



# The impacts of flooding



## Immediate impacts

First few days



## Long-term impacts

Weeks/months/years





## Impacts on people and the local community



## Impacts on infrastructure



## Impacts on the natural environment

**Sentimental  
belongings  
damaged or  
washed away.**



**Risk of drowning.**



**Having to  
evacuate  
property.**



**Risk of injury.**



**Submerged  
properties and  
businesses.**



**Damaged  
infrastructure.**



**Closed roads.**



**Feelings of grief,  
stress, anger and  
sadness.**



**Sewage system  
overwhelmed.**



**Risk of  
electrocution.**

**Food and drink  
items contaminated  
having been touched  
or covered by  
flood water.**



**Power supply  
disrupted.**



No electricity.



Phone and Wi-Fi  
network connectivity  
disrupted.



Loss of cultural  
items and heritage  
monuments.



Roads, bridges and  
trainlines damaged  
or destroyed.



**Public transport  
disrupted.**



**Events and festivals  
cancelled.**



**Water supply  
contaminated -  
no clean drinking  
water.**



**Businesses forced  
to close.**



Limited access to medical supplies, equipment and services.



Schools and nurseries closed.



Day care centres for adults closed.



Crops ruined having been touched or covered by flood water.



Livestock  
drowned or  
washed away.



Where little or  
no vegetation exists  
soil may be eroded  
or washed away.



Fields become  
waterlogged.



Riverbanks  
washed away.



The sudden pressure of water running down a slope can push earth and debris with it, leading to a landslide.



Fish washed out of the river and are unable to get back once the water subsides.



Fast flowing floodwater uproots trees and washes them away.



Habitats flooded, nests and homes destroyed - insects, mammals and birds are displaced and struggle.



Agricultural  
fertilisers, pesticides  
and industrial  
chemicals washed  
into rivers.



Difficulties in  
claiming insurance.



Mold and mildew  
grows on walls  
and surfaces.



Contact with  
contaminated flood  
water can lead to  
illnesses and diseases  
spreading.



**Finding resources  
to repair or rebuild  
damaged property.**



**Structural damage  
to property.**

**Soil becomes degraded  
and fallow due to the  
depletion of oxygen  
in the soil profile  
leading to reduced soil  
biological diversity.**



**Reoccupation of  
property not possible  
for a long time.**



Suspension and disruption of school classes and exams.



Reduced opportunities to meet new people and socialise leading to loneliness.

Food shortages occur because of supply and distribution chains being disrupted.



Increase in deposition leads to a build-up of silt and sediment in rivers, reducing available oxygen levels, creating unsuitable habitat for fish, such as salmon, to spawn.



**Community  
morale low.**



**Tourism numbers  
impacted.**



**Individuals  
are unable to work  
due to long-term  
stress or depression.**



**Loss of income.**



Lower biodiversity as a result of the destruction of food chains, webs and habitats.



Plants are weakened and habitats struggle to recover, weeds and invasive species have the opportunity to flourish.



Increased insurance costs.

