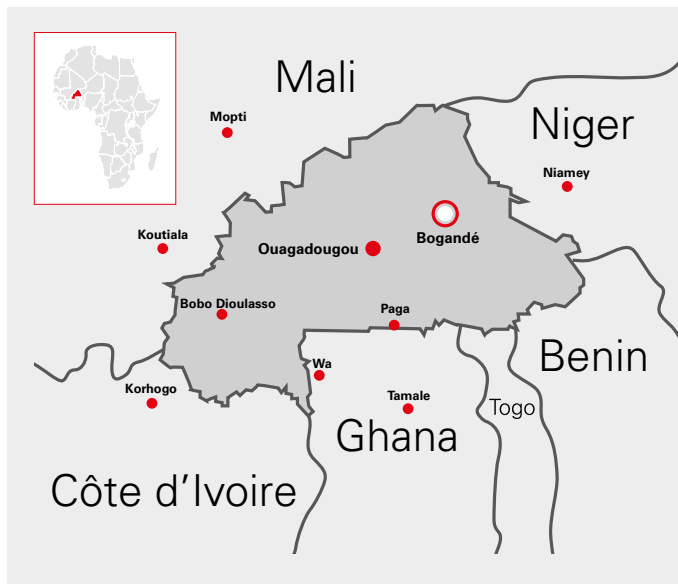


Floods severely affect communities in Bogandé, Burkina Faso

December 2015



A view of the dam of Bogandé.

On 3 September 2015, torrential downpours on Bogandé caused serious flooding, destroying the dam located in the town centre. Bogandé is the main town in Gnagna province, eastern Burkina Faso, and has about 100,000 inhabitants. Floods occur frequently during the rainy season in this region, crossed by the tributaries of the Niger River.

Extreme weather events such as floods and droughts linked to climate change have multiplied in the last few decades. These climate shocks continue to threaten a population whose food and nutritional security is already very precarious.

Too many people affected

As a result of these floods, rural communities have seen their homes destroyed, their livestock disappear and their crops and fields damaged. The damage has left as many as 500 people in a state of extreme vulnerability.

In addition, 300 farmers living on the irrigated perimeter located downstream of the dam have seen their entire agricultural plots affected, jeopardising their rice harvest for 2015. Water required for irrigation is no longer available.

Part of the rain-fed crops (maize, sorghum, groundnuts, cowpeas) located downstream, have also been destroyed.

Serious consequences for food security and the socioeconomic situation

The dam of Bogandé is vital to the town and its surroundings. Its many uses include: irrigation of rice and vegetable crops which are produced in the dry season, health of livestock, fishing, laundry, and the manufacture of bricks for construction. The dam also allows the reuse of groundwater that feeds the wells and boreholes.

The availability of cereals and vegetables will be greatly affected by these losses in this period of harvest.



Up to 40 metres of the dam's dyke has been destroyed following the floods.

This situation further undermines the food and nutritional security of the population, in particular women and children.

The households of Gnagna are heavily dependent on the market for their food, as their own production covers only four to six months of consumption during an average year.



Rice perimeter, downstream of the dam, in a state of water stress.

Mobilisation of the government and the population

The Burkina Faso Government has made a commitment to reconstruct the dyke, but no specific time limit has yet been fixed and the completion of the work will depend on the availability of national resources. Moreover, it will have to wait until the next rainy season for the dam to fill again.

In the meantime, the people of Bogandé have mobilised to fill a portion of the destroyed dyke with the resources available to them. The Provincial Directorate of Social Affairs and National Solidarity of Gnagna has been able to provide emergency aid. Food, hygiene kits (consisting of buckets, soap and kettles), tents and mosquito nets have been distributed to affected families, but these allocations have not been able to stretch to cover everyone who has been affected by the floods. Vital needs are yet to be fulfilled and the government has called for support from donors and NGOs, launched by the National Council of Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) for all the flood victims.



The community is mobilised for the reconstruction of the dyke.

BRACED Zaman-Lebidi (Changing World) project response

The NGO Action Against Hunger (ACF) is a key implementing partner for the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate change Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) programme in three communities in the province of Gnagna, including Bogandé. ACF carried out an evaluation of the

damage related to floods and assessed the needs of the people in the days following the disaster.

Humanitarian assistance will be provided by ACF as part of the BRACED consortium and in coordination with the CONASUR and the Social Affairs Department in order to strengthen the livelihoods and food security of affected households.

Voices of Bogandé flood victims



Marie Tindano, agricultural producer, Bogandé

I'm Marie Tindano, an agricultural producer living on the irrigated perimeter. I'm 56 years old and live in Bogandé. This rain has caused a lot of damage and loss of food, crops, infrastructure and animals. But the biggest loss

has been the breakdown of the dyke of the dam of Bogandé. The damage to this dyke has led to the disappearance of my pigs, my goats and my crops. In addition to this, my two houses collapsed and also my shower, my wall, and my latrine.

The consequences will be disastrous: a very poor harvest of rice, which is our main food crop, and lack of water for households, animals and for construction. All this could cause famine, poverty, waterborne diseases and malnutrition.

We have received hygiene kits provided by the Provincial Directorate of Social Action and National Solidarity. The kits were made up of a carton of soap, two empty 4-litre containers, two kettles, three nets, two mats and two blankets per affected family.

We appeal to the authorities to come to help us with food, the reconstruction of houses and the rehabilitation of the dyke.



Issaka Ouoba, agricultural producer, Bogandé

My name is Issaka Ouoba, I'm 50 years old and I live in Bogandé. The failure of the dyke will impact our activities, since the plots of rice, on which the majority of the town's population depend for income and food are destroyed.

I was harvesting 20 bags of rice, but this year even a bag will be difficult to obtain. There will be no water to help us build houses and other infrastructure. It will also affect the livestock

because the animals of several surrounding villages come to drink at the dam. In summary, life will be unbearable.

The people most affected are the people who work around the irrigated perimeter for their main activity. There are also the students who use the dam as their main source of water for laundry and to wash. To avoid this disaster, financial support will be required for the construction of houses and to move affected people into non-flood areas. There will also be a need to raise people's awareness so they do not live in the vicinity of the banks and to encourage them to diversify their farming lands.

What we urgently need is food and water so we can wash and bathe in order to avoid the diseases. We also want water for the animals and for gardening in order to recoup some of the losses.

With regard to the authorities, we are asking them to repair the dyke, which is the hope of many households of Bogandé. This dam is the economic lung of the Bogandé community.



Jean-Marie Koara, Head of Agriculture in Bogandé

My name is Jean-Marie Koara, head of the agriculture in Bogandé.

In my opinion, the events which have caused the destruction of the dyke are the silting up of the dam; the damage caused by the termite mounds on a large part of the dyke, and the heaviest rainfall recorded since the beginning of the season. It has been several years since Bogandé has recorded such a quantity of water in September.

A lot of losses have been recorded. First of all

in the lowland rice located upstream of the dam, more than 200 tonnes of paddy rice were expected. However, due to the failure of the dyke, all this hope has collapsed. In addition, those who harvest the rice are also market gardeners. This activity [gardening] will be impossible to carry out during the dry season (2015-2016) now. There are parcels of sorghum, millet and peanuts in the highland which have been damaged by the waters; animals have been died and houses have been destroyed.

As a technician of agriculture, my priorities have been to first provide moral support to victims and then to assess the damage and report the findings to my managers. There have been meetings to discuss the damage and needs assessment with the local and regional authorities, the other technical services (of the government) and local partners. I would also like to add that the community are mobilised for the build of a threshold in order to retain a bit of rainwater in the dam to save the crops. Unfortunately, the unpredictable rainfall patterns have made things difficult because there has been no rain.

I call on all the actors to support the victims and the immediate rehabilitation of the dyke. Without the dam, life will be very tough for the people in this town.