

NEWS SITUATION TRACKING - NIGERIA



FLOOD DISASTER UPDATE IN NIGER STATE

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Vol. 3

Location: NIGER STATE

Issue: 209 PEOPLE DEAD, 121 INJURED AND OVER 3,000,000 PEOPLE DISPLACED IN FLOOD DISASTER IN NIGERIA

Date: MAY 29, 2025

COMMUNITY PROFILING	CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS	INCIDENT PROFILING
<p>Population: The population projection for Niger State in (2025) is about 7.5 million people.²</p> <p>Basic Demography: Niger State in Nigeria is bordered by Kogi, Kwara, Kaduna, Kebbi, and Zamfara States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). It also shares an international border with the Republic of Benin.³</p> <p>LGA: It comprises of 25 Local Government Areas.</p> <p>Ethnicity: The State has ethnic groups include; Nupe, Gbagyi, Hausa (major); Kadara, Koro and Kambari.</p>	<p>Direct Actors: Community residents.</p> <p>Affected Persons: Community residents, shops, hospitals, schools, markets, bridges and business premises in the affected state.</p> <p>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,</p>	<p>In May 2025, Niger State experienced severe flooding, triggered by intense and prolonged rainfall, and exacerbated by flash floods. The resulting overflow caused widespread devastation across multiple communities, leading to significant human casualties, environmental degradation, and extensive damage to homes, farmlands, and infrastructure. The disaster severely disrupted livelihoods and displaced thousands of residents.</p> <p>As part of the Federal Government's preparedness and mitigation strategies for the 2025 Annual Flood Outlook, the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) identified 30 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) as likely to be affected by flooding, placing more than 1,200 communities at high risk. Additionally, 2,187 communities across 293 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in 31 states and the FCT are projected to face a moderate flood risk.⁴</p> <p>Between May and June 2025, WANEP NEWS documented a flood incident in Niger State that significantly devastated various communities, resulting in human, environmental, and infrastructural losses.</p> <p>On 24 and 29 May 2025, 209 people including women and children were reported dead and 121 others injured following a flood incident occasioned by heavy rainfall along the Lapai-Gulu Road in Lapai and Mokwa LGAs of Niger State.⁵ The flood caused extensive damage to</p>

¹ <https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/Niger%20State%20Bureau%20of%20Statistics-%20Socio%20Economic%20Survey%202014.pdf>

² <https://naijadetails.com/niger-state-population/>

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger_State

⁴ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/04/2025-annual-flood-outlook-1249-communities-176-lgs-30-states-at-high-risk/>

⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

International Rescue Committee (IRC), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), The United Nations (UN), Ministry of Environment, Federal and State Ministries of Health, State Building Control Agency, Ministry of Urban and Physical Planning, World Health Organisation, Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Civil Society Organisations. ActionAid Nigeria (AAN).

private and public infrastructure, crops, and shelters, severely affecting livelihoods and displacing several households.

On 14 June 2025, several people were reportedly displaced, and multiple properties including houses submerged during a flood incident caused by heavy rainfall in Kpautagi Community, Mokwa LGA of Niger State.⁶ Eleven houses were submerged, properties lost, and a bridge and culvert were also swept away in the incident.

RESPONSE BY ACTORS

- To mitigate the current situation in Niger State, relevant stakeholders are implementing a swift and multi-faceted response involving various agencies, such as The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), in collaboration with the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Niger State Government, has been deployed to the affected areas. Distribution of relief materials has commenced under the directive of the Director General of NEMA to provide immediate assistance to victims.
- The Federal Government, under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has donated N2 billion and 20 trucks of grains to support flood victims. The administration also pledged to assist in rebuilding communities devastated by the disaster.
- As part of federal intervention, President Tinubu has ordered the Federal Ministry of Works to begin immediate repairs of the collapsed Mokwa Bridge, a vital transport link between Northern and Southern Nigeria. This directive followed an assessment visit by a federal delegation to the affected areas in Mokwa.
- In a separate gesture, Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State donated N300 million to support victims of the Mokwa flood disaster.
- Additionally, the Niger State Government has acknowledged receiving donations from prominent politicians and stakeholders to bolster efforts in mitigating the impact of the floods and aiding recovery in affected communities.

⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

RISK ANALYSIS:

The disaster has significantly affected communities in the state, creating dire humanitarian conditions and overwhelming local response efforts. The floods have devastated residential areas, farmlands, and food crops, severely impacting food security and disrupting the livelihoods of thousands of people who depend on agriculture for survival. This destruction has led to rising hunger and economic hardship in affected communities. In addition to the damage, the floods have forced the closure of schools, depriving children of access to education. In regions already burdened by insecurity, this disruption leaves children more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and recruitment by armed groups. The prolonged absence of structured learning environments also threatens long-term development and social stability.

One of the major contributing factors to the scale of destruction is the absence of functional drainage systems in many parts of the communities. Poor urban planning, blocked waterways, and inadequate infrastructure have severely impeded the natural flow of water, leading to rapid accumulation and overflow during heavy rainfall.

Public health concerns are at risk of escalating due to post-flood conditions, particularly the accumulation of stagnant water, which creates a conducive environment for the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, diarrhea, and hepatitis A. In many rural communities, reliance on untreated surface water from rivers and open wells increases vulnerability to infection. These risks are even more severe in overcrowded Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, where limited access to clean water, sanitation, and healthcare disproportionately affects children, women, and the elderly face limited access to sanitation and medical care.

Moreover, women and girls in displacement camps remain highly vulnerable to rape and sexual exploitation due to inadequate protection measures, poor lighting, and lack of privacy in temporary shelters. The absence of gender-sensitive response mechanisms further exposes them to abuse, compounding their trauma and sense of insecurity. Given the already fragile security situation in the state, there is an urgent need to strengthen security measures to protect displaced populations and ensure the safe, timely, and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Federal and State Governments should strengthen existing disaster risk early warning systems to enhance proactive responses to environmental disasters and mitigate their impact on human security. This includes investing in timely data collection, community-based alert mechanisms, and effective coordination among emergency response agencies to ensure rapid and targeted interventions.
- The State Government, in collaboration with the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), should strengthen partnerships with health institutions and enhance their capacity to provide essential health support to affected populations.
- The State Government should provide emergency shelter, food, water, and hygiene kits; deploy mobile health services; set up temporary learning centers; strengthen security in IDP camps to protect vulnerable groups; and restore drainage and basic infrastructure to prevent further risks.
- The State Government, in partnership with non-state actors, should continue sensitisation on weather forecasts using local languages to ensure understanding, and provide training in disaster preparedness to build resilience.