

Great Natural Disasters

1950 - 2004

Definition:

What are "major natural catastrophes"

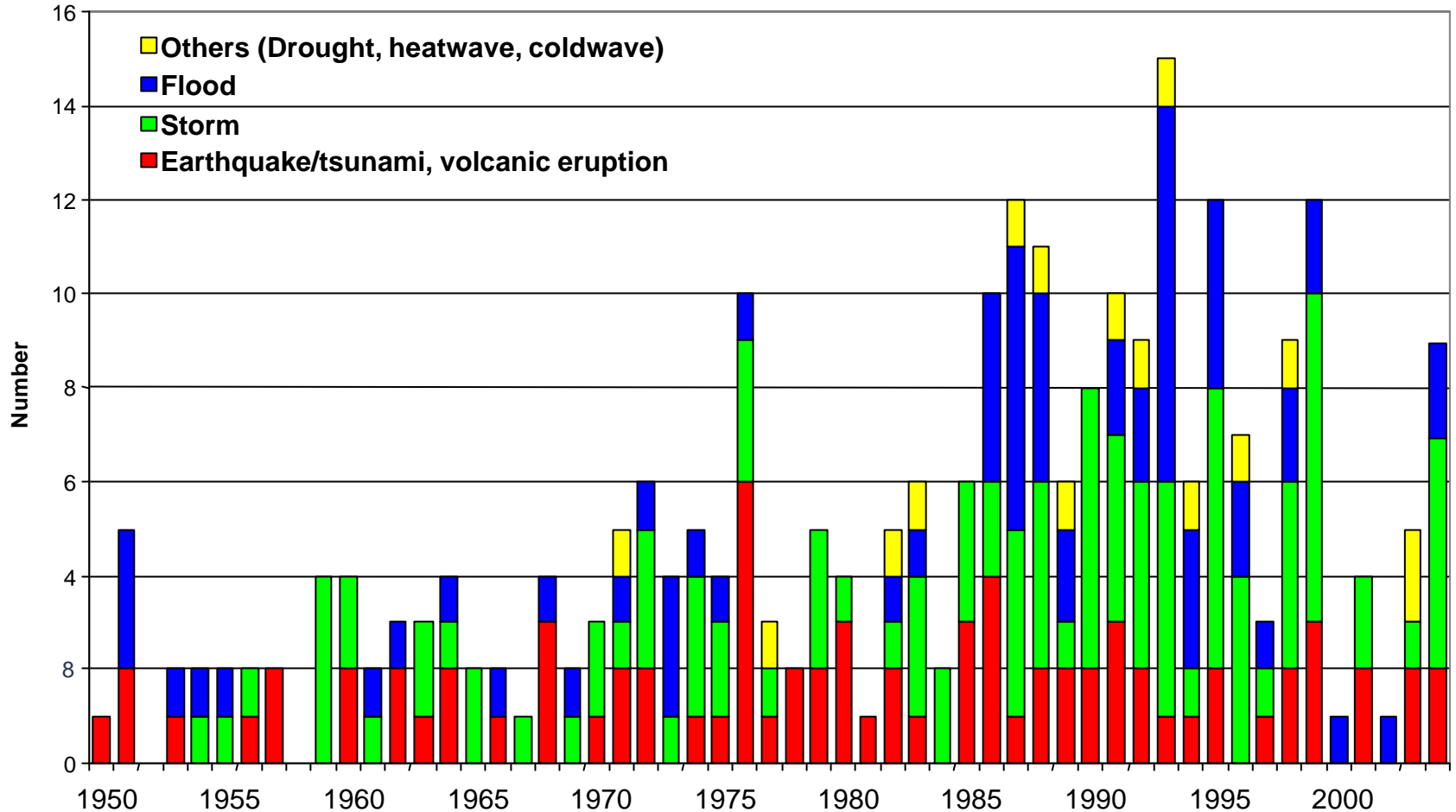
(In keeping with United Nations definition criteria)

The affected region's ability to help itself is distinctly overtaxed

- **Interregional or international assistance is necessary**
- **Thousands are killed**
- **Hundreds of thousands are made homeless**
- **Substantial economic losses**
- **Considerable insured losses**

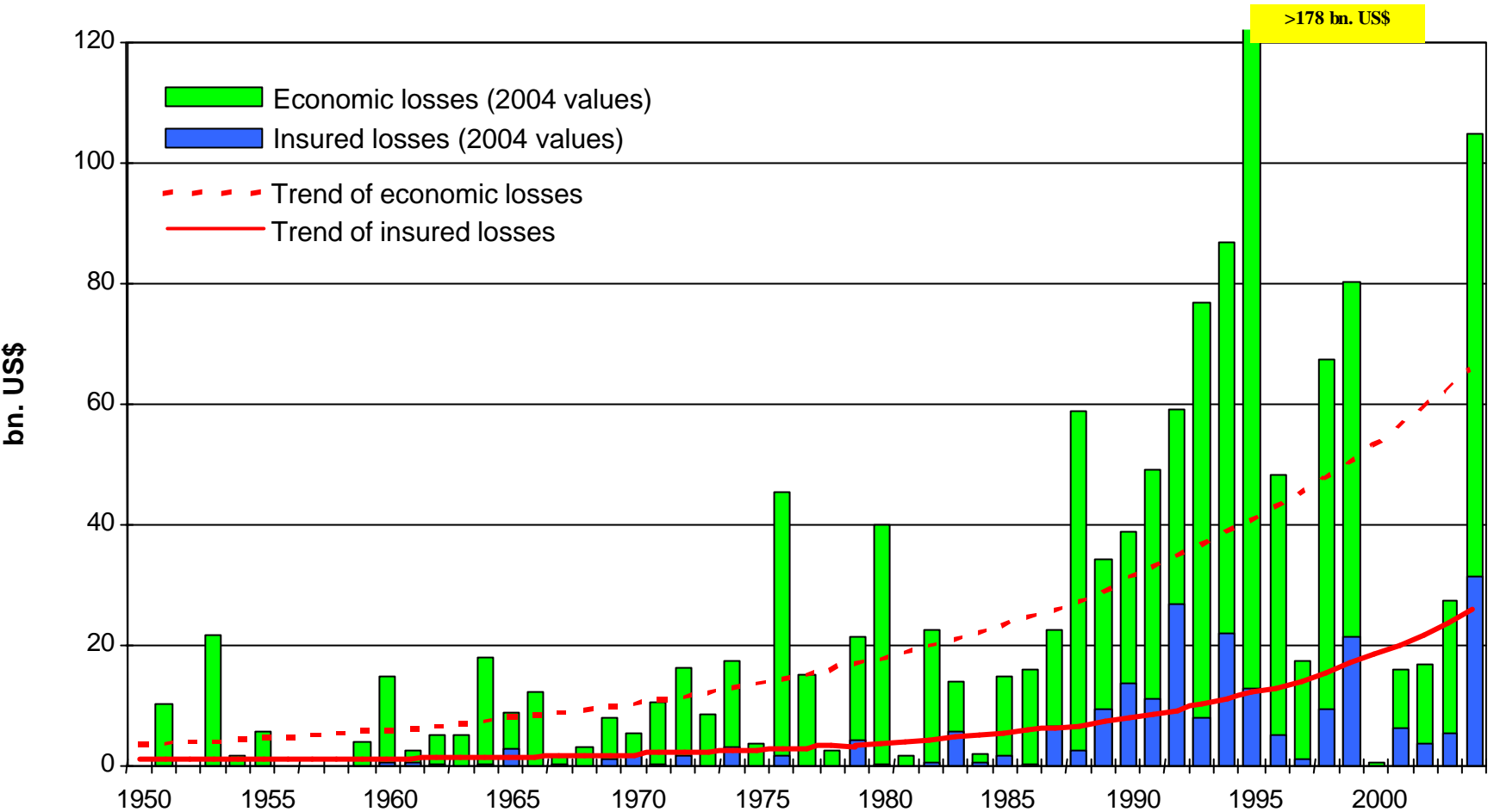
Great Natural Disasters 1950 – 2004

Number of events



Great Natural Disasters 1950 – 2004

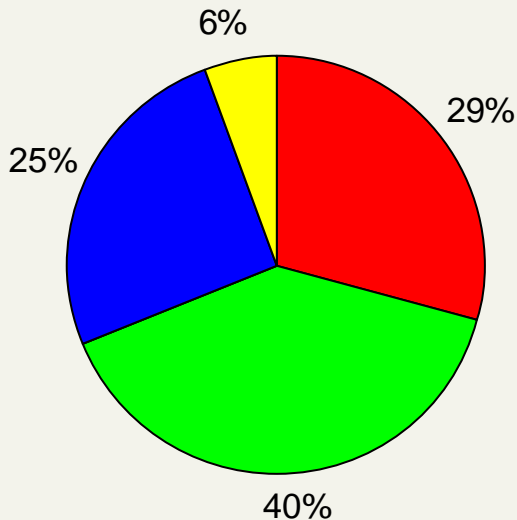
Economic and insured losses



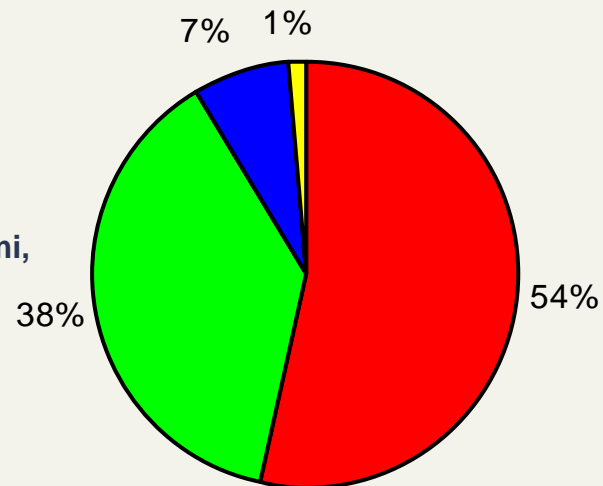
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Percentage distribution worldwide

Number of events: 268

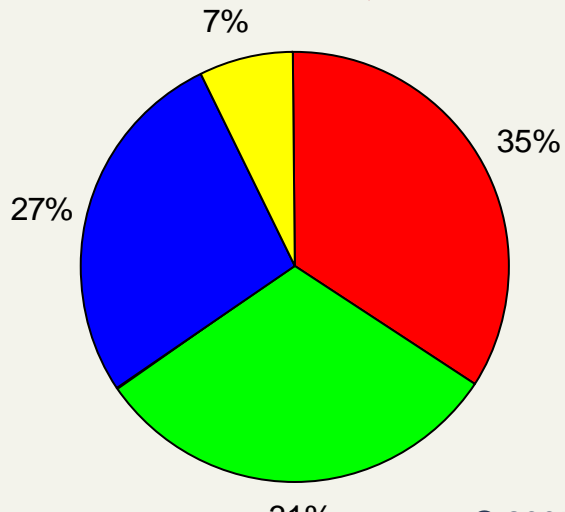


Deaths: 1.7 million

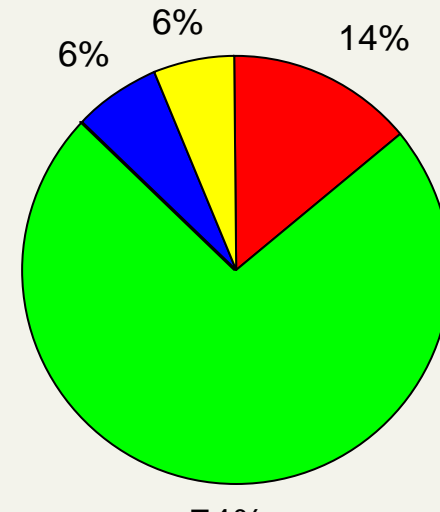


- Earthquake/tsunami, volcanic eruption
- Windstorm
- Flood
- Others

Economic losses: 1,400 bn US\$



Insured losses: 230 bn US\$



Great Natural Disasters 1950 - 2004

Decade comparison

	Decade 1950- 1959	Decade 1960- 1969	Decade 1970- 1979	Decade 1980- 1989	Decade 1990- 1999	last 10 1995- 2004
Number	20	27	47	63	91	63
Economic losses	44,9	80,5	147,6	228,0	703,6	561,8
Insured losses	-	6,5	13,7	28,8	132,2	100,5

The comparison of the last ten years with the 1960s shows a dramatic increase

Factor last 10: 1960s
2,3
7,0
15,5

Losses in US\$bn. – 2004 values

Great Natural Disasters 2004

Date	Country/Region	Event	Fatalities	Economic losses (US\$ m)	Insured losses (US\$ m)
May	Haiti. Dominican Republic	Floods	2,000		
June-August	Bangladesh. India. Nepal	Floods	2,200	5,000	
August	Caribbean. USA	Hurricane Charley	32	18,000	8,000
September	Caribbean. USA	Hurricane Frances	39	12,000	6,000
September	Caribbean. USA	Hurricane Ivan	125	23,000	11,500
September	Japan. South Korea	Typhoon Songda	41	9,000	4,700
September	Caribbean. USA	Hurricane Jeanne	2,000	9,000	5,000
October	Japan: Niigata prefecture	Earthquake	29	28,000	450
December	South Asia. East Africa	Earthquake, tsunami	>170,000	est. 10,000	est. 1,000

Hurricane Ivan, US
7.-21.9. 2004

