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Bad panorama for Benin

The World Health Organization is expecting heavy storms in the Benin area, which could leave 500,000 people displaced by flooding if there is not a good evacuation plan. There are several areas which can be affected: Cotonou, Dasso and Ouinhi districts.

Representatives from WHO's Cotonou office, Benin's Ministry of Hygiene, Public Health and Social Affairs, and the municipality of Cotonou, Benin's largest city, wrote after their 15 August visit to flooded areas in and around Cotonou that an evacuation and relocation plan is urgently needed because heavier storms are expected in September and October. "People should be evacuated if the water level approaches their windows," the report warned. Storms during the last week of July 2008 tore down mud and straw homes, polluted rivers, and washed away roads in the central Benin communities of Sagon, Tohoue, Dasso, Ouinhi and Za-Kpota.

Earlier this month storms affected 7,000 people according to the Red Cross of Benin. People who have been displaced are taking shelter with families and friends. Since 30 July there are reports of almost 192 cholera cases.

UN agencies are working with the mayor's office of Cotonou district to pump out water and clear roads in the capital. WHO medical advisor Edouard Comlanvi said that some northern sections of Cotonou are still under water. "The district of Vossa is completely under water. This problem of flooding is far from being resolved".

Cotonou municipality's director of technical services, Basile Gbaguidi, said flood damage is inevitable as long as people disregard warnings. "If people continue moving into these high-risk areas, despite what we say, flooding will continue. If there is more water than what the riverbed can absorb, it will spill over and flood wherever it can."



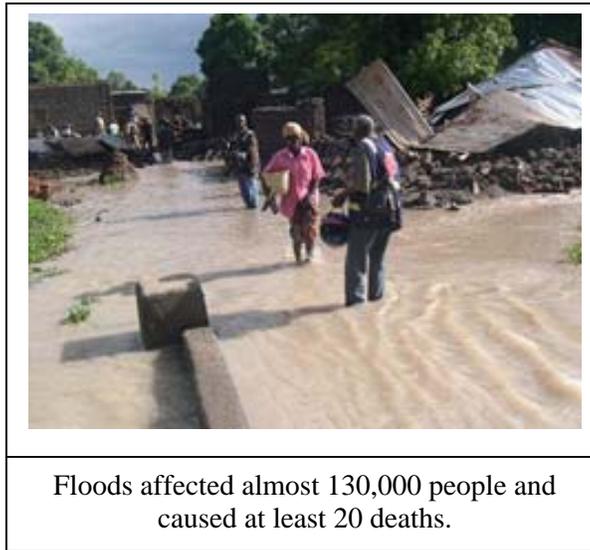
This is what happened in the beginning of this month.

Flooding in the west side of Africa

There are thousands of people affected by flooding; the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is expecting a rise of the victim's toll. The heavy rains have affected 61,000 people in Ghana, 24,500 in Togo, 33,000 in Niger and 4,200 in Burkina Faso. Even so, the toll is much lower than this time last year when by mid-September 2007 floods had affected 800,000 people across West Africa, according to the UN.

Hervé Ludovic De Lys, head of the UNOCHA is urging governments to tackle the floods regionally. Responding regionally will be more cost-effective because, otherwise, 50 US cents of every US\$1 spent on equipment sent to West Africa would go toward transport costs. UNOCHA is helping governments, non-governmental organizations, and the UN coordinate flood prevention and response strategies across the region.

“Governments must come up with medium and long-term strategies to cope with flooding.” said De Lys. Sustainable change involves revisiting urban planning, building up rural road networks, and constructing more traditional granaries across the region so farmers can store what is anticipated to be a good harvest this year, rather than losing it to floods.



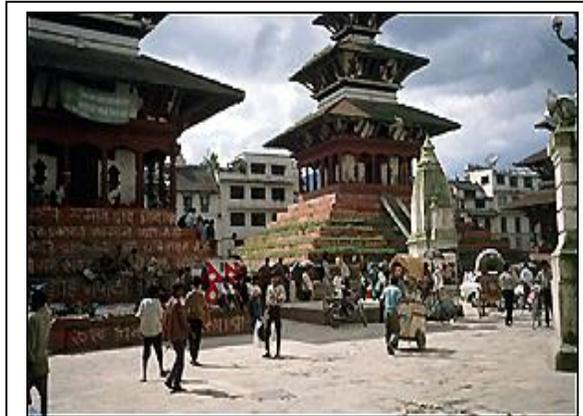
Source: www.irinnews.org

Earthquake in Nepal

Just half a month passed from the 67th anniversary of the hardest quake that hit Nepal in 1934, there were felt tremors in many areas of the country. People felt very scared when some buildings started moving, so they left offices and stores for an instant.

Experts in the topic say that Nepal is not well prepared for facing a problem like this. There are not enough hospitals and routes. The routes will be full of people and cars, making everything a mess. Fire stations have no chance to deal with it, because of the poor number of fire fighters and special trucks. Nepal is far from ready.

The quake that left almost 9,000 death people in 1934 left a huge wound in people's heart. It took many years to rebuild the country. Experts are afraid of seeing the same scene of that bad episode of Nepal.



People in the streets fear the worst part can come.

Terrible situation in the Carib

The Carib suffered the Hurricane Gustav, which left at least 16 dead people in Haiti and Republica Dominicana; this has been the seventh storm since the Atlantic hurricane season started. Now there are some oil installations which are being threatened by the possibility of a new tropical storm.

According to the US National Hurricane Center, the storm's centre was about 150km (90 miles) west of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, and about 195km (120 miles) south-east of Guantanamo province in Cuba. Gustav Hurricane damaged several bean and vegetables hectares and killed almost 25 people.

In Trinidad and Tobago there were schools and homes which lost their roofs. In the central Trinidad there were flooding and a woman died because a tree crushed her. Jamaica lost 20 people and damages on buildings were in large-scale and a big part of the island didn't have electricity.



Inundated areas in Trinidad and Tobago.



Several homes were destroyed by Gustav hurricane in Jamaica.

There were more than 1 million people evacuated in Cuba as a precaution. Telephone lines in there are working. There are expected torrential rains and strong winds. In the USA almost 80 houses were damaged in a severe way and the death toll is 22 people. Alabama is facing huge waves and strong winds and the government has evacuated about two million people.



People are being evacuated in Cuba.



Big waves are threatening the south Part of USA.

Source: www.bbc.com

New NDYS Newsletter Editor

Here we have the pleasure to meet Niki from Iran. She is going to be a NDYS Newsletter so please give her a warmly welcome.

Name: Niki

Self introduction: dear all,hi
how are you?im nikta,im an iranian student studing in dubai .
i had participated in 2007 ndys project and i want to continue it now
.im so happy im going to work with ndys again..i hope we will have
good time and share our knowledge together nikta



Comments: It is hard to see what is happening to all these people. I don't know where to begin. I want to send my condolences to Nepal, USA, Caribbean and African people because the weather is being so hard with them. I hope the good time come for them. I really feel sad for this panorama, but good because I see that the world is trying to do something for decreasing the bad effects of global warming. Many conferences and publications are taking part on the web and that is a good point to mark. The

decisions that will be taken from these conferences will decide the way things will turn.

■ **For more information please contact** ■

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