

# Stories of Impact

*A series highlighting achievements in disaster risk management initiatives*

## Assessing Post-Disaster Needs in Nigeria



### RESULTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- After the World Bank, European Union, United Nations, and other partners conducted a comprehensive analysis of damages and losses across a wide spectrum of sectors, the teams delivered a final report on a relatively rapid time scale and identified the need for more than \$7 billion in needed recovery funding.
- The findings of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) have played an important role in incorporating disaster risk management into the World Bank's planned engagement with Nigeria from 2015–2017.
- This initial PDNA helped to establish Nigeria's national capacity for disaster recovery. It has become a model for future assessments and is also helping enable government agencies and other organizations to respond more rapidly to future disasters.

**REGION:** AFRICA  
**COUNTRY:** NIGERIA  
**FOCUS AREA:** RESILIENT RECOVERY

Mid-2012 saw record rainfall and widespread flooding within Nigeria, with unprecedented losses in human life and productivity. By the time the waters fully receded, more than 360 people had perished and nearly four million had been displaced, with economic damages and losses close to \$17 billion in the 12 most affected states. Because of the scale and severity of the destruction, the government of Nigeria mobilized the World Bank, the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN), and other key partners to conduct a comprehensive Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).

The assessment thoroughly analyzed the social and economic impact of the flooding and provided the crucial framework for rapid response and recovery efforts. It received financial support from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and the EU, through the framework of the African Caribbean Pacific-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (ACP-EU NDRR) Program, an initiative of the ACP Group managed by GFDRR.



**GFDRR**  
 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program  
 An initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, funded by the European Union and managed by GFDRR



## Context

Nigeria often experiences heavy flooding. However, the size and frequency of these disasters and the resulting effects on residents and infrastructure are intensifying. Between July and October 2012, an unusually large burst of rainfall led to severe flooding over nearly the entire country, causing heavy casualties and massive displacement along with more than \$9 billion in damages and further economic losses in excess of \$7 billion.

## Approach

In the aftermath, a comprehensive assessment of both the immediate damages to communities and the long-term impact on the economy was urgently needed. The PDNA team undertook an in-depth analysis of the repercussions of the floods for the most affected states, which revealed an impact of 1.4% on GDP. The PDNA ultimately consolidated losses and impact into an actionable final report, which:

- relied heavily on GFDRR's Guidance Notes for Conducting Post-Disaster Needs Assessment;
- provided recommendations for recovery funding and guidelines for reducing the impact of and increasing resilience to future events;
- gave comprehensive, sector-by-sector breakdowns of losses and impact, determining, for example, that there were over 2,500 affected schools and a nearly 30% loss in rice crop production;
- enabled the government of Nigeria to analyze and target specific needs in areas including health, housing, energy, and livelihoods, among others. This helped to put in place a robust framework for recovery and reconstruction efforts.

## LESSONS LEARNED

### **Focused data enables rapid, effective response.**

The PDNA following the 2012 floods made clear the value of in-depth, sector-specific analysis of disaster impacts, which enabled targeted response and recovery efforts on a minimal timeline. These efforts included consultations and surveys covering 4,000 households in over 300 settlements to assess social and livelihood impacts. It also drew on historical data, such as previous flood and river bank levels, which allowed for better points of comparison.

### **Mobilizing partnerships is key to quick, accurate assessments.**

The success of the PDNA resulted from effective collaboration among many actors, including the GFDRR, the World Bank, UNDP, EU, UNICEF, the UN Human Settlements Programme, the International Labour Organization, and others. This cooperation highlighted the importance of technical and logistical partnerships, allowing each group to bring their expertise to bear. For example, UNICEF and UNESCO focused on assessing the educational impact of the floods.

## Next Steps

The resources and information gathered by the PDNA showed the true extent of the devastation sustained by the 2012 floods, increasing awareness that considerable regional investments will be needed to achieve long-term flood resilience. Nigeria will continue to engage in disaster risk management activities, including those with GFDRR and World Bank support.

*“The increase in extreme floods throughout West Africa is a call for countries to refocus efforts on flood prevention and preparedness, not just response. The recovery and reconstruction process is an opportunity for governments to develop stronger preparedness planning and to build long-term disaster resilience.”*

—Jamal Saghir, World Bank Director of Sustainable Development for the Africa Region

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\*All figures in US Dollars