

# Disaster Risks in Crowded Situations: Contemporary Manifestations and Implications of Human Stampede in Nigeria

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## **Abstract**

*Crowded situations are inherently disaster-prone. This is more so where there is no efficient contingency measures to ensure effective control of the crowd as well as efficient utilization of the hosting space. This paper examines human stampede as a typical instance of crowd disaster in Nigeria with a view to making recommendations for its mitigation. By way of qualitative discourse, predicated on relevant secondary sources, the paper observes that the occurrence of human stampede in Nigeria is as a result of failure or inadequacy of crowd management cum control in mass public events and gatherings. The paper posits that human stampede is a veritable threat to public safety and/or security in Nigeria in view of its dire consequences. The paper recommends a proactive, contingency approach to crowd control and management as a panacea to the problem.*

**Keywords:** Disaster risks; stampede; public safety; crowd management/control; crowd disaster.

## **1. Introduction**

Crowded situations are essentially risk-prone. Risk refers to propensity to harm or injury (Russ, 2000). In any situations of crowd, risks abound. An overcrowded boat is liable to sink. An overcrowded structural platform is liable to collapse. Likewise, any overcrowded public arena or congregation is liable to 'burst'. The 'bursting' if a crowded public arena/congregation results from 'mob mad rush' arising from the impulsive behaviour of humans in an uncontrolled crowded environment. This scenario snowballs into a

situation of panic, anxiety and chaos wherein people scamper rather desperately in an acutely congested physical space. What follows is an amorphous flux and surge of colliding, pushing, trampling and crushing. In this process, human exhaustion, suffocation and stampeding occur, leading to disastrous outcomes.

Human stampede is a typical instance of crowd disaster (Fruin, 1993; Fruin, 2010; Helbing & Mukerji, 2012; Still, 2014). A crowd disaster is a disaster that takes a crowded situation or scenario as its locus of occurrence and/or impact (See Table 1 for insights on their dimensions). It is a logical consequence of desperation and/or apprehension in the context of an uncontrolled crowded situation. Human stampede can take the nature of either primary or secondary disaster (Okoli, 2014), depending on the nature of its onset. It is secondary if its onset is associated with another disaster in such a manner that it becomes a necessary consequence of that disaster. It is primary if its occurrence is not prompted by an isolated disaster situation.

Human stampede has been associated with dire consequences across the world. It has resulted in human deaths and injuries to such a magnitude that has made it a veritable threat to public safety among nations. In Nigeria, the phenomenon of human stampede has been ostensibly under-emphasized as a disaster threat, apparently in view of its sparing prevalence over the years (NEMA, 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012). However, recent disaster indicators in the country tend to suggest that this pattern of public emergency is apparently becoming, more or less, a common occurrence. For instance, between October, 2013 and March, 2014, Nigeria witnessed three major incidents of human stampede with appreciable fatal consequences. This development has since pointed to a trajectory that human stampede is fast becoming a prominent threat to public security in Nigeria. It is in the light of the foregoing that this paper sets out to examine the phenomenon of human stampede as an important public security threat in Nigeria.

The paper is sub-divided into seven sections in addition to the foregoing. The remainder of the paper is prosecuted under the following broad themes: concept of disaster risk, meaning and nature of human stampede, the mechanics and dialectics of human stampede, international trajectories of human stampede, overview of human stampede in Nigeria, stampede and Nigeria's national/human security, conclusion and recommendations.

## 2. The Concept of (Disaster) Risk

The concept of disaster risk has been widely associated with the notion of 'danger', which in effect implies exposure or vulnerability to harm or hazard (Encarta Students' Encyclopedia, 2009 DVD). We have hitherto defined a hazard as 'a situation which poses a level of threat to life, health, property, or environment'. Risk "embraces exposure to dangers, adverse or undesirable prospects, and the conditions that contribute to danger" (Hewitt, 1997:22). A more elaborate conception of risk has been given by Wells et al (2007:62):

Risk is defined as the possibility of a person or entity suffering harm or loss. Within an organization or business, risk is viewed as the possibility that the business will lose money because of disaster occurring. The possibility of harm or loss from a given disaster is different depending on the organization, the situation, and the severity of the disaster.

In a similar vein, Hodges (2000:7) defines risk as "the chance of something happening that will have an impact upon objectives". He added that risk "is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood" (Hodges, 2000:7). In effect, "Risk is the product of the probability of an occurrence and expected loss due to vulnerability to the occurrence (Tobin and Montz, 1997:282). These definitions point to the fact that risk involves the possibility or likelihood of incurring harm as a result of the occurrence of disaster or any emergency situation.

More technically, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR) defines risk as follows:

- (a) “The probability of harmful consequences, or expected loss of lives, people injured, property, livelihoods, economic activity disrupted (or environment damaged) resulting from interactions between natural or human induced hazards and vulnerable conditions” (IATF/DR, 2006:14)
- (b) “Function of probability or magnitude of different impacts” (IATF/DR, 2006:4)

The first definition (a) above, describes risk as comprising biophysical as well as social vulnerability components but the second definition (b) above does not include vulnerability. Suffice it to note that risk necessarily entails some measure of human or ecological vulnerability. This observation is in line with the position of this paper.

Risk as a phenomenon cannot be understood in isolation of other components of the emergency cycle. According to Russ:

The propensity of risk is a function of a number of factors, including proximity to disaster agents and societal capacity to mitigate emergencies. For instance, the risk of damage to a structure from an earthquake is high if it is built on or adjacent to an active earthquake fault. The risk of damage to a structure where no earthquake fault exists is low (Russ, 2000:1)

Within the context of emergency cycle, risk is identified as the product of the interface between human vulnerability and hazard. This relationship has been rendered mathematically in the following equation:  $Rh = H \times Vh$  (Wikipedia online, 2014; Niekerk, 2005:7). In the equation, ‘Rh’ stands for human risk while ‘Vh’ stands for human vulnerability. ‘H’ stands for hazard, which can be natural or human induced. To say the least, risk refers to the threats to humans and the things they value (Kasperson et al, 2007:251). It is perhaps in relation to this understanding that emergency management is sometimes referred to as ‘risk reduction management’.

It is important to distinguish between risk and hazard as the both concepts are often wrongly used or conceived as synonyms or substitutes (Cf. Ndace, 2008). The difference between these concepts has been poignantly underscored by Wells (2006:63) to the effect that a “hazard is anything that can cause harm” while a “risk is the chance that someone or something could be harmed by a hazard”. For the purpose of this paper, we would like to conceive risk as a perceived threat or potential harm associated with a disaster situation.

### 3. Meaning and Nature of Human Stampede

Etymologically, the term ‘stampede’ derived from the 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexican Spanish word ‘*estampida*’ meaning ‘uproar’ (Encarta Encyclopedia DVD Premium, 2009). It is an uproarious occurrence characterized by sudden headlong surge of crowd in an uncontrolled rush for safety or competitive scramble for a valued objective.

Stampede is an act of mass impulse, which occurs in times of “massive flight” or “massive craze” response (Fruin, 1993:4). In this sense, the occurrence of a stampede is a consequence of impulsive response to a stimulus. The stimulus can be a sense of imminent danger or quest to get the better of the crowd in a context of a competitive struggle for advantage. Possible triggers of stampede include fire outbreak, explosion, riots, gun-fire, ‘need-pressure’, and false alarm purporting safety threats.

Stampede situation are characteristically chaotic. They are marked by mass freight, panic, anxiety and distress. The onset of a stampede is characterized by headlong pushing, trampling and crushing. The compressive force arising from both horizontal pushing and vertical stacking combine to give impetus to

crowd crush (Fruin, 1993; Wikipedia, March 2014). What results in the process is compressive asphyxiation (Fruin, 2010) manifesting in the form of human mangling, stumbling, exhaustion, suffocation, and casualty.

Stampede-prone situations abound. Suffice it to note that all crowded situations are potentially stampede-prone. Highlighted hereunder are some prominent circumstances wherein a human stampede is likely to occur.

- (i) Mass political gatherings (rallies, campaigns, etc)
- (ii) Large scale social events (jamborees, funerals, etc)
- (iii) Mega sporting events (soccer, athletic competition, etc)
- (iv) Religious festivals (pilgrimages, mass initiation, solemnities, etc)
- (v) Massive job selection screening or test exercises
- (vi) Complex emergency situations (terrorist attacks, military siege, etc)
- (vii) Natural disaster situations (earthquakes/tsunamis, wildfire, etc) (Helbing & Mukerji, 2012; Illiyas, Mani; Pradeepkumar and Mohen, 2013; Still, 2014).

Stampede is an example of anthropogenic (man-made) disaster (Okoli, 2014). It is associated with crowded situations, notable mass public events that are bereft of effective crowd and arena (space) management/control mechanisms. As a form of disaster, stampede has been associated with critical consequences, prominent among which are:

- (i) Loss of life/human fatality
- (ii) Human injury
- (iii) Structural damage of public facilities
- (iv) Psychological trauma/distress
- (v) Loss of material valuables, etc.

#### 4. The Mechanics and Dialectics of Human Stampede

The mechanics of human stampede mirrors a highly chaotic and panic-ridden irrational scenario in which an amassed assemblage of people loses, at once, their sense of control, composure and reason. What follows is a set of panic behaviour whereof irrational reflexes prevail. As succinctly observed by Jurgostin:

A peaceful crowd can quickly turn into a senseless panicked leaving mass in which rational behaviour by any single individual becomes nearly impossible. What's worse is that the stampede can be triggered while there is no actual danger. Under certain situations, a crowd that has grown to a big and tight enough size and density reaches a critical stage at which the twitch is sufficient to send it into a stampede (2012; para 1).

Situations of stampede engender decisive psycho-emotional crisis, instability and/or disequilibrium. This reasonably forecloses the possibility of concise and rational decision. According to Anfit:

...human psychology undergoes a change when people are forced into tight spaces, especially when about 10 people are crowded into one square meter, the equivalent of about 1,000 in a mid-size classroom. Under such pressure, crowds tend to move as one and ignore alternative exits, accelerating the possibility of disaster. Many of those who die in stampede perish standing up – crushed and unable to breath (2010; para 5).

The dialectics of pushing, stacking and crushing in a stampede situation forms a momentum which drives the stampede. This process has been captured in the analogy of the 'moving' or 'running train' thus:

Panicked crowds move fast and release an incredible amount of energy, usually compared to the energy generated by a running train; once a crowd gets moving, it is very hard to stop and the flow of people could literally sweep you off your feet (Jorgustin, 2012; para 2).

A stampede situation typifies the dialectics of crowd disaster. This has been captured rather scientifically by Helbing and Mukerji (2012:1) who observes that "...people stumble and pile up due to a 'domino effect', resulting from a phenomenon called 'crowd turbulence' or 'crowd quake'. Under this circumstance, the crowd becomes a monster unto itself and indeed operates at an incredible level of hazard. This dynamics of the crowd has been elaborately but aptly described thus:

It is difficult to describe the psychological pressures within moving crowd at a maximum density. When crowd density equals the plan area of the human body, individual control is lost, as one becomes an involuntary part of the mass. At occupancies of about 7 persons per square meter, the crowd becomes almost fluid mass. Shock waves can be propagated through the mass sufficient to lift people off their feet and propel them distances of 3m (10 ft.) or more (Fruin, 1993: 4).

The degeneration of crowd into a "tangled mass of humans" (Fruin, 1993:1) is a matter of the mechanics of crowd dynamics in a context deficient of effective crowd management and control mechanism. Hence the true cause of human stampede does not rest with the crowd per se; it is rather a consequence of systemic failures in respect of space and crowd control cum optimization (Helbing & Mukerji, 2012). As succinctly observes by Fruin (1993:1) "Crowds occur frequently, usually without serious problems. Occasionally venue inadequacies and deficient crowd management result in injuries and fatalities". Indeed, one of the most culpable risk factor in crowd disaster is poor or ineffective utilization of space (Still, 2014). This factor interplays with those of failure of crowd control and crowd restiveness to create physical and psychological scenarios that precipitates human stampede.

**Table 1: Dimensions and Loci of Crowd Disaster**

S/N	Dimension	Locus
1.	Stampede	Mass events; large scale public gatherings: funerals, festivals, rallies, solemnities, etc.
2.	Riot	Political, civil, social mass events: campaigns, sports, etc
3.	Structural and Mechanical mishap	Overcrowded elevated structures; overcrowded boats, elevator, etc.
4.	Terrorist attacks	Public for a of any kind: open markets, religious congregations, crowded public arenas, etc.
5.	Explosion (fire/chemical)	Industrial complexes, congested settlements, commercial centres, public accommodations: hostel, hotel resorts, etc.
6.	Natural mishap (Earthquake, flood, etc)	Vulnerable communities

**Source:** Authors

## 5. International Trajectories of Human Stampede

Human stampede is a global phenomenon. It has occurred severally in various parts of the world over the years, leading to material and human destruction (see Appendix 1). Available information suggests that not much has been written on the subject matter, except the amorphous media reports and features (Anft, 2010), most of which are journalistic and therefore lacking in analytical rigors and fecundity. However, there exists

pockets of scholarly viewpoints and observations that tend to put the international manifestation of human stampede into discursive perspective. The substance of these views is highlighted hereunder:

- (i) Human stampede is a veritable instance of crowd disaster
- (ii) Human stampede is both the cause and effect of public emergency
- (iii) Most incidents of human stampede have occurred in Asia and Africa
- (iv) Religious gatherings have been the worst hit of human stampede
- (v) Human stampede has been a major cause of mass death and injury across the world (Jorgustin, 2012; Anft, 2010; Still, 2014).

A recent search on the Google Map revealed that the five major world's human stampede that occurred between October, 2013 and March, 2014 took place in Asia and Africa (Google Map, 2014 March). This confirms our earlier observation to the effect that human stampede has been most prevalent in the global South, notably Asia and Africa. Table 1 gives insights in this regard.

**Table 2: Recent Human Stampede across the World, October, 2013 - March, 2014**

S/N	Date	Incident
1.	15/03/2014	Stampede kills job seekers on Abuja, Nigeria
2.	12/01/2014	At least 18 persons reportedly killed in a stampede at a funeral in Mumbai, India
3.	05/01/2014	14 person's killed in China mosque stampede
4.	13/11/2013	Deadly church stampede in Anambra, Nigeria
5.	05/10/2013	Deadly toll in Indian Temple stampede rises to 109

**Source:** Google Map: [http:// www. mapreport.com/subtopics/d/3.1](http://www.mapreport.com/subtopics/d/3.1)

Incidentally, two of the five cases of human stampede so reported in Table 1 occurred in Nigeria. This apparent coincidence adumbrates the fact that Nigeria may be gradually drifting into a stampede-prone country. The sub-section that follows reviews some instances of recent manifestation of human stampede in Nigeria with a view to underscoring its implications for national security.

## 6. Human Stampede in Nigeria: An Overview of Recent Occurrences

Human stampede has not been emphasized as a common instance of public emergency in Nigeria until recently. Hence, successive official reports of Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA: 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012) have scarcely reported cases of human stampede in the country. This is not to claim that major occurrences of human stampede have been virtually unknown or un-heard of in Nigeria. The 2010 Star Mega Jam stampede at Abuja was one of the prominently reported cases of human stampede in Nigeria in recent times. In this stampede, a number of fun-seekers were mangled or trampled to death in a headlong crowd crush that occurred at the venue of the popular music festival (*The Nation* online, 2010 December). More recently, three major instances of human stampede had occurred in Nigeria between December, 2013 and March, 2014. A close look at these stampedes would be germane in order to decipher the nature and pattern of such occurrence. This forms the focus of the following sub-sections of the foregoing discourse.

**6.1 The October, 2013 Sallah Gift Stampede at Ilorin:** This incident occurred in October, 2013 at Ilorin where forty seven (47) person's "were trampled to death as they queued up for sallah gift" (*Daily Independent* online, 2013; para 4). A media report has it that the stampede was occasioned by the

desperation of the crowd to gain competitive advantage in respect of the sharing of the *sallah* 'goodies'. The 'wild rush' that ensued in the process resulted in crowd crunch that led to the exhaustion and suffocation of the victims. It would be recalled that similar incidents have occurred in Ilorin in the past. For instance, on May 27, 2011 many people died at the Mandate House, Ilorin as they scrambled for rice and other items dished out as *Sallah* gift (Daily Independence online, 2013).

**6.2 The Anambra Church Stampede of November, 2013:** The incident occurred on Saturday November 2, 2013 at the venue of prayer cum healing crusade organized by the Holy Ghost Adoration Ministry at Uke in Anambra State. The cause of the stampede was controversial and politicized. According to a media report:

The stampede was said to have been provoked by some paid (partisan) agents who shouted 'fire, fire, fire' and prompted congregants to scamper for safety. It was further revealed that the victims died from exhaustion as they were struggling to leave the venue of the crusade through only one exit in the church (*Daily Independent* online, 2013; para 1).

In this incident, more than thirty (30) persons reportedly lost their lives. This is an addition to scores of injured victims, most of whom sustained varying degrees of temporal or permanent morbidity. Corroborated eye witness accounts suggest that the stampede was occasioned by false alarm, which precipitated the wild rush that prompted the stampede. This notwithstanding, it is pertinent to note that the calamity could have been averted if adequate arrangement was put in place to ensure effective control of the mammoth crowd that flocked the arena.

**6.3 The March 2014 Immigration Job Stampede:** The 2014 Immigration job stampede occurred on Saturday March, 2014 during a job recruitment screening organized by the Nigerian Immigration Service. The exercise was concurrently organized in the six geo-political zones of the country, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja. The exercise turned out a tragedy in a number of vernal namely Minna, Port-Harcourt, Benin-City and Abuja. The Abuja venue was the National Stadium Complex. It hosted about seventy thousand (70,000) candidates.

The stampede at the Abuja venue of the job screening occurred when the tumultuous crowd of job-seekers surged through the only entrance to the venue, thereby precipitating large-scale crowd crunch. In the event, a number of lives (controversially put at 18 by corroborated media reports) were lost in addition to scores of injured persons. Other centres, such as those of Minna, Benin-city and Port-Harcourt also recorded human fatalities and injuries of varying proportions. Media reports claim that 7 persons died in Abuja incident while about the same number of deaths was recorded in other venues in this order: Minna (3 persons), Benin-city (2), and Port-Harcourt (5) (Still, 2014). This case of human stampede has again betrayed the failure of crowd management and control in mega mass events in Nigeria.

From the foregoing, a number of salient observations can be made regarding the phenomenon of human stampede in Nigeria:

- i. stampede has occurred largely as a consequence of systemic failures: the failings of event management, of crowd management, of crowd control, of space management and optimization, etc.
- ii. stampede has also occurred as a result of crowd misbehavior or craze; e.g. in the context of scramble for competitive value: preferred seats, vantage positions, material advantage, etc.
- iii. stampede has been a major cause of mass death and injury in contemporary Nigeria.
- iv. stampede has been a veritable cause and effect of crowd disasters in Nigeria.
- v. stampede in Nigeria has mostly affected fun-seekers, job-seekers, arms-seekers, and 'miracle'-seekers.

- vi. occurrence of stampede in Nigeria is likely to be more prevalent in the following years with prominent risk-contexts as: mass political and civil events that may engender riots; mass social and religious events that are essentially deficient in crowd management and control; crowded public arenas and congregations that are susceptible to terrorist attacks; and ill-coordinated crowded scenarios amenable to ‘crowd quake’ or ‘turbulence’ as full density.

### **7. Human Stampede and Nigeria’s National Security: What Implications?**

The new thinking of National Security encompasses both territorial and non-territorial imperatives (Gambo, 2008; Usman, 2012). In tandem, National security has been radically re-conceptualized as ‘human security’ with a view to emphasize the cruciality of the non-military concerns of security of nations (Usman, 2012; Okoli 2014). This new thinking on national security has necessitated the understanding of national security threats in terms of both military and non-military factors. In this connection, disaster typifies a good instance of non-military threat to national security of nations.

Human stampede is an example of contemporary disasters in Nigeria. Its impacts and implications vis-à-vis the national security of Nigeria have been underscored by the extent of human and material destructions that has been associated with its occurrence. The cases we have reviewed in the foregoing discourse, among other things, indicate that human stampede has resulted in a massive human injury as well as appreciable death tolls. This is an addition to material and structural destructions that often accompany such occurrence. The implication of this is that human stampede represents a critical challenge to national security in Nigeria in the contemporary time.

Nigeria vulnerability to crowd disasters, prominent among which is stampede, is expected to rise in the following years. This is in view of the rising prospects of public events involving amassed congregation of ill-controlled crowd. The prospect for mitigating this form of disaster lies with the ability of all stakeholders to ensuring that mass public gatherings are planned and coordinated in such a manner that forecloses the possibility of panic or tension-induced crowd turbulence.

### **8. Conclusion and Recommendations**

Stampede is a typical instance of crowd disaster. It occurs as a result of ‘wild rush’ for entry or exit in mass events characterized by physical congestion, pressure and chaos. The absence or failure of crowd management/control mechanism in such a context complicates the dicey situation, leading to human stampede, death and injury. Major human stampede had sparingly occurred in Nigeria over the years. However, recent indications tend to suggest that this pattern of disaster is becoming apparently prevalent in the country. The extent of human injury and death associated with human stampede in Nigeria had underscored the phenomenon as a veritable threat to public safety in the country. The implication of this is that a human stampede poses a serious danger to national security in Nigeria and must be so treated.

As the way forward, the paper recommends a contingency approach to crowd management as a panacea to the phenomenon under investigation; this approach is capable of forestalling or mitigating the occurrence of crowd disaster in general and human stampedes in particular. The approach would entail:

- (i) Creation of functional mobile clinic in public events centres where mass crowd is anticipated
- (ii) Provision of stationary ambulances(s) at mass events for commuting of medical cases to hospitals
- (iii) Provision of well multiple ‘marked and manned’ emergency entrances and exists in public events centres, for the purpose of rescue passages during the eventuality of crowd disasters
- (iv) Pragmatic crowd control mechanism based on proactive and early-warning techniques to prevent or mitigate the occurrence of crowd disasters

- (v) Optimization of human volume and movements at public events centres to avoid stiff congestion as well as pressure on available space and facilities
- (vi) Public enlightenment on the risk of factors and safety measures concerning crowd disasters in general and stampede in particular.

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**Appendix 1: Major World's Stampedes in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2001-2013)**

- March 5, 2001: Thirty five Hajj pilgrims were trampled to death in a stampede during the Stoning of the Devil ritual in Mina, Saudi Arabia
- April 11, 2001: 43 people were crushed in the Ellis Park Stadium disaster in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- May 9, 2001: 126 killed in a football match between Kumasi Asante Kotoko and Accra Hearts of Oak in Accra Sports Stadium, Ghana after police fired tear gas at rioters.
- 21 July 2001: 11 people killed and 247 injured by a pedestrian stampede after a fireworks show in Akashi, Hyōgo
- December 21, 2001: 7 children, 10 to 14 years of age, were crushed to death due to a stampede on the stairway leading to the entrance of a nightclub in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- February 11, 2003: The Stoning of the Devil ritual claimed 14 pilgrims' lives.<sup>1</sup>
- February 17, 2003: 21 people were killed in the stairway exit to E2, a nightclub in Chicago, after a pepper spray use on an upper-story dance floor.
- February 20, 2003: 100 killed in The Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island, many of them trampled.
- February 4, 2004: At least 37 people were dead with 15 were injured, when a crowd stampede, during Lantern Festival in Mihong Park, Miyun County, Beijing, China.
- February 1, 2004: 251 people were killed at Jamarat Bridge in Mecca during the stoning of the devil.
- April 12, 2004. Lucknow, India. At least 21 women were killed in a stampede after people rushed to collect free sarees. Referred to as Saree Stampede.
- September 1, 2004: Three die in Saudi shop stampede.
- January 2005: 265 people were killed as Hindu pilgrims stampede near a remote temple in Maharashtra, India.
- August 31, 2005: 1000 people were killed in a Baghdad bridge stampede
- December 2005: 42 people were killed as flood relief supplies were handed out to homeless refugees in southern India.
- January 12, 2006: 345 killed at Jamarat Bridge in Mecca during the stoning of the devil.
- February 4, 2006: 78 people were killed in the PhilSports Arena stampede in the Philippines. The place was the location of the first year anniversary of ABS-CBN's Wowowee.
- September 12, 2006: 51 killed and more than 200 injured at a stampede in Ibb Governorate, Yemen.
- June 2, 2007: 12 people were killed during a stampede at the end of a football game between Zambia and Republic of Congo in Chililabombwe, Zambia.
- October 3, 2007: At least 14 women were crushed to death at a train station in northern India
- October 5, 2007: After a crowd of 15,000 watched a public execution in a stadium in Suncheon, North Korea, 6 people were crushed to death and 34 injured
- November 11, 2007: 3 people were killed and more than 30 injured at the Supermarket Carrefour in Chongqing, China when the shop was offering 20% discounts on cooking oil
- March 27, 2008: 8 people were killed and 10 injured at an Indian temple crush during a pilgrimage.
- June 20, 2008: At least 12 people were killed and 13 injured at a Mexico City nightclub stampede during a police raid
- August 3, 2008: At least 162 people were killed and 47 injured in a stampede at the Naina Devi temple in Himachal Pradesh in mountainous northern India after a rain shelter collapsed, which worshipers mistakenly took to be a landslide.
- September 14, 2008: At least 11 people were killed when a riot was dispersed by tear gas during a football match in Butembo, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- September 30, 2008: 147 people were killed during the Chamunda Devi stampede at the Chamunda Devi temple in Jodhpur, India. The tragedy was caused by a rumor that a bomb was planted in the temple complex. Local authorities, however, blamed steep, slippery slopes leading to the temple.
- October 2, 2008: About 20 children died in a stampede in an overcrowded children's dance hall in Tanzania.
- March 29, 2009: The Houphouët-Boigny Arena stampede. 19 people killed and 130 injured in a stampede at a football stadium in Côte d'Ivoire as fans try to squeeze into the stadium for a World Cup qualifier.
- March 4, 2010: At least 71 killed and over 200 injured at Ram Janki Temple, in Kunda, India, in a stampede after the gates of the temple collapsed.
- May 4, 2010: 63 people were injured when a panic-driven stampede broke out during the Remembrance of the Dead ceremony on Dam Square, Amsterdam.
- June 6, 2010: 14 people were injured when fans rushed to get inside Makulong Stadium after free tickets were given out to a friendly soccer match between Nigeria and North Korea.
- July 24, 2010: The Love Parade disaster, in which 21 people were killed and more than 500 were injured during a mass panic at the Love Parade in Duisburg, Germany.
- November 22, 2010: A stampede during a water festival near Cambodia's royal palace in Phnom Penh killed at least 347 people.
- January 15, 2011: 102 people died and 100 were injured during a stampede near Sabarimala temple in Kerala, India.
- January 15, 2011: 3 girls died, 14 people injured in a panic-driven stampede in a Budapest discothèque during a party.
- November 8, 2011: 16 people were killed at Haridwar, India during a religious ceremony in the banks of Ganges river.
- January 1, 2013: 60 dead, including 26 children, and more than 200 injured in a stampede at the Stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny during a New Year's fireworks celebration in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
- January 1, 2013: 10 people were killed and 120 injured in Luanda, Angola, as they tried to enter the overcrowded Estádio da Cidadela for a New Year's Eve vigil.
- January 23, 2013: at least 242 people were killed and 168 injured as a result of a nightclub fire at the city of Santa Maria, south region of Brazil. According to local authorities the fire begun on stage after members of the band flared a pyrotechnic device that ignited flammable acoustic foam in the ceiling. Additional to the fire, other reasons for the high death toll included the lack of emergency exits and the excessive number of people present
- February 10, 2013: during the Hindu festival Kumbh Mela, a stampede broke out at the train station in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, killing 36 people and injuring 39.
- October 13, 2013: during the Hindu festival Navratri, a stampede broke out near the Ratangarh Mata Temple in Datia district, Madhya Pradesh, India, killing 115 people and injuring more than 100.
- **Source:** *Culled from Wikipedia* (2014, March; cf. references).