Global Climate Risk Index



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What is the Global Climate Risk Index?

Top 10 countries affected by extreme weather in 2019	
Ranking	Country
1	Mozambique, Africa
2	Zimbabwe, Africa
3	The Bahamas, North America
4	Japan, Asia
5	Malawi, Africa
6	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Asia
7	India, Asia
8	South Sudan, Africa
9	Niger, Africa
10	Bolivia, South America

Every year, the Global Climate Risk Index ranks countries for how they have been affected by the impacts of extreme weather related to climate change, such as storms, floods and heatwaves.

The data is used as a warning for each country to prepare for what could happen in the future.





What are the risks that people face?

Climate change can intensify natural weather events to make them more extreme and more destructive. Several types of extreme weather were recorded as part of the Global Climate Risk Index, including:



severe storms



heatwaves







sandstorms

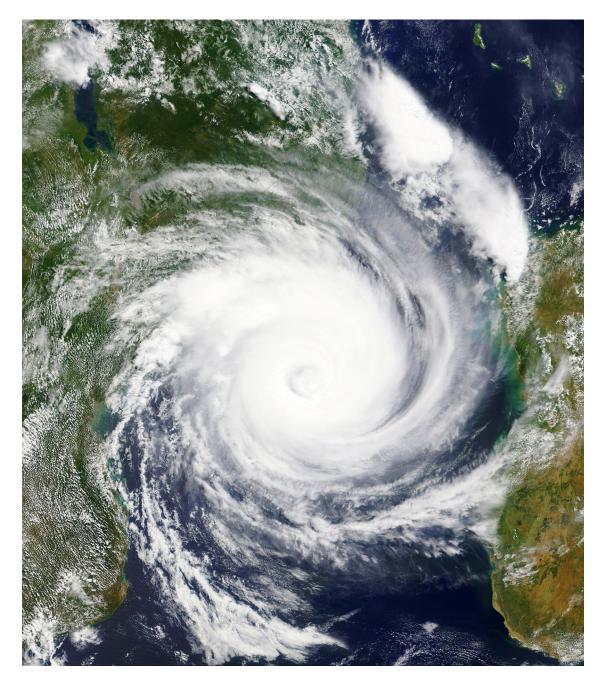


droughts



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Cyclone Idai, moving towards Zimbabwe and Mozambique, Africa, 2019

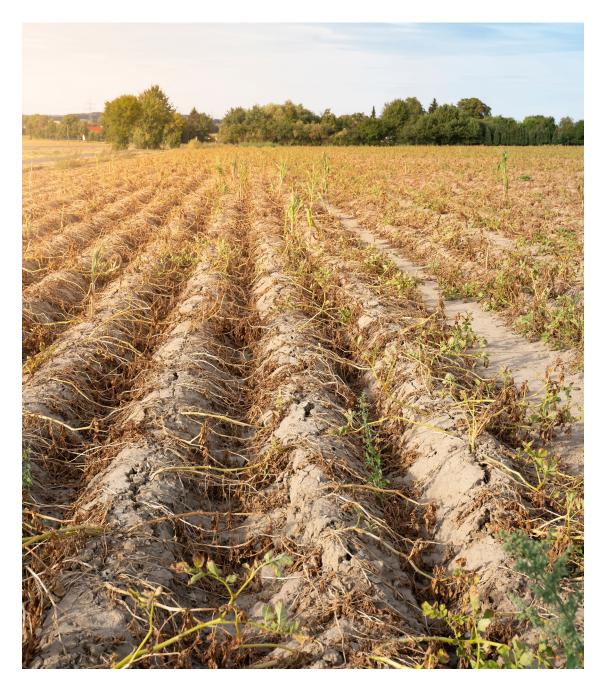


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Severe storms can be called hurricanes, cyclones or typhoons, depending on where in the world they are identified. They are characterised by strong winds and heavy rain.

Storms can cause severe flooding, destroy homes and possessions, and disrupt water supplies.



Heatwaves, and extreme temperatures, are more common due to climate change. Heatwaves are extended periods of hot weather.

A heatwave can last for several days and can cause health problems, heatstroke and **drought**. Farmers can lose crops and livestock due to extreme heat, leading to famine and even death.

Dead crops, as a result of a heatwave in Germany







Flooding in Germany, 2021

Image from: Shutterstock editorial/M.



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Climate change has increased the frequency and magnitude of floods. Excessive rainfall, storm surges from hurricanes, or melting snow and ice can all cause flooding. Floods can result in loss of life by drowning or water-borne

Floods are the most destructive

type of extreme weather.

Floods can result in loss of life by drowning or water-borne illnesses, such as typhoid and cholera. Houses can be washed away and infrastructure, such as roads and water supplies, can be destroyed.





Sandstorms occur when high winds blow over sandy areas and lift the top layer of sand from the ground. Winds can carry the sand a long distance before being deposited.

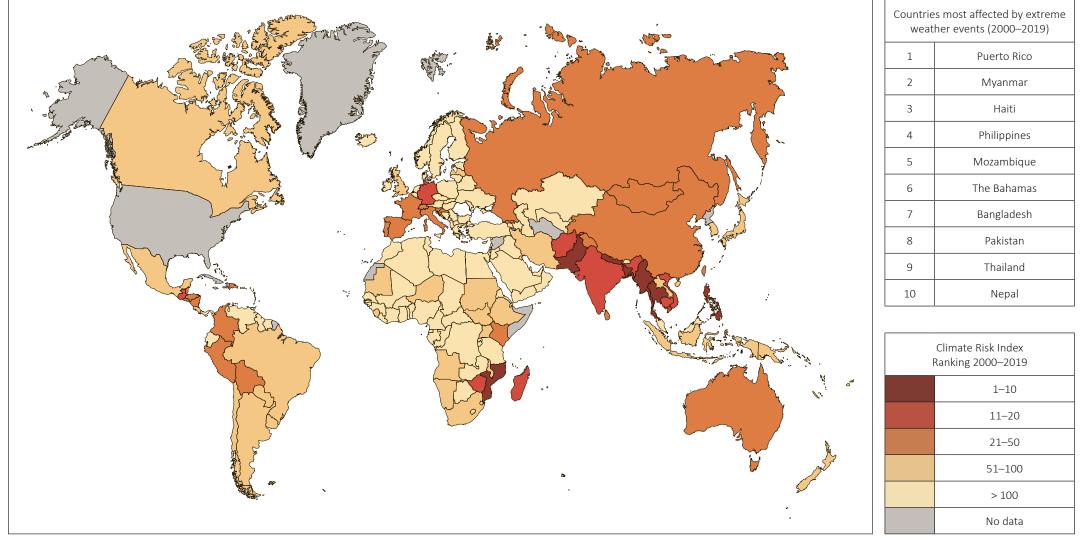
Sandstorms can cause reduced visibility, and sand can get into people's mouths and throats, causing breathing problems. Sand can cover young plants and ruin crops.

Sandstorm in Khartoum, Sudan, Africa





Which countries are most at risk?



Map of the Global Climate Risk Index 2000–2019



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The four most important findings from the study

- **1.** The countries most affected by severe weather events in 2019 were Mozambique, Zimbabwe and the Bahamas.
- **2.** Between the years 2000 and 2019 there were more than 11,000 severe weather events and over 475,000 people lost their lives.
- **3.** Tropical cyclones caused severe damage in 2019. The frequency of tropical cyclones increase with every tenth of a degree temperature rise.
- **4.** The poorest countries are more vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather and have a lower ability to cope. 80% of the countries most affected in 2019 were developing countries.



