2025 Disasters in Numbers

358 Reported Disasters

16,607 Deaths

110.2 Million People Affected

169.7 Billion US$ Economic Damage

Earth, Wind & Fire

UCLouvain

CRED
Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters

Executive Summary

In 2025,[1] the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) recorded 358 natural hazard-related disasters.[2] These events resulted in 16,607 fatalities, affected 110.2 million people and caused US$169.68B in economic losses. Asia accounted for a disproportionately large share of disaster-related deaths, due largely to major earthquakes in Myanmar and Afghanistan. The year was also marked by a record-breaking drought in Syria, which left 80% of the population in need of assistance; and by the Palisades and Eaton Fires, which ranked among the costliest wildfires ever recorded, both globally and in the United States of America.

The earthquakes in Myanmar and Afghanistan were the two deadliest disasters of 2025. In Myanmar, a 7.7-magnitude earthquake on March 28 caused at least 3,820 deaths, primarily in the regions of Mandalay, Naypyitaw, and Sagaing, and resulted in US$11B of economic losses. On the night of August 31, the mountainous provinces of Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, and Nuristan in eastern Afghanistan were severely affected by a 6.0-magnitude earthquake that caused an estimated 2,200 deaths.

Tropical storms and floods also contributed substantially to disaster-related deaths, particularly affecting populations and causing economic losses across Asia. In November, three tropical storms, Senyar, Ditwah, and Kalmaegi (Tino),[3] caused widespread destruction and ranked among the year's most severe disasters in terms of casualties. By the end of November, Senyar had caused 1,109 reported casualties and left 3.2 million people in need in Sumatra, Indonesia. It also aggravated flooding in Southern Thailand, where prolonged precipitation since mid-November, particularly in Songkhla Province, caused at least 276 confirmed deaths, affected 4 million people and potentially resulted in US$15.6B in losses.[4] During the same period, Cyclone Ditwah severely affected all districts of Sri Lanka, leaving 823 people dead or missing and causing US$4.1B in damage.

The Philippines were particularly hard hit by storms that affected over 30 million people in 2025.[5] In July, Wipha (Crising), together with Tropical Storm Francisco (Dante) and Typhoon Co-May (Emong), intensified the southwest monsoon, triggering flooding in the Philippines and affecting over 11 million people. The period from September to November was especially severe and was further aggravated by two significant earthquakes in October. Typhoon Bualoi (Opong) in late September impacted 4.6 million people across the central Philippines. On November 2, Typhoon Kalmaegi (Tino) made landfall, causing 372 deaths and affecting around 5.5 million people. It was followed by Typhoon Fung-wong (Uwan), which made landfall on November 9 and had widespread impacts. After the July typhoon series, Fung-wong caused the third greatest disaster of 2025 in terms of people affected (7.7 million).

In the Atlantic, Hurricane Melissa at the end of October affected 7.6 million people in Haiti, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.[6] Economic losses in Jamaica ranked among the highest recorded in 2025, with estimated damage of US$10B. In the United States of America (USA), severe weather and tornadoes from March to May had major economic consequences. In the Midwest and Southeast regions, the tornado outbreak of March 13-16 was the costliest on record, with damage totaling US$9.4 billion.[7] In the same region in early April, severe weather, including thunderstorms, tornadoes, heavy rain, and flooding, affected multiple states, causing damage amounting to US$4.6B. Later in May, another outbreak primarily affected Kentucky, Missouri, and Virginia, leading to estimated losses of US$5.2B.

On May 28, torrential rainfall hit the town of Mokwa in Nigeria's North Central region, triggering flash floods that led to the collapse of bridges, roads, and a nearby dam. As the latest figures report 1,100 deaths, including 500 confirmed deaths and 600 people missing and presumed dead, the Mokwa Flood was the deadliest event in Africa in 2025. In Central Darfur, western Sudan, a catastrophic landslide triggered by intense rainfall in late August engulfed the village of Tarasin in the Marrah Mountains. Although figures vary substantially, this resulted in approximately 400 casualties.

From June to September, Pakistan experienced a series of floods triggered by an intense monsoon season that peaked in mid-August, causing more than 1,000 deaths and affecting 6.9 million people. By the end of July, flooding in northern China, in areas including Beijing and the provinces of Hebei, Shanxi, and Shandong, had caused significant damage totaling US$5.8B; 91 people were reported dead or missing. In Bolivia, countrywide floods began in February and lasted until at least mid-April, affecting about 3 million people.

Against the backdrop of years of conflict, the drought in Syria—part of a larger multiyear event across the Tigris and Euphrates basins—left 16.2 million people in need of assistance. Likewise, a prolonged multiyear drought in the Horn of Africa brought exceptionally arid conditions to Somalia, which have continued into 2026. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, this has left over 6.5 million people facing acute food insecurity at crisis or emergency levels. While definitive mortality estimates are unavailable, estimated excess mortality over a 30-month drought and famine period in Somalia between 2021 and 2024 lay at around 71,100. Around 40% of these deaths involved children under five.[8] In the first half of 2025, before hosting COP30, Brazil faced a severe drought in the Amazon basin that caused total economic damage estimated at US$4.8B.

The 2025 impact figures are still evolving and may be revised as new data become available. Despite heatwave occurrences in Pakistan, India, and Europe, reporting delays have meant that many heatwave deaths—as drought-related deaths—have not yet been considered. Once reporting is complete, provisional estimates may show thousands of additional deaths in Europe.[9] For this reason, most indicators for 2025 lie below the 2005–2024 average, except for the number of people affected by storm events. Notably, 2025 was also marked by the absence of any mega-disaster. For example, earthquake-related fatalities in Myanmar and Afghanistan were significantly lower than those recorded during events such as the 2010 Haiti Earthquake or the more recent 2023 Türkiye Earthquake. Nevertheless, in 2025, the cumulative impact of multiple concurrent hazards, including earthquakes, storms, and floods, resulted in a global disaster burden consistent with that of a typical year.

1 Date of reference: 2026-03-17.

2 In this report, disasters are related to natural hazards, excluding biological and extra-terrestrial hazards, reported at the country level in EM-DAT.

3 Typhoons in the Philippines are designated with the international name, followed by their local name in parentheses.

4 Figures for the November 2025 Thailand Floods remain provisional. The death toll of 276 should be interpreted as a lower bound. The US$15.6B estimate includes indirect effects on GDP and could be revised downward in a future update.

5 Sum of affected people by storm events in 2025 in the Philippines. The count may include the same individuals multiple times if they were affected repeatedly.

6 Hurricane Melissa is not listed in the top-10 disaster table by affected people because the top-10 data is broken down by individual countries.

7 It ranks third in the USA, in terms of cost, when adjusted for inflation, behind the outbreaks of April and May 2011.

8 Report available on OCHA Reliefweb: https://reliefweb.int/node/4126844.

9 Provisional reports on heat-related mortality in European cities across summer 2025 have reported 16,469 preventable deaths (DOI : https://doi.org/10.25560/123873).

Occurrence of Disasters [10]

Figure 1

Number of Disasters by Continent and Top 10 Countries in 2025

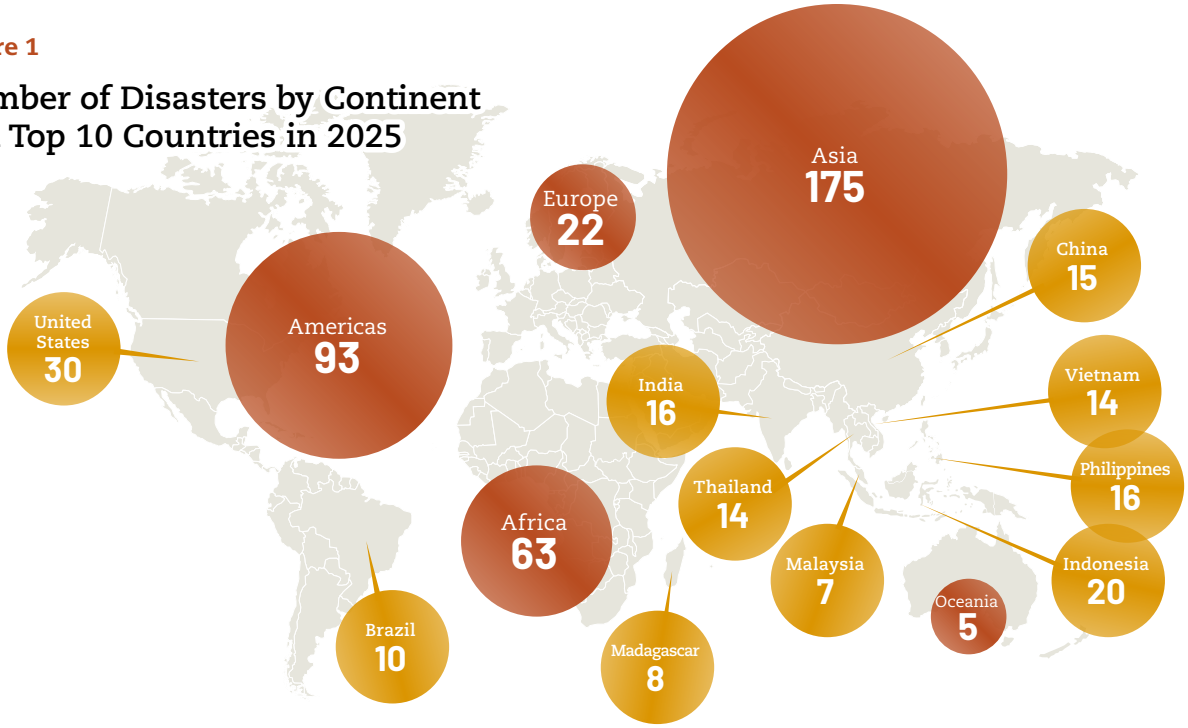
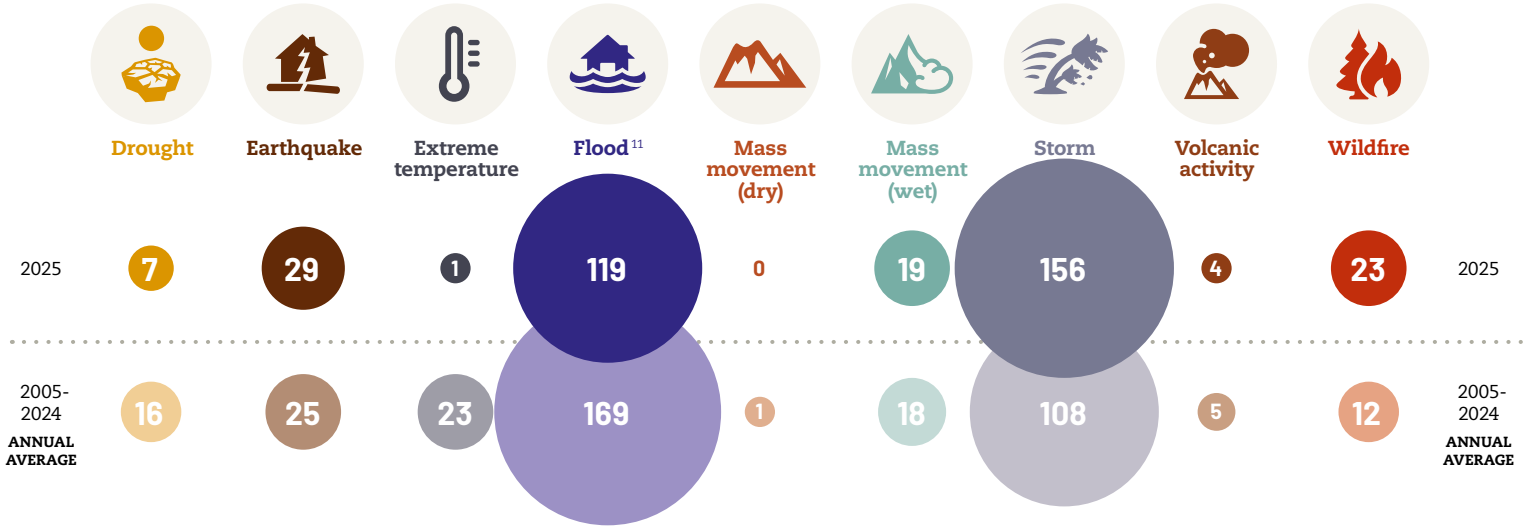


Figure 2

Occurrence by Disaster Type: 2025 Compared to the 2005-2024 Annual Average

377 (2005 to 2024) > 358 (in 2025)



10 The reported disaster count may vary according to hazard frequency and to the aggregation methods of reporting sources that define the extent of a disaster event.

11 Including 3 glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) events.

Human Impact: Total Deaths [12]

Figure 3

Proportion of Deaths by Continent in 2025

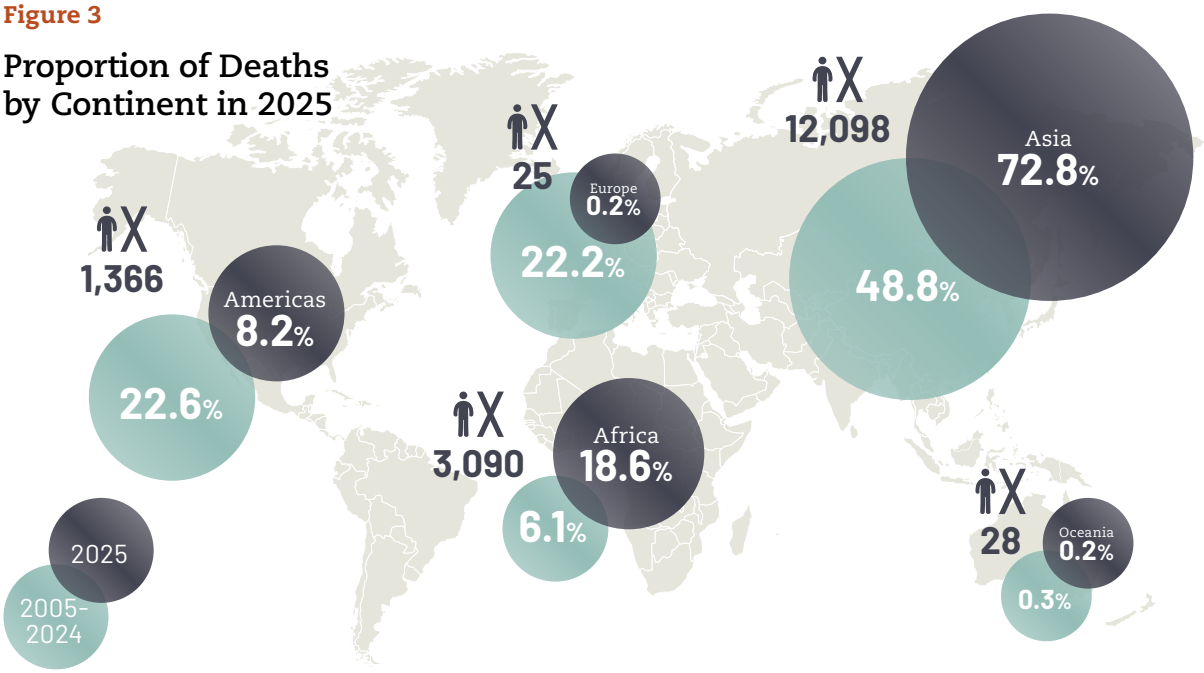


Figure 4

Number of Deaths by Disaster Type: 2025 Compared to 2005-2024 Annual Average

57,429 (2005 to 2024) > 16,607 (in 2025)

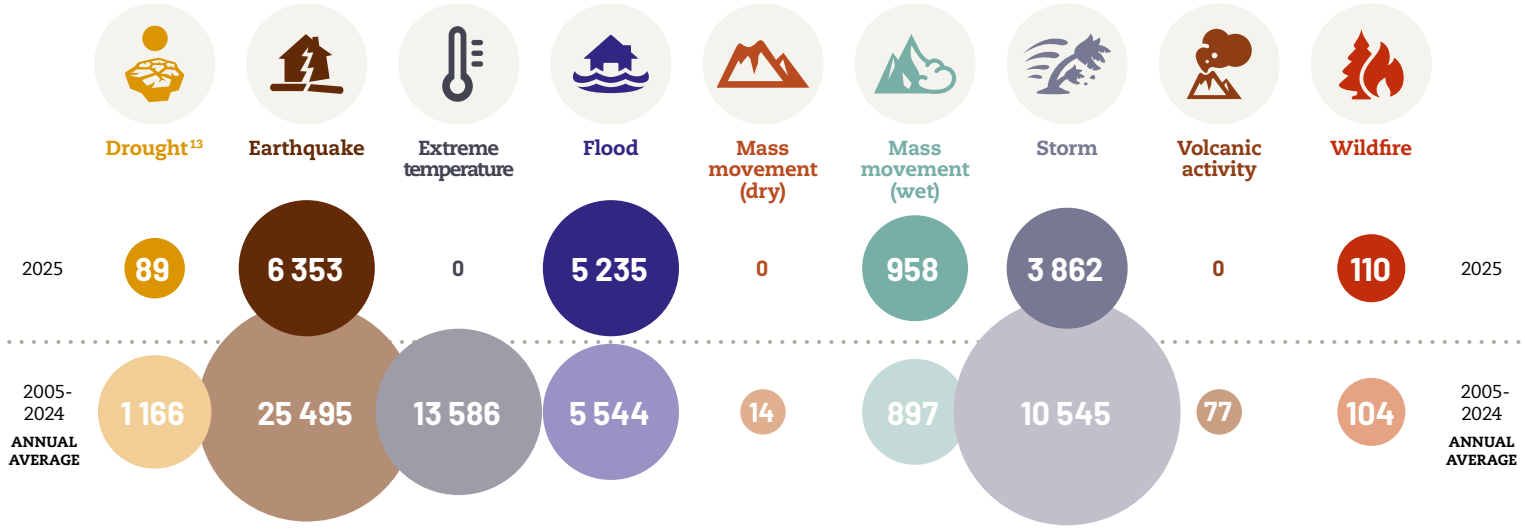


Table 1 Top 10 Mortality – 2025

Myanmar	Earthquake	3,820	
Afghanistan	Earthquake	2,200	
Indonesia	Tropical Cyclone Senyar	1,109	
Nigeria	Mokwa Flood (May)	1,100	
Pakistan	Flood	1,037	

Sri Lanka	Tropical Cyclone Ditwah	823
Sudan	Landslide	400
Philippines	Typhoon Kalmaegi (Tino)	372
Thailand[4]	Flood, Cyclone Senyar	276
Nigeria	Flood (June-October)	238

12 The total deaths indicator includes persons confirmed as dead, and persons reported missing and presumed dead.

13 EM-DAT data, including null values, reflect reported impacts from various sources and may substantially differ from actual impacts if the latter are systematically underreported. Drought-related mortality, for instance, is not usually reported.

Human Impact: Total Affected

Figure 5

Proportion of Affected by Continent in 2025

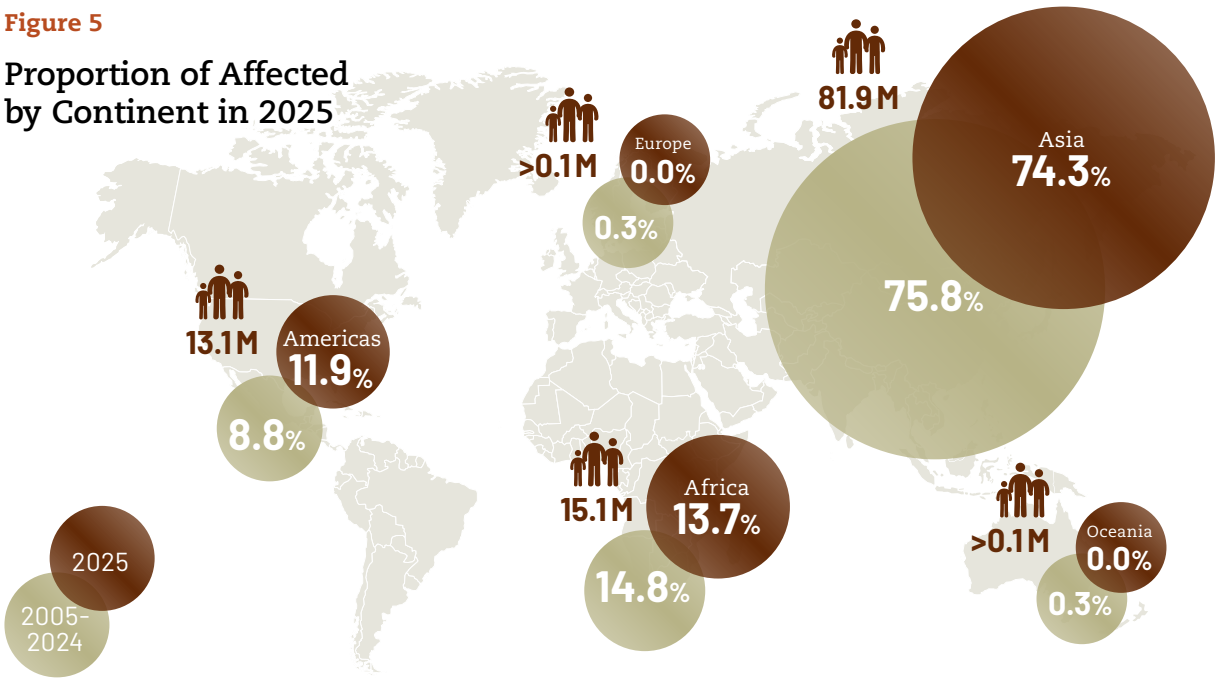


Figure 6

Number of Affected by Disaster Type: 2025 Compared to 2005-2024 Annual Average

169.0 (2005 to 2024) > 110.2 (in 2025)

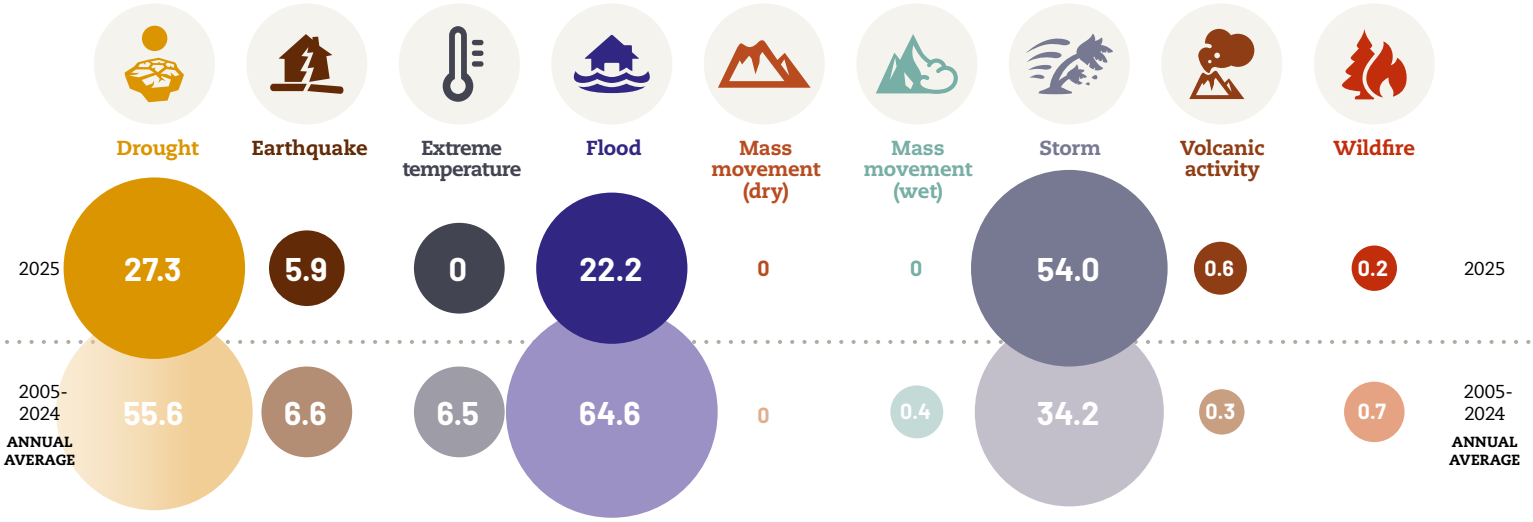


Table 2 Top 10 Total Affected – 2025

Syria[14]	Drought	16.2 million	
Philippines	Typhoon Wipha (Crising) Francisco (Dante), Co-May (Emong)	11.1 million	
Philippines	Typhoon Fung-wong (Uwan)	7.7 million	
Pakistan	Flood	6.9 million	
Somalia	Drought	6.5 million	
Philippines	Typhoon Kalmaegi (Tino)	5.5 million	
Philippines	Typhoon Bualoi (Opong)	4.6 million	
Thailand	Flood, Cyclone Senyar	4 million	
Indonesia	Tropical Cyclone Senyar	3.2 million	
Bolivia[15]	Flood	3 million	

14 Officially the Syrian Arab Republic.

15 Officially the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Economic Impact

Figure 7

Proportion of Economic Losses by Continent in 2025

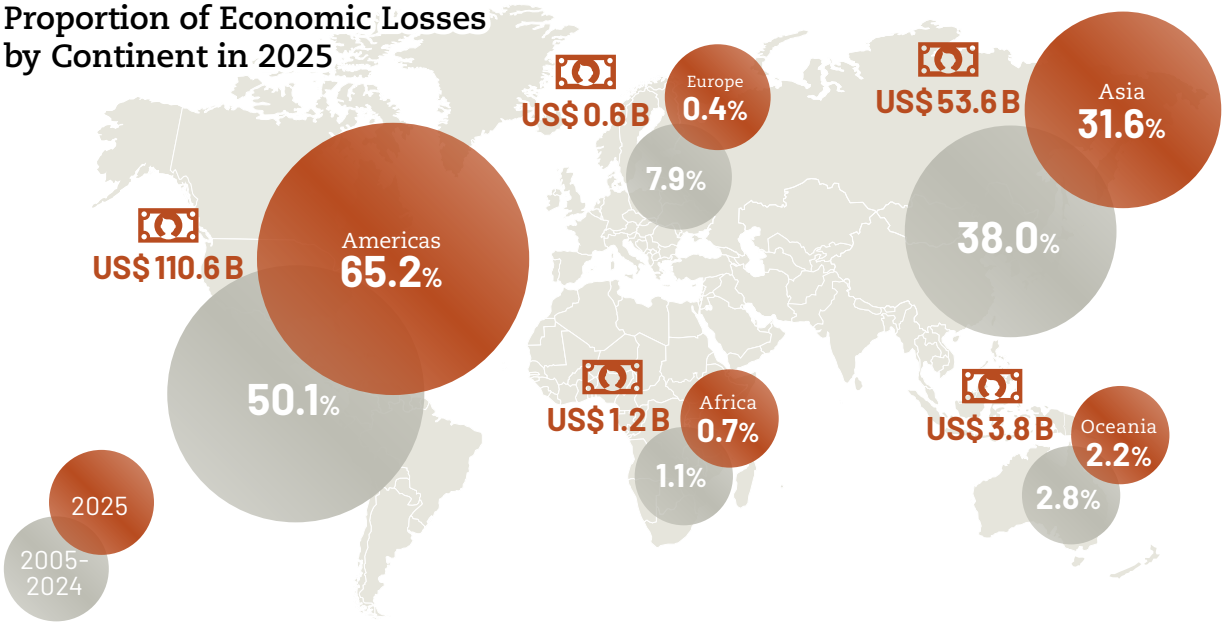


Figure 8

Economic Losses (US$ billion) by Disaster Type: 2025 Compared to the 2005-2024 Annual Average

215.0 (2005 to 2024) > 169.7 (in 2025)

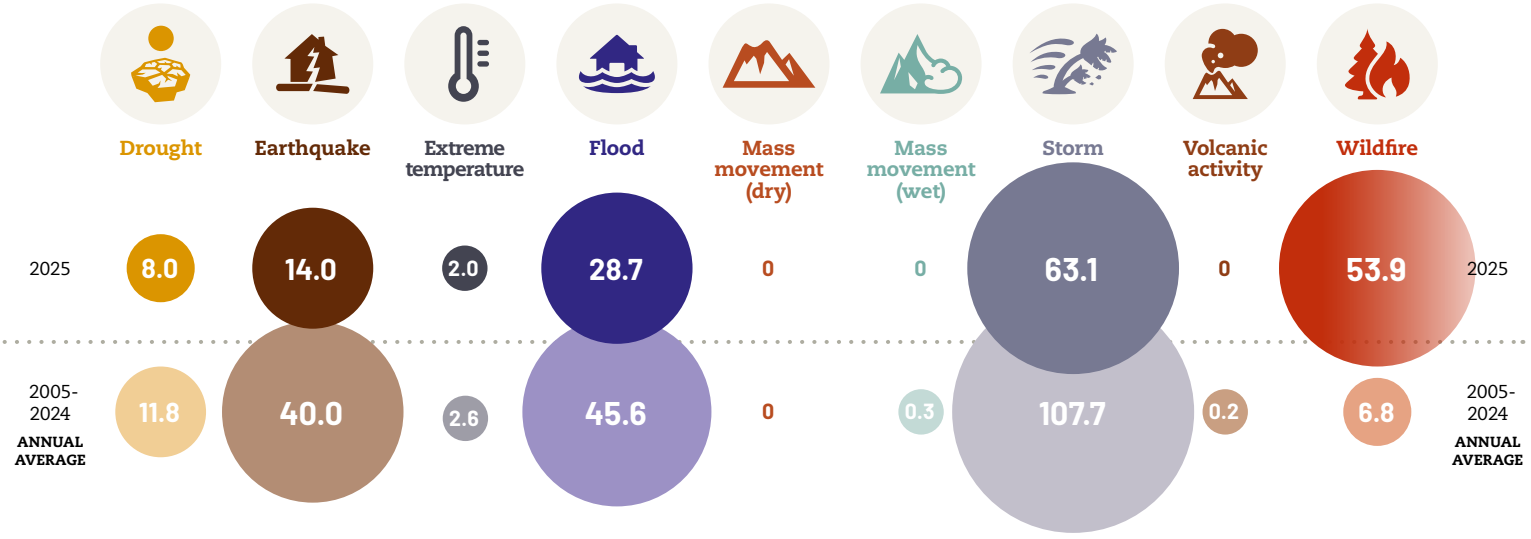


Table 3 Top 10 Economic Losses (US$) - 2025

USA	Wildfire	53 billion
Thailand[4]	Flood, Cyclone Senyar	15.6 billion
Myanmar	Earthquake	11 billion
Jamaica	Hurricane Melissa	10 billion
USA	Storm (March)	9.4 billion
China	Flood	5.8 billion
USA	Storm (May)	5.2 billion
Brazil	Drought	4.8 billion
USA	Storm (April)	4.6 billion
Sri Lanka	Tropical Cyclone Ditwah	4.1 billion

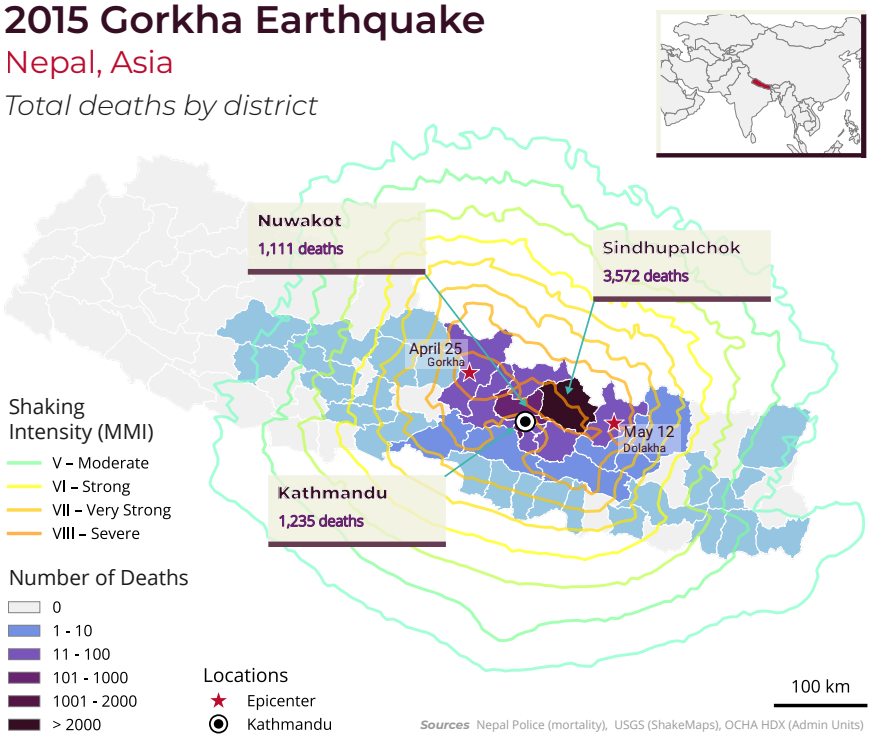
Ten Years On: Nepal Remembers the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake

In 2025, ten years had passed since the devastating Gorkha Earthquake in Nepal. On April 25, 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the country, with its epicenter in Gorkha District,[16] followed by an aftershock on May 12.[17] This disaster, Nepal's deadliest since 1934,[18] caused nearly 9,000 deaths, injured around 18,000 people, and impacted more than 5.5 million people, disproportionately affecting children, women and older adults.[19] It destroyed or damaged more than one million structures, including homes and cultural heritage sites. Now, a decade later, local communities have reflected on the earthquake's human impact, the progress made in the meantime, and the challenges that remain regarding reconstruction and risk reduction.[20, 21, 22]

The impact of the earthquake varied across districts. Among the worst-affected areas were Sindhupalchok, Kathmandu Valley, and Nuwakot. Sindhupalchok alone accounted for more than 3,500 deaths, while densely populated parts of Kathmandu experienced widespread structural collapse. The US Geological Survey's ShakeMap data indicate that ground shaking reached "very strong" levels across much of central Nepal, while landslides triggered by the earthquake cut off remote villages for weeks. Together, these data illustrate the distribution of losses and highlight persistent structural vulnerabilities, including weak construction standards, difficult terrain, and limited access for emergency response in rural areas.

For the affected populations, the Gorkha Earthquake had both immediate and long-term consequences. As well as deaths and injuries, many households experienced prolonged displacement, loss of livelihoods, and disruption to basic services. Testimonies collected in the aftermath captured the scale of shock experienced by survivors. As one survivor recalled, *"For the first five days, I could not move. I just sat here on the side of the road."*[20] Search-and-rescue operations and relief efforts were conducted under difficult conditions, particularly in remote mountain areas. At the same time, the disaster exposed important limitations in response capacity, including delays in aid delivery, barriers to reaching isolated communities, and the longer-term challenge of supporting psychosocial recovery and livelihood restoration.

The tenth anniversary was marked by official commemorative events, including a ceremony at the former site of the Dharahara tower in Kathmandu, where Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and officials observed a minute of silence at 11:56 AM, the time of the main shock.[21] Public exhibitions and workshops highlighted progress in reconstruction, including the rebuilding of around 80% of damaged structures, the introduction of improved building standards,[21] and continued efforts to restore cultural heritage.[22] At the same time, the anniversary drew attention to unresolved issues, particularly in rural areas where vulnerabilities persist. A decade on, the Gorkha Earthquake remains a reference point for understanding both the scale of disaster impacts in Nepal and the long-term requirements of recovery and risk governance.



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About EM-DAT

The Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) has been maintained by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) at the University of Louvain (UCLouvain) since 1988. It provides data on significant disasters to support research, humanitarian action, evidence-based decision-making in disaster preparedness and response, and disaster risk reduction. The database also helps assess community vulnerability and inform policy priorities.

EM-DAT contains data from 1900 to the present on the occurrence and impacts of over 27,000 disasters related to natural and technological hazards. These data are compiled from a wide range of sources, including UN agencies, national governments, NGOs, research institutes, and the media. Although sources are prioritized and selected on the basis of their reliability, historical data may contain biases. For more information on the database and to access the data and accompanying documentation, please visit the EM-DAT website (www.emdat.be).

A disaster in EM-DAT is defined as "a situation or event that overwhelms local capacity, necessitating a request for external assistance at the national or international level; it is an unforeseen and often sudden event that causes great damage, destruction, and human suffering." As this annual report and its figures include only disasters attributed to natural hazards, it excludes biological and extraterrestrial hazards, and omits technological hazards, even though these are all recorded in EM-DAT.

To be included in the database, a disaster must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- **10 or more people reported killed**
- **100 or more people reported affected**
- **A declaration of a state of emergency**
- **A call for international assistance.**

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Delforge, D., Below, R., Wathelet, V., Tonnelier, M., Alonso, A., & Speybroeck, N. (2026). 2025 Disasters in Numbers. Brussels, Belgium: Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). https://files.emdat.be/reports/2025_EMDAT_report.pdf

Contact

Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Institute of Health and Society - UCLouvain. B.1.30.15, Clos Chapelle aux Champs, 1200 Brussels, Belgium.


contact@emdat.be


www.emdat.be


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