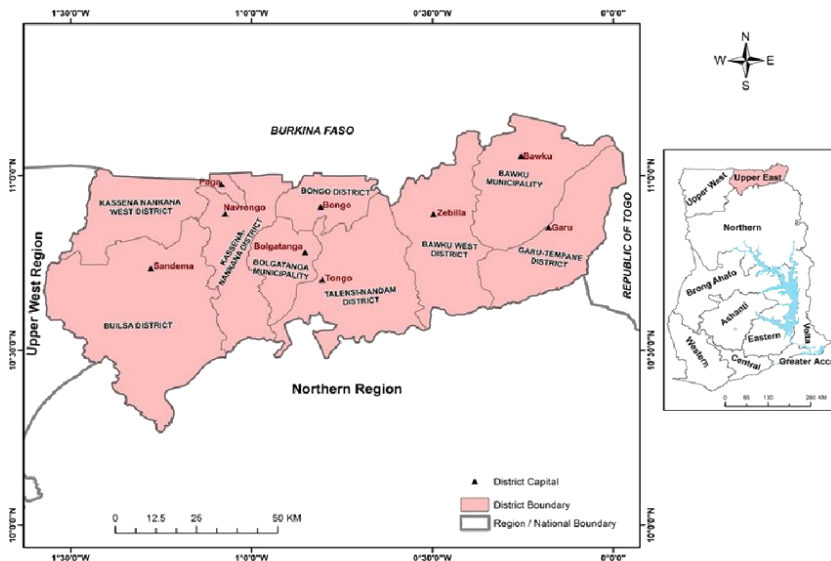




NEWS SITUATION TRACKING – 28 DEATHS, 19 INJURIES AND 1,550 HOUSES DESTROYED IN UPPER EAST FLOODS



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

Map Source: https://www.mdpi.com/ijerph/ijerph-14-00749/article_deploy/html/images/ijerph-14-00749-g001.png

COMMUNITY PROFILING

Population:

The Upper East Region has a population estimate of **1,046,545** comprising Males: **506405** (48.4%), Females: **540140** (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:

CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

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 of 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 to 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 region⁶

¹ <http://ghana.gov.gh/index.php/blog-categories/blog-quisque-gravida-purus-vitae/84-upper-east/188-upper-east>

² [ibid](#)

⁵ See The Daily Graphic, Thursday October 17, 2019, Page 3, 20 die in Upper East Floods. Death tolls could rise

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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

Organization (NADMO)

- Ministry of the Interior
- The Traditional Authorities
- Civil Society Organizations
- District Assemblies
- The Regional Health Directorate and the Ghana Health Service.

The worst-hit districts are the Builsa North, Builsa South, Kassena Nankana Municipal, Kassena Nankana West and Binduri.

In the Builsa North, three deaths were recorded. One death was as a result of drowning in a river and the two were also caused by a building collapsing on them. Two deaths were also recorded in Navrongo. Most of the casualties were in the Kassena Nankana West where 13 deaths were recorded. In Binduri one person was reported dead. Further attention has also been drawn to seven other deaths.⁷ The total number of deaths have reached 28⁸ while the injured number of persons still remain at 19.⁹

NADMO is currently giving out mats and blankets to support the victims. However, other relief items including cement, roofing sheets and other building materials are yet to be received to assist affected populations reconstruct their homes.¹⁰

Another cause for concern is the flooded graveyards that have exposed remains, and the consequent flowing of the flood waters into nearby boreholes.¹¹ The Flood waters may have high levels of raw sewage or other hazardous substances which could lead to potential outbreak of diseases including malaria, diarrhoea, cholera and other infections. Children especially are most at risk if they are unsupervised.

Also, given the fact that agriculture is the backbone of the economy of the region, destruction of farmlands and crops is likely to affect food security situation in the region. In addition, considering that soil was already moist from the rains, experts have predicted that subsequent rains could cause

³ <http://ghana.gov.gh/index.php/blog-categories/blog-quisque-gravida-purus-vitae/84-upper-east/188-upper-east>

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

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⁸ See GhanaWeb website Death-toll-in-Upper-East-floods-reaches-28

⁹ See NewsArchive on GhanaWeb Torrential-rains-in-Eastern-Region-took-us-by-surprise-Dop-Regional-Minister-

¹⁰ ibid

¹¹ See GhanaWeb New Archives. Cemeteries flooded....coffins float in water.

⁴ <http://ghana.gov.gh/index.php/blog-categories/blog-quisque-gravida-purus-vitae/84-upper-east/188-upper-east>

¹² Daily Graphic, Thursday, October 17, 2019.