



CRED CRUNCH

Issue No. 10

“Disaster Data: A Balanced Perspective”

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2007 first semester disaster data

During the last three months the world, once again, has been heavily affected by major natural disasters. The exceptional floods, particularly devastating fires and hurricanes in July and August are still fresh in our minds.

Since EM-DAT is not a day-to-day database and the process of data validation and quality control remains lengthy, we would like to remind you that the 2007 first semester figures presented in this issue only represent a first outline which is subject to change in the future.

The 2007 first semester figures show a decrease in terms of impacts and disaster occurrence in comparison to the first semester averages of the past ten years. However, during this period, 102 natural disasters were reported, killing over 2000 people, affecting more than 4 million and causing more than 7,5 US\$ billion in economic damages.

Floods and windstorms remained the major disasters in terms of occurrence and impacts.

Unfortunately, these somewhat optimistic trends in the figures have to be nuanced with regards to recent major events (Flood in China, India, UK, Africa) which by our first estimates show a complete reversal of the first six month tendency.

Dr. Debarati Guha-Sapir

Natural disasters in the first semester of 2007

	2007 1st semestre	1997-2006 1st semester average
No. of disasters	102	150,7
No. of people killed	2.419	8.900,5
No. of people affected	4.432.127	35.179.175,7
Economic damages (US\$ in Million)	7.558,8	11.510.042

The 10 largest natural disasters over the first semester of 2007

By number of people killed

Disaster	Month	Country	No. of people Killed
Flood	June	Pakistan	230
Flood	June	Colombia	143
Cold Wave	January	Bangladesh	130
Flood	June	Bangladesh	120
Slides	April	Afghanistan	114
Flood	January	Angola	105
Flood	March	Afghanistan	104
Cyclone (Indhala)	March	Madagascar	80
Landslide	March	Pakistan	80
Cyclone (Gonu)	June	Oman	76

By estimated economic damages

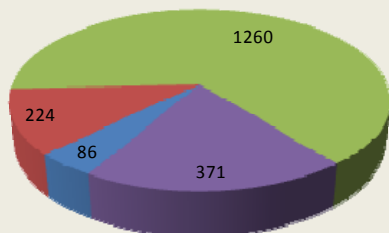
Disaster	Month	Country	Economic Damages (in US\$ million)
Cyclone (Gonu)	June	Oman	3.900
Wind Storm	January	Germany	1.000
Flood	June	Australia	840
Flood	February	Indonesia	695
Earthquake	June	China P Rep	310
Wind Storm	January	Netherlands	207,4
Wind Storm	January	Belgium	129,7
Flood	January	Brazil	125
Flood	February	Bolivia	90
Wind Storm	January	Czech Rep	75,3

By number of people affected

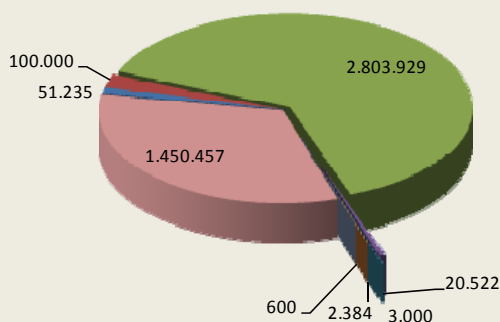
Disaster	Month	Country	No. of people Affected
Wind Storm	April	China P Rep	1.000.000
Flood	June	Colombia	652.430
Flood	February	Bolivia	446.500
Flood	February	Indonesia	400.001
Flood	February	Mozambique	285.000
Cyclone (Indhala)	March	Madagascar	215.182
Flood	June	India	200.000
Cyclone (Favio)	February	Mozambique	162.770
Flood	May	Uruguay	119.200
Cold Wave	January	Bangladesh	100.000

2007 first semester disaster occurrence and impacts by disaster type

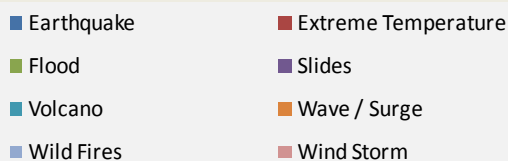
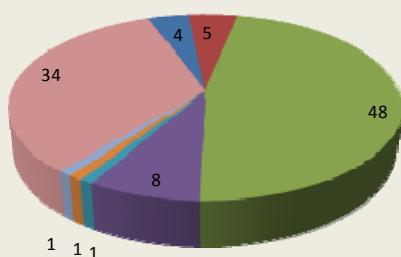
People killed



People affected

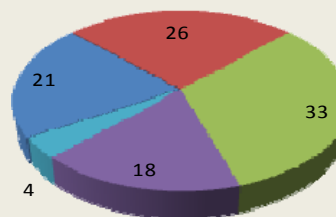


Occurrence

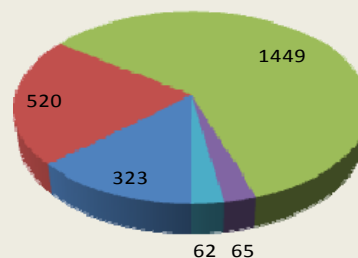


Regional comparison of 2007 first semester Disaster Impacts and Occurrence

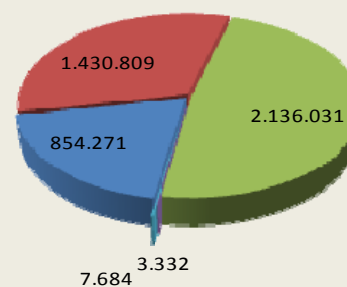
Occurrence



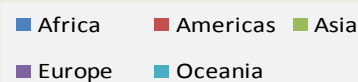
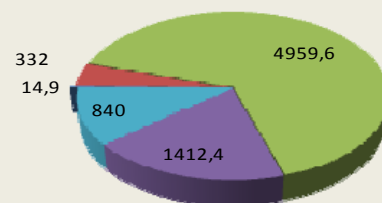
People killed



People affected



Economic damages (in US\$ million)



CRED News

- **September 2007**, paper publication: "Documenting Drought-Related Disasters: A global reassessment", Regina Below, Emily Grover-Kopec and Maxx Dilley, *The Journal of Environment Development* 2007; 16; 328 (<http://jed.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/16/3/328>).
- **October 2007**, launch of the new EM-DAT web site: www.emdat.be.
- **November 2007**, training on spatial database management for the Center for Surveys of Marine Resources Bakosurtanal.