Flooding Fact Sheet

A flood is caused when large amounts of rain or melting snow cannot be absorbed into the ground, river or stream.

Sometime the rivers and streams are unable to hold the rain or melting snow simply because they are too full to hold it all. When there is too much water to be contained in the river channel, the river will over flow its banks and spread across the flood plain.



Sometimes floods happen slowly over a period of days of steady rain or slowly melting snow.

Other floods happen quickly without much warning.

These are called **flash floods.**

Flash floods can happen when too much rain comes too quickly or when the flow of a river or stream becomes blocked.

Flooding can also be caused by:

- the sea flooding the land, as a result of heavy winds pushing the sea up against the coast
- weather events like cyclones, typhoons or hurricanes
- a tsunami.





Effects of flooding

- Loss of human life
- Damage to property including homes and businesses
- Destruction of crops
- Loss of livestock
- Disruption to supplies of clean water, waste water treatment, electricity, transport, education, communication and health care.
- Deterioration of health.
- Damage to roads, bridges, power plants and transport links.
- Disruption to everyday life including people can be forced to leave their home.
- Financial costs.