

Natural disasters¹ in the American continent

In the last decade, the American continent suffered from 922 natural disasters, killing more than 247 thousand people, affecting over 82 million others and causing at least US\$ 487 billion of economic damages. The Americas were the second most affected continent by natural disasters, after Asia, in terms of disaster occurrence and people killed. However the Americas took the largest share of economic damages during the decade (46% of worldwide damages).

Whereas large countries such as the United States, Brazil, but also Mexico top the list of most affected countries, this ranking is different when looking at the number of people killed or affected relative to a country's population. Other countries such as Haiti, Grenada and El Salvador, which had a large proportion of their population affected by disasters, then come into the spotlights.

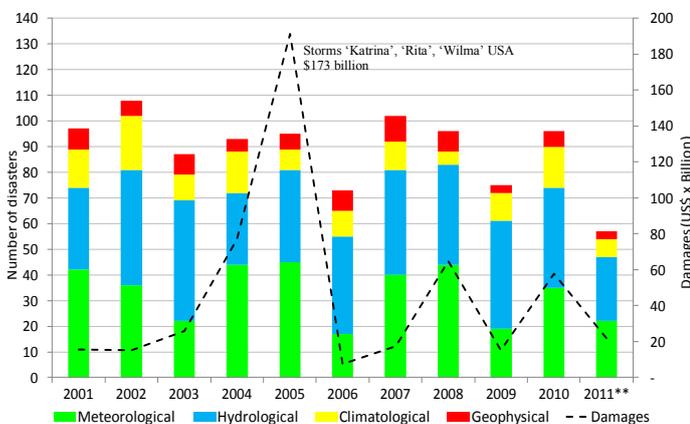
Preliminary EM-DAT figures for 2011 show a decrease in natural disaster occurrence and impacts in the Americas, compared to the last decade, although final figures cannot be provided until the year has ended. Nevertheless, the Americas suffered from severe disasters in 2011. Parts of Brazil were severely flooded several times during the year, causing over 850 fatalities and affecting nearly 1.2 million others. In Colombia, more than 1.3 million people were affected by floods and 207 lives were lost. Storms in the United States killed over 580 people, affected nearly 18 thousand and caused US\$ 22 billion economic damages.

Whereas in 2011 storms and floods equally had the highest percentage of disaster occurrence in the Americas, it were floods that caused the most deaths and affected most people.

Monitoring disaster occurrence and impacts is needed to profile the countries and regions most in need of assistance, and to guide strategies for disaster risk reduction.

Debarati Guha-Sapir, Director

Trend in natural disaster¹ occurrence by subgroup and damages in the Americas: 2001-2011²



¹The CRED CRUNCH does not include epidemics as natural disasters unless explicitly stated.
²2011 preliminary figures for January to November.

Natural disasters¹ in the Americas: summary

	2011 ²	2001-2010 average
No. of disasters	57	92
No. of people killed	1,992	24,724
No. of people affected	4,311,047	8,243,004
Economic damages (Million \$US)	22,000	48,721

Top 10 natural disasters¹ in the Americas in 2011²

By number of people killed

Disaster	Month	Country	No. killed
Flood	Jan	Brazil	806
Tornado	Apr	United States	354
Tornado	May	United States	142
Flood	Apr-Jul	Colombia	138
Flood	Sep-Nov	Colombia	69
Flood	Feb-Apr	Bolivia	56
Tornado	Apr	United States	45
Flood	Oct-Nov	Guatemala	43
Landslide	Nov	Colombia	40
Flood	Sep-Oct	El Salvador	35

By number of total people affected

Disaster	Month	Country	No. affected
Flood	Sep	Brazil	1,000,000
Flood	Apr-Jul	Colombia	988,481
Flood	Oct-Nov	Guatemala	528,753
Flood	Sep-Nov	Colombia	329,084
Flood	Sep-Oct	El Salvador	300,000
Tropical storm 'Arlene'	Jun-Jul	Mexico	280,000
Tropical storm 'Dora'	Jul	Mexico	200,000
Cold wave	Feb	Mexico	120,000
Flood	Jul	Brazil	78,000
Flood	Feb-Apr	Bolivia	75,000

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

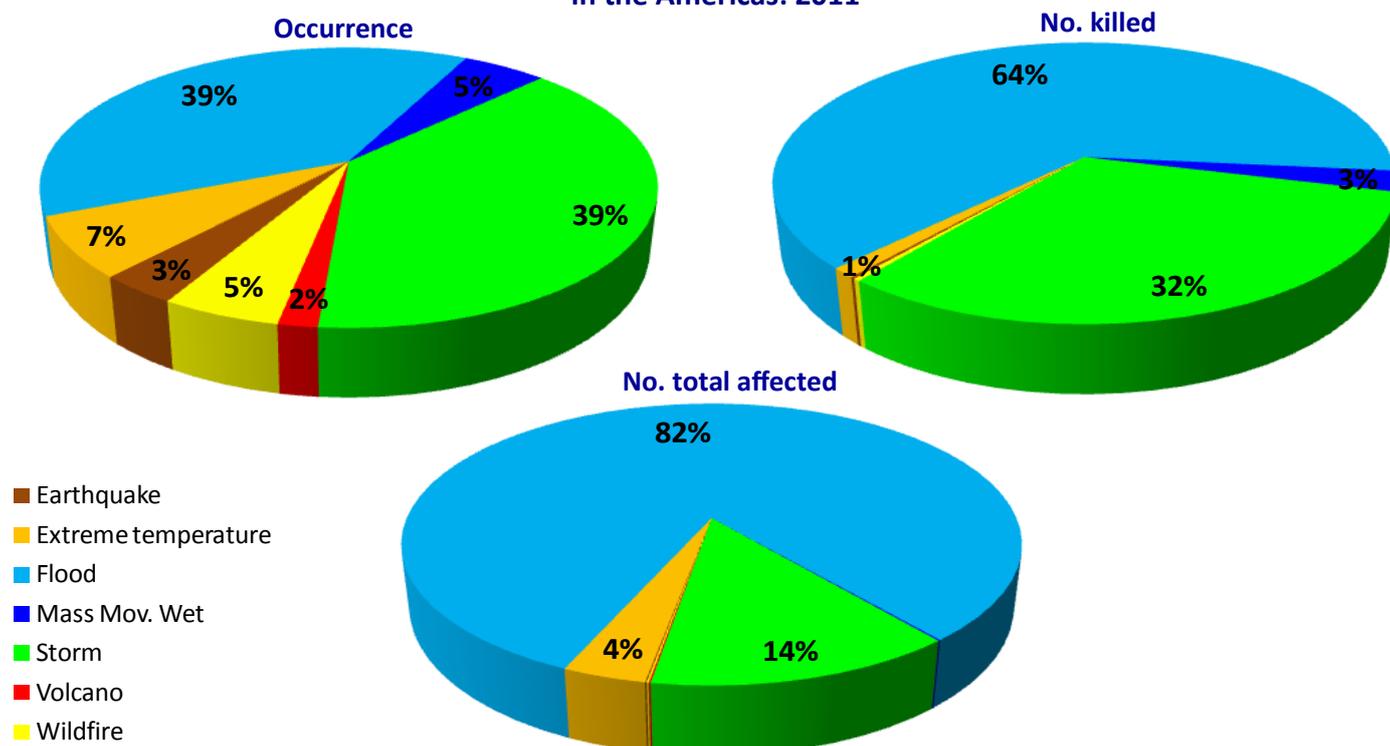
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Natural disaster¹ occurrence and human impacts by disaster type (%)
in the Americas: 2011²



Top 10 countries in the Americas most affected by natural disasters¹: 2001-2010

By average no. killed per 100,000 inhabitants		By average no. total affected as % of population	
Country	Deaths/100,000 inhabitants	Country	Total affected/population (%)
Haiti	229.9	Cuba	8.8
Grenada	3.9	Grenada	6.0
El Salvador	2.7	Guyana	5.5
Guatemala	1.6	Haiti	5.0
Belize	1.5	El Salvador	3.7
Turks and Caicos Is	1.1	Antigua and Barbuda	3.5
Dominican Rep	1.0	Belize	2.9
Peru	0.9	Guatemala	2.8
Dominica	0.7	Peru	2.6
Bermuda	0.6	Bolivia	2.0

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.
- ◆ CRED is happy to announce the publication of 3 new articles: "Rodriguez-Llanes J.M., Ranjan-Dash S., Degomme O., Mukhopadhyay A., Guha-Sapir D. (2011) Child malnutrition and recurrent flooding in rural eastern India: a community-based survey. *BMJ Open*, 1:e000109"; "Bich T.H., Quang L.N., Ha Lee T.T., Hanh T.T.D., Guha-Sapir D. (2011) Impacts of flood on health: epidemiologic evidence from Hanoi, Vietnam. *Global Health Action*, 4: 6356"; "Guha-Sapir D., Cichon B. (2011) Climate Disasters in: Climate change and disease dynamics in India, Teri, New Delhi".
- ◆ The upcoming EM-DAT Technical Advisory Group meeting will take place in Summer 2012. More details will soon be provided on our website: www.emdat.be.
- ◆ CRED is happy to announce that the Press Conference presenting a first overview of 2011 disaster figures will be held, in collaboration with UNISDR, in January 2012 in Geneva.

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