



This report is issued by the UNCT Humanitarian Support Unit in Ghana. June 08, 2015.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Heavy downpour inundates many parts of Accra bringing many activities to a halt and destroying properties including vehicles, buildings and schools
- Fuel station in Accra explodes killing about 150 people and injuring others, many who had sought shelter from the storm and flooded roadways
- Inter-Agency Working Group for Emergencies (IAWGE) undertakes assessment of areas affected by flooding and fuel station incident.
- The President of Ghana visits areas affected by floods and fuel station explosion and declares a 3-Day of National Mourning, announcing providing some 50 million Ghana cedi to help victims and to clear drains and waterways to avoid future flooding
- A situational assessment by NADMO is also still ongoing, including registration of affected persons

II. Situation Overview

A heavy downpour of rain in Accra and its environs has wreaked havoc in several parts (about thirty-five settlements) of the city. The rains which started around 4 pm on Wednesday, 3 June and continued till about 4am Thursday morning, causing destruction in the capital. As a result of the magnitude of the situation, the President, John Mahama, together with some Ministers of State and NADMO officials as well as other humanitarian actors toured areas affected by the floods to assess the extent of damage and to assure victims of government's support.



NADMO Officials interacting with UNRC during assessment of Accra floods

The IAWGE comprising NADMO, UN Resident Coordinator and her Office, UNICEF, IOM, World Food Programme, WHO, Catholic Relief Services, National Catholic Secretariat, World Vision International, and The Ghana Red Cross also undertook assessments on 5th and 7th June 2015 of the flood-affected areas in LEKMA and Odawna Sahara [Kwame Nkrumah Circle]. These areas had the highest number of affected population – base on the initial rapid assessment conducted by NADMO on 2nd June 2015. These follow-up assessments were to determine the need for any assistance from the UN and the Inter-Agency Working Group for Emergencies [IAWGE].



Impacts of the Flood

The heavy downpour brought many activities to a halt and destroyed properties including vehicles, buildings, and schools among other infrastructure. Worst of all a fuel station at the Kwame Nkrumah Circle exploded killing about 150 people and injuring approximately 60 persons.

Many parts of the city were submerged in water during the downpour thus rendering a number of roads and streets inaccessible.

The Railway Quarters along the Graphic Road were also flooded and the occupants were displaced. Residents in the Odaw Drain at Adabraka, Teshie-Nungua, Pigfarm, Dansoman, Odorkor, Kaneshie, North Kaneshie, Abeka, Awoshie, the Kwame Nkrumah Circle, and Mallam Junction were some of the most affected populations. The downpour resulted in a number of damages including broken fence walls, flooded houses, overturned and trapped vehicles.

Locations and number of displaced persons:

Illegal Structures on waterways

- Assembly – 5325
- Ga Central Municipal Assembly – 1110
- Ablekuma South Sub-Metro Assembly – 750
- La – Nkwantanang – 45
- Adenta Municipal Assembly – 455
- LADMA – 25
- Shai Osudoku – 25
- Kpone Katamanso – 55

- Ledzokuku – Krowor Municipal

- Ningo Prampram – 205
- Ada West – 85
- Ada East – 390

Total - 9,255 (no breakout by adult/children available as yet)

Accra's problem

Accra is sited on a low-lying area for which it experiences flooding every rainy season. This is mainly due to haphazard construction of residential buildings on watercourse; inadequate drainage and a poor waste management system which chokes the open drains with refuse. In case of this recent flooding, most of the open drains were choked, hindering the free flow of rainwater and forcing the water to find its way through homes and other infrastructure and blocking intersections making major roadways impassable.

Efforts by the city authorities to check the situation continue to be undermined by recalcitrant residents and weak law enforcement.

There is a fear of cholera and diarrhea cases occurring as a result of the debris and refuse left in the wake of the flash floods last week.

In connection to flooding, the Ghana Water Company has opened the flood gates of the Weija dam, a



major source of drinking water for greater Accra, to spill excess water which may lead to the collapse of the dam. This envisaged activity will affect hundreds of people living around Weija Dam, some of whom have already been affected in the catchment area by the aforementioned flash floods.

The most critical needs identified by NADMO are food, bedding, detergent and water in that order of priority. Data collection on the affected population is ongoing to determine numbers and demographic to enable

Flash waters in Accra
government provide the necessary support.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Food Security/Livelihood

Through NADMO, the government has provided some relief items, including food stuffs to the affected populations as mitigation measures; however, this is not enough to serve all the affected persons. Additionally, properties worth millions of cedis have been destroyed. These include personal belongings such as: Electrical appliances, Furniture, Clothing, Personal Documents, Cars, Food items, and Money.

Some traders whose goods were taken by the floods are calling for government support to rebuild their livelihoods. Some of these traders claim they collected loans from the banks and therefore need some support in order to be able to get back on their feet.



Affected household items

Education

Schools closed down last week as a result of the floods have been opened. It is still not clear the number of school structures that were affected as assessment is ongoing.

Health:

There is fear of having cholera and diarrhea outbreak recurring, in view to these developments, health authorities should raise health alert to caution the general public to adhere to strict hygienic standards.



House near place of explosion

The floods have created a situation which raises concern about possible outbreak of water borne diseases. Fortunately the joint assessment did not observe any condition of this nature. In view of the situation of those affected by the flood and the effect on their living conditions, there is a need to:

- Preposition emergency drugs for malaria, pneumonia and ORS in strategic hospitals across the regions
- Continued provision of ITNs according to needs on the ground.
- Support GHS to develop localized emergency preparedness plan, focusing on common emergencies, including epidemics.
- Ensure proper mechanism to provide safe water for drinking and cooking
- Provide nutritional support to children and the vulnerable
- Make available supplies to cater for hygiene and sanitation needs
- Ensure babies, children and pregnant women are still able to access routine health services
- Enhance the disease surveillance to ensure early case detection, regular reporting and timely initiation of response/control measures in the event of disease outbreak such as cholera
- Facilitate adequate waste disposal facilities and cleaning of the environment in the areas the victims are seeking refuge to reduce disease transmission conditions
- Provide logistics for safe shelter including the provision of mosquito nets to reduce exposure to mosquito and other disease carrying vectors
- Support and stock nearby health facilities with essential drugs and medical supplies to facilitate case management in the event of disease outbreak

- Ensure health workers in nearby health facilities are adequately trained in case management in the event of cholera outbreak to ensure appropriate care
- Sensitize all affected on the potential health risks, the need for frequent hand washing with soap and water, drinking of safe clean water by boiling, eating properly cooked food and the need to start oral rehydration fluids and report to the nearest health facility if symptoms of Cholera should occur.

Water and Sanitation:

The sanitation situation in the capital is gradually getting under control as waste management organizations continue clearing the debris which engulfed most streets and gutters after the rains last week. Meanwhile the Accra Metropolitan Assembly has embarked on a massive clean-up exercise this week to clear drains of debris and illegally positioned structures.

Significant progress will have to be made in identifying and rehabilitating hand-dug wells; but support for construction and rehabilitation of protected water supply systems as well as rehabilitation of damaged existing household and school latrines needs to continue and supported adequately.

Management of temporary accommodation/reception centres

For households that will be relocated to short-term accommodation centres or (temporary) relocation sites, significant support will be needed to ensure that families erect safe and resilient shelter structures, and that the sites are developed and managed in accordance to international SPHERE standards. In order to improve site management systems, IOM can provide support for local institutions on managing temporary accommodation and reception centres. IOM staff can be in the field to assist local structures responsible for the management of the accommodation centers. Special attention to protection and psychosocial assistance to the most vulnerable will be included as per IASC guidelines.

Distribution of emergency shelters and provision of shelters repair kits

Local material will be prioritized. Vulnerable groups will be assisted in shelter construction and selection of materials. The intervention will also include the procurement of shelter grade plastic sheeting, tents and solar lamps.

Assistance Needed For Flood Victims

Rapid assessments of the flood situation revealed a wide range of needs (immediate, medium to long term). An amount of about GHc4, 000,000.00 worth of emergency relief has been distributed so far by NADMO, which anticipates that much more of such assistance will be required, including:

The immediate needs are outlined below:

A. Food Items

- Rice
- Maize
- Beans
- Fish
- Oil

B. Medicine

Medicine required for treatment

- dysentery
- malaria
- diarrhea
- snake bites(anti-snake serum)

C. Clothing/Bedding

- mattresses
- blankets
- clothes
- treated mosquito nets

- Sauce Pans
- Plates
- Cups
- Buckets

- Ladles
- Water purifiers
- Mobile water reservoirs
- Water
- Poly tanks

D. Non Food Items

RESPONSE:

Short term

- NADMO indicated that it has available 5000 mattresses, 650 bales of used clothing; 400 bales of blankets; 1500 bags of rice, some maize (quantities to be determined) and soap. In this respect, NADMO has been providing food, clothing, blankets, mosquito nets, mattresses and soap. Other philanthropic/corporate organizations have also supported the affected persons with water and other relief items.

-The Government is working to clear debris from recent floods, as well on de-silting of choked drains.

- Additionally, the Government is clearing all structures in waterways to minimize flooding in the city

- The Ghana Government has also promised 50 million Ghana Cedis for emergency response - this will also include desilting gutters, construction of storm drains and culverts and other relief efforts. However, additional resources will be required to fix the infrastructure facilities to restore life to the normally commercially active population in the Accra – Tema area which is the hub of major economic activities.

- Safe havens have been identified by NADMO on the Beach in LEKMA as well as Ebenezer, Opetekwe and Glefe Park in Dansoman. These locations have not yet been prepped to receive any affected people and will be done in the coming days. The locations do not seem suitable in the current state and will require some work to get them ready to receive displaced persons.

Suggested Long term

-There are plans by government to construct one hundred and twenty kilometres (120 km) of storm drains along the major river basins in the capital

-To construct water retention reservoirs.

- Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) must accelerate programmes to desilt drains especially at the onset of the rainy season. They should also make relevant bye laws to control development in their areas, since they are the planning authorities in the local areas.

- Waste collection and disposal in the country especially the urban areas should be addressed.

- NADMO to leverage the opportunity provided by the emergency to adopt a disaster risk-responsive approach for sustainable growth with the assistance of the UN. Therefore, the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Platform initiative requires explicitly focusing on the role of risk reduction to achieve pro-poor development to reduce vulnerability...The National DRR platforms comprise of organisations/institutions that have a role to influence policy or government machinery to work towards sustainable development. In Ghana this platform is used for advocacy as well as education purposes.

Forecast:

The Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMA) has warned rains will continue in the southern part and middle belt of Ghana up till the end of July.

Follow Up/Next Steps

- NADMO to request officially for assistance to the Inter-Agency Working Group through the UN Resident Coordinator. This will form the basis of any assistance to be provided.

IV. Coordination

NADMO has been in the forefront of coordinating the rescue operations and relief response to the flood victims. The UN Country Team is sharing information and mobilizing support in order to avoid fragmentation, gaps and duplication. The UNRC Office is also providing technical assistance to NADMO to continue managing the situation.

A situational assessment by NADMO is also ongoing, including report on use of funds being made available and remaining gaps. This Situation Report would be updated accordingly with the completion of their Assessment.

V. Funding

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform the UNRC Office of current and planned support and contributions by sending an email to the contact provided below:

christine.evans-klock@one.un.org or sule.mahama@one.un.org

VI. Contact

Ghana: John Sule Mahama, UN Humanitarian Affairs Officer

Email: sule.mahama@one.un.org

Phone: +233 244 343 198