This is a map of people who have died from severe heat waves or cold waves, where the community have required help, between 1975 and 2000. Very hot and very cold temperatures can occur in the same place at different times: whilst Southern Asian territories have hot summers, winters can be very cold. Extreme temperatures are most dangerous when they are unusual in that location.

Over 15,000 deaths in disasters due to extreme temperatures have occurred between 1975 and 2000. The territories where the most deaths have occurred during this period are India, the United States, Greece and Mexico.

Territory size shows the proportion of all worldwide deaths in disasters due to extreme temperature that occurred there between 1975 and 2000. A disaster, here, is an event which overwhelms local resources.

“When blankets are distributed, the men push ahead and grab them all. We get nothing ... I haven’t seen any wood either. I’m burning anything my children can find on the streets ...”

Bindu Devi, 2003