

**Table 1** Total number of reported disasters,¹ by continent and by year (1999 to 2008)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Africa	144	202	183	197	169	164	170	198	178	159	1,764
Americas	140	150	134	156	126	135	139	103	133	138	1,354
Asia	256	303	295	310	292	314	359	299	255	226	2,909
Europe	92	130	96	115	96	98	127	92	103	52	1,001
Oceania	16	13	18	19	20	22	16	18	11	10	163
<i>High human development²</i>	194	248	200	230	197	207	215	170	187	138	1,986
<i>Medium human development</i>	381	425	402	459	414	435	477	417	387	363	4,160
<i>Low human development</i>	73	125	124	108	92	91	119	123	106	84	1,045
Total	648	798	726	797	703	733	811	710	680	585	7,191

Source: EM-DAT, CRED, University of Louvain, Belgium

¹ In Tables 1–13, ‘disasters’ refer to those with a natural and/or technological trigger only, and do not include wars, conflict-related famines, diseases or epidemics.

² See note on UNDP’s Human Development Index country status in the section on disaster definitions in the introduction to this annex.

With 585 disasters, 2008 is the year with the lowest number of disasters of the decade, far below the peaks of 2000, 2002 and 2005

In 2008, disaster numbers were the lowest of the decade in Asia, Europe and Oceania as well as in high and medium human development countries.

With, respectively, 27 per cent and 24 per cent of all disasters, Africa and the Americas are above their decade’s averages of 25 per cent and 19 per cent.



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Table 3 Total number of people reported affected, by continent and by year (1999 to 2008), in thousands

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total ²
Africa	37,634	46,000	45,445	44,601	29,213	36,902	22,856	22,892	12,526	18,220	316,289
Americas	17,277	975	10,913	2,517	3,995	9,478	8,308	1,450	8,940	19,684	83,537
Asia	241,095	206,644	186,203	663,070	234,974	132,289	129,716	118,356	190,886	175,732	2,278,965
Europe	6,311	2,929	787	1,493	1,546	538	527	260	1,646	268	16,304
Oceania	151	7	31	41	38	119	28	38	172	92	718
<i>High human development¹</i>	19,351	1,550	8,942	2,914	2,849	6,568	7,364	828	5,980	16,816	73,163
<i>Medium human development</i>	262,389	225,821	212,343	687,582	248,008	155,809	136,039	122,275	199,723	184,070	2,434,060
<i>Low human development</i>	20,727	29,184	22,095	21,226	18,909	16,948	18,033	19,893	8,467	13,110	188,590
Total	302,467	256,556	243,380	711,722	269,765	179,325	161,436	142,995	214,170	213,996	2,695,813

Source: EM-DAT, CRED, University of Louvain, Belgium

¹ See note on UNDP's Human Development Index country status in the section on disaster definitions in the introduction to this annex.

² Since slow-onset disasters can affect the same people for a number of years, it is best to use figures on total numbers affected to calculate annual averages over a decade rather than as absolute totals.

On the basis of available data, an average of around 270 million people were affected annually by disasters from 1999 to 2008, 85 per cent of them in Asia.

In the Americas, the number of people affected was the highest of the decade. In the United States, a major flood affected 11 million people; in the Caribbean and the United States, Hurricane Gustav affected 2.1 million people; and in Brazil and Colombia, two floods affected a total of 2.5 million people.

In 2008, the number of people affected by disaster living in Africa and Europe was the second lowest of the decade.



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Table 5 Total number of reported disasters, by type of phenomenon and by year (1999 to 2008)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Droughts/food insecurity	31	42	42	40	23	19	28	19	13	15	272
Earthquakes/tsunamis	33	31	25	37	40	42	25	24	20	21	298
Extreme temperatures	8	31	23	15	25	16	29	24	25	8	204
Floods ¹	122	158	157	171	159	129	195	227	219	158	1,695
Forest/scrub fires	22	30	14	22	14	8	13	9	18	4	154
Insect infestation	ndr	2	2	ndr	ndr	12	ndr	ndr	ndr	ndr	16
Mass movement: dry ²	ndr	1	ndr	1	ndr	1	ndr	1	ndr	3	7
Mass movement: wet ³	18	28	24	20	21	15	12	20	10	12	180
Volcanic eruptions	5	5	6	7	2	5	8	12	6	6	62
Windstorms	106	102	108	124	85	127	130	76	105	99	1,062
<i>Subtotal climato-, hydro- meteorological disasters</i>	<i>307</i>	<i>393</i>	<i>370</i>	<i>392</i>	<i>327</i>	<i>326</i>	<i>407</i>	<i>375</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>296</i>	<i>3,583</i>
<i>Subtotal geophysical disasters</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>367</i>
Total natural disasters	345	430	401	437	369	374	440	412	416	326	3,950
Industrial accidents	37	51	54	48	52	81	76	61	52	38	550
Miscellaneous accidents	52	58	50	52	45	62	66	32	42	30	489
Transport accidents	214	259	221	260	237	216	229	205	170	191	2,202
Total technological disasters	303	368	325	360	334	359	371	298	264	259	3,241
Total	648	798	726	797	703	733	811	710	680	585	7,191

Source: EM-DAT, CRED, University of Louvain, Belgium

¹ Includes waves and surges. ² Landslides, rockfalls, subsidence of geophysical origin. ³ Mud/landslides, avalanches, subsidence of hydrological origin.

Note: ndr signifies no disaster reported. For more information, see section on caveats in introductory text.

In 2008, the numbers of both natural and technological disasters were the lowest of the decade, as were the numbers of forest/scrub fires and of miscellaneous accidents. In 2008, the most frequent disasters were transport accidents (33 per cent), floods (27 per cent) and windstorms (17 per cent), near their average for the decade.