

## Natural disasters over the first semester of 2012

Preliminary EM-DAT figures show that during the first semester of 2012, 143 natural disasters occurred, killing over 2,500 people, affecting almost 61 million others and causing more than US\$ 6.9 billion of economic damages.

Over the same period, 86 countries experienced at least one natural disaster, with the most-affected countries being Afghanistan, the United States and the Philippines. These countries were mainly affected by floods and storms. China and Afghanistan had the highest number of natural disaster fatalities, with respectively 280 and 268 persons killed. As is often the case, China had the highest number of people affected by natural disasters, with over 30 million people affected - or 50% of the worldwide total.

The first six months of 2012 did not see any mega-disasters like those that occurred over the same period in 2011 (Tohoku earthquake and tsunami) and in 2010 (Haiti earthquake). This welcomed breather is the occasion to reflect on our progress in understanding and addressing the underlying factors that define disaster risk and impact. The pre-disaster phase is a critical time to undertake risk assessments and implement activities that lead to better disaster preparedness and mitigation. The building of human capacities for disaster response is one of the most crucial factors to reduce the adverse impacts of natural hazards. In this context, CRED is pleased to announce the creation of an **Erasmus Mundus Master Course in Public Health and Disasters**. The programme is co-organised by the University of Oviedo, Karolinska Institute and the University of Louvain. It is sponsored by the European Union and also involves thirteen associated universities and institutions around the world. More information on the course is available at <http://pubhealthdisasters.eu>

*Debarati Guha-Sapir, Director*

### By estimated economic damages

Disaster	Month	Country	Damages
Tornado	Mar	United States	4,000
Tornado	April	United States	1,800
Earthquake	May	Italy	320
Flood	May	China, P Rep	316
Flood	Jun-Jul	China, P Rep	270
Cold wave	Feb	Italy	133
Flood	Feb	Australia	54
Flood	Mar	Fiji	40
Earthquake	Feb	Philippines	9
Flood	Apr-May	China, P Rep	3

## Natural disaster\* figures:

	2012 1st semester	2002-2011 1st semester average
No. of disasters	143	168
No. of people killed	2579	58,914
No. of people affected	61,071,144	137,320,320
Economic damages (Million \$US)	6,944	66,761

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

## The 10 largest natural disasters over the first semester of 2012

### By number of people killed

Disaster	Month	Country	No. killed
Avalanche	Apr	Pakistan	135
Flood	Apr-May	China, P Rep	132
Earthquake	Feb	Philippines	113
Cold wave	Jan-Feb	Ukraine	112
Flood	Jun-Jul	Bangladesh	110
Flood	Jun-Jul	India	101
Flood	Jun-Jul	China, P Rep	91
Cold wave	Jan-Feb	Romania	86
Cold wave	Jan-Feb	Poland	82
Cyclone « Irina »	Feb	Madagascar	77

### By number of total people affected

Disaster	Month	Country	No. affected
Flood	June-July	China, P Rep	17,440,000
Flood	Apr-May	China, P Rep	13,119,000
Drought		Sudan	3,200,000
Drought**		Niger	3,000,000
Drought		Korea, Dem Rep	3,000,000
Drought**		Mali	2,970,000
Drought**		Burkina Faso	2,850,000
Flood	Jan	Brazil	2,500,000
Flood	Jun-Jul	India	2,200,000
Drought		Chad	1,600,000

\*\*These droughts started in previous years and are still ongoing 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)

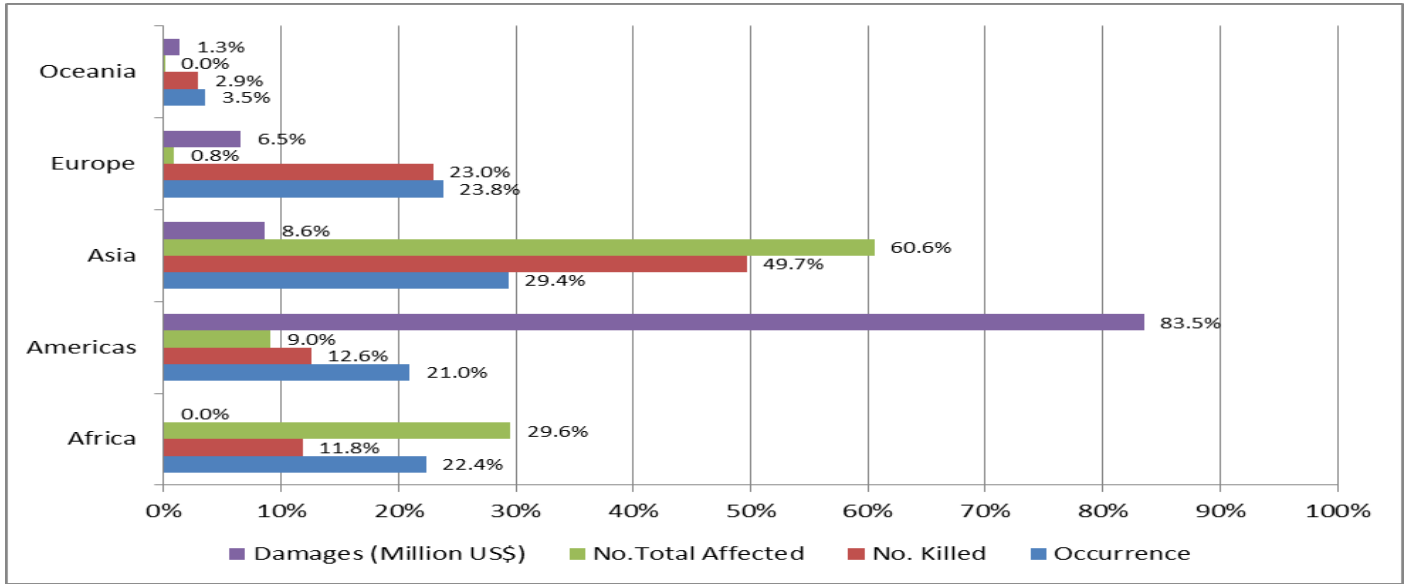
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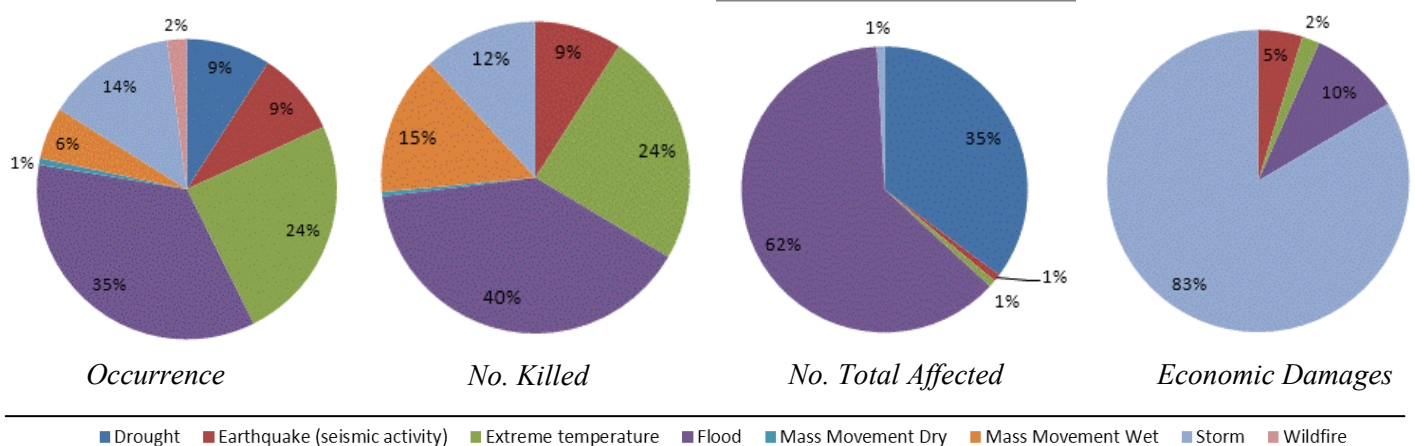
[www.cred.be](http://www.cred.be), [contact@emdat.be](mailto:contact@emdat.be)

## 2012 first semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts: regional comparison

Continent	Occurrence	No. Killed	No.Total Affected	Damages (Million US\$)
Africa	32	305	18,048,080	-
Americas	30	324	5,514,954	5,800
Asia	42	1,282	36,980,795	597
Europe	34	592	499,934	453
Oceania	5	76	27,381	93



## 2012 first semester natural disasters occurrence and impacts by disaster type



## CRED News

- ◆ CRED will be holding, with the support of USAID/OFDA, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the World Bank, its 8<sup>th</sup> EM-DAT Technical Advisory Group/Expert Consultation on Sustainable Disaster Databases for South and South-East Asia. The meeting will take place in Bangkok from 11 to 13 December 2012. More information will soon be available on the EM-DAT website.
- ◆ CRED will be participating in the Official Kick-off Meeting of IRDR Data Working Group Work on Disaster Loss Data which will be held from 31 October - 2 November, 2012 in Taipei, Taiwan.
- ◆ CRED is please to announce the creation of an Erasmus Mundus Master Course in Public Health and Disasters. The programme is co-organised by the University of Oviedo, Karolinska Institute and the University of Louvain.

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](mailto:contact@emdat.be) or visit [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be)