**NEWS SITUATION TRACKING – 28 DEATHS, 19 INJURIES AND 1,550 HOUSES DESTROYED IN UPPER EAST FLOODS**

**Location:** Upper East Region, Ghana  
**Issue:** Flooding  
**Date:** October, 2019

**Population:**  
The Upper East Region has a population estimate of **1,046,545** comprising Males: **506,405** (48.4%), Females: **540,140** (51.6%) (Population Census, 2010)^1

**Basic Demography and Geography of Hotspots:**  
The Upper East Region of Ghana is located in the northeastern part of Ghana. It is bordered by Burkina Faso in the north and Togo in the east. It also shares border with Sissala, Upper West, in the west and Mamprusi, Northern Region, in the south. Bolgatanga is the capital city of the Upper East Region. In terms of area size, the Upper East Region is 8842 square kilometers.^2

**Ethnicity:**

**Direct Actor:**  
Nature: Rainfall

**Affected Persons:**  
Men, Women and Children in the affected Communities

**Interested Actors:**  
- The Ghana Police Service, National  
- Disaster Management

**INCIDENT PROFILING**

Heavy rains for eight continuous days in the Upper East Region of Ghana have caused havoc, as a number people have lost their lives, several others injured, houses destroyed, while many others have been displaced. The Ghana Meteorological Agency has since the beginning of the year, warned about potential increase in the frequency of rainfall. They therefore issued several warnings, pertaining particularly the Northern Regions.^5

So far, 28 persons have been confirmed dead with 19 injured. Also, 1,550 houses and several farmlands have been destroyed by the floods across the 15 districts of the region^6

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^2 ibid  
^3 See The Daily Graphic, Thursday October 17, 2019, Page 3, 20 die in Upper East Floods. Death tolls could rise  
The main ethnic groups in the region are the Mole-Dagbon, Grusi, Mande-Busanga and Gurma. There are other ethnic groups such as the Kassena among the Grusi, the Busanga among the Mande-Busanga and the Bimoba among the Gurma.

**Significance of the State Economy:**
The region's economy is based on agriculture, primarily cattle and cereals such as millet, sorghum and rice. The region is also known for its handicrafts and a locally brewed beer known as Pito. The main occupations in the region, in order of magnitude are agriculture and related work (65.9%), production and transport equipment work (14.5%), sales work (9.5%) service work (3.9%), and professional, technical and related work 3.8 per cent.³

**Politics:**
The region is administered politically from Bolgatanga. The main administrative structure at the regional level is the Regional Co-ordinating Council (RCC), headed by the Regional Minister. Other members of the RCC include representatives from each district assembly, regional heads of decentralized ministries, and representatives of the Regional House of Chiefs. There is also effective traditional leadership and vibrant youth development associations which play a crucial role in mobilization of local resources and other socio-economic activities in the region.

**Religion:**
Three main religious groupings are found in the region, namely the Traditional (46.4%), Christianity (28.3%) and Islam (22.6%). Builsa has the highest proportion of Traditionalists (63.7%) followed by Bawku West (61.9%). The lowest proportion (26.8%) is in Bawku

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East where Islam (51.1%) is the predominate religion. Further floods in other parts of the country.4

RECOMMENDATIONS

• The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) should intensify collaboration with relevant stakeholders including, District Assemblies, Red Cross, NGOs, security agencies (Police and Military) to reach out to the affected populations in communities and support them with relief material;
• The Upper East Regional Health Directorate should also intensify partnership with NADMO, District Assemblies, local NGOs and other stakeholders to provide healthcare assistance to the victims in the affected communities. This must be linked with strengthening community and regional health early warning systems against potential outbreak of diseases.

References
4. WANEP-Ghana National Early Warning System (NEWS)

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