

Gully claims 20 lives, 28 buildings

NO fewer than 20 people, mostly women and children, have lost their lives in a 50-metre gully at the Utuh erosion site in Nnewi south local government of Anambra state.

The president general, Utuh community, Mr Chijioke Ikpo, who made

the announcement in Awka told newsmen that more than 28 houses had also been submerged

Ikpo, who claimed to have lost his 72-year-old

father to the gully 15 years ago, said 75 families had been rendered homeless and were in refugee camps in neighbouring villages.

He said 5,000 houses were currently threatened by erosion, noting that Utuh village was currently faced with

acute water shortage caused by erosion, which had also washed away farm lands and roads.

The villagers, he added, had tried in vain to solve the problem through the construction of pavements, gutters, culverts and bridges.

Ikpo appealed to the federal and state governments to assist the community in solving the erosion problem.

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