

**Alert note****Adamawa Flooding, Northeast Nigeria, 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2024****Completed by:** Christian Council of Nigeria**Date completed:** 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2024**Forum:** ACT Nigeria**Type of emergency:** Floods**Date of emergency:** August & September 2024**1. The nature of the emergency**

In the early hours of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the **Kiri Dam** in Tudun Tsira, Shelleng LGA, Adamawa State, breached its banks, resulting in severe flooding across the communities of Kwakwambe, Lure, Nbalang, Imburu, and Bare in the Numan Local Government Area. The deluge caused extensive damage, overwhelming local capacities and necessitating immediate humanitarian intervention (Relief web).

On the following day, Wednesday, August 21, subsequent runoff from the Cameroonian highlands caught residents off guard affecting other communities in Madagali Local Government Area (Duhu, Mayowandu, Kirchinga, Maiwandu, Jahili, Kokohu, Lumadu, Zhau, Pallam, Kwambula, Shuware, and Shuwa). This secondary flooding event exacerbated the already dire situation, compounding the devastation and further straining local resources.

In September /October period, the floods continue to be an issue as floods waters continue to slowly rise especially in Adamawa and other states along the Benue River system who have been on high alert for flooding following opening of Cameroon's Lagdo Dam (Relief Web)

Another source of floods in Adamawa was the overflow of local rivers in Numan due to continuous heavy rainfall, hitting the same communities during the months of August and September 2024 causing severe flooding events.

On 22 September 2024, the Adamawa State Commissioner for Health, and Human Services, on behalf of the Adamawa State Governor, declared a cholera outbreak in the State. This was after 30 out of thirty-eight samples sent to the National Reference Laboratory tested positive for cholera. Cholera outbreak has been declared in Adamawa state and five million people face critical food insecurity in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states due to the damage on crop lands by the floods ([UNOCHA](#))

In Nigeria, the floods have killed almost 500 persons ([Africa News](#)) with many also reported missing. Five million people face critical food insecurity in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states due to flood damage to croplands at the height of the lean season, which is the period between harvests that lasts from May to August.

**2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information with links if possible)**

Based on the forum analysis from UN OCHA Nigeria information, this is a medium scale emergency which has affected numerous households and severely impacted livelihood.

Adamawa state in north-eastern Nigeria, is prone to flooding due to its location within the floodplains of the River Benue. Flooding in Adamawa State has been exacerbated by the overflowing of the Kiri Dam. Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024, the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), in

collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), and the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), identified 38 locations in Adamawa State that were impacted by floods or received internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to the flooding. Food insecurity and access to clean drinking water is an ongoing issue based on UN OCHA's latest Situation Report<sup>1</sup>.

Diverse groups of vulnerable people were identified among the displaced population due to the floods. The demography analysis of the flood-affected population in Adamawa State indicates that children aged 6 to 17 represent the largest group, comprising thirty-nine per cent, which underscores the critical impact on school-aged youth. Adults aged 18 to 59 years follow with thirty-four per cent, highlighting significant effects on the working population and potential economic repercussions. Children aged 1 to 5 years account for fourteen per cent, pointing to the need for child-focused health and nutrition support. Infants less than one year make up six per cent, emphasising the importance of maternal and infant care in relief efforts. In contrast, the elderly (60 years and above) represent seven per cent, indicating a need for exceptional care provisions for older adults. The gender distribution shows that women make up fifty-four per cent of the population and men forty-six per cent, suggesting slightly higher vulnerability among women.

Pregnant women (421 individuals), breastfeeding mothers (791 individuals), the elderly (1,556 individuals), and persons with chronic illnesses (27 individuals) require immediate and sustained access to healthcare services. These individuals face significant health risks in displacement settings, where access to healthcare services may be limited, and living conditions could exacerbate pre-existing conditions. Unaccompanied children (56 individuals) and orphaned minors (114 individuals) need protection services to ensure their safety and well-being.

#### *Widespread destruction*

According to a Rapid Needs assessment conducted by various agencies in the area between the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2024, the displaced persons are living in makeshift tents, schools and abandoned buildings and are exposed to Malaria causing mosquitos. The displaced have poor health access. They also complained of losses they have incurred on their farms due to the flood; they are able to afford local vegetables to make low nutritious soup to survive with the children.

Also, some displaced persons moved along with their remaining food stuffs, while other where only surviving from vegetables brought from the farms in their various communities. Foods are readily available in the market in the host communities but are not affordable for the displaced people.

The floods have caused widespread destruction of homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods in the nine (9) LGAs of Adamawa State that were assessed by DTM (Displacement Tracking Matrix) identified 24,169 individuals in 4,373 households affected by the floods. This number represents individuals including IDPs who were displaced by the floods and communities who were impacted by the floods hosted by other families. The disaster has also caused the destruction of 298 buildings, 203 farmlands, and 509 livestock.

Twenty-two per cent (22%) of the affected houses are habitable but need repair, thirty-one per cent (31%) of the houses are partially damaged but need repairs, and 18 per cent (18%) of the houses are destroyed.

The devastation caused by the flood has severely disrupted livelihoods, leaving many without access to their regular food sources.

#### **Farming livelihoods effects**

<sup>1</sup> <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/nigeria>

Households that relied on farming and local markets have been particularly hard-hit, as the floodwaters destroyed their crops and food supplies. Due to the flood, many families have lost essential household items such as bedding, cooking utensils, and clothing. The lack of these essential items exacerbates daily living challenges as displaced families struggle to maintain a sense of normalcy and dignity amidst the crisis. In the affected communities, the crisis has caused food prices to skyrocket, making it increasingly difficult for displaced populations and locals to afford basic necessities. The disruption to agricultural activities, supply chains, and economic instability has contributed to this surge in food prices, leading to heightened food insecurity.

Providing Non-Food Items (NFIs) is vital to helping the affected communities rebuild their lives and recover from the disaster.

**Shelter**

Eighty-nine per cent (89%) of respondents identified shelter as a critical need, reflecting the extensive damage to homes and shelters across the flood-affected areas. Many families have been displaced and live in temporary shelters that are inadequate for long-term habitation. The lack of proper shelter exposes vulnerable populations, including women and children, to further risks, such as health complications and insecurity. Addressing shelter needs will help restore stability and provide a safe space for displaced families to regroup and recover.

**Water and Sanitation**

Water, sanitation, psychosocial support, and health services, though reported at lower percentages—five per cent (5%) and three per cent (3%) respectively—remain essential for the well-being of the population. Clean water and proper sanitation facilities are critical to preventing the outbreak of waterborne diseases. At the same time, psychosocial and health support services can help mitigate the emotional and physical toll of the disaster. Although fewer respondents reported these needs, they are nonetheless crucial in ensuring the overall recovery and health of the affected communities.<sup>2</sup>

These families face severe risks related to health, safety, and hygiene due to the water damage and unsanitary living conditions. The host communities are now experiencing a sharp increase in population due to the movement of displaced people. This has placed additional strain on local resources, including water, sanitation, food supplies, and basic services.

The flooding overwhelmed local capacities, destroyed homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, and left tens of thousands of people in dire need of immediate humanitarian assistance, including shelter, food, medical care, and clean water<sup>3</sup>. The Government has also ordered the complete closure of all schools in these areas and commenced plans to evacuate people on the riverbanks.

**3. Local and national capacity**

Affected populations are now seeking shelter in host communities, which are becoming increasingly overcrowded. Many of the displaced residents have moved to temporary shelters (Madagali and Numan) or have found refuge in host communities (Lamurde and Michika). However, some are still trying to manage in their flooded homes as seen in Lamurde and Michika, as they have nowhere else to go.

The response to the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe State flooding crisis is supported by a range of resources, including government funds, donor contributions, organizational internal resources, and humanitarian funds especially the UN have been focused on Borno and Yobe states of the Bay states. The likelihood of funding for Adamawa is very low and considering the current warning alerts of release of water from Lagdo Dam in Cameroon, the crisis is likely to deteriorate due to underfunding and underreporting as it affects Adamawa compared to Yobe and Borno states.

On 23 September, the Borno State Government (BSG) inaugurated an Expanded Flood Disaster Relief Disbursement Committee, comprising Government and UN agencies as well as civil society organisations, among other partners to oversee the return. The UN agencies are the International

<sup>2</sup> [Nigeria — Flood Situation Report — Adamawa State \(13 September 2024\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Nigeria: Flood Overview - Borno, Adamawa and Yobe State \(18 September 2024\) - Nigeria | Relief Web](#)

Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

#### **4. Key needs and gaps**

The immediate humanitarian needs include shelter, food, non-food items, medical assistance, and access to clean water. The flooding has caused extensive damage across the affected communities, with significant destruction of houses, schools, and worship centres, forcing many residents to flee their homes.

##### Food and Non-Food Items

About 4.8 million people are already suffering from severe food insecurity before the flooding especially in Madagali and Numan. The floods also damaged crops and farmlands ahead of the harvest season. UN OCHA reported that more crops will be damaged during the peak of rainy season. Food commodities are available in the markets where they were displaced but are extremely expensive hence are unable to purchase.

Food was reported among the top three most urgent, with an overwhelming ninety-seven per cent (97%) of respondents identifying it as a critical necessity. Immediate food assistance is crucial to prevent widespread hunger and malnutrition among the affected population. Non-food items (NFIs) also emerged as a significant need, with ninety-five per cent (95%) of the population highlighting this as urgent.

The devastating flooding across three states has tragically resulted in the loss of lives, widespread disruption of essential services, extensive damage to vital infrastructure, and the displacement of numerous individuals and families. The affected population urgently requires provisions such as unconditional cash assistance to support food and household needs, non-food items, access to clean and safe water, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services, adequate shelter, and protection services. There is a looming threat of disease outbreaks, especially cholera, in the affected areas. It is of utmost importance to implement comprehensive health services, including surveillance and awareness programs, to proactively prevent the outbreak of diseases.

The devastating floods in the state have significantly worsened the humanitarian crises in the region. It is imperative to urgently aid the affected population to prevent further deterioration of their situation.

Since the onset of the flooding in the BAY States, various stakeholders, including the government, donors, NGOs, and agencies, have been actively striving to provide support to the affected communities. Despite these efforts, the scale of the needs remains substantial, emphasizing the urgency of addressing the challenges faced by those impacted by the flooding. Critical shortages of food supplies, non-food items, shelter, and WASH services have been observed, further compounded by the looming threat of disease outbreaks in the affected areas.

The provision of WASH and health services is paramount in preventing the outbreak of diseases, particularly cholera and other waterborne and communicable illnesses in the affected areas. This initiative also aims to mitigate the scarcity of essential WASH items and promote good hygiene practices in the IDP camps and communities. Additionally, the distribution of non-food items, such as mattresses, blankets, mosquito nets, torch lights, and other basic household necessities, plays a pivotal role in supporting the displaced population to cope with the challenging circumstances they face. Furthermore, the distribution of dignity kits and the implementation of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in areas that have not received sufficient support will enable IDPs to access essential items to meet their basic needs, thereby reducing the risk of vulnerable groups resorting to child labour or facing exploitation.

The ACT Nigeria forum has not been able to conduct a comprehensive needs analysis, due to the access and logistical challenges to the target locations. However, the partners will conduct a rapid needs assessment and beneficiary identification and selection process using a participant driven selection criteria and community-based selection process. Presently, there is no access to the

affected areas at all the LGA's, Infrastructures has been submerged in water, families are living in nearby communities free from the flood while other made some makeshift tent as temporary measures and other moving into school buildings, churches and abandoned buildings around the communities. The affected area is only accessible through boats.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an <b>X</b> below
Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i> )	X
Appeal ( <i>intended for large scale emergencies</i> )	

*If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.*

### 5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

The forum has requisite surge capacity comprising of technical and non-technical staff from Christian Council of Nigeria, Christian Aid, Norwegian Church Aid, World Renew and Mission 21 ready to respond.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN)	Adamawa-Lamurde, Madagali, Numan and Michika LGAs	Humanitarian Response/Development Shelter and NFIs, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), WaSH, Protection including gender-based violence, Health, and Peacebuilding

### 6. Potential responses

#### Within the first 1-45 days:

- Stakeholder engagement, community entry and coordination meeting Adamawa SEMA, UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, clusters, camp leaders, and community leaders and beneficiary identification and selection.
- Signing of MOUs with relevant government agencies and ministries.
- Beneficiary identification and selection.
- Procure and distribute NFIs and dignity kits and engagement with cash agents.
- Deployment of health extension workers, social workers, facilitators, and counsellors on protection, psychosocial support, psychological first aid, and trauma counselling. and activation of referral pathways. GBV and child protection case management services.
- Stocking of camp clinics and Primary Health care Facilities.
- Anticipatory activities led by SEMA (Adamawa) including massive sensitization and awareness creation about flood risks, mitigative actions to be taken through town halls, radio jingles, hand bills, posters and interactive radio programmes. Desilting of blocked drainages and evacuation of at-risk populations from flood prone locations.

#### 45 days post-approval:

Post-distribution monitoring and assessment.

The response will require funding for the following sectoral responses:

Non-food Items (NFIs)

Health

Unconditional Cash Assistance

Protection (psychosocial support, SGBV response, child protection and distribution of dignity kits)