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# Flood claims 53 lives in Katsina, Kaduna states in four months



by Adekunle Jimoh, Ilorin/Osagie Otabor, Benin/Okungbowa Aiwerie, Asaba/John Azania, Lokoja and agency reports — September 15, 2018

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in News, News Update



• A flooded area in Kaduna State

A flooded area in Kaduna State

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The North West zone of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said yesterday that 53 lives were lost to floods in Katsina and Kaduna states over the last four months.

30 other people were reported missing during the same period in the two states, according to Mr Ishaya Chonoko, North West Zonal Coordinator of the agency.

The floods did not spare Edo, Delta, Kwara and Kogi, among other states.

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Chonoko told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Kaduna that the agency recorded 51 deaths in Katsina State, two in Kaduna State, while 30 persons were confirmed missing in Jibiya, a border town in Katsina State.

The floods occurred between May 3 and September 8 in 29 local government areas (LGAs) of the two states.

Chonoko said a total of 12, 041 persons and 262 houses were affected in Katsina State, while 3,775 houses and 7,929 farmlands were similarly affected in Kaduna State.

He listed the affected areas in Kaduna State as Abubakar Gigo Road, Tudun wada, Malali and Ungwar Rimi in Kaduna North.

Others are: Barnawa in Kaduna South; Karatudu, Narayi, Rido village, Goningora and Sabon Tasha in Chikun; Hayin Na'ya, Rafin Guza, Hayin Dan- Mani and Kawo in Igabi LGAs.

Areas in Katsina State included Malumfashi, Kafur, Bakori, Kusada, Kankai, Rimi, Musawa, Daura, Baure, Maiaduwa, Dutse – ma, Batsari, Kaita, Zango, Sandamu, Kurfi and Faskari LGAs.

Chonoko said the agency had distributed relief materials to victims of the flood in the state.

He said blankets, corn, rice, mattresses, cement and detergents were distributed because these were the immediate needs of the victims.

The agency attributed the flood to blocked drainages, construction of structures along water channels and illegal mining along river banks.

### Kwara communities count losses after flooding

Floods resulting from penultimate Thursday's torrential rains wreaked havoc in many parts of Kwara State including Ilorin, the state capital.

Most affected were Harmony Estate, Akerebiata, Gerin

Alimi, Isale Koko and Kulende, all in Ilorin.

Several vehicles were swept away while houses and shops were submerged.

Over 72 communities in the riverine area of the Edu Local Government Area of the state were similarly affected.

These include Kpasha, Pututa, Lalagi, Yikpata and Belle.

Thousands of residents were rendered homeless.


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### Edo victims refuse to leave communities

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Hundreds of flood victims in over 14 communities in Edo State are refusing to move into the resettlement centres built by the Federal Government in 2012 and five other centre provided by local government authorities

They say they cannot leave their ancestral land for a place they will have to depend solely on government for their basic needs.

The communities include Udaba, Ofukpo, Agbaburu, Osomegbe, Ukpeko, Ugochi, Ifeku Island and Anegbette.

Over 12,000 residents were affected and the people opted to live in tree houses and devised means to survive on the water.

Schools and health centres in the communities have been shut.

Mr. Johnson Agadaga, who was seen harvesting cassava, told reporters that he would not leave his farm and community because of flood.

He said he and his family would survive.

Chairman of Estako Central, Mr. John Akhigbe, who visited the communities with the aid of a speed boat asked the federal government to send relief materials to the people.

Akhigbe stated that some of the affected communities promised to leave on Sunday after harvesting their crops.

#### **Delta victims seek succour on higher grounds**

Hundreds of Abuta residents in Asaba, Delta State capital, have fled to higher grounds as rising floods continue to ravage their homes.

The Abuta community, which lies on the banks of the River Niger, is currently under threat of being washed away.

The flood sacked residents in the early hours of yesterday following a torrential rainfall.

Most of the submerged houses have been deserted by their occupants who were said to have mobilised wooden boats and tricycles to evacuate their property.

Although no life was lost to the flood, many churches including Pasture of Life were submerged under water, while two other churches, including Celica Church of Christ and a branch of Deeper Life are under threat of being washed away.

Workers at the Pasture of Life Church were busy salvaging church's property as they were dismantling the air conditioners mounted on the walls of the building.

A resident in the area, who simply identified herself as Mama Faith, lamented that her children had not eaten for about 24 hours since the flooding incident, adding that there was simply no place to set up fire for cooking.

#### **No relief in sight in Kogi**

64 communities in Kogi State have been submerged by flood in the last one month, according to the State Emergency Management Agency.

At least, one life has been lost and property damaged.

A representative of the Head of Operations at the NEMA headquarters, Abuja, Reuben Babatunde, during the on-the-spot assessment of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp at Edeha, said five temporary camps have been set up for victims.

The Kogi State Government on Monday advised residents of flood-prone communities in the state to relocate to a safer place to avoid loss of lives and property.

