



FLOOD RISK CONTINGENCY PLAN

GA WEST

GREATER ACCRA REGION

2023

PREFACE

Floods in whatever form it occurs be it **flash floods, coastal floods, urban floods, river floods, and dam burst floods** is no new phenomenon. However, the impact of floods on the human being, property, infrastructure and the environment is alarming and therefore, needs critical preparedness for mitigation and, where possible, prevention.

Nationally, it is recognized that the degree of damage to property and loss of lives in the aftermath of floods could be directly linked to the level of development. Flood risk management is important in ensuring that impact on the victims is mitigated and assistance programmes implemented for early recovery. In flood prone Municipal areas, it is imperative that local governments and the humanitarian community maintain a level of capacity to respond quickly and effectively to floods. This is particularly true for protection concerns since the fundamental human rights of victims are exposed in the aftermath of floods and other emergency events.

Over the past two decades, Ga west has suffered increasing floods due to increased population densities, environmental degradation and global warming due to climatic change as well as poverty.

During floods, infrastructure which has taken several years to build, and huge amounts of both human and material resources are wiped out leaving the affected communities poorer and more vulnerable.

It is against this background that the Ga west Municipality of the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) has developed this contingency plan.

INTRODUCTION

PRINCIPLES, OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES

Principles

Humanitarian assistance will be organized by observing the principles of independence, humanity, neutrality and impartiality. The independent assessment of the needs will ensure that the designed response is equal to the needs and will target the most vulnerable. The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Guiding Principles, IHL Human Rights and Refugee law will be the reference strategic and legal framework. To ensure that a rights based approach is adapted, “The Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response” (SPHERE Project) will serve as the operational basis for need assessments and humanitarian assistance delivery. The humanitarian intervention is essentially meant to save lives and protect civilians, safeguard livelihood and ensure early recovery. The emergency operation will be as short as possible to give space for early recovery interventions.

To maintain a highly focused operation during the first stage of the emergency response, a rapid inter-agency assessment of critical needs of the most vulnerable populations in the domains of food security, shelter, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, protection and education will be conducted. NADMO Ga west will consolidate the results and make the operational plans to assist the internally displaced and the affected populations.

This plan is based on the premise that the above constitute basic human rights and these rights should be ensured in all emergency and post-emergency situations.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the Flood Risk Contingency Plan (FRCP) is to mount a timely, consistent, effective and coordinated response to floods in order to minimize the potential humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences.

Strategies

Key strategic areas identified in the FRCP are:

- Pre-positioning of emergency supplies
- Surveillance and monitoring of key emergency indicators
- Intensification of service delivery to minimize the impact
- Awareness creation for prevention of natural disaster risks and gender issues
- Promotion of gender sensitivity in interventions
- Advocacy on issues of protection and health
- Integration of Disaster risk reduction measures in early recovery interventions

The Flood Related Contingency Plan (FRCP) will build on existing activities, develop partnerships through programmes of cooperation (Government and NGOs) and enhance community mobilization and participation. Through this developed network of partnerships, NADMO Ga west will monitor flood emergencies and potential threats in an attempt to ensure early warning and response. During floods, additional programmes shall be developed as needed to support humanitarian action such as post-flood rehabilitation and recovery efforts.

To ensure a rapid response in the event of floods, at the time of occurrence, NADMO Ga west will maintain standing readiness to provide initial relief assistance according to respective core agency commitments. In the event of an emergency, which exceeds the Ga west capacity, the Region will support.

SITUATION AND RISK ANALYSIS OF GA WEST MUNICIPALITY

Ga West Information and Context Analysis

Ga West is highly exposed to risks of multiple weather and climate-related threats. The mounting vulnerability is visibly a symptom of environmental degradation, climate change, poverty and poor land use planning. In recent years, floods have become frequent in Ga West affecting many communities. The overflows of dams are a compounding factor. Other environmental risks consist of potential hazards and landslides.

Epidemics/disease outbreaks, pest infestations and fires are also common across the Ga West municipality. Seismic hazards, particularly potential for earthquake occurrence is most prominent in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. While Ga West municipality enjoys relative stability, there are myriads of conflicts, which could erupt into violent clashes resulting in displacements or worst, loss of lives.

Hydro-meteorological disasters (eg. Floods, windstorms, etc) occur and cause human, social and economic losses throughout the Ga west.

The increasing frequency of floods has revealed a wide-range of weaknesses in the disaster preparedness and emergency response system in Ga West and exposed vulnerable populations living in slums and areas along the river basins and major drains. Accordingly, NADMO and its partners recognize that addressing the link between disaster risks and poverty—in a changing climate—requires enhanced joint efforts to reduce disaster risks through preparedness activities in order to build community resilience, increase sustainable development and growth, and improve adaptation to climate change.

FLOOD

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

In this municipality, flood occurrence has become an annual phenomenon affecting many communities during the major rainy season. Flood prone areas are mostly located along the Densu and Nsokie riverbanks and dam sites. Additionally, the impacts on urban communities are due to poor drainage systems.

PLANNING SCENARIOS AND ASSUMPTIONS

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS - FLOODS

Type of Hazard	Floods
Probability of occurrence	Almost certain (based on the meteorological information and the information from Hydrological Services Department (HSD))
Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> 56,000 people likely to be affected <input type="checkbox"/> Road networks destroyed <input type="checkbox"/> Bridges washed off <input type="checkbox"/> Farmlands flooded <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of livestock <input type="checkbox"/> Destruction of infrastructure (schools, houses, health facilities)
Location and geographical area	Amasaman behind washing bay (Amuzuvi Dam), Medie- Kotoku areas, Manhean, Oduman, Akramaman, Mayera areas Kojo Ashong, Communities along the Densu and Nsokie River and Katapor Farming Area

LEVELS OF PREPAREDNESS REQUIRED - FLOODS

TRIGGERS	EARLY WARNING MONITORING INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE FOR EARLY WARNING	PREVENTIVE AND MITIGATING MEASURES
Heavy rains	1) Weather forecasts 2) Information flow on the rainy season 3) Observation of the rise of the river level	1) Gmet 2) ISD 3) NADMO	1) Use of media 2) Desilting of drainage systems 3) Clearing of waterways 4) Timely evacuation of population
Choked drainage Systems	1) Increment in human activities due to population increase resulting in unplanned settlements 2) No existing waste disposal sites	1) GWMA 2) MEHO	1) Establishment of an authority in charge of waste management 2) Clean-up of drainage systems by GWMA
Construction along waterways	1) Existence of constructions along waterways	1) GWMA 2) EPA 3) Works Dept. 4) NADMO	1) Demolition of construction 2) Education and awareness (Eg. through chiefs and religious groups)

Poor planning resulting in no drainage construction	1)No drainage construction in many areas of the municipality	1)GWMA 2)NADMO	1)Urbanization planning 2) Building in places without it.
Settlement in low-lying areas	Poor planning resulting in bad settlements in terms of vulnerability of floods	1)GWMA 2)EPA 3)NADMO & Housing	1)Urbanization planning 2)Enforce policies about urbanization
Narrow drainage System	Poor planning resulting in inappropriate drainage system	1)GWMA 2)URBAN ROADS 3)NADMO	1)Urbanization planning 2) Improve drainage were necessary.

Humanitarian Consequences

Humanitarian implications of severe flooding incidents in Ga west include: populations being cut off with minimal access to social amenities and services, (i.e., health, education, protection, communication, etc.), destroyed livelihoods (farms, livestock etc.), contamination of water systems, displacements, disease outbreaks and deaths.

Immediate needs of the affected populations with special focus on the vulnerable, (including pregnant women, lactating mothers, boys, girls, aged and disabled) are rescue efforts, provision of food and non-food assistance as well as support to emergency service delivery, (i.e. health, education, communication etc.).

Coping Mechanisms of the Population

Ga west benefits from a strong extended family and community support system, which enables the majority of displaced persons to be hosted by immediate or extended family, neighbours or friends, including those who share common religious beliefs or denominations. However, in severe cases schools and church spaces are used as temporary shelter for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Response and Operational Capacity

The mission of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) is to manage disasters by coordinating the resources of government institutions and non-governmental agencies and developing the capacity of communities to respond effectively to disasters and improve their livelihood through social mobilization, employment generation and poverty reduction projects.

Ga west NADMO has Five (5) Zonal offices manned by zonal officers. The zonal offices are supervised by the secretariat located within the premises of the Ga west Municipal Assembly. Ga West works in close collaboration with partners in international and local organisations, departments, agencies, and other groups. There is a Ga West Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change which plays both technical and advocacy roles. The Technical Advisory Committees under the Platform do risk reduction planning, conduct research and advise NADMO on issues relating to the disaster landscape. The Advocacy Committee advocates for critical disaster risk reduction measures.

NADMO's capacity includes presence in all communities and collaboration with technical and response institutions (e.g. Ghana National Fire and Rescue Services, Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Police Services, National Ambulance Service and Ghana Meteorological Agency).

Gaps and constraints

Effective emergency response is challenged by:

- Poor road networks;
- Bureaucratic bottlenecks
- Limited financial resources.
- Inadequate skilled staff to ensure effective coordination
- Lack of harmonized tools for data collection, centralized database and reporting
- No vehicle to carry out operational activities within the municipality

COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Coordination Arrangements

The Ga West Municipal Director of NADMO holds the primary responsibility to provide for the needs of populations affected by floods. GWMA/NADMO is the mandated agency for emergency response assisted by the relevant line agencies, (i.e. the GWMA Disaster Management Committee, (DMC)).

In the event of a major GWMA floods, the GWMA/NADMO Disaster Management Committee (DMC) would meet immediately to assess the situation and if it is considered necessary, advise the GWMA Chief Executive to officially declare a state of emergency and request for assistance.

The GWMA/NADMO with representation from the relevant response agencies will coordinate all response activities with support from the Regional Emergency Operations Centres.

Immediately following the onset of flooding, the primary focus will be on coordination with the Core Group, which comprises the following priority sectors: -

- Food Relief
- Health
- WASH
- Protection including Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- Shelter /NFI

Response Strategy

During flood response, the immediate needs of the affected and vulnerable populations include, but are not limited to: Food aid intervention; Emergency healthcare (including reproductive health); WASH services; Shelter and essential household items

CO-ORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR NADMO

The GWMA Director of NADMO shall be responsible for the effective, efficient and timely implementation of the Flood Reduction Contingency Plan. To fulfil this, task, the GWMA DMC which is chaired by the chief executive officer of the GWMA, will constantly monitor the situation. Upon the onset of floods and after confirmation of its magnitude, the GWMA Director of NADMO will make recommendations to the GWMA Disaster Management Committee. If appropriate, a STATE of EMERGENCY will be recommended. NADMO will also maintain the responsibility for co-ordination with the technical support of the lead sector agencies. Operational Coordination at the sectoral level shall be ensured by the sector lead. In the event of an emergency, the safety of the personnel as well as communication and information management is important.

PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

- Development of sectoral Plans
- Development of Resource Inventory
- Monitoring of Early warning indicators

- Detailed engineering study shall be undertaken of major state and lifeline buildings.
- Baseline assessment/field visit
 - Training of staff
 - Capacity training in emergency response activities
 - Training in emergency fund raising
 - Training in the SPHERE standards
 - Other identified areas based on the training needs assessment
 - Development of initial assessment format
 - Standby Agreements to be prepared (Government, NGO's)

PRE-EMERGENCY PHASES

Table 4: ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

Activities	By whom	When
Inventory of equipment and supplies	All Sectors/ Agencies	1 month
Logistics capacity assessment	All Sectors/Agencies	1 month
Operational plan	DMC/GWMA/Agencies members	1 month
Pre-positioning of all required documents such as Situational reports, (Sit Rep) field assessment documents, registration material, and emergency supplies , etc.,	All Emergency Responders	2 Months in advance
Re-confirm emergency stock levels that are pre-positioned in country and regions	All Sectors/ Agencies to report to NADMO	2 Weeks

<p>Pre-check- contacts of emergency roster personnel to confirm the potential for availability</p>	<p>NADMO/GWMA</p>	<p>Daily</p>
<p>Pre-check on local arrangements and commitments of organizations/government bodies to ensure timely preparedness to assist on humanitarian response (Ghana Police, Fire Service, etc)</p>	<p>NADMO/GWMA</p>	<p>When Emergency declaration likely</p>

EMERGENCY PHASES

Activities to be undertaken during an emergency: within 24 hours

Table 5: ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING AN EMERGENCY: WITHIN 24 HOURS

Activities	By whom
Declare the emergency, convene meeting with partners for information and mobilization	MCE, NADMO
Convene a meeting with National Disaster	NADMO
Appeal for External Aid where necessary	Local Government
Activate FRCP	GWMA Director (NADMO)
Deploy a joint rapid needs assessment mission to affected areas	NADMO/Stakeholders
Start emergency relief based on rapid assessment	NADMO/Stakeholders
Share information/situation report with members of the GWMA DMC	NADMO/Stakeholders

Implement a communication plan targeting affected populations and media	NADMO
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Activities to be undertaken during an emergency: within 48 hours

Table 6: ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING AN EMERGENCY: WITHIN 48 HOURS

Activities	By whom
Mobilize emergency funds/stocks available	GWMA DMC
Decide on resource mobilization options: Request presented to the GWMA MFO for additional fund allocation	GWMA DMC
Share /present rapid needs assessment (draft) result with members of National Disaster Management Committee	NADMO/Stakeholders
Revise the strategic, agency and sectoral plans and the division of roles and responsibilities	DMC
Convene DMC meetings	NADMO
Initiate deployment of logistics and pre-positioned emergency supplies	NADMO/Stakeholders
Deploy required additional staff	NADMO/Stakeholders
Implement Sector response according to identified priorities	NADMO/Stakeholders

Suspend, if necessary ongoing non-priority/essential programmes	GWMA Disaster Management Committee
Collect and consolidate data for information bulletins (Situational Reports, needs analysis) and share with National Disaster Management Committee	NADMO/Stakeholders
Pursue information strategy aimed at populations	ISD/NCCE/MEDIA/NADMO
Evaluate the security situation and act as appropriate	NADMO//MUSEC
Propose post-traumatic counselling emergency evacuation of medical or other vulnerable cases if needed	NADMO/ /DHMT

Activities to be undertaken during an emergency: First 2 weeks

Table 7: ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING AN EMERGENCY: FIRST 2 WEEKS

Activities	By whom
Consolidate information Who does, What, Where (3Ws), analyze gaps and material assistance flow	NADMO/Stakeholders
Conduct thorough evaluation and plan 6 months intervention, identification of immediate consequences and induced effects	NADMO/Stakeholders
Initiate weekly sector meetings	GWMA/NADMO
Issue periodic media briefing and press releases	GWMA Disaster Management Committee
Facilitate administrative procedures for the procurement/order of humanitarian equipment supplies	GWMA Disaster Management Committee

Activities to be undertaken after an emergency: within one (1) month

Table 8: ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN AFTER AN EMERGENCY: WITHIN ONE (1) MONTH

Activities	By whom
Take inventory of all surplus/gaps in stock in all locations /Agree on what to do with surplus stock balances (including this for re use such as good quality tents, water tanks, pumps, filters, plants etc)	NADMO/Sector leads
Take action to address identifies gaps in supplies to identified Population	NADMO/Sector leads
Re-assess pre-positioning strategy/required supply quantities for new emergencies in the light of surplus materials carried over from the emergency	NADMO/Sector leads
Convey lessons learned /retreat for all partners that supported the response.	NADMO, GWMA
Ensure all transporter bills/warehouse rents etc, are paid by concerned agencies/organizations to avoid carry over problems in any future emergencies	NADMO

