

## GLOBAL DISASTER STATISTICS, 2000-2019 <sup>1</sup>

Since 1988, the Belgian agency CRED<sup>2</sup> - [www.cred.be](http://www.cred.be) has maintained the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT). This contains core data on the occurrence and effects of natural and technological disasters since 1900. CRED defines a disaster as ‘a situation or event that overwhelms local capacity, necessitating at national or international level for external assistance; an unforeseen and often sudden event that causes great damage, destruction or suffering’. For a disaster to be entered into the database, at least one of the following needs to be fulfilled:

- 10 or more people reported killed
- 100 or more people reported affected
- Declaration of a state of emergency
- Call for international assistance

Enclosed at the end of this article are a number of key articles on natural disasters produced both by CRED and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Up until 2016, the IFRC used to prepare an annual World Disasters Report (WDR) which included, in its appendices, a summary, of the previous decade, of numbers of disasters occurring; people killed and affected; and damaged caused, by natural and technological disasters. Since that time (2016), the WDRs have ceased in that original format. Reports on natural disasters have since then mainly been largely produced by CRED in annual reports. Overall, CRED categorises its hazards into the following sub-group, with most reports just focussing on the elements highlighted in yellow .

Geophysical	Hydrological	Meteorological	Climatological	Biological	Extra-terrestrial
Earthquake (includes tsunami)	Flood	Storm <sup>3</sup>	Drought	Animal accident	Impact
Mass movement (dry)	Landslide	Extreme temperatures	Glacial lake outburst	Epidemic	Space weather
Volcanic activity	Wave action	Fog	Wildfire <sup>4</sup>	Insect infestation	

In the graphs on the next two pages are details of the following, drawn from EM-DAT data compiled from CRED & IFRC WDR reports. They relate to the following annual effects of natural disasters:

- Number of disasters
- People killed
- People affected
- Damage caused (in USD)

Note that these figures are separate to those affected by conflict. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), in its Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2020<sup>5</sup>, estimated there would be around 168 million people globally in need due to a combination of conflict and extreme climatic events. This UNOCHA report was compiled in late 2019, before the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were known.

<sup>1</sup> This article can be referenced on the page [www.torgaid.com/global-disaster-statistics](http://www.torgaid.com/global-disaster-statistics)

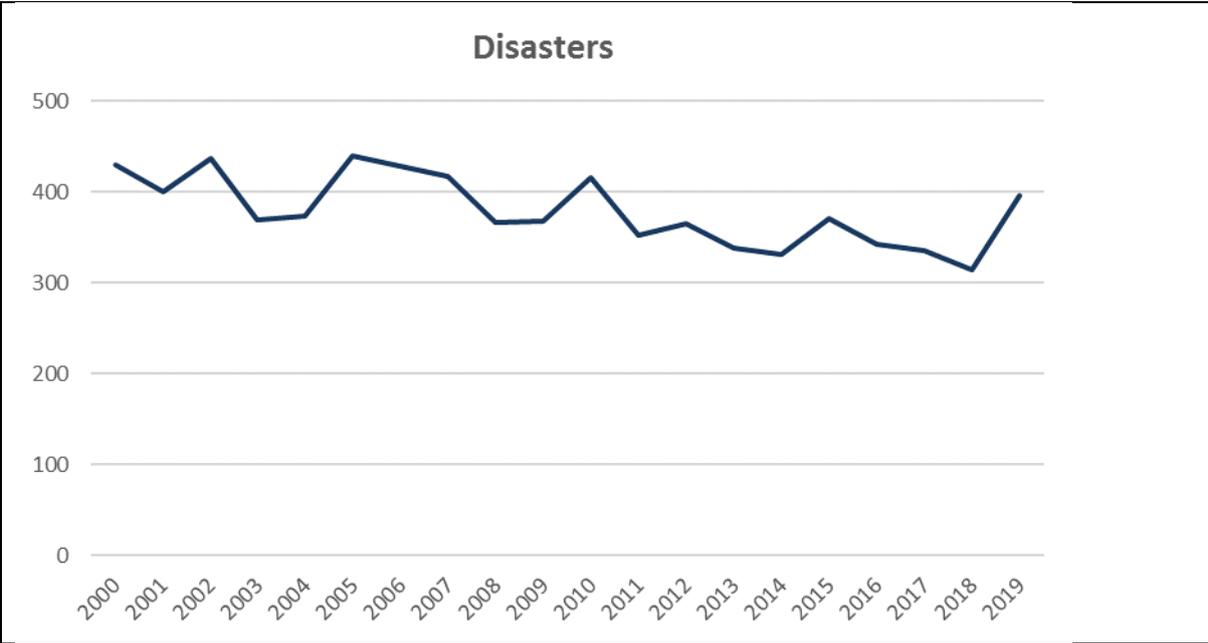
<sup>2</sup> Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters

<sup>3</sup> These can include cyclones, hurricanes & typhoons

<sup>4</sup> In Australia called bushfires

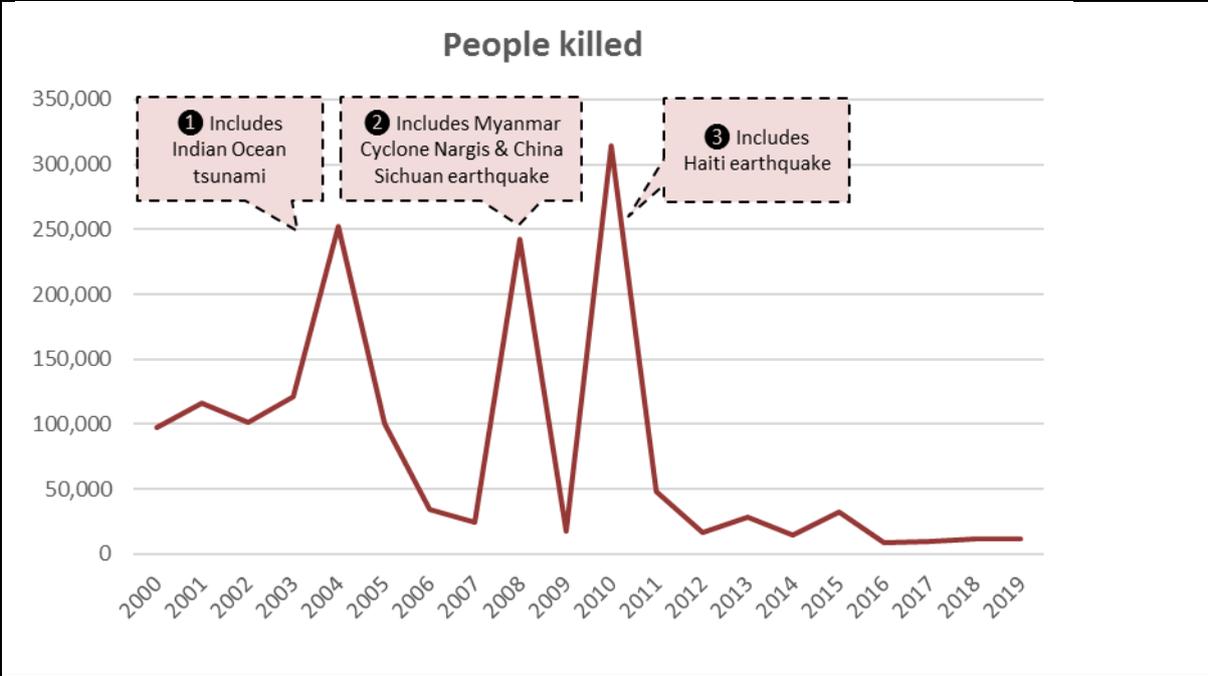
<sup>5</sup> See reference on this at end of this article

**Numbers of natural disasters, 2000-2019**



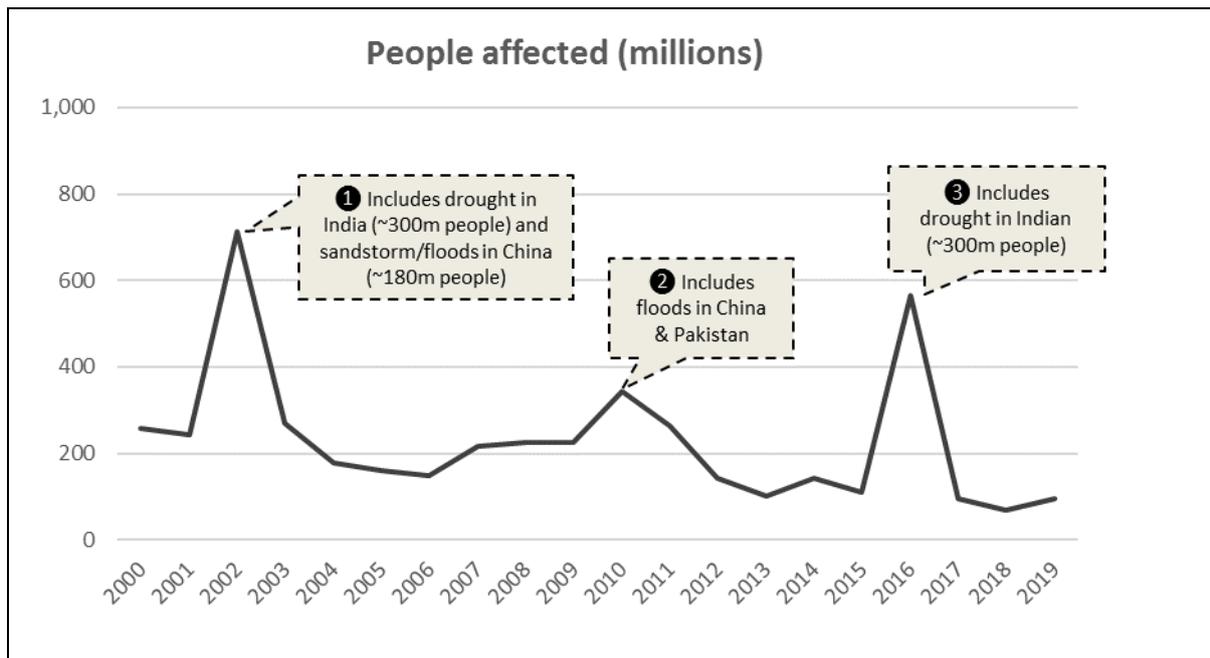
Source: EM-DAT/CRED International Disaster Data Base

**Numbers of people killed by natural disasters, 2000-2019**



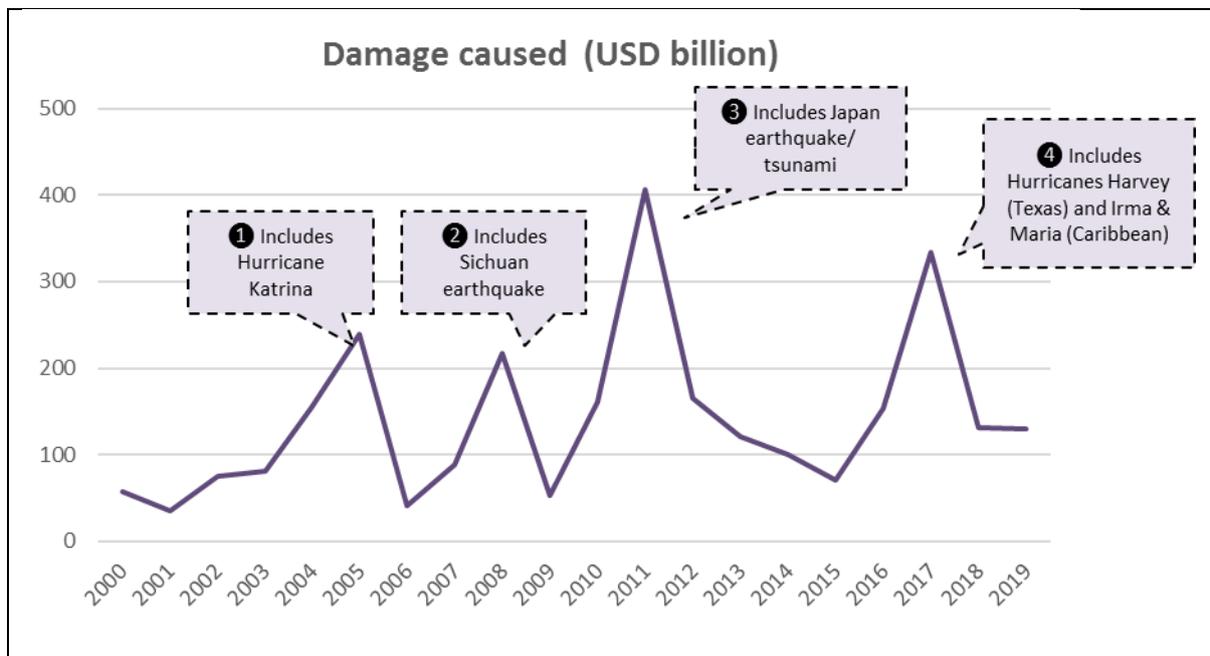
Source: EM-DAT/CRED International Disaster Data Base

## Numbers of people affected by natural disasters, 2000-2019



Source: EM-DAT/CRED International Disaster Data Base

## Damage caused by natural disaster in USD, 2000-2019



Source: EM-DAT/CRED International Disaster Data Base

## References:

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