



Report on Weather Disasters: WMO

Why in News

Recently, the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#), has released a report, which stated that **weather disasters killed 2 million in the last 50 years.**

- WMO has published '**Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes, from 1970 to 2019**'.
- WMO is a **specialized agency of the United Nations.**

Key Points

▪ Findings of the Report:

- **No. of Disasters:** The number of disasters **has increased by a factor of five over the 50-year period**, driven by climate change, more extreme weather and improved reporting.
 - From 1970 to 2019, **weather, climate and water hazards accounted for 50% of all disasters**, 45% of all reported deaths and 74% of all reported economic losses.
 - More than **91% of these deaths occurred in developing countries.**
 - Droughts, storms, floods and extreme temperature were the **leading causes.**
- **Decreasing Number of Deaths:** Due to improved early warning systems and disaster management, the number of deaths **decreased almost threefold between 1970 and 2019.**
- **Spiralling Costs:** During the 50-year period, US\$ 202 million dollars in damage occurred on average every day. Economic losses **have increased sevenfold from the 1970s to the 2010s.**
 - **Storms**, the most prevalent cause of damage, resulted in the largest economic losses around the globe.
- **Climate Change Footprints:** The **number of weather, climate and water extremes are increasing and will become more frequent and severe** in many parts of the world as a result of climate change.
 - **More water vapor in the atmosphere** has exacerbated extreme rainfall and flooding, and the **warming oceans** have affected the frequency and extent of the most intense tropical storms.
 - This has augmented the **vulnerability of low-lying megacities, deltas, coasts and islands** in many parts of the world.
- **Failure of Sendai Framework:** The report also warned that the failure to reduce disaster losses as set out in the [2015 Sendai Framework](#) is putting at risk the ability of developing countries to eradicate poverty and to achieve other important [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).
 - **Sendai Framework 2015** was adopted at the Third United Nations World

Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan.

- The present Framework applies to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.

▪ **Recommendations:**

- **Need for Adaptability: Only half of WMO's 193 member countries have multi-hazard early warning systems** and severe gaps in weather and hydrological observing networks exist in Africa, some parts of Latin America and in Pacific and Caribbean island States.
 - Thus, there is a need to install early warning systems in developing and under-developed countries.
- **Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management:** Need for a greater investment in comprehensive **disaster risk management** to ensure that climate change adaptation is integrated in national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.
- **Review Hazard Exposure:** The report further recommends countries to review hazard exposure and vulnerability considering a changing climate to reflect that tropical cyclones may have different tracks, intensity and speed than in the past.
- **Proactive Policies:** It also calls for the development of integrated and proactive policies on slow-onset disasters such as drought.

▪ **Recent Initiatives Taken by India:**

- [Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure \(CDRI\)](#)
- [National Disaster Management Authority \(NDMA\)](#)
- [National Disaster Management Plan \(NDMP\)](#)

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