

Flood kills 18-year-old girl, five others in Delta, Rivers

Dominic Adewole and Emmanuel Masha

Flood yesterday killed an 18-year-old girl, Oghenekioja Okporie, at Igbide community in Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State.

Flood also killed five people, among them three women, in communities in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State.

This came after the flood had rendered thousands of persons homeless across seven local government areas in the state and killed a 60-year-old blind man and 11-year-old boy at Power-Line District of Asaba, Oshimili South Local Government Area and Ok-

pai, in Ndokwa East Local Government Area of Delta State.

The tragedy struck when flood ravaged the community and the girl boarded a boat that later capsized and she got drown.

Body of the victim, Senior Secondary School (SSS) student of Igbide Grammar School, Igbide, was found floating on the water after she was swept away by the ravaging flood.

She had reportedly gone with her mother to their cassava farm that was overtaken by the water.

The victim's father, Mr. Saviour Okporie, said his daughter had gone to the farm with her mother when the incident occurred.



Flooded community

He said: "After the day's work, they were on their way back in the evening when the boat they boarded capsized. She could not swim owing to the high current of the flood. We only discovered her corpse after three days by a search party."

Okporie said the victim

was immediately buried by the riverside.

The Secretary General of the community, Mr. Joseph Oghenevo, regretted that lives and property had been lost to the flood.

He said: "The entire Owodokpokpo-Igbide, Urovo-Igbide, and Oteri-Igbide

communities have been submerged and as I am speaking with you now, Igbide community can only be accessed with boat."

Oghenevo estimated that over 20,000 persons in the community had been displaced from their homes by the flood.

The Chairman of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State, Hon. Hope Ikoriko, said one of the victims, a man, was killed while trying to save some of his property trapped by the flood.

He also said that three of the victims were women who drowned when they went to their farms and attempted to harvest their crops; in the process water overtook them.

Ikoriko also disclosed that a woman gave birth in the makeshift camp established for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

He disclosed that the woman had been removed from the camp and taken to the local government secretariat for treatment.

Consistent rainfall in some communities in Ahoada West has caused flooding, rendering many homeless, just as the flood has destroyed farmlands.

Two weeks ago, two persons were reported killed as flood sacked over 30 communities in Ahoada West Local Government Area.

Ikoriko regretted that the area had been abandoned by the Federal Government.