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Tema: Global hälsa

SVEPET

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Det är kostnadsfritt att annonsera om kurser och konferenser i SVEPET. Redaktionen förbehåller sig emellertid rätten att ändra i annonsernas layout så att de passar ihop med tidningens innehåll i övrigt.

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Svensk Epidemiologisk Förening

SVEP är en tvärvetenskaplig sammanslutning av personer verksamma inom epidemiologi eller angränsande områden.

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ORDFÖRANDEN HAR ORDET

Hej!

Detta nummer av Svepet innehåller fler sidor än vanligt. Temat "Global hälsa" engagerar och det var många som tackade ja till att bidra.

Vi har en gästredaktör, Che Henry Ngwa, också han mycket engagerad, som har hjälpt oss med bidrag från forskargrupper i andra länder. Det känns rimligt att ett nummer om global hälsa har författare med internationell spridning! 😊
Läs Henrys förord på nästa sida.

Och vi har också fått gensvar på vårt upprop i förra numret om att bidra. Så roligt!

Trevlig läsning!
Tack för alla bidrag! Tack Che Henry!

Hälsningar Elisabeth



*Elisabeth Strandhagen,
Ordförande i SVEP*



EM-DAT: the global disaster database — what it is, why it matters, and what's next?

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At a glance:

- **What:** EM-DAT (Emergency Events Database), a global record of disasters and their human impact.
- **Who runs it:** Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) at Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain, Belgium).
- **Scope:** More than 27,000 events, from 1900 to today, covering natural and technological hazards.
- **Access:** Free for non-commercial and paid for commercial users.

What EM-DAT is

EM-DAT is a comprehensive, free-access database that tracks the human and economic impacts of disasters around the world¹. Built and maintained by the CRED at UCLouvain, it brings together information from many trusted sources. Periodical checks are performed to keep the database as complete and consistent as possible. Its broad coverage and long history give EM-DAT a reliable foundation for spotting trends in disaster occurrence and human impact, comparing countries, and informing decisions across fields from environmental science to economics and public health¹⁻³.

Launched in 1988 with early support from the World Health Organization and the Belgian Government, EM-DAT has also benefited from over 25 years of support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID). While reinsurers and some countries maintain their own loss databases, EM-DAT stands out as the only global resource, freely accessible for non-commercial use, that monitors disaster losses across a wide range of hazard types¹.

Who uses it, and how

EM-DAT encourages targeted disaster risk reduction and response.

Typical users include:

- Governments and city planners for national risk profiles, planning, and emergency response.
- Health agencies and non-governmental organizations to assess needs and target aid.
- Researchers and educators to analyze patterns and explain risk.
- Journalists to inform the public.
- Insurers and donors to understand exposure and guide investments¹⁻².

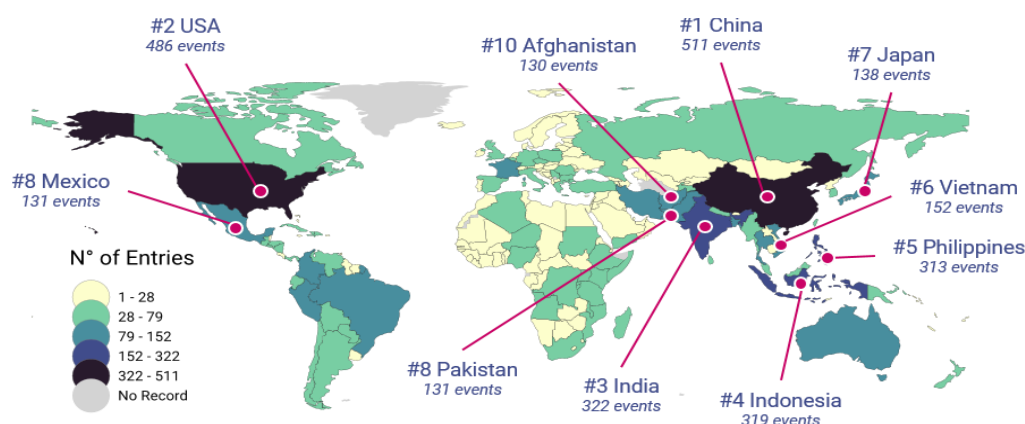
Its data inform global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals⁴⁻⁵. Because EM-DAT provides independent, comparable, event-level records for more than a century, it also helps evaluate forecasting models and early-warning systems over time and across countries^{3,6-8}.

How the data are collected

EM-DAT uses human-in-the-loop compilation. The EM-DAT team systematically screens pre-defined sources, including government reports, reinsurance publications, and reputable press, and then applies routine validation (monthly, annual, and thematic) to ensure completeness and quality¹.

Figure 1: Top 10 countries by natural hazard occurrences (2005–2024), excluding extraterrestrial and biological hazards*

* Event counts are absolute; comparisons across countries should be made with caution, as results are influenced by factors such as country size and population.



One of EM-DAT's strengths is the fact that it is maintained by an independent university, so its records are guided by evidence rather than agendas.

Known limitations and why they happen

EM-DAT reflects the strengths and limitations of global reporting systems:

- *Uneven reporting:* Some losses, in particular, economic impact, are often underreported, especially in lower-income countries and for slow-onset events (e.g. droughts)².
- *Health system constraints:* Incomplete civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) can limit the precision of mortality and morbidity impact estimates in countries lacking CRVS systems, especially for epidemic and heatwave disasters⁹⁻¹⁰.
- *Geographic detail:* Country-level records can limit fine-grained vulnerability analysis (e.g. at the regional, city, or neighbourhood scale) [1].
- *Temporal bias:* As monitoring technologies and institutions improve, apparent trends may partly reflect better data, not only changing risk [1].
- *Unreleased impact data:* In many cases, disaster impact figures are likely evaluated but not disclosed in openly accessible loss-and-damage tracking systems, which prevents EM-DAT from reporting them¹.

All points are realities of dealing with global data. EM-DAT's value lies in turning diverse,

imperfect signals into reliable, comparable intelligence the world can act on.

What's next

In early 2025, USAID suspended its funding for EM-DAT after a quarter century of support. This could affect the depth of manual screening and validation that keep the database trusted. The path forward may depend on stronger collaboration with public institutions and mission-driven philanthropies, ensuring that high-quality, open disaster data remain available to everyone.

Why this matters: Open, consistently validated disaster data save lives. By using, citing, and supporting EM-DAT, organizations can help sustain a public good that powers better forecasting, better planning, and better outcomes, before, during, and after disasters.

Quick links and social media: EM-DAT

- EM-DAT website:
<https://www.emdat.be/>
- EM-DAT data portal:
<https://public.emdat.be/>
- EM-DAT documentation:
<https://doc.emdat.be/>



@CREDUCL

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Håll tiden för NordicEpi 3-5 juni 2026!



Universitetet i Tromsø står 2026 som värd för den nordiska epidemiologiska konferensen NordicEpi. Det blir ett samarrangemang med NorPEN och deras årliga konferens (Nordic Pharmacoepidemiological Network).

Förhoppningsvis blir det även möjlighet att få se midnatsol, som bilden visar, och något av den vackra natur som omger Tromsø. Gå in på deras webbsida (länk i kalendariet) och anmäl intresse för att få aktuell information! Observera att sista datum för inlämning av abstract är den 31 december 2025.