

Niger Delta Weekly: Mitigating the Risk of Recurrent Flood Disasters in the Niger Delta

June 25 - July 01, 2023

Description

This special edition of the weekly update spotlights natural disasters in the Niger Delta with a focus on flooding in the region. Many coastal and riverine communities in the Niger Delta are predisposed to recurrent flooding because of low topography. According to data (see map below), flooding caused more than 100 fatalities in the Niger Delta between January 2021 and April 2023. Currently, several communities are submerged. In April 2023, for instance, six persons were reportedly killed, 10-year old boy swept away, and houses and economic trees destroyed as a result of heavy rainfall and flooding in Oko and Okpanam communities in Oshimili South LGA, Delta State. Separately, in April, many houses and business premises were reportedly submerged and human and vehicular movement was obstructed at different locations in Aba North and Aba South LGAs, Abia State. In June, houses and business premises were reportedly submerged in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital. More recently, on June 23, 2023, a young man reportedly died after he was swept away by flood in Oba Ile community in Akure North LGA, Ondo State.

Why it Matters

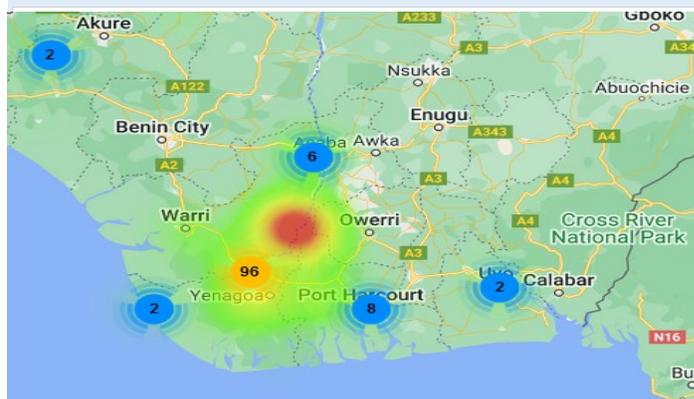
Data have shown that the frequency and magnitude of floods are increasing in the Niger Delta as a result of climate change. Climate variability including changes in rainfalls patterns, rising sea levels and tidal surge have increased the risk of flood disasters in the region. Many communities have been affected by heavy rainfalls and floods have destroyed livestock and livelihoods, and displaced many residents. If not appropriately mitigated, the situation could worsened with adverse impact on socio-economic and political activities, especially as the rainy season is fast approaching its peak in the region.

Social: Recurrent flood disasters could have serious psychosocial, health and security consequences for residents. It could cause loss of lives, destruction of crops, livestock and properties, and disruption of public services. It could displace and force residents into crowded shelters with poor hygiene and sanitation, and where women and girls could be at a high risk of sexual abuse. It could also cause contamination of water sources and outbreak of water-borne diseases.

Economic: Flooding could disrupt economic activities by causing loss of livelihoods and destruction of properties. Destruction of farmland and livestock could disrupt farming and agro-allied businesses. This could cause food insecurity and inflation. The cost of relief and recovery could also negatively affect economic development in the region.

Political: Recurrent flooding could raise concerns about the effectiveness of government's flood emergency preparedness, response and recovery plans. This could trigger violent protests and unrest which could disrupt governance and cause political instability in the region.

Fatalities Heat Map of Reported Flood Disasters in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of reported fatalities caused by floods in the Niger Delta from January 2021 - April 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Recurrent flooding is a threat to human security in the Niger Delta. The frequency and intensity of floods could increase in the region, especially against the backdrop of global warming and climate change. Stakeholders should work with the relevant government agencies to devise strategies to mitigate the situation including construction of coastal embankment and flood shelters. Stakeholders should also raise public awareness of the situation including dissemination of alerts and training on emergency preparedness.

Contact Us

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Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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