

Flooding kills 300, displaces 100,000 in 29 states, FCT in 9 months – NEMA

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No fewer than 300 persons have died and 500 others injured as flood ravaged 29 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in the last nine months.

The flood which affected towns and villages along the bank of rivers Niger and Benue also affected about 500,000 persons with over 100,000 of them displaced.

The Director General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Alhaji Mustapha Habib Ahmed, disclosed this at an emergency technical meeting on flood in Abuja.

He said with the release of excess water by the operators of Lagdo Dam in the Republic of Cameroon, which started on September 13, more communities along the coastal areas would be affected.

He explained that the released water from Lagdo Dam would cascade down to Nigeria through River Benue and its tributaries thereby inundating communities that had already been impacted by heavy rainfall.

"The released water will complicate the situation further downstream as Nigeria's inland reservoirs including Kainji, Jebba, and Shiroro are also expected to overflow between now and October ending according to Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA).

"According to NIHSA, Kainji and Jebba dams have already started spilling excess water from their reservoirs. This will have serious consequences on frontline states and communities along the courses of rivers Niger and Benue.

"The situation requires urgent attention of all stakeholders to match this early warning with early action."

NEMA advised governments of the frontline states to move away communities at risk of inundation, identify safe higher grounds for evacuation of persons and make adequate stockpiles of food and non-food items, potable water, hygiene, safety and security to enable them a fair level of comfort during periods of possible displacement.

Meanwhile, 14 persons have been reportedly killed by flood in seven local government areas of Niger State. The Director General,

- Raises alarm over water from Cameroonian Dam
- Nasarawa assembly urges govt to relocate victims

Niger State Emergency Management Agency, Ahmed Ibrahim Inga, in a statement said six deaths were recorded in Magama, two in Kontagora, two in Agwara, and 1 each in Rafi, Lavun, Bosso and Paikoro.

He said 20 of the 25 LGAs: Lavun, Magama, Rafi, Kontagora, Gbako, Mokwa,

Lapai, Katcha, Agaie Suleja, Shiroro, Mashegu, Agwara, Bida, Edati, Munya, Bosso, Chanchaga, Paikoro and Wushishi located at up and downstream of the four hydroelectric dams had been hit by the flood where houses, farmlands, bridges and linked roads were washed away and the socio-

economic activities of the communities affected.

"People living in riverine areas should relocate to safer grounds already identified. NiMeT's latest prediction indicated that the end of the rainy season will be accompanied by violent windstorms as such people should avoid standing

under trees during rainfall and also avoid substandard structures," Inga said.

Also, the Nasarawa State House of Assembly on Monday urged the state government as a matter of urgency to provide relief materials to victims of floods across the state.

Speaker Ibrahim

Balarabe Abdullahi made the call while reading the House resolution after the majority leader, Tanko Tunga, raised the issue under matters of public importance during plenary in Lafia, the state capital.

He urged the state government to "relocate communities affected by flood to safer places for their comfortability and to improve on their standard of living."

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