

2012

Citizens' Disaster
Response Center (CDRC)

Research and Public
Information Department

[2012 PHILIPPINE DISASTER REPORT]

A consolidated report on the different disasters that occurred in the Philippines in 2012, the frequency of occurrence, as well as the effects of these disasters on communities.

2012 Philippine Disaster Report

Introduction

The 2012 Philippine Disaster Report concisely presents information on disasters that occurred in the Philippines in 2012. Through graphs, tables and charts, it provides an overview of the type of disasters that occurred, the frequency of occurrence, as well as the effects of these disasters on communities. Where available, direct economic costs to agriculture and infrastructure are reported. A review of the major disasters that occurred in the Philippine islands within the past decade is also presented.

A substantial portion of the data in this report were gathered through CDRC's disaster monitoring system, which relies on reports from Citizens' Disaster Response Network (CDRN), a network of 16 regional centers all over the country. Overview and supporting data were taken from the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Disaster Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DSWD-DROMIC), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), and articles in major newspapers. CDRC verified the data in this report through various sources to ensure accuracy. The triangulation method of comparing and contrasting credible sources of data was used.

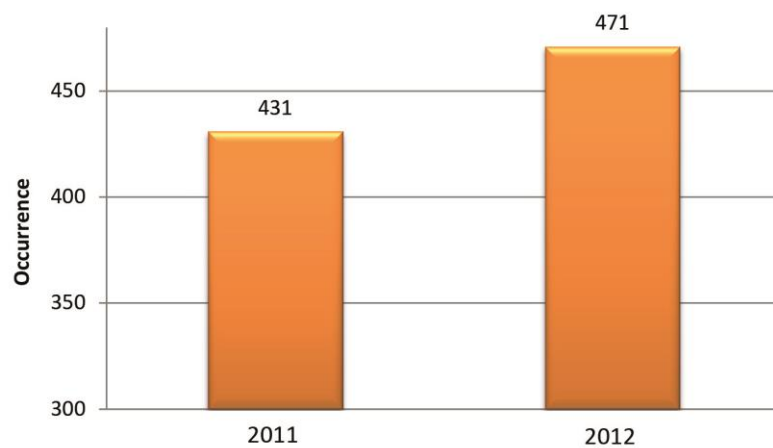
1. How did the Philippines fare in 2012?

In 2012, a total of 471 natural and human-induced disasters were reported in the Philippines. These killed 1,615 people, and affected more than 2.8 million families or 12 million people, and caused over Php 39.9 billion in economic damages.

Compared to the 2011 data, 2012 posed a 9% increase in the number of disaster events recorded. (see Figure 1)

Figure 1: Frequency of Disaster Occurrence in the Philippines, 2011 and 2012 (natural and human-induced disasters)

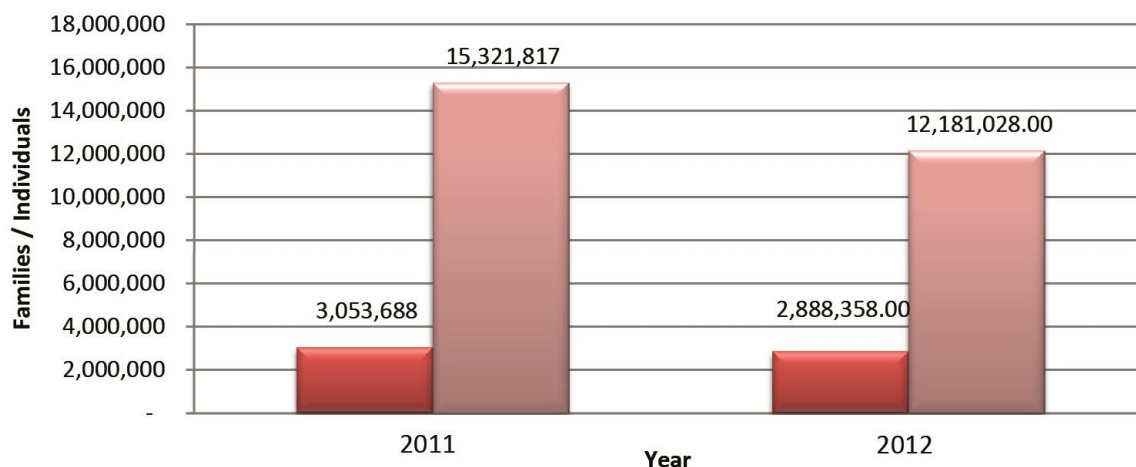
Source: CDRC Database 2012



However, when it comes to the number of affected population, the 2012 figure shows that the human impact data is much lower compared to 2011 (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Disaster Affected Population in the Philippines, 2011 and 2012

Source: CDRC Database 2012

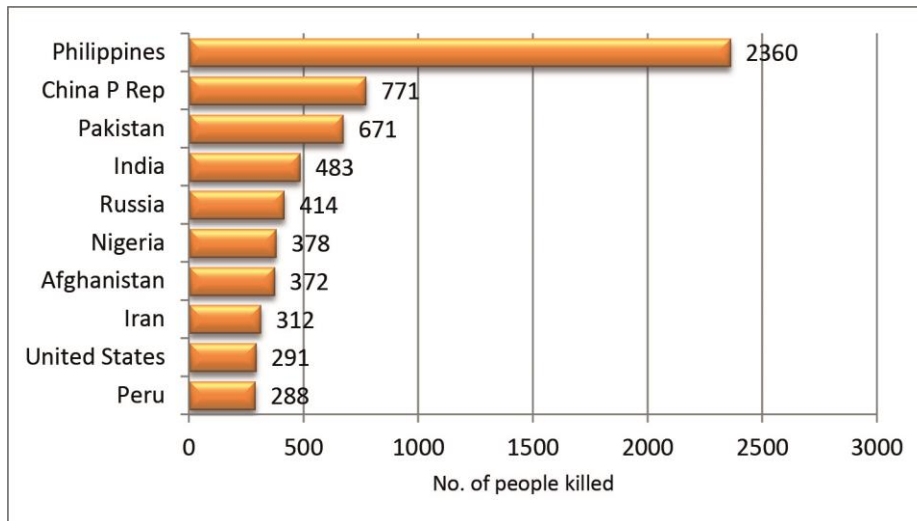


2. How did the Philippines fare compared to other countries?

In the world disasters data, the Philippines topped the list of countries with the most number of people killed by natural disasters in 2012. According to the EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, 2,360 people died in the Philippines due to natural disasters. CRED attributed this to Typhoon Pablo (Bopha), which according to their own monitoring, resulted to 1,901 deaths.

Figure 3: No. of people killed worldwide by natural disasters in 2012

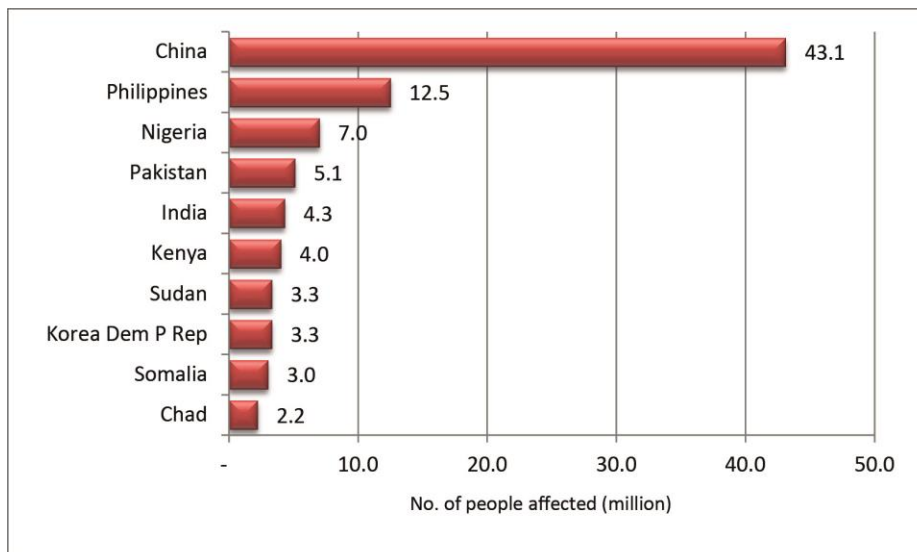
Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED- International Disaster Database



The Philippines also placed second in the world data in terms of the number of people affected by natural disasters -- with 12.5 million people affected, according to CRED (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: No. of people affected worldwide by natural disasters in 2012 (in million)

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED- International Disaster Database



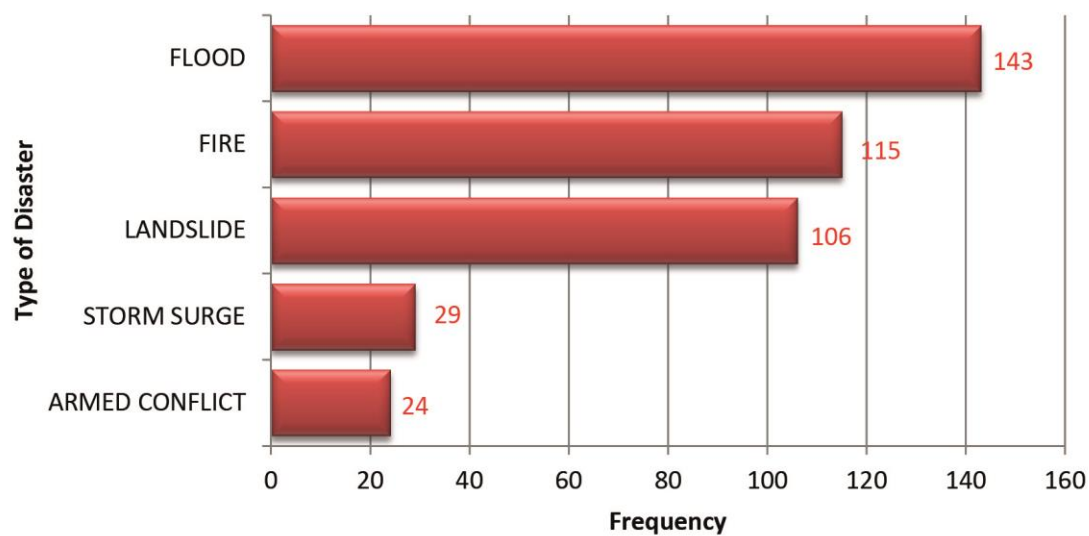
3. What were the top 5 disasters in 2012?

In terms of frequency, flood topped the list with 143 reported incidents, or 30% of the total number of disaster events monitored in 2012. This was followed by fire with 115 incidents -- majority of which occurred in urban centers, particularly in congested urban poor communities. Meanwhile, landslide occurred 106 times, while storm surge 29 times, and armed conflict 24 (see Figure 5).

The high number of flooding incidents can be attributed to the Southwest Monsoon which inundated much of Luzon in August of 2012.

Figure 5: Top 5 Disasters in the Philippines in Terms of Frequency, 2012

Source: CDRC Database 2012

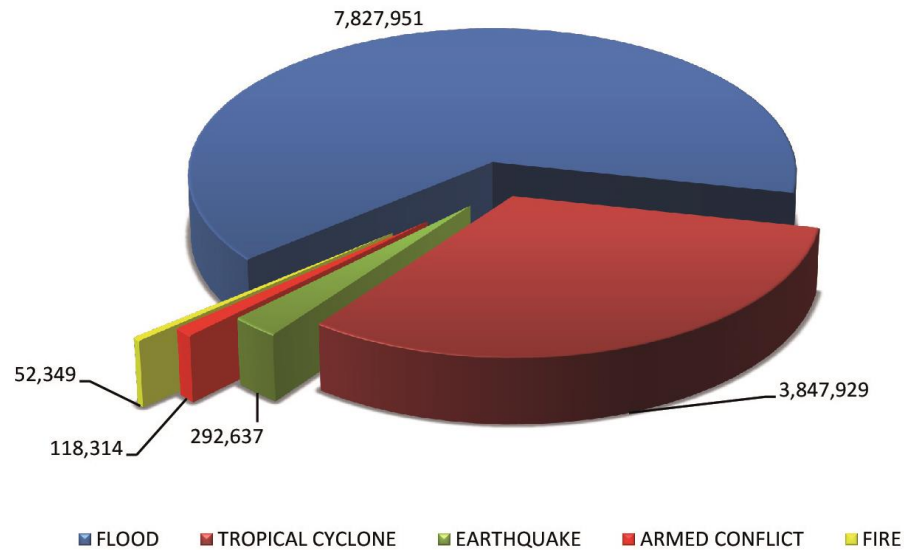


In terms of affected population, 7.8 million people were affected by flood. This was followed by tropical cyclone with 3.8 million people affected, and then earthquake, armed conflict, and fire (see Figure 6).

The most destructive tropical cyclone was Typhoon Pablo (Bopha), which occurred in December 2012.

Figure 6: Top 5 Disasters in the Philippines in Terms of Affected Population, 2012

Source: CDRC Database 2012



4. What types of disasters were dominant in 2012?

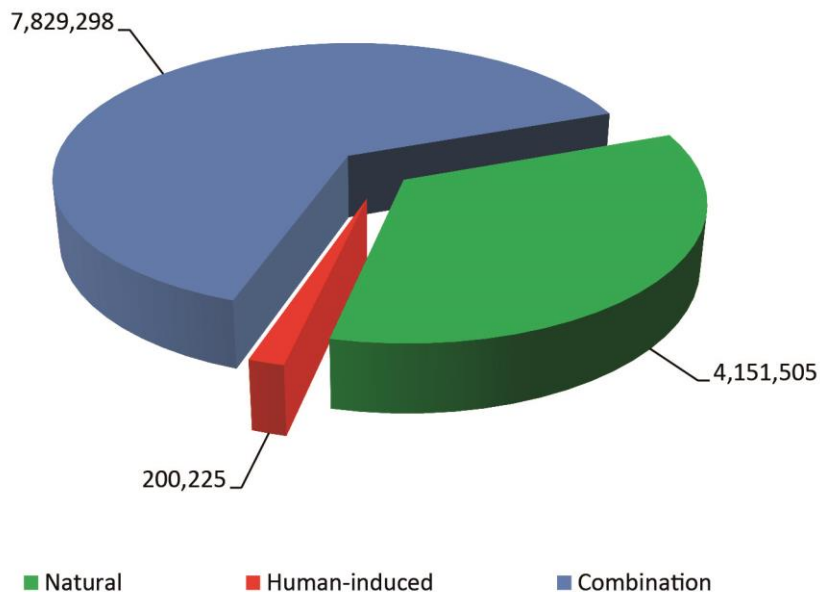
Disasters caused by both humans and natural hazards (combination) were the leading cause of massive disasters in 2012 (64%). There were 7.8 million people affected by these types of disasters, which include fishkill, flood, landslide, and red tide.

The second was natural disasters – drought, tropical cyclone, tornado and storm surge – which affected 4.1 million people or 34% of the affected population.

Last was human-induced disasters, namely armed conflict, fire, and development aggression, which affected 200,225 people or 2% of the total disaster-affected population in 2012.

Figure 7: Affected Philippine Population by Types of Disasters, 2012

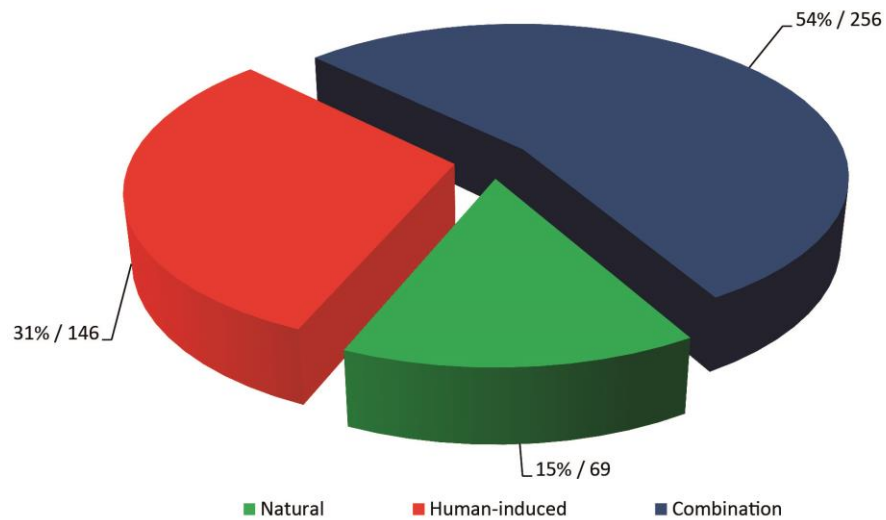
Source: CDRC Database 2012



In terms of frequency, 54% of disasters were caused by a combination of both natural and human-induced disasters. This was followed by human-induced disasters at 31%, and then by natural disasters at 15% (see Figure 8).

Figure 8: Frequency by Types of Disasters, Philippines, 2012

Source: CDRC Database 2012

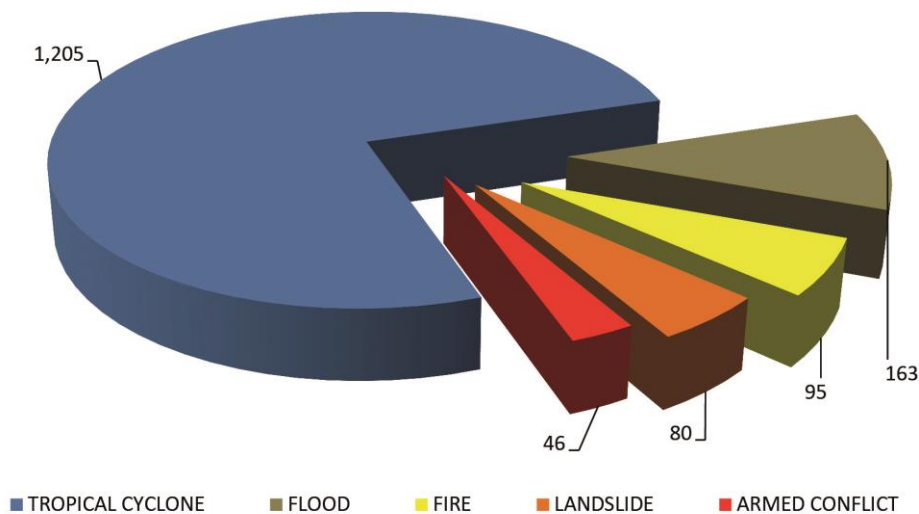


5. What disasters had the highest mortality rate?

The major cause of mortality rate last year was tropical cyclone, followed by flood, fire, landslide, and armed conflict. Tropical cyclone killed 1,205 people in 2012 (see Figure 9). Of this number, 1,067 deaths were due to the effects of Typhoon Pablo (NDRRMC data). This was followed by flood (163 deaths), fire (95 deaths), landslide (80 deaths), and armed conflict (46 deaths).

Figure 9: Top 5 Disasters in the Philippines in Terms of Casualties, 2012

Source: CDRC Database 2012



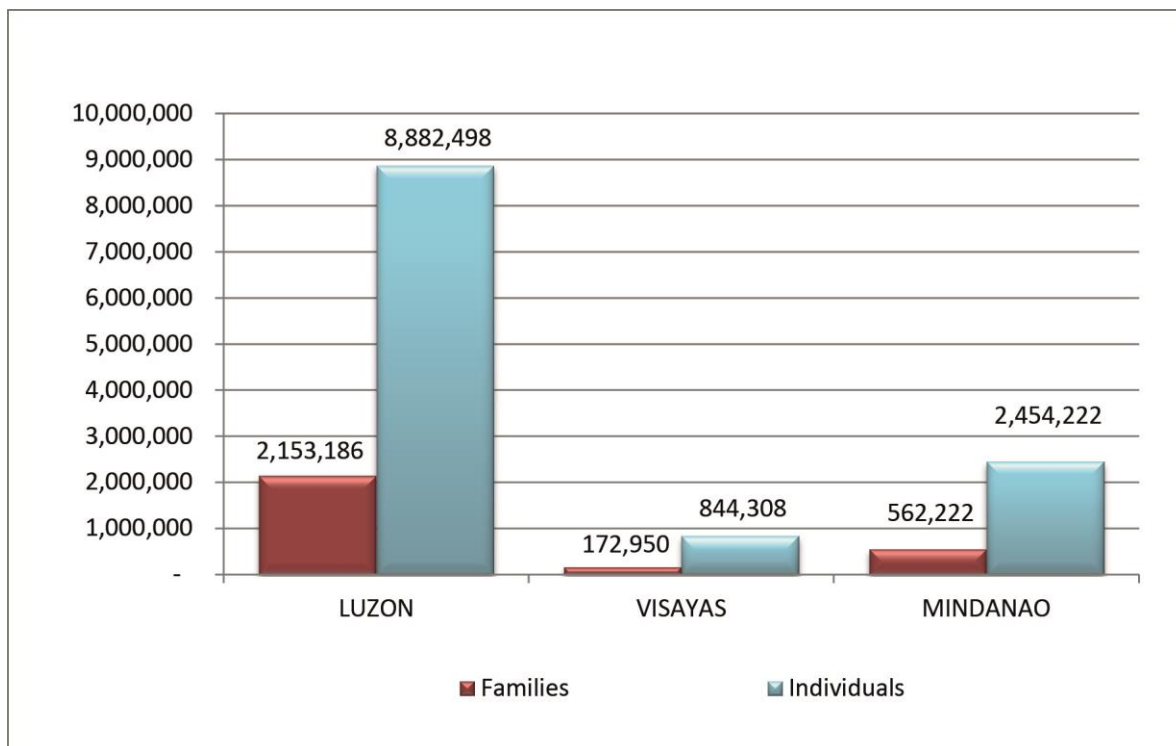
6. What regions were most affected by disasters?

The Philippines experienced 471 disaster incidents this year, with Luzon having the greatest number of people affected by disasters (see Figure 10). Luzon registered a total of 8.8 million individuals or 2.1 million families affected. This was mainly due to the massive floods set off by Tropical Storm Gener (Saola) and the Southwest Monsoon in August.

Meanwhile, Mindanao had 2.4 million people or 562,222 families affected. This was followed by Visayas with 844,308 people or 172,950 families affected. In the last two years, Mindanao has shown a significant increase in the number people affected by natural disasters. In 2011, it was caused by Tropical Storm Sendong; and in 2012 by Typhoon Pablo.

Figure 10: Geographical Distribution of Affected Population, Philippines, 2012

Source: CDRC Database 2012

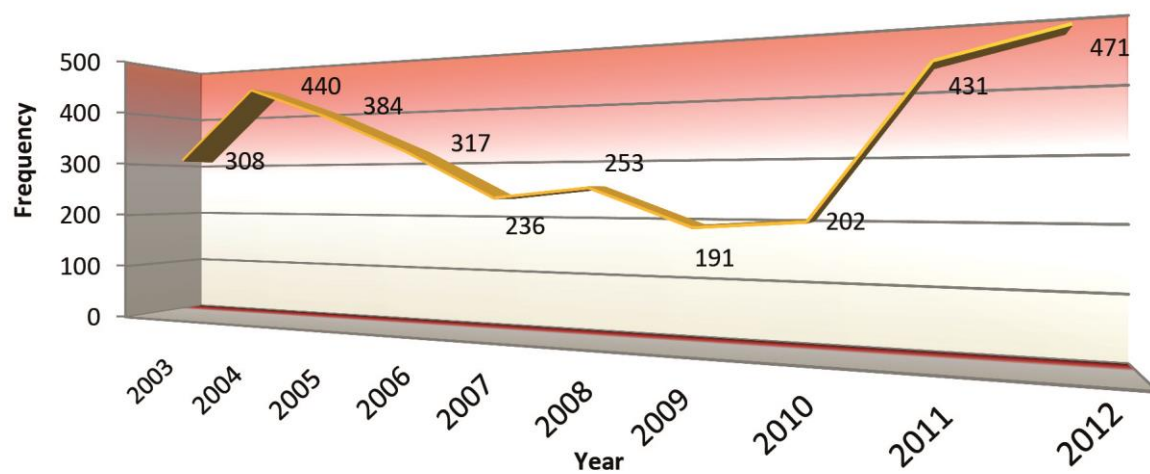


7. What were the trends in the last 10 years?

In 2005, disaster frequency has shown a downward trend. But in the last two years, it started to register a sharp increase (see Figure 11). In fact, based on the 10-year data collated by CDRC, 2012 showed an all-time high with 471 disasters recorded.

Figure 11: Frequency of Disasters, Philippines, 2003-2012 (10-year period)

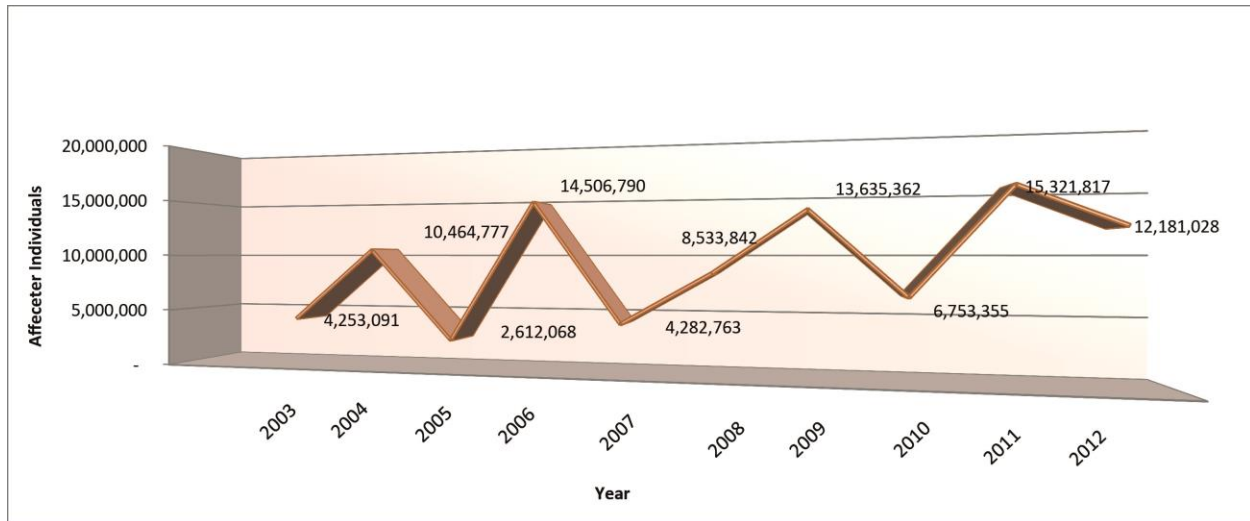
Source: CDRC Database 2012



An increasing trend in the number of affected people can also be seen in the last five years. Tropical cyclones usually contribute to the spikes in the number of affected people – for instance in 2009 for Tropical Storm Ondoy (Ketsana) and in 2011 for Tropical Storm Sendong (Washi).

Figure 12: Number of Affected Persons, Philippines, 2003-2012 (10-year period)

Source: CDRC Database 2012



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