CRED CRUNCH

USAID
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Issue No. 40 "Disaster Data: A Balanced Perspective" *August 2015*

Natural disasters over the first semester of 2015

During the first semester of 2015, EM-DAT preliminary data shows that 138 disasters occurred in 68 countries. The impact of which resulted in 15,143 deaths, affected more than 15 million people and caused more than US$13.2 billion (A).

The major disaster was the earthquake of the 25th April, followed by a second one the 12th May in Nepal (see Cred Crunch n°39). They killed together more than 8,800 people (B) and affected over 5,5 million (C). This disaster is also the most costly with economic damages estimated at almost 4 billion (D), an enormous amount for this country.

Data from the first half of 2015 reinforced Asian continent's position as most prone to disaster in terms of occurrence, number of deaths and affected and economic damages (E).
The three deadliest disasters occurred in Asia. In addition of Nepal earthquake, a heat wave hit successively India and Pakistan, with a respective death toll of 2,500 and 1,229.
In terms of economic damages, 4 of the 10 costliest disasters were floods in China.

Four of the 10 costliest disasters occurred in United States. They were affected by a flood, 2 tornadoes and a winter storm (D).
In terms of population affected, 5 droughts starting in 2014 are still ongoing in 2015, affecting the African continent as well as Haiti and Honduras (C).
The figures of the 1st semester 2015 in terms of occurrence, death toll, population affected and economic damages are much lower than the average of the 1st semesters from 2005 to 2014 when major disasters occurred (such as the Haiti earthquake in 2010, the Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the earthquake in China-Sichuan in 2008, or the tsunami in Japan-Fukushima in 2011).

Concerning the sharing of impacts by disaster type, 41% of events were floods, responsible for only 9% of deaths but 39% of economic damages - which make it the most expensive type of disaster. On the other hand, only 7% of events were earthquakes and responsible for 59% of total death toll and 38% of affected population (mainly due to the Nepal earthquake). (F)
The figures of human impact in the 1st semester 2015 are the highest since 2011. This suggests that ongoing disaster risk reduction efforts still need to be improved and stay in the center of policy debates and international programs .

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Director, CRED

A) Natural disasters[1] : summary

	2015 1st semester	2005-2014 1st semester average
No. of country-level disasters	138	177
No. of countries affected	68	81
No. of deaths	15,143	60,869
No. of people affected	15.4 mil.	104.9mil.
Economic damages (US$)	13.2 bil.	90.1 bil.

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

The 10 natural disasters over the first semester of 2015

B) By number of deaths

Disaster	Month	Country	No. deaths
Earthquake	April-May	Nepal	8,831
Heat wave	May	India	2,500
Heat wave	June	Pakistan	1,229
Avalanche	February	Afghanistan	286
Flood	January	Malawi	276
Flash flood	March-April	Chile	178
Tropical cyclone Chedza	January	Madagascar	89
Landslide	May	Colombia	83
Flood	June	India	81
Flash Flood	March	Angola	69
Earthquake	April	India	

C) By number of people affected

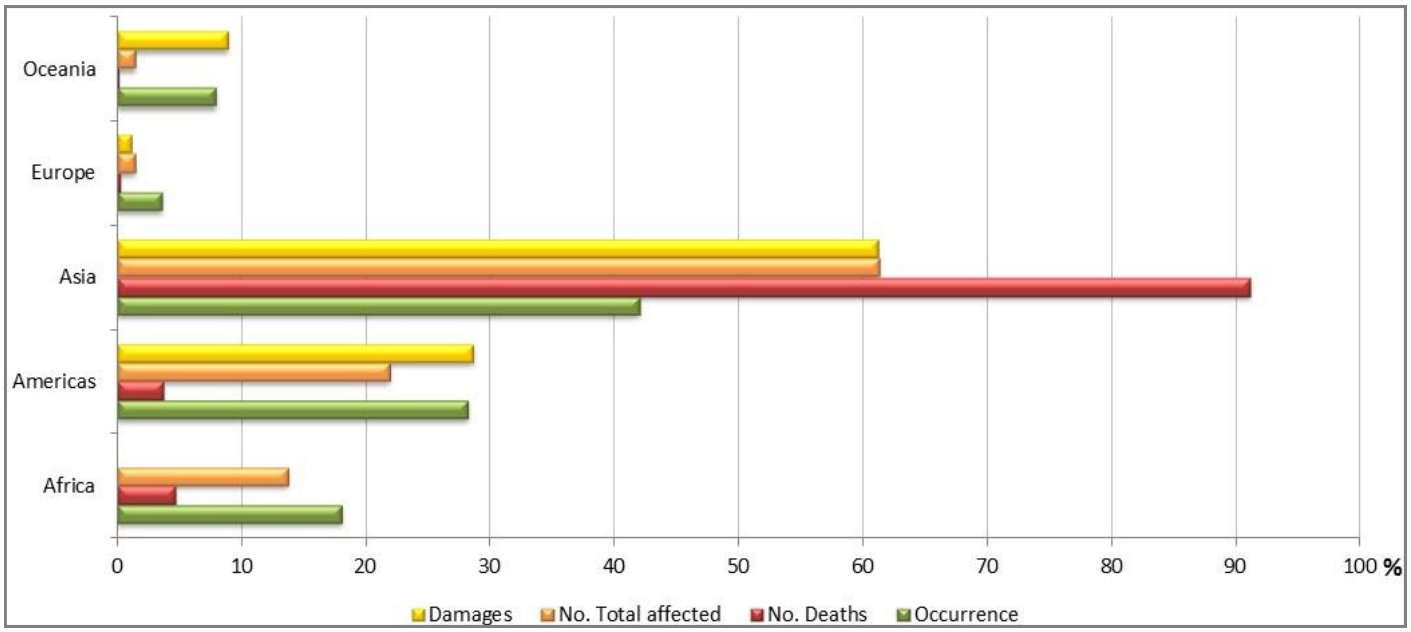
Disaster	Month	Country	No. affected
Earthquake	April-May	Nepal	5,632,110
Flood	December 2014 - January 2015	Sri Lanka	1,100,000
Storm	January	Lebanon	1,000,000
Drought	January 2014 - July 2015	Haiti	1,000,000
Drought	April 2014-July	Honduras	931,555
Drought	September 2014 - April 2015	Senegal	639,702
Flood	January	Malawi	638,000
Storm	April	Bangladesh	460,000
Drought	August 2014 - February 2015	Nicaragua	460,000
Drought	July 2014-ongoing (2015)	Somalia	350,000

D) By estimated economic damages

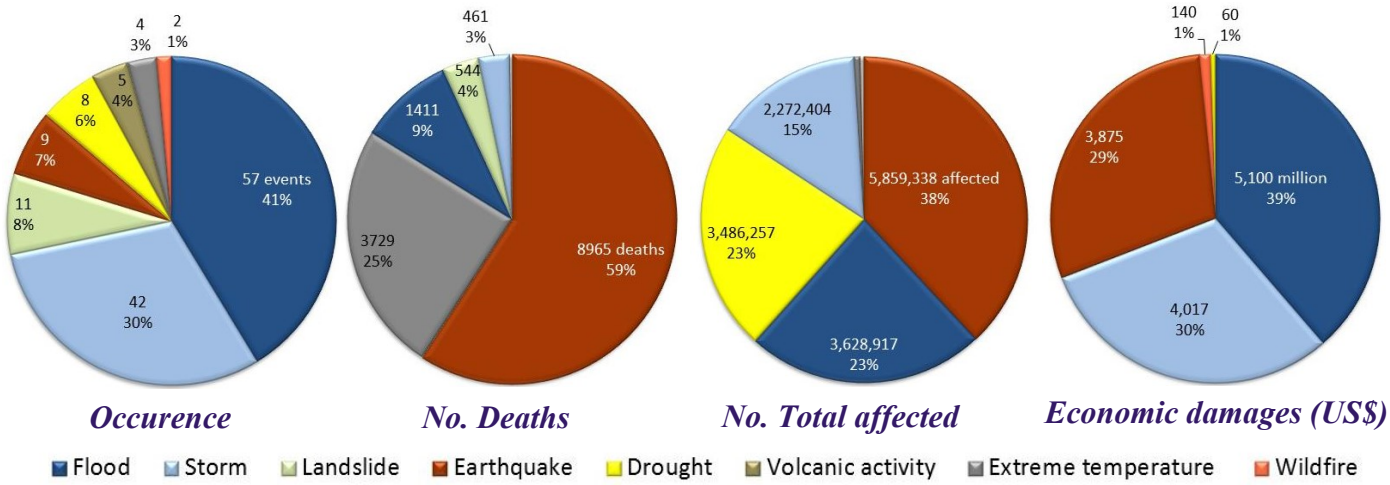
Disaster	Month	Country	Damages (Million US$)
Earthquake	April-May	Nepal	3,860
Flood	June	China	2,000
Flash Flood	May	United States	1,000
Tornado	April	Unites States	1,000
Storm	April	Australia	785
Tornado	May	United States	775
Flood	June-July	China	645
Flood	May-June	China	500
Winter storm	January	United States	500
Flood	May	China	254

E) 2015 first semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts: continent comparison

Continent	Occurence	No. Deaths	No. Total Affected	Damages (Million US$)
Africa	25	708	2,120,544	-
Americas	39	568	3,382,786	3,785
Asia	58	13,809	9,436,131	8,076
Europe	5	38	230,700	153
Oceania	11	20	228,817	1,178



F) 2015 first semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts: disaster type comparison



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CRED News

- CRED is please to announce the future publication of the "Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2014" .
- CRED announces the publication of "Andrewin AN., Rodriguez-Llanes J., Guha-Sapir, D (2015). *Determinants of the lethality of climate-related disasters in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM): a cross-country analysis*" in Scientific Reports/Nature 5, Article#11972 .