



FLOOD RELIEF AND REHABILITATION FUNDS

A CASE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

#Fffloodmoney



BudgIT @BudgITng · Mar 25

Comrade Friday Audu, Otuocha, Anambra East said he got nothing but his mother got a pot & 2 sachets of salt. [#Fffloodmoney](#) @OSIWA1



Dalton Shamaki @Shamaki11 · Mar 25

Most '12 flood victims in Nasarawa got guinea corn as relief material which ws also short changed wit N2k [#Fffloodmoney](#)



Omar @chineduomar · Mar 25

With Billions of Naira allocated 2 affected states, some victims got only few cups of rice, some N2000-N5000, most got nothing [#Fffloodmoney](#)



Patience Eneama Odey @eneamaodey · Mar 25

[#Fffloodmoney](#) "My mother in Ijiwo community only received 200naira worth of cooking pot" Yanko Audu, Nassarawa state @jogbosky @OSIWA1



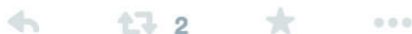
SayNo Campaign @SayNoCampaign · Mar 25

Awudu Friday from Uzah in Anambra West LGA was given just a pot and a satchet of salt as relief material [#Fffloodmoney](#)



joseph amenaghawon @jogbosky · Mar 25

[#Fffloodmoney](#) Affected persons in Delta State were paid paltry sums by the State govt'-Gabriel Osekene @OSIWA1 @AngaiCK @udoilo @mikoqp



SayNo Campaign @SayNoCampaign · Mar 25

Friday from Idoma in Nassarawa State was compensated with N200 naira as a flood victim [#Fffloodmoney](#)



Dalton Shamaki @Shamaki11 · Mar 25

A camp of 30 victims of d '12 flood in Abia had only 10 cups of rice as relief package [#Fffloodmoney](#)

EVIDENCE IS POWER

Ground Truthing and Evidence-based Advocacy is crucial to driving accountability and transparency at community level. Using testimonials of citizens to track flood funds and unearthing the resultant links to statutory institutions, BudgIT - with the support of Open Society for West Africa - worked on community-level advocacy to produce a detailed inquiry into the distribution of funds meant to bring succor to flood victims. This report chronicles our interaction with citizens in rural communities and also points out our concerns to key stakeholders; mainly the Auditor-General on the issues, as discussed with the citizens. Our work continues to highlight the need to build accountability systems in emergency funds management and this report is provided to improve the current audit work undertaken by the Auditor-General to track Flood Rehabilitation Funds that regrettably became a conduit for corruption.

ABOUT BUDGIT

BudgIT Information Technology Network (BudgIT) - a civic organization was founded in 2011 (supported by Co-Creation Hub) driven to retell the Nigerian budget and reveal public data in finer detail across every literacy span. BudgIT seeks to stimulate citizens' interests around public data and hence trigger discussions towards better governance. The organization is committed to the principles of open data and governance, citizen participation and data transparency.

Since its inception, BudgIT's activities have transformed the discussion about the Budget on social media and offline gatherings. BudgIT is currently supporting NGOs in Nigeria on budget monitoring and public transparency. BudgIT has built a project monitoring platform known as Tracka and also maintains an experimental data visualization platform known as Fitila. BudgIT works with the Open Society for West Africa in deepening accountability systems in Nigeria and focus areas include: budgets, emergency funds and extractives.

Content Development Team

Lead: Oluseun Onigbinde

Research Team: Stanley Achonu, Tolutope Agunloye, Uadamen Ilevbaoje

Creative Analyst: Segun Adeniyi & Richard Ofunrein

Editor: Ruona Meyer

Contact: info@yourbudgit.com +2347034944492

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2012, Nigeria faced high-magnitude floods which wreaked havoc, culminating in large-scale impacts on the country's citizens. The floods affected 27 of Nigeria's 36 States and the Federal Capital territory (FCT) Abuja, resulting in the loss of over 363 lives and the displacement of over two million people. The floods destroyed farmlands, livestock and other means of livelihood for millions of rural dwellers.

Despite numerous well-intended commitments by donor agencies as well as private and public institutions to support victims, the lack of transparency and accountability in the disbursement of funds intended for the people was a recurring narrative. Additional funds were provided by individuals, which were meant to: complement government efforts and reduce victims' suffering; rehabilitate those displaced and traumatised by the flood disaster; advise the State about developments as they unfolded and oversee the prudent utilization of the funds raised. Specifically, about N17.6bn was provided by the Federal Government as the Flood Relief Fund, and shared to affected States, according to the severity of the floods. Most of the victims did not benefit, as there were leakages brought on by a motley of fund distribution methods.

“Our Team went to 12 States to cover the extent of the floods, and the resulting testimonies of the victims are captured on <http://followfloodmoney.org/>, with empirical data and where possible”

Our Team went to 12 States to cover the extent of the floods, and the resulting testimonies of the victims are captured on <http://followfloodmoney.org/>, with empirical data and where possible, video evidence from the areas that were flooded during the period. An event was also held on March 25, 2014 in Abuja, which was meant to extract first-hand reports from citizens and also to connect them with the relevant institutions responsible for disaster response and management. Using tweet meets, online media engagement and other tools, we reached out to Nigerians, chronicling the untold hardship that the flood victims suffered in 2012 - and onwards.

What has remained a recurring issue of concern is the lack of transparency and accountability that has characterized the reception and utilization of the Federal Government-allocated Flood Relief Funds, which were disbursed to affected States in the aftermath of the flooding. Also dire is the reality that some of the flood victims did not receive any succour from the designated funds, whether in cash or kind. The next steps are to discuss and develop benchmarks on how to entrench accountability into disaster response and management in Nigeria so that funds, whether for victims of Ebola or insurgency, end up judiciously spent under the most transparent frameworks.

VICTIMS



363 loss of over
363 LIVES



2MILLION

Displacement of
over 2million people

INTRODUCTION

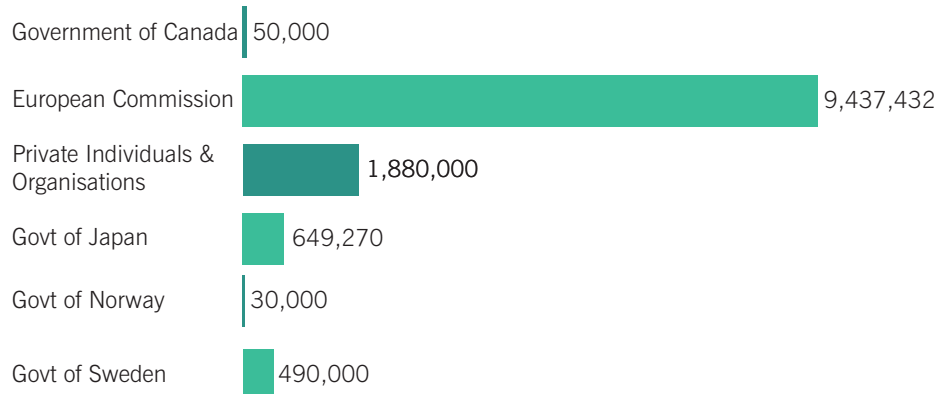
The 2012 floods in Nigeria and the disaster caused are still very fresh in the minds - and daily reality - of many victims. The floods, which affected 27 of the country's 36 States and the FCT, Abuja resulted in the loss of over 363 lives and the displacement of over two million people. Across a third of all States in Nigeria floods destroyed farmlands, about 597,476 houses, livestock and other means of livelihood for millions of rural dwellers. A critical look at the 2012 flood disaster and government's response indicates that the catastrophe exerted a great burden on Federal, States and Local governments, most of which had no clear disaster management plan for occurrences of such magnitude.

The crisis led to the establishment of temporary relief camps, a national emergency Fund campaign and also the establishment of private sector groups who raised money to support flood victims. But what has remained a recurring issue of concern is the lack of transparency and accountability that has characterized the receipt and utilization by States of the Federal government allocated Flood Relief Funds, which were disbursed to affected States at various times in the aftermath of the floods. Also dire is the credible fear that some of the flood victims did not benefit at all from these intervention funds. In October 2012, President Goodluck Jonathan announced the release of N17.6 billion (\$109.1 Million) as direct financial assistance to the affected States and some Federal Government agencies responsible for disaster management.

Based on the severity of the floods, the Federal Government classified the states accordingly. All Category A States were scheduled to receive N500 million each; Category B States N400 million each; Category C States N300 million each, and Category D States received N250 million each to mitigate the effects of the disaster

Donations by Donors and Private Individuals

Amount in US Dollars





27 The floods, which affected 27 of the country's 36 States

Category A States included Oyo, Kogi, Benue, Plateau, Adamawa, Delta, Bayelsa and Anambra, while Category B States comprised of Jigawa, Kano, Bauchi, Kaduna, Niger, Nasarawa, Taraba, Cross River, Edo, Lagos and Imo. In Category C the States were: Kwara, Katsina, Gombe, Ogun, Ondo, Ebonyi, Abia and Rivers, while Category D States included Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Yobe, Enugu, Ekiti, Osun, Akwa Ibom, Borno and the Federal Capital Territory. The following agencies of the Federal Government were also allocated funds as follows: Ministry of Works, N2.6 billion (\$16.1 Million); National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, N1.1 billion (\$6.1 Million); Ministry of Environment, N350 million (\$2.1 Million); National Commission for Refugees, N150 million (\$930,000); and the Technical Committee on Floods Impact Assessment, N100 million (\$620,000).

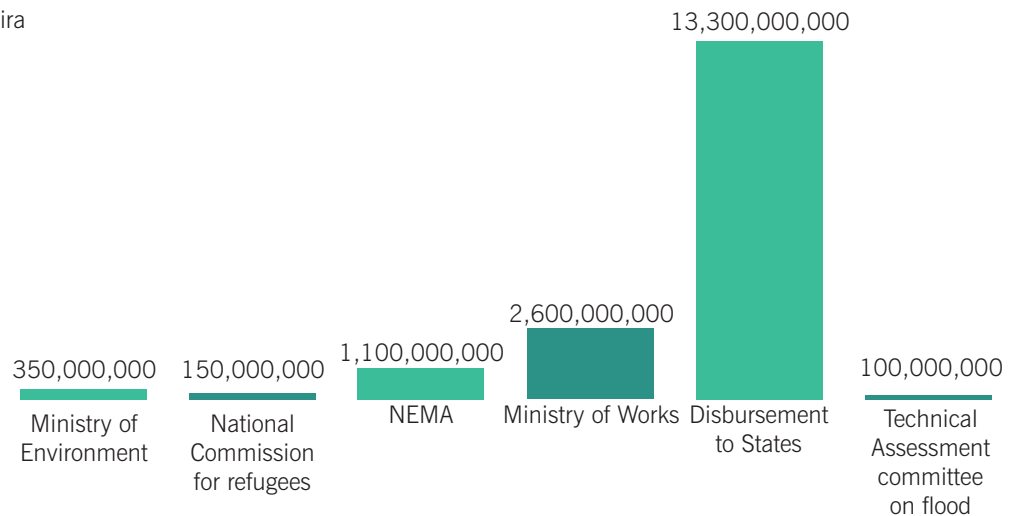


597,476

Across a third of all States in Nigeria floods destroyed farmlands, about 597,476 houses

Private individuals also mobilized funds under the Presidential Committee on Flood Relief and Rehabilitation, co-chaired by businessman Aliko Dangote and Lagos-based lawyer, Olisa Agbakoba. The committee was set up on 11 October 2012 to complement the government's efforts at bringing succor to the victims of the flooding across the country. These funds have largely remained unaccounted for. State Governors have also said monies have been released for flood victims, yet, some affected citizens still complain that no respite was received.

N17.6bn Federal Government Fund for Flood Relief
Amount in Naira

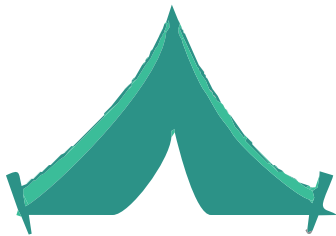


Working with selected civil society organizations and affected communities' groups, the project utilized a broad range of tools to estimate monies collected at both Federal and State levels for the adaptation to and control of flooding disasters. Also under scrutiny were donations from private organizations and individuals. Covering 12 selected States, the project undertook an analysis of different sources of funding for emergency measures against the flooding, and tracked and the actual amounts that trickled down to citizens, in financial and non-financial terms. Finally, advocacy campaigns were embarked on to engage relevant sectors of the society and government towards ensuring the effective, transparent and accountable use of funds earmarked for flood relief and rehabilitation purposes in beneficiary States.

The overall goal of the project is to “closely monitor the utilization of funds raised and allocated under the Flood Relief and Rehabilitation Program initiated by the Federal government.” An initial assessment of flooded areas was achieved by Mapping, Selection and Accessing of targeted areas. We took a scan of the major States where floods occurred and began research into the most devastated communities. This included extracting information about the communities with the most displaced citizens and/or environmental damage.

KEY GOALS OF THE PROJECT

The project, which spanned from September 2013 to January 2014, was developed to fulfil the following:



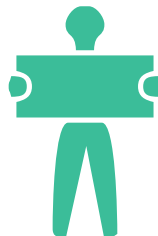
Identify communities where flooding occurred and determine to what extent such communities were, and continue to be affected.



Investigate how much money was raised and allocated by the private sector and government, and track the usage of such funding.



Provide information to the public and civil society on the management of the funds related to the flood relief efforts, and support the growth of citizen pressure groups.



Design evidence-based advocacy specifically focused on Relief Fund management to ensure accountability and attain transparent, effective disaster management protocols for the country in the long-term.

PROJECT APPROACH

To track the flow of public funds and donations by multi-stakeholders, a fact-based approach through expansive discussions with citizens was utilised. We worked on 12 States widely spread across the Federation, focusing on those where the floods wreaked the most devastation. Category A States where fieldwork interviews were carried out are Kogi, Benue, Delta, Bayelsa and Anambra, while Category B States the Team covered were Niger, Nasarawa, Taraba, Edo, and Imo. In Category C the two States visited were Kwara and Abia. No State in Category D was included in this project.

Key approaches chosen include:

1. Mapping, Selection and Accessing of Targeted Affected 2012 Flood Communities: The project did a desktop mapping of impacted 2012 flood communities, developed criteria for selecting case-study communities for the project and also obtained access and secured contact details of relevant leaders and individuals within the targeted communities.
2. Documentation and collation of information on relief and rehabilitation funds till date: The project was hinged on continuous research, documentation and information gathering on all relief and rehabilitation fund initiatives of Federal and State governments, as well as private organizations/institutions.
3. Development and deployment of an online tool for transparent tracking of relief and rehabilitation funds: This comprised the development of an online portal which provides access to reports gathered by field reporters and also shows the public personal testimonies from locals in affected communities.
4. Advocacy engagement of relevant government institutions and the general public, seeking and propagating information on how relief funding has been managed, and devising recommendations for enhanced accountability.
5. Field research in 12 States, with discussions centred on the environmental impact of the 2012 Floods, as well as the adequacy of, and level of transparency in the distribution of funds.
6. Interactive sessions with stakeholders on the distribution of funds and first-hand testimonials by citizens on the adequacy of funds and the transparency of the disaster management process as a whole.

“To track the flow of public funds and donations by multi-stakeholders, a fact-based approach through expansive discussions with citizens was utilised.”

PROJECT PHASE 1

INITIAL ENGAGEMENT SESSION

We had a one-day session with the victims of the 2012 flood disaster and some institutional bodies. We invited the Federal Ministry of Works; The Ministry of Environment, National Emergency Management, the National Human Rights Commission and the Presidential Committee on Flood Relief and Rehabilitation. Despite the invitation and follow-up letters from our Organization, only representatives from NEMA, Environment and NHRC were present.

Our Lead Partner, Oluseun Onigbinde delivered the opening address, welcoming our distinguished guests. He introduced the theme of the event and mentioned the role of the Freedom of Information Act in this instance in demanding transparency and accountability. Joseph Amenaghawon, Economic Programme Lead for Open Society for West Africa, defined the project objectives and why they are important at this time in Nigeria. A representative from the CSO AA Peaceworks, Uche Ifukor corroborated the facts stated by BudgIT, relating past work done by his organisation around disaster management, with suggestions on how to manage future occurrences.

Engineer Audu, the representative from the Ministry of Environment, was outspoken on how politicians have hampered the Ministry's efforts. He also revealed that the funds allocated to the ministry were not sufficient to build an early warning infrastructure to forestall natural disasters. The Victims shared their testimonies and were subsequently assigned to roundtable sessions with





Cross Section of participants in Abuja 2012 on the flood relief rehabilitation fund

representatives of the Institutional bodies, to facilitate instant feedback between both stakeholders. Pertinent questions were discussed, including the Causes of Flood; Why Floods happen; Ways to avert such disasters in the future; Community Engagement to prevent and manage disasters; How Floods can be prevented, as well as How To Build adaptation systems and Insurance for future environmental disasters. The session was concluded with a Question-and-Answer segment, to ensure maximum comprehension and clarity for all in attendance.

PUBLIC INSTITUTION AND MEDIA IN ATTENDANCE

Ministry of Environment
 Ministry of Works
 National Human Rights Commission
 Presidential Committee on Flood Relief and Rehabilitation
 National Emergency Management Agency
 National Refugees Commission
 Media Engagement
 Raypower FM
 The Sun Newspaper
 Journalists Against Disasters
 Peoples Daily
 Daily Newswatch.

PROJECT PHASE 2

The second phase of the project focused on key public (national and subnational) public institutions such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Works, National Emergency Management and others. This phase advocated for transparency and accountability in disaster fund management and disbursement, and ends with the submission of a field report on the victims' experiences.

Interest by civil society organizations such as Connected Development (CODE) also helped in deepening our interest in demanding transparency and accountability. On October 1, 2014, the Auditor-General of the Federation agreed to probe the emergency funds. In his words, he stated that “The Disaster Management Audit (DMA) in most cases when there is disaster, we don't wait for due process. Government allocates monies to curb the disaster. For example, the recent Ebola outbreak and the flood that nearly took over our cities recently. We can't start to advertise and issue tender before things are done. You must follow due process; no that is wrong, and disastrous.

“When these things happened, government released money for those things to be done. Then some people will decide to spend the money not for the purpose. So this DMA looks at what has happened”

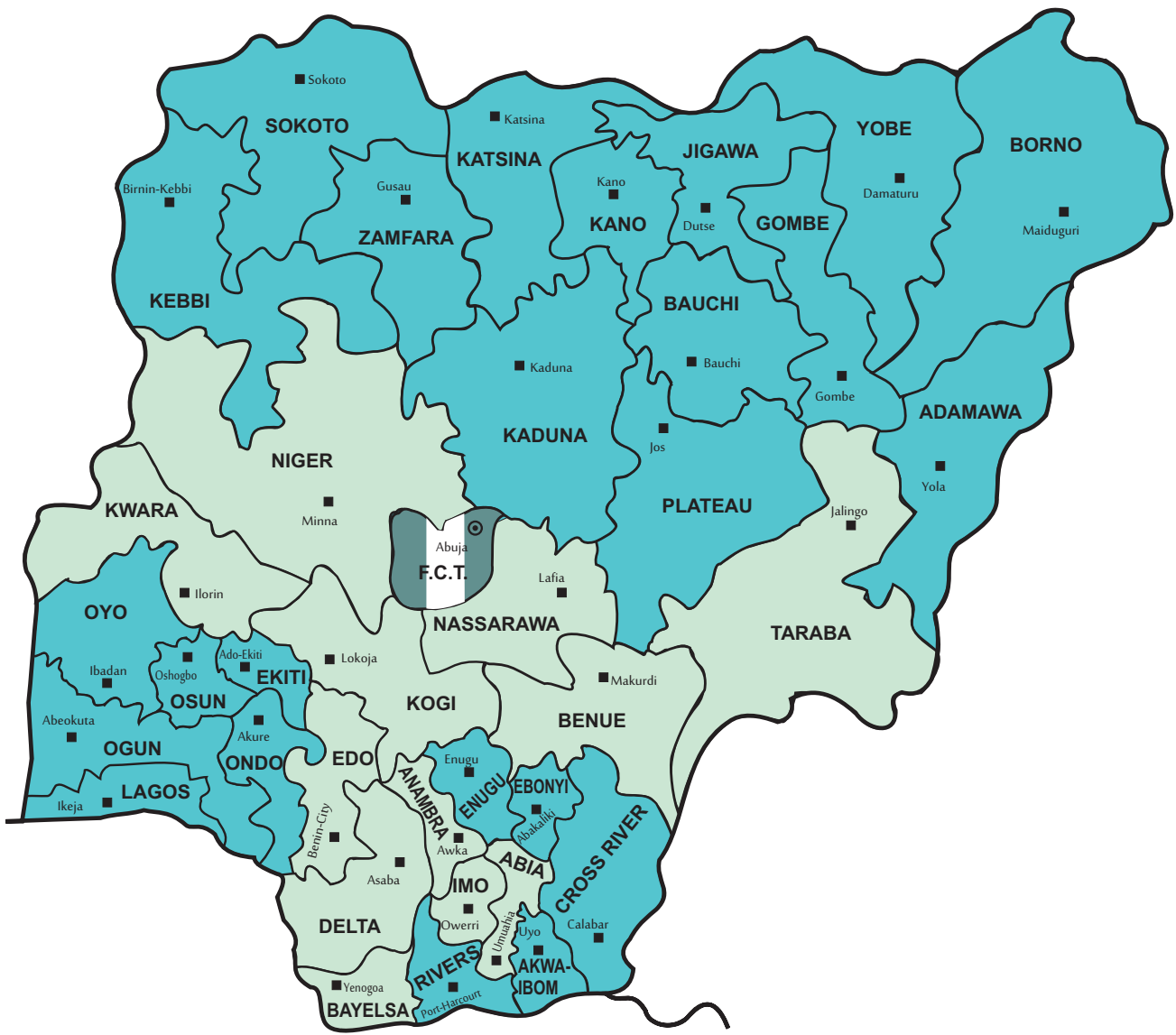
“So what we are now planning is to commission this audit; yes go ahead and spend the money but we will audit how you applied it. These are the things we are introducing at the office of the Auditor General, to change how things are being done in Nigeria.”

We have seen increased interest on issues relating to flood with the following incidence:

- Nigeria's Auditor-General of the Federation, Mr Samuel Ukura, has stated his interest in probing the utilization of the 2012 Flood Rehabilitation Fund, considering the incessant request of victims and pressure from civil society.
- The United Nations Development Programme has developed a digital flood model which will signal expected impact within vulnerable areas in Nigeria. This model is also expected to come with compensation and relocation mechanisms for all potential victims.
- Increased interest and demand for transparency on social media over the utilization of emergency funds in Nigeria, occasioned by the launch of other compensation initiatives the Victims Support Fund for those affected by terror group Boko Haram, and the Ebola Emergency Response Fund.

We have presented our imperative requests to the Auditor-General in this report for review and action based on its mandate and we will follow up on the next steps.

MAP SHOWING FLOODED STATE TRACKED UNDER THIS PROJECT



■ Focus States

STATE SUMMARY

A brief summary of the experiences of the grassroots researchers in the 12 States visited in the course of the project:

Across all the States visited by the team, respondents' disappointment and a lack of trust in the government at State and Federal levels was a common theme. A generally slow response to the plight of those affected, miscommunication and non-communication as to how to respond, clearly showed a lack of preparedness by States. Where it occurred, response was late and uncoordinated; there was no rescue equipment, and little or no medical supplies.

Nothing made the government's lack of preparedness more stark than the setting up of relief camps for victims. In all the States visited, camps managed by private organisations were better run than those set up by government. Beddings were given to wards and communities loyal to government, or completely diverted. The majority of victims therefore mostly resorted to self-help.

In distributing assistance to victims, middlemen embezzled most of the material and financial assistance, leaving victims with nothing. Where victims received any assistance, it was barely enough to help them restart their lives. In working on this project, our Team found at every point, government officials' lethargy in accounting for how the funds meant for victims were disbursed. To avoid the lingering scandal that trails the 2012 Flood Relief Funds, government must investigate the Fund and find out how monies meant for victims ended up misappropriated in practically every State.

BAYELSA STATE

Bayelsa state, in the South-Southern region of the country, was not spared from the destructive flow of the 2012 floods. The Project Team arrived Bayelsa on the 9th of January, 2014, and could only access the riverine community of Bebelebiri by a canoe ride. There, residents complained bitterly of neglect.

Raphael Suoboro, a health worker with the Federal Medical Centre, said he suffered painful losses as a result of the flood. “I had a poultry containing over 120 birds. All my birds died,” he lamented. He said he lost his electrical appliances, and “even the four-bedroom house I built in my village, Enewari community, collapsed. Now when I travel to the village, I don’t even have a place to stay.” When asked to evaluate what he lost to the flood, he estimated the amount to be over N4 million.

“The flood destroyed my poultry birds, property and house and I did not get a dime from both the state and federal government.”



A flooded house in Bebelebiri

Mr Suoboro, who said that he had to send his children and mother to live in a communal family house, complained that the response of the government was below standard, as the victims of the flood were not cared for, neither was accommodation provided for them. “I didn’t get anything; no compensation, not even five naira,” he said.

Another victim of the flood, who identified himself only as Timipreye, told us

that thieves looted victims' belongings after the flood. He expressed surprise that whereas the government publicly claimed that it had provided relief, the people saw nothing.

Asked how he survived the flood, he wryly said that as an Ijaw man he was very skilled at swimming: "in my house, I even used rubber buckets with sticks to deck the bed so I can [sic] sleep on it."

The precarious living conditions, according to Mr Timipreye, were not suitable for his family, and so he had to send them to Benue State, while he stayed behind.

Asi Igwe, another respondent, also sent his family to take refuge in the



Mattress used by the victims during the Flood in a Sport Complex, Yenegoa

Northern part of the country. He said he did not join them because he "could not leave all my property for others to come and take." Just like Timipreye, Mr Igwe said he also "got into the bush and cut some trees," with which he made a platform for his bed, in a bid to raise it above the floodwater level and get a good night's sleep.

Victims reported to the Team that shortly after the 2012 floods, news made the rounds that the government was coming to their aid with relief materials and financial benefits. Everyone affected was asked to write down their names. Days turned into weeks and weeks into months, until the victims heard they were no longer going to be paid. "I did not get anything. I never got anything. I'm pleading to the government to still look into the matter and give us

something,” Mr Igwe said.

From Bebelebiri, we moved to Sagbama Local Government Area (LGA), where we faced a hostile reception. Many residents panicked and refused to speak to us, expressing fears that we were working against President Jonathan’s 2015 re-election interests. Some openly alluded to that theory.

However, a farmer, Akugba Akemu decided to go on the record about how he lost his properties and important documents in the floods. He disclosed that he and other victims sought refuge at a relief camp inside the Sports Stadium in Yenagoa, the State capital. Mr Akemu was quick to appreciate the goodwill of Nigeria’s foremost entrepreneur, Aliko Dangote, who he said sent a trailer of cement, from which sixty bags were given to each quarters (or towns) in Sagbama LGA.

The interview with Mr Akemu was however interrupted when a septuagenarian who claimed to be a retired member of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) ordered us to leave the community or risk physical assault. Despite our appeals to him, he was unmoved. Onlookers advised the Team to leave the area immediately, fearing for our safety, with some basing their reasons on a knowledge that the elderly man had “diabolical powers.” To ensure we did not escalate a somewhat tense situation, we left Bayelsa immediately.

ABIA STATE

The Team visited Abia state in South-East Nigeria on the 12th of January, 2014. At Ohanku Road, which is located in the commercial city of Aba in Abia South Local Government Area, and met reports of disappointment and woe.

The people had been promised relief and help for so long that they viewed any external intervention with open pessimism. “Make una no do me wayo o,” said one respondent, Chinoyerem Igboanugo in Pidgin English, when we approached her for an interview. She feared that, like the government, we had come to trick her or make another set of promises.

“My household and I got only 10 cups of rice as compensation from state government.”

Mr. Kalu Uke, Uhanku road,
Abia South
LGA, Abia State



An abandoned building destroyed by flood in Ohanku Road, Abia State

Ms Igboanugo, who is a hairdresser, said that when it rains in the community, residents pack their bags, gather their children and what belongings they can, then “run.”

When asked about the relief and monies which victims were supposed to have received, Ms Igboanugo was initially speechless. She reported that she has never received anything from the government, and that neither her nor her fellow victims were relocated during the flooding season, or given money or any other form of assistance. Her story was corroborated by other respondents in the community.

On Onyemdi Road, a middle-aged male tenant, Kalu Uke, said the community’s flooding challenges began five years ago. Every year since then,

the rains fall heavily for six months, from June to December. As long as the rains do not let up, Mr Uke said: “no one can enter here, cars cannot pass here, and all the businesses close until the dry season.”

Mr Uke was very upset about the government’s seeming nonchalance to residents’ collective plight and the impact of floods on the local economy. “We



An abandoned building destroyed by flood in Onyemadi Road, Abia State

have been suffering a lot and the government does not care,” he said.

Of particular concern to Mr Uke was the fact that despite the State government’s inaction, it still set up a “taskforce” which “goes from house to house without minding what we are going through. They are arresting people because they say we failed to pay [an] infrastructural development levy of N7000 per yard.” One yard or compound, like the one in which Mr Uke resides can house as many as 30 residents, but he says paying any such dues is not an option. “How can you pay government for a house in which the floods do not allow you to stay?” he asked. However, Mr Uke reports that the unlucky neighbours who are apprehended by the government’s taskforce are forced to pay between N10,000 to N20,000 as bail.

Mr Uke disclosed that there has been practically no positive government intervention in the affairs of victims of the flood. Asked what kind of assistance

they have received so far, he raised his voice in anger and said: “They only continue to lie on the radio and TV that they are taking care of us, that they’ll bring us relief, that they’ll construct roads and gutters, but there is nothing like that.”

He recalled an incident in 2012, when they heard that a traditional Chief on their road and some other Chiefs brought about 500 bags of rice to help struggling victims. According to Mr Uke, the residents expected that each adult would receive a bag of rice, or maybe two people would share a bag. He reports that only 10 cups of rice were brought to his compound of about 30 people, meaning that some of them did not receive anything.

Mr Uke added that subsequent attempts by the government to construct drainage canals in 2013 to divert some of the floodwater to the riverside did not amount to much because “it all became political.”

For Emeka Kalu, a student of Abia State Polytechnic who doubles as a trader, he lost his goods to the floods, a situation that forced him to dropout of school, as he could no longer pay his tuition and meet his other basic needs. Mr Kalu puts his losses due to the floods at about two hundred thousand naira [N200,000]. He said he did not receive any money, despite writing a letter to the government explaining his predicament. He said his hopes of getting educated and securing his future were eroded by the floods, and asked us: “so what exactly is the responsibility of the rulers to the ruled?”

DELTA STATE

Delta, a Crude Oil and agricultural producing state, was not left out of the disastrous floods. Reports show that 15 out of 25 Local Government Areas (LGAs) were greatly affected. The grassroots researchers focused on 2 LGAs; Patani and Burutu. The team was assisted by AA Peace Works, a Civil Society Organization who nominated Mr. Gabriel Oseh to take us to Burutu LGA with his motorbike. The people of Kiagbodo, home of the renowned playwright Chief J.P Clarke, said they were not given monetary assistance in the aftermath of the floods. The team spoke to Mr. David Agbo, a youth leader in the community, who narrated how victims were transported with a canoe to the relief camp grounds. Students could not go to school, as the buildings were submerged in water. Mr Agbo reported that food items were shared at the relief camp, but no villagers in Kiagbodo received cash. The Team then moved from door-to-door in the community, to interview as many residents as possible. Mrs. Elizabeth John said she lost 80% of her properties to the flood, including farm produce and furniture; worst-hit was her house, which collapsed. Mrs John said she got no assistance from the State and Federal Governments.

“ My farmland was destroyed, which led to hunger in my home, a collapsed building and I was paid nothing and those who knew the council members got paid... ”

Mrs. Elizabeth John, Kiagbodo town,
Burutu, Delta State



A flooded building in Kiagbodo



Victims of Flood in Patani Community

In Patani LGA, the Team faced a major challenge with getting the community members to respond to questions, as they feared we were sent by the government and they would be punished for publicly stating their views. Finally, we were able to convince a few residents, who gave accounts of what happened during the year of the floods. We gathered that not all the victims in Patani were moved to the relief camp at Ughelli, because at one point the road was flooded as well, thus making it impossible for cars to access the area. Dr. Chris Ekiyor, a member of the community, set up a temporary relief camp at Patani to cater for the people and began providing food, clothing and medicines for victims. We were able to capture still images and collect a short video of the flooding disaster courtesy of one of the residents. In summary, the two local government areas visited in Delta had the same complaint; the victims received nothing from the State government. By the end of 2012, those still living in the relief camp were evicted, after being there for a few months.

IMO STATE

In Imo state, which is in the South-Eastern part of the country, the people of Ezeama village in Oguta LGA were grossly dissatisfied with the Federal government.

“The flood destroyed my house. The only thing I got from the government was N2,400 and a mattress...”

Mr. Michael Onyia, Abatu community, Oguta LGA, Imo State

“I only received 8 packets of Indomie [noodles] and a mosquito net after I was displaced by the flood...”

Mr. Chukwudili Igwe, Abacheke, Oguta LGA, Imo State

“The flood affected my farmland worth N1.5m and I did not get a dime from the government...”

Mr. Celestine Ossai, Mmahu, Ohaji/Egbema LGA, Imo State

Most striking of all the respondents interviewed was Michael Onyia, who has been blind for 13 years. Mr Onyia cried as he spoke to the Team, saying his family house was completely flooded, with all valuables destroyed. When the floods began to threaten not just the properties but also the lives of the locals, they all fled to a neighboring village. As compensation, Mr Onyia said that all he received was the sum of N2, 400 (two thousand four hundred naira) and a small mattress.



One of the Affected building in Oguta Community

The story was not much different at Mmahu village in Ohaji Egbema LGA of the State, according to Celestine Ossai, an indigene who agreed to speak with the Team. He said whereas his house was not destroyed by the flood, his farmland was. Estimating his losses at about N1.5million, Mr Ossai said he has been in debt since the floods, trying to repay what he borrowed from the local co-



One of the Affected building in Oguta Community

operative society to cultivate his farmland. He said the sharing of the few relief materials made available was marred by fraud, and called on the government to meet the needs of the people.

ANAMBRA STATE

In Anambra, among several communities severely affected by the flood were Iyi Owa in Ogbaru LGA and Otu-Ocha in Anambra East LGA.

A resident who asked to be named as Mr Egegunu described the 2012 floods as “the worst natural disaster we have ever witnessed here... the greatest astonishment of the 21st century.”

“Water destroyed my house and property and I did not receive any assistance from the State government...”

Mr. Justine Egegunu, Ogbaru LGA,
Anambra State

“The flood destroyed my photo studio and I only received N5,000 as compensation...”

Mr. Augustine Okechukwu, Atani community,
Anambra State

“I only received N1,200 only from the State government after the flood destroyed my farmland...”

Mr. Felix Ekwealor, Otoucha Anam,
Anambra East LGA, Anambra State

When the rains first began and the water levels rose, Mr Egegunu said everyone was surprised. At first they merely watched, expecting the flood to subside before long. However, they had to seek refuge when the floodwater levels rose, and it began to look like they were going “to fall into it.” Together with other members of the community, they sought refuge at St. Gregory’s Catholic Church, Iyi Owa.

Mr Egegunu said although properties worth at least a million naira were lost to the flood, he and other victims have received no aid so far from the government.



Iyi Owa in Ogbaru LGA in Anambra East LGA



Affected building in Atani Community

At Otuocha community in Anambra East LGA which was the second community we visited in the State, Felix Ekwealor told us that “the flood disaster was very hot for us here.” He said that in Otuocha, the floods affected crops and businesses but residents’ houses were mostly spared. However, some victims who were displaced from their homes in the neighboring Anambra West LGA were brought to Otuocha and relief camps were made at Unity Primary School, as well as at St. Augustine Catholic Church.

Also, relief materials like rice, mattresses and medicines were distributed. Mr Ekwealor reported that these were inadequate, as “some of the items, particularly the rice and the mattresses were diverted by government officials.” He however disclosed that that he received the sum of N 1,200 (one thousand two hundred naira).

KWARA STATE

Our starting point was Chewuru village in Edun LGA. Chewuru shares a boundary with the River Niger; therefore, it was badly affected by the floods. The village head of Chewuru, Alhaji Masin Mohammed was not very enthusiastic about our visit and only agreed to speak with us after much persuasion.

The people of Chewuru not only lost their livestock, farmland, homes and businesses, but they also lost their ancestral land. Following the 2012 disaster, they were relocated from Chewuru (now called Old Chewuru) to New Chewuru.

“After the entire village of Chewuru was submerged by flood, we were given 3 bags of rice, 3 bags of beans, 3 bags of guinea corn, mosquito nets and 9 mattresses for over 100 people in the village...”

Masin Mohammed, the village head of Chewuru, Kwara State

Concerning relief materials, Alhaji Mohammed explained the sharing formula to the Team. He said relief materials were sent from the local council secretariat to the palace of the Emir (king) of Lafiagi town, a community a few kilometres away from Chewuru. What Chewuru received after the flood disaster included three bags of rice, three bags of beans, three bags of guinea corn, mosquito nets and nine mattresses, all of which were distributed among the over 100 inhabitants of New Chewuru village.



Gbadarogi Community in Patigi LGA



A community destroyed by flood in Chewuru

Our second stop was Gbadarogi in Patigi LGA, where a respondent named Mohammed Ibrahim, recounted incidents of destroyed farmlands, closed schools, submerged buildings and many more. “They came and took videos of us after the flood but nothing came out of it. We received nothing from the government,” Mr Ibrahim told us.

“A lot of us camped with our relatives at the uptown [sic] of Patigi. We were not given relief materials in cash or kind,” he added.

NASARAWA STATE

“ Those of us who live at the river side got a 20kg bag of corn and N1,000 only after we lost our houses, cows, goats, sheep and fishes to the flood. ”

Mr Samson Ejegale Olegangbulu community in Doma LGA, Nasarawa State

“ I lost my rice farm ,4 goats,6 guinea fowls and maize farm,the government did not compensate me ”

Mr Ibrahim Likita, Ijiwo communit in Akpe LGA, Nasarawa State

“ We lost our farmlands, cows, goats, sheep, houses ,fire wood and 5 persons in the village of Ijiwo, all we got from the government was 75 bags of guinea corn only. ”

Cheif Osepoh Ogba, Ijiwo community Akpe LGA, Nasarawa State

The head of Ijiwo Village, Chief Osepoh Ogba narrated to the Team how the village suffered greatly as a result of the floods. The community lost houses, farmlands, boats, livestock, fish ponds, grains, and firewood worth millions of naira. Some of the residents also lost personal documents. Most tragic was that five residents of Ijiwo village drowned in the raging waters.

In terms of benefits provided afterwards, the villagers we spoke to unanimously confirmed that all they received was guinea corn. The village head revealed that 75 bags of guinea corn were distributed in Ijiwo, but no cash was received and no repair work was done. The residents of Ijiwo also reported they were aware that victims were compensated in some other communities in the State. They called on the government to intervene and alleviate their plight.



Affected building in Ijiwo Vilage, Akpe LGA



Affected building in Ijiwo Village, Akpe LGA

At Akpe LGA, which was the one of the three councils we visited, our efforts to speak with the management of Olam Nigeria Ltd, a large rice farm reportedly owned by Agro Technical Processing Company proved unsuccessful, as armed guards at the company's gates turned us back. However, a member of staff spoke anonymously to the Team. He told us that the farm was ravaged by the flood, and its employees believed the organisation would never be as viable as it was before the floods, especially as the management shortly after became unable to pay worker salaries. However, the farm has now bounced back, although our respondent was unsure of the source of its funding - whether respite came from the government, an insurance company or the personal finances of the owners.

KOGI STATE

The traditional head of Idagula village in Igalamela LGA of Kogi state, Madaki Yakubu Shuaib narrated how his people lost all they had, from herds of cows, to farmlands and homes. He was however grateful for the sum of N40,000, which was given to each of the victims. "It was not enough, but we are still thankful," said Madaki Shuaib.

Our next stop in Kogi was Ojene-Ibaji village in Ibaji LGA. Speaking in the local dialect, the head of the village, Chief Ihyanga Onate, said that during the 2012 disaster, residents were moved to another village where a relief camp was set up. As we took pictures of their dilapidated community, Chief Onate reported that unlike other communities, his people got no financial benefits from the State government, although they got temporary accommodation in the relief camp.

“In the camp, we hardly received two meals per day, due to the sharing formula which was poor...”

Mr. Innocent Omachonu, Ojene Ibaji Village, Kogi State



A Flooded House in Ojene-Ibaji Village in Ibaji LGA



Tents given to the victims after the flood

Chief Onate's narrative was corroborated by several respondents, who added that their experience at the relief camp was traumatic. They hardly received more than one meal a day, and the possibility of receiving this meal was dependent on one's connection to the officials distributing the items. Innocent Omachonu, who spent time in the relief camp, said all 34 villages that make up Ibaji LGA were temporarily housed at a school in Idah LGA. Mr Omachonu said that the school accommodated about 26,000 people, and 26 babies were delivered in the camp under those cramped conditions.

TARABA STATE

We met a Christian clergyman, who asked to be named as Pastor Daniel. An indigene of Chinkai community, he narrated the ordeal he and his kinsmen endured in 2012 when the floods came and “made us run for our dear lives.”

On the first day of the flood, Pastor Daniel said he noticed the waters rising to a frightening level at about 1.45am, while most residents were asleep. A few days after that, the entire community was forced to relocate, as the flood began destroying homes, farmlands, livestock, and other valuables.

He said no provisions were made to provide temporary accommodation for those who were severely affected by the floods.

Pastor Daniel however told us that tubers of yam and seedlings were given to the locals for planting. These were not enough though, he added, because the farmers had to buy more tubers and seeds from neighboring communities to enable them feed. Also, Pastor Daniel reported that those whose houses got destroyed were given only a roofing sheet each as compensation, which was considered by everyone as inadequate.

“My fuel in the tanks and the nuzzle machine worn out and I had to buy another one. The total sum of 3 million naira to the flood.No compensation from the government.”

Mr. Mohammed Suleiman, Owner of Rahama Oil Company, Ibi LGA, Taraba State

“The flood submerged the entire village, the only assistance we received from the government were tubers of yam and a roof sheet of zinc for those that have collapsed building.”

Pastor Daniel, Chinkai Village, Wukari LGA, Taraba State

“I lost my rice and maize farmland which was ready for cultivation to the flood. I am yet to be compensated.”

Mr. Mohammed Sanni Aruna, Ibi community, Taraba State.



Flooded Area in Ibi, Taraba State



Flooded Area in Chinka Community, Wukari LGA

Another victim was Mohammed Suleiman, the owner of Rahama Oil Company, who was so infuriated by the government's response to the disaster that he only agreed to speak with the Team after he was satisfied that we were not officials of the government. He lamented that after losing fuel, electricity generator sets, tanks, pumps and structures worth over N3million, all the government did was to send officials to visit and take photographs. "Even those who stayed in the government-approved relief camps had to fend for themselves there," Mr Suleiman said.

EDO STATE

In Edo state, the 2012 floods were particularly disastrous in three local government areas – Etsako Central, Etsako East and Esan. Over 10 communities in those local government councils were badly affected. The team visited two communities; Agenebode in Etsako East and Udochi in Etsako Central.

“The government did not carry us along. Local council workers came on that fateful day with their own names of affected people...”

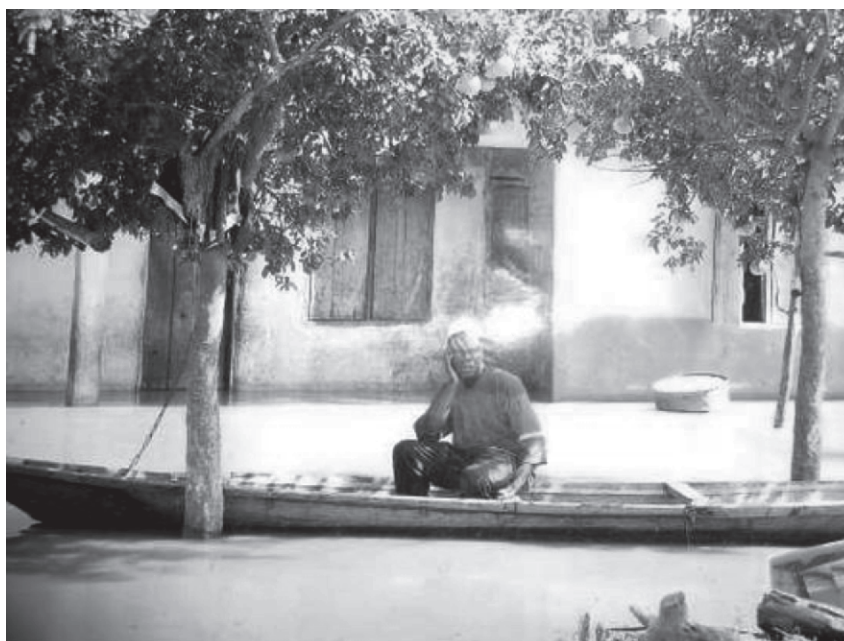
Chief G.K Omogbemi, Agenebode, Edo State

“I was paid N200, 000 after losing 400 ducks, 170, 000 fishes, refrigerator and a daughter to the flood.”

Mr. Ayemoh Joseph, Otoukwe community, Edo State

In Agenebode, a local chief and businessman, G. K. Omogbemi, was our contact person and he was very vocal about the travails the community faced, during and after the disaster.

“Most of Agenebode stay by the bank of the River Niger, so it affected us badly. But when the government came for distribution of relief, only few got something,” he told us.



Flooded Area in Emokweme Community, Agenebode LGA

Chief Omogbemi described the three camps in which displaced people were lodged as “suffering places.” He criticized the meagre amount of food distributed in the relief camps, as well as the “very poor” method of distribution of cash to victims. In his opinion, “traditional rulers who were more familiar with the issues and those affected should have been carried along.”

“There were signs that very dubious things were going on. For instance, some people got nothing, even though they had their names registered earlier. Someone removed it. Some of them even wrote through their lawyers to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) but nothing came out of it,” Chief Omogbemi added.

However, compared to some other States and communities visited, the efforts of the government in Agenebode were slightly better. Chief Omogbemi told us that for households with collapsed buildings, the government gave between N20,000 and N70,000, while owners of business premises that were submerged under water received between N100,000 and N200,000.

Raymond Dokpesi, owner of African Independent Television (AIT) who also has business interests in Agenebode, received the sum of N200,000; same as Joseph Ayemoh, who owns Omoaze Tourist Centre and a fish farming business. Mr. Ayemoh was one of our respondents.



Omoaze Tourist Centre and a fish farming business affected by Flood.

Mr Ayemoh narrated to the Team how he lost property worth about N25million to the flood. Mr Ayemoh, who used to be a councilor in the local government area, said his two businesses were devastated by the flood.

“I lost over 400 ducks and 170,000 fishes,” he said.

Mr Ayemoh also became indebted to his bank as a result of the collapse of his businesses and the firm instituted a court case against him to recoup its

money. He stayed in the relief camp for three months, where an epidemic broke out. His young daughter was affected. "I put her on my back, boarded a bike and rushed her to the hospital but by the time I got there, she was dead," he said, trying hard to hold back tears as he recounted the tragedy.

Mr Ayemoh reported that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) organised a seminar at the relief camp tagged: "Life After Flood." This seminar, he says, renewed his belief that he could pick himself up and start all over. He entered an out-of-court settlement with the bank, managed to get a new loan, and is trying to get on with his life again.

About 8km away from Agenebode is Udochi town, which was the Team's next stop. We were accorded a warm reception by the monarch, HRM Umar Mohammed Umar Ekpoki, the king of Udochi. He said residents of Udochi received N20,000 per household affected, while N40,000 was given for the partial collapse of mud houses and N70,000 for the partial collapse of a solid building. HRM Ekpoki reported that even though the sharing formula was appreciated, it was not very favorable to the women of the community because only "30 per cent of women got compensation."

The people of Udochi who spoke with us voiced their gratitude for their monarch, due to his efforts during the disaster. Apart from the fact that it was King Ekpoki's canoes and boats that were used to evacuate victims during the floods, the King also reportedly reached out to the State government, when there were rumors that the community was going to be sidelined during the sharing of the relief funds. According to respondents, it was his efforts that resulted in the little respite which came their way. Unsurprisingly, the victims at Udochi also disclosed that they are still waiting and hoping for more intervention from the government.

NIGER STATE

What stood out during our investigations in Niger State was the feeling of helplessness from some of society's most vulnerable people.

Ketso village in Mokwa LGA was first visited and because of its close proximity to the River Niger - the river after which the State is named - it was one of the worst-hit communities.

Alhaji Yahaya Abdullahi, the village head of Ketso, who welcomed the Team, listed a litany of tragedies the community faced as a result of the floods.

"It was the worst natural disaster we have ever seen. The flood destroyed farmlands, houses and fish ponds. Three people died as a result of being unable to swim, when the boat taking them away capsized. Also, the children of the community could not go to school for almost five months. Diseases were increasing because the clinic was submerged under water and has now been abandoned due to financial constraints," he said.

The people of Ketso had no access to relief camps, despite the severity of the damage. Alhaji Abdullahi said he was particularly sad that the government's promise to relocate the victims, in order to prevent a recurrence, has not been fulfilled till date. The only relief that came the way of the Ketso victims were 16 (twenty-litre rubber) buckets of garri and rice, which were shared for the entire community.

"We the people of Ketso village lost 3 people, farmlands, animals and houses. The only assistance got from the government was 16 paint rubber of rice and garri..."

Alhaji Yahaya Abdullahi, Village head of Ketso, Niger state

"All my farm produce was destroyed by the flood; I did not get any compensation from the government..."

Baba Mayaki, farmer in Guzzan, Niger State

"My farm produce, house, electronics [were lost] to the flood, but I was not compensated. We had 20 people to a room because we were not camped..."

B.B Mohammed, Community Secretary of Egah Village, Mokwa, Niger State



Affected Building in Ketso Area, Mokwa LGA

In Puto village, the story was the same. Mr. B. B. Mohammed said that no provisions for temporary accommodation were made for displaced residents during the crisis. The victims however managed to put up in the homes of some of their kinsmen who were not as badly affected. The situation meant there were times when as many as 20 people had to sleep in one room.

Mr Mohammed reported that rather than helping to alleviate the victims' suffering, the council officials used the opportunity to defraud them. The people were periodically informed by officials that relief materials had arrived at the local government headquarters, but told that N4,000 would be needed to transport the relief materials. Mr Mohammed reports that the victims had to collect money from among themselves to provide the transport fares for the



The Clinic submerged by Flood in Ketso, Mokwa LGA

officials, but the results were never tangible. Rice, maize and garri were brought, but at such small quantities that each household could not even get up to “one mudu* of rice,” he said.

*The mudu is primarily widely used in the northern States of Nigeria as a local measure for food products. It is often a plastic bowl, which can contain the equivalent of between 500g to 700g of grains.

BENUE STATE

A visit to the Wadata River side area of Makurdi revealed the extent of the damage caused by the 2012 floods to the residents, who are mostly traders and fishermen. Shops and houses were submerged and farmlands lay in ruins.

“ They only fumigated my area to prevent rats, snakes and scorpions and no compensation from the government ”

Miss Annabel Aleje, Wadata,
Makurdi, Benue State

“ They only shared packs of noodles for the people in Gyado Villa ”

Ayange Raymond, 400L English student,
Benue State University, Makurdi.

Ishaya Asakalah, one of several respondents in Wadata, told us that after the disaster, the government said the right things, paid the community a visit, took pictures of the destroyed houses and promised to compensate all victims. With high expectations, the people filled the forms brought by government officials and began waiting. “But all was a scam. They failed us,” Mr Asakalah concluded.



Flooded Community in Gyado, Makurdi

Victims displaced by the floods were put in relief camps at the NKST Primary School and CAC Primary School, both in Wadata.

Mr Asakalah, who is a landlord, reports that he was hoping to receive some assistance to repair his damaged house, but after several months of waiting, he had to effect the repairs himself.

Another resident, James Ikwuma said: “The people of Wadata have moved on after the empty promises.” Mr Ikwuma lost three tanks of vegetable oil, a grinding machine, a refrigerator and other possessions. He successfully removed most of his valuables from his home but had to leave these items behind due to their sizes.

Various respondents had the same devastating experiences. Matthew Chia expressed his anger at what he believed is the sole preoccupation of those in government – citizens’ votes. He said: “They promised us but did not fulfill their promise. They left us with nothing, but soon they will come to Wadata for electoral votes come 2015, with more promises.”

Annabelle Aleje, who lives in Tor Goyta said the flood victims here also received no assistance, even though the State’s Ministry of Environment came to fumigate the area to prevent the spread of diseases.



Flooded Community in Gyado, Makurdi

From Wadata, the Team moved to Gyado Villa. Gyado Villa is populated by students of the Benue State University. Some of their off-campus accommodation facilities were flooded. Ayange Raymond, a 400-Level (final year) student of the English Department told us that in Gyado, those affected by the floods only received a packet of noodles from the government.

“Quote me anywhere...we received N30 (the price of one packet of noodles) from Benue State Government,” Mr Raymond said.

Another student, John Eliagwu confirmed the development, adding that: “Some people did not even receive the noodles. Those that wanted to collect a pack due to poverty were disappointed when they were told the cartons of noodles they brought had finished.”

At Katsina Ala LGA, residents were very suspicious, and therefore uninterested in speaking to us. One of them, a tailor in Ageragu village, explained that the unresponsive attitude of his neighbours was due to their wariness over the matter. “This is not the first time people like you would come and ask questions regarding the 2012 flood incident, but we are yet to receive any feedback. We are tired,” he said.

LESSONS LEARNT

“Eliminating middlemen will ensure that intended help reaches those affected and assists them in speedily rebuilding their lives.”

In talking to the affected communities and engaging in media discussions around the issues, citizens were better sensitized on how much was raised from donations and government funding, how this funding was disbursed, and were given insights into the varying sums of money and types of relief materials that victims received. We used social media to amplify the challenges victims faced and told the story of their individual and communal struggles to return to normal life. This generally attracted public attention to the victims' plight.

In making payments to the victims, government bureaucracy and middlemen hindered the process at every stage. It would make for efficient management if in future, government facilitates the direct disbursement of monies to victims using technology, as seen in fertilizer distribution achieved via the use of mobile phones. Eliminating middlemen will ensure that intended help reaches those affected and assists them in speedily rebuilding their lives. Also, government should constitute a multi-stakeholder committee – which includes respected Civil Society Organizations – to monitor the disbursement of relief funds.

There is a shocking lack of public awareness on how to respond to, and handle disasters. Governments' early warning systems and how these are currently disseminated do not reach the diverse demographics that only share one thing in common; vulnerability. Besides an early warning system, government must embark on public enlightenment, especially in the rural areas, on disaster and emergency evacuation. A new warning system must be put in place and experts must advise State governments on how to disseminate same within the peculiarity of their regions and the Nigerian environment.

1. We have learnt that most victims are gradually moving on with their lives but are well aware that funds meant for their rehabilitation have been misappropriated by “middle men” across the governance chain. It is also noticed that there is a weak accountability framework at the grassroots level, as most citizens cannot report cases of abuse or are not vocal about it. Even when they are vocal, the status quo remains; as far back as April 2013, it was reported that victims in Adamawa and Anambra States voiced their concerns about the misappropriation of the Flood Relief Funds and neglect respectively, while those in Kogi State reportedly rejected the government offer of N3,000 each as compensation. Specifically, in Taraba State in June 2013, a group of citizens called on Nigeria's anti-graft agencies to probe the

management of the 2012 Flood Relief Fund. Yet, the situation remains largely unchanged, as confirmed in this report.

2. We have learnt that direct transfers enabled with technology remain the best way of compensating victims, as most citizens are shortchanged through the current process. There is also the need for a proactive approach by civil society, to ensure that names of citizens who are not victims are not stuffed into the register - or that those truly affected are not removed from compensation lists, as noted by respondents in Edo State.
3. The emergency response team was unable to meet the needs of the victims, and this has been pegged as due to graft and abuse of public funds.
4. Local community leaders also have a huge burden of blame, due to a shoddy approach in compiling a list of victims; this is a general complaint from all the citizens.
5. There is a pressing need to form an evaluation and follow-up team whenever such relief materials and funds are provided, to make sure it gets to the right people - this could save these suffering citizens from a second bout of disaster; this time one that is entirely man-made.

NEXT PHASE

Regardless of a slight tendency to end up subject to abuse, Relief Funds remain a crucial and effective tool that escalates disaster management and response in every sovereign State, regardless of their developmental status, or lack thereof. Since the 2012 flood disaster when the Flood Relief Fund was set up by the Federal government, there have been other emergency/relief funds initiatives by government. Questions remain about transparency and accountability in the management of these funds, querying if indeed lessons were learnt from the controversy that trailed the 2012 Flood Relief Fund.

In 2014, the Government set up the Ebola Intervention Fund and the Boko Haram Victims Support Fund. Following the outbreak of Ebola in Nigeria, the Federal government set aside N1.9bn for the fight against the deadly virus. The FG released N200m to the Lagos and Rivers State Governments to manage and prevent a further spread of the outbreak. Even though these monies were released quite late, government agencies collaborated efficiently to manage and contain the disease. A large chunk of the Fund was managed by the Federal Ministry of Health. In this instance, the government set up a six-person working group to carry out research on the treatment of the Ebola virus; the committee was not responsible for the management of the funds. There have been newspaper reports of how the Federal Government spent their share of the Fund, but the bank accounts of the Ebola Fund have not been audited, neither have any financial reports been made publicly available. Also, the N200million given to each of the Rivers and Lagos State Governments has not been accounted for.

Boko Haram continues to ravage several towns and communities in the North-East of Nigeria, and several victims have been displaced from their homes. President Jonathan set up a committee led by General T.Y Danjuma, which raised N64bn (in pledges) during a fundraising dinner attended by public and private sector dignitaries. At the end of October 2014, N15bn had been redeemed. The Victims Support Fund, having learnt a few lessons from how badly the 2012 Flood Relief Fund money was managed, decided to register itself as a foundation with the Corporate Affairs Commission. The Committee has also decided that their audited accounts will now be published on their

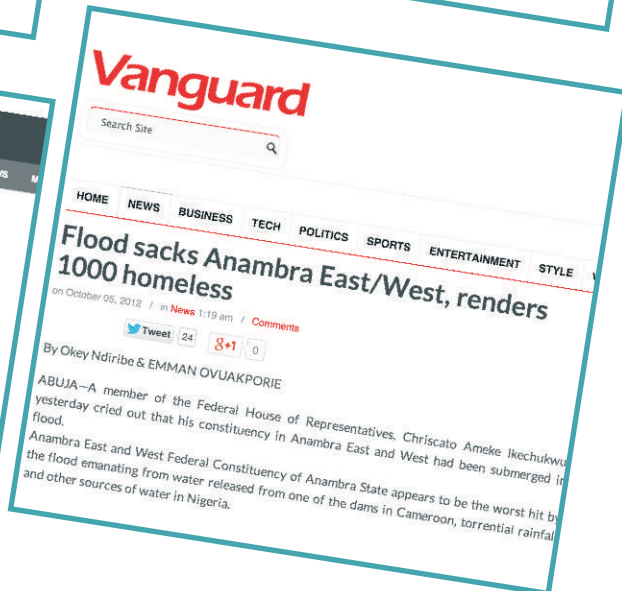
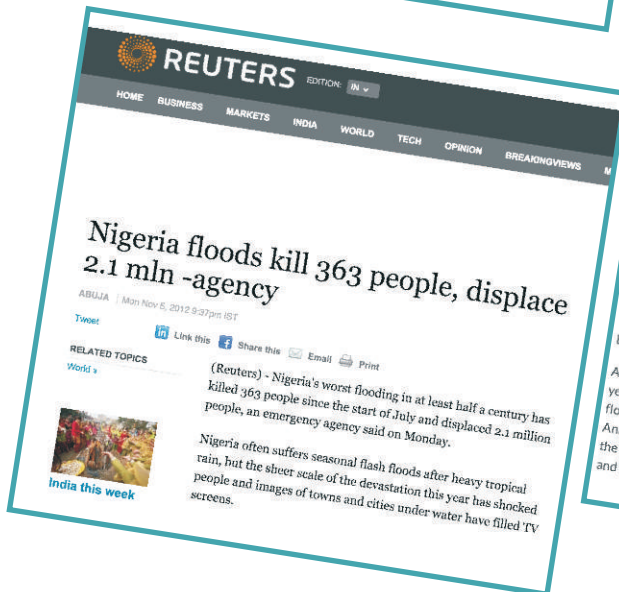
website. So far, N300m has been spent on food and non-food items for victims. A census of internally-displaced persons was carried out, and discussions are ongoing with the Central Bank of Nigeria to deploy mobile money technology in making direct cash transfers to victims in a bid to eliminate middlemen, reducing the likelihood of embezzlement of funds.

If followed through with the use of technology, an established framework backed by transparent reporting and feedback mechanisms adhered to by all stakeholders, these steps will be a clear departure from how the 2012 Flood Relief Funds were managed. It is possible that the Victims Support Fund stands the chance of being a model for future disaster funds management in Nigeria.

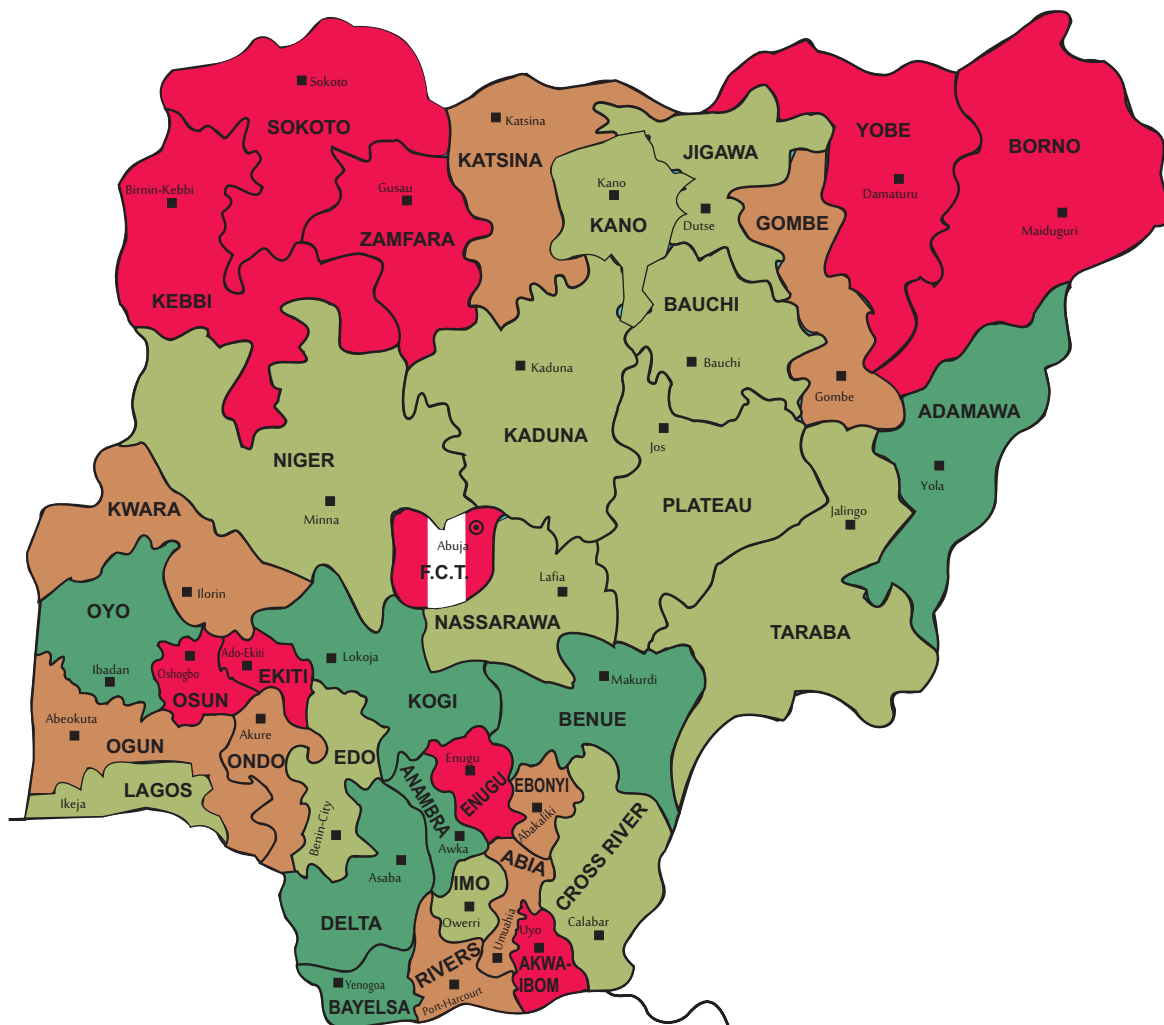
IMPERATIVE REQUESTS TO AUDITOR-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION

- Work with international partners, private donors, committees and public institutions to accurately enumerate and define all funds raised for the flood victims, as well as the various channels of distribution
- Investigate cases of graft and theft of funds, with directed memorandum to key stakeholders
- Curate responses from victims and document every narrative and news reports on the abuse of funds at all government levels
- Recommend sanctions in a detailed report to the National Assembly, relevant prosecuting agencies utilising media coverage to strengthen actions and inform all citizens.
- Define a uniform accountability model for the management and disbursement of emergency funds, to prohibit abuse of public funds and donations from private individuals and/or multilateral agencies; where possible, these frameworks should be established by passage into Federal law.

SELECTED PRESS SCREENSHOTS



MAP SHOWING FLOODED STATE ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL CATEGORIES



■ Category A
 ■ Category B
 ■ Category C
 ■ Category D

Category is based on severity of flood

2012 FLOOD RELIEF AND REHABILITATION FUNDS

www.followfloodmoney.org
www.yourbudgit.com
[#ffFloodMoney](https://twitter.com/ffFloodMoney)

budgit
www.yourbudgit.com

OSIWA
 Open Society Initiative for West Africa