

Accessing disaster information can be a time consuming and laborious task. Not only is data scattered but frequently identification of the disaster can be confusing in countries with many disaster events.

What is a GLIDE Number?

When to use them and why they are useful.

<http://www.glidenumbers.net/>

What is a GLIDE number?

Accessing disaster information can be a time consuming and laborious task. Not only is data scattered but frequently identification of the disaster can be confusing in countries with many disaster events. To address both of these issues, **Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)** proposed a globally common Unique ID code for disasters. This idea was shared and promoted by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) of the University of Louvain in Brussels (Belgium), OCHA/ReliefWeb, OCHA/FSCC, ISDR, UNDP, WMO, IFRC, OFDA-USAID, FAO, La Red and the World Bank and was jointly launched as a new initiative "GLIDE".

How is the Number determined?

A GLobal IDentifier number (GLIDE) was issued every week by EM-DAT at CRED for all new disaster events that meet the EM-DAT criteria (see <http://www.cred.be>) from 2002-2003. Of course, Ways to cover disasters that fall out of EM-DAT criteria was being sought and would be provided in due course. And from the beginning of 2004, "Automatic GLIDE Generator" begins to generate new GLIDE for all new disaster events. The components of a GLIDE number consist of two letters to identify the disaster type (e.g. EQ - earthquake); the year of the disaster; a six-digit, sequential disaster number; and the three-letter ISO code for country of occurrence. So, for example, the GLIDE number for West-India Earthquake in India is: EQ-2001-000033-IND.

How can I use it?

This number is posted by the above organizations, on all their documents relating to that particular disaster and gradually other partners will include it in whatever information they generate. As information suppliers join in this initiative, documents and data pertaining to specific events may be 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.

Today, users all over the world can pick up the GLIDE number from the homepages of CRED, ReliefWeb and ADRC. ReliefWeb, La Red and ADRC have prepared a specific website <http://www.glidnumber.net/> to promote GLIDE. Being in its experimental phase, the group encourages to visit this website and welcomes comments or suggestions.