



# Beyond Disasters: Creating Opportunities for Peace



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**Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars  
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WORLDWATCH REPORT

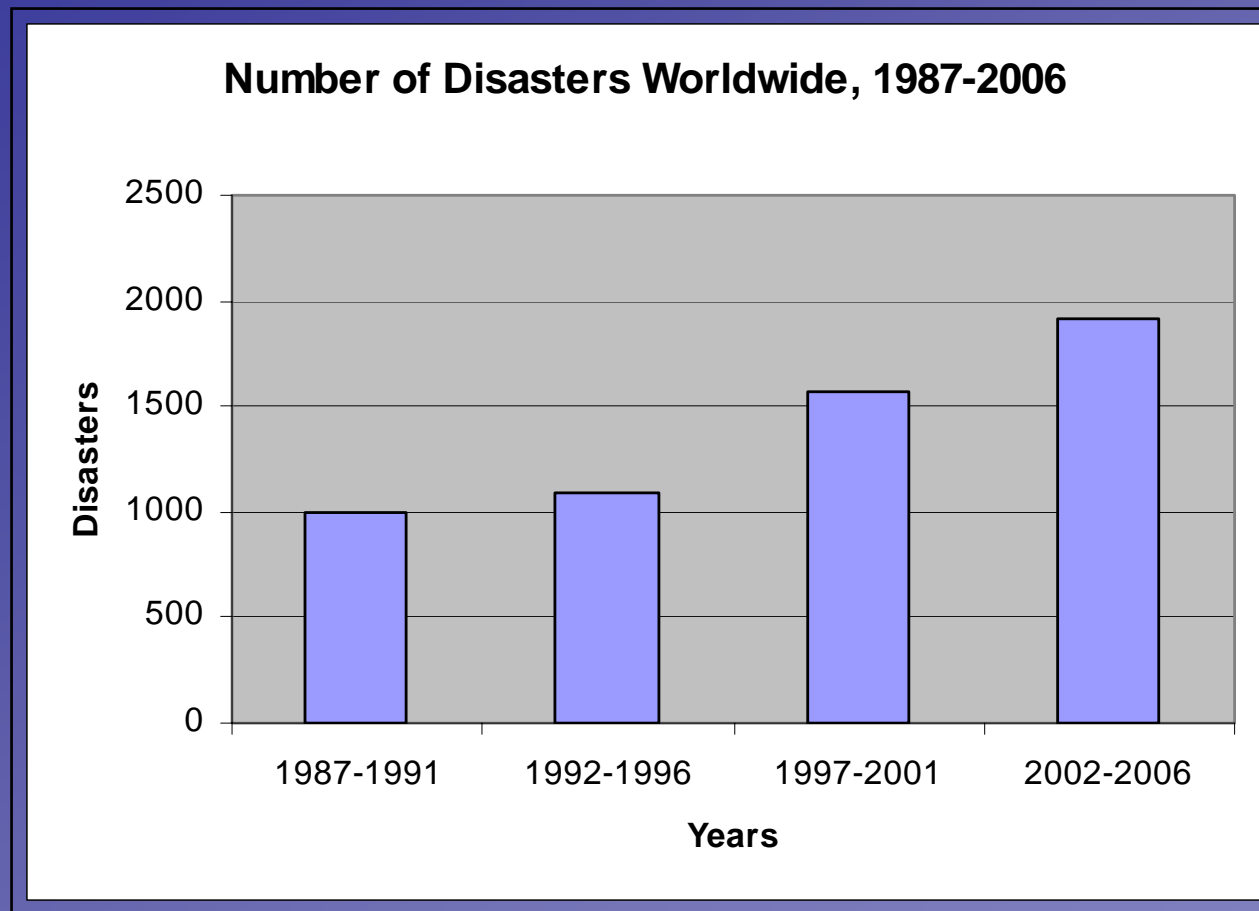
# Beyond Disasters



Creating Opportunities  
for Peace

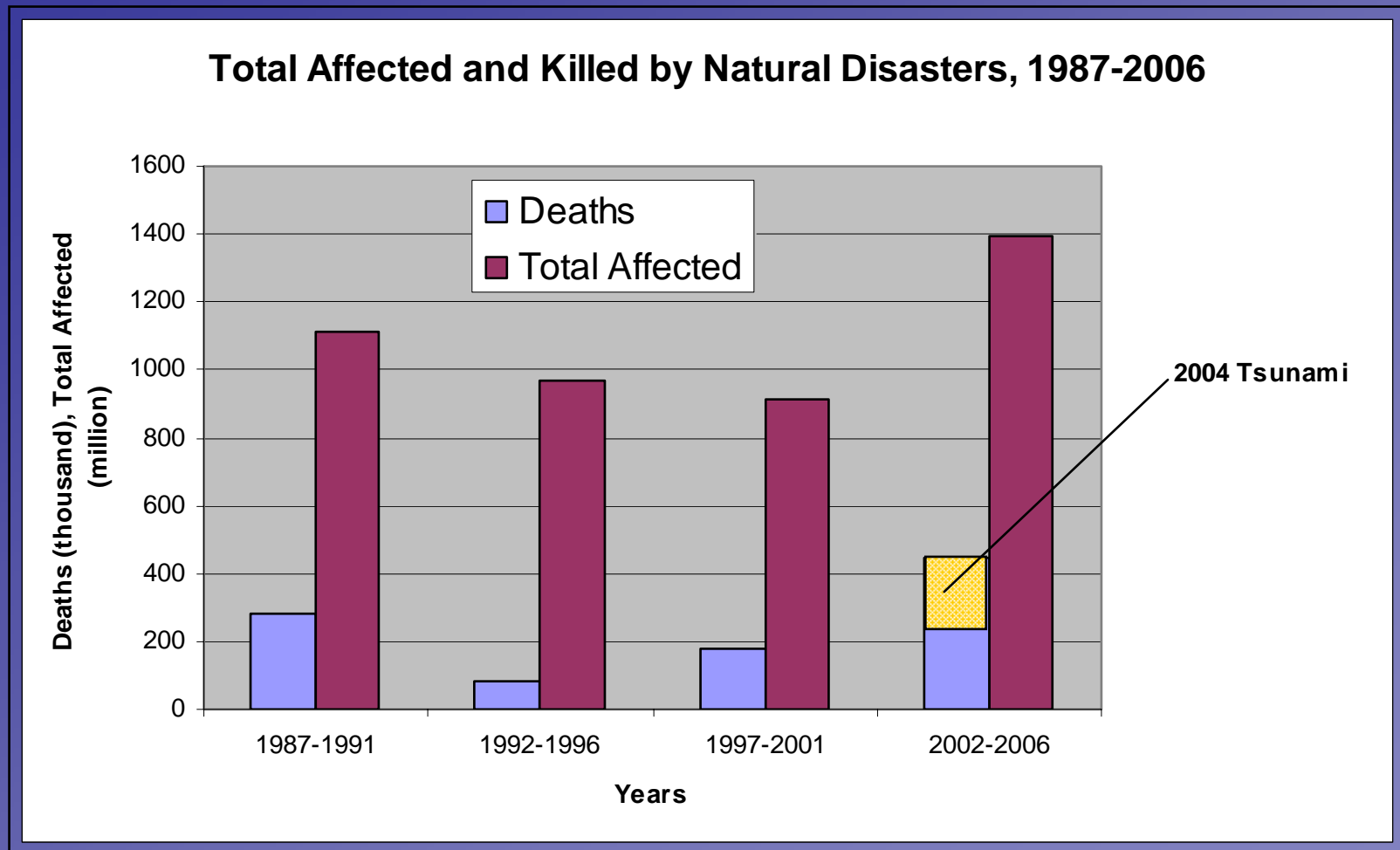
MICHAEL RENNER AND ZOË CHAPE

# Number of Disasters 1987–2006



Source: EM-DAT

# Disaster Toll, 1987–2006



Source: EM-DAT

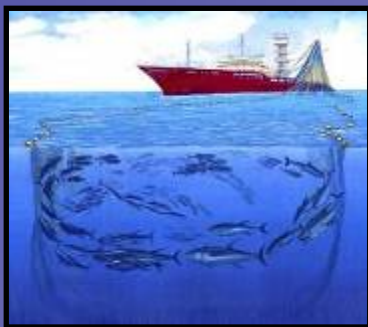
# Comparing Recent Disasters

**Table 1. The Impact of Selected Major Disasters, 2004–2006**

Year	Event	Deaths	Total People Affected	Deaths	Total People Affected
		(Number)		(Percent of all disasters during year)	
2006	Yogyakarta Earthquake	5,778	2,340,745	27.1	1.7
2005	Kashmir Earthquake	74,648	3,026,265	84.4	2.1
2005	Hurricane Katrina	1,833	500,000	2.1	0.3
2004	Indian Ocean Tsunami	226,408	2,431,807	93.3	1.4

# Natural or Un-natural Disasters?

- Environmental degradation
- Climate change
- Population and housing
- Poverty and inequality



# Urban Disaster Risk

**Table 6–1. Ten Most Populous Cities in 2005 and Associated Disaster Risk**

City	Population (million)	Disaster Risk					
		Earthquake	Volcano	Storms	Tornado	Flood	Storm Surge
Tokyo	35.2	x		x	x	x	x
Mexico City	19.4	x	x	x			
New York	18.7	x		x			x
São Paulo	18.3			x		x	
Mumbai	18.2	x		x		x	x
Delhi	15.0	x		x		x	
Shanghai	14.5	x		x		x	x
Kolkata	14.3	x		x	x	x	x
Jakarta	13.2	x				x	
Buenos Aires	12.6			x		x	x

# Landslides in Sri Lanka





# Vulnerability

- Women: disproportionate fatalities; contend with social roles, harassment
- Elderly: may have impaired mobility; often dependent on families
- Children: schools often unsafe; may face exploitation, economic hardship

# Disaster and Conflict Impacts

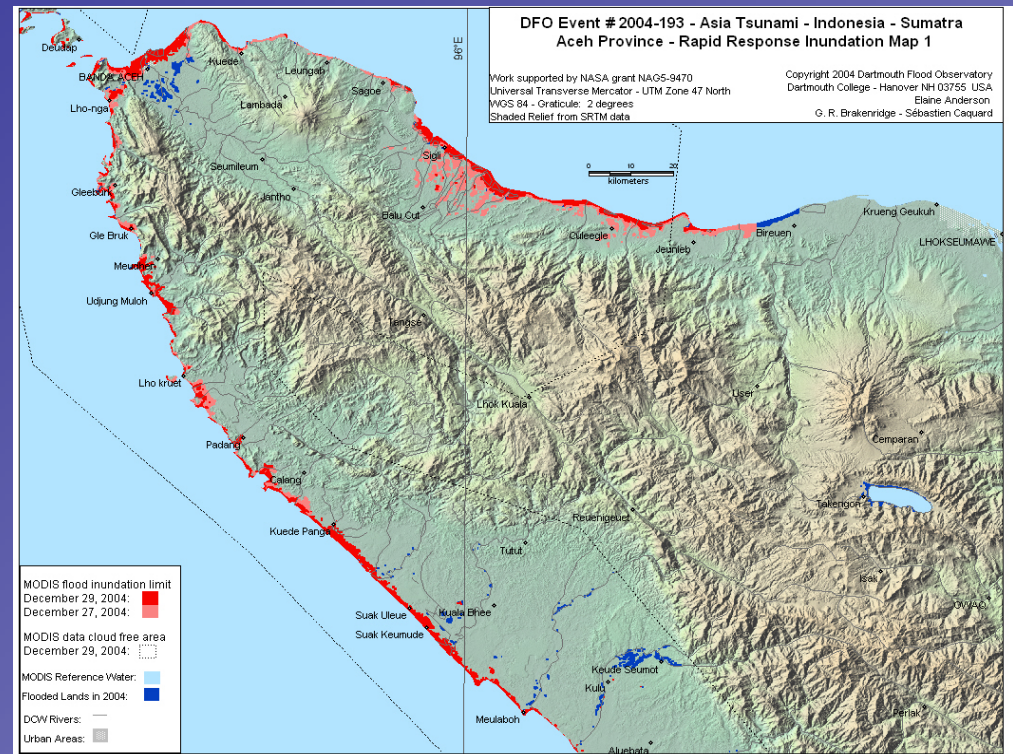
	<b>Aceh</b>	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>Kashmir</b>
<b>Population</b>	4 million	20 million	16 million
<b>Conflict Impacts</b>			
<b>Killed/Missing</b>	13,000 +	81,000	42,000 +
<b>Displaced</b>	150,000 <sup>1</sup>	447,000 <sup>2</sup>	480,000 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Disaster Impacts</b>			
<b>Killed/Missing</b>	167,000	35,000	74,000
<b>Displaced</b>	500,000	516,000	3.5 million

<sup>1</sup> 2002-03 (peak: 1.4 million in 1992-2002).

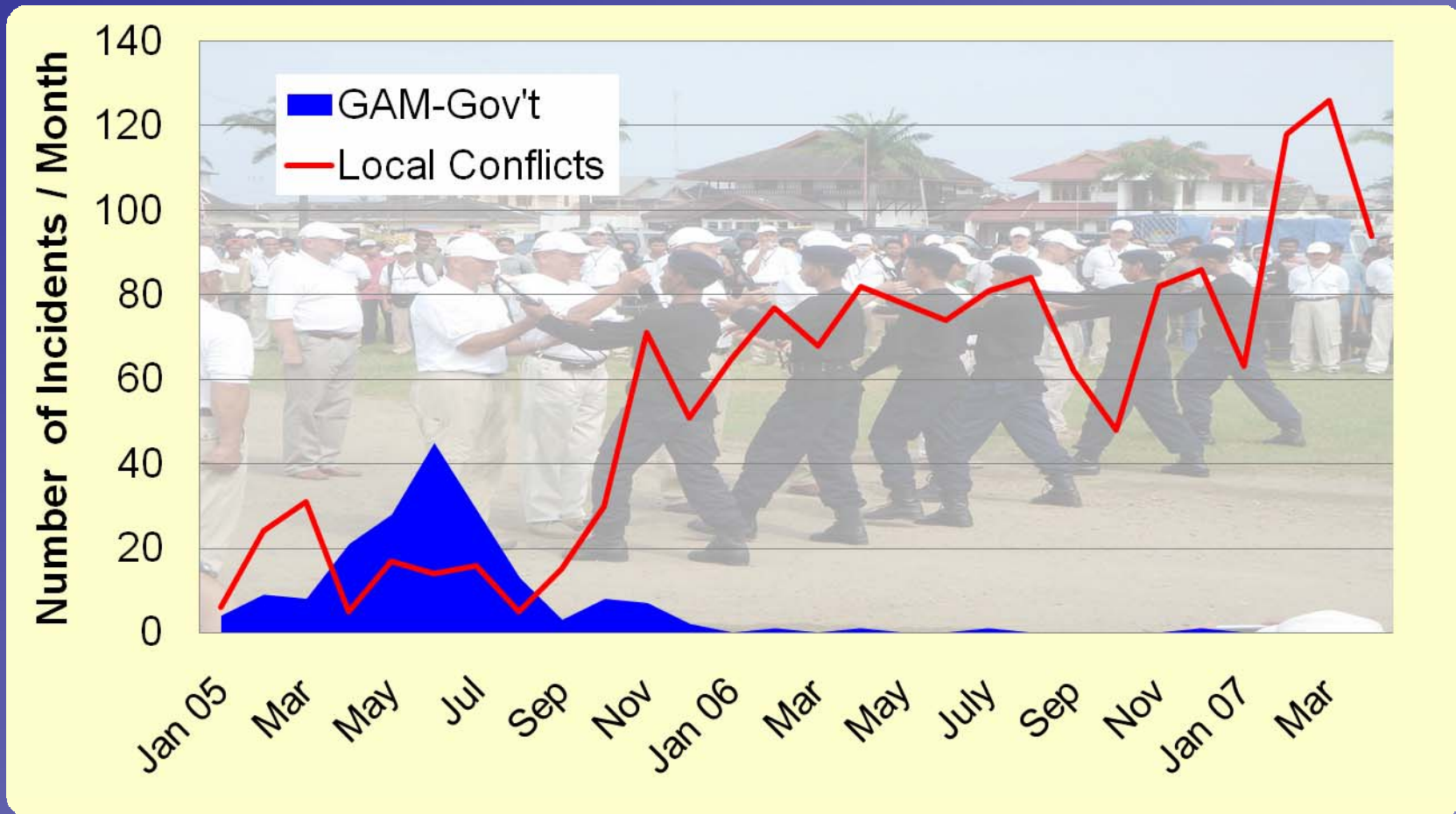
<sup>2</sup> Jan 2006, prior to new conflict (peak: 800,000).

<sup>3</sup> As of 2005 (peak in 2002: up to 625,000)

# Province of Aceh / Indonesia

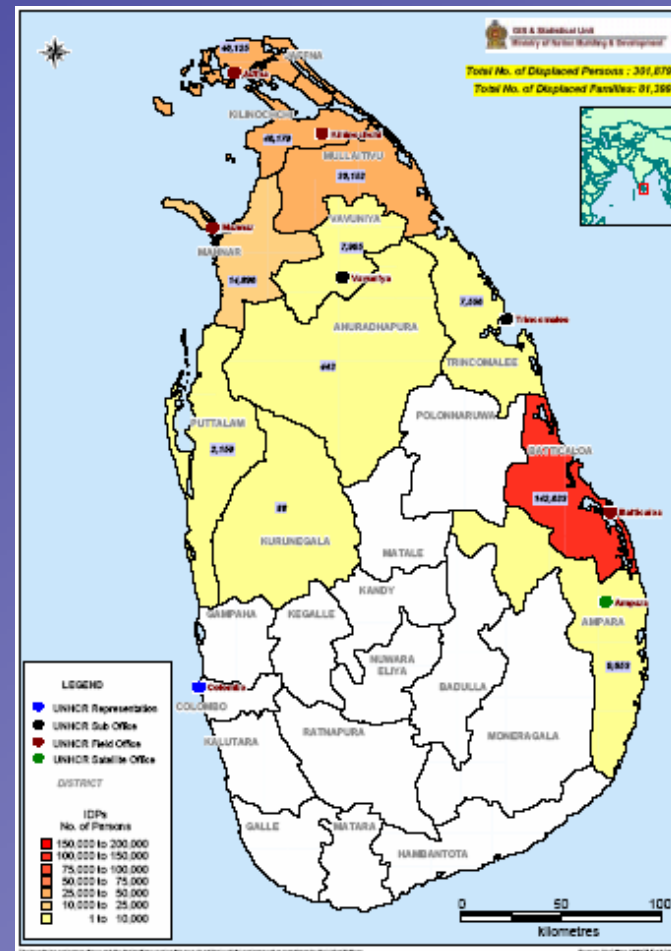
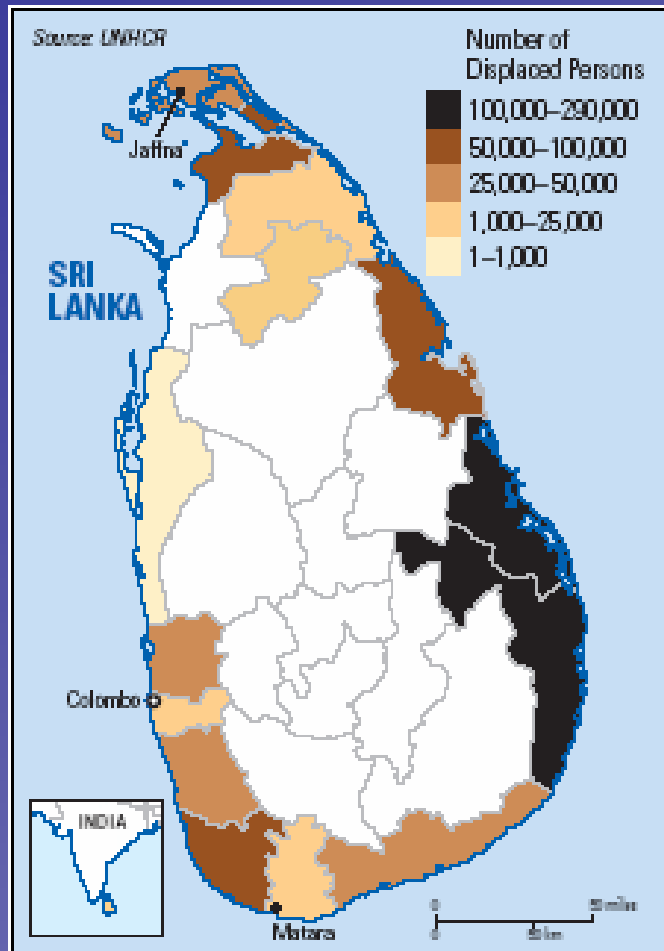


# Incidents of Conflict in Aceh: 2005-2007

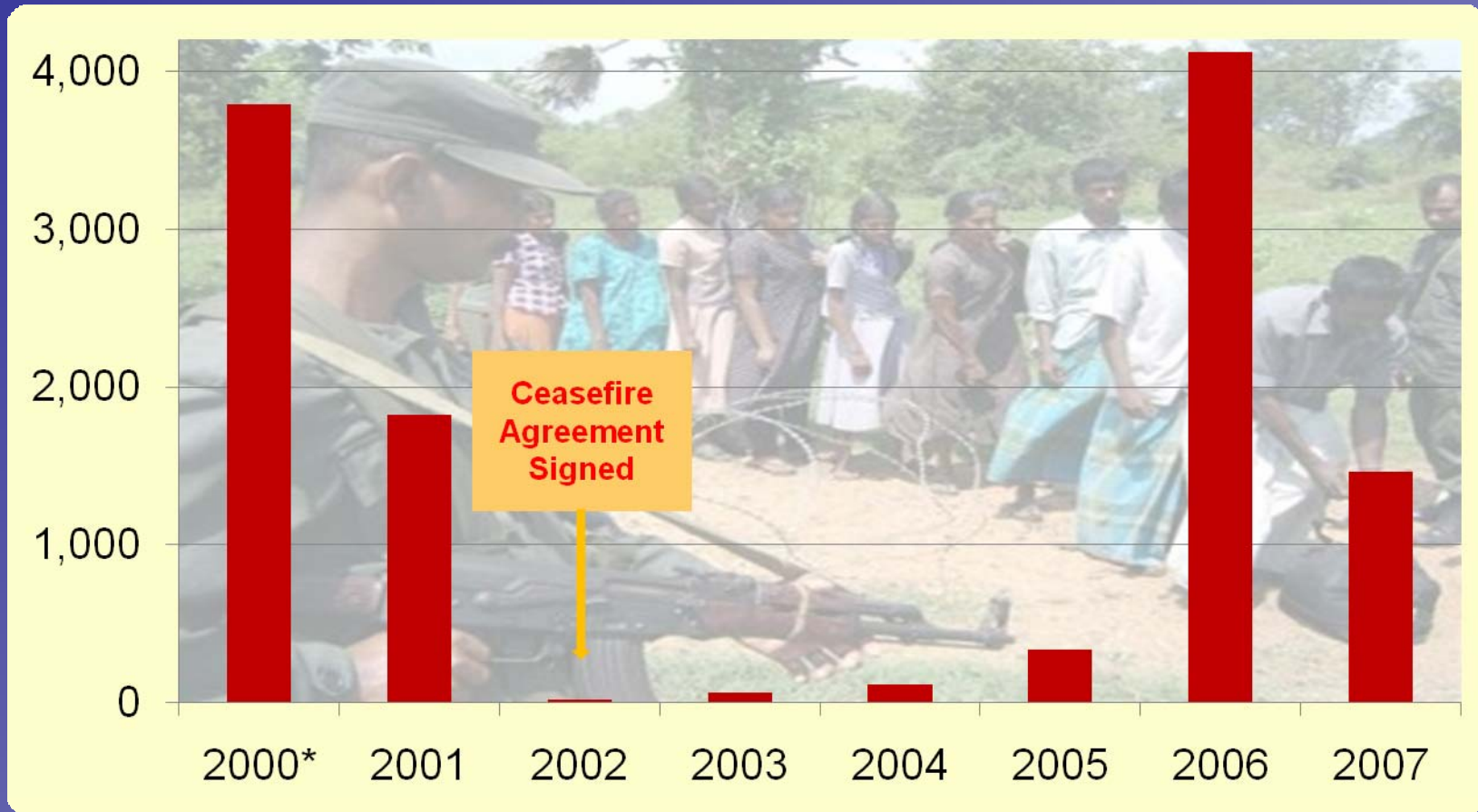


Source: World Bank

# Sri Lanka Displacements: Tsunami - Conflict



# Deaths in Sri Lanka's Civil War, 2000-2007

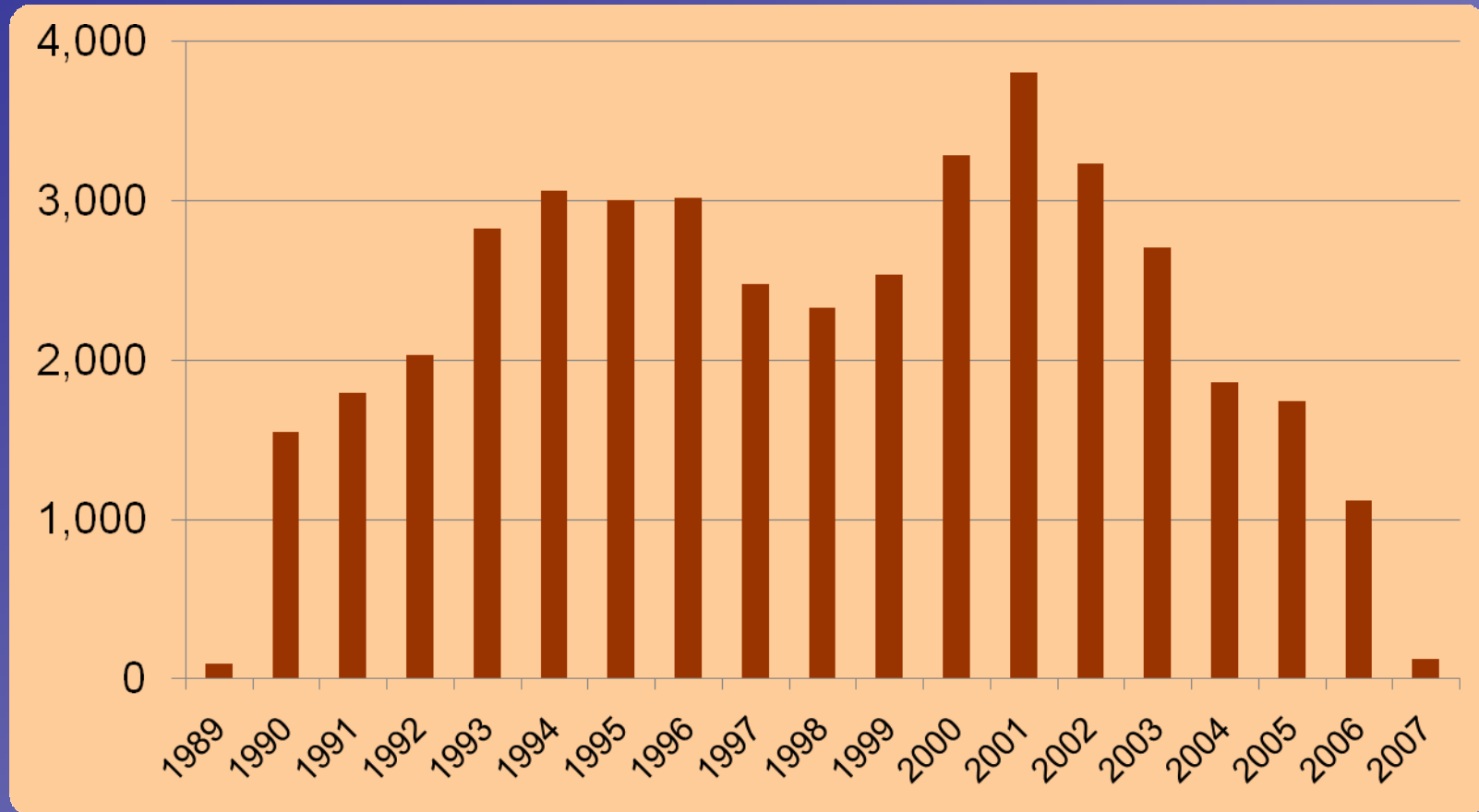


Source: South Asia Terrorism Portal

# Kashmir: Political Division and Earthquake Zone



# Killings in Jammu and Kashmir



Source: South Asia Terrorism Portal



# Recommendations

*For donor governments and disaster relief agencies:*

- Integrate conflict-sensitive strategies into disaster relief plans, and implement the lessons of the Do No Harm Project.
- Promote ongoing collaboration among aid organizations to avoid “turf wars” and duplication of effort.
- Minimize relief inequities between disaster- and conflict-affected communities, and ensure that both are adequately represented in all decision-making.
- Conduct assessments of the opportunities and problems associated with using aid to encourage peacemaking.

# Recommendations

*For conflict resolution groups:*

- Use post-disaster relief as an opportunity for conflict resolution; analyze and learn from previous cases.
- Raise awareness among diplomats of unconventional factors that can trigger or worsen conflicts, such as livelihood loss, environmental degradation, and climate change.
- Ensure strong international support for mediation and monitoring efforts, and create multi-disciplinary training programs.

# Recommendations

## *Opportunities for collaboration:*

- Undertake a comprehensive study of lessons emerging from disaster-conflict interfaces; generate recommendations for all actors concerned (akin to the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition reports).
- Establish a forum where these recommendations and their implementation can be discussed, bringing together the perspectives and expertise of various fields (including disaster mitigation, development, environment, and conflict resolution).
- Create plans for aid-sharing scenarios in advance of disaster.

# Online Portal

## www.worldwatch.org/features/disasters

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the Worldwatch Institute website. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.worldwatch.org/taxonomy/term/435>. The page header includes the Worldwatch Institute logo and navigation links for Home, About Worldwatch, Publications, and Online Features. The main content area is titled "Natural Disasters & Peacemaking" and features a sub-header "Turning Disasters into Peacemaking Opportunities". Below this, there is a paragraph of text and a large graphic with the text "DISASTERS AND Peacemaking". A sidebar on the left contains a list of navigation links. At the bottom, there are several article teasers with titles like "Desertification as a Source of Conflict in Darfur", "Disaster Responses May Lead to Peace, Say Researchers", and "After Tsunami Reconstruction: A Grassroots Economy for Aceh?".

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Independent research for an environmentally sustainable and socially just society.

Home > Online Features > Natural Disasters & Peacemaking

### Natural Disasters & Peacemaking

#### "Turning Disasters into Peacemaking Opportunities"

In 2005, the Worldwatch Institute launched a project addressing the intersections between natural disasters, environmental degradation, conflict, and peacemaking. Researchers Michael Renner and Zoë Chafe co-authored a chapter on disasters in Worldwatch's *State of the World 2006* report, Zoë contributed a chapter on urban disaster risk to *State of the World 2007*, and both researchers examined these connections in a range of additional articles, op-eds, publications, and online stories. In June 2007, they released a new Worldwatch Report, *Beyond Disasters: Creating Opportunities for Peace*, at events in New York and Washington, D.C.

[ [Project Overview](#) | [Partner Network](#) ]

#### Disasters & Peacemaking Links, Articles, and Resources:

<a href="#">Newest</a>	<a href="#">Disasters</a>	<a href="#">Tsunami</a>	<a href="#">Aceh</a>	<a href="#">Sri Lanka</a>	<a href="#">Kashmir</a>	<a href="#">Katrina</a>	<a href="#">Worldwatch Analysis</a>	<a href="#">Resources</a>
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#### Desertification as a Source of Conflict in Darfur

Michael Renner - June 23, 2007 - 4:40pm

A new UN report bolsters the argument that Darfur's conflict is partly rooted in environmental decline and competition for scarce land and water.

[read more](#)

#### Disaster Responses May Lead to Peace, Say Researchers

Alana Herro - June 15, 2007 - 5:00am

The devastation and social disruption caused by earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters may, paradoxically, provide opportunities for building peace, say experts with the Worldwatch Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based research organization.

[read more](#)

#### After Tsunami Reconstruction: A Grassroots Economy for Aceh?

Michael Renner - June 16, 2007 - 5:00am



[www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org)