

# Three Feared Dead In Niger Flood Incident

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Birnin-Gwari dam overflowed its banks after an all-day downpour, flooding and reportedly killing three people in Akele village, Wushishi local government area of Niger State.

The rain, accompanied by thunderstorm, also pulled down all mud houses in the area. Domestic animals were not spared, neither were property of the about 500-people community.

Eyewitness account

said the sleeping village of Akele was woken up by the overflowing Birnin-Gwari dam, and before they could make attempts to move their property away to safe places, they were overtaken by the flood which swept across the village, rendering many of them homeless.

The rain stopped. Three people were discovered missing. A source said they were suspected to have been killed by the flood.

Meanwhile, leader of Akele village, Ahmed Akele, has appealed to the

Federal and state governments to come to the aid of the community.

He said they lost all their belongings to the rampaging flood. He added that the recurring problem had washed away their farmlands.

He recalled a similar incident in 1994, saying the people also lost everything to the overflowing dam then.

The incident, he said, also affected the basement of the Akele Railway Station, cutting the community from neighbouring villages.

Caretaker Committee Chairman, Wushishi local government area, Saidu Wushishi, said as part of measures to prevent possible outbreak of disease, the council have provided drugs, clothing and food for the displaced community.

He regretted the magnitude of the destruction of lives and property by the flood from the overflowing Birnin-Gwari dam, soliciting the Federal and state governments' assistance to re-locate and rehabilitate the affected community.