

Category: Editorial

Project: Making sense of disaster data

What was the challenge?

As the impact of disasters and natural catastrophes keep making the headline news, it's important that the information is put into context. One of the most reliable sources of information on disasters is the International Disaster Database (EM-DAT) from the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). Yet the amount of information isn't easily accessible for the media and public.

What was the solution?

While the EM-DAT data is publicly available, making the information engaging and easy-to-understand required analyzing and categorizing it into themes. As the primary information for readers, key numbers are highlighted using iconography. Secondary data is shown a simple line-graph showing trends over time. Tertiary information is then added to the line-graphs for context and detail.

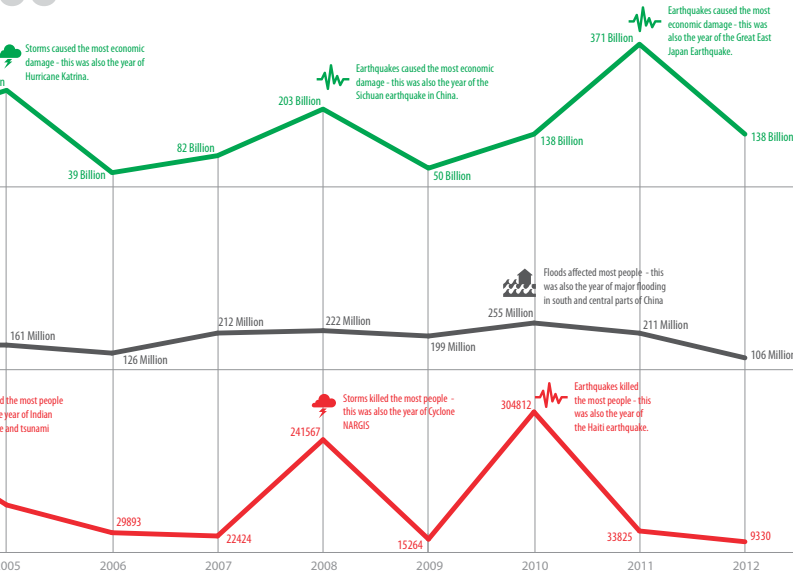
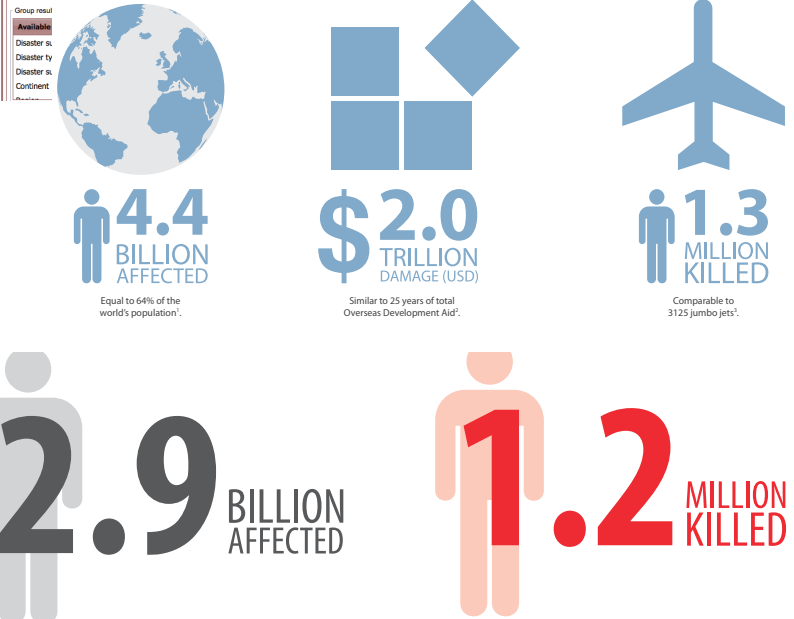
What was the effect?

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) released these graphics to coincide with its yearly press conference on disaster impacts and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). In addition to having a more engaged audience by sharing these designs on social media, various media and governments used the graphics in their publications to illustrate the impact of disasters and climate change on society.

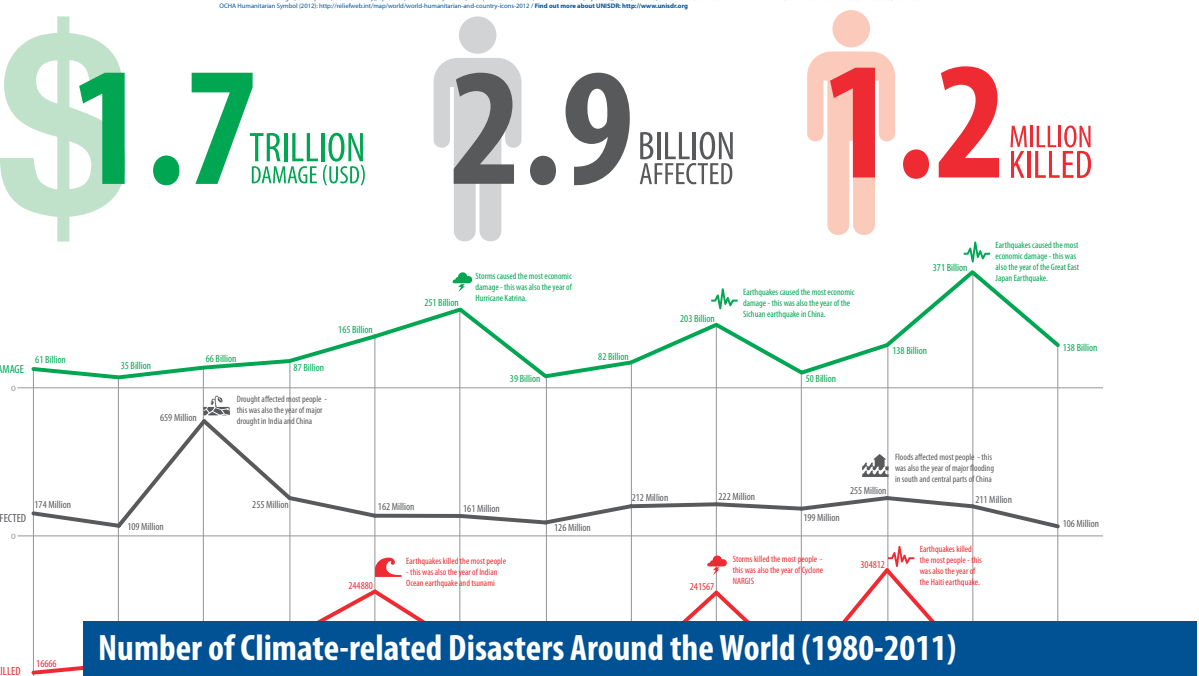
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EM-DAT Database Advanced Search									
Search Criteria		Search Results							
Year	From: 1900 To: 2014								
Location	Continent: Oceania Africa Americas Asia Europe								
Region:									
Country:									
Disaster classification									
Group/Subgroup/Type/Subtype									
G Complex Disasters									
G Natural									
G To									
Group result									
Available									
Disaster as									
Disaster by									
Disaster as									
Continent									
Year	Disaster group	Occurrence	Deaths	Injured	Affected	Homeless	Total affected	Total damage ('000 \$)	
1900	Natural	6	1267960	0	0	0	0	0	30000
1901	Natural	3	200018	0	0	0	0	0	0
1902	Natural	9	46037	0	0	0	0	0	0
1903	Natural	8	6506	23	0	0	23	48000	0
1904	Natural	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1905	Natural	4	22758	18	0	0	18	0	0
1906	Natural	17	42970	0	0	0	0	650750	0
1907	Natural	6	1325641	0	90000	0	90000	30000	116000
1908	Natural	4	75033	0	150000	0	150000	0	0
1909	Natural	13	1511524	0	0	0	0	0	0
1910	Natural	16	148233	0	32000	0	32000	0	0
1911	Natural	5	102408	199	0	200	399	20000	0



DISASTER IMPACTS / 2000-2012



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