

FLOODING IN LAGOS STATE

(JUNE 2026)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT, PEACE AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS, AND COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR WANEP-NIGERIA



PROLONGED RAINS.
RISING RISKS.
STRONGER TOGETHER
FOR RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES.



WANEP - NIGERIA



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The flooding resulted from a combination of natural and human-induced factors, including:

- Prolonged and exceptionally heavy rainfall
- Lagos' low-lying coastal geography
- High tidal levels that delayed stormwater discharge into the Atlantic Ocean
- Blocked drainage channels caused by indiscriminate waste disposal
- Illegal land reclamation and construction on drainage alignments and wetlands
- Rapid urbanisation and increasing pressure on drainage infrastructure
- The growing impacts of climate change, resulting in more frequent and intense rainfall events



Floodwaters submerged major highways including sections of the Lagos-Ibadan, Lagos-Abeokuta, Apapa-Oshodi and Lekki-Epe Expressways, causing severe traffic congestion and disrupting movement across the metropolis.



The flooding affected the temporary international terminal of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, forcing a temporary suspension of operations. Electricity supply was disrupted after floodwaters affected the Oworonshoki 133/33KV and threatened the Lekki 330/132KV Transmission Substation.



Government emergency agencies, including NEMA, LASEMA and the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, conducted joint flood impact assessments and initiated emergency response and recovery activities.



HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

- Temporary displacement of households
- Damage to residential buildings and household property
- Flooding of business premises and commercial facilities
- Damage to private vehicles and public transport infrastructure
- Disruption of livelihoods of traders, artisans, transport operators and informal workers
- Reduced access to schools, healthcare facilities and essential services
- Increased humanitarian needs among vulnerable households



Many residents remained indoors as roads became impassable, while businesses suffered considerable financial losses.



EFFECT ON WOMEN, CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

WOMEN

- Destroyed assets and small businesses
- Increased caregiving responsibilities
- Limited access to maternal and reproductive healthcare
- Increased exposure to protection risks and gender-based violence
- Reduced household income

CHILDREN

- Disruption of school attendance
- Exposure to drowning hazards
- Higher risk of waterborne diseases (cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid)
- Exposure to contaminated water and pollution
- Psychological distress

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Older persons and persons with disabilities faced mobility challenges, limited healthcare access and increased dependence on assistance.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Temporary closure of businesses
- Loss of daily income among transport operators, traders and artisans
- Increased transportation costs
- Damage to commercial goods and business premises
- High repair costs for flooded vehicles
- Reduced productivity due to traffic congestion
- Temporary disruption of airport operations and electricity supply



Cumulative economic losses further increased financial pressure on households already affected by rising living costs.



PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

Floodwaters mixed with sewage, refuse and contaminants, exposing residents to:

- Cholera
- Typhoid fever
- Diarrhoeal diseases
- Malaria (stagnant water)
- Skin infections
- Environmental pollution and poor sanitation



The incident highlighted the need for sustained disease surveillance and public health interventions.



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACT

- Damage to roads and drainage systems
- Temporary closure of airport sections
- Flooding of electricity transmission substations
- Increased pressure on emergency response infrastructure
- Temporary inaccessibility of several communities



The incident reinforced concerns about the adequacy of existing drainage infrastructure amid increasing rainfall intensity.



PEACE AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS



Increased humanitarian needs capable of generating community grievances if relief distribution is perceived as inequitable



Growing public dissatisfaction over recurring flooding and inadequate drainage infrastructure



Increased competition for humanitarian assistance and recovery resources



Increased opportunities for theft and other criminal activities in affected communities



Increased pressure on emergency response institutions



Potential public protests over environmental governance and service delivery failures



Increased vulnerability of low-income households to future shocks



Without sustained mitigation measures, recurring urban flooding may contribute to social tensions and undermine public confidence in government institutions.



GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- ✓ Continuous monitoring of affected communities
- ✓ Maintenance dredging of primary drainage channels
- ✓ Emergency drainage clearance operations
- ✓ Public advisories on flood safety
- ✓ Environmental enforcement against drainage obstructions



NEMA and LASEMA conducted joint flood impact assessments. The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) restored electricity supply. Public awareness campaigns on sanitation, waste disposal and flood preparedness were intensified.



KEY RECOMMENDATION AREAS



Structural Mitigation and Urban Infrastructure



Disaster Preparedness and Early Warning



Environmental Management and Public Awareness



Public Health and Humanitarian Protection



Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure



Peacebuilding, Climate Resilience and Early Warning

Collaborative, multi-stakeholder action is essential for a resilient and peaceful Lagos.