Reimagining Resilience: Collective Futures for Disaster Risk Reduction

A world defined by disaster: Crisis, inequality and survival

5 November 2026, Istanbul

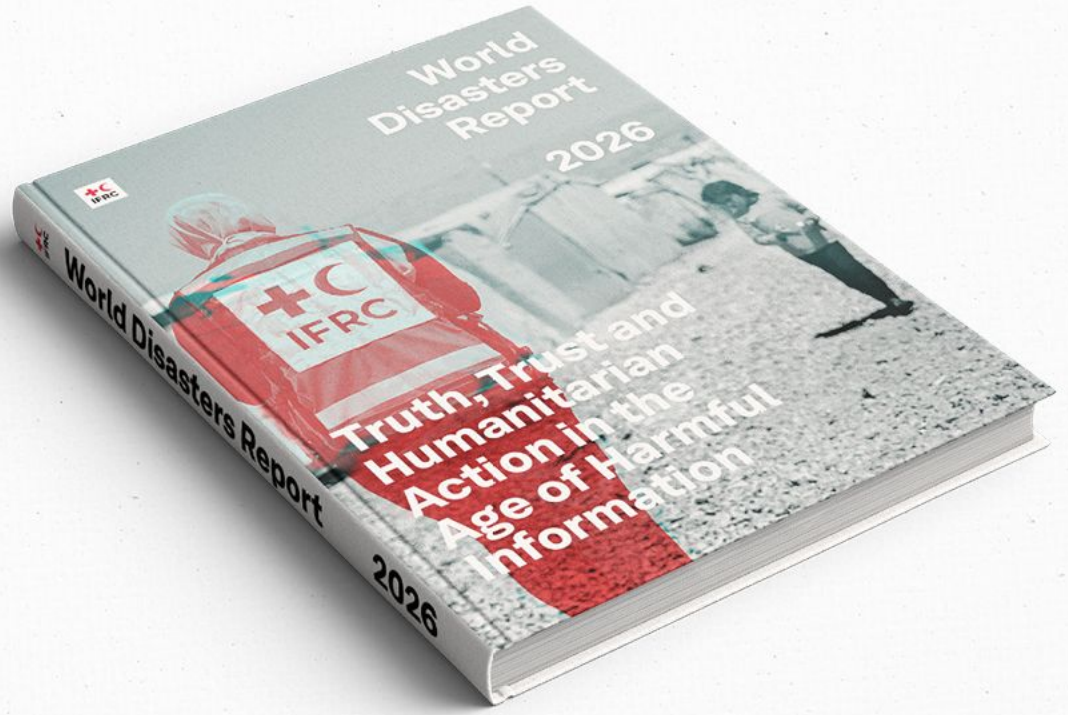
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World Disasters Report

Truth, trust and humanitarian action in an age of harmful information

2026



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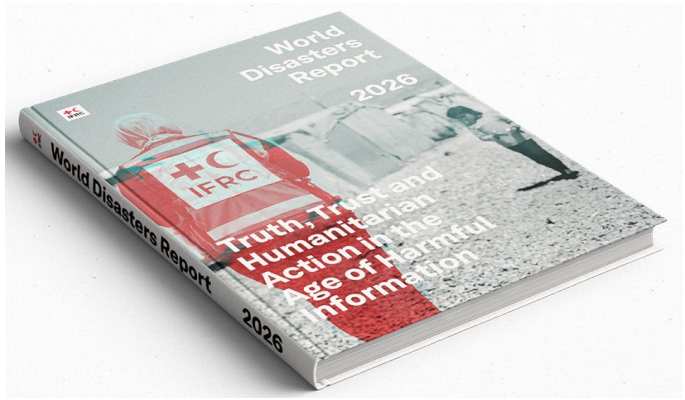
Disaster trends in recent years (2020-2024):

- Disasters increasing*: 14,348 compared to 5,664 during previous 5 years (2015-2019)
- Disaster impacts increasing: 697 million people affected, 271,000 killed, 105 million disaster displacements recorded
- Number of people requiring humanitarian assistance more than doubled: 192 million in Jan-2020 to more than 433 million at end-2024
- Geographic concentration of disasters**: 84% occurring in only 37 countries
- Compound and cascading risks: climate shocks, conflict, public health emergencies, economic pressures & information disruptions
- Rising resilience: 94% of disasters managed nationally (no international assistance)

- Montandon, EM-DAT, IDMC-GIDD, EC INFORM, IFRC

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What we are witnessing:



- → Conflicts where **information is actively weaponised**
- → Public health responses undermined by **false narratives**
- → Humanitarian organisations **questioned, misrepresented, or targeted online**
- → Digital platforms **shaping perceptions** faster than institutions can respond

Impacts on local responders:

- Direct exposure to harmful narratives
- Heightened pressure on acceptance
- Challenges to humanitarian principles
- Immediate consequences for access and safety

Harmful information in communities:

- Fuels mistrust and suspicion
- Increases stigma, marginalisation, discrimination
- Deepens existing crises (and vulnerabilities)
- Undermines social cohesion

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- Risk is no longer shaped only by physical hazards
- Harmful information is a de facto humanitarian crisis
- Inequalities in access to trusted information contribute to inequalities in disaster outcomes
- Information ecosystems need to be better understood - access, trust, exclusion and differentiated effects of harmful information
- Information is a survival resource
- Trust and community relationships are a critical components of preparedness and resilience

Solutions

1. Better disaggregated data
2. Stronger measurement of non-economic losses and longer-term recovery outcomes
3. Data systems that capture intersecting vulnerabilities
4. Understanding of social cohesion, trust, information access and community resilience as essential components of disaster risk analysis.

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Key takeaways

1. Disasters are shaped by inequality.
2. What we measure matters.
3. Communities are essential sources of evidence.
4. Access to trusted information is part of resilience.
5. The opportunity ahead is to strengthen inclusive risk knowledge.

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Read the Full Report

The *2026 World Disasters Report*

Truth, Trust and Humanitarian Action in the Age of Harmful Information

Download the PDF and read the full report at **ifrc.org**

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Access the Interactive Playbook at **wdr26.org**

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