

## **GLIDE - For Effective Disaster Information Sharing and Management - GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number (GLIDE)**

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Accessing disaster information can be a time consuming and laborious task. Not only is data scattered but frequently identification of the disaster can be confusing in countries with many disaster events. To address both of these issues, the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) is working with a technical advisory group of partners on a globally common Unique Identification code for disasters, proposed by the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

The partners include ReliefWeb-OCHA, OFDA-USAID, FAO, US/NOAA Office for Global Perograms (OGP) and the World Bank. A GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number (GLIDE) is issued every week by EM-DAT at CRED for all new disaster events that meet the EM-DAT criteria (see <http://www.cred.be>). Ways to cover disasters that fall out of EM-DAT criteria are being sought and will be provided in due course. The components of a GLIDE number consist of two letters to identify the disaster type (e.g. ST - storms); the year of the disaster; a four-digit sequential disaster number; and the three-letter ISO code for country of occurrence. So, for example, the GLIDE number for Hurricane Mitch in Honduras is: ST-1998-0345-HND.

This number is posted by CRED, ReliefWeb, NOAA-OGP and ADRC on all the documents relating to that particular disaster and gradually other partners will include it in whatever information they generate. As more information suppliers join in this initiative, documents and data pertaining to specific events could be more easily retrieved from various sources, or linked together using the GLIDE. The success of GLIDE depends on its widespread use and its level of utility for practitioners.

ADRC has prepared a specific website <http://glidnumber.net/> to promote GLIDE. Being in its experimental phase, the group encourages visiting this website and welcomes comments or suggestions. The “GLIDE Search” function will be available on the website shortly and you will be able to find disaster information easily by using the following: disaster type, year, country, GLIDE number.

For more information, please contact ADRC ( <a href="mailto:rep@adrc.or.jp">rep@adrc.or.jp</a> or <a href="mailto:arakida@adrc.or.jp">arakida@adrc.or.jp</a> )
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