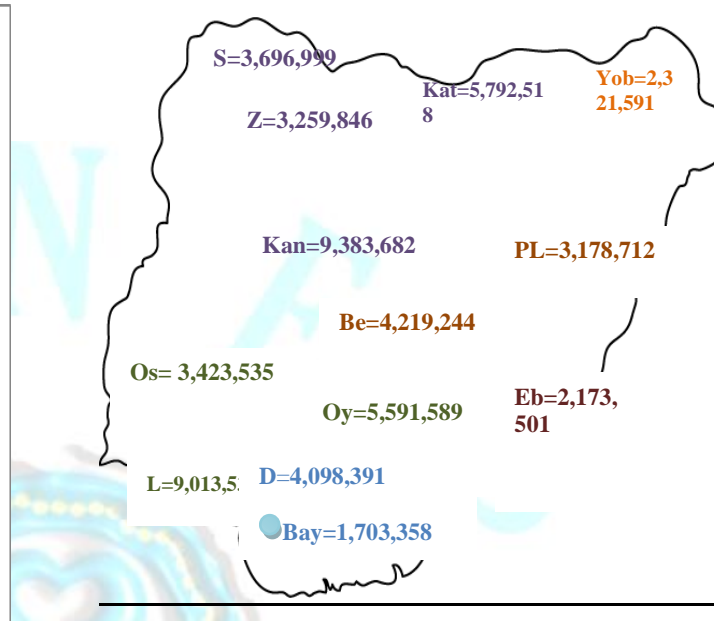
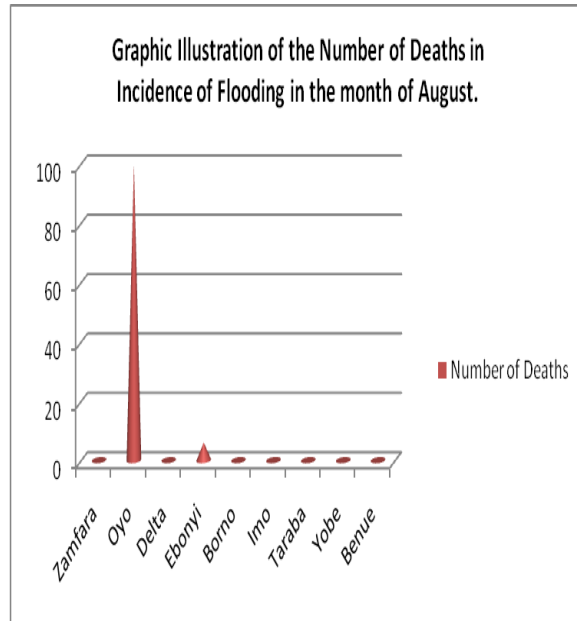


WANEP-NIGERIA Early Warning Bulletin

Analysis Period - 01-31/08/2011

Risk 1: Flood:



Thirteen states reported incidents of flooding in the month of August: Benue, Borno, Delta, Ebonyi, Lagos, Imo, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Oyo Sokoto, Taraba and Yobe states as reported in the National Early Warning System (NEWS). The flood claimed about one hundred and forty lives with thousands displaced and properties worth millions of Naira destroyed, sadly children and the elderly accounted for a larger percentage of the dead from the flood. In the wake of the flooding in the states the Nigeria's

Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) accused state governments of overlooking early warning messages in the wake of flooding across the country in the month under review. Most of the affected states recorded over 60% increase in the volume of rainfall in the period. This disaster caught most of the State Governments unawares and they could therefore not do much to prevent, mitigate or prepare for the humanitarian crisis that ensued from the disaster. Lagos and Oyo who recorded the highest number of victims from flood in the months of July and August respectively

About EW Bulletin

The Early Warning Bulletin is a monthly publication of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Nigeria that presents a brief graphic analysis and description of highest proximate conditions emerging from its Early Warning Reports.

These Reports are derived from the Network's online EW system which facilitates the generation of data from monitors and reporters across the 36 States of the country including the Federal Capital Territory.

The Bulletin reflects data from the incidence and situation reports of the EW system.

The WANEP-Nigeria EW system is adopted and supports the ECOWAS EW system-ECOWARN. The system is managed by the Early Warning Department of ECOWAS in partnership with WANEP through an MOU under the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security in West Africa.

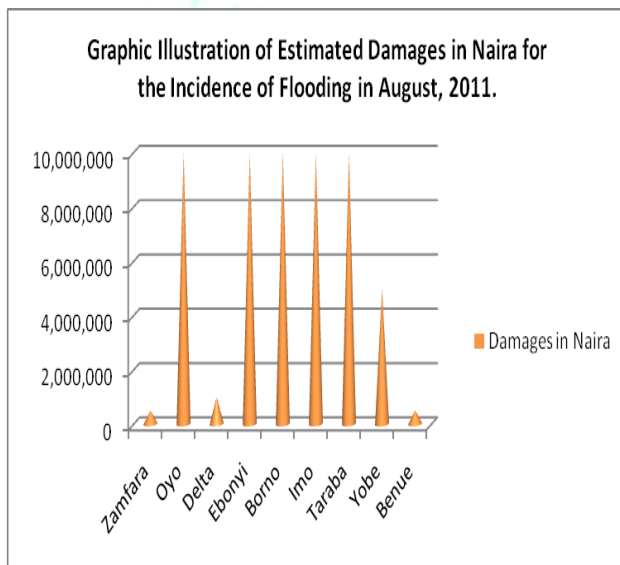
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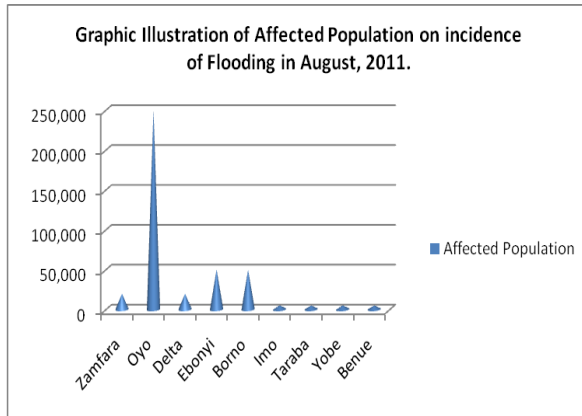
exhibited the inability of both federal and state governments to be proactive in responding to issues of possible humanitarian crisis despite having early warning signs on the possibility of flood in the states. The cumulative risk index for urban planning and drainage management is high in most of the affected states while the index for response of state actors is low. The issue of poor urban planning and blockage of drainage and water ways came to the fore as the proximate condition for the fatality of the flood in especially Oyo state which accounted for about 905 of the total death from flood in the month. Sadly successive governments in the state have not done much to tackle the issue of proper urban planning and development



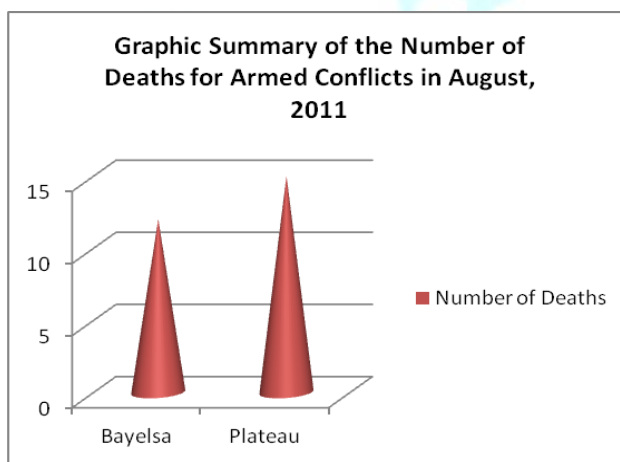
Victims of the flood in ibadan

The importance of sensitizing government at all levels on the reality of climate change and on possible risk reduction strategies is crucial in preventing a similar crisis in the nearest future. The need for an effective community based early warning system for disaster prevention and mitigation for Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. The existing one like the National early warning system of WANEP –Nigeria should intensify efforts in getting early response to identified humanitarian risk. Government at all levels need to shift from being reactive to being proactive in responding to disaster. There is also the need for government at all levels and its agencies to fund and map out contingency plans and emergency preparedness plans to prevent break the spate of humanitarian crisis in Nigeria.





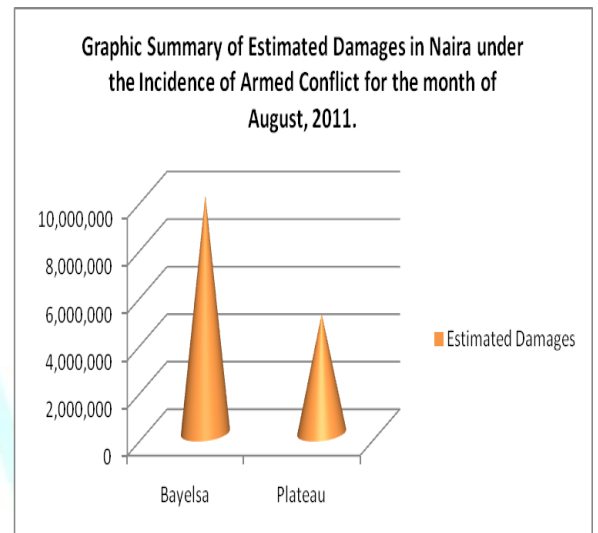
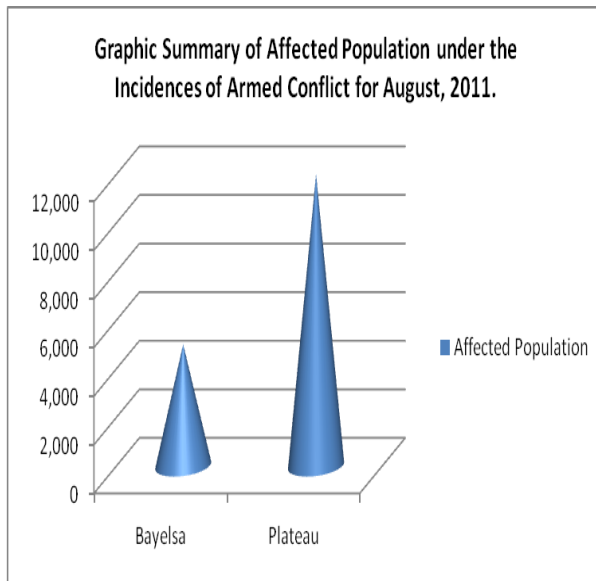
Risk 2- Armed Conflict



The armed conflict in Plateau state was prominent in the month under review. This is another episode in the orgy of attacks and counter attacks that have gripped the state in recent time. According to the data in the national early warning system for the period under review, the cumulative risk index for decrease in the sense of public security in Plateau state in the month under review is 60%, the index for increase in the use of military and police to maintain order

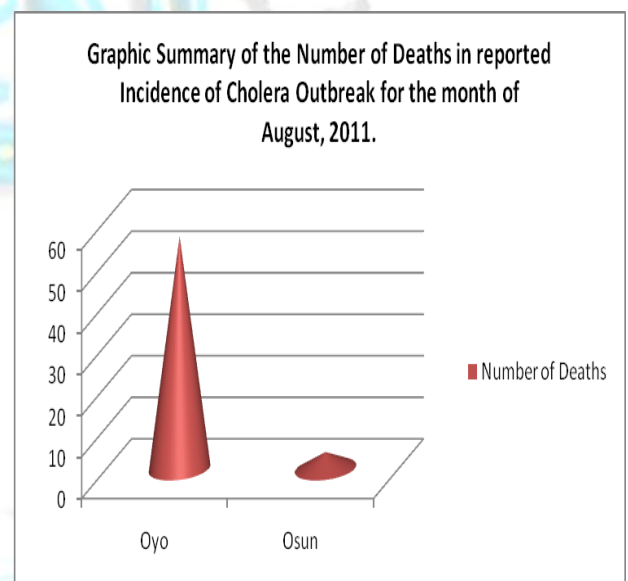
and security is 60%. Data also showed a significant reduction in interaction amongst the different ethnic communities as well as increase in the occurrence of homicide/silent killings in the state especially in Jos North and Jos South Local government areas.

A particular worrisome dimension of the crisis in the state was the attacks Gada-Biu, Kabong, Farin-Gada, Chobe and Agwan Rukuba during the Sallah celebration, which claimed about 15 lives, injured scores of others and destroyed cars and property worth millions of Naira. The lingering Jos crisis has brought into sharp focus the indigene/settler dichotomy and the contentious issue of citizenship and 'indigeneship' in Nigeria. Almost all the crises in Plateau state since 2001 are traceable to this factors which have continually set the Anaguta, Afizere, and Berom *indigenes* against the *settler* Hausa/Fulani.



For sustainable peace in Plateau and other states experiencing similar conflict, it is imperative for the Federal government to address the issue of citizenship and 'indigeneship' to limit the manipulations of the political classes who capitalized on the ambiguity to fuel conflict. There is the need for capacity and equipment improvement in the security sector for proactive response to threat to peace and public order in Nigeria. In like vein, there is the need for a strict surveillance and management of Nigerian borders especially as it relates to arms trafficking and illegal immigration. In addition, a comprehensive program on arms control with a view to mop up the illegal arms in circulation in the country.

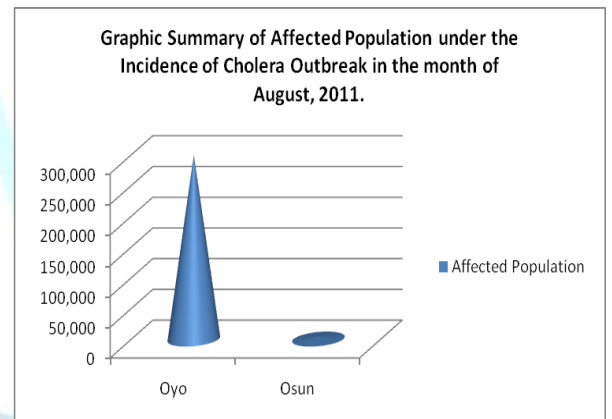
Risk 3- Epidemic- Cholera



O sun and Oyo states recorded the the outbreak of cholera in the month under review. One of the most direct causes of the epidemic is the recent flood in the state which contaminated the limited sources of

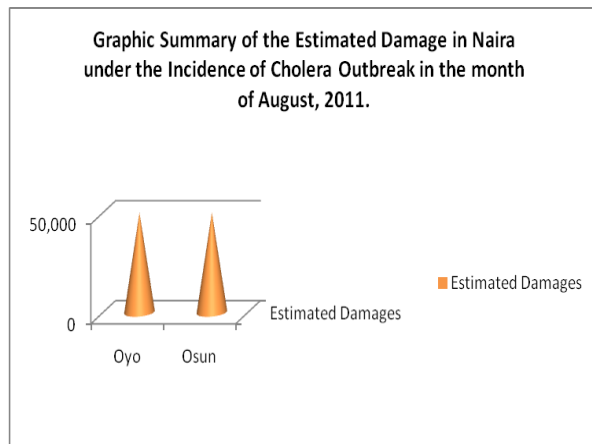
drinking water in the affected communities. Cholera has been a major menace in Nigeria for about two consecutive years mainly in the northern Nigeria but in recent time it has claimed several lives in the southern region. Cholera has killed over 100 people in Nigeria since the beginning of the year due to lack of adequate preventive measures and medical services for the victims. In January, six persons were reported killed in Opobo local government in Rivers State while seventy eight others were hospitalized for cholera. In June, twenty one persons died in Adamawa state while eighty six others were reported to be lying in critical conditions in several hospitals in the state. In July, six persons died and one hundred and sixty people were infected with cholera in Bauchi State. In the month under review cholera outbreak in Oyo and Osun states have claimed about 60 lives especially in Ayeye, Opo-Yeosa, Idi Ikan, Alawo, Abebi and Ekotedo communities of the states. A visit to these sites confirmed the squalor and un-hygienic lifestyle of residents in the areas. Most houses are without toilet, drainage system and

proper waste disposal bins. The current flood in the state will increase the risk of spread of the epidemic as water sources have been contaminated.



According to international standard in handling cholera epidemic, a death from cholera is all is needed for government to deploy its emergency medical services to complement available health services to address the situation. But sadly this is not the cases with Nigeria as cholera continues to fill Nigeria's grave with very little effort by state and federal government to prevent the spread and loss of life. Many of the international standards such as quarantining victims of cholera is still alien to us in Nigeria as the victims who are even able to access medical care at the local health centres are often admitted in the same ward with non -infected persons or treated as outpatient

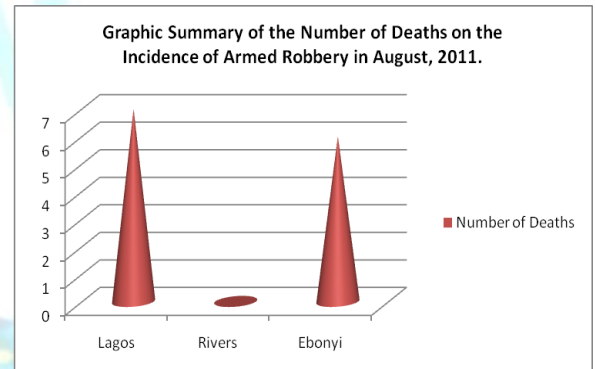
thereby exposing others to the infection.



There is the need for the Federal and state government to put in place structures to provide medical service and treatment for victims of cholera rather than leave them to the mercy of the ill equipped community health centres. Government needs to further equip its community health workers to sensitize rural communities about the causes of cholera, hygiene, as well as on what to be done in case of an outbreak of the disease. Government at all levels should commit to their promise of improving the living conditions of Nigerians especially at the rural communities and urban slums. A minimum living standard for houses should be enforced; this should include the provision of toilet, hygienic source of water and well covered drainage system. Government's should also take one

death from cholera as an emergency situation and not wait for a hundred deaths before responding to the disaster.

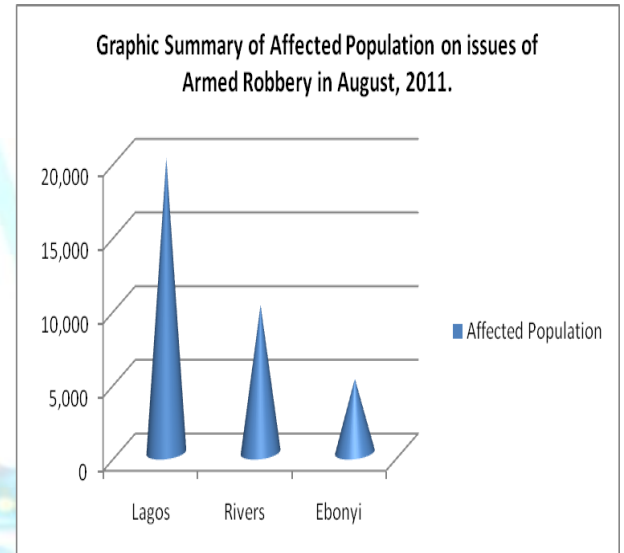
Risk 4- Armed Robbery



Reports from states showed an increase in armed robbery attacks in Ebonyi, Lagos and River states in the month under review. According to the data in the national early warning system the cumulative risk index for decrease in the sense of public security in the affected states is an average of 75%, while the index for incident involving small arms also increased. Residents of Lagos State are battling with the upsurge in armed robbery as attacks are recorded on a daily bases, many are fatal claiming the lives of passersby. The relative peace, Lagos state has enjoyed in the recent time, is fast giving way to the onslaught of men of

the underworld. Most armed robbery attacks are now carried out in the broad day light and often in the full glare of the Nigerian Police force who are always unable to match the robbers' sophisticated weaponry. But again, the service condition of a police man/woman in Nigeria is not adequate for policeman/women to want to be in the line of fire in defence of public safety and order. The major proximate conditions of armed robbery in Nigeria remains the issue of proliferation of small arms, ineffective and compromised police force as there have being several reports on the culpability of men of the Police force in some armed robbery attacks with reports of policemen lending their arms to the robbers for their operations as well as supplying the gangs with the information of where and when to rob. Closely linked to this is the issue of youth bulge, high unemployment rate among the youth as well as high level of poverty in the country. Many vulnerable youths have being lured into joining these gangs as the only means of survival. It has also been argued that the endemic corruption in Nigeria's leadership level brandished openly

encourages and provides the justification the armed robbers need for their activities.



The problem of corruption should be adequately addressed as a developmental problem in Nigeria. Nigeria's resources diverted to private coffers are adequate to address must developmental challenge of the country especially the issue of power and job creation. The Nigerian Police needs an urgent reform to identify the bad eggs in the force for adequate punishment and proper inventory and identification of Nigerian arms to prevent further misuse. Armed robbers should be adequately punished and stiffer penalty should be imposed on armed robbery to serve as deterrence to budding robbers.

