Costa Rica
For Official Use

Costa Rica: Critical risks at a glance

Natural hazards: Located on the pacific ring of fire, geophysical hazards (earthquakes, volcanic activity) represent a threat throughout the country. The country is also affected by droughts, floods and viral diseases.

Most critical risk: Sudden on-set natural hazards, such as flash floods, earthquakes, landslides and storms.

Disaster-related socio-economic losses

Deaths are mostly caused by severe storms, such as cyclones Cesar and Douglas, landslides, floods and earthquakes. Average deaths per million inhabitants for the period 1995-2015 were above the OECD average.

Damage is mostly caused by earthquakes such as the Chinchona and Limon earthquakes 2009 and 1991 respectively. Overall, damage caused by disasters as a % of GDP between 1995 and 2015 was below the OECD average.

Major disasters
- Cinchona earthquake
  - January 2009 in northern Costa Rica
  - 31 deaths
  - 200 million US$ damage (est.)

- Cyclone Cesar and Douglas
  - July – August 1996 across the country
  - 51 deaths
  - 200 million US$ damage (est.)

- Limon earthquake
  - April 1991 in the Caribbean region
  - 47 deaths
  - 100 million US$ damage

Notes: For 65% of disaster events registered for Costa Rica in EM-DAT between 1995 and 2015, damage data are not recorded. Owing to differences in the measurement of damage, estimations for individual events may differ across sources. Due to methodological differences in the attribution of deaths to heatwaves, the figure comparing average deaths per million inhabitants against the OECD average excludes these deaths.

The National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE) is the lead institution for disaster risk management. CNE coordinates and drives policy development and implementation. Through the National Risk Management System, CNE connects policy agendas and aligns competing priorities across ministries and levels of government. CNE develops the National Risk Management Policy Document and the National Risk Management Plan. CNE works under the Presidency of Costa Rica. Its governing body is composed of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Public Safety, and the Presidency of the Republic.

**Critical infrastructure protection**

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<td>Responding Countries</td>
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**Risk communication**

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**Risk anticipation**

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Sources: OECD Survey on the Governance of Critical Risks, 2016; CNE, 2017

Note: Data from the OECD Survey on the Governance of Critical Risks is only available for 33 OECD countries plus Colombia and Costa Rica.