



# NDYS in Action, Newsletter

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## The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



**Topics**  
**Climate Change and disaster reduction**  
Heavy rains affected many people in Cape Town.

### Heavy rains affected many people in Cape Town

More than 20,000 residents in 63 informal settlements in the South African port city of Cape Town have been affected by severe winter storms.

Charlotte Powell, spokesperson for the city's Disaster Risk Management department, said that the city had established six emergency shelters to provide hot meals and disburse humanitarian assistance, such as blankets, non-perishable foods and baby formula, after an appeal to Cape Town's residents for donations.

Unlike much of South Africa, Cape Town experiences its main rainfall during the winter months from May to September, while rapid urbanization has resulted in the establishment of informal settlements on land that is often unsuitable.



People living in wetlands and water courses are who suffer this season the most.

Powell said people arriving in the city during the summer months, when rainfall is low, were often not aware until the winter months that they had built rudimentary shelters on water courses or wetlands, which were prone to flooding. The weather forecast for the next few days is that the rain will stop, followed by clear skies and low temperatures.

Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

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## Topics

### Climate Change and disaster reduction

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# The IPCC is set to produce a "how to" manual



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In a significant move, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international body of climate change experts, is set to produce a "how to" manual for policy-makers and disaster officials on managing the risks of extreme weather events and bolstering resilience, to promote adaptation to global warming. "Years of lobbying the IPCC have finally paid off," said Maarten van Aalst, leading climate specialist at the Climate Centre of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The IPCC has assessed the long-term impact of climate change. The panel has now acknowledged that measures and policies identified as adaptation in their previous reports had not taken into account the full range of activities that need to be undertaken to reduce the risks of extreme events and disasters.

The special IPCC report, *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, will provide methods and tools to manage climate risks. It will also provide 25 case studies to show how extreme events and vulnerability interact to result in disasters, with lessons learnt from vulnerable countries such as Bangladesh in Southeast Asia, and others in Southern Africa. The report is expected to be released in 2011. Besides integrating adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR), which both "aim to reduce the impacts of shocks by anticipating risks and addressing vulnerabilities", said van Aalst, the IPCC's special report would help agencies like IFRC, which are trying to draw up plans to help communities prepare for extreme weather events, especially in areas where climate change forecasts are uncertain.

He cited IFRC's experience in West Africa, where various climate change projections have predicted increasingly uncertain rainfall. "As forecasts give only probabilities, not certainties", it leaves IFRC disaster managers like those based in Dakar, Senegal's capital, to make "judgement calls to utilize seasonal forecasts to apportion scarce resources". Countries attending the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference in Bali, Indonesia, in 2007 recognised the relevance of disaster-risk reduction to advance adaptation.

The IPCC special report is a response to their calls for "enhanced action on risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk transfer mechanisms such as insurance ... to lessen the impact of disasters on developing countries", said a scoping paper on the forthcoming report by IPCC officials. Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

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Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**

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## 75% of the year's rain average fell in one night.

The Niger government is distributing cereals, mosquito nets and blankets for hundreds of people affected by flooding in the southeast region of Zinder. Local authorities reported 187 homes destroyed in Moa village on 18 July in this year's first substantial rainfall. Aboubacar Gogé, Zinder's representative of the national early warning system and regional director of agricultural development, said he will travel from the city of Zinder to Moa – 110km northeast – to oversee distribution.

"This was truly an extraordinary rainfall," he said. "Normally this area gets at most 200mm of rain a year, and almost 150mm fell in just one night."

Moa farmers had not yet started planting due to delayed and insufficient rains. Gogé added the fact that it took more than one week to react because Moa officials were not able to assess damage until days after the rainfall. "Access was a problem in the flooded area," he said.

On 25 and 26 July, with financing from UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) distributed mosquito nets, plastic sheeting for temporary shelters, 374 blankets, 374 packages of high-protein biscuits and 561 jerry cans, according to MSF's director in Zinder, Kalil Hamadoun Touré. Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)



Children are the most affected by the floods. Many of them lost their home and clothes and also school elements.

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## More money is needed to fix flood damage

The international humanitarian community in Namibia has more than doubled its initial appeal for funding to address the ongoing needs since extensive flooding hit most of the northeastern border in early 2009. Heavy rain and floodwater from tributaries originating in Angola and Zambia pushed the Cunene, Chobe, Zambezi and Kavango rivers far beyond their banks, affecting a large area that is home to most of the country's rural poor.



The initial appeal for funding people's needings has more than doubled. The emergency was declared on March this year.

"To further support and complement the Government in its response, the international humanitarian community is seeking a revised amount of US\$7,071,951 to address residual humanitarian needs as identified by further assessments," said a statement released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on 29 July. Some 350,000 people - nearly 17 percent of the population - were affected by the floods after torrential rains swamped the countryside. Over 100 people lost their lives and more than 13,500 were displaced; the government declared an emergency on 17 March 2009.

The first Flash Appeal - seeking \$2,724,380 - was launched on 28 March but has been revised after a Post-disaster Needs Assessment by the government, United Nations and the World Bank. Currently the revised Flash Appeal is funded at \$1.9 million. Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)



**Comments:** As I said before, this is strange, isn't it? How can be possible to see the 75% of your year's rain average to fall in just one night? It is time to stop and think what we are causing. It is not a child game; our lives depend of how good we make the following steps.

I hope people from Namibia get that amount because they really need it...but crisis is on the table also.

Talking about the IPCC I feel very good for hearing they will prepare that manual, because that will be a very good tool for future situations. It will give the possibility for people to have something reliable and important, something everybody could have, and so many people will receive the information.

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