

Climate-related disasters in Africa

In 2011, 64 climate-related disasters in the African continent were recorded in the EM-DAT database, of which 69% were floods, 17% droughts and 14% storms. A total of 792 deaths and 22.6 million affected people were reported as a result of these disasters. Economic damages were estimated at US\$ 1.0 billion. The total number of people affected by climate-related disasters in Africa in 2011 was above the 2001-2010 annual average (14.8 million), due to the impact of droughts.

In 2011, droughts and related food insecurity and famines affected 21.0 million people, accounting for 93% of the total reported number of people affected by climate-related disasters in the continent. Specifically, droughts and consequent food crises in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Djibouti and Burundi affected 14.0 million people. Droughts in Niger and Burkina Faso affected a further 3.0 million and 2.0 million people respectively, and droughts in Tanzania affected another 1.0 million.

Droughts are slow-onset, spatially extensive and prolonged disasters, making global data compilation of the human and economic impacts of drought challenging. Complex issues such as establishing start and end dates of droughts, attributing direct and indirect losses and handling multi-year and multi-country disasters are methodologically addressed in EM-DAT. Although drought information has improved over the last years, data still remain inconsistently reported and losses are often underestimated². CRED emphasizes the importance of a stronger global approach to disaster data compilation for more effective policy development and for better and more timely preventive actions.

Debarati Guha-Sapir
Director, CRED

2. Below R., Grover-Kopec E., Dilley M. (2007) Drought related disasters: A global assessment, *Journ Env Dev*, 16: 328-344.

By reported economic damages

Year	Disaster type	Country	Damage (bil. US\$) ³
1999	Drought	Morocco	1.2
2011	Flood	Algeria	0.8
2000	Flood	Mozambique	0.5
2008	Wildfire	South Africa	0.4
2001	Flood	Algeria	0.4
2008	Flood	Algeria	0.4
2007	Flood	Sudan	0.3
2004	Storm	Madagascar	0.3
2007	Storm	Madagascar	0.3
2002	Flood	Morocco	0.3

3. In 2011 US\$ value.

Natural disasters¹ in Africa: summary

	2011	2001-2010 yearly average
No. of country-level disasters	64	65
No. of people killed	792	1,414
No. of people affected (million)	22.6	14.9
Economic damages (bil. US\$) ³	1.0	1.1

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

Top 10 country-level climate-related disasters in Africa: 1992-2011

By number of people killed

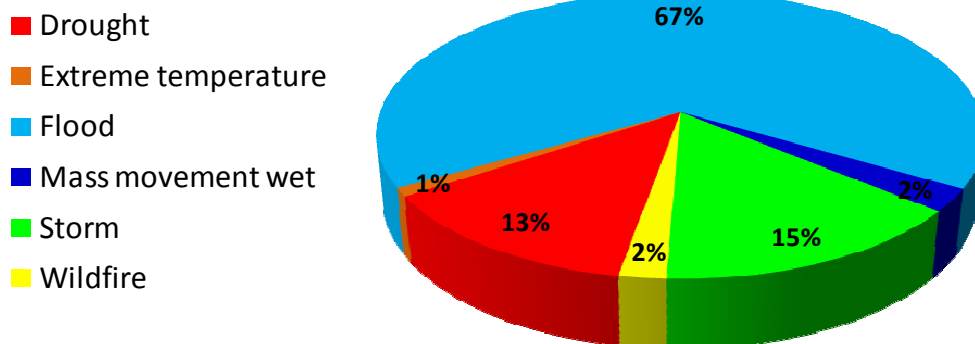
Year	Disaster type	Country	No. killed
1997	Flood	Somalia	2,311
2001	Flood	Algeria	921
2000	Flood	Mozambique	800
1995	Flood	Morocco	730
1994	Flood	Egypt	600
2002	Drought	Malawi	500
2006	Flood	Ethiopia	498
2010	Mass mov.	Uganda	388
2006	Flood	Ethiopia	364
2004	Storm	Madagascar	363

By total number of people affected

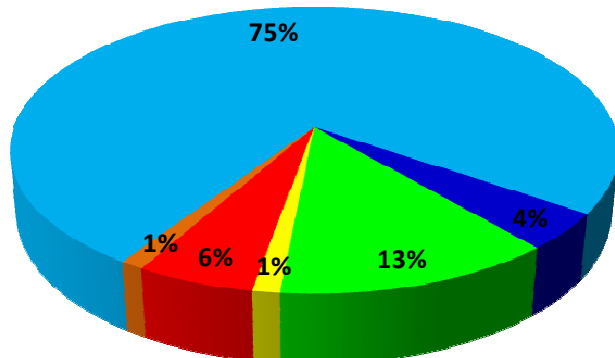
Year	Disaster type	Country	No. affected
1999	Drought	Kenya	23,000,000
2004	Drought	South Africa	15,000,000
2003	Drought	Ethiopia	12,600,000
2009	Drought	Niger	7,900,000
1992	Drought	Malawi	7,000,000
2008	Drought	Ethiopia	6,400,000
2009	Drought	Ethiopia	6,200,000
2001	Drought	Zimbabwe	6,000,000
2005	Drought	Malawi	5,100,000
1999	Drought	Ethiopia	4,900,000

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

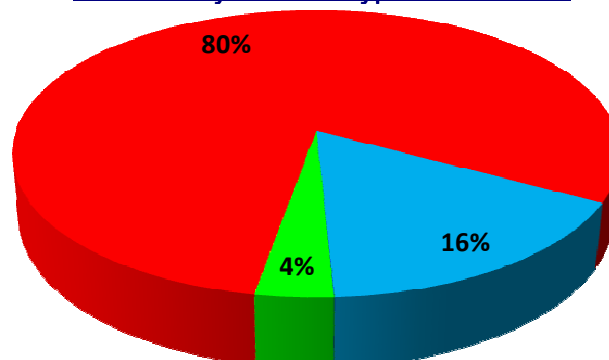
Occurrence (%) of climate-related disasters in Africa by disaster type: 1992-2011



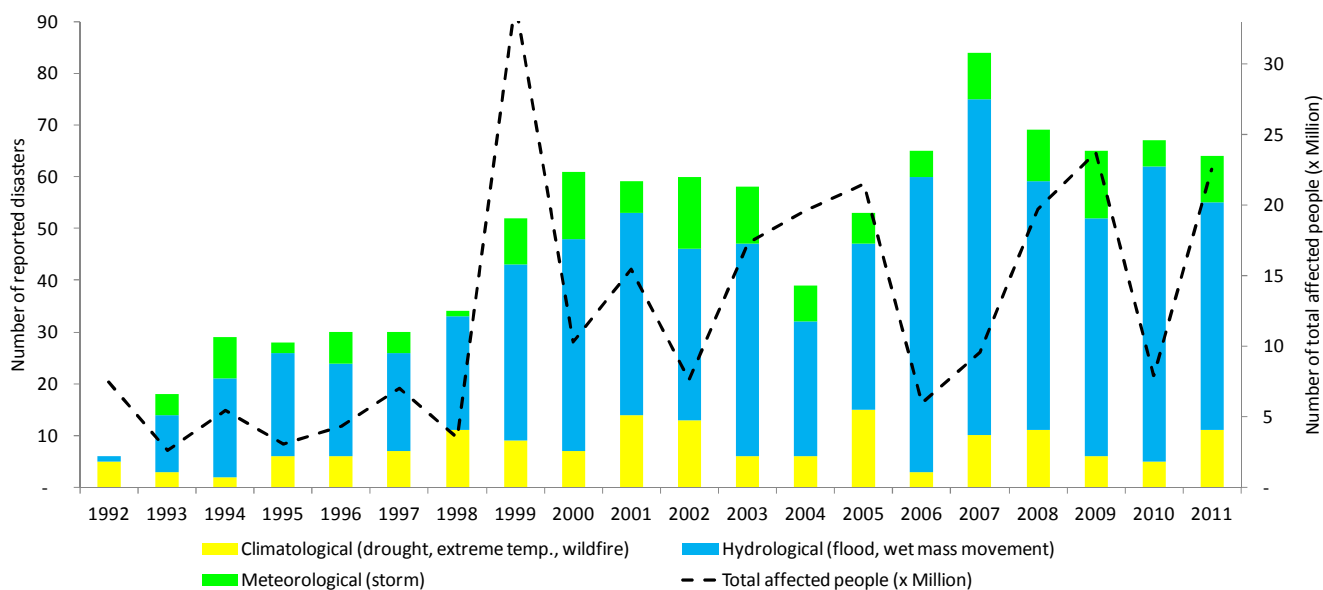
Deaths (%) from climate-related disasters in Africa by disaster type: 1992-2011



People affected (%) by climate-related disasters in Africa by disaster type 1992-2011



Trend in disaster occurrence and reported number of people affected by climate-related disasters in Africa: 1992-2011



CRED News

- ◆ The upcoming EM-DAT Technical Advisory Group meeting will take place in the Autumn of 2012. More details will soon be provided on www.emdat.be.
- ◆ CRED is happy to announce the publication of 4 new articles: Jeeyon JK, Guha-Sapir D (2012) Famines in Africa: is early warning early enough? *Global Health Action*, 5: 11816; Khattri P, Joshi PC, Minakshi, Guha-Sapir D (2012) Importance of past memories in disaster research, *The Journalist - A Media Research Journal*, 1 (5): 32-40; Lu-Ping Z, Rodriguez-Llanes JM, Van Den Oever B, Westman LE, Albela M, Liang P, Gao C, De-Sheng Z, Hughes M, Von Schreeb J, Guha-Sapir D (2012) Multiple injuries after earthquakes: a retrospective analysis on 1871 injured patients from the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, *Critical Care*, 16: R87; Rodriguez-Vidal J, Rodriguez-Llanes JM, Guha-Sapir D (2012) Civil nuclear power at risk of tsunamis. *Natural Hazards*. doi: 10.1007/s11069-012-0162-0.
- ◆ CRED is pleased to present the Sixth Edition of the "Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2011: The numbers and trends". The complete report can be downloaded at: http://www.cred.be/sites/default/files/ADSR_2011.pdf

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