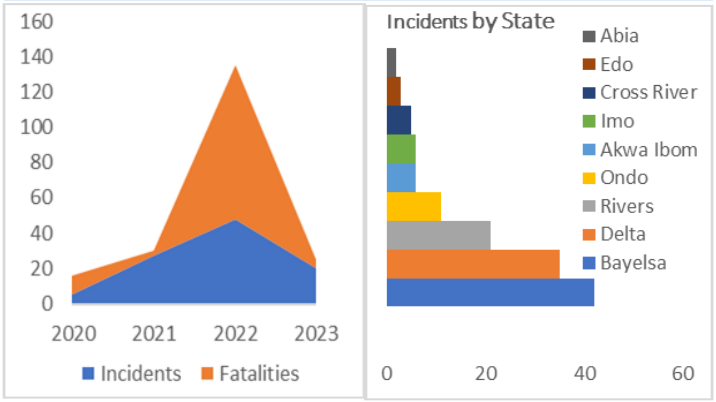
Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing and Mitigating Flood Disasters in the Niger Delta

June 30 - July 06, 2024

Background

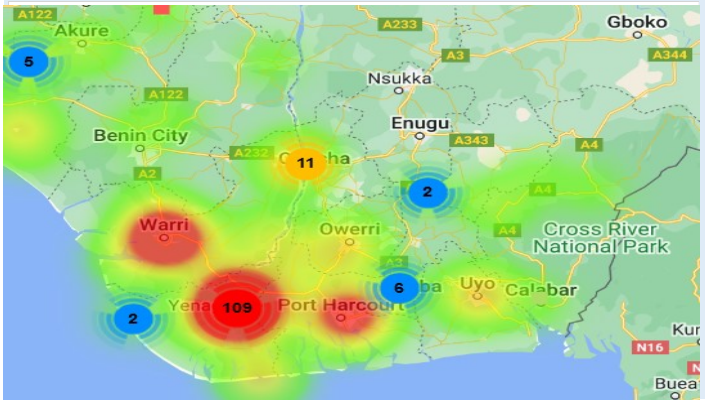
This special edition of the weekly update highlights natural disasters in the Niger Delta with a focus on flash floods. Many communities in the Niger Delta are predisposed to recurrent flood disasters because of their low topography, especially in the coastal and riverine areas. According to data (see map below), flood disasters caused over 120 fatalities in the Niger Delta between January 2020 and April 2024. Since March 2024, several communities have been devastated by floods in the Niger Delta. In March 2024, for instance, more than 200 houses were reportedly destroyed and several residents displaced as a result of flooding caused by tidal surge in Odioma and Sangana communities in Brass local government area (LGA), Bayelsa State. In May, the Edo Sate headquarters of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was reportedly damaged by flood in Benin City, the state capital. Voter's registration machines and vehicles were allegedly destroyed by the flood which was caused by heavy rainfall. Recently, on July 03, 2024, flood reportedly affected parts of Diobu community in Port Harcourt LGA. Rivers State.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Patterns of Flood Disasters in the Niger Delta



Data shows that Bayelsa and Delta States had the highest incidents of flood disasters in the region during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

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



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported fatalities caused by floods in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - April 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

Flood disasters are becoming more frequent and severe in the Niger Delta due to changes in rainfall patterns, rising sea levels, and tidal surges. If not appropriately mitigated, the situation could worsen, especially against the backdrop of climate change. This could bring about serious socio-economic and security consequences including outbreak of waterborne diseases, internal displacement, and disruption of businesses. This could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity, including a rise in criminality and insecurity.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The frequency and severity of flood disasters could increase in the Niger Delta, especially against the backdrop of global warming and climate change. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant government agencies to devise strategies to mitigate the situation including construction of coastal embankment and flood shelters. Stakeholders should also work with the Nigerian meteorological Agency (NiMET) to raise public awareness of the situation including dissemination of alerts and training on emergency preparedness.

Contact Us

Inquiries: PINDfoundation.org

Contacts: info@PINDfoundation.org +234 (0) 9 291 0454

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Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222/0912 233 4455**

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