



## NEWS SITUATION TRACKING - NIGERIA

### FLOOD DISASTER UPDATE IN NIGERIA

#### Vol. 5

**Location:** NIGERIA

**Issue:** 95 PEOPLE DEAD, 45 INJURED AND 722,741 DISPLACED BY FLOOD DISASTER IN NIGERIA

**Date:** SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

COMMUNITY PROFILING	CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS	INCIDENT PROFILING
<p><b>Population:</b> The 2018 population estimate for Nigeria is 200,963,599<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p><b>Basic Demography and Geography of Hotspots:</b> Nigeria shares land borders with the Republic of Benin, Chad, Cameroun, Niger and the Gulf of Guinea of the Atlantic Ocean. The country has 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). There are 774 Local Government Areas (LGA's) divided across six (6) geo-political zones.</p> <p><b>Ethnicity:</b> Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups with Hausa-Fulani, Igbo, Yoruba<sup>2</sup> in the majority.</p> <p><b>Economy:</b> Information and communication technology, banking/insurance, education, mining and local crafts, serves as a source of livelihood for the populace. Nigeria is also an agrarain economy with fishing, livestock rearing a major backbone of economic growth and source of income in the country.</p>	<p><b>Direct Actors:</b> Community residents.</p> <p><b>Affected Persons:</b> Residents of Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Yobe, Taraba, Adamawa States (<b>North-East</b>); Niger, Kwara, Abuja, Plateau, Benue, Nassarawa (<b>North-Central</b>); Jigawa, Katsina, Kano, Sokoto (<b>North-West</b>) and Akwa-Ibom, Delta, Edo, Bayelsa (<b>South-South</b>); Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Ekiti and Lagos States (<b>South-West</b>); Imo State (<b>South-East</b>).</p> <p><b>Interested Actors:</b> Federal Government of Nigeria, State Government, Nigeria Hydrological Service Agency (NIHSA), Nigeria Meteorological Agency (Nimet), National and State Emergency Management Agency, Nigeria Red Cross Society (NRCS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Federal and State Ministries of Health, State Building Control</p>	<p>Flood disasters in Nigeria have become a perennial phenomenon resulting in humanitarian consequences and environmental damage. The disaster, linked to climate change, especially in increased frequency and intensity of rainfall from May to September annually often results in fatalities, destruction of properties/farmlands, internal displacements and health-related risks. In addition, poor urban planning, inadequate drainage systems, dams collapse, improper waste management as well as indiscriminate depletion of the forest increase the vulnerability of communities to flooding and other disasters in the country.</p> <p>As highlighted in WANEP's NEWS, data generated from monitoring the proximate conditions of natural and human-induced disasters and its negative impact on human and food security, further reveals a gap in adaptative and mitigating mechanisms. This is evident in the level of destruction and human fatalities recorded in the period under review.</p> <p>Between April 10 and September 7, 2019, WANEP NEWS recorded a cumulative deaths of 95 people (including 17 females and 31 children), 45 people injured<sup>3</sup> with an estimated 722,741 people displaced and 351,236 others in need of humanitarian assistance. The figures of internal displacements in the flood incidents was compiled from July 2018 to June 2019 by the Nigeria Red Cross Society (NRCS)<sup>4</sup>. In August 2019, an estimated 8, 875 households living in IDP camps were also impacted by the flood in Borno and Yobe States<sup>5</sup>. Additional statistics of displaced persons and the level of impacts in affected communities are still being captured by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The affected States with fatalities and injuries include; Bauchi, Akwa-Ibom, Borno, Abuja, Nassarawa, Sokoto, Delta, Katsina, Plateau, Bayelsa, Gombe, Edo, Adamawa, Benue, Niger, Jigawa, Kano, Yobe, Taraba and Kwara States. More so, several community residents have been rendered homeless with buildings and farmlands submerged in Kogi, Kaduna, Rivers, Imo, Ondo, Ogun, Oyo, Ekiti, Lagos and Osun States as recorded in WANEP NEWS.<sup>6</sup></p> <p>As recorded in WANEP NEWS, an analysis of the graphical representation below of affected flood victims reveals that Adamawa State accounted for the highest fatality of 20 people while Jigawa, Borno, Bauchi, Abuja, Katsina and Yobe recorded 16, 10, 9, 6, 4 and 4 deaths respectively. Akwa</p>

<sup>1</sup> <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/nigeria-population/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://photos.state.gov/libraries/nigeria/487468/pdfs/Nigeria%20overview%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)-[www.wanep.org/news](http://www.wanep.org/news)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/heavy-floods-cause-misery-deaths.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria/document/nigeria-north-east-floods-situation-report-august-2019>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

Available minerals include: crude oil, natural gas, gold, tin, columbite, iron ore, coal, limestone, lead, zinc, etc. Major agricultural export products include cotton, cassava, cocoa, peanuts, rubber, sorghum, ginger and palm oil.

**Religion:** The major religion in Nigeria is Islam, Christianity and a minority with Traditional beliefs.

Agency, Ministry of Urban and Physical Planning, World Health Organisation, Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Civil Society Organisations.

Ibom, Delta, Plateau, Niger, Kano and Nassarawa States recorded 3 deaths each with Sokoto, Bayelsa and Gombe States accounting for 2 deaths and one (1) death in Edo State<sup>7</sup>. The statistics of injured victims from rainstorm/flood incidents were reported in Kwara (2 people), Bauchi (8), Plateau (2) with 33 members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) hospitalized due to health complications<sup>8</sup> from a rainstorm incident at the NYSC camp, as recorded in WANEP NEWS.<sup>9</sup>

Also, incidents of building collapse triggered by rainstorm/flooding contributed to the fatalities and injuries highlighted above. Such incidents were recorded at IDP camps in Borno<sup>10</sup>, Sokoto, Plateau, Katsina, Jigawa and a bridge collapse in Bauchi State<sup>11</sup>. Reports from monitoring further reveals that a significant number of flood affected communities are amongst the poor neighbourhoods with weak constructed houses, resulting in building collapses.

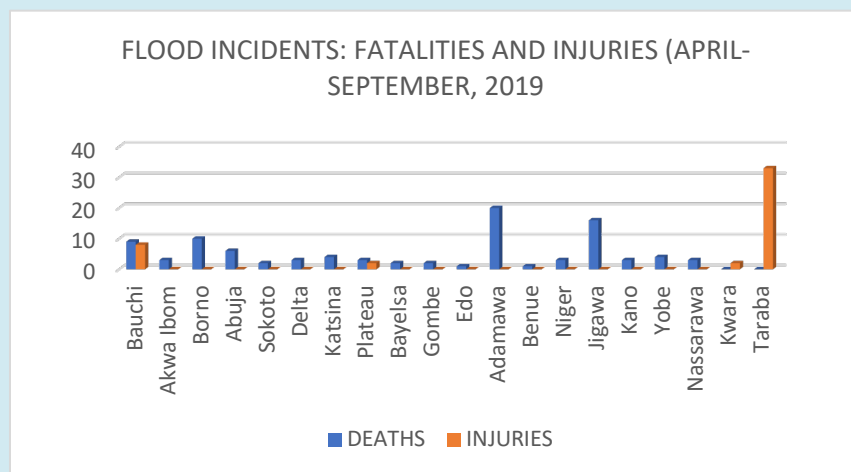


FIG 1: Statistics of fatalities/Injuries from flood incidents<sup>12</sup>

To enhance the level of disaster preparedness of flood prone States in the country, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) in its 2019 Seasonal Rainfall Prediction (SRP) have issued early warning alerts of imminent flooding, especially in communities adjoining riverine areas. In addition, the Nigeria Hydrological Service Agency (NIHSA), in its 2019 Annual Flood Outlook (AFO), revealed that 74 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in 30 States are vulnerable to high risk flooding (including river and coastal flooding) from June-September 2019 with 279 LGAs prone to minimum flooding<sup>13</sup>. Despite these climate projections, communities were ill prepared to prevent and/or mitigate flooding disasters.

The recurring flooding also continues to increase the risk of health-related challenges especially water-borne diseases in the affected communities. Before the flooding incidents a cholera outbreak had been recorded in Adamawa State. This has been compounded by the flood incidents during the reported period, as 725 cases with 4 deaths have been recorded in the State since September 6, 2019<sup>14</sup>. The threat of cholera outbreak is also evident in IDP camps in Borno and Kano States. This was triggered by pollution of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities<sup>15</sup> largely due to the flood incidents.

Furthermore, community residents' access to healthcare services has been hindered and school activities disrupted due to flooding in the affected communities. Moreover, flooding in the communities has affected the education of school children, as schools in the affected areas are either shut down and/or in most cases used as temporary camps for displaced persons. Again, the livelihood security of families have also been affected due to the destruction of farmlands and food

<sup>7</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)-www.wanep.org/news

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/04/33-corps-members-hospitalised-as-rainstorm-wrecks-havoc-in-taraba-camp/>

<sup>9</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)-www.wanep.org/news

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/331715-hunger-rainstorm-kill-11-villagers-after-forced-evacuation-by-nigerian-military-survivors.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://thenationonline.net/updated-four-undergraduates-dead-as-campus-bridge-collapses-in-bauchi/>

<sup>12</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)-www.wanep.org/news

<sup>13</sup> <https://theeagleonline.com.ng/nihsa-predicts-flooding-in-30-states/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/adamawa-state-situation-report-cholera-outbreak-week-no-36-6th-september-2019>

<sup>15</sup> <https://punchng.com/erosion-exhumes-dead-bodies-in-kano/>

crops. This has also heightened food security situation in affected communities, affecting mostly women, children and the elderly.

As the rainy season reaches its peak, affected households have either relocated to less flood prone communities. Also, schools have been converted to IDP camps to accommodate the displaced persons. The affected State Governments, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant agencies continue to carry out interventions including, dredging of rivers, desilting of blocked drains, demolition of structures along waterways<sup>16</sup> and provision of relief materials to mitigate the impact of the disaster on the affected.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Federal, States and Local Governments should increase and sustain financial and technical support to the National/State Emergency Management Agencies, State Ministry of Health and other relevant agencies to enhance their capacity to respond to humanitarian and health emergency situations in the country. This should also include enhancing communities disaster early warning structures for preparedness and prompt response to floods and other natural disasters in communities.
- State Governments, in collaboration with civil society organisations and media should increase the space for awareness to capture more vulnerable communities on prevention and mitigation of flood to reduce fatalities and health risks associated with flood disaster.
- The Federal and State Government should review and strengthen monitoring and enforcement of existing regulations on construction of buildings.
- A multi-level approach to the phenomenon of flooding in Nigeria is essential to include the Federal Government, States and local governments strengthening partnership with local communities (traditional authorities, women and youth networks), religious institutions and local NGOs, amongst others, to ensure community participation in mitigation efforts.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://punchng.com/govs-take-panicky-measures-as-floods-ravage-states/>