Data for evidence based planning

EM-DAT and its application

D. Guha-Sapir, Professor
School of Public Health, UCL

www.em-dat.net

Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium
MAKING DATA INTO INFORMATION

OR

HOW CAN DATA BECOME EVIDENCE?
Available evidence

- More than 90% die within 18hrs in earthquakes
- Indirect deaths are highest in floods and drought
- Disease outbreaks are rare and dead bodies are not a public health threat
- Psychological counseling by expatriate have no evidence of impact
EM-DAT Characteristics

- 14,500 records from 1900 to present
- 184 countries
- Updated daily from multiple sources
- Publicly available on website and on request
- Natural and technological
- (CE-DAT – data on civil conflict)
EM-DAT IN FIGURES

CONTRIBUTING TO DISASTER REDUCTION
- Collecting and providing information
- Validating and analyzing data
- Consultancy

EM-DAT CONTENT:
- Disaster details
- Geographical areas
- Time setting
- International response
- Human and economic impact
- Sources and comments

TRENDS
- Better statistical data
- Decrease of large disasters
- Small disasters increase
- Increase of affected
- Decline of deaths
- Kobe cost exceeds average

Future directions for EM-DAT

- Economic data
  - losses
  - contributions

- Structuring famine/drought data

- Refining mortality and morbidity information
EM-DAT IN NUMBERS

First CRED/EM-DAT publication launched in December 2004
CRED Data Contact

CRED
Universite Catholique de Louvain
Brussels, Belgium
Contact: Regina Below (database manager)
below@esp.ucl.ac.be
www.em-dat.net
www.cred.be
EM-DAT

Core data on more than 14,500 disasters from 1900 to present, including:
- Natural disasters (63.5%)
- Technological disasters (36.5%)

- ≥ 10 people killed
- ≥ 100 people affected
- "State of emergency"
- International assistance

DISASTER DEFINITION

“A situation or event which overwhelms local capacity, necessitating a request to the national or international level for external assistance, or is recognized as such by a multilateral agency or by at least two sources, such as national, regional or international assistance groups and the media.”