

Natural disasters over the first semester of 2017

During the first semester of 2017, EM-DAT preliminary data shows that 149 disasters occurred in 73 countries. The impact of which resulted in 3,162 deaths, affected more than 80 million people and caused more than US\$32.4 billion (A).

The major disasters were floods and landslides occurring in Asia, South America and Africa (B).

Eight of the 10 natural disasters that recorded the highest number of people affected are droughts that are/were still ongoing in 2017. Those events are slow-onset, spatially extensive and prolonged, that could last for up to 4 years for some events (C).

It is a drought that is also the most costly disaster, occurring in Vietnam since 2015 and with economic damages of 6.75 billion US\$ (D), an enormous amount for this country.

Figures from the first half of 2017 are much lower compared to the average of the first semester in the last 10 years when major disasters occurred (Haiti earthquake in 2010, Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008, the tsunami in Japan-Fukushima in 2011 and the Nepal earthquake in 2015) (A). But the impacts of natural disasters for 2017 are expecting to rise. Indeed, the monsoon season brought seasonal floods and landslides that were particularly deadly this year in Asia and Africa. The hurricane and cyclone season is also currently ongoing, which will rise the value of economic damages.

Asian continent is the most prone to natural disaster in terms of occurrence, number of deaths and economic damages (E). Even if Asia did not suffer major disasters with high death tolls, the continent suffer regularly many floods and landslides. Africa is carrying the weight of the highest total population affected, mainly due to long lasting droughts.

Three of the 10 costliest disasters occurred in United States with a flood and 2 storms (D).

Concerning the sharing of impacts by disaster type, 44% of events were floods, responsible for 52% of deaths and 44% of economic damages - which make it the most expensive type of disaster. On the other hand, only 11% of events were landslides and responsible for 25% of the total death toll (F).

In a context of climate change and as every continent is affected by natural disasters, disaster risk reduction measures always need to be improved and be part of national and international policies. Especially for recurrent disasters like floods or slow-onset disasters like droughts.

D) By estimated economic damages

Disaster	Month	Country	Damages (Billion US\$)
Drought	Dec.2015–Feb. 2017	Viet Nam	6.75
Flood	June - July	China	3.93
Drought	Jan. 2015 - May 2017	Thailand	3.30
Flood	March	Peru	3.14
Tropical cyclone Debbie	March - April	Australia	2.40
Flood	June	China	2.35
Flood	April - May	United States	2.00
Drought	Sept.2015 - Apr.2017	Ethiopia	1.40
Storm	February	United States	1.30
Winter storm	March	United States	1.00

A) Natural disasters¹ : summary

	2017 1st semester	2007-2016 1st semester average
No. of country-level disasters	149	172
No. of countries affected	73	80
No. of deaths	3,162	61,367
No. of people affected	80.6 mil.	148.6mil.
Economic damages (US\$)	32.4 bil.	100.7 bil.

¹The 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 2017

B) By number of deaths

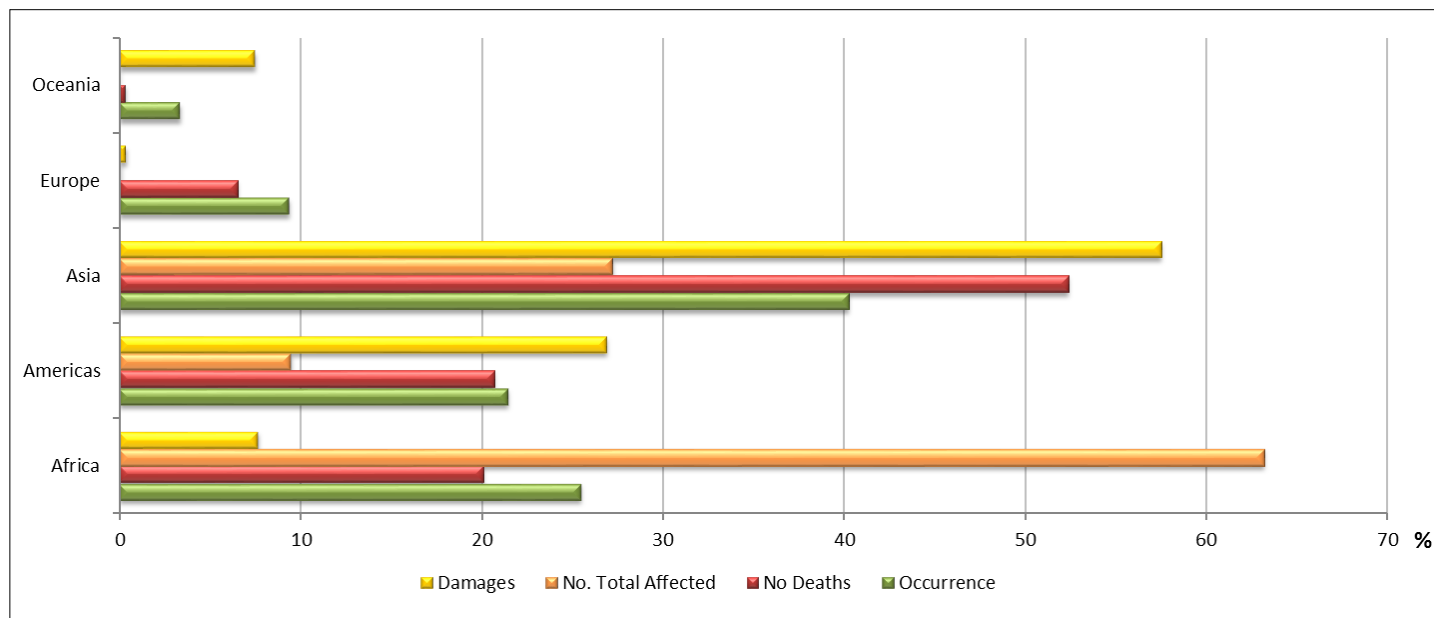
Disaster	Month	Country	No. deaths
Flood	May	Sri Lanka	292
Landslide	March-April	Colombia	273
Flood	Oct. 2016 – Feb.2017	Zimbabwe	246
Flood	June-August	India	213
Flood	March	Peru	177
Landslide	June	Bangladesh	160
Tropical cyclone	January-March	Zimbabwe	126
Tropical cyclone ‘Enawo’	March	Madagascar	99
Landslide	June	China	83
Flood	June-July	China	82

C) By number of people affected

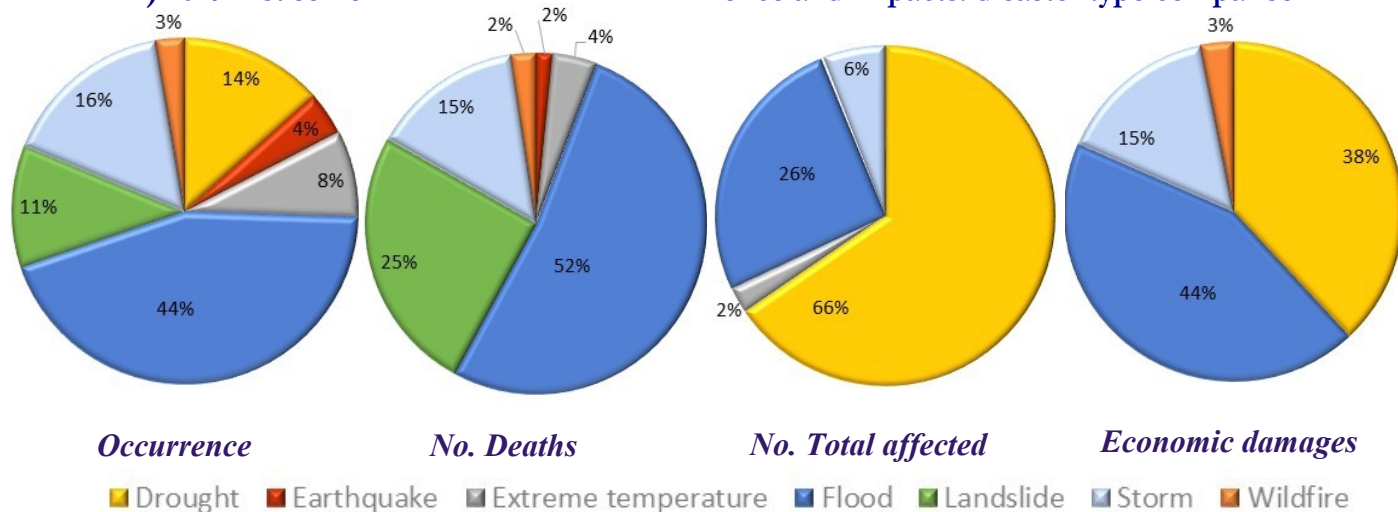
Disaster	Month	Country	No. Affected (Million)
Drought	Sept. 2015 - Apr. 2017	Ethiopia	10.2
Flood	June - July	China	9.5
Drought	Oct.2015 - Jan. 2017	Malawi	6.7
Drought	Aug. 2015 - May 2017	Somalia	4.7
Drought	Jan. 2013 –Jan. 2017	Zimbabwe	4.3
Drought	April - August	Mauritania	3.9
Drought	Jan. 2016 - Feb. 2017	Haïti	3.6
Tropical Cyclone ‘Mora’	May	Bangladesh	3.3
Drought	June 2016 - March 2017	Kenya	3.0
Drought	Jan. 2015– May 2017	South Africa	2.7

E) 2017 first semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts: continent comparison

Continent	Occurrence	No. Deaths	No. Total Affected	Damages (Million US\$)
Africa	38	635	50,966,253	2,489
Americas	32	654	7,639,426	8,700
Asia	60	1,657	21,952,969	18,609
Europe	14	206	73,085	131
Oceania	5	10	9,907	2,422



F) 2017 first semester natural disaster occurrence and impacts: disaster type comparison



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CRED News

- ◆ CRED will be involved in an innovative project, led by Dhaka Community Hospital & SEEDS India - Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society, that identifies knowledge from the local population to develop innovations on resilience to disasters in Dhaka slums, Bangladesh. More details coming soon!
- ◆ CRED will be part of the BRIGAID conference in Venice, November 9th & 10th, about Climate innovations to reduce the adverse effects of climate change. You can attend and register now : <http://brigaid.eu/brigaid-conference-in-venice/>

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