

# Special

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## Sweeps Through Communities

expressed regret that the situation was worsened by the vandalism of the IDP facilities in the area, which made them inhabitable.

One of the victims, who identified himself as John, told *The Guardian* that even though the destruction caused by the flood was much, he chose to remain in his community with his relatives than relocating to an IDP camp.

"We chose to live with our relatives than to go to the IDP camp. Our culture and tradition abhor such," he said.

The Chief Press Secretary/Media Adviser to the Imo State Governor, Oguwike Nwachuku, told journalists that the state governor had ordered a comprehensive evaluation of the losses incurred by the victims to enable the government decide on how to assist them.

### Four Die, 600 Houses Submerged In Plateau

**I**n Plateau State, flood has submerged about 13 communities in Langtang South Local Council and displaced many residents.

About 220 houses and a lot of farmlands in the same local council were submerged last month. Bridges linking some communities were also washed away by floodwater.

A resident of Mabudi community in the local council, Emmanuel Nanpal, said the flood also destroyed properties worth millions of naira.

In Langtang North, about 400 houses were submerged by flood in the Pilgani District of the council where Zamade, Shilur, Pishu, Angwani, Galang and other communities were affected.

In Nyelleng and Gwabi communities in Pankshin Local Council of the state, at least four people, including a couple were killed by flood. The flood also submerged the only bridge linking the area with the outside world.

Chairman of Pankshin Local Council, Audu Kak'mena, who visited the communities, expressed sadness over the incident. He condoled with the victims' families and the communities, promising them that the government would evaluate the level of damage caused by the flood with a view to developing an intervention template.

### Roads, Houses, Farmlands Submerged In Kogi Councils

**N**o fewer than nine local councils of Kogi State have been affected by this year's flooding. They include Lokoja, Kogi-Koto, Ajaokuta, Ofu, Igalamela-Odolu, Bassa, Idah, Ibaji and Omala.

As a result of the magnitude of the flood, Governor Yahaya Bello called on President Muhammadu Buhari to declare an emergency and assist the victims whose livelihoods have been badly affected.

Just like in 2012 when Lokoja and the adjoining local councils were submerged by flood, several communities and farmlands were covered by water following the overflow of Rivers Niger and Benue.

Narrating their experiences, some victims lamented that flood had taken over their property and farm lands.

A victim, Sule Muhammed, who cried out that he had no place to move to, said: "I'm stranded here as I speak with you. There is nowhere to move to. We are appealing to government to come to our aid."

During a visit to some parts of Lokoja, the state capital, people were seen moving their properties from submerged houses to safer places. It was also discovered that some major roads like the Old Market road and Ganaja-Ajaokuta and Lokoja-Abuja road were submerged.

The roads link the north, east and southern parts of the country. Many passengers were stranded on the road for several days while some took canoe to cross over to the unaffected side to board another vehicles to continue their journey.

At Adankolo Estate and Adankolo Extension, many landlords deserted their houses and moved to safer places.

Residents of the area said that the flood washed away all they had laboured for. "We watched as the flood submerged our houses," Talatu Gimba said.

At the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp at St. Luke Primary School, Adankolo in Lokoja, the chairman called for emergency food supply and medical attention to the victims, especially children.

The Chief of Adankolo community, HRH David Aibe Aghayi II, appealed to the government to provide permanent residence for people affected by the flood.

According to him, once the people are relocated, their present abode should be demolished, so as to prevent them from coming back to the same community when the flood recedes.

Meanwhile, the Kogi State government has relocated people living in flood prone areas to areas considered safe for them. The governor also made a passionate appeal to President Buhari to declare a state of national disaster as a result of the ravaging flood in the state and others.

### Residents Killed, 651, 053 Others Displaced In Anambra

**T**he flood also wreaked havoc in several communities in Anambra State, leaving about 11 dead, many villages submerged and houses, schools, healthcare centres, police stations and churches destroyed.

Many communities in Ogbaru, Anyanelum, Awka North, Anambra East and West were submerged while residents fled their homes to escape disaster.

To mitigate the sufferings of the victims, the state government has set up IDP camps at Central Primary School, Ifite-Ogwari and Otaku Primary School, Omor both in Anyanelum Local Council; Crowther Memorial Primary School, Onitsha and Unity Hall, Umuweri, among others.

Recently, the bridge linking seven communities and several camps in Ogbaru Local Council collapsed, cutting off several communities and thousands of people already marooned by flooding from their kith and kin.

Mr. Udenkwo Amaobe, who lives in the area, said the bridge caved in on October 12 this year.

"In fact, we have long been cut off without anyone making any appreciable effort to assuage our pains. This is the only road that connects all communities in Ogbaru, but surprisingly it cut into two somewhere around Ofia Umuoga, between Ogbakuba and Umunankwo, about two weeks ago."

Government officials visited Ogbaru two weeks ago and only stopped at Odekpe, very far from the site of the collapse," he lamented.

The Southeast Coordinator, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr. Thichman Tanimu, also confirmed the death of one Ginikanwa Izuoba in the Enugu-Otu, Aguleri following the collapse of his house due to the ravaging flood.

He revealed that at least 651,053 persons in six local councils have been displaced, with Ogbaru having 286,000 victims, Anambra West 237,000, Anambra East 103,000 and Anyanelum 9,240.

Tanimu called for urgent supply of clothing, diapers, beddings, sanitary items, food items and other relief materials to assist the flood victims, as the state would not be able to handle it alone.

### Abia Records 13 Deaths

**T**hirteen people, comprising 10 children and three adults, have been lost to flooding in Aba South and Osioma Ngwa local councils of Abia State in the last one month.

Farmlands and houses were also submerged, with goods and properties worth millions of naira destroyed.

A bridge at Akanu Item in Bende Local Council collapsed as a result of the flood, cutting off the community from others. At Nkporo in Ohafia Local Council, three communities and houses were submerged following the overflow of the Ironyi

River.

A recent heavy flooding that occurred at Ariaria International Market, Aba, also destroyed valuable properties and goods but no life was lost.

The Executive Secretary of Abia State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Dr. Sunday Jackson, who made the disclosures, told *The Guardian* that Imo and Eri rivers became overflow with water, resulting in flood up-surfing to Ude Ofeme, Umuodiawa in Umuahia North and Amachara axis in Umuahia South local councils.

Jackson said officials of SEMA and NEMA jointly engaged in rapid assessment of the areas to ascertain the levels of damage for possible interventions by the Federal Government.

### Thousands Of Rivers Residents Rendered Homeless

**N**o fewer than 40 communities in three local councils of Rivers State - Ogbia/Egbema/Ndoni, Ahoada West and Ahoada East - have been submerged by ravaging flood.

Some of the affected communities are Usomini, Omoku, Obrikom, parts of Egi, Egbema and Ndoni in ONELGA.

It was learnt that Mbiam, Aknima, Akioniso and Oruama in Ahoada West were also submerged, rendering thousands of the residents homeless.

Some of the victims, who are currently homeless and jobless, have appealed to Governor Nyesom Wike to ensure that the N1 billion he approved for the provision of emergency relief materials is not mismanaged. They alleged that in the past, relief items meant for victims were diverted.

One of them, Chief Emeka Wilfred, told *The Guardian*: "We were still battling to recover from the damages and losses caused by flood in the past and here we are with the worst. We are grateful for the donations but we request most importantly that the aids and relief items should be monitored to ensure they get to us because past experience shows that these items are diverted."

### Bayelsa Counts Losses, Seeks Partnership On Permanent Solution

**W**ith 10 reported deaths and loss of homes and properties, many communities have been deserted in Bayelsa State following the rampaging flood. Yenagoa, the state capital was also affected.

The flood swept away a 16-year-old boy identified as Temedi Agbade Yerimene at Igbogene community in Yenagoa Local Council. The body was recovered two days after from a deep canal close to the entrance of the state capital.

It was gathered that the deceased, who was in the company of his age mates, was swimming in the rising water close to the State Ecumenical Centre but was overpowered by the tide.

Also, the flood submerged Ayakoro settlement in Ogbia Local Council and killed three people. In Mbiam, a middle-aged woman lost her life to the flood when it submerged her home. Unconfirmed reports say there were many unreported deaths and missing persons.

*The Guardian* further learnt that because more communities have been submerged, the number of people at the IDP camps created by the state government keeps rising by the day. Governor Douye Diri said his government felt the pains and sufferings of the residents, necessitating the setting up of the Task Force on Flooding that has already visited more than 100 affected communities.

