International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

FACTS AND FIGURES

**International Day for Disaster Risk / ASEAN Day for Disaster Management 2015 / Southeast Asia / October 13**

Worldwide facts and figures on disasters**[[1]](#footnote-1)**

* 48% of all natural disasters occurred in Asia in 2014. Over 85% of those killed and 86% those affected globally were also in Asia.
* Almost 107 million people are estimated to have been affected by disasters in 2014, a relative increase from 2013.
* Floods and landslides accounted for 49% of all natural disasters in 2014, causing 63% of the total number of disaster related deaths and 34% of the total number of people affected by disasters. Drought affected 39% of the total number of people affected by disasters.
* In 2014, economic losses were estimated at $99.2 billion US dollars, well below the annual average of 147 billion seen in the past ten years. For the first time since 1980, the world experienced a consecutive decrease in economic losses over the last three years.

# **Regional disaster facts and figures**

* Asia Pacific has the highest number of natural disasters;of the world’s reported natural disasters between 2004 and 2013, 41.2%, or 1,690 incidences, occurred in the Asia-Pacific region[[2]](#footnote-2).
* Disaster-induced deaths in the Asia-Pacific region rose more than three-fold between in the past decade, largely due to a handful of extreme disasters, including the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar[[3]](#footnote-3).
* Southeast Asia – predominantly Indonesia and the Philippines – was hardest hit by natural disasters that killed more than 350,000 in more than 500 incidents[[4]](#footnote-4).
* During the period between 2004 and 2013, natural disasters in Asia and the Pacific caused economic damage of over $560 billion, of which 85.5%was accounted for by 28 upper-middle-income and high-income economies[[5]](#footnote-5).
* To respond to disasters, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has established a partnership with ASEAN’s Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), to help strengthen disaster response mechanisms and coordination in the region[[6]](#footnote-6).

# Facts and figures on the value of investing in disaster risk reduction

* In 2014, for every dollar spent on disaster risk reduction, an estimated USD 15.65 was saved on average, according to the cost benefit analysis of Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes for community-based disaster risk reduction[[7]](#footnote-7).
* Mapping results over the past 6 years show a steady increase in spending and number people reached through the IFRC’s disaster risk reduction projects[[8]](#footnote-8).
* In 2014 the IFRC and its National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies invested a total of 151.7 million Swiss francs on disaster risk reduction projects. This is an increase of almost 30 million Swiss francs from 2013[[9]](#footnote-9).
* Approximately 17.9 million people in the Asia Pacific were reached by IFRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies’ disaster risk reduction projects in 2014?[[10]](#footnote-10).



* In 2014, more than 63%of IFRC’s total disaster risk reduction expenditure was made in community-based disaster risk reduction and 23.7%in National Society disaster preparedness, with the rest in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and food security, nutrition and livelihoods[[11]](#footnote-11).
* Through its network of 17 million volunteers and 189 National Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies is reaching tens of millions of people through disaster preparedness, risk reduction and development programmes[[12]](#footnote-12).

# Facts on the Red Cross Red Crescent’s commitment to disaster risk reduction

* The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is deeply committed to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan.[[13]](#footnote-13).
* In the lead up to Sendai, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) worked closely with many National Societies to ensure that the resulting declaration reflected the needs and aspirations of vulnerable communities[[14]](#footnote-14).
* In February this year, at the **12th Annual South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting** in Phnom Penh, leaders of Southeast Asia’s National Societies recognized the importance of continuing to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable and disaster-affected populations, particularly through disaster law[[15]](#footnote-15).
* More than 25 National Societies joined the IFRC delegation at the **6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** in Bangkok in June 2014, and were deeply involved in providing key contributions from the Asia-Pacific region[[16]](#footnote-16).
* The IFRC’s ‘Voluntary Commitment’ at the **6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** saw National Societies across Asia commit to enhancing resilience at local levels with programs in disaster risk reduction, health, shelter, livelihoods, and climate change.

The IFRC committed that 20 National Societies in Asia will establish long term resilience programs reaching at least two million people each year, and that 15 National Societies will have formal agreements with their governments in disaster risk reducton[[17]](#footnote-17).

# Red Cross Red Crescent recognition of indigenous and local knowledge in DRR

* The importance of evaluating traditional or indigenous knowledge to improve observation of climate change and its impacts is included in the **Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre’s ‘Minimum Standards for Local Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Reduction’**[[18]](#footnote-18).
* Local knowledge – including indigenous and traditional knowledge – is integral to the **Red Cross Red Crescent’s Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology**, a mapping process designed to increase communities’ awareness of risks and hazards and to help reduce vulnerability and increase capacity before disaster strikes.[[19]](#footnote-19).
* Traditional customs and practice and indigenous knowledge is key to the IFRC’s community-centred approach to resilience and is referenced in the ‘**IFRC Framework for Community Resilience’[[20]](#footnote-20)**.

# Worldwide facts and figures on climate change

* In 2014, 87% of disasters were climate-related. This continues a 20-year long trend of climate-related disasters outnumbering geophysical disasters in the ten most disaster-affected countries in the world[[21]](#footnote-21).
* Throughout the 21st century, climate-change impacts are projected to slow down economic growth, make poverty reduction more difficult, further erode food security, and prolong existing and create new poverty traps[[22]](#footnote-22). It is also projected to increase the displacement of people[[23]](#footnote-23).

# Regional facts and figures on climate change

* Coastal cities with large and increasing populations and assets are exposed to climate-change-related risks, including increased tropical storm intensity, long-term sea-level rise, and sudden-onset flooding. Bangkok, Jakarta, Ho Chi Minh City, and Manila stand out as being particularly vulnerable to climate-driven impacts[[24]](#footnote-24).
* Climate change projections for sea-level rise and tropical cyclone intensity, along with land subsidence caused by human activities, are expected to expose Mekong Delta populations to heightened risks, including excess flooding, saltwater intrusion, and coastal erosion. The three river deltas of the Mekong, Irrawaddy, and Chao Phraya, all with significant land areas below 2m above sea level, are highly threatened by these risk factors[[25]](#footnote-25).
* Due to projected sea-level rise, approximately one million people along the coasts of South and Southeast Asia will likely be at risk from flooding[[26]](#footnote-26).
* ASEAN recognizes Southeast Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change, due to the fact that a large proportion of the population and economic activity is concentrated along coastlines; the region is heavily reliant on agriculture for livelihoods; there is a high dependence on natural resources and forestry; and the level of extreme poverty remains high… ASEAN also recognizes that heat waves, droughts, floods, and tropical cyclones have also become more intense and frequent[[27]](#footnote-27).
* ASEAN countries have been taking action to address climate change including measures such as emissions reductions targets and mainstreaming climate change adaptation in development[[28]](#footnote-28).
* In April this year, at the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ASEAN members signed a declaration committing to economic, social, cultural, physical and environmental measures that will reduce vulnerability to disaster and climate-related risks[[29]](#footnote-29)
1. All stats reference in World Disaster Report 2015, source: Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UNESCAP, p. 23 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2014, <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/23-Natural-disaster-SYB2014.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UNESCAP, p. 23 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2014, <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/23-Natural-disaster-SYB2014.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. UNESCAP, p. 23 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2014, <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/23-Natural-disaster-SYB2014.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. UNESCAP, Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2014 <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49642#.VgkUdmSqqkp> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.asean.org/news/asean-secretariat-news/item/asean-strengthens-its-collective-response-in-disasters> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. IFRC Briefing Paper: Disaster Risk Reduction – referenced in IDDR 2014 Facts and Figures [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. IFRC’s 2014 Disaster Risk Reduction Mapping <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201505/1292500-DRR%20Mapping%202015-EN_LR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. IFRC’s 2014 Disaster Risk Reduction Mapping <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201505/1292500-DRR%20Mapping%202015-EN_LR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. IFRC’s 2014 Disaster Risk Reduction Mapping <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201505/1292500-DRR%20Mapping%202015-EN_LR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. IFRC’s 2014 Disaster Risk Reduction Mapping <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201505/1292500-DRR%20Mapping%202015-EN_LR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. IFRC’s 2014 Disaster Risk Reduction Mapping <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201505/1292500-DRR%20Mapping%202015-EN_LR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. See further <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. See further <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/meetings-and-events/world-conference-on-disaster-risk-reduction-sendai-japan/#sthash.eqAMZ9dg.dpuf> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. ‘Phnom Penh Leadership Outcomes’, 12th Annual South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. See further <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/thailand/bangkok-red-cross-and-red-crescent-impact-at-the-6th-amcdrr-66232/#sthash.242xXYuV.dpuf> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <https://www.ifrc.org/FedNet/Our%20IFRC/Zones/AP/Events/2014/AMCDRR/Zero%20Draft-%20Bangkok%20Declaration-6AMCDRR-revised%2022June.docx> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Page 5, RCRC Climate Centre’s ‘Minimum Standards for Local Climate Smart Disaster Risk Reduction’ <http://www.climatecentre.org/downloads/files/Minimum%20Standards/Minimum%20Standards%20for%20climate-smart%20DRR%20%202.0%20NOV%202013.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Page 14, ‘How to do a VCA: A practical step-by-step guide for Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers’ 2007 <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/disasters/vca/how-to-do-vca-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Page 13, ‘IFRC Framework for Community Resilience’ <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/201501/1284000-Framework%20for%20Community%20Resilience-EN-LR.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. World Disaster Report 2015 <http://ifrc-media.org/interactive/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/1293600-World-Disasters-Report-2015_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Fifth Assessment Report, November 2014 <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/docs/WGIIAR5_SPM_Top_Level_Findings.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Fifth Assessment Report, November 2014 <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/docs/WGIIAR5_SPM_Top_Level_Findings.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. World Bank Report, ‘Turn Down the Heat’, 2013, p. 67, <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Full_Report_Vol_2_Turn_Down_The_Heat_%20Climate_Extremes_Regional_Impacts_Case_for_Resilience_Print%20version_FINAL.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. World Bank Report, ‘Turn Down the Heat’, 2013, p. 67, <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Full_Report_Vol_2_Turn_Down_The_Heat_%20Climate_Extremes_Regional_Impacts_Case_for_Resilience_Print%20version_FINAL.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Fifth Assessment Report, November 2014, Chapter 24 <https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg2/drafts/fd/WGIIAR5-Chap24_FGDall.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change <http://environment.asean.org/asean-working-group-on-climate-change/> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. <http://environment.asean.org/asean-working-group-on-climate-change/> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change. <http://climate-l.iisd.org/news/asean-summit-adopts-declaration-on-climate-change-and-resilience/> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)