

Alert note

Rivers State Nigeria, Flood Disaster Humanitarian Emergency, 3rd October, 2026

Completed by: Christian Council of Nigeria

Date completed: 3rd October 2025

Forum: ACT Nigeria Forum

Type of emergency: Rapid Response Emergency

Date of emergency: 27-29 September 2026 (on going)

1. The nature of the emergency

For Vivian Onyeije, a mother of four in Rumusita, Eneka, Obio/Akpor Local Council of Rivers State, the flood has turned the search for shelter into a desperate journey. Following another heavy downpour at the weekend, floodwater submerged the area around the building, forcing the family to flee once again. They now sleep in their vehicle. Her ordeal mirrors the experience of hundreds of families across parts of Rivers where days of torrential rainfall have submerged homes, schools, businesses and roads, leaving residents scrambling for shelter and struggling to salvage their belongings.

Several parts of Port Harcourt, the **Rivers** capital, were flooded following heavy rainfall on Sunday 27th September 2026. Videos obtained from the local leadership of Christian Council of Nigeria Rivers Chapter showed floodwater rising above the waists of some residents as they attempted to salvage their belongings. Areas affected include Chiomana street in Rukpokwu, parts of Aba expressway, Peter Odili Road, Ozuoba among others. Several vehicles were submerged, while some stranded residents could be seen scooping water from their homes. Electric poles were also reportedly destroyed by the flood.

The flooding also disrupted academic and social activities in the area. Wedding guests were reportedly left stranded at the weekend after floodwaters submerged a reception venue. Heaps of refuse and sewage floating on the floodwaters have further heightened concerns about the risk of disease outbreaks among residents. The flooding, which followed torrential rainfall in the area, has been attributed to poor town planning, obstruction of natural waterways and indiscriminate dumping of refuse by many residents. (<https://www.thecable.ng/vehicles-houses-roads-submerged-as-flood-hits-port-harcourt/>)

The latest flooding came amid repeated warnings of heightened flood risks in Rivers state. On September 28, the National Flood Early Warning Systems Centre listed Rivers and Delta among states with communities at critical risk of flooding between September 27 and October 10, citing heavy rainfall, saturated soil, rapid surface runoff, drainage surcharge and rising river levels. In Port Harcourt, floodwater was reported in parts of Eneka, Eliozu, Odili Road, SARS Road, Rupokwu, Rukpokwu and other communities after several days of persistent rainfall.

The Guardian monitoring showed that the flooding extended across several communities, including **Rumuekini**, Choba, Stadium Road, NTA Road, Mgboba, GRA, Peter Odili Road, Rupokwu, Alakahia, Oyigbo, Atali, Rumuparali, Ogbogoro, Iwofe, Rumulumeni, Rumoaholi and Elikpokwu. At Rumuakoara Community Secondary School, Nkpolu, rising water forced teachers and students to leave the premises, while several schools around Rumusita and Eneka were also affected. Businesses in Nkpolu and Rumuekini closed, while churches and other public facilities in parts of Ozuoba and surrounding communities recorded disruptions. (<https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria/metro/flood-displaces-families-shuts-schools-businesses-across-rivers-delta/>)

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

Hundreds of families and thousands of residents have been displaced or severely impacted by the September 2026 flooding across Port Harcourt and surrounding Local Government Areas in **Rivers State**. While a consolidated official household count for the exact late-September/early-October 2026 flood wave is still being compiled by emergency management agencies, the ongoing crisis has triggered widespread displacement. (<https://web.facebook.com/BBCnewsafrika/videos/residents-in-rivers-state-nigeria-say-theyre-facing-some-of-the-worst-flooding-i/1855759095869534/>)

Current Impact and Worst-Hit Areas

Displacement: Hundreds of families have fled their homes. Some displaced residents are sleeping in their vehicles, while others are taking temporary refuge at schools, churches and under bridges and flyovers.

Worst-Hit Areas: Impacted zones include **Eneka, Rukpokwu, , Choba (East-West Road axis), Peter Odili Road, Aba Expressway, NTA Road, Uzuoba, and Rumukwachi**.

Affected LGAs: Massive property damage and disruption of livelihood have been reported across **Obio/Akpor, Ikwerre, Etche, Oyigbo, and Eleme** Local Government Areas.

CCN's preliminary rapid assessment indicates that there about 500 flood-affected households that have been displaced and thousands of residents affected across five LGAs. The estimate draws on CCN Rivers Chapter field reports, videos and direct contact with community and church representatives, cross-checked against NEMA flood information, Rivers State Government information, The Guardian report Nigeria and BBC News Africa report.

3. Local and national capacity

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) had, prior to the incident, issued multiple early warnings regarding likely flooding in flood-prone regions. In collaboration with NiMet and NIHSA, NEMA's early warning systems involved: Disseminating seasonal climate predictions and real-time flood alerts via radio, television, social media, and town criers. Organizing community sensitization programs to educate residents on flood preparedness, safe evacuation routes, and environmental practices like clearing blocked drainage and refraining from building in waterways. Engaging traditional rulers, religious leaders, and community-based organizations to broaden the reach of these campaigns. Despite these efforts, the scale of the disaster revealed the limits of national-level warnings without sufficient ground-level implementation.

NEMA identified food, shelter, health services, water and sanitation, and livelihood support as the most urgent needs of victims. In the aftermath of the floods, NEMA identified several obstacles hampering response efforts. Resource shortage was the most pressing challenge, accounting for 68 per cent of reported difficulties. This was followed by the inaccessibility of flooded communities (17 per cent), which made it difficult for rescue teams and relief materials to reach victims. Security risks (six per cent) in some locations also slowed operations, while community resistance (seven per cent) further complicated humanitarian access and aid delivery.

CCN has an established Rivers State Chapter and member-church coordinators in affected LGAs who are in direct contact with flood-affected communities. These structures supplied field information and video evidence within the affected communities. Subject to timely funding, safe access and coordination with government responders, these local structures are ready to support rapid verification, community mobilization, referrals and relief distribution.

4. Key needs and gap

The living conditions for flood survivors in **Obio/Akpor, Ikwerre, Etche, Oyigbo, and Eleme** Local Government Areas, of Rivers State remain inadequate. Issues such as insufficient shelter, limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities, and inadequate healthcare services further compound the challenges faced by these displaced individuals. This dire situation emphasizes the urgent need for comprehensive humanitarian interventions aimed at addressing the immediate needs of the flood survivors and laying the groundwork for sustainable solutions.

The affected Households require immediate support, including:

1. Food and non-food items (NFIs)
2. Shelter and temporary housing
3. Clean water and sanitation facilities
4. Healthcare, medical supplies and psychosocial support
5. Livelihood support and economic empowerment

The local authority especially the state government is working hard to make available temporary shelter and medical supplies using the state government health facilities. The issues of food and non-food items (NFIs), clean water, sanitation and hygiene is currently the immediate need.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X 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

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
Christian Council of Nigeria	Nigeria, West Africa	Humanitarian Emergency Responses
		Health, Protection and Psychosocial Support

6. Potential responses

The sum \$100,000 is required to support 500 HHs of the flood victims in **Obio/Akpor, Ikwerre, and Eleme** Local Government Areas, of Rivers State. The funds will be used to:

1. Procurement of Non food Items (NFIs): \$30,000
2. Support Hygiene, Sanitation and Psychosocial support \$20,000
3. Provide conditional cash for food and livelihood empowerment: \$50,000