# Response and Recovery from Urban Flooding

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# CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT FLOOD RISK?

## WARMER & WETTER ATMOSPHERE

A warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture – approx 7% more for every degree of warming.

### **MORE ENERGY FOR STORMS**

The extra heat in the atmosphere means there is more energy for weather systems that generate intense rainfall.



### **MORE INTENSE DOWNPOURS**

More moisture in the atmosphere means we get more of our rainfall in the form of short, intense downpours. This increases the risk of flash flooding.

#### **COASTAL FLOODING**

Climate change is also increasing risks of coastal flooding due to higher sea levels.



## **CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES FLOOD RISK BY**



### RISING SEA LEVELS

Higher seas increase the likelihood of storm surge and sunny day tidal flooding in many coastal communities

### INCREASING EXTREME PRECIPITATION

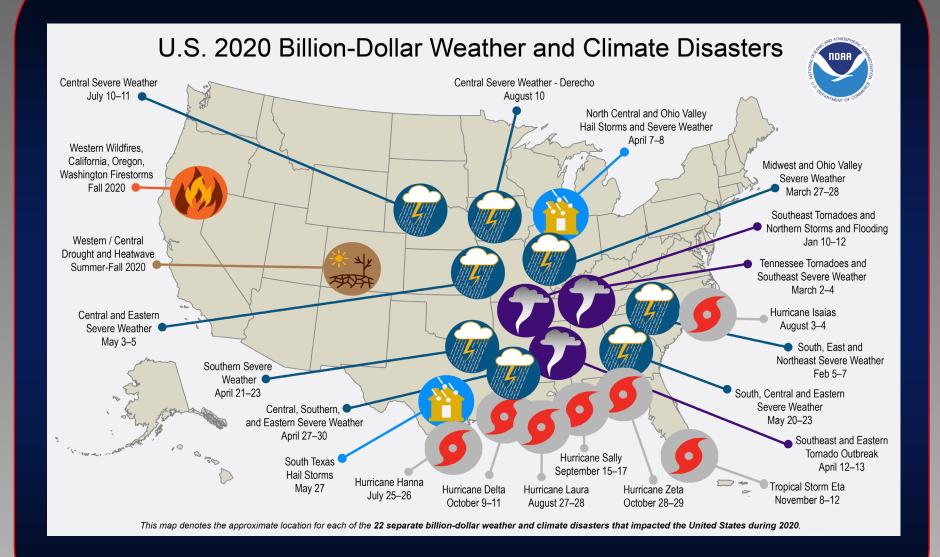
Warmer temperatures increase evaporation of moisture into the air. They also allow the air to hold more moisture and dump more water during storms

### INCREASING TOTAL PRECIPITATION

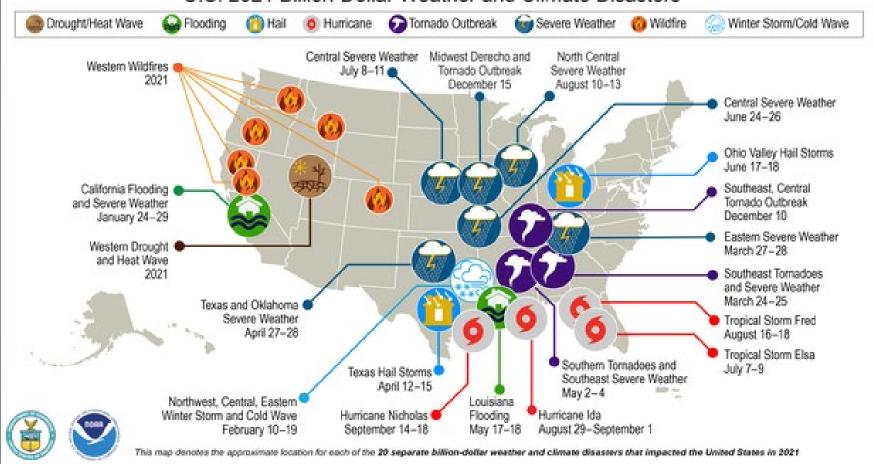
Climate change is likely increasing overall precipitation in the Midwest and Northeast, as well as storm precipitation in the Gulf of Mexico states

# CHANGING SNOW PATTERNS

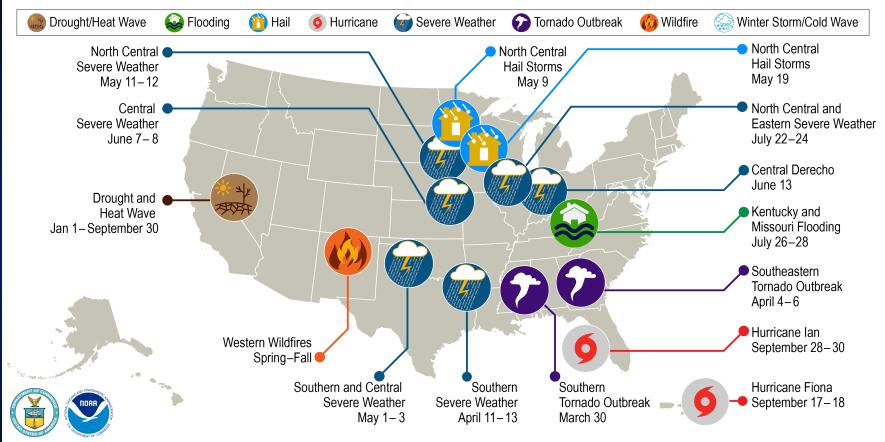
Long-term climate warming is causing shifts toward less snow, more rain, and earlier snowmelt, increasing early-season runoff and flood risk



### U.S. 2021 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



### U.S. 2022 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 15 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States January – September of 2022.

# Health impacts of severe weather events

### **Acute:**

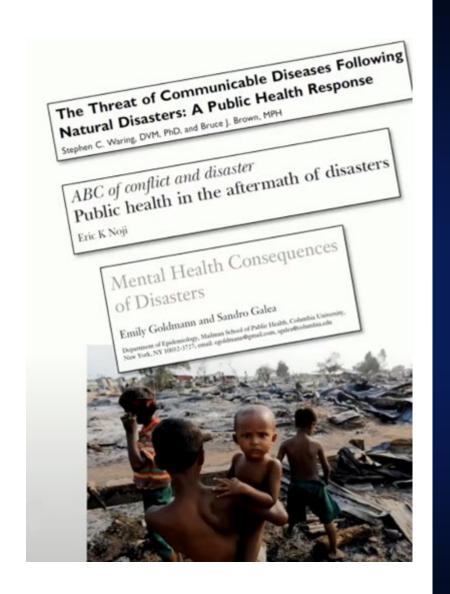
Injuries and fatalities

### Intermediate:

- Interrupted medial care
- Infectious diseases
- Respiratory disease (wet, moldy buildings)

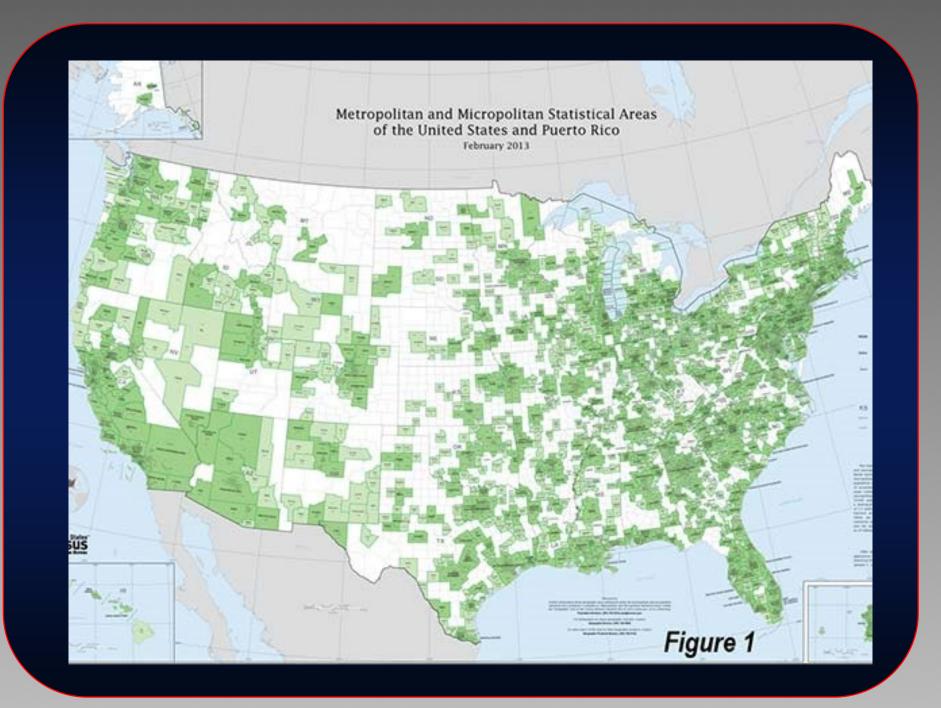
### Long-term

- Homelessness
- Displacement
- Mental health consequences
- H. Frumkin, University of Washington



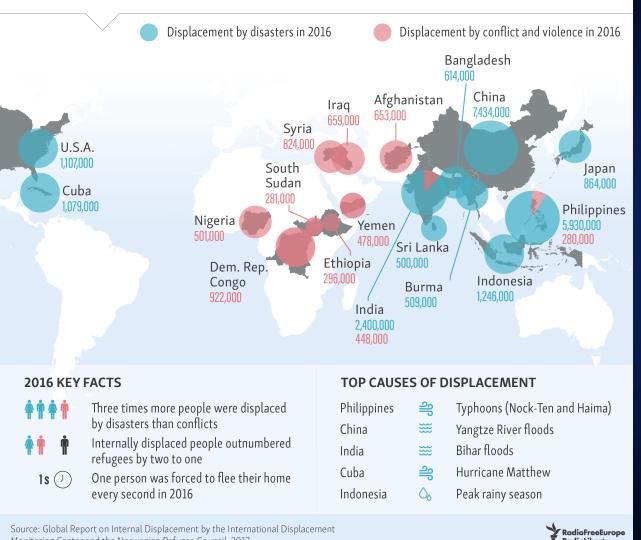
Jerusalem Jeddah Colombo % of national urban population in LECZs Non LECZ City size 0.0 - 5.0 O Small 5.1 - 10.0 Intermediate 10.1 - 15.0 15.1 - 20.0 Population of cities The designations employed and the presentation of material on the map do not 20.1 - 25.0 Small: 100,000 - 500,000 imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNFPA concerning the Intermediate: 500:000 - 1 million legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the > 25.0 Big: More than 1 million delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Source: UN Habitat.

Figure 4.3: Cities at low-elevation coastal zones (LECZs)



### INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT WORLDWIDE

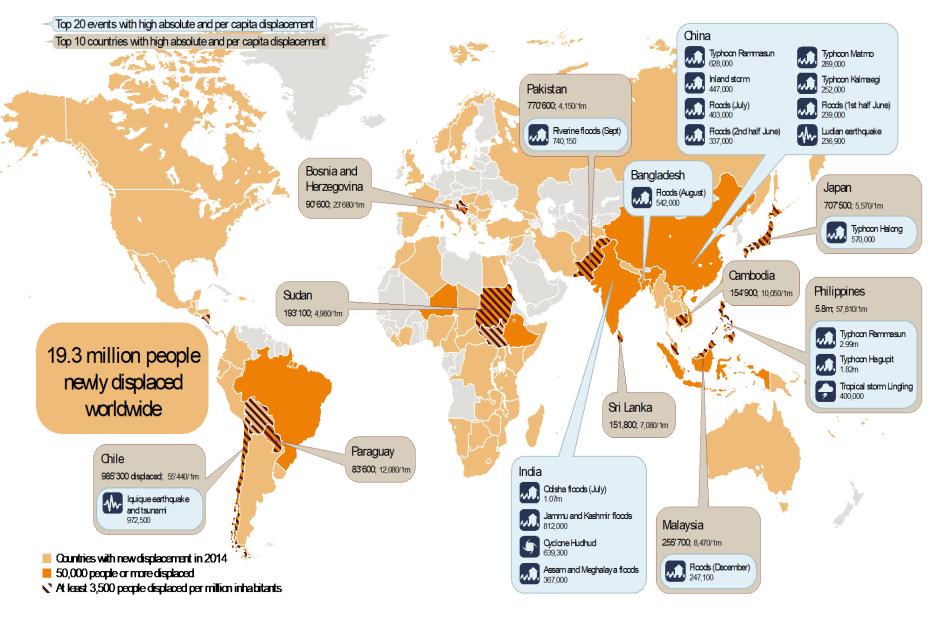
In 2016, more than 31 million people were displaced within their own countries due to conflicts or natural disasters. Which countries were affected the most?



Monitoring Center and the Norwegian Refugee Council, 2017



### Displacement related to disasters worldwide in 2014







Great Lakes – soon to be even greater!