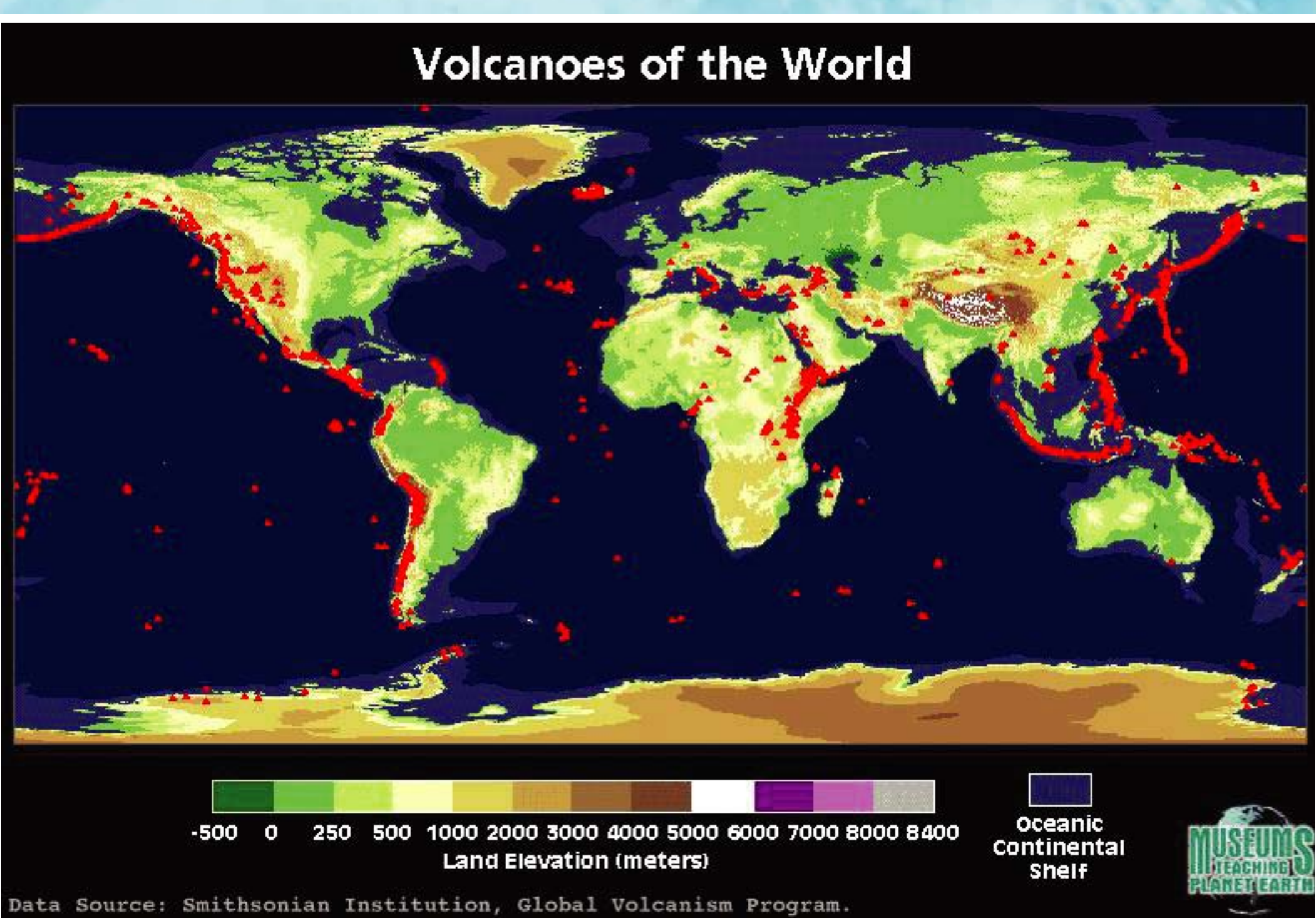
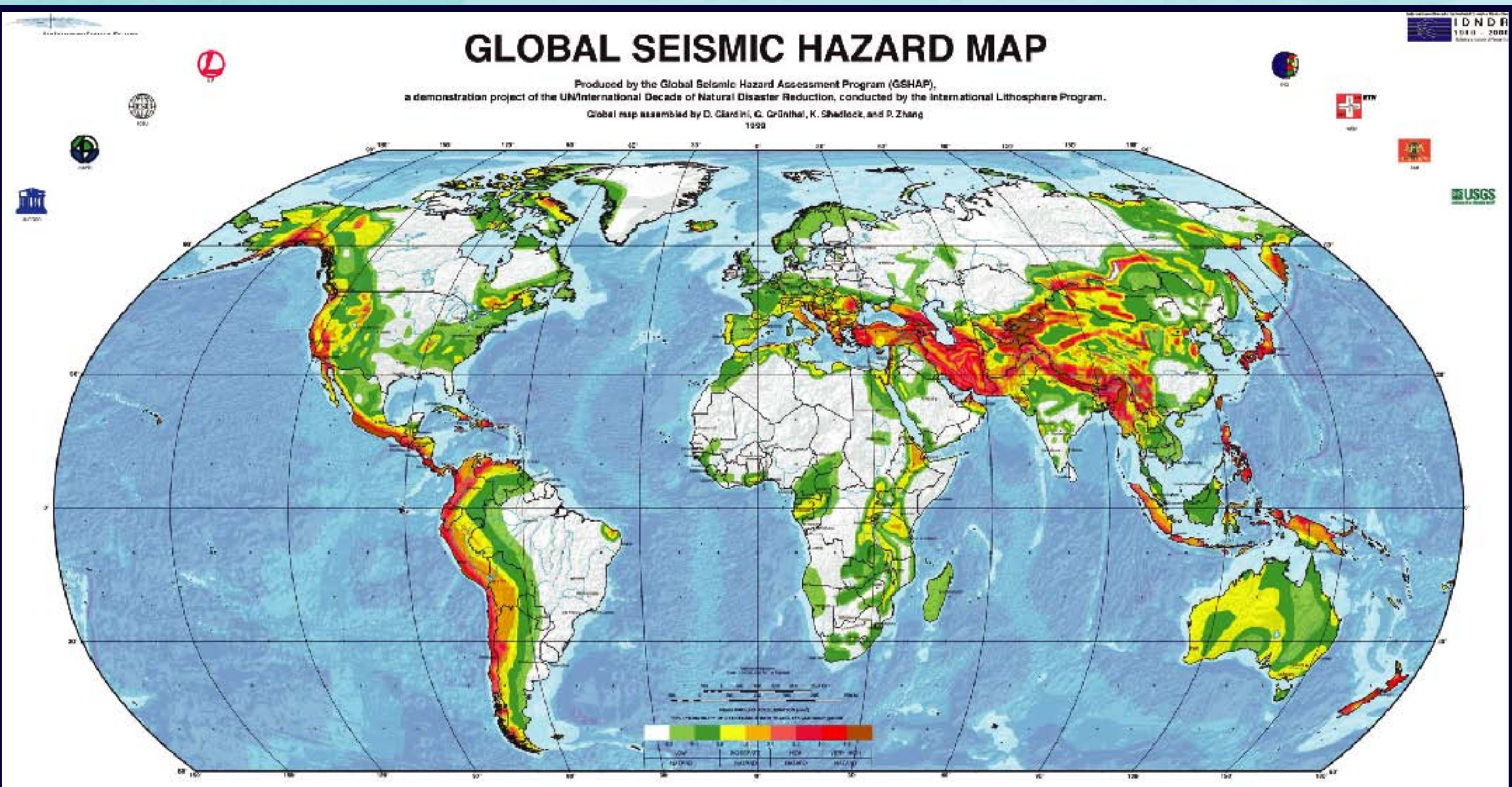




# Social-economic effects of Earthquake and Volcanic disasters

The earthquakes are unpredictable phenomena, however, there are methods to estimate the probability that such events may occur in a particular area. Additionally, scientific research has developed a series of tools based on historical data.



Disastrous events caused by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions affect the areas hit with long term effects, disrupt economies and change the landform. Depending on modern life such disasters cost much more than in past in human losses and economic resources.

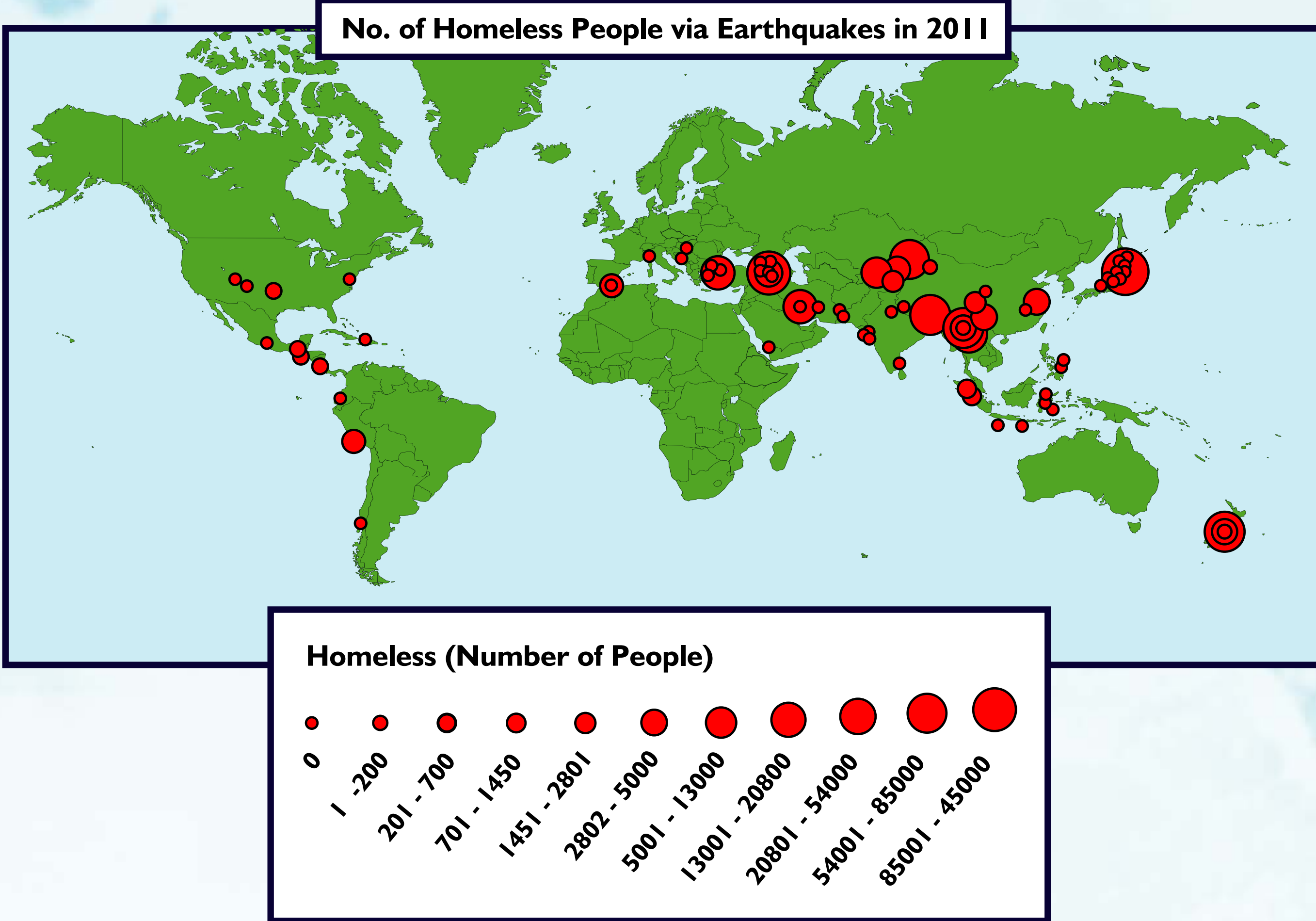
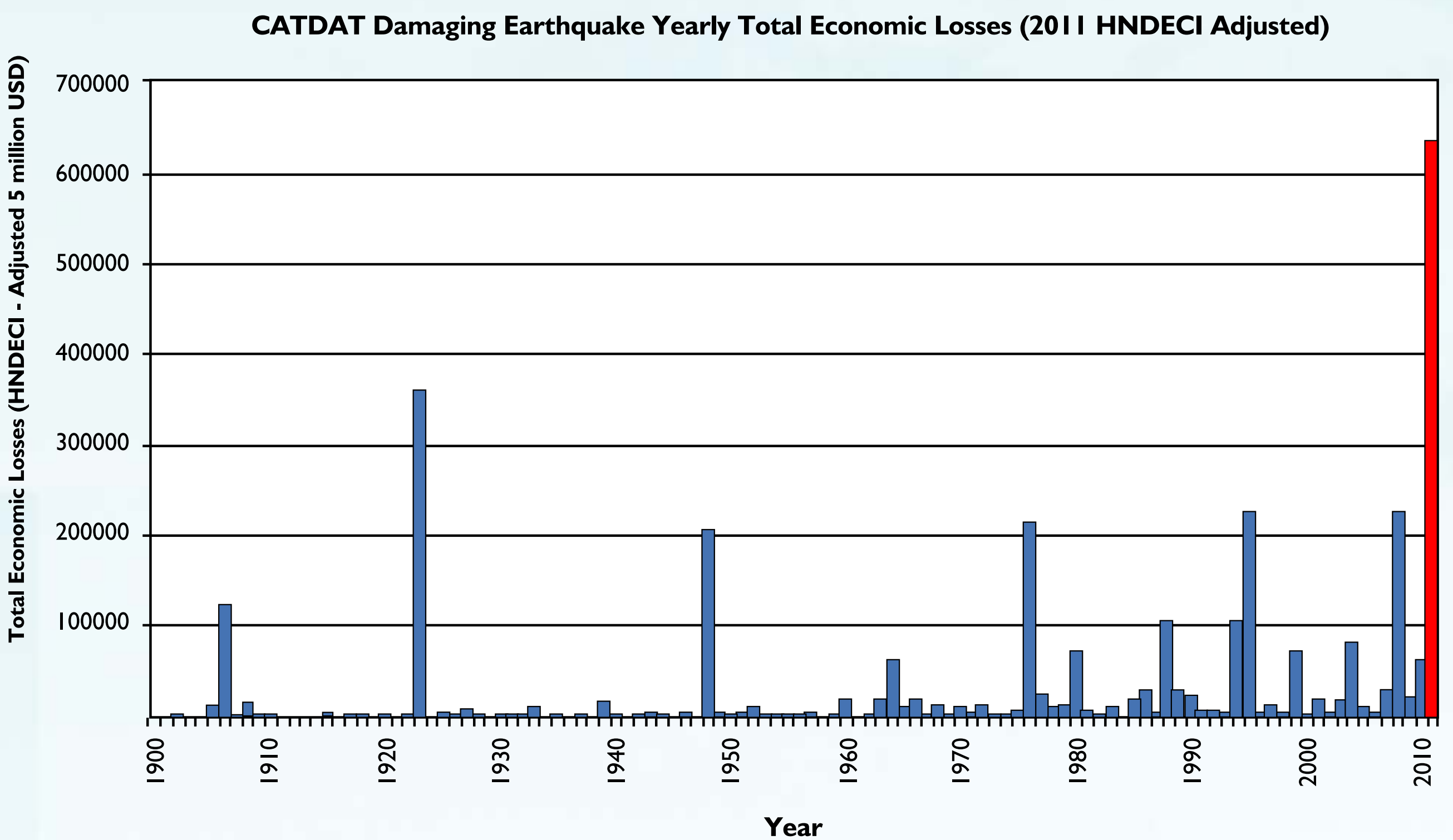
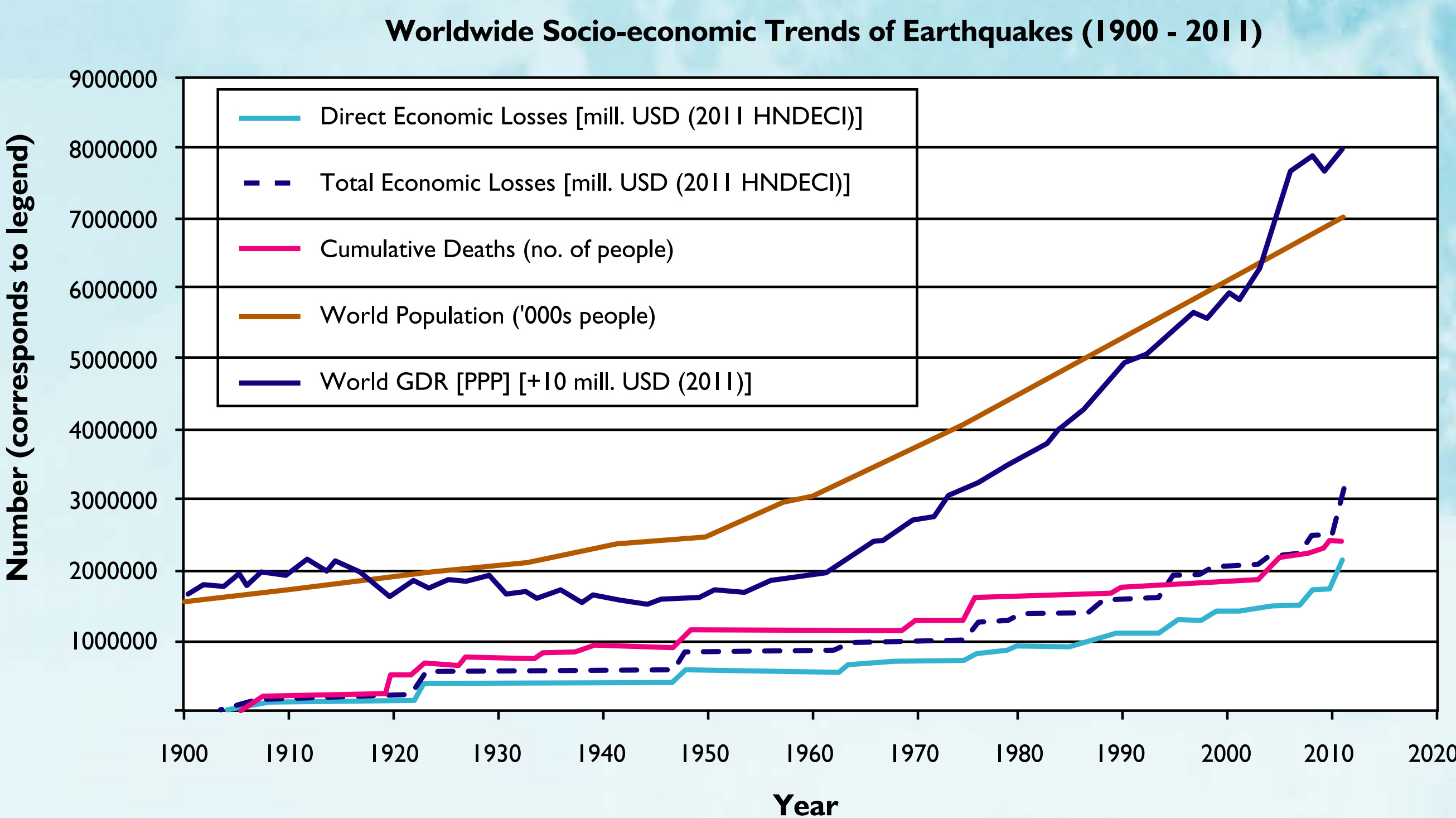
## Main social and economic effects caused by natural disasters

Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes cause human losses, the need to help the injured and the rescue of the survivors. These operations are highly expensive. People who live in areas affected by a natural disaster often abandon the territory and become refugees who need to be resettled elsewhere.



## Worsening health situation and increase of stress derived diseases

Traumatic stress appears to be mediated by loss of control over fear induced by exposure to unpredictable and uncontrollable phenomena. This situation can cause general anxiety disorders, separation anxiety, school avoidance, psychosomatic problems and enuresis that are pervasive in children.



## Population burden after natural disaster

Natural disasters cause immediate effects and moreover they affect the poorest sections of the population who find it more difficult to recover. Women are the most affected especially at the developing or third countries; when they do not lose their lives they are the ones who have to carry the burden of the aftermath: changes in the ecosystem forces them to add further work to an already heavy situation in order to find water and food for their families. In the last 20 years, 90% of victims of natural disasters live in Africa and Asia.



## Effects in past and modern times

The last French destructive earthquake which claimed many lives, took place in southeastern France in 1909 with magnitude at about 6 Richter. This earthquake killed 46 and hurt 250 people, and have let important material damage. A French government report reveals that if this earthquake would have happened in 1982, the effects would have been 10 times more serious because this area is now more crowded than at the beginning of the XXth century.

