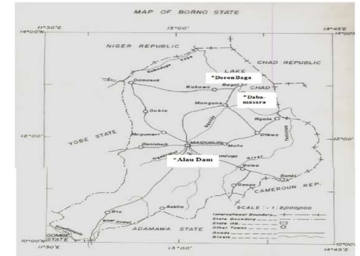# NEWS SITUATION TRACKING - NIGERIA

FLOOD DISASTER UPDATE IN BORNO
Vol. 2

Location: BORNO STATE

Issue: *37 PEOPLE DEAD, 58 INJURED AND OVER 414,000 PEOPLE DISPLACED IN FLOOD DISASTER IN NIGERIA*

Date: *SEPTEMBER 9, 2024*

COMMUNITY PROFILING	CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS	INCIDENT PROFILING
Population: Borno State has a population of 6,651,590 people (2023 population). **Basic Demography:** The state is bordered by Yobe to the West, Gombe to the South-West and Adamawa to the South. Its eastern border forms part of the national border with Cameroon. **LGA:** It comprises of 27 Local Government Areas. **Ethnicity:** The State has ethnic groups including include; Kanuri, Hausa, Shuwa, Bura, Marghiand Fulani. 2023 flood related incidents in Borno State: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) indicated that (NEMA) over 2,472 people were affected in August 2023, 533 people internally displaced, 381 properties including School	**Direct Actors:** Community residents. **Affected Persons:** Community residents, shops, hospitals, schools, markets and business premises in the affected state. **Interested Actors:** Federal Government of Nigeria, State Government, Nigeria Hydrological Service Agency (NIHSA), Nigeria Meteorological Agency (Nimet), The World Food Programme (WFP), National and State Emergency Management Agency, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, International Rescue Committee (IRC), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), The United Nations (UN), Ministry of Environment, Federal and	The recurring annual flood disaster in Nigeria continue to pose a significant environmental security threat. This is closely linked to climate change, which has led to more frequent and intense rainfall. The situation is worsened by inadequate or non-existent drainage systems, the release of dam water, improper waste disposal, deforestation and challenges in adhering to town planning regulations. As part of the Federal Government's preparedness and mitigation strategies for the 2024 Annual Flood Outlook, the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) had 148 Local Governemt Areas (LGAs) across 31 states, as being at high risk of flooding, while 35 states, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), with 249 LGAs, are classified under moderate flood risk[2]. Between August and September 2024, Borno State witnessed significant flooding occasioned by heavy rainfall that has devastated various communities with recorded human, environmental and infrastructural losses. On 9 September 2024, the collapse of Alau dam on the Ngadda River in Konduga LGA of Borno State resulted in severe flooding in Maiduguri LGA. The Borno State Governor, Babagana Zulum and environmentalists have linked the dam's collapse to the government's decade-long negligence. This incident marks the first time the Alau Dam has overflowed since 2012. The flood caused extensive damage to private and public infrastructure, crops and shelters, severely affecting livelihoods and displacing several households[3]. However, the Federal Government has refuted the reports of the Alau dam collapse, stating that a dyke which could no longer hold the excess water led to a spill over and subsequent overflow of the dam[4]. Between 9 and 11 September, 2024, the WANEP's National Early Warning System (NEWS) documented a total of 37 flood-related deaths including

[2] https://dailytrust.com/2024-flood-alerts-towards-disaster-mitigation/

[3] https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-flood-situation-report-1-borno-state-13-september-2024

[4] https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/09/no-dam-collapsed-fg-explains-maiduguri-flood/

and IDP camps damaged in Ngala LGA of Borno State[1].	State Ministries of Health, State Building Control Agency, Ministry of Urban and Physical Planning, World Health Organisation, Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Civil Society Organisations.	children and females and over 58 injured victims in Borno State. An assessment of the flood damage shows that several buildings, electricity, bridges, heathcare facilities and farmlands were impacted in varying degrees. Also,several wild animals, including crocodiles and snakes escaped from their enclosures in the Maiduguri zoo, as a result of the flooding[5]

Over 414,000 people have been internally displaced and rendered homeless particularly in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) and Jere LGAs. other affected areas include Bama, Damboa, Damasak, Gwoza, Kala Balge and Mafa LGAs of Borno State in the reporting period[6].

Over 40 percent of Maiduguri town, accounting for an estimated population of over 870,000, have been submerged by flood, including the Muna and Jere IDP camps, with a combined population of approximately 230,000. Preliminary assessment conducted by the Borno state government showed that more than one-third of Maiduguri LGA was flooded, with an estimated two million people affected[7]. Efforts to evacuate and relocate those impacted by the flood are currently ongoing[8].

The disaster has had a significant devastating impact on key public institutions, including the State Secretariat, several primary and secondary schools, the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH), the Nigerian Postal Service office, the Sanda Kyarimi Park Zoo and traditional institutions such as the Palace of the Shehu of Borno,[9].

In addition, the flooding incident led to security concerns with 281 inmates escaping from the Maiduguri Medium Security Custodial Centre, as confirmed by the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS)[10].

Subsequently, the floodwaters have caused further distressing issues, such as damage to Gwange Cemetery, resulting in the exhumation of remains with corpse floating on the streets.According to the United Nations Human Rights Refugee Council, this flooding represents the most severe event in the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council in the past 30 years, affecting 23,000 households and destroying thousands of hectares of farmlands in the State[11].

RESPONSE BY ACTORS

- To mitigate the current situation in Borno State, relevant stakeholders are implementing a swift and multi-faceted response involving various agencies. This collaborative effort include the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Air Force (NAF), Borno State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and other emergency response units, all working together to provide critical assistance to affected communities.
- Notably, 719 trapped victims have been rescued as of September 12, 2024.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has pledged support to address these health challenges, deploying four mobile clinics to IDP camps and providing essential medicines and medical supplies.

---

[1] https://dtm.iom.int/reports/nigeria-heavy-rainfall-flash-report-ngala-lga-borno-state-11-august-2023

[5] https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-floods-maiduguri-mmc-and-jere-floods-flash-update-1-10-september-2024
[6] www.wanep.news/org

[7] https://www.thecable.ng/over-two-million-persons-affected-by-maiduguri-flood-says-zulum/
[8] https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-floods-maiduguri-mmc-and-jere-floods-flash-update-1-10-september-2024
[9] https://www.thecable.ng/over-two-million-persons-affected-by-maiduguri-flood-says-zulum/
[10] https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria/metro/281-inmates-escape-from-prison-after-borno-flood-ncs/
[11] https://dailytrust.com/borno-flood-over-30-confirmed-dead-1m-affected/

Situation Tracking is a periodic analytical report designed by WANEP through its National Early 2
Warning System (NEWS) to monitor the changing trends of specific conflict threats as civil society
support to peace and security in Nigeria

The WHO and partners are working closely with the Borno State Government to address these health concerns, providing critical technical and operational support to mitigate the health impacts of the flood.

- In addition to government-led efforts, the private sector has also contributed to the relief efforts. The Chief Executive Officer of Dangote Group has donated N2 billion to the Borno State Government to support those affected by the flood.
- Of the 281 escapees from the Maiduguri Medium Security Custodial Centre, 7 have been recaptured by security agents and are in the custody of the NCoS. Furthermore, overt and covert assets have been deployed by security agencies to apprehend the escaped inmates.
- The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has commenced humanitarian operations, transporting relief materials donated by the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) to the NAF Base in Maiduguri. The consignment, consisting of 300 bags of 50-kilogramme rice, is specifically intended to alleviate the losses incurred by the flood-affected population.

RISK ANALYSIS:

The flood disaster has had a devastating impact, displacing over 414,000 people and resulting in 37 fatalities and 58 injuries. Approximately 1,000,000 residents in the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) and Jere LGAs are significantly affected, facing immense humanitarian challenges in the state.

The flooding has severely damaged homes, farmlands and crops, leading to widespread school closures and significantly impacting the economic livelihoods of the communities, alongside critical infrastructure and essential facilities. This situation poses a grave threat, particularly to the education of children in a region already grappling with insecurity. With schools shut down, many children are left with no access to education, further exacerbating an already challenging environment. The loss of learning opportunities hinders their academic progress and increases their vulnerability to exploitation and recruitment by armed groups.

Moreso, the persistent flooding has heightened the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks, including cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, and hepatitis A. Many rural communities rely on rivers, streams, and unprotected wells for drinking water, making them highly susceptible to rapid disease transmission, especially in overcrowded Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, where vulnerable populations such as women, children and the elderly are particularly at risk. Compounding these challenges, wild animals from a nearby zoo, including snakes, crocodiles, and ostriches, have fled into affected areas, adding danger and fear for residents who are already in a precarious situation.

In the light of this ongoing crisis in Borno State, where humanitarian challenges are critical due to widespread displacement, the government's efforts to provide temporary shelters are crucial. Many families have lost their homes and are in urgent need of safe living conditions. Equally important is the provision of medical supplies and care for affected individuals, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly, who are at greater risk. Given that Borno is the epicenter of terrorist attacks and armed group violence, enhancing security in the region is crucial to protect these vulnerable populations and facilitate effective humanitarian efforts.

<u>**RECOMMENDATIONS**</u>

- The Federal and State Governments should develop and implement comprehensive disaster risk reduction and management strategies. Resilient infrastructure and flood control measures should be invested alongside the enhancement of community preparedness and awareness through education, training and strengthening early warning systems and emergency response protocols.

- The State Government, in collaboration with the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), should prioritize strengthening the community through training programs focused on disaster preparedness and response to enhance resilience for future events. Additionally, there is a critical need to establish effective early warning and response systems to alert communities about impending flood. This dual approach will empower communities and improve their ability to respond to emergencies.
- The State Government should Implement mobile schools or temporary learning spaces to provide education for children. Also, offer training and resources for teachers to adapt to emergency teaching conditions, focusing on psychosocial support.