

Natural disasters¹ in 2011

In 2011, 302 natural disasters were recorded in the EM-DAT database. They claimed over 29,780 lives, affected nearly 206 million others and caused record economic damages of US\$366 billion.

The Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami in March claimed 19,846 lives and cost US\$210 billion. The December storm Sendong (Washi) in the Philippines caused 1,430 deaths. Floods in Thailand from August to December caused US\$40 billion economic damages. Floods in China in June affected 36 million people and droughts from January to June affected 35 million in the country.

Asia was hit by 137 disasters, representing a global share of 45%, of which 33 occurred in the Philippines and 21 in China. Over 85% of those killed and those affected globally and 75% of economic damages were also in Asia. On the other hand, Europe experienced very few disasters and impacts in 2011.

Globally, earthquakes and tsunamis were responsible for 20,943 deaths, or 70%, while floods killed 5,202 (17%) and storms another 3,076 people (10%).

The disaster occurrence and human impact figures in 2011 were below the average of the last decade. However, the economic losses from disasters in 2011 were the largest ever registered, much higher than those documented in the last record year of 2005 (US\$243 billion).

Major disasters in 2011 in terms of human impact and economic losses occurred in high and middle-income countries, which have the resources for better disaster prevention. Given the importance of good data for policy, a stronger global approach to disaster data collection is important for more effective policy development.

Debarati Guha-Sapir
Director, CRED

Economic impact in 2011

10 most affected countries

In absolute amounts (US\$ billion)		As percentage of GDP	
Japan	211.8	Thailand	12.7
United States	58.3	New Zealand	11.8
Thailand	40.3	El Salvador	4.7
New Zealand	20.0	Cambodia	4.6
China P Rep	14.3	Japan	3.9
Colombia	5.9	Colombia	2.0
Pakistan	2.5	Sri Lanka	1.9
Australia	2.0	Pakistan	1.4
India	1.7	Tonga	0.9
Brazil	1.2	Puerto Rico	0.5

Natural disasters¹ in 2011: summary

	2011	2001-2010 yearly average
No. of country-level disasters	302	384
No. of countries affected	98	120
No. of people killed	29,782	106,887
No. of people affected	206 mil.	232 mil.
Economic damages (US\$)	366 bil.	108 bil.

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

Human impact in 2011

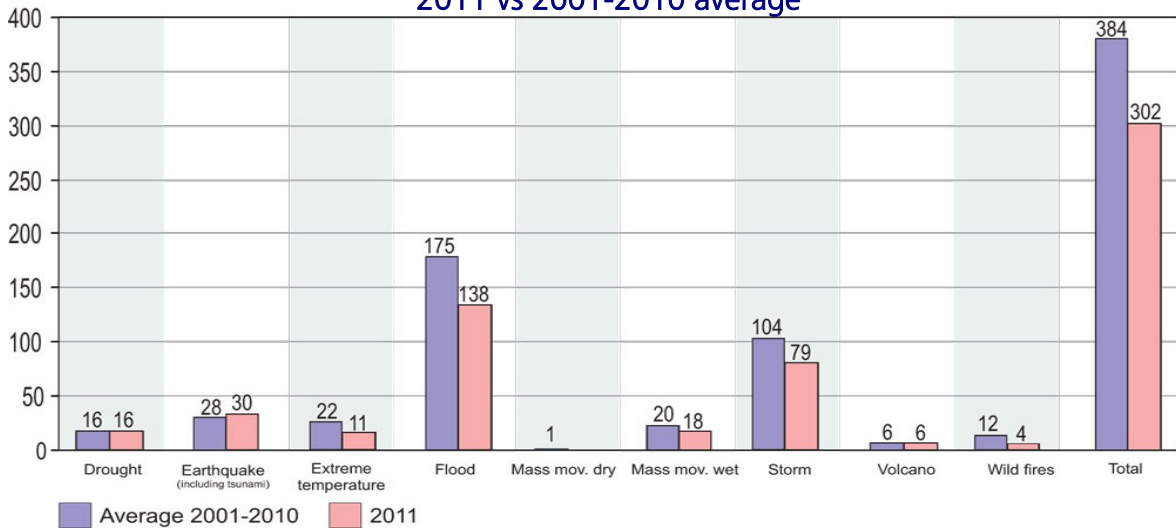
10 most affected countries

No. of people killed		No. killed/100,000 inhabitants	
Japan	19,999	Japan	16
Philippines	1,924	New Zealand	4
Brazil	950	Namibia	3
Thailand	891	Cambodia	2
United States	790	Philippines	2
India	670	Thailand	1
Turkey	654	Lesotho	1
Pakistan	511	Turkey	1
China P Rep	501	Lao P Dem Rep	1
Cambodia	306	Guatemala	1

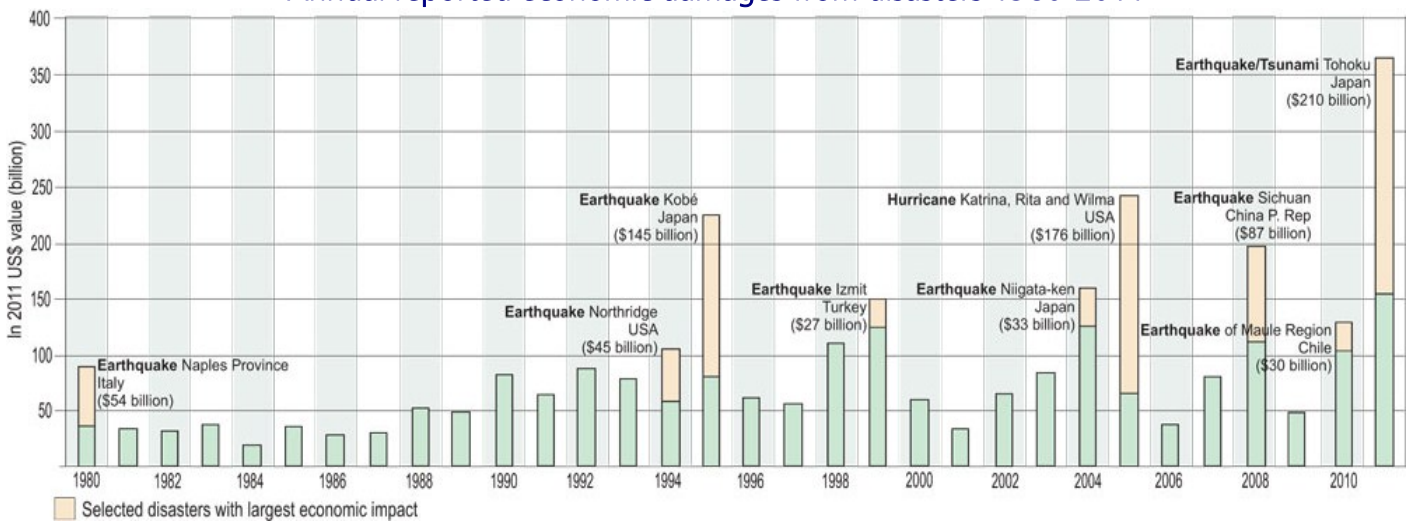
No. of people affected (million)		No. affected/100,000 inhabitants	
China P Rep	124.1	Somalia	42,868
India	12.8	Cambodia	23,200
Philippines	11.7	Djibouti	22,533
Thailand	11.2	Niger	19,605
Pakistan	5.4	Thailand	16,227
Ethiopia	4.8	Philippines	12,566
Kenya	4.4	Burkina Faso	12,144
Somalia	4.0	Namibia	11,387
Mexico	3.6	Kenya	10,850
Cambodia	3.3	China P Rep	9,276

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

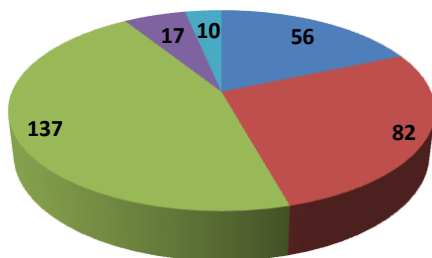
Natural disaster¹ occurrence by disaster type 2011 vs 2001-2010 average



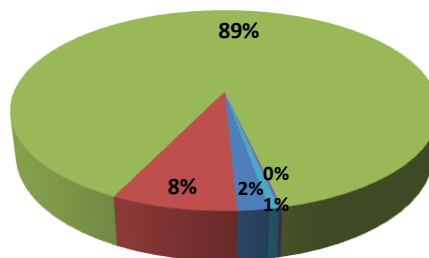
Annual reported economic damages from disasters 1980-2011



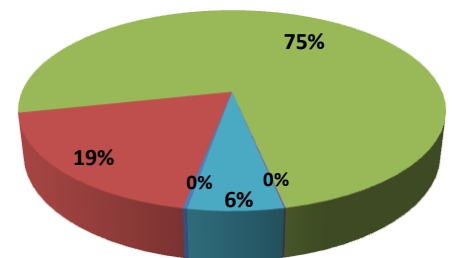
Number of disaster events by continent 2011



Disaster mortality by continent (%) 2011



Disaster economic costs by continent (%) 2011



■ Africa ■ Americas ■ Asia ■ Europe ■ Oceania

CRED News

- ◆ CRED is pleased to present the 2012 Summer Course on Assessing Public Health in Emergency Situations (APHES). This course will take place on July 2-13, 2012 in Brussels, Belgium. More information at www.aphes.be.
- ◆ The upcoming EM-DAT Technical Advisory Group meeting will take place in the Summer of 2012. More details will soon be provided on www.emdat.be.
- ◆ CRED is happy to announce the new publication "The economic impacts of natural disasters" edited by Debarati Guha-Sapir and Indhira Santos, Oxford University Press, June 2012. <http://tinyurl.com/6qe3o2n>.
- ◆ CRED has given a training on "Improving data quality in complex settings" to staff members of the Sudanese MoH, UNICEF, WHO and INGOs providing health and nutrition interventions in Sudan. The training covered epidemiological techniques, surveys and sampling methods for collecting nutrition and mortality data, and addressed the necessity to interpret survey results in a comprehensive way to inform programming and policy making. Khartoum, February 19-23, 2012.

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