



NEWS SITUATION TRACKING - NIGERIA

FLOODING IN NIGERIA

Vol. 2

Location : NIGERIA

Issue: 48 people (including 3 females and 7 children) dead and 52 injured victims².

Date: July 11, 2023.

COMMUNITY PROFILING

CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

INCIDENT PROFILING

Population: Nigeria has a population of over 216,746,934³.

Basic Demography and Geography of Hotspots:

Nigeria shares land borders with Chad, Cameroun, Niger, the Republic of Benin, and the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean. The country has 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). There are 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) divided across six (6) geo-political zones.

The release of excess water from the Lagdo Dam in neighbouring Republic of Cameroon bordering Nigerian communities along the courses of River Niger and River Benue have contributed to the recurrent flooding in the country.

Ethnicity: Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups with Hausa-Fulani, Igbo, and Yoruba in the majority.⁴

2022 flood-related deaths in Nigeria:

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) indicated that over 4,476,867 million people were affected by flooding in 2022, 2,437,411 million people internally displaced, 944,989 farmlands

Direct Actors:

Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMet), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Nigeria Hydrological Service Agency (NHSA).

Affected Persons:

Community residents, shop, and business premises in the affected states.

Interested Actors:

Federal Government of Nigeria, State Governments, National Council on Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Water Resources, Federal Ministry of Environment, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hydro Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC) Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ogun-Osun River Basin Development Authority (OORBDA), Nigerian Red Cross Society (NCRS), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Federal Fire Service, State Fire and Rescue Services, Flying Doctors

The recurrent annual flood disaster remains a major environmental security threat in Nigeria. The disaster is linked to climate change, particularly in increased frequency and intensity of rainfall, and aggravated by inadequate or non-existent drainage facilities, release of dam water, improper waste disposal, and deforestation coupled with compliance challenges with town planning regulations.

As part of the Federal Government's preparedness and mitigation strategies, the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMet), Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), since January 2023 till date, intensified its early warning forecast on the imminent flood threat in the country. The NIHSA predicted that 187 LGAs in 32 States of the country and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), will experience severe flooding in 2023⁵. Further reports also revealed that 66 Local Government Areas (LGAs) are at high risk of flood in April to June 2023; 148 LGAs in July to September; and 100 LGAs in October and November. In addition, 41 LGAs fall within the moderate flood risk areas in April to June 2023; 199 LGAs in July to September and 72 LGAs in October and November respectively⁷. Also, forecast on the threat of coastal flooding looms in Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Ogun, River, Ondo, Edo, and Lagos State due to the rise in sea level⁸.

Despite these climate projections, communities across States have begun to experience the devastating impact of flood with recorded human, environmental and infrastructural losses. Between January 26 and July 4, 2023, the WANEP NEWS recorded 64 flooding incidents occasioned by heavy rainfall and ocean surge in 22 States. An occurrence of ocean surge in the coastal community of Ayetoro in Ilaje Council Area of Ondo State resulted in the internal displacement of 200 households in April 2023⁹.

Also, between March and July 4, 2023, the WANEP's National Early Warning System (NEWS) documented a total of 48 flood-related deaths (including 7

¹ <https://www.google.com/search?xsrf=ALeKk024W2QdV9kevut8o3P0hTqEE6K5dQ:1602836211476&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=map+of+Nigeria&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjQ:5GY1rjsAhURCWMBHXBQDDQQA6BAG8EHE&biw=899&bih=578>

² www.wanep.news/org

³ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1122838/population-of-nigeria/>

⁴ www.wanep.news/org

⁵ [https://sunnewsline.com/floods-killed-665-displaced-4-8m-persons-in-2022-nema/#:~:text=National%20Emergency%20Management%20Agency%20\(NEMA,665%20deaths%20recorded%20in%202022,](https://sunnewsline.com/floods-killed-665-displaced-4-8m-persons-in-2022-nema/#:~:text=National%20Emergency%20Management%20Agency%20(NEMA,665%20deaths%20recorded%20in%202022,)

⁶ https://primenewsline.com/posts/2023-flood-predictions-unsettle-farmers-in-anambra-state-341?_s=www.google.com

⁷ [https://sunnewsline.com/floods-killed-665-displaced-4-8m-persons-in-2022-nema/#:~:text=National%20Emergency%20Management%20Agency%20\(NEMA,665%20deaths%20recorded%20in%202022,](https://sunnewsline.com/floods-killed-665-displaced-4-8m-persons-in-2022-nema/#:~:text=National%20Emergency%20Management%20Agency%20(NEMA,665%20deaths%20recorded%20in%202022,)

⁸ <https://www.icirnigeria.org/32-states-at-risk-of-heavy-flooding-in-2023-fg/>

⁹ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/04/ocean-surge-sacks-200-households-in-ondo/>

damaged, and 355,986 houses destroyed. Also, a total of 665 deaths and 3,181 injuries were recorded in Nigeria in the period⁵.

Nigeria, Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPADDEC), National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NDDC), National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA).

children and 3 females) and over 52 injured victims in Kogi, Ekiti, Ondo, Ogun, Lagos, Delta, Taraba, Abia, Yobe, Katsina, Jigawa, Anambra, Enugu, FCT-Abuja, and Kebbi States¹⁰. An assessment of the flood damage shows that several buildings, electricity facilities, bridges and farmlands were impacted in varying degrees. In the reporting period, a cumulative total of 2,411 houses/rooms, 2 bridges and several hectares of farmland were damaged in Ondo, Imo, Kwara, Ekiti, Lagos, Kebbi, Katsina, Jigawa, FCT-Abuja, Niger, and Yobe States, amongst other states as documented by the WANEP NEWS¹¹.

Besides, the flooding incidents have also led to acceleration of the formation of gully erosion in several parts of the country including Kebbi and States (particularly Abia and Anambra) in the South-East Region, resulting in the corrosion of road surfaces, loss of farmlands and houses.

To avert the annual cycle of flood disaster, State Governments have continued to issue early warning alerts to flood prone and coastal communities across States to temporarily and/or outrightly relocate to safe locations due to the increase in rainfall. For instance, due to the frequent flooding and its impact in Trademore Estate of FCT-Abuja, the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) is set to demolish buildings in the estate hosting about 2,000 housing units¹². The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has indicated that most structures in the estate were built along waterways and drainage channels, declaring the area a disaster zone¹³. Prior to the demolition pronouncement, 4 people were reported dead, 166 houses and 26 vehicles destroyed in the flood incident in Trademore Estate, Lugbe District of the FCT-Abuja on June 23, 2023¹⁴.

The planned demolition exercise which is expected to internally displace over 40,000 residents in the affected area¹⁵ resulted in series of peaceful demonstrations.¹⁶ The protesters have demanded that the government seek alternative solutions including improving drainage facilities to mitigate the risk of flooding rather than demolishing the housing structures.

RISK ANALYSIS

- The increasing rate of casualties, property destruction and disruption of human settlements emanating from flood-related disaster in Nigeria can be attributed to inadequate flood preventive measures and control by the respective agencies, failure of communities to heed to early warning alerts to vacate flood prone areas, ineffective waste management schemes and weak implementation of urban planning laws.
- Besides the humanitarian consequences, the perennial flood increases the risk of an outbreak of waterborne diseases, such as cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, hepatitis A. Most rural communities still rely on rivers, streams, water ponds and unprotected wells as source of drinking water, which is vulnerable to waterborne diseases during flooding. Since January 2023, over 13 States in Nigeria including Abia, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Kano, Katsina, Niger, Ondo, Osun, Sokoto and Zamfara have reported suspected cholera cases.

¹⁰ www.wanep.news/org

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² <https://gazettengr.com/fcta-begins-demolition-of-trademore-estate-lugbe/>; <https://thewhistler.ng/rights-group-leads-protest-to-fcta-over-planned-demolition-of-trademore-estate/>

¹³ <https://leadership.ng/flooding-fcta-declares-trademore-estate-disaster-zone/>

¹⁴ <https://punchng.com/four-dead-166-houses-destroyed-in-abuja-estate-flood/>

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/07/11/huriwa-leads-protesters-against-planned-demolition-of-trademore-estate>

- The increasing frequency and severity of floods across the country poses severe threats to food security in the affected States. Some farming communities in affected States have reported incidents of farmland and crop destruction due to flood. This presents a potential setback to attaining Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) towards ending hunger by 2030. Moreover, the indiscriminate depletion of the forest cover and coastlines for settlement and other economic reasons increases the vulnerability of communities to flooding and other disasters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Federal and State Governments should increase funding and capacity building support to relevant disaster management agencies including the National/State Emergency Management Agency (N/SEMA) to effectively tackle flood disasters and its negative impact through sensitization campaigns, relief support to affected victims and disaster preparedness and response in local communities and States. The submission of each States' flood vulnerability status report as requested by the Federal Government would further enhance adequate support to flood-prone communities.
- State Governments should improve collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the development of State level contingency and disaster preparedness operation plan critical for prompt emergency response including enhancing communities' resilience to limit the impact of flood disaster through clearing of drainage systems, construction of flood embankments and/or temporary relocation. This collaboration should stimulate coordination and accountability by both government and non-government actors responding to emergency at the State level.
- The intervention by the Federal and State Government in the enforcement of town planning regulations including demolition of buildings along waterways and drainage channels, though a reactive approach, should be supported with the construction of flood control structures in partnership with disaster management agencies in a bid to mitigate the impact of flood in the high risk States.