

# Reps seek emergency relief for Niger, Kwara victims

3rd July 2025



House of Reps

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The House of Representatives, on Wednesday, expressed grief over the recent floodings that ravaged Mokwa in Niger State and parts of Edu Local Government Area in Kwara State, resulting in the loss of lives and extensive property damage.

It, therefore, asked the Federal Government, through the National Emergency Management Agency, to provide immediate emergency support and relief materials, including water purification equipment, to prevent disease outbreaks in the affected communities.

The tragic developments were brought to the floor as a motion of urgent public importance by Joshua Audu Gana (PDP, Niger) and Saba Umaru (PDP, Kwara).

The lawmakers stated that relentless rainfall from May 28 through the early hours of May 29 led to one of the most severe flood incidents the area has witnessed in decades.

On May 28, 2025, flooding caused by heavy rainfall submerged the market town of Mokwa in Niger State, causing severe damage.

Officials said that the floods killed at least 206 people, over 1,000 missing, at least 121 others injured and many homes destroyed.

In his lead debate, Gana said, “The House notes that the disaster resulted in over 500 confirmed deaths, with more than 600 people still missing and presumed dead. At least 200 others were injured and over 4,000 houses were destroyed.

“The House also notes and commends the magnanimity of the President and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Tinubu, who donated the sum of N2bn through Vice President Kashim Shettima.

“The Governor of Niger State who also donated the sum of N1bn, non-governmental organisations and well-meaning Nigerians contributed to ameliorate the plight of the flood victims in Niger State.

“The House is aware that the flooding was triggered by torrential rain that began on May 28 and continued into the early hours of May 29.

“We are aware that the collapse of a nearby embankment of the old rail lines exacerbated the situation, leading to inundation of Mokwa’s commercial districts, including Tiffin Maza and Anguwan Hausawa.”

The PDP lawmaker noted that the flood swept away entire neighbourhoods, destroyed critical infrastructure, and displaced thousands of residents.

“The House is further concerned that the floodwaters often carry contaminants such as faecal matter, debris, and pollutants, leading to the spread of waterborne diseases.

“The House is disturbed that there is a heightened risk of outbreaks of cholera, typhoid fever, and acute watery diarrhoea in the affected areas.

“We are worried that the destruction of farmlands and disruption of food supply chains have led to food insecurity among flood victims, children, nursing mothers, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition, which can weaken the immune system and increase susceptibility to infections,” he said.

After observing a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives to the incident, the House urged the Federal Government to urgently improve flood control infrastructure and control disaster preparedness in flood-prone regions to avert future occurrences.

Two children drown

In another incident on Wednesday, a boy and a nine-year-old girl were found in a drainage ditch after a rainfall that broke out in Minna Niger State on Tuesday afternoon.

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The PUNCH learnt that the girl, the only daughter among three children of her parents, was sent to the Tunga Market, about two kilometres from their residence, to purchase some soup items.

She was accompanied by her elder brother, an 11-year-old boy.

It was gathered that on their return from the market, the girl slipped and fell into a drainage channel, while residents watched helplessly as the floodwaters carried her away.

The remains of the girl and another boy were found in a tunnel on Mandela Street.

When The PUNCH contacted the spokesman of the Niger State Emergency Management Agency, Hussaine Ibrahim, he said the agency was not aware of the disaster but promised to visit the family.

Disasters claim 500 in 8 months- NSEMA

NSEMA has, however, said the emergency disasters in the state claimed more than 500 lives between September 2024 and May 2025.

The Director General of the agency, Abdullahi Baba-Arah, while briefing journalists on the efforts to tackle the disasters, extended condolences to the affected families and reaffirmed the commitment of the agency to safeguarding the lives and property of all residents.

“In the aftermath of the September 2024 tragic tanker explosion in Agaie Local Government Area, which claimed 60 lives and left eight others injured, NSEMA swiftly coordinated search and rescue operations in collaboration with first responders and local authorities.

“The agency also conducted a needs assessment to inform further assistance

“Another devastating incident occurred in the Diko community on 18th January 2025 where a tanker explosion led to the loss of over 80 lives.

“NSEMA, in partnership with security agencies and health services, immediately deployed emergency teams to the site to manage the situation, support recovery efforts, and assist the bereaved.

“NSEMA carried out assessment and coordinated response activities during the Sabon Pegi dynamite explosion that claimed lives and destroyed several houses.

“The State government responded by providing relief materials including cash assistance to the affected persons.

“Most recently, NSEMA led the coordination of emergency response efforts following the devastating flood in Mokwa which displaced thousands,” he said.

He also listed bandits’ activities in the state as a brewing crisis, noting that the agency was monitoring the situation.

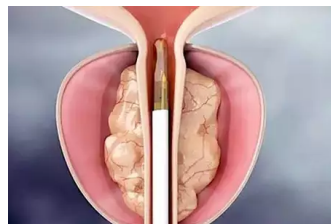
“NSEMA is monitoring the humanitarian crisis brewing in Rijau as a result of banditry which has suddenly resurfaced across Mariga and Rijau LGs,” he said.

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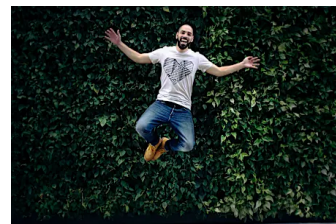
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