



EXAMINING FLOOD VULNERABILITY IMPACT ON ISSUES OF INSECURITY IN THE CORE NIGER DELTA.

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ABSTRACT

Human existence has experienced untold disasters and this has continuously been on the rise with its heavy devastating impacts on lives, livelihood, properties and geographical environment of the affected communities. In respect of these realities, there is an obvious lack of proper coordination amongst stakeholders and agencies which brings about chaos, confusion in the delivery during and after flood disaster occurrences. While Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS V. 21) was engaged for proper analysis using the descriptive and inferential (analysis of variance) statistics tools for data analysis. As a consequent reaction to these clearly exposed challenges, DRR should be all inclusive rather than exclusive by recognizing the different forum of knowledge valuable in addressing disaster risk events. The coastal environment is dynamic in nature with its terrain exposing its vulnerability to flooding resulting in an increased level of insecurity of properties and lives. The result show that most communities in Yenagoa, Sagbama, Kolokuma Opokuma, Southern Ijaw, Ekeremo, and Nembe agree that there is a high level of property insecurity during flood events. In Delta State, communities in Ugheli South, Isoko North, Ndokwa east, and Patani also confirmed that the occurrence of flood results in a high level of insecurity within their communities, which affirms that the occurrence of flood increases property insecurity. The majority of the communities in Yenagoa, Sagbama, Kolokuma Opokuma, Southern Ijaw, Ekeremo, and Nembe confirmed that there is high level insecurity during flood event in Bayelsa, while communities in Delta state in Ugheli South, Isoko North, Ndokwa east, and Patani also confirmed that flood occurrence results in high level insecurity within their communities, which can result in the concurrence that. Additionally, evidence suggests that crime rates have increased after flood disasters. They agreed as a result that the occurrence of flooding worsens the security situation in their areas.

KEYWORDS: Flood, Flood Management, Insecurity Aspect of Flood.

1.0 Introduction

The need to survive has always been paramount in man regarding his

environment and society at large. Therefore, any event that causes loss of lives and destruction of property has been a major cause of serious concern to humanity (man and society). Recurrent flood in different parts of Nigeria had led to considerable socio-economic damage, injury and loss of life. Some of the negative consequences of flood include loss of human life, damage to properties, public transport systems, power supply, crops and livestock.

The 2022 Nigeria floods affected many parts of the country. From the Federal Government Data, the floods had displaced over 1.4 million people, killed over 603 people, and injured more than 2,400 persons. About 82,035 houses had been damaged and 332, 327 hectares of land had also been affected. While Nigeria typically experiences seasonal flooding, this floods has increased in the country since the 2012 floods. The 2012 Nigeria floods began in early July 2012. It killed 363 people and

displaced over 2.1 million people as of 5th November 2012.

According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), 30 of Nigeria's 36 states were affected by the floods. The floods were termed as the worst in 40 years, and affected an estimated total of seven million people. The estimated damages and losses caused by the floods was N2.6 trillion. Disasters as viewed and categorized overtime could be natural or man-made and they could occur with or without warning signs, causing very serious widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses which most times exceed the abilities, capacities and resilience of the affected persons, communities or societies to cope with its negative effects using own resources. A disaster therefore occurs as a result of a combination of hazards, conditions of vulnerability and there is insufficient capacity to reduce the

consequences of the risks associated with the particular disaster.

A disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a normal society causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of affected society to cope using only its own resources. Oftentimes, their classification are traceable to their speed of onset (sudden or slow) or according to their causes (natural or man-made). Disasters in its entirety are veritable societal existential negative occurrences most times referred to as emergencies. These emergencies can be localized or actually globalized but worthy of note is that they are always bound to occur in eventuality going by endless records/data both in the preceding years and the years to come.

Disaster Risk Management is the practicality of building coordination in institutional structure and the overall integration of all

activities necessary to build, sustain and improve the capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to and recover almost completely in less time from serious threatening or actual natural or human induced disasters.

2.0 Literature Review

Floods are among the most common and destructive natural hazards causing extensive damage to infrastructure, public and private services, the environment, the economy and devastation to human settlements. Recurring flood losses have handicapped the economic development of both developed and developing countries. Nigeria is a developing country and prone to a number of natural hazards. Among all the natural disasters that country faces, river floods are the most frequent and often devastating. Through geophysical studies, it has been found that more than one half billion people on our planet reside on river side and coastal flood plains where they

produce 1/3 of world's food production and on any day at least some fraction of these plains go under flood water and hence causing wide spread losses to human lives and herds of cattle dead, devastated homes, destroyed the agricultural crops and disrupted the communication links such as railways, roads as well as damage to health hazards. Even after the receding of floods it takes several months or even years before the community comes to the pre-flood level. So floods are a natural and inevitable phenomenon of life in almost all the states of Nigeria. Floods depend on many things such as Climate, nature of the Collecting basin, nature of the streams, soil, vegetative cover, amount of snow melt and over all rainfall. Niger Delta region is highly vulnerable to floods. Floods are recurrent phenomenon, which cause huge loss of lives and damage to livelihood system, property, infrastructure and public utilities. It is a cause of concern that the flood related

damages are showing an increasing trend.

This can be attributed to many reasons including rapid increase in population and urbanization coupled with growing developmental and economic activities in the flood plains and global warming.

Ologunorisa (2012) examined the strategies for mitigation of flood risk in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. The study had the major objective of evaluating flood risk mitigation strategies in the Niger Delta, a coastal region of Nigeria that suffers from perennial flooding. The study positioned that the structural methods of flood control tend to give a false sense of security to flood plain dwellers and thereby encouraging investments in flood prone areas. The non-structural methods on the other hand are basically behavioral adjustments to flood control. The study observed that for flood risk mitigation strategies to be effective in the Niger Delta, there is need for establishment of coastal management zone

authority, land-use zoning, legislation, building codes, flood forecasting and warning systems, flood insurance and engineering control of the major river systems.

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completely in less time from serious threatening or actual natural or human induced disasters.

The conception and conceptualization of security as regards disaster management identifies with the revisionist perspective (Gambo, 2008' Onuoha, 2007), which sees natural security from the point of view of human security. According to Onuoha (2007 p.4), human security entails:

Freedom from active and potential threats to human life, safety and survival which may arise are result of human actions or inactions, or from natural disaster such as flood, earthquake famine, drought, disease and other non-man-made calamitous events resulting in death, human suffering and material damage.

So, in effect, national security is therefore understood in the context to mean the ability of the state to protect its citizenry from hunger, poverty, ignorance, disease and all

forms of defenselessness (Okoli, 2012). This practically and ultimately entails protecting the citizenry from all forms of social, political ecological, territorial as well as cosmic vulnerabilities. This conception of national security makes a radical departure from the orthodox perspective which conceives of natural security merely from defense/military-centric point of view (Alkali, 2003). In effect from the foregoing, security is the effective holistic management of emergencies/disasters to save human lives, property damages and ecosystem.

2.1.1 Study Area

The area of study is Niger Delta communities, which lies at latitude ($5^{\circ} 46'57.06''$ N through $4^{\circ} 29'56.37''$ N) and longitude ($5^{\circ} 2'47.10''$ E through 7°

$41'26.00''$ E). The central location of the Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta States has made them to be geographically described as the central or core Niger Delta States. Hence, the classification of the study area of Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta States in this present study as Core Niger Delta. The delta and its tributaries as found geographically from the River Niger gives credence to the word Core. The River Sombrero cuts across both Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers States. This covers the tributaries giving it that identity. Amongst other insecurities consequent upon the perennial flood disasters in the region, are the issues of social and natural conflicts etc.

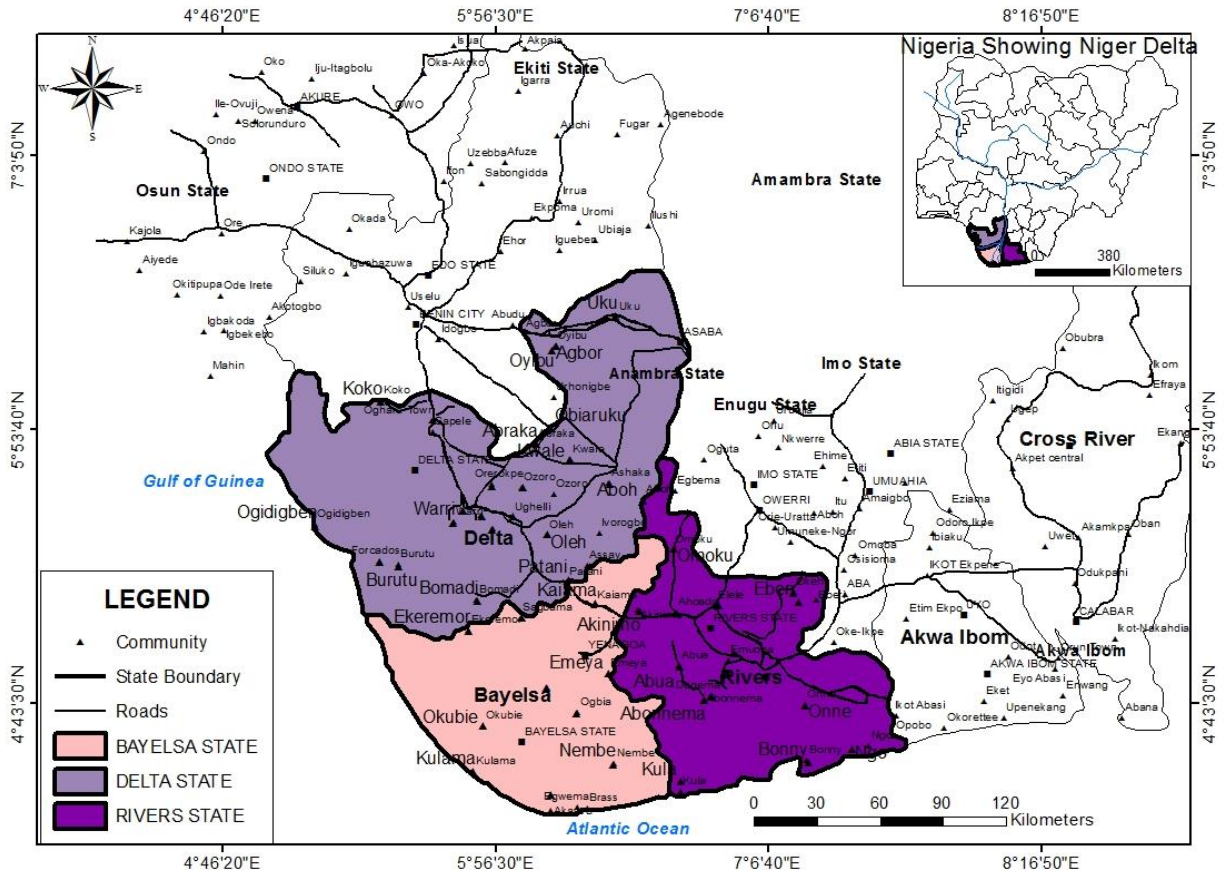


Fig. 2.1: Map showing the tributaries in Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers States

3.0 Results

Flooding across the study area as shown in plate 3.1 reveals the level of livelihood alterations and cultivation destruction across the study area. From the figure 3.1 exposed livelihood results in abandoned cultivation which increases the vulnerability of people

to food insecurity (hunger and property) theft. Also, increase level of insecurity and other related trend consequent on flood occurrence impact livelihood as shown in the plate 3.1 where increased flood level inundates farm lands and other cultivation around the community.



Plate 3.1 Impact of Flood on Livelihood



Plate 3.2: examine flood vulnerability impact on issues of insecurity in the Core Niger Delta.

Exposed properties to insecurity during Flooding (A)

The level of property exposure as a result of flooding increases the level of insecurity creating avenue for property theft, theft of fallowed items, increase crime rate and the rate of burglary across he study. This increase results from the unwatched vicinity after the evacuation of residents. Flood as it occurs results in unplanned evacuation

which in most cases requires very light movement by affected individuals leaving behind valuables, business and other investments. This trend of movement as shown in plate 3.2 shows a deserted community where goods placed for sale and bagged are left to fallow as revealed in the white bags that were left to lie fallow on the street without any form of protection or security.





Plate 3.3 Exposed properties to insecurity during Flooding (A)

Plate 3.3 shows exposed properties like wheelbarrow, G.P tanks worth good money and other workshop accessories left unguided within the workshop premises consequent upon the flood event. These properties left unguided increases the occurrence of crime within the study area which is believed to be at its peak during the flood and post flood period. Increase property insecurity during flood event is the opinion of most of the communities in

Yenagoa, Sagbama, Kolokuma Opokuma, Southern Ijaw, Ekeremo and Nembe as they agreed that insecurity is at a high level during flood event while in Delta state, communities in Ugheli South, Isoko North, Ndokwa east and Patani communities also confirmed that flood occurrence results in high level insecurity within their communities which affirms that the occurrence of flood increases the situation of insecurity within communities.

Table 4.5 Property insecurity occurs during flooding

		SA	A	D	SD	WA	Remark
Bayelsa State	Sagbama	50	25		25	3	Agreed
	Yenagoa	25	50		25	2.75	Agreed
	Ogbia		50	17	33	2.16	Disagree
	Kolokuma Opokuma		100			3	Agreed
	Southern Ijaw	25	75			3.25	Agreed
	Ekeremo		80		20	2.6	Agreed
	Nembe	40	20		40	2.6	Agreed
Delta State	Patani	40	20		40	2.6	Agreed
	Isoko south		50		50		2 Disagree
	Ndokwa east	25	50		25	2.75	Agreed
	Oshimili North		66.7		33.3	2.33	Disagree

	Oshimili South	25	25	50	2.25	
	Isoko North	75		25		Disagree
	Ugheli South	100			4	3.25 Agreed
Rivers State	Ahoda East		50	25	25	2.25
	Ahoda West	50	25	25		3.25
	Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni	50	50			
	Abua - Odual	25	50	25		3
						3.5 Agreed
						Agreed

Accessing property insecurity during flood event across the study area revealed that most of the communities in Yenagoa, Sagbama, Kolokuma Opokuma, Southern Ijaw, Ekeremo and Nembe agreed that in Bayelsa there is high level of insecurity during flood event while in Delta state Ugheli South, Isoko North, Ndokwa east and Patani communities also confirmed that flood occurrence results in high level

insecurity within their communities which can result in the concurrence that flooding result in increased situation that amounts to the vulnerability and impact on goods and properties left behind. Also this implies that there is an increase in crime rate in the wake of flood events. Hence they concurred that the occurrence of flooding increases the situation of insecurity within their communities.

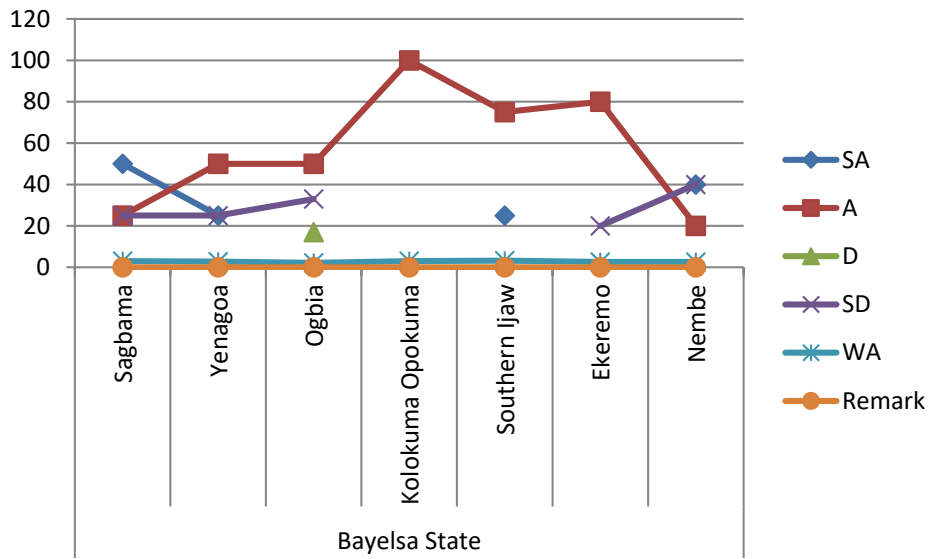


Fig. 4.12 Property insecurity occurs during flooding in Bayelsa State

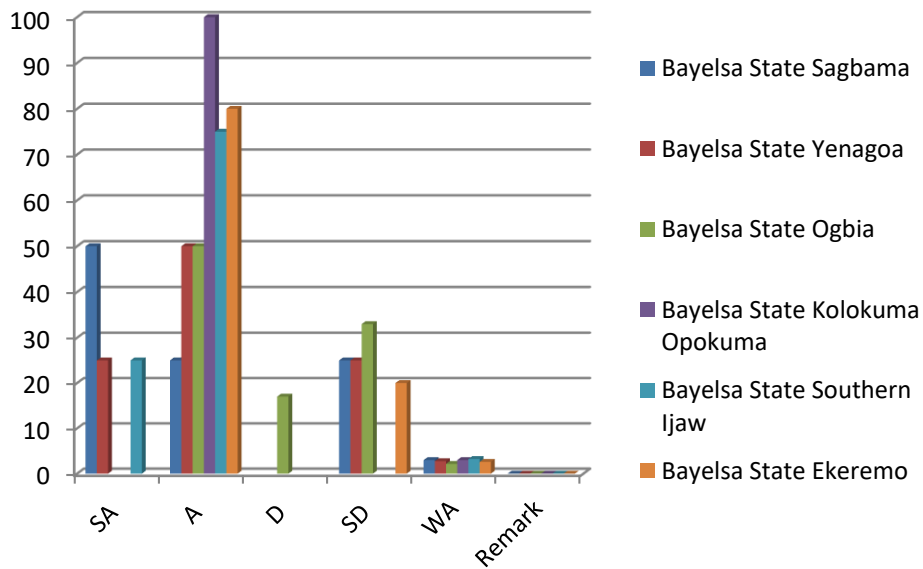


Fig. 4.13 Property insecurity occurs during flooding in Delta State

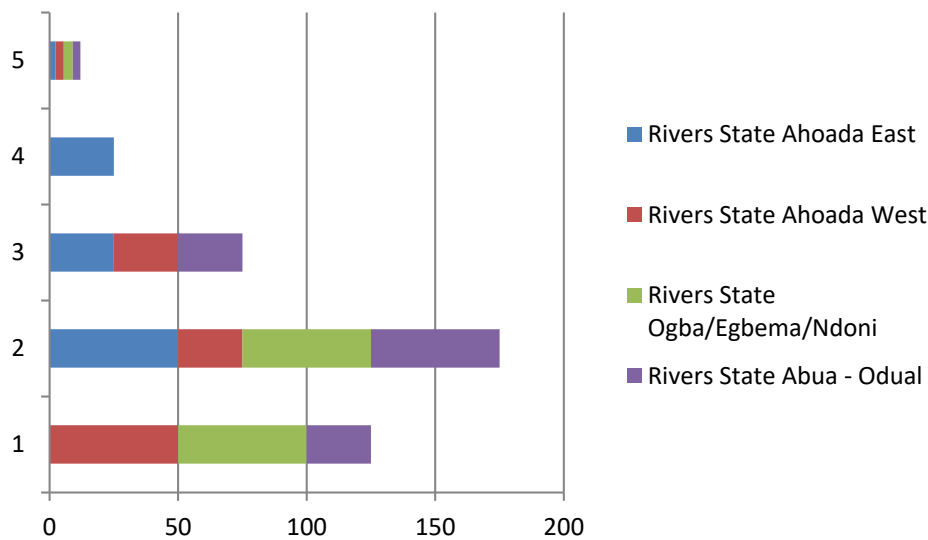


Fig. 4.14 Property insecurity occurs during flooding in Rivers State

4.0 Conclusion

Flooding exposes more property and makes people feel less secure, which opens up opportunities for burglaries and theft of stolen goods as well as a rise in crime overall. This rise is a result of the area becoming unattended after evacuating occupants. When a flood comes, impacted people are forced to evacuate haphazardly, leaving behind belongings, businesses, and other investments in the majority of situations. As seen by the white bags that

were abandoned on the street without any type of security or protection, this movement produces a desolate society where things that have been bagged and placed for sale are allowed to fallow. Due to the flood disaster, such expensive items and other workshop accessories were left unsupervised within the workshop premises. If these homes are left unsupervised, criminality in the study region increases and is thought to be at its highest during the flood and post-flood period. Most

communities in Yenagoa, Sagbama, Kolokuma Opokuma, Southern Ijaw, Ekeremo, and Nembe agree that there is a high level of property insecurity during flood events. In Delta State, communities in Ugheli South, Isoko North, Ndokwa east, and Patani also confirmed that the occurrence of flood results in a high level of insecurity within their communities, which affirms that the occurrence of flood increases property insecurity. The majority of the communities in Yenagoa, Sagbama, Kolokuma Opokuma, Southern Ijaw, Ekeremo, and Nembe confirmed that there is high level insecurity during flood event in Bayelsa, while communities in Delta state in Ugheli South, Isoko North, Ndokwa east, and Patani also confirmed that flood occurrence results in high level insecurity within their communities, which can result in the concurrence that. Additionally, evidence suggests that crime rates have increased after flood disasters. They agreed

as a result that the occurrence of flooding worsens the security situation in their areas. The prevalence of floods and insecurity in the study area's communities has made it clear that law enforcement is crucial to maintaining property security. However, this function is not felt during flood occurrences across the states, and as a consequence, there is a rise in community insecurity in Bayelsa and Rivers states owing to the frequency of floods, and as a result, flood time policing is thought to be extremely low. Except for Patani communities, where residents felt otherwise, respondents in Delta State specifically in Patani, Ndokwa east, Oshimili north and south reported a high level of policing deficiency during flood episodes. As a result, respondents did not agree that flood episodes increase insecurity.

5.0 Recommendations

After a critical review of the findings within the study areas and its negative impacts, it is

expedient to make these recommendations as follows:-

1. Continuous awareness programmes on flooding, its negative impacts and actionable remedies towards reducing the devastating security challenges.
2. The formation, training and standardization of local vigilante groups within the Delta region emphasis on community policing and effective collaboration with the regular police to bring about effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of safety of lives and property while enforcing adequate security before, during and after flood disaster experiences to enable a faster recovery. This also is to engender a build back better process.

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