

ASSESSMENT OF FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS IN KOGI STATE BY A3 FOUNDATIONS AND PARTNERS 12-12-12

A3 Foundation and partners (leadership Initiative, Impakt Nigeria, Alicia Perry Ministries International, Inc. and Hallelujah Health Ministry) visited Kogi state to assess the flooded areas. The team was received by the acting executive secretary of Kogi state Emergency Management Agency Mrs Ogedengbe. She gave a detailed account of the flood , talked about the challenges and highlighted 10 critical focal points affecting the state and they include:

- Educational sector
- Malnutrition
- Loss of means of livelihood
 - o Loss of boat, fishing nets
 - o Loss of farms and livestock
- Lack of portable water
- Disease control
- Bad state of the roads
- Capacity building/empowerment
- Housing

OBSERVATIONS

Nine (9) Local government areas were ravaged by the flood, the effect devastating . Several communities in Bassa and Lokoja local government areas were visited and these served as a case study for the other affected communities. While Ibaji local government area was the worst hit , the mildest was Idah local government area amongst the local government areas affected. The following was observed during the visit.

1. There was a devastating flood.
2. Evidently, the aftermath of the flood is still apparent as it was clearly observed that children were displaced from school, some of the school buildings collapsed completely while others were terribly damaged. More so, teaching materials weren't observed.



Children idle during school hour



Classroom desks condemned to firewood

3 . Fish was their only means of nutrition , their farms were destroyed and no other source of food was observed .



Local fish net making in progress

4. No physical source of employment was observed.

5. Mosquito nets weren't sighted at the camps, their source of water was the River which was obviously polluted. The River is used for bathing, cooking and drinking. Portable water was lacking in most of the communities.

6. The roads were eroded, the community didn't have defined pathways and they were completely inaccessible



Buildings and roads erased.

7. The farms were completely washed away and Animals weren't seen except for few goats.

8. They didn't have adequate tents for the people; tents observed were overcrowded with about ten people per tent



Makeshift accommodation inadequate



Handing over of community flood report to the assessment team

SOLUTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Educational sector : Schools should be rebuilt and renovated. Some of the affected communities have trees that could be felled and used to make furniture, the felling of the trees and construction are not capital intensive . This will be beneficial to Communities like Gande in Bassa LGA and it will be an immediate relief to the people as the children will return back to school before proper construction and renovation is done. Educational materials (Books,shoes,writing materials) should be provided as soon as possible.

Provision of consumable items to meet the short term need of the people : The people should be empowered to enable them meet their needs. Agric extensionist should be employed to teach the people improved methods of farming, also flood and disease resistant varieties of seedlings and stems should be provided to check future occurrence.

The people should be empowered, cognizance should be given to skill acquisition ranging from sewing , carpentry , fishery and others. Fishing nets should be provided and artificial ponds created and modern fishing techniques taught to empower them economically and socially.

The existing boreholes damaged by the flood should be repaired and new ones constructed in communities where they are lacking.

The existing health centres should be renovated and equipped and new ones constructed in communities that do not have one

Government should build roads and provide canoes and flying boats as a means of transport during the raining season in riverine areas. Government should also loan motorbikes to the villagers to aid transport.

The government and stakeholders should collaborate with leadership initiatives to provide self- sustaining businesses using the available resources.

The government should empower the people to use the available resources (mud) since they are already skilled in that aspect, then cements should be provided to help strengthen the structures for durability.

CONCLUSION

After the assessment, the following commitments were made:

1. Two boreholes to be sunk in two communities in the Ibaji and Bassa LGA
2. 5000 pairs of shoes to be delivered to schools in the flood ravaged communities.
3. 24 doctors from the US on medical mission will join Impakt Nigeria to deliver free medical services to the flood victims.
4. 20 feet container containing relief materials to be delivered to the flood affected areas.
5. Leadership initiative will empower the people through self- sustainable development projects for skill acquisition.