

Niger floods leave at least 54 dead, 200,000 displaced

September 15 2017



A child walks in muddy water in the Saga district of Niamey on September 11, 2017 as streets are flooded by the overflowing Niger river

Flooding unleashed by three months of torrential rain in Niger has killed at least 54 people and left nearly 200,000 displaced, the UN said Friday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said most of the deaths took place in the capital Niamey and that more

than 11,000 homes were destroyed.

Niamey has been hardest hit along with Dosso in the south, Tillaberi in the west and the central-southern areas of Maradi and Zinder as Niger struggles once more with flooding which claimed more than 50 lives ast year.

The recovery from the disastrous rains promises to be long.

Food production will also take a hit, with the flooding killing some 16,000 cattle and about 12,000 hectares (30,000 acres) of crops being ruined, the UN said.

With its 17 million population in a country three quarters of which comprises desert, Niger regularly is beset by [food shortages](#) caused by drought as well as severe flooding.

A humanitarian source told AFP Thursday that exacerbating the problems were rising River Niger water levels, leading to fears of a repeat of serious flooding in 2012 which left dozens dead and some 500,000 homeless.

Last week, Niger said it had launched a campaign to destroy mosquito breeding sites to help combat the spread of deadly malaria in Niamey after the rain transformed some areas into [swamps](#).

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