

Floods and Asia dominant disaster data in the first semester of 2013

EM-DAT figures initially show that during the first six months of 2013, 127 disaster events occurred, with associated fatalities of 8,250, affecting over 16 million people, and causing economic damages to the sum of 45,129 Million.

Data from the first half of 2013 has reinforced Asia’s position as most prone to disaster impacts. Flood and earthquake events feature prominently in the high totals on all impact categories: total fatalities, total economic damage and total people affected. The continent’s two largest countries in terms of population, India and China, suffered from flood, earthquake and drought related impacts. Notably, a singular flood event during the month of June in India cost at least 5,000 lives, which alone eclipsed the number of people killed in the 2012 1st semester (2,579). Highest economic costs are seen in China, where a drought delivered damages of 10 Billion.

Due to the lack of catastrophic events such as the Haiti earthquake in 2010 (222, 570 deaths), and the more recent East Japan earthquake and Tsunami (19,846 deaths), the first 6 months of 2013 show that disaster related mortality was significantly lower than figures observed during the average 1st semester between 2003-2012. From a disaster type perspective, floods, as per usual, dominate statistical impact analysis, single-handedly accounting for 48% of occurrence, 48% of total affected, 36% of economic damages, and 75 % of all deaths.

In the context of the post 2015 Hyogo framework for building resilience (which is currently in its consultation phase), more is needed to significantly reduce disaster impacts through a focus on curbing the growing patterns of exposure in developing countries. For this to be achieved, disaster risk management must be effectively incorporated into land use, urban and spatial planning, and in post disaster reconstruction planning.

Debarati Guha-Sapir, Director

Natural disaster* figures:

	2013 1st semester	2003-2012 1st semester average
No. of disasters	127	169
No. of people killed	8250	58,690
No. of people affected	16,416,723	111,793,932
Economic damages (Million \$US)	45,129	79,876

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

The top 10 natural disasters over the first semester of 2013

By number of people killed

Disaster	Month	Country	No. killed
Flood	Jun	India	>5,000
Heat wave	Apr-May	India	531
Heat wave	May-Sep	Japan	338
Cold wave	Jan	India	249
Earthquake	Apr	China	198
Flood	Jan	Zimbabwe	125
Flood	Jan	Mozambique	117
Landslide	Mar	China	83
Flood	Jun-Jul	India	80
Cold wave	Feb	Bangladesh	72

By estimated economic damages

Disaster	Month	Country	Damages (Million US\$)
Drought		China	10,000
Earthquake	April	China	6,800
Tornado	May	US	3,100
Flood	Jan	Indonesia	3,000
Flood	Jun	Canada	3,000
Tornado	May-Jun	US	2,000
Ex-tc Oswald	Jan	Australia	2,000
Flood	Feb	Philippines	1,680
Drought		N. Zealand	1,600
Drought		Brazil	1,460

By number of total people affected

Disaster	Month	Country	No. affected
Earthquake	Apr	China, P Rep	2,184,000
Flood	Jun-Jul	India	2,000,000
Drought**		Chad	1,600,000
Thunderstorm	Mar	China	1,398,324
Flood	June	Czech rep	1,300,000
TC Mahasen	May	Bangladesh	1,285,508
Flood	Jun-Jul	China	625,000
Flash Flood	Jan	Philippines	507,769
Earthquake	Mar	China, P Rep	427,740
Drought		Nambia	331,000

**start in 2012

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

Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)

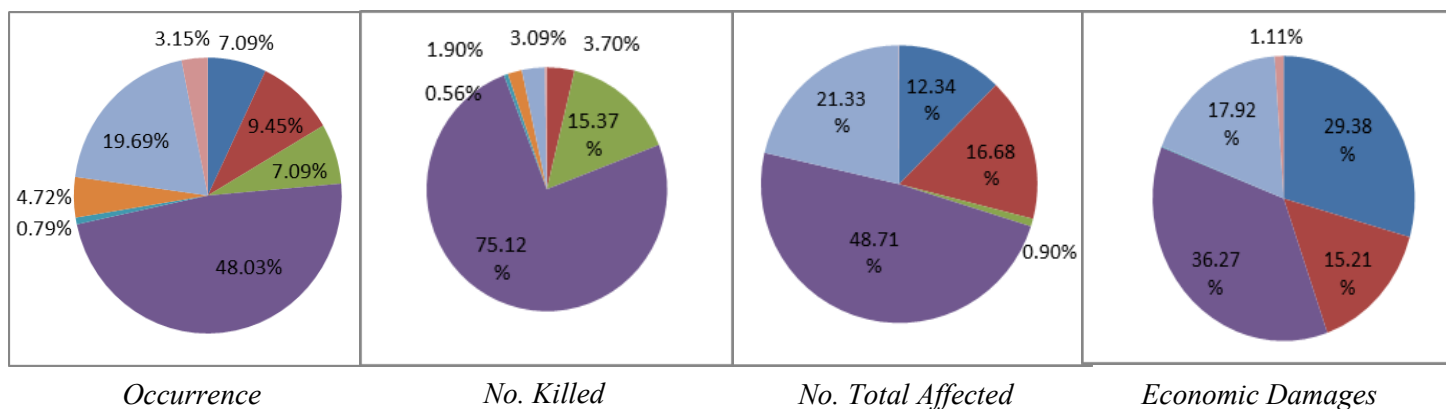
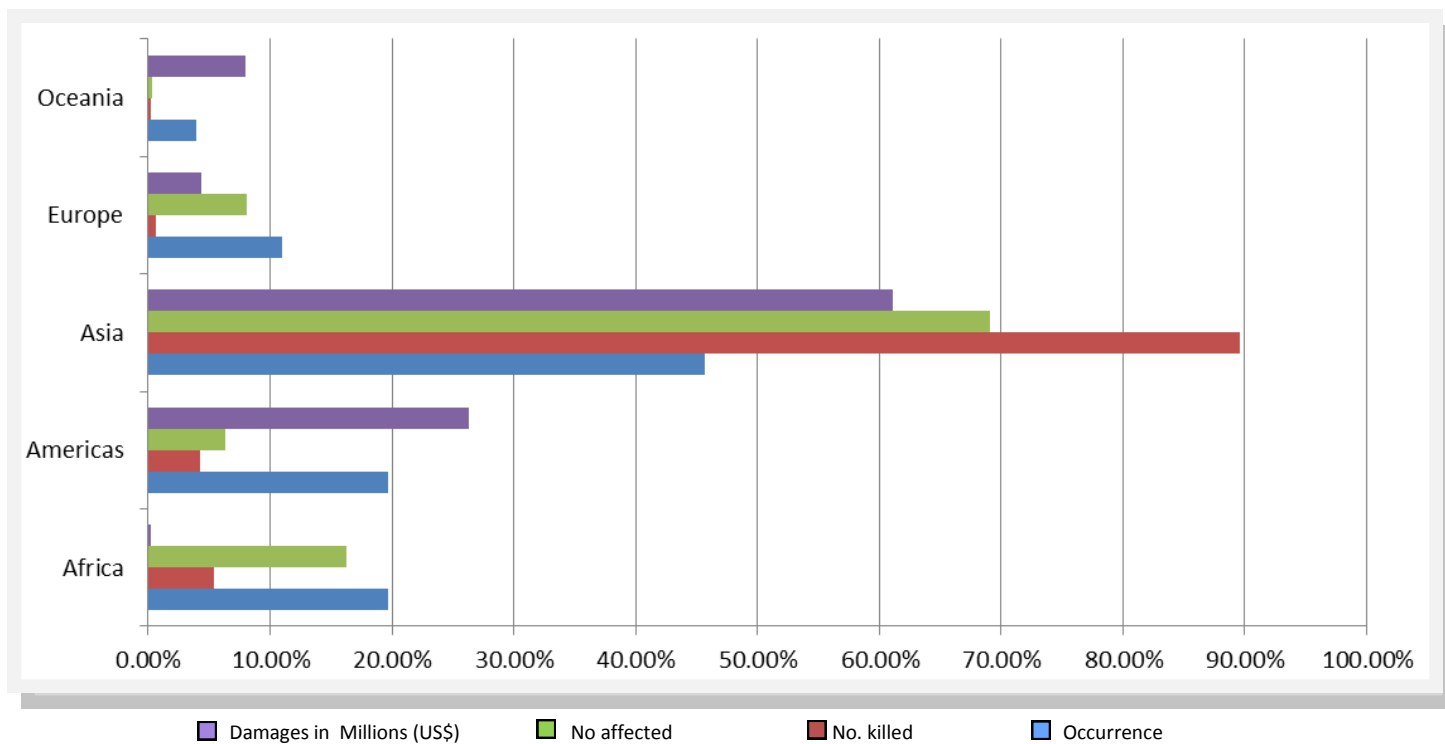
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2013 first semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts: regional comparison

Continent	Occurrence	No. Killed	No.Total Affected	Damages (Million US\$)
Africa	25	449	2,664,263	105
Americas	25	349	1,038,460	11,868
Asia	58	7,388	11,332,938	27,566
Europe	14	48	1,328,859	1,988
Oceania	5	16	52,213	3,600



CRED News

The upcoming EM-DAT Technical Advisory Group meeting is planned to be held in Autumn 2013. More details will soon be provided on our website: www.emdat.be.

For access to the EMDAT disaster data, or for information on the methodology used, please visit www.emdat.be

New article published in NEJM, Leaning J. and Guha-Sapir D. Disasters, armed conflict and public health. *New Eng J Med*; 369 (19): 1836-1842

Coming up soon: CRED's estimates of the number of People Affected by Conflict (PAC) and their health needs - a comprehensive guide for evidence-based resource allocation and priority setting in humanitarian assistance.

Also, a report on the Epidemiology of war-related deaths in Syria, which is currently in preparation.