

# Conclusion

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South Asia Disaster Report 2007 is the first ever attempt to put together in a single volume analytical summaries of the entire natural and man made disasters of all the South Asian countries in a particular year. This is going to be the regular annual publication of SAARC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi and shall probably be the first such publication of any regional centre anywhere in the world. We are aware of the limitation of the study imposed by lack of information from the countries as none of the member countries publishes disaster data in a systematic and comprehensive manner. Therefore reliance was placed heavily on the international disaster data base maintained by the Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), which is considered to be the only credible disaster data base in the world. CRED data has also its limitations as it defines disaster as one in which ten or more persons are killed or hundred or more get injured. Applying this standard two member countries of SAARC, namely Bhutan and Maldives did not have a single disaster in 2007 that qualified to be reckoned as a disaster even though these countries had many events which were disasters by local standards. Again, CRED data had many missing gaps which created difficulties, for example, it did not have any information on the damage and loss of most of the disasters of most of the countries. Therefore CRED data was supplemented by information from other sources like government press notes and statements, newspaper reports, internet postings, reports from international organizations, multi-lateral agencies, relief organizations etc.

Another limitation was imposed by the SAARC Disaster Management Centre which was set up in 2007 but it started functioning from January 2008. Effectively it started its operations only from June this year when the professionals joined the organization. Therefore the Centre did not have the time and the opportunity to document the disaster events as these were happening and hence reliance had to be placed on secondary sources. These limitations would be partly overcome as the Centre has now established a mechanism of documenting disasters on a daily basis. Already the Centre is publishing its weekly disaster update which is posted in its website [www.saarc-sdma.nic.in](http://www.saarc-sdma.nic.in). This will make documentation of disasters of 2008 onwards much easier.

The efforts made for preparing the Report shall be worth if the information and analysis prove to be some use to the researchers, policy makers, practitioners and the readers.

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