

Gambia

Humanitarian Situation Report



Date: 19 September 2016

Highlights

- Heavy rains, accompanied by windstorm, from August to date have caused significant destructions to public infrastructure and individual properties, resulting in the displacement of people, injuries and death.
- So far, a total of 4,633 people from 418 households have been affected, with one death reported in North Bank Region. These numbers are inclined to increase as the rains have not yet ceased and more communities remain unassessed due to logistical constraints.
- Of the affect population, the highest numbers are recorded in Central River (1,609) and West Coast (1,028) regions.
- Humanitarian assistance is yet to reach the affected people who are challenged by lack of food, shelter and poor living conditions.
- UNICEF has provided support to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to conduct a rapid needs assessment of the affected population in all the 7 administrative regions of the country, in conjunction with awareness raising activities on flood risk reduction.

Situation in Numbers

2,776
children affected out of

4,633
affected people

(NDMA, Sept 2016)

UNICEF Appeal 2016*

\$2,146,400

The Gambia's is a part of the 2016 Sahel Chapter.

Flood Response needs

\$275,000

Allocation for 2016 was \$343,174.29 in total, of which a balance of \$149,000 remains.

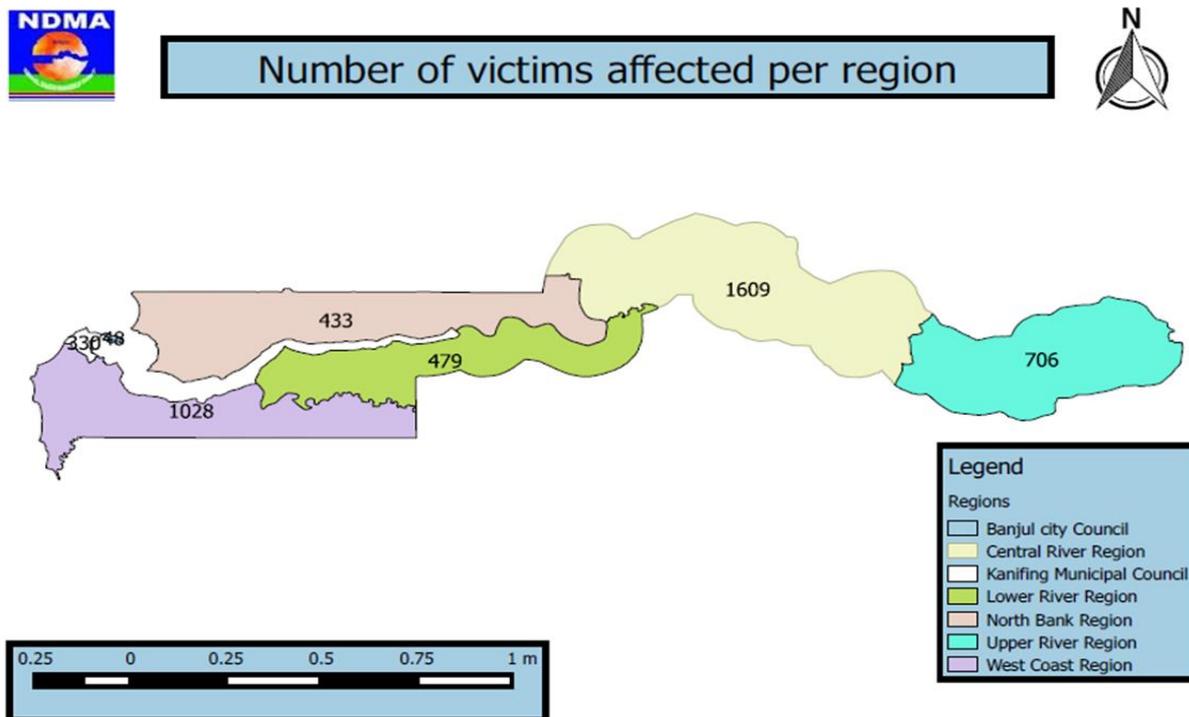
Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System forecasted a possible flooding in Upper River and Central River regions owing to an increase in the water level of the river. These regions are vulnerable due to high incidence of poverty and limited access to basic social services. The persistent heavy rains from August to date, coupled with strong winds, have caused displacement, injuries and death. As of 14th September 2016, the total population affected by floods and windstorms stands at 4,633 from 418 households, with one death reported in North Bank Region. Central River and West Coast regions were the worst affected areas. Class rooms in two schools within West Coast Region were destroyed, denying education to 1,850 children. In addition to that, available schools are being used for housing internally displaced families. This further denies children their right to access their schools.

Shelter and household food security are immediate priorities for the affected families, as some of them are sheltered in incomplete houses or at the nearest schools. Reduced access to safe water and submerged

sanitation facilities continue to pose a major health risk in affected communities. The number of affected people will likely increase as more rains is forecasted up to the end of November.

Diagram 1: Distribution of affected population by region



(Source: NDMA, 2016)

Estimated Affected Population (Estimates calculated based on initial figures from NDMA , September 2016)			
Start of humanitarian response:			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	4,633	2,288	2,345
Children Affected (Under 18)	2,776	1,360	1,416
Children Under Five	1,244	609	635
Children 6 to 23 months	20	8	12
Pregnant women	37	0	37

(Source: NDMA, 2016)

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The humanitarian leadership and coordination structures remain intact. The government, through National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), is responsible for the overall humanitarian coordination, assistance and protection of affected population. The UN Resident Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the

Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). In addition, a UN Disaster Management Group has been established to support the planning and implementation of UN DRR programme interventions. It is chaired by WFP. At the beginning of the year, five thematic groups were established (Food/agriculture, WASH, Nutrition, Education and Health). UNICEF is the co-lead for 3 thematic groups (WASH, Nutrition and Education). WFP and FAO co-lead food and agriculture.

On 15 September 2016, the NDMA convened its first coordination meeting to brief partners on the effects of the floods and windstorms. It was agreed by the participants that NDMA should accelerate the needs assessment and present the results to the Disaster Governing Council. UNICEF's support will focus on the provision of WASH services, education supplies and C4D interventions. FAO and WFP have indicated that they will support NDMA to review data collection tools to include those for assessment of damaged crops and farming implements.

Humanitarian strategy

Over the past few years, emergency preparedness and response has been a key priority for the UNICEF country programme, ensuring synergy between emergency and development interventions. The office has maintained a close working relationship with NDMA and has built the capacity of its structures, in particular the regional disaster committees on DRR. Emergency is also mainstreamed across all sectoral interventions that are supported by UNICEF, especially in education, health, nutrition, and WASH and child protection.

For this emergency, the NDMA has approached partners requesting support. Unfortunately, the NDMA data has not been validated. There is a need to work with other partners, especially civil society, to ensure that a rapid assessment is conducted and that urgent work is done to get support to affected populations. The strategy of course is to move to the field with readily available support and work closely with partners to reduce duplication of efforts.

In terms of partnerships, UNICEF will continue to work with government and civil society (international and national NGOs or CBOs) in delivering humanitarian assistance to affected populations as needed.

Summary Analysis of Programme response – key actions

Education

- UNICEF will engage the Ministry of Education to ensure that children living in areas affected by floods and windstorm have access to education
- A needs assessment of affected schools will be supported as little information is available on the number of affected schools
- Rehabilitation of roofs of class rooms
- Provision of teaching and learning materials, and recreational facilities for children

Health and Nutrition

- Ensure that necessary supplies are available for diagnosing and treating diarrhoeal diseases and other childhood illnesses; this includes access to essential medicines, oral rehydration and IV fluids
- Ensure that malnourished children have access to RUTF
- Training of health workers on management of childhood illnesses

WASH

- UNICEF will support the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to embark on water quality monitoring and treatment in affected communities and schools. UNICEF will also construct new toilet blocks for

two Lower Basic Schools with an enrolment of 1,850 pupils in West Coast Region that were seriously affected by windstorm

- Support the displaced households and schools to have access to adequate water and sanitation facilities through early rehabilitation of damaged water supply infrastructure and construction of improved household pit latrines and provision of water purification tablets
- Hygiene education and promotion
- Provision of hygiene kits and water containers

Communications for Development (C4D)

- As part of the country's flood preparedness, NDMA has been supported to conduct community awareness raising on flood risk reduction at 7 community based radio stations.
- Provide support for C4D campaigns focusing on messages about hygiene and the use of clean water to prevent diarrhoeal diseases as well as the use of bed nets and other ways of preventing of malaria. Further, parents will be encouraged to seek early treatment when their children fall sick.

Estimated budget/cost for response

Sector	Amount US \$
Health	75,000
WASH	100,000
Education	50,000
C4D	50,000
Total	275,000

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