

Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating the Impact of Flooding on Human Security in the Niger Delta

October 09-15, 2022

Description

This special edition of the weekly update spotlights natural disasters in Nigeria with a focus on flooding in the Niger Delta. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported that about 30 states in Nigeria are currently affected by severe flooding. According to NEMA, over 500 persons have been killed, more than 790,000 others displaced, over 45,000 houses damaged, and about 70,000 hectares of farmland destroyed by severe flooding caused by heavy rainfall and the release of excess water from a dam in neighboring Cameroon. In the Niger Delta, many coastal and riverine communities are predisposed to recurrent flooding because of low topography. According to data (see map below), flooding caused over 70 fatalities in the Niger Delta between January 2018 and June 2022. The recent flood has reportedly caused over 15 deaths and displaced about 100 communities in the region. As of October 12, 2022, for instance, flooding reportedly killed four persons and displaced over 3,200 households in Delta State. Several communities were also reportedly submerged in Bayelsa, Edo, Imo, and Rivers States.

Why it Matters

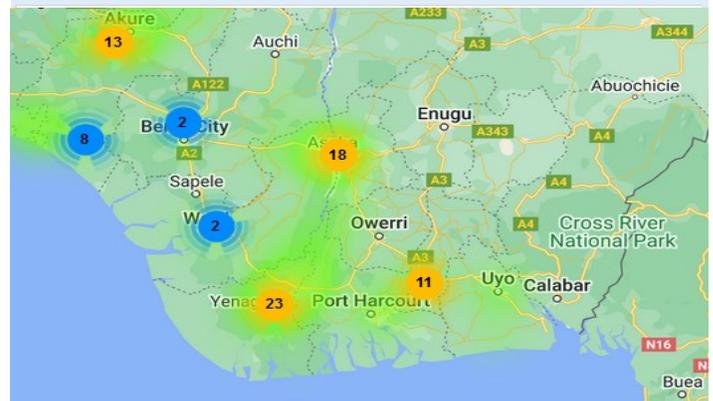
Historical and recent data shows that the magnitude, intensity, and duration of floods are increasing in the Niger Delta as a result of climate change. The recent flood disaster was aggravated by extreme climatic events including changes in rainfall patterns and the release of excess water from some dams. If not appropriately mitigated, the situation could be worsened by the release of more water from dams and more heavy rainfall as the rainy season is in its peak. This could adversely impact socio-economic and political activities in the region.

Social: Flooding could have serious psychosocial, health and security impacts on residents. It could cause loss of human lives, damage to properties, destruction of crops and livestock, and disruption of public services. Flooding could force displaced residents into crowded shelters with poor hygiene and sanitation, and where women and girls could be at the risk of sexual abuses. It could also cause contamination of water sources and outbreak of water-borne diseases.

Economic: Flooding could disrupt economic activities by causing loss of livelihoods and destruction of properties. Destruction of farmland and livestock could disrupt farming and agro-allied businesses. This could cause food insecurity and inflation. The cost of relief and recovery could also negatively affect economic development in the region.

Political: Recurrent flooding could raise public concerns about the effectiveness of government's flood emergency preparedness, response and recovery plans. This could trigger violent protests and unrest which could disrupt governance and cause political instability.

Fatalities Heat Map of Reported Flood Disasters in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported fatalities caused by flooding in Niger Delta from January 2018 - June 2022. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Flooding is a serious threat to human security in the Niger Delta. The frequency, magnitude and duration of flooding could increase in the region, especially against the backdrop of climate change. Stakeholders should work with the relevant government agencies to devise measures to effectively mitigate the situation including construction of coastal embankment and flood shelters. Stakeholders should also raise public awareness of the situation including dissemination of alerts and training on emergency preparedness.

Contact Us

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Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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