

Borno flood: Many feared dead

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Thursday, 06 September 2007

Many people are feared dead after flooding in Borno state. The unidentified corpse of an elderly woman was found floating in flood water yesterday. Another woman was killed when her bedroom collapsed on her as she slept in Gwoza local government area, the Daily Trust reports.

Heavy rainfall has caused rivers to burst their banks and flash-floods have washed away houses across the country.

Twenty one villages in the local government area are thought to be badly affected. No official figure exists for the number of dead or missing, officials said.

Authorities at the local government headquarters said that the woman was floating around the river bank in the Wakane area.

The woman's body has been deposited in the mortuary while the local government chairman, Mr Peter Biye, has asked residents to identify the woman.

The body of another woman identified as Habasa Kalakwa was found after her Gadamayo home collapsed.

Daily Trust gathered that many people were feared dead from flooding in about 21 villages among other parts of the local government in the current rainy season. Many mud houses belonging to poor people in the area have either been badly affected or totally destroyed by flood following which victims have become refugees in their own localities as they now stay in public places such as schools.

Mr Peter Biye noted that he has paid condolence visit to family of the identified who died under a collapsed building while he has visited all areas affected by the flood. Victims in the 21 villages he said have been given relief materials comprising 500 bags of grains, blankets, mats etc by his council.

He stated that the Borno State Emergency Relief Agency has donated 90 bags of grains while the Clerk of the state House of Assembly, Musa Goma, donated 12 bags of grains to the victims. The chairman however called for more assistance from the state and the federal government as well as individuals.