



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAIDUGURI

Bishop's House, P. O. Box, 58 Maiduguri, 600001, Borno State, Nigeria.
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EMERGENCY: FLOOD DISASTER IN SHUWA/MAIDUGURI-BORNO STATE NORTHEAST NIGERIA

We are deeply devastated by the flood that has engulfed Shuwa communities in Madagali, Adamawa State on the 26th of August and Maiduguri city and its environs from the 8th of September to date. Our hearts go out to the families who have tragically lost their loved ones, homes and livelihoods in this calamity.

This disaster serves as a sober reminder of the increasing threats posed by climate change, not just globally, but particularly to regions like ours. Nigeria's vulnerability to flood disasters has been highlighted time and again, as witnessed during the devastating floods of 2012, 2018, and 2022. These areas like Northern Nigeria, particularly Maiduguri, are characterised by erratic rainfall patterns and complex river basin dynamics,

The flood, which began over the weekend and worsened in the following days, was the direct result of excess water from the Alau Dam. The collapse of the spillways unleashed a significant surge of water downstream, causing widespread flooding in the surrounding communities. As I put together this brief report, efforts are ongoing by government and relevant agencies to evacuate and resettle residents in the affected areas, while efforts are also on the way to ensure the provision of food, shelter, and medical assistance, I must say that the situation is overwhelming. The IDP camps that were officially closed by the government have been reopened to accommodate people.

The severity of this flood has far exceeded what the government and all of us estimated, marking it the most catastrophic flood in Maiduguri in over three decades. The flood's unprecedented scale has presented challenges beyond our previous experiences as more than half of the city is under water. Many lives have been lost and properties worth billions of naira, including livelihoods have been lost too.

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND OTHER CHURCHES

On our part, the Diocesan Secretariat and St. Patrick's Cathedral are all flooded. The following Parishes were also affected badly, St. John Custom, St. Michael Railway, and St Augustine Gwange. Although we are still carrying out the assessment of the disaster, we are estimating over 20,000 Catholics are affected, in those parishes, close to 3,000 households. Many other Churches like St. John's Anglican, First Baptist, Cherubim, COCIN, ECKWA and many others have all been badly affected.

As you can see from the images, over 40% of the city is still submerged in the waters. It is difficult to ascertain the extent of loss of lives and property. Measures are being put in place, data are also being collected for an accurate and detailed categorization of the loses.



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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Total of People affected over 1 million people

Over 414,000 people displaced

Catholics affected over 20,000 people (over 3000 Households)

Other Christian faithful, over 30,000 people

CATHOLICS AFFECTED FAR:

Name of Community	Name of informal settlement	Number of HH	Number of Individual
St Patrick's	Living in host communities with relatives and friends	1,350	8,050
St John Custom	Living in host communities	524	3,450
St Michael Railway	Living in host communities	544	3,998
St Augustine Gwange	Hosting displaced persons	875	3,158
All Saints Unimaid	Living in Host Communities	97	1,598
Giwa Barracks/Fori	Living in host communities	211	2,735
	Total	3,601	22,989

These are the figures we confirm from the Parish registers. There are still thousands that are yet to be accounted for.

URGENT NEEDS:

The urgent needs or now are: Food, Medical/Sanitation, and temporary Shelter.

RISKS:

Possible outbreak of cholera, malaria, Diarrhea. As we all pray for our loved ones in Maiduguri, let us be aware that the flood waters are now a COCKTAIL of hazards, pathogens from decomposing bodies from the graves, waste water from the hospitals, gutters, soakaways, wildlife from the zoo, broken glass/bottles,exposed iron rod etc.

AWARENESS AND ENLIGHTENMENT CAMPAIGN

We are creating awareness and enlightening our people especially our young ones to stop entering the flood waters, it is equally a public health disaster and we all have to stay safe. May God almighty will see us through this catastrophe and alleviate all our suffering.



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REQUEST FROM ACN

We will remain forever grateful to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) our benefactors/benefactresses for standing by the suffering Church globally, particularly with us in Maiduguri Diocese. While asking for your earnest prayers at this critical time, we also appeal for financial support to enable the Diocese support the victims of flood across the Diocese. The urgent needs now are food, medical/sanitation, and temporary shelter.

PRAYER REQUEST:

We solicit for special prayers for families and all those affected by the flood for God's strength and consolation.

IMAGES OF MAIDUGURI CITY UNDER WATER-BORNO GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES





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BISHOP JOHN BOGNA BAKENI IN ST PATRICK'S TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE/WATER LEVEL



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THE BACK GATE OF ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL MAIDUGURI





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PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS ACTIVATED BY THE GOVERNMENT





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PEOPLE ESCAPING THE FLOOD





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ST. PIUS X SHUWA, MADAGALI LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF ADAMAWA STATE

Many communities were devastated by the flood on the 22nd August, 2024. The communities include: Duhu, Mayowandu, Kirchinga, Maiwandu, Jahili, Kokohu, Lumadu, Zhau, Pallam, Kwambula, Shuware, and Shuwa in Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa State. The number of people affected is over 14, 000 people and over 1000 households.

URGENT NEEDS:

The urgent needs or now are: Food, Medical/Sanitation, and temporary Shelter.

RISKS:

Possible outbreak of cholera, malaria, Diarrhea and other related diseases.

IMAGES FROM THE FLOOD IN SHUWA-MADAGALI, ADAMAWA STATE





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Most Rev John B. Bakani
Auxiliary Bishop
Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri