

RWANDA DISASTER EFFECTS SITUATION REPORT 2025

December 2025



Executive Summary

Rwanda recorded 1,270 disaster incidents in 2025, resulting in 145 deaths and 287 injuries. Strong wind and lightning dominated incident volume and human impact, while floods and hailstorms drove extensive crop losses. Urban districts (Gasabo, Kicukiro) saw frequent incidents and infrastructure impacts, whereas eastern districts (Rwamagana, Ngoma, Kayanza) experienced severe crop damage. October was the peak month for incidents and deaths, signalling a seasonal risk window that aligns with heavy rainfall and convective storms.

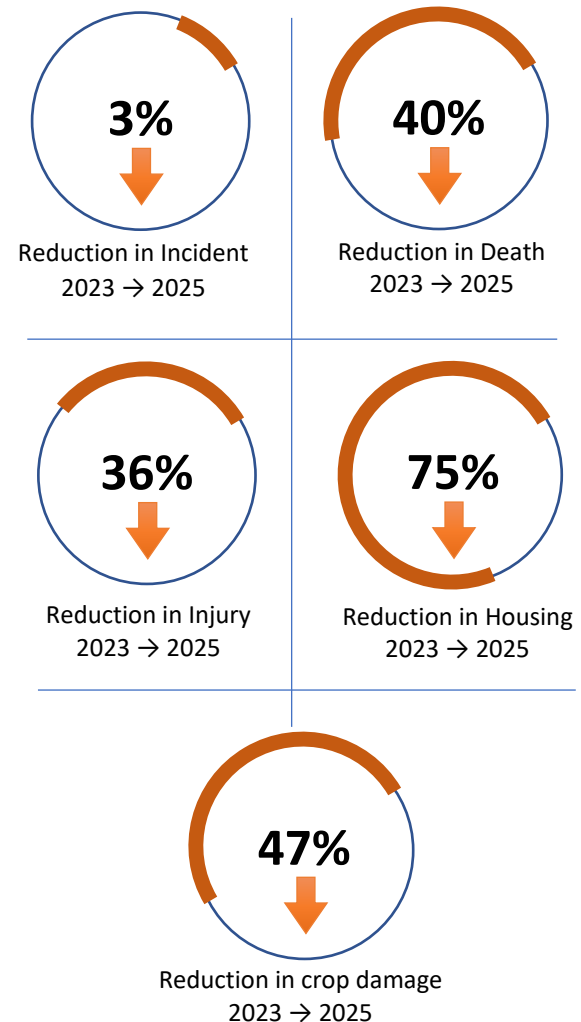
The Impact Comparison 2023 - 2025 sheet provides a clear three-year trend analysis of disaster effects, highlighting shifts in frequency, severity, and sectoral impacts.

The **incident data** shows an increase in 2024, followed by a decline in 2025, returning closer to 2023 levels. This trend suggests improved preparedness and mitigation efforts in 2025.

Despite fluctuations in incident numbers, **fatalities and injuries** consistently decreased, indicating stronger early warning systems and better response capacity.

This sharp decline reflects significant improvements in **housing infrastructure** or a decrease in destructive hazards. The 2023 housing destruction was catastrophic compared to later years.

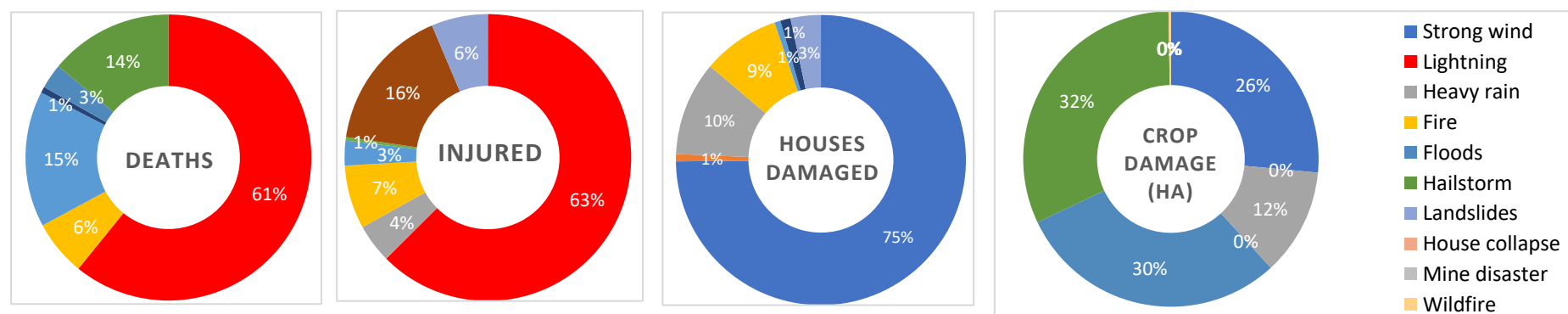
Agriculture and forestry impacts show major volatility, with 2024 standing out as a year of extensive forest destruction, linked to wildfire and strong wind events. By 2025, these impacts were significantly minimized.



Overview of impacts by Disaster type

The 2025 disaster data shows frequent climate-related hazards, especially strong winds, lightning, and heavy rainfall, resulting in 145 deaths and 287 injuries. Housing was widely affected, with 1,841 houses damaged and 33 destroyed, while agricultural losses included over 1,154 hectares of crops damaged, posing risks to food security and livelihoods. Overall, these recurring events caused widespread but mostly partial damage to infrastructure and communities, highlighting the need for stronger resilience and preparedness measures.

Disaster type	Incidents	Deaths	Injured	Houses destroyed	Houses damaged	Crop damage (Ha)	Lost cattle	Forest (Ha)	Other livestock	Classrooms	Health centers	Roads sections	Churches	Bridges	Admin offices	Transmission lines
Strong wind	493	0	36	0	1,375	305.69	0	0	0	132	3	1	5	0	10	69
Lightning	200	87	157	1	15	0	65	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Heavy rain	208	1	11	18	193	135.06	0	0	17	1	1	15	3	15	0	2
Fire	172	9	18	4	159	0.1	1	0	0	6	2	0	1	0	2	6
Floods	51	22	7	0	12	343.7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0
Hailstorm	26	1	1	0	4	367.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landslides	27	1	0	0	21	0.03	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0
House collapse	55	4	41	10	62	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mine disaster	14	20	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildfire	23	0	0	0	0	3	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,269	145	287	33	1,841	1,155	67	58	37	139	6	25	9	22	12	88



Sources: Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA 2025).

Key insights

High-frequency hazards

- **Strong wind** accounted for 39% of incidents and drove widespread **housing damage** (1,375) and **Education infrastructure** impacts (132 classrooms).
- **Lightning** caused the majority of **deaths (87; 61%)** and **injuries (157; 63%)**, with notable **livestock losses** (65 cattle, 18 other livestock).

Agricultural losses:

- **Hailstorm (367 Ha)** and **floods (344 Ha)** were the top drivers of crop damage, followed by **strong wind (306 Ha)** and **heavy rain (135 Ha)**, showing a clear signal for the need for climate-resilient agriculture and early warning systems.

Structural vulnerability:

- **Heavy rain** led to **18 houses destroyed** and **15 bridges** affected, while **landslides** impacted **8 road sections** critical for mobility and emergency response.



Key impact highlights by District

Highest incidents



Ngororero (88), Gakenke (86), Nyamasheke (59), Musanze (58), Gasabo (93), a mix of highland and urban districts, indicating both terrain-related and urban exposure.

Human impact



Burera (12 deaths), Rulindo (10), Gisagara (9), Ngororero (7), Gasabo (7), Kayonza (7). The northern districts show elevated mortality, likely linked to lightning and terrain-related hazards.

Top crop damage districts

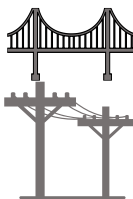


Rwamagana (166 Ha), Gisagara (145.5 Ha), Ngoma (96.58 Ha), Nyaruguru (94.1 Ha), Kayonza (36.86 Ha), Gasabo (115 Ha). The eastern and southern belts show concentrated agricultural vulnerability.

Infrastructure hotspots

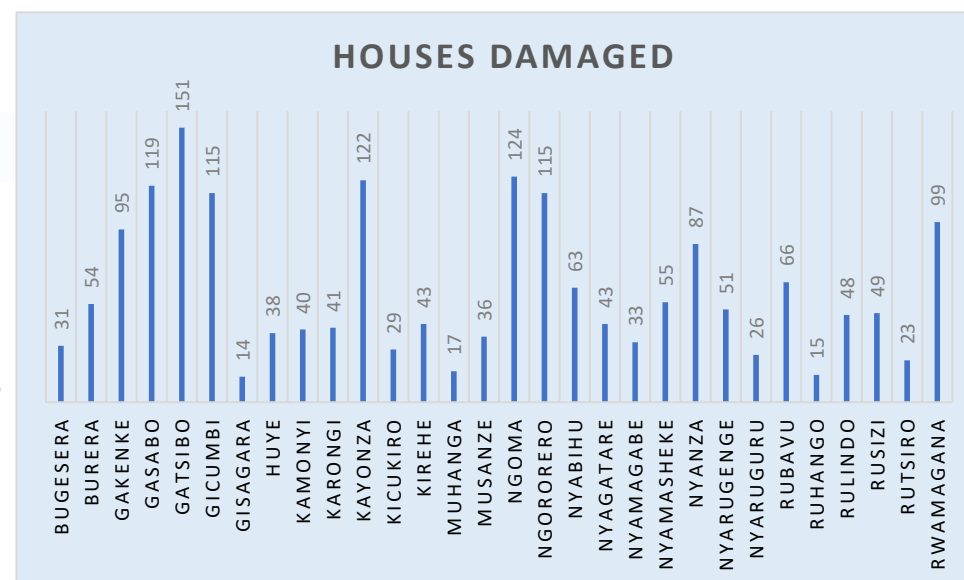
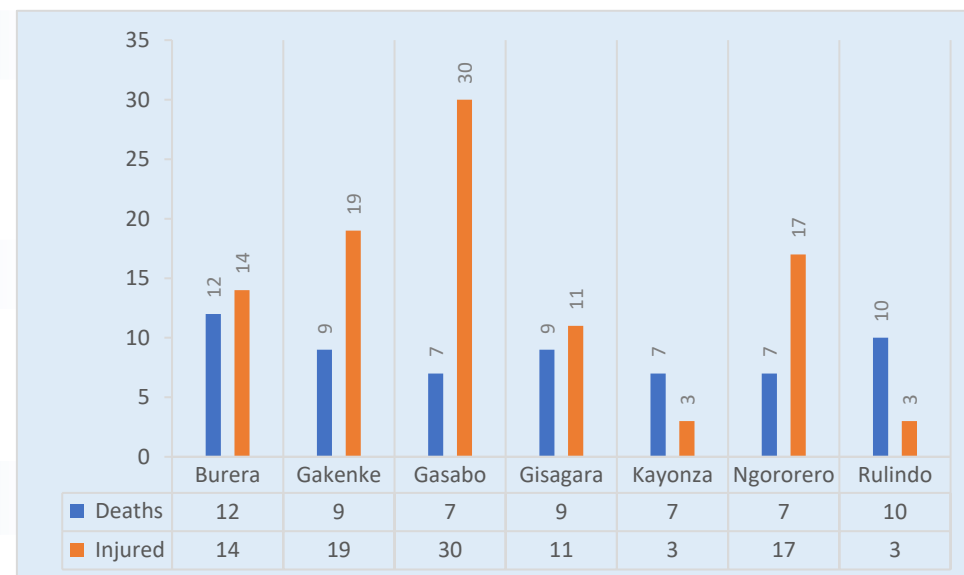


Classrooms: Strong wind impacts concentrated in **Ngororero (19), Gakenke (12), Gasabo (2)** and others. School infrastructure hardening needs.



Bridges: Heavy rain affected bridges across **Gasabo (8), April peak**, and **multiple districts**. Prioritise flood-resilient designs.

Transmission lines: Strong wind disrupted **69 lines**, with **lightning** adding **11**. Grid resilience and surge protection are essential.



Monthly trends and seasonality

Incident peaks

October (200), April (208), March (159), the long rainy season, and transitional months show the highest activity.

Mortality peaks

October (27 deaths), March (24), April (17). It is clearly aligned with convective storms and lightning prevalence.

House damage seasonality

March - May (853) and September - October (641) show two clear windows of housing risk, coinciding with the rainy seasons

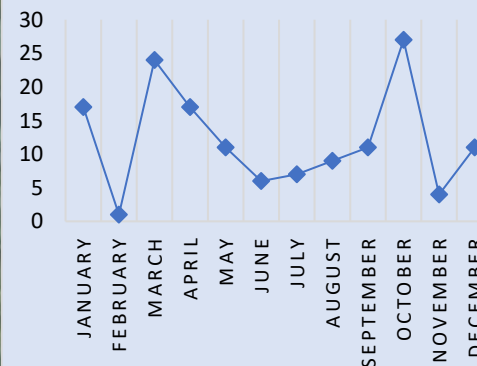
Crop damage seasonality

March-May (586 Ha) and October (310 Ha) show two clear windows of agricultural risk, coinciding with the rainy seasons.

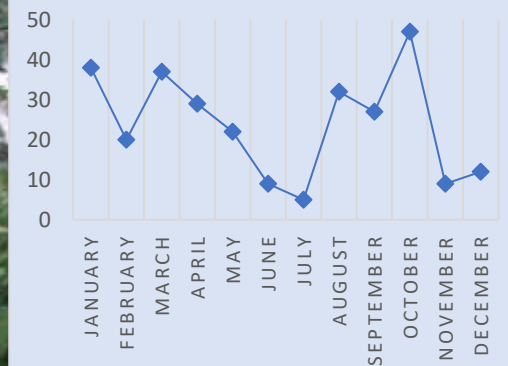
Anomalies

July shows 29 Ha Forest loss, and August-September elevated livestock losses due to wildfire and lightning/wind interactions

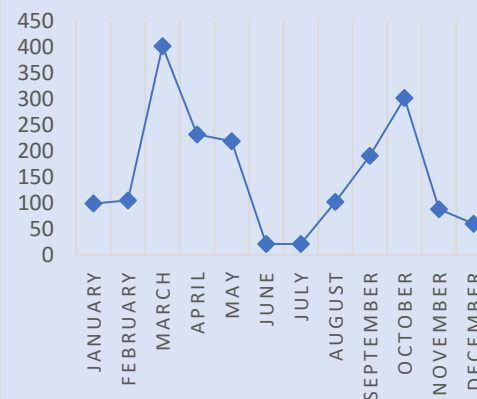
DEATHS



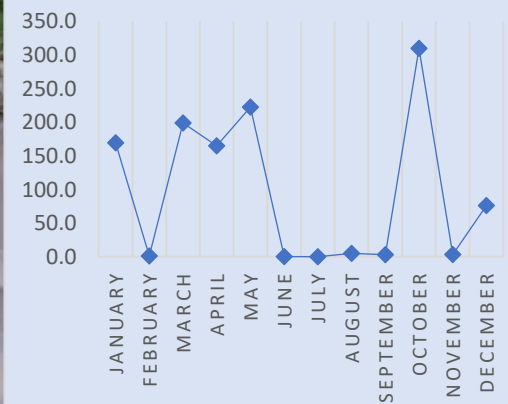
INJURED



HOUSES DAMAGED



DAMAGES IN CROPS HA.



Actionable recommendations

Lightning risk reduction

Install lightning protection in **schools, health centres, and community hubs** highly recommended in **Burera, Gisagara, Rutsiro, Gakenke, Rusizi, Karongi**. **Community awareness** on safe sheltering and surge protection for electrical assets.

- **Wind-resilient housing and schools**

Retrofit roofing and anchoring in **Gatsibo, Ngoma, Kayonza, Rwamagana, Gicumbi, Gakenke, Bugesera**; adopt **wind-resistant standards** for new builds. Pre-position **rapid repair kits (Galvanized wire, Nails)** before windy seasons.

- **Flood and hail agricultural resilience**

Promote drainage, terracing, hail nets, and climate-resilient varieties in **Gisagara, Gasabo, Nyaruguru, Rusizi, Nyamagabe, Ngororero, and Nyanza**. Expand seasonal early warnings and index insurance pilots.

- **Bridge and road hardening**

Prioritize **bridge reinforcement** and **culvert capacity upgrades** in districts with repeated **heavy rain impacts**; integrate **landslide monitoring** along critical corridors.

- **Targeted seasonal preparedness**

Scale **April** and **October** contingency plans, stockpile relief items, activate community response teams, and run drills in high-risk districts

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