

How Natural are Disasters? (p. 4-5)

- Fill in the spaces below with words that keep the meaning of the text.

The world is facing _____ on a record scale. Since 1990, disasters have killed an average of 62,000 _____ each year and destroyed the homes and livelihoods of millions more.

Many disasters around the _____ occur naturally but their causes and impacts are affected by human _____. These include:

1. Climate Change

The ongoing damage to the earth's fragile ecosystem and the impacts of climate _____ have contributed to an increase in the number of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and typhoons.

2. Armed Conflict

Armed conflict has resulted in food shortages, malnutrition, environmental damage, death, disability and the abuse of women and _____. The United Nations estimates there are currently 25 million internally displaced people (IDPs) as a result of armed _____.

3. Poverty

Communities living in _____ are most vulnerable to the destruction caused by natural disasters and armed conflict. In poor countries, the death toll from disasters is typically much greater than that in high income _____. Because these communities can't afford proper _____ materials, their houses and schools are often unsafe and more likely to be destroyed. These families then have no money left to start over or resettle in safer areas.



Over 70,000 people were killed in the 2005 Pakistan earthquake. Many people lost their lives due to the collapse of poorly constructed buildings – including schools.

4. Population Pressure

Today, the world's _____ has increased to just over 6.2 billion and this has transformed natural environments. Increasing numbers of people are now having to _____ in more risk-prone areas, like earthquake zones and floodplains.

Natural disasters cannot be fully prevented, but their impacts can be reduced. Aid and development _____ seek to provide emergency relief and reconstruction for affected communities. However, as part of a long-term commitment to development, an essential part of this work is to _____ communities take steps to reduce the effects of disasters and to be prepared when they do _____.