

NIGERIA

Floods

Heavy rainfall has caused the Niger and Benue rivers to overflow, displacing thousands across 12 states as of late August (DG ECHO 16/09/2018; 21/09/2018). The National Emergency Management Agency has declared an emergency in Kogi, Niger, Delta and Anambra states, and is monitoring eight other states in central and southern Nigeria (Floodlist 19/09/2018). In addition to river flooding, flash floods have occurred in central and northern Nigeria since July, affecting Katsina, Kano, Jigawa and Sokoto states. Thousands of houses have been destroyed across all affected states and the affected population has lost household and personal belongings. The floods have caused considerable damage to farmland across Nigeria. There is an urgent need for shelter, NFI, food and livelihood assistance.

NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



IMPACT



States most affected by flooding Rivers



States most affected by the Niger and Benue river floods (BBC 17/09/2018)

Anticipated scope and scale

The main rainy season in Nigeria is expected to continue until October and heavy rainfall is predicted for the next three weeks. This could lead to **further flooding in affected communities** and floods in previously unaffected areas.

The extensive crop damage is likely to aggravate **food insecurity** in the region and to affect livelihoods. Flooding can have a **long-term health impact on communities** that are already exposed to conflict and displacement.

Key priorities



+600,000
IDPs



Livelihoods
severely affected



Health
risk of disease outbreaks in rainy season

Humanitarian constraints



Widespread flooding of the main roads is constraining humanitarian access and can delay response. Humanitarian actors are likely to face security constraints due to the Boko Haram crisis in Adamawa, the only flood-affected state in the northeast. Intercommunal conflict in Benue and Taraba may also cause insecurity constraints.

Limitations

The total number people displaced by floods is only available in a single source and therefore cannot be triangulated. Displacement figures by state are limited and only available in local media sources for some states. Available data does not indicate the exact timeframe of the displacement impact. There is a lack of information on sectoral needs and, for some states, no information is available on the impact. The flooding is widespread, and the situation is rapidly evolving that complicates efforts to gain a clear understanding.

Crisis impact

Flooding is widespread across Nigeria. Heavy rainfall caused the Niger and Benue rivers to burst their banks in central and southern Nigeria as of late August (DG ECHO 16/09/2018; FEWS NET 14/09/2018). In central and northern Nigeria, flash floods due to continuous heavy rainfall have occurred since July.

As of 16 September, flooding across 12 states in central and southern Nigeria caused the displacement of more than 600,000 people and at least 100 deaths, according to international media (DG ECHO 16/09/2018; FEWS NET 14/09/2018). A total of 41 deaths have been reported in Niger state (DG ECHO 16/09/2018). The flooding is widespread and situation is rapidly evolving, with conflicting information on the number of people displaced.

On 16 September, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) declared an emergency in four Kogi, Niger, Delta and Anambra states (Punchng 18/09/2018). NEMA is monitoring the flooding in eight other states, Taraba, Adamawa, Kebbi, Edo, Rivers, Benue, Bayelsa and Kwara states (Premium Times 17/09/2018). Kogi state is expected to be one of the most severely hit areas, as it lies at the intersection of the Niger and Benue rivers (CNN 18/09/2018). Storms and heavy rainfall have also caused flash flooding in Nasarawa state (Floodlist 19/09/2018).

The Niger River rose to significantly high levels in late August. Niger River at Lokoja reached the dangerous level of 11.06m on 18 September after days of heavy rainfall in Nigeria and neighbouring countries. The river level was 10m on 7 September. There are fears that Niger River could approach the record-high level of 12.84m that was reached in 2012, when floods killed 363 people and displaced two million across 30 states (Daily Sabah 14/09/2018). In addition to the continuous heavy rainfall, the flooding is aggravated by poor drainage infrastructure (EcoWatch 19/09/2018).

Heavy rainfall in central and northern Nigeria has caused flooding in Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Kaduna and Sokoto states. Flash floods have killed 51 people in Katsina state, 31 people in Kano state and 21 in Jigawa state (DG ECHO 16/09/2018; Vanguard 17/09/2018)). Heavy rainfall is expected to continue over the next three weeks, increasing the risk of further flooding, particularly in northern Nigeria (WMO 19/09/2018).

Shelter: Floodwaters have displaced an estimated 600,000 people and severely damaged thousands of homes across the 12 states affected by the Niger and Benue river floods (DG ECHO 16/09/2018). There is a lack of disaggregated information of IDPs by state.

There is a high risk of flash floods as heavy rainfall is expected to continue until early October. NEMA has been warned people in Edo, Jigawa, Anambra, and Bayelsa states

to evacuate flood-prone areas (Vanguard 16/09/2018). NEMA has provided building materials for new resettlement sites for those displaced by the floods (PR Nigeria 20/09/2018). There is an urgent need for shelter and NFI assistance across all affected states. The following information is known in the four states where NEMA has declared an emergency:

Anambra state: A total of 28 camps have been set up for people displaced by the floods (NYTimes 17/08/2018). The floods have destroyed household appliances, mattresses and personal belongings (Premium Times 19/09/2018). The number of people displaced in Anambra state is unknown.

Delta state: At least 100 communities have been flooded across the state and houses in several communities have been destroyed. There are no reports on the number of people that have been displaced (ConciseNews 19/09/2018). IDP camps that accommodate 200–300 people each have been set up. As of 20 September, 90 IDPs were registered at these camps. Registration is ongoing (Today 20/09/2018).

Kogi state: Some 45,000 people have been displaced. Two IDP camps were recently built for people affected by the floods. People have gone to various resettlement camps across the state. (AllAfrica 16/09/2018; NaijaNews 18/09/2018; DailyTrust 11/09/2018).

Niger state: More than 8,000 people have been displaced in 22 LGAs in Niger state as of late August, according to a local media source (DailyTrust 14/09/2018). An estimated 65,000 people were affected and 7,000 homes destroyed by mid-August, another media source reported (JBA Risk 5/09/2018).

Displacement and shelter damage are widespread in other flood-affected states. Over 30,000 people have been displaced in Edo state and flooding in 14 local councils in Kebbi state has caused severe shelter damage. In Kano state, 10,000 houses have been destroyed. (The Guardian 17/09/2018; The Guardian 20/09/2018; (EconomicTimes 16/09/2018).

Food: There is an urgent need for food assistance for IDPs across affected states. Local media sources report that IDP camps for the flood-affected population in Kogi state have had no access to food for the past two weeks. The state government has not provided food assistance (NaijaNews 18/09/2018). Severe flood damage to agricultural crops means there is a risk that some communities will experience increased food insecurity throughout the harvest season. This concern was particularly raised in Jigawa state, where 46,000 farmers lost farmland to floodwaters (Daily Trust 20/09/2018). There are no reports on markets that have been flooded and closed. Transportation of food is likely to be severely restricted because main roads have been flooded.

Livelihood: Farmland has been flooded across central and southern Nigeria. Crops were destroyed before the harvesting season begins in October (NYTimes 17/08/2018). The impact is widespread, although the extent of the damage caused by the Niger and

Benue river floods is still unclear. In Adamawa, 5,000 farmers have been affected and 6,500 hectares of crops have been destroyed in Niger state. In Jigawa state, flash floods have affected 46,000 farmers. (Premium Times 18/09/2018; Daily Trust 20/09/2018; JBA Risk 5/09/2018). In Niger state, farm produce, including chickens and cows, has been swept off the land (Vanguard 15/09/2018). Farmers whose livelihoods have been disrupted by severe flooding risk being unable to pay off loans and will face financial debt (The Nation 14/09/2018). Flooding can have a long-term impact on the livelihoods of thousands of farmers across the region, which is likely to affect food availability.

Health: There are limited medical facilities in some of the IDP camps, including in camps in Kogi state (The Guardian 16/09/2018).

Some 27,927 cases of suspected cholera were reported between 1 January and 10 September (NCDC 10/09/2018). More cholera cases were reported in some of the flood-affected states in recent months, including Adamawa, Katsina and Kano states (NCDC 10/09/2018). Flooding increases the risk of waterborne and vector-borne disease outbreaks. Floods are associated with an escalation of vector-borne diseases because they create more vector habitats. Flooding rivers produce pools of standing water that can become breeding grounds for mosquitos and expose the flood-affected population to a greater risk of malaria, dengue and West Nile fever (WHO 2018). The malaria incidence in Nigeria is 380.8/1,000 (2015) (PMI 2017). In Kogi state, flood-affected people reported that they had not received a distribution of mosquito nets in IDP camps (NaijaNews 18/09/2018).

WASH: Flooding can disperse faecal contaminants, particularly in more populated areas and those where WASH facilities are inadequate. This increases the risk that diarrhoea and cholera will spread (EcoWatch 19/09/2018). Given the high prevalence of cholera across Nigeria, overcrowded IDP camps with inadequate WASH facilities are likely to lead to a spike in cases.

An urgent need for water is reported in Kogi state. In the past two weeks, flood victims reported that the state government provided no water to IDPs (NaijaNews 18/09/2018).

Education: Education facilities have flooded and children are unlikely to be able to attend school. In Anambra state, floods severely affected the Atani campus. Students reported that the campus was hard to reach and that their personal belongings and books had been destroyed (Premium Times 19/09/2018). In Niger state, hundreds of children cannot go to school as central primary school Zungeru is being used as a temporary shelter for IDPs displaced by the floods (PR Nigeria 19/09/2018).

Impact on critical infrastructure

The impact on critical infrastructure has been severe since the start of the rainy season, which peaks in June–September. Bridges have collapsed since the rainy season began. When flooding started to intensify at the beginning of August, the main roads flooded in Niger state (Vanguard 15/09/2018). Flooding increased considerably in recent weeks, affecting many other roads. No reports are available on the extent to which flooding has affected public facilities, such as healthcare centres, government buildings and power infrastructure.

Vulnerable groups affected

Flooding is more likely to impact people whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. The destruction of agricultural land can have a long-term impact on livelihoods. People already displaced by the intercommunal conflict in the flood-affected states Taraba and Benue, or by the Boko Haram crisis in flood-affected Adamawa, may also be more vulnerable to floods. Flooding also disproportionately affects the poor, who generally live in more vulnerable areas and in housing that is susceptible to damage by floodwaters (ACAPS 01/2012).

Women and girls are a particularly vulnerable group affected by flooding due to the risk of gender-based violence for those staying in resettlement sites, where abuse and exploitation are of great concern (UNHCR 12/2017; OCHA 2016). Overcrowding at IDP camps, with a lack of privacy and inadequate toilets and washing facilities, increases the risks and vulnerability of women and girls to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse (UNHCR 12/2017; OCHA 2016). There are some concerns that pregnant women displaced by the floods are no longer able to receive antenatal care. This was reported in Uzanu community, Estako East LGA, Edo state (Pulse 15/09/2018). There is no disaggregated data on the number of women and girls affected by the floods.

Humanitarian and operational constraints

There is a risk that a significant part of the Nigerian road system is cut off due to flooding, making certain areas difficult to reach. The poor road conditions may cause additional access constraints during the floods.

Humanitarian actors are likely to face some security constraints in Adamawa state, in northeast Nigeria. Hostilities and attacks regularly restrict humanitarian movements and activities in this part of the country in particular due to the Boko Haram crisis (Reuters 04/09/2018). Adamawa is the only flood-affected state in the northeast.

The intercommunal conflict in Benue and Taraba may cause some minor security constraints for humanitarian actors.

Aggravating factors

Rainy Season

The main rain season lasts from June to October. Nigeria annually experiences flooding, although current flooding is reaching record levels comparable to 2012 (CNN 18/09/2018). As Nigeria continues to experience heavy rains, additional shelter damage is possible.

Urban Planning

Urbanisation has increased the number of roads and buildings. This has led to a high proportion of surface area where water can run off and not absorb into the ground, especially when urban areas are inadequately planned with effective drainage systems (QuartzAfrica 17/08/2017). There is a lack of drainage infrastructure and drainage facilities frequently get blocked. (CNN 18/09/2018; NYTimes 17/09/2018). (EcoWatch 19/09/2018).

Food insecurity

From June–September, most households in central and southern Nigeria are in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity. However, households affected by farmer and herder violence, in Kaduna, Plateau, Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba and Zamfara are likely to struggle more to access food and are projected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in June to September. Benue and Taraba are flood-affected states. Most of northeastern Nigeria, including northern Adamawa, continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity outcomes from June–September (FEWS NET 01/07/2018). The significant crop damage could, in the worst-case scenario, lead to increased food insecurity for some communities during the harvest season, which starts in October.

Intercommunal conflict

Conflict between farmers and herders in the Nigerian Middle Belt region has escalated dramatically since January 2018. Both Taraba and Benue are flood-affected regions where there are frequent attacks between farmers and herders. Military deployment has reduced the number of attacks, but violence continues (International Crisis Group 26/07/2018; Crisiswatch 03/09/2018). From January to June, Fulani attacks against civilians in Kaduna, Taraba, Plateau, Benue and Nasarawa states were 48% more frequent than Boko

Haram attacks against civilians in northeast Nigeria (ACLEDD 06/07/2018). Clashes have left more than 1,300 dead and displaced 300,000 people across Nigeria in 2018 (Inter Press Service 06/08/2018; International Crisis Group 26/07/2018). People who were already displaced by farmer/herder violence may be displaced again due to flooding. In addition, the main harvest season in Taraba and Benue states was already predicted to be below average due to the farmer/herder conflict, which led to crop loss (FEWS NET 01/07/2018). Flooding has led to additional crop loss, further aggravating their vulnerability to food insecurity.

Boko Haram Conflict

Boko Haram (BH) continues to carry out high-profile attacks against the military and civilians in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states (ACLEDD 30/06/2018). Adamawa is the only flood-affected state in northeast Nigeria that is affected by the Boko Haram conflict. BH attacks rose in August in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, with 200 security incidents reported (UNHCR 31/08/2018). As of September, there are 1.8 million people displaced by the Boko Haram conflict in northeast Nigeria (OCHA 31/07/2018). This could lead to a rapid increase in humanitarian needs.

Key characteristics

Demographic profile:

Poverty gap at national poverty lines (%): 17 (2009)

Rural poverty gap at national poverty lines (%): 20.1 (2009)

Urban poverty gap at national poverty lines (%): 11.6 (2009)

Poverty headcount ratio at USD 3.20 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population): 77.6 (2009)

Poverty headcount ratio at USD 1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population): 53.5 (2009)

Food security figures: Most households outside northeast Nigeria face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity. In Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes continue. (FEWS NET 01/07/2018).

Nutrition levels. Prevalence of severe wasting, weight for height (% of children under 5): 2.9 (2017)

Prevalence of wasting, weight for height (% of children under 5): 10.6 (2017)

Prevalence of stunting, height for age (% of children under 5): 43.6 (2017)

Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population): 7.9 (2015)

Health statistics: Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, usage sanitation and lack of hygiene (per 100,000 population): 68.6 (2017)

People practicing open defecation (% of population): 25.5 (2015)
 Incidence of malaria (per 1,000 population at risk): 380.8 (2015)
 People using safely managed drinking water services (% of population): 19.4 (2015)

WASH statistics: access to improved sources of drinking water, access to toilet facilities).

Lighting and cooking sources: People using safely managed drinking water services (% of population): 19.4 (2015)

People using at least basic drinking water services (% of population): 67.3 (2015)
 Access to electricity (% of population): 59.3 (2016)

Source: World Bank 2015

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

NEMA has set up five emergency operation centres (EOC) to coordinate search and rescue, and to facilitate humanitarian response to those affected by the floods (CNN 18/09/2018). Each EOC will oversee the operations of two to three states (SunNewsOnline 18/09/2018). The state emergency management agencies have started providing relief material to the affected population.

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved USD 8.2 million for relief materials (CNN 18/09/2018). The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has deployed officers in its disaster department to flood-affected areas, including Kogi, Niger, Delta and Anambra states (RipplesNigeria 19/09/2018). Nigerian Red Cross Society and other humanitarian organisations are on stand-by to provide humanitarian assistance to the flood-affected population (The Nation 20/09/2018).

The Anambra government is coordinating with the Nigerian Army Emergency Response Team to address the needs of the affected population in the eight flood-prone areas (Vanguardngr 19/09/2018). The army is supporting the government with technical assistance including the deployment of helicopters. The Nigerian army at IDP camps will also provide security support (Vanguardngr 19/09/2018).

International response capacity

On 18 September, the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMSR315) was activated for the Nigeria floods (DG ECHO 21/09/2018). Two delineation maps have been made illustrating the extent of the flooded areas. Numerous international organisations

and INGOs are present in Nigeria, many of which are responding to the BH crisis in northeast Nigeria. There is a lack of information on the number of INGOs that have been activated to support flood response.

Information gaps and needs

Most available data summarises the impact of the flooding in Nigeria and does not give a geographical breakdown of the affected populations and infrastructural damage (Floodlist 19/09/2018).

There is a lack of information on the number of people displaced by flooding. An estimated figure of 600,000 people has been reported, although this has not been triangulated across various sources (DG ECHO 16/09/2018). Local sources provide displacement figures for some of the affected states.

There is a lack of information on critical infrastructure affected by the floods.

There is no information on international actors responding to the flood-affected population.

Lessons learned

There is a need for early-warning and response systems to be implemented in Nigeria, to ensure that the population at risk of flooding can evacuate in advance. In addition, solid waste must be removed from stormwater drains (QuartzAfrica 17/08/2017).

Many of those affected by the floods in 2012 did not take precautionary measures to reduce risks of future damage to their emergency shelter or their home. There is a need for improved communication for those receiving shelter kits (ALNAP 2012).

Nigeria is prone to disease outbreaks such as meningitis, cholera and malaria; cases are reported every year. Contingency plans should be made for such outbreaks. Coordinated outbreak response operations and timely data-sharing at the LGA and ward levels better enhance decision making for public health concerns (WHO 2018; WHO 29/06/2018).

The inclusion of IDPs living in camps or informal settlements as well as host community members in aid programs is crucial. Leaving parts of the population in need without assistance impedes the sustainable reconstruction of affected areas (UNHCR 07/2007)