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## Information bulletin Nigeria: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.**

#### The situation

Heavy seasonal rains in August 2013 has resulted in the collapse of earth dams, causing widespread flooding, affecting some 47,544 people (7,294 households) across the Nigeria. According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) the worst affected states are Abia, Bauchi, Benue, Jigawa, Kebbi, Kano, Kogi and Zamfara. Forty three (43) deaths have been reported in Bauchi (seven), Ebonyi (four), Edo (five), Kano (one), Katsina (22) and Zamfara (four).

In Kaduna state, earth dams in the Kubau and Birin-Gwari local government areas (LGAs) have collapsed. The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in Kaduna has reported that houses were destroyed in 10 LGAs with 22 in lives lost. In Katsina state, the Kankia dam has collapsed and resulted in the displacement of people in five LGAs (Kankia, Charanchi, Mashi, Daura and Zango).

The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) Headquarters (HQ) has received reports of flooding from 11 of its branches; and with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) country office, prioritized four of the 11 branches in which to conduct a rapid assessment, namely Bauchi, Kaduna, Kebbi and Zamfara. The rapid assessment was carried out from 27 September to 1 October 2013 in nine LGAs comprising 14 communities, and identified a population of 28,798 people (4,114 households), which had been affected by flooding. From this population, 12,362 people (1,766 households) have been displaced after their houses were destroyed. 11 deaths, 30 injured and eight missing people were reported. The farmlands have also been submerged, and water sources and sanitation facilities contaminated.

It is noted that further rainfall is expected based on the 2013 seasonal rainfall prediction by the Nigerian Meteorological department. NEMA assessments have indicated a high risk of flooding downstream of the Niger river as a result of water released from Jebba and Kainji hydroelectric power dams, which have attained their highest water level for 30 years. Uncompleted dredging of the rivers Niger and Benue and silting caused by floods in 2012, are further factors contributing to the vulnerability of communities downstream of the Niger to further flooding this year. Nigeria is still recovering from flooding in 2012, which was the worst experienced in the country for over 40 years.

#### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

NRCS volunteers have been engaged in immediate activities in these states including: emergency search and rescue; sensitizing the communities on water purification before drinking; cleaning up the environment to



**NRCS volunteers supporting evacuations after heavy rains and collapsed dams caused flooding. Photo: NRCS**

avoid stagnant flood waters that provide breeding ground for malaria carrying mosquitoes; providing psychosocial support to traumatized families; and distributing used clothing.

Following the 2012 floods response, the National Society has had its capacity built, and is now better prepared to respond should the flooding increase. One hundred and forty (140) volunteers have received training in health/hygiene promotion and on the use of shelter kits; and 54 HQ and branch staff also sensitized on building flood resistant shelters. EFAT (Emergency First Aid Teams) are located in all the branches across the country and on the ground, ready to respond.

NRCS is in the process of positioning Non Food Items (NFIs) in two of its warehouses to ensure that the National Society is ready to respond. NFIs to be stocked include blankets (885), buckets (2,500), jerry cans (2,556), kitchen sets (42 boxes), mosquito nets (894), shelter kits (1,450), sleeping mats (800), soap (23,700) and tarpaulins. An IFRC water and sanitation kit, which can provide safe drinking water for up to 5,000 people, is also on standby.

### **Actions taken by Government:**

NEMA has donated relief materials to populations affected by floods in seven states (Bauchi, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kogi, and Zamfara), and its North West zonal office has also donated food items. NEMA has ordered the immediate evacuation of communities along the Niger River following the release of waters from the Jebba and Kainji hydroelectric power dams. States at risk are Anambra, Delta, Kogi, Kwara, Kebbi, and Niger, with communities being relocated to higher ground.

NRCS is collaborating with government authorities and UN agencies at National level.

### **Immediate Needs:**

A rapid assessment, conducted by the NRCS with support from IFRC in four states (Bauchi, Kaduna, Kebbi and Zamfara), identified the current needs of the affected communities, which as follows:

- Shelter (recovery shelter)
- Food and Non-food items
- Water Purification Tablets
- Mosquito Nets
- Kitchen Utensils
- Well cleaning
- Sanitation Tools

Nigerian Red Cross and IFRC are working together to respond to the immediate needs of those that have been affected, and prepare should the situation worsen. If it does worsen, then at that point additional support maybe solicited.

## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
  2. Enable healthy and safe living.
  3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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