



THE STORY

More people were displaced by crises in 2014 than ever before on record. Situations of protracted conflict and violence are creating increasingly large caseloads of both refugees and internally displaced persons. As well as a rise in the overall numbers, there is also a noticeable shift in the geography of displacement. The largest numbers of displaced people are no longer only in Africa but also in countries in the Middle East region. Conflicts in Syria and Iraq have largely been driving this trend. Last year, millions of Syrian refugees continued to cross borders into Lebanon, Turkey (pictured), Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, seeking safety and protection.

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WHO WAS AFFECTED?

In 2014, the lives of tens of millions of people were severely affected by the crises in Syria, South Sudan and Iraq and by the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, while many more people suffered as a result of other new, chronic or recurrent conflicts and disasters. There is no exact data on how many people were affected by crisis and where: many people go unreached and uncounted, situations change quickly, and population data is often lacking in the most crisis-prone settings.

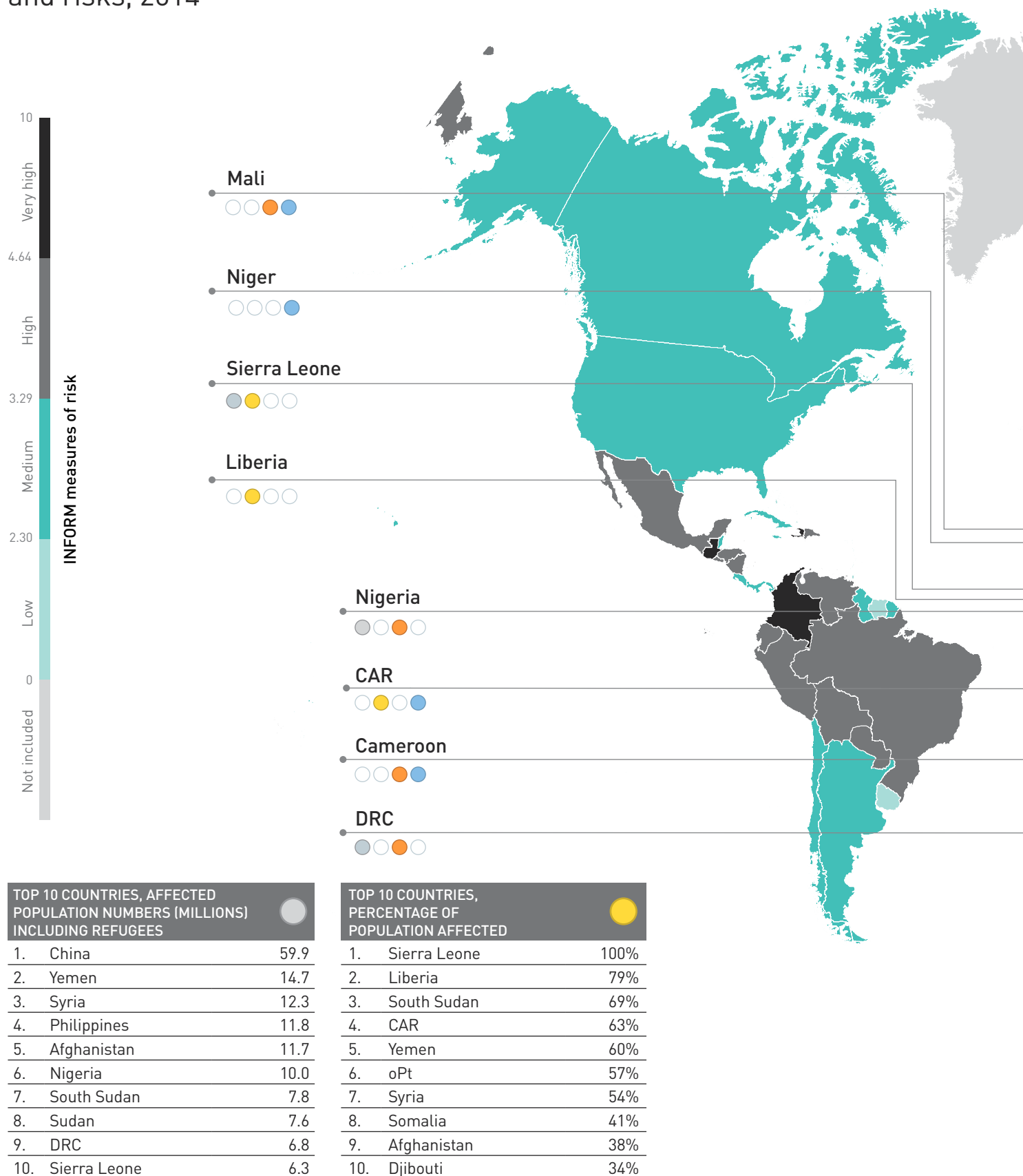
However, global figures indicate a rise since 2013: over 58 million people¹ – the highest number to date – were reportedly forced to flee from violence or persecution, while an estimated 107.3 million people² were affected by disasters caused by natural hazards – over 10.7 million more people than in the previous year.

Conflict has caused the numbers of refugees and internally displaced people (IPDs) to rise year on year: protracted caseloads persist and new displacements continue. There has also been a shift in the geography of displacement, necessitating changes in who provides assistance and how they do so. Driven largely by the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, the largest numbers of displaced people are no longer only in Africa and lower income countries (LICs), but in the Middle East and middle income countries (MICs).

Taken alone these broad numbers of people affected do not reveal the extent of the need for humanitarian assistance. This is determined by whether people have the resources to prepare for, cope with and recover from a crisis – poverty is a key factor, in turn exacerbated by crisis. Countries at high risk of crisis are home to the majority of the world's poorest people. In 2013 an estimated 93% of people living in extreme poverty (on less than \$1.25 a day)³ were living in countries that were either very politically fragile or very environmentally vulnerable or both.

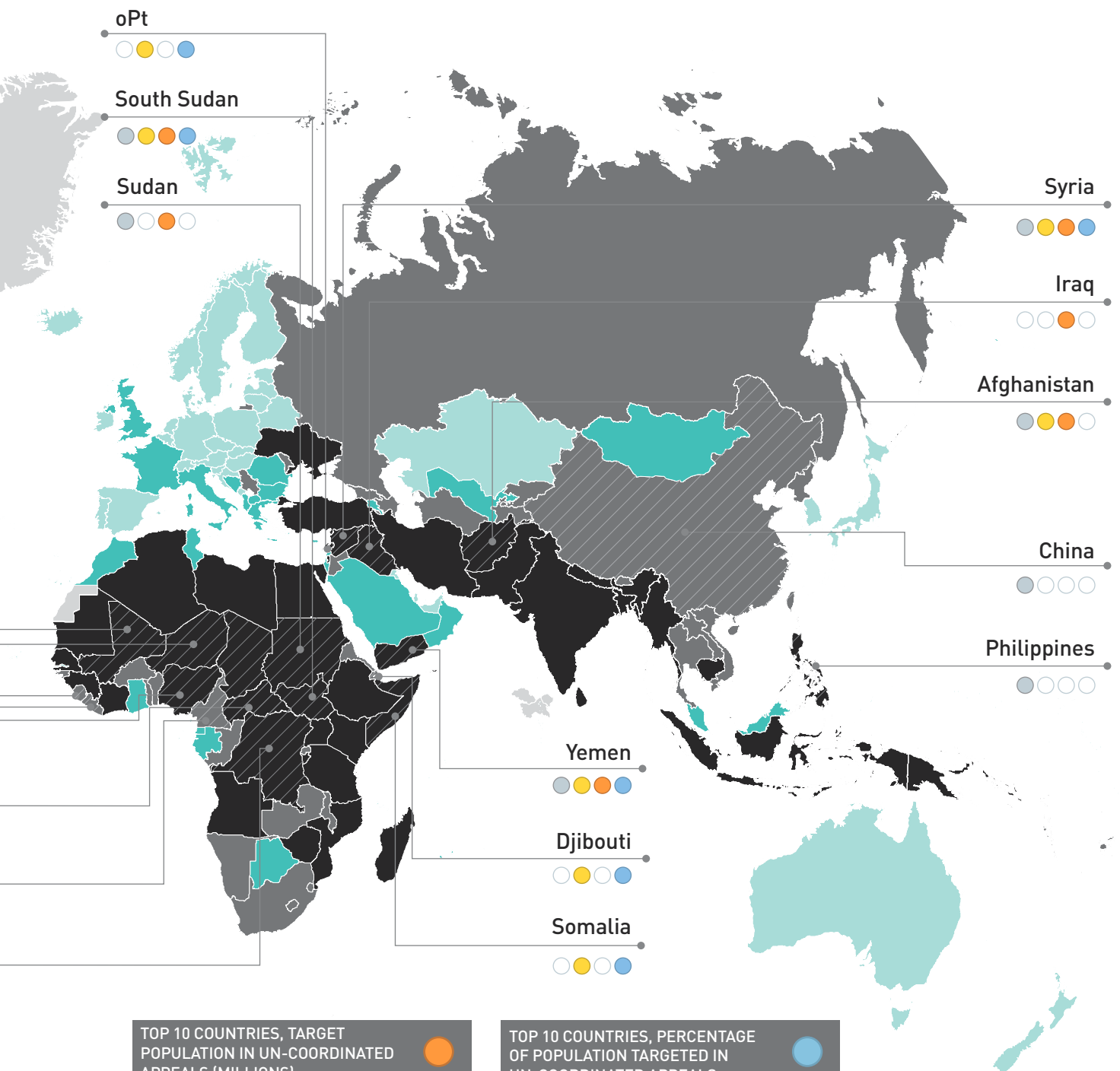
FIGURE 1.1

Humanitarian needs and risks, 2014



Source: Development Initiatives based on the Index for Risk Management (INFORM), UN-coordinated appeals, EM-DAT CRED, UNHCR, and World Bank Population Data for 2013.

Notes: INFORM data is from the mid-2015 data release (12 March 2015). Data on the number of people affected is taken from UN-coordinated appeals or from EM-DAT CRED data where no appeal was launched, as well as UNHCR data on refugee numbers. Target population is derived



TOP 10 COUNTRIES, TARGET POPULATION IN UN-COORDINATED APPEALS (MILLIONS)

1.	Syria	12.9
2.	Nigeria	8.0
3.	Yemen	7.6
4.	Cameroon	6.9
5.	Sudan	6.7
6.	Afghanistan	5.0
7.	Iraq	5.0
8.	DRC	4.7
9.	South Sudan	4.5
10.	Mali	3.7

TOP 10 COUNTRIES, PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION TARGETED IN UN-COORDINATED APPEALS

1.	Syria	56%
2.	oPt	46%
3.	South Sudan	40%
4.	CAR	39%
5.	Yemen	31%
6.	Cameroon	31%
7.	Djibouti	29%
8.	Mali	24%
9.	Niger	19%
10.	Somalia	19%

from UN-coordinated appeals. No target population figures are given for countries covered under the UN-coordinated Ebola Overview of Needs and Requirements since the appeal document does not include these numbers. The number of people targeted in UN-coordinated appeals for Syria does not include members of refugee-hosting communities since this would affect the calculation of the percentage of the total population in Syria targeted in UN-coordinated appeals. CAR, Central African Republic; DRC, Democratic Republic of Congo; oPt, occupied Palestinian territory.

Numbers and locations of people affected by crisis, 2014

How many people were affected? This question is central to understanding the scale of needs but hard to answer: situations are dynamic, populations are hard to access and quantify, groups go unregistered or uncounted, and baseline data is often lacking in the most crisis-prone settings. Further, taken alone, the numbers of people affected do not reveal the scale of need for humanitarian assistance – this is determined by whether people and governments have the resources to cope with and recover from a crisis.

However, as Figure 1.1 shows, several sources can together build a picture – albeit broad and static – of how many people were affected and where. The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) provides estimates on the numbers of people affected by disasters caused by natural hazards; the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) maintains data on people displaced by violence and persecution; and UN-coordinated appeals now also estimate the total numbers of people affected by emergencies in the countries that they cover.

In 2014 over 3.3 billion⁴ people were living in 48 countries rated as ‘very high risk’ by the Index for Risk Management (INFORM), an index that measures and ranks countries according to their risk of humanitarian crisis. Somalia, with an estimated 4.2 million people affected (41% of the population) – a relatively small number compared to China and Yemen – had the highest INFORM risk ranking. This means that, as well as facing high levels of hazard, Somalia also had high levels of vulnerability and low levels of coping capacity according to a number of indicators. It is this combination of exposure to hazards, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity that triggers the need for a humanitarian response.

DATA POVERTY: SUB-NATIONAL DATA

National-level data can mask great differences in the numbers of people affected by a crisis within a given country. The conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo is estimated to have affected 10% of the total population, but the proportion was much higher in severely affected eastern provinces.

EM-DAT CRED and UNHCR publish national but not sub-national data, while INFORM is beginning to explore some sub-national data. Humanitarian agencies do routinely conduct and update sub-national needs assessments and vulnerability

mapping, and these are becoming increasingly sophisticated. However, they are often not reflected in the humanitarian needs overviews or strategic response plans (SRPs), making it hard to see at a glance exactly where the needs are. One exception in 2014 was the Iraq SRP. The first SRP 2014 for Iraq was issued in February 2014 and focused in particular on Anbar Province as the governate worst-affected by violent conflict and displacement, identifying approximately 16% of its population as being in need of assistance.⁶

Of the 48 countries classed as ‘very high risk’ by INFORM, 27 had UN-coordinated appeals in 2014. There were also UN-coordinated appeals in six countries classed as ‘high risk’ and one country classed as ‘medium risk’. Combined, the 31 UN-coordinated humanitarian appeals in 2014 identified 122.7 million people in need and aimed to assist just over 71% of them (87.5 million people) (see Chapter 2). Syria ranked highest in 2014 according to both the number of people and proportion of the total population targeted for assistance.⁵

Trends in affected populations

The types and contexts of humanitarian need have changed significantly over the last decade. These shifts in geographic and economic context necessitate reassessments of who is best placed to fund and deliver assistance, and in which ways.

Displacement

Displacement has continued to rise year on year for the past four years, with over 58 million people forced from their homes by violence and persecution in 2014.¹ But whereas until 2012 displaced populations were largely within sub-Saharan Africa, by mid-2014, as Figure 1.2 shows, there were more people displaced in the Middle East – 12.3 million (compared with 11.8 million in the South of Sahara region), most of whom were people displaced within Syria (6.7 million people), Iraq (2.2 million people) and Lebanon (1.1 million people).

In 2014, over 95% of the world's refugees and IDPs were in LICs or MICs (Figure 1.3). Numbers in MICs in particular have been growing since 2005: by mid-2014 displaced populations in MICs were more than three times those in LICs. The crisis in Syria has been the main cause. However, the numbers of displaced people in Colombia, Pakistan, Sudan, Iraq and South Sudan have also significantly contributed to the shift.

This trend does not mean that the need for international assistance is necessarily reduced. Each group incorporates a broad range of income, poverty levels, access to resources and vulnerabilities.⁷ Further, the thresholds that separate countries' income into 'low', 'middle' (lower and upper) and 'high' are arbitrary and also do not reflect sub-national income disparities within countries. In conflict settings it is often political and access factors rather than economic factors that determine who receives assistance from the state.

Even in upper middle income countries such as Lebanon and Jordan, national coping capacity can be overwhelmed by the numbers of refugees. In these settings, as Chapters 7 and 8 explore, this demands a coherent response from many different national and international actors.

Natural hazards

While Far East Asia has seen relatively low levels of displacement due to violence and persecution, as Figure 1.4 shows, it has been consistently the region worst affected by disasters caused by natural hazards over the last decade, reaching a peak in 2010 when 203.6 million people were affected. China alone accounted for 180.7 million of those affected that year, mostly due to flooding (affecting 140.2 million people) and drought (affecting 35 million people). However, these figures do not indicate the severity of the disaster nor the capacity to cope.

After a significant decrease in the number of people affected by disasters caused by natural hazards in the Far East Asia region between 2010 and 2011, the number has subsequently risen. The increase was caused by flooding, drought and storms in China in 2014 as well as by natural hazards in the Philippines, where 25.7 million people were affected in 2013 – 17.9 million people by Typhoon Haiyan and other tropical storms.

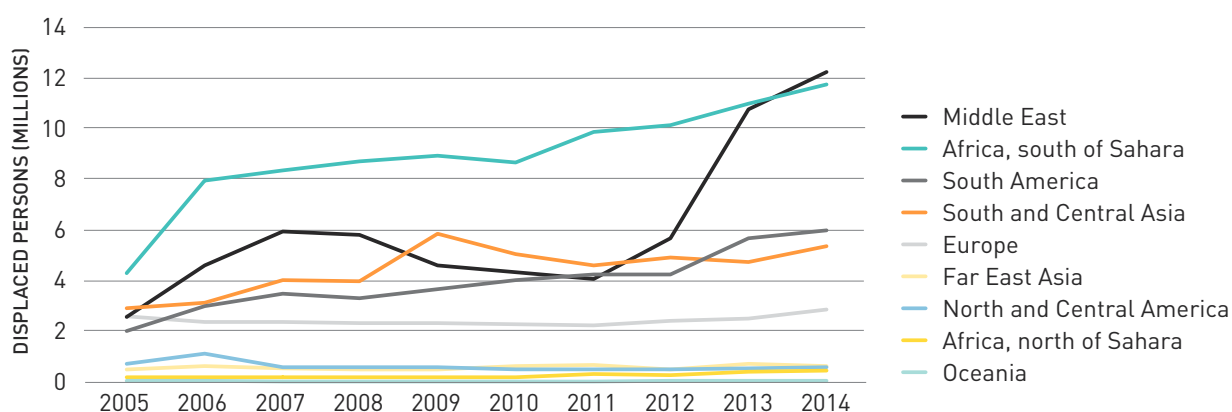
Elsewhere disasters caused by natural hazards in South and Central Asia were typified by flooding, typhoons and storms, whereas those in sub-Saharan Africa were mainly related to drought, flooding and disease. In both regions the numbers of people affected have declined since 2011, but show year-on-year variation.

The contexts in which natural hazards occur also have implications for the direction of investments in disaster risk and response and climate financing, as Chapters 6 and 8 explore. People affected by natural hazards, like those displaced by violence and persecution, are primarily in MICs (Figure 1.5). This wide group of countries masks very different national and sub-national capacities to prepare for or cope with these shocks. For example in the peak year of 2010, the largest numbers of people affected were in China, Pakistan and Thailand – all countries in the middle income bracket but with varying levels of coping capacity, according to INFORM.

The new Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, agreed in Sendai, Japan, in 2015, for the first time set global targets to reduce the numbers of people killed or affected by disasters caused by natural hazards, and to increase international support to complement national capacity.⁸

FIGURE 1.2

Number of displaced persons by region, 2005–2014

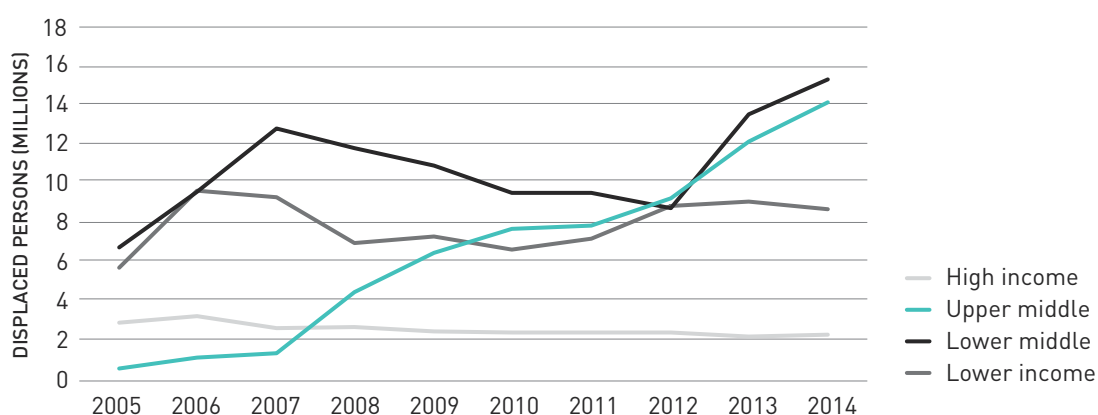


Source: Development Initiatives based on UNHCR data.

Notes: 'Displaced persons' includes refugees and people in refugee-like situations, IDPs and asylum seekers. IDP numbers include only those persons protected/assisted by UNHCR. Data is organised according to UNHCR's definitions of country/territory of asylum. Countries are organised according to OECD DAC's classification of regions.

FIGURE 1.3

Number of displaced persons by income group of host country, 2005–2014

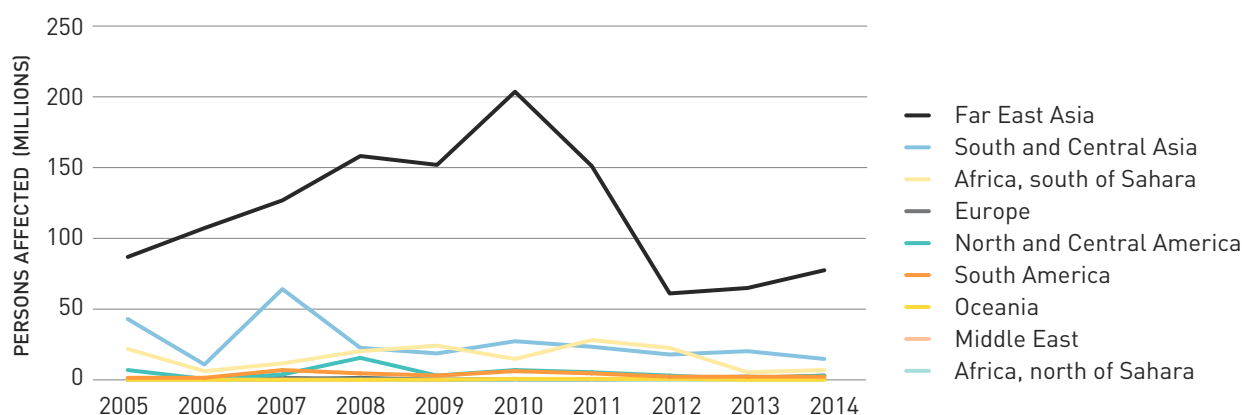


Source: Development Initiatives based on UNHCR and WB data.

Notes: 'Displaced persons' includes refugees and people in refugee-like situations, IDPs and asylum seekers. IDP numbers only include those persons protected/assisted by UNHCR. Data is organised according to UNHCR's definitions of country/territory of asylum. Countries are organised according to World Bank's classification by level of income.

FIGURE 1.4

People affected by disasters caused by natural hazards by region, 2005–2014

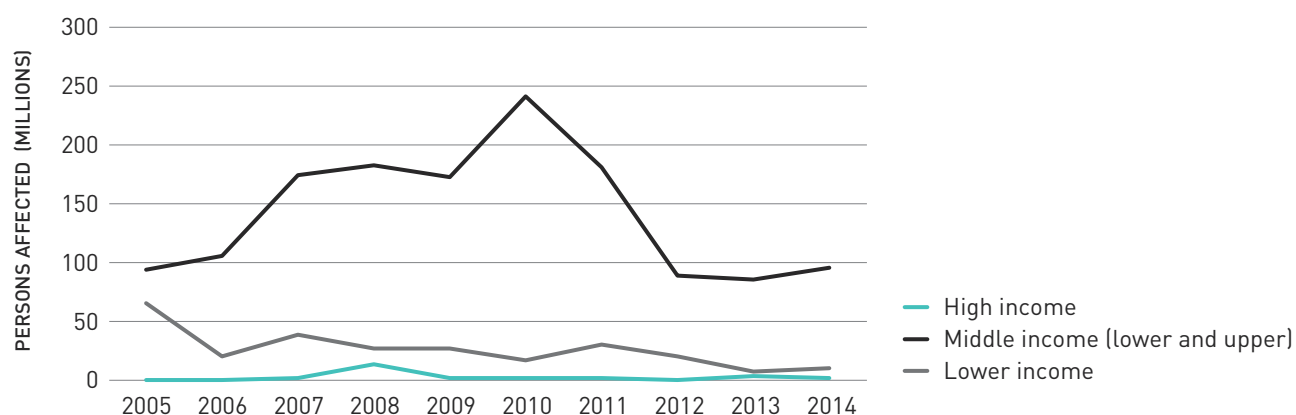


Source: Development Initiatives based on EM-DAT CRED data.

Note: Countries are organised according to OECD DAC's classification of regions.

FIGURE 1.5

People affected by disasters caused by natural hazards by country income group, 2005–2014



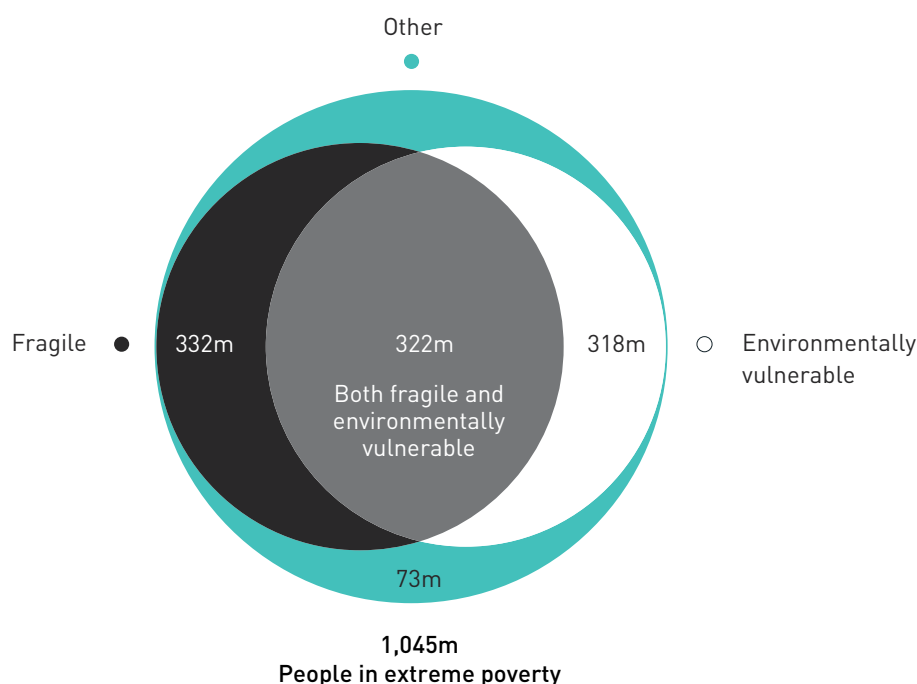
Source: Development Initiatives based on EM-DAT CRED data.

Notes: Income groups are classified by the World Bank on an annual basis. Lower middle income countries (LMICs) and upper middle income countries (UMICs) have been combined because China moved from the LMIC to UMIC group between 2009 and 2010 resulting in a dramatic shift in the numbers of people within those groups affected by disasters caused by natural hazards between those years.

Poverty, crisis and risk

FIGURE 1.6

Estimated number of people living in extreme poverty in environmentally vulnerable and politically fragile countries, 2013



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank World Development Indicators, World Bank PovcalNet, INFORM, FFP Fragile States Index. Notes: Chart not to scale. 'Fragile states' as defined by the group of 'very high warning' countries (scoring over 80) on the 2013 Fragile States Index. Environmentally vulnerable countries defined as countries scoring 'high' and 'very high' across INFORM indicators 'natural hazard', 'vulnerability' and 'lack of coping capacity'. Poverty estimates use World Bank PovcalNet 2011 modelled data; regional poverty estimates have been applied to 33 countries with missing poverty data, 13 of which are under the classification of politically fragile, environmentally vulnerable or both.

Poverty, vulnerability and crisis are inextricably linked. Poverty makes people more vulnerable in the event of conflict or disaster caused by natural hazards, while these shocks and sustained crises deepen their poverty, rendering them further at risk. Consequently an estimated 93% of people living in extreme poverty – on less than \$1.25 a day – live in countries that are environmentally vulnerable (30%), politically fragile (32%) or both (31%).

DATA POVERTY: POVERTY DATA

Politically or environmentally fragile countries are also often those countries with the least data on poverty, or indeed with unreliable or non-existent data on basic population figures. According to 2013 data from the Fragile States Index and INFORM, 70 countries were classed as fragile states and 38⁹ as environmentally vulnerable. There were 30 countries falling into both categories and there is no data on levels of extreme poverty for 6 of these, including Afghanistan and Somalia. In the absence of reliable data, the World Bank uses average

regional poverty rates, for example in its PovcalNet tool. However, some of those with missing data, for example Afghanistan, may in reality be those with poverty levels higher than the regional average.

The poverty data used in Figure 1.6 is modelled for 2011 based on available poverty data. Actual levels of extreme poverty in certain countries may have changed significantly since then. In the case of some countries, including Syria, recent crises are likely to have increased poverty levels.