

UNISDR 2012/21
13 June 2012

UNISDR COUNTS THE COST OF 20 YEARS OF INACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND RISK REDUCTION

-1.3 million killed, 4.4 billion affected, \$2 trillion economic losses* -

GENEVA, 13 June 2012 – The UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, today urged UN member States to face up to the realities of the economic and human impact of disasters since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro twenty years ago.

“I hope that this month’s UN Conference on Sustainable Development will take on board the losses this planet has suffered in the twenty years since the last such conference. During that time we have seen record economic losses, great numbers of people killed and billions displaced, injured or homeless because of growing exposure to extreme events fuelled by rapid urbanisation, poverty, environmental degradation, climate change and a lack of good governance.

“The numbers tell the story. Over the last twenty years, it is conservatively estimated that disasters have killed 1.3 million people, affected 4.4 billion and resulted in economic losses of \$2 trillion. These are staggering numbers when you consider what it means in terms of missed opportunities, shattered lives, lost housing, schools and health facilities destroyed, cultural losses and roads washed away.

“We can do better. The Rio+20 Conference needs to put down a marker and introduce time-bound, realistic sustainable development goals which will eradicate this enormous waste of human, social and economic resources. We know how to do it. We have the tools.

“All UN member states have endorsed the Hyogo Framework for Action which spells out what the priorities are in terms of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation but we need to accelerate action. This is especially important in the absence of any meaningful progress in tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Let’s have action. Disaster risk reduction saves lives and livelihoods and builds resilience.”

ENDS

*See accompanying infographic for more details

About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* which seeks “the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.” For more information about UNISDR visit: www.unisdr.org

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Impacts of Disasters since the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit

In 1992, the United Nations organized a conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro, called the Earth Summit. The purpose of the conference was to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection.

Twenty years later, the UN is organizing Rio+20, a chance to move away from business-as-usual and to end poverty, address environmental destruction and build a bridge to the future. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) plays an important part in this future of sustainable development.

Here's a look at the impact of disasters since the Earth Summit (1992-2012).



EM-DAT - <http://www.emdat.be/>; The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database; Data version: 11 June 2012 - v12.07; Disasters: Natural Disasters as categorized in EM-DAT; Affected: The sum of injured, homeless, and people requiring immediate assistance during a period of emergency - it can also include displaced or evacuated people from disasters; Damage: Estimated figures; Killed: Persons confirmed as dead and persons missing and presumed dead.

¹ UN Stats - <http://stats.un.org/>; Estimated mid-year world population for 2010 is 6.9 billion.

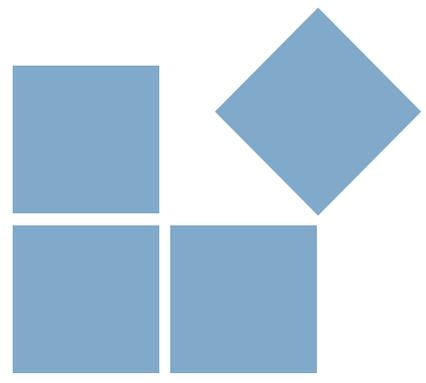
² OECD - <http://stats.oecd.org/>; ODA from 1986-2010 totals approximately USD1.7 trillion.

³ Airbus - <http://www.airbus.com/>; A380 maximum capacity is 853.



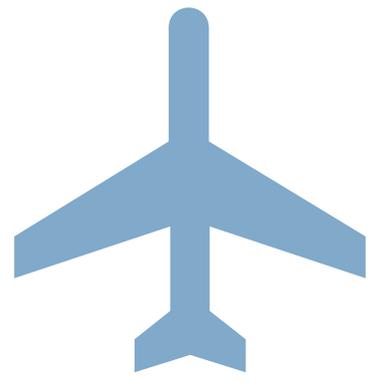
4.4
BILLION
AFFECTED

Roughly 64% of the world's population¹.



\$2.0
TRILLION
DAMAGE (USD)

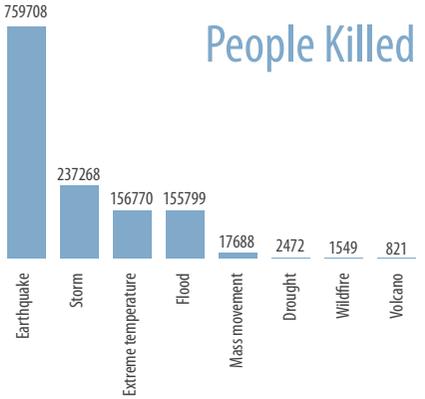
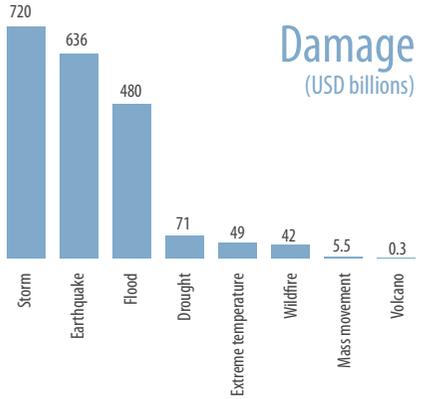
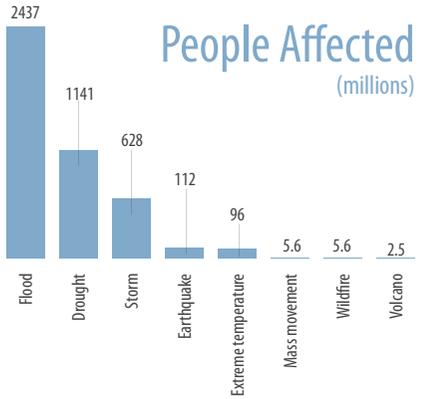
Approximately 25 years of total Overseas Development Aid².



1.3
MILLION
KILLED

Comparable to over 1500 airplane³ crashes.

Impact by disasters



Impact by top 10 countries

China
2.5 BILLION
people affected

Country	People Affected
India	928 million
Bangladesh	136 million
Philippines	92 million
Thailand	72 million
Pakistan	64 million
Ethiopia	46 million
Kenya	44 million
Iran Islam Rep	40 million
Viet Nam	39 million

USA
560 BILLION
in damage (USD)

Country	Damage (USD)
Japan	402 billion
China P Rep	331 billion
Thailand	45 billion
India	43 billion
Italy	36 billion
Germany	31 billion
France	31 billion
Chile	31 billion
Australia	28 billion

Haiti
230675
people killed

Country	People Killed
Indonesia	185152
Myanmar	139351
China P Rep	128298
India	103182
Pakistan	85332
Russia	61152
Sri Lanka	36000
Iran Islam Rep	32680
Venezuela	30463