

DISASTER IN DURUMI AREA OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Flooding in most cases is natural occurrence that damages life and properties whenever it occurs. Durumi area within Abuja has had consistent flooding over the years. This research therefore evaluated the effects of the 2014 flooding disaster in Durumi area of the Federal Capital Territory with the objectives: to identify the vulnerability areas; to examine the causes of flooding; to determine the extent at which flooding affects the study area and to suggest the necessary measure to adopt in mitigating the effect of flooding. The following instruments were used for data collection: oral interviews, structured questionnaire, Global Position System and digital camera. The results showed that despite the location of the area in a flood plain zone, the activities of the residents on the built environments led to adverse effect of disaster occurrences. These vulnerable features include; lack of good drainage and access road network, indiscriminate waste disposal thereby blocking the water passages and the washing of the top soil by erosion. The results of the household survey revealed that most of the causes of flooding in the study area include; blockage of drainage with refuse representing 34% of the responses. The most drastic effects on infrastructure is destruction of housing and properties with 30% incurring an estimated monetary loss of N1,000-50,000. Most of the residential buildings are built close to the access roads and markets places as indicated in the responses which show that 44% of the houses are between 1-5 metre to the main road and 47% also are close to the market with an estimated distance of between 1-5 metre as such results in congestion and littering. The most economic effects during the flood disaster are inadequacy of food with 28% and affected the community socially with 59%, that is, disruption of movement and destroying lives and properties. The community often adopts making water canals to divert the direction of runoff water with 38%. The government is however not complementing their efforts as the residents have not received government commitment in providing mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of the flood. The study concluded that the study area is located in a flood plain area with vulnerable features that exposed the area to the effects of flooding. Governments have not done anything necessary to reduce the effects of flooding in the study area. The study, therefore, recommends that; there is need to enforce strict environmental bye laws to eliminate the problems of indiscriminate waste disposal and building close to the riverside without set back. The government attention should be diverted towards providing mitigation measures rather than relief materials.