

**GLobal Unique Disaster IDentifier Number (GLIDE):
For Effective Disaster Information Sharing and Management**

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The GLIDE concept

Accessing disaster information can be a time consuming and laborious task. Not only is data scattered, but also, frequently, identification of the disaster can be confusing in countries with many disaster events. Each organization has their own databases and libraries using their own ID. Each database has no direction. It is not easy to match one event data to another database's data.

GLIDE is the solution. GLIDE is a unique ID code assigned for disaster events to find required information with the least effort. 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, ISDR, UNDP, WMO, IFRC and LaRED. 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 GLIDE structure

The components of a GLIDE number consist of two letters to identify the disaster type (see "hazard code for GLIDE"); the year of the disaster; a six-digit, sequential disaster number; and the three-letter ISO code for country of occurrence. For example, the GLIDE number for Hurricane Mitch in Honduras is: ST-1998-000345-HND.

This number is posted by CRED, ReliefWeb 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 unique GLIDE numbers. The success of GLIDE depends on its widespread use and its level of utility for practitioners.

The promotion for GLIDE number.net

ADRC has prepared a specific website <http://glidenumbers.net/> to promote GLIDE. Being in its experimental phase, the group encourages visiting this website and welcomes comments or suggestions. The "GLIDE Search", "GLIDE generator" and "GLIDE report" function will be available on the website shortly and you will be able to find disaster information easily and immediately.

Hazard codes for GLIDE

| DISASTER CATEGORY | | DEFINITION |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| NATURAL DISASTER | TROPICAL CYCLONES (TC) | Generic term for a non-frontal synoptic scale cyclone originating over tropical or sub-tropical waters with organized convection and definite cyclonic surface wind circulation. |
| | FLOODS (FL) | The overflowing of water of the normal confines of a stream or other body of water, or the accumulation of water by drainage over areas which are not normally submerged. |
| | TORNADOES (TO) | A violently rotating storm of small diameter; the most violent weather phenomenon. It is produced in a very severe thunderstorm and appears as a funnel cloud extending from the base of a Cumulonimbus to the ground. |
| | LANDSLIDE (LS) | The usually rapid downward movement of a mass of rock, earth, or artificial fill on a slope |
| | MUDSLIDE (MS) | A type of landslide, which occurs when the slope is saturated with water. This more destructive flow can pick up rocks, trees, houses and cars. As the debris moves into river and stream beds, bridges can become blocked or even collapse, making a temporary dam that can flood neighboring areas. |
| | STORM SURGE (SS) | The difference between the actual water level under influence of a meteorological disturbance (storm tide) and the level, which would have been attained in the absence of the meteorological disturbance (i.e. astronomical tide). |
| | VIOLENT WIND (VW) | Violent storm wind with a speed between 56 and 63 knots (Beaufort scale wind force 11). |
| | EXTRATROPICAL CYCLONE (EC) | Low-pressure system which develops in latitudes outside the tropics |
| | FLOODS (FL) | The overflowing of water of the normal confines of a stream or other body of water, or the accumulation of water by drainage over areas which are not normally submerged. |
| | TORNADO (TO) | A violently rotating storm of small diameter; the most violent weather phenomenon. It is produced in a very severe thunderstorm and appears as a funnel cloud extending from the base of a Cumulonimbus to the ground. |
| | LANDSLIDE (LS) | the usually rapid downward movement of a mass of rock, earth, or artificial fill on a slope |
| | MUDSLIDE (MS) | A type of landslide, which occurs when the slope is saturated with water. This more destructive flow can pick up rocks, trees, houses and cars. As the debris moves into river and stream beds, bridges can become blocked or even collapse, making a temporary dam that can flood neighboring areas. |
| | AVALANCHE (AV) | Mass of snow and ice falling suddenly down a mountain slope and often taking with it earth, rocks and rubble of every description. |

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| | VIOLENT WIND (VW) | Violent storm – wind with a speed between 56 and 63 knots (Beaufort scale wind force 11). |
| | FLOODS (FL) | The overflowing of water of the normal confines of a stream or other body of water, or the accumulation of water by drainage over areas which are not normally submerged caused by heavy precipitation, active monsoon, melting snow, etc. |

| DISASTER CATEGORY | | DEFINITION |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| NATURAL DISASTER | SEVERE LOCAL STORMS (SL) | A tornado, waterspout, or a thunderstorm with winds of 50 knots (25 m/s) or greater and/or hail $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20 mm) or greater in diameter at the ground. Usually results to significant wind damage (several downed trees) and/or large hail. |
| | FLASH FLOODS (FF) | Flooding that develops very quickly on streams and river tributaries with a relatively high peak discharge; usually as a result of thunderstorms. Sometimes the onset of flash flooding comes before the end of heavy rains. There is little time between the detection of flood conditions and the arrival of the flood crest. Swift action is essential to the protection of life and property. |
| | TORNADO (TO) | A violently rotating storm of small diameter; the most violent weather phenomenon. It is produced in a very severe thunderstorm and appears as a funnel cloud extending from the base of a Cumulonimbus to the ground. |
| | LANDSLIDE (LS) | The usually rapid downward movement of a mass of rock, earth, or artificial fill on a slope |
| | MUDSLIDE (MS) | A type of landslide, which occurs when the slope is saturated with water. This more destructive flow can pick up rocks, trees, houses and cars. As the debris moves into river and stream beds, bridges can become blocked or even collapse, making a temporary dam that can flood neighbouring areas. |
| | AVALANCHE (AV) | Mass of snow and ice falling suddenly down a mountain slope and often taking with it earth, rocks and rubble of every description. |
| | VIOLENT WIND (VW) | Violent storm – wind with a speed between 56 and 63 knots (Beaufort scale wind force 11). |
| | EARTHQUAKE (EQ) | A shaking or trembling of the earth that is volcanic or tectonic in origin |
| | LANDSLIDE (LS) | The usually rapid downward movement of a mass of rock, earth, or artificial fill on a slope |
| | FIRE (FR) | A destructive burning (as of a building) |
| | TSUNAMI (TS) | A great sea wave produced by submarine earth movement or volcanic eruption |
| | EPIDEMIC (EP) | Affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time |
| | FLOOD (FL) | Due to dam break/fail or blockage. |
| | DROUGHT (DR) | Pronounced absence or marked deficiency of precipitation. |
| | INSECT INFESTATION(IN) | Spreading or swarming in of various kinds of insects over or in a troublesome manner |
| | WILD FIRE (WF) | An uncontrolled fire in a forest or bush area. |

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| | EPIDEMIC (EP) | Affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time |
| | VOLCANO (VO) | Eruption from a vent in the crust of the earth or another planet from which usually molten or hot rock and steam issue; of explosively violent potential |
| | EARTHQUAKE (EQ) | A shaking or trembling of the earth that is volcanic or tectonic in origin |
| | EXTREME TEMPERATURE | Marked cooling or warming of the air |
| | COLD WAVE (CW) | Marked cooling of the air, or the invasion of very cold air, over a large area. |
| | HEAT WAVE (HW) | Marked warming of the air, or the invasion of very warm air, over a large area; it usually lasts from a few days to a few weeks. |
| | SNOW AVALANCHE (AV) | Mass of snow and ice falling suddenly down a mountain slope and often taking with it earth, rocks and rubble of every description. |
| | OTHER (OT) | Other natural disaster |
| COMPLEX EMERGENCY | COMPLEX EMERGENCY (CE) | The official definition of a complex emergency is "a humanitarian crisis in a country, region or society where there is total or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external conflict and which requires an international response that goes beyond the mandate or capacity of any single agency and/ or the ongoing United Nations country program." (IASC, December 1994). |
| TECHNICAL DISASTER | | Air accident, multiple collision, building fire, etc. |

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