

Major natural disasters this year



HURRICANE HARVEY

Texas, United States (August)

Death toll: Up to 50

Cost: Could be the costliest natural disaster in US history with a potential price tag of US\$190 billion (\$258 billion), according to a preliminary estimate from private weather firm AccuWeather.

This is equal to the combined cost of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, and represents a 1 per cent economic hit to the gross national product.



HEATWAVE

Arizona, Nevada and California, United States (June)

A severe heatwave lasting about a week smashed records in the US south-west. Death Valley in California hit 52.7 deg C on June 20 and 24, the hottest temperature of any weather station during the heatwave. Las Vegas in Nevada reached 47.2 deg C on June 20, while Phoenix, Arizona, hit 48.3 deg C on the same day.



LANDSLIDE

Freetown, Sierra Leone (Aug 14)

Death toll: Estimated 500, hundreds of others still missing.

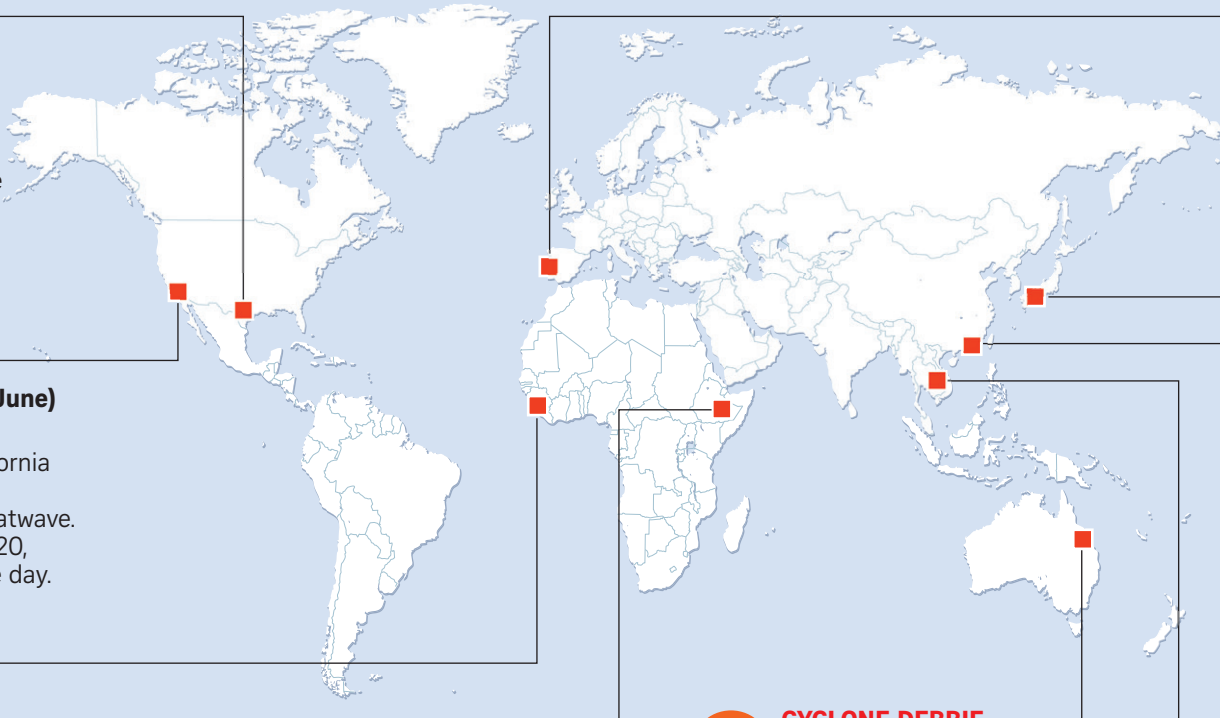
The landslide struck the crowded Sugar Loaf area after heavy rain.



DROUGHT

Horn of Africa (May)

In Somalia, 26,000 new drought-induced displacements occurred during the first three weeks of May. In Ethiopia, over 843,000 people remain displaced due to drought, floods and conflict in the Gambella, Afar, Oromia and Somali regions. In Kenya, over 41,000 people are displaced due to conflict, drought and floods in Baringo and other counties.



WILD FIRES

Portugal (June)

Death toll: 64

Thirty died in their cars as they tried to flee along a local motorway; 17 were found next to the road, suggesting they had abandoned their vehicles in panic. More than 130 people were injured, including 13 firefighters and a policeman.

Cost: Annual land and other losses estimated to cost about €200 million (\$322 million).



FLOODING

Japan (Early July)

Death toll: 34

Days of heavy rain hit Kyushu island, triggering floods and landslides.



TYPHOON HATO

Hong Kong, Macau, southern China (Aug 23)

Death toll: 18



MONSOON FLOODING

South Asia (June)

Death toll: More than 1,400

This year's monsoon rains, which began in June, have triggered the worst flooding in the region in a decade. Some 41 million people are affected, says the United Nations.



CYCLONE DEBBIE

Queensland and New South Wales, Australia (Late March/early April)

Death toll: 14

Cost: About US\$2.5 billion in economic losses, of which about US\$1.3 billion was insured.