# Floodwaters inundate Onitsha as residents call for urgent infrastructure overhaul



A devastating flood, sparked by torrential rainfall, recently wreaked havoc around Zik Avenue and Iweka Road near the Ochanja Market in Onitsha, Anambra State. This incident disrupted daily life for many residents and traders in a region known for its bustling commercial activity. Reportedly, the floodwaters inundated shops and homes, causing substantial damage and displacing numerous traders. The situation was further compounded by blocked drainage systems, which contributed significantly to the flooding, catching many inhabitants off guard and leading them to remain indoors to avoid potential danger.

Visual accounts from the scene depict the dire circumstances faced by those caught in the flood. Videos show residents frantically attempting to salvage their belongings amid a relentless flow of water. Notably, a local tricycle operator struggled to recover his vehicle as it was swept away by the rising waters. In an area that lies perilously close to the River Niger, locals expressed growing fears as they recalled previous instances of flooding that posed life-threatening risks. One resident, Uchenna, voiced these concerns, stating, “Whenever it is raining, people are advised to steer clear of the road to avoid being swept away.” With further predictions of flooding in the coming months from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMET), anxiety hangs heavy amongst residents regarding the potential for more disasters to come.

Local landlords shared their frustrations regarding the inadequacies of the existing drainage systems. Justine Ugoh, a landlord in the area, lamented that despite residents making efforts to maintain the drainage, the most recent rainfall overwhelmed their preparations. He remarked on the chronic challenge of flooding, noting that “the rain caught people off guard” and rendered roads indistinguishable from the overflowing drainage. While the State Emergency Management Agency has been notified, many residents are still awaiting tangible support, underscoring the urgent need for improved infrastructure and emergency preparedness.

Echoing the sentiments voiced by affected residents, analysts have pointed to a clearer pattern of vulnerability in Anambra State. Past assessments indicated that the region has been identified as a high-risk area, with various government bodies warning of potential flooding. In April 2023, the Anambra State government instructed residents to take precautionary measures against impending floods, predicting that many communities could face severe inundation from heavy rains. Observers have raised alarms about the systemic issues contributing to recurrent flooding in the state, particularly inadequate governmental responses in previous flood crises that resulted in widespread destruction of homes and farmland.

The ongoing challenges brought forth by flooding in Anambra highlight the pressing need for comprehensive disaster management. Experts argue that without proactive measures—ranging from improved drainage systems to community awareness initiatives—future floods could lead to even more catastrophic outcomes, endangering both lives and livelihoods. As residents rally for immediate assistance and long-term solutions, the call for strategic interventions has never been louder, urging the Anambra State Government to prioritise sustainable flood management practices to mitigate the threat posed by environmental changes and heavy rains.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://punchng.com/residents-seek-help-as-flood-destroys-anambra-shops/), [[2]](https://www.thecable.ng/anambra-ochanja-iweka-road-damaged-by-flood-not-yet-inaugurated-still-under-construction/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://punchng.com/residents-seek-help-as-flood-destroys-anambra-shops/), [[5]](https://tribuneonlineng.com/2023-flood-50-communities-may-be-submerged-in-anambra/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.nema.gov.ng/2023-early-warning-flood-sensitization-programme-continues-in-ogbaru-lga-of-anambra-state/), [[4]](https://projects.econaiplus.com/2023/09/part-iii-how-2022-flooding-wreaked-havoc-inside-anambras-worse-hit-communities/), [[6]](https://communityreporters.com.ng/2023/04/29/floods-anambra-warns-residents-lists-remedies/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.icirnigeria.org/anambra-govt-warns-residents-against-flooding-heavy-rainfall/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://punchng.com/residents-seek-help-as-flood-destroys-anambra-shops/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thecable.ng/anambra-ochanja-iweka-road-damaged-by-flood-not-yet-inaugurated-still-under-construction/> - In March 2024, the Anambra state government addressed reports about the Ochanja-Iweka road project, clarifying that the road was still under construction and had not been inaugurated. Heavy rainfall had impacted a section of the road, leading to flooding, but the road's solid stone base remained intact. The government urged the public to disregard misinformation and confirmed that the road had not been commissioned. ([thecable.ng](https://www.thecable.ng/anambra-ochanja-iweka-road-damaged-by-flood-not-yet-inaugurated-still-under-construction/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.nema.gov.ng/2023-early-warning-flood-sensitization-programme-continues-in-ogbaru-lga-of-anambra-state/> - In May 2023, the Anambra State Emergency Management Agency (ANSEMA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) South East Zonal Office extended their flood sensitization programme to Atani, the headquarters of Ogbaru Local Government Area. This initiative was part of the 2023 Seasonal Climate Prediction and Annual Flood Outlook by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) and the Nigerian Hydrological Agency (NIHSA), which identified several LGAs in Anambra State as high flood risk areas. ([nema.gov.ng](https://www.nema.gov.ng/2023-early-warning-flood-sensitization-programme-continues-in-ogbaru-lga-of-anambra-state/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://projects.econaiplus.com/2023/09/part-iii-how-2022-flooding-wreaked-havoc-inside-anambras-worse-hit-communities/> - In September 2023, reports detailed the severe impact of the 2022 flooding in Anambra's vulnerable communities. The flooding led to the collapse of bridges, destruction of farmlands, and displacement of residents. The report highlighted the inadequate government response and the need for improved disaster preparedness and management in the state. ([projects.econaiplus.com](https://projects.econaiplus.com/2023/09/01/part-iii-how-2022-flooding-wreaked-havoc-inside-anambras-worse-hit-communities/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://tribuneonlineng.com/2023-flood-50-communities-may-be-submerged-in-anambra/> - In April 2023, the Anambra State government warned that no fewer than 50 communities in seven Local Government Areas (LGAs) might be submerged due to impending flooding. The warning was based on predictions by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) and the Nigerian Hydrological Service Agency (NIHSA), which identified Anambra as a high-risk area for flooding. ([tribuneonlineng.com](https://tribuneonlineng.com/2023-flood-50-communities-may-be-submerged-in-anambra/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://communityreporters.com.ng/2023/04/29/floods-anambra-warns-residents-lists-remedies/> - In April 2023, the Anambra State Government alerted residents about the looming heavy rainfall and flooding. The Commissioner for Information, Paul Nwosu, advised residents to protect their properties, avoid constructing structures on water channels, and clear gutters and drainages. He emphasized the importance of timely evacuation to safety nets provided by the government to prevent loss of lives. ([communityreporters.com.ng](https://communityreporters.com.ng/2023/04/29/floods-anambra-warns-residents-lists-remedies/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.icirnigeria.org/anambra-govt-warns-residents-against-flooding-heavy-rainfall/> - In April 2023, the Anambra State government warned residents against impending flooding and heavy rainfall predicted by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet). The government advised residents to protect their properties, avoid constructing structures on water channels, and clear gutters and drainages. The warning was based on predictions that Anambra was among the states at high risk of flooding in 2023. ([icirnigeria.org](https://www.icirnigeria.org/anambra-govt-warns-residents-against-flooding-heavy-rainfall/?utm_source=openai))