Total Deaths Tolls by Year (21st Century)

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Year	Death Toll	Major Events (5000+ Deaths)
2000	9,609	
2001	30,844	Gujarat Earthquake
2002	12,124	
2003	109,827	Bam Earthquake, European Heatwave
2004	242,765	Indian Ocean Earthquake
2005	88,673	Kashmir Earthquake
2006	24,239	Java Earthquake
2007	16,960	
2008	235,256	Cyclone Nargis, Sichuan Earthquake
2009	10,672	
2010	297,140	Haiti Earthquake, Russian Heatwave, Somalia Drought
2011	51,434	Japan Earthquake
2012	10,319	
2013	21,859	North India Floods, Typhoon Haiyan
2014	7,993	
2015	22,774	Nepal Earthquake
2016	8,512	
2017	9,734	
2018	10,733	
Total	1,221,465	

Source: EM-DAT (International Disaster Database)

For more information, please consult the supporting document at this link:

<https://cred.be/sites/default/files/Review2018.pdf>



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www.emdat.be

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