

Preparing for Accra's Next Flood

A strategic proposal for reallocating the GH¢350 million flood response fund toward prevention, resilience and measurable risk reduction.

THE WHY?



Primary factor

Heavy 24-Hour Rainfall

Climate-change-induced rainfall intensity. June 2026 recorded 169.2 mm within a single 24-hour window — among the highest such intensities globally.



30%

Archaic Drainage System

Drains designed for the demographic and hydrological realities of the 1960s–1980s, with no retention storage, permeable surfaces or hydraulic modelling.



30%

Waste & Blockages

Sachets, styrofoam, bottles and debris choke gutters and primary channels, turning ordinary rainfall events into flood events.



40%

Poor Land Use

Building in waterways alongside the erosion of wetlands, river basins and green spaces that historically absorbed excess water.

THE CENTRAL IDEA



Target: every GH¢1 of prevention avoiding multiples in future flood losses.

Relief spending is reactive. Resilience spending is preventive.

Government plans GH¢350 million — GH¢200m relief, GH¢150m mitigation. Commendable, but it can be optimised. We propose a reallocation weighted toward prevention, delivering measurable results in under 18 months.

Desilting, waterway restoration, trash interception, bottleneck upgrades (Kaneshie, Circle, Weija)	GH¢130m
Technology & digital: hotspot engineering, monitoring, early warning, tech centre	GH¢100m
Emergency relief and contingency reserve	GH¢70m
Cultural change and social engineering programmes	GH¢50m
Independent monitoring by credible auditing firms	Minimal

5-POINT AGENDA · MEASURABLE OVER 18 MONTHS



01

Enhanced Coordination & Control

41% OPTIMISATION OF EXISTING RESOURCES

A single national flood preparation standard, an Accra Flood Operations Centre, enforced land laws and coordinated desilting.



02

Cultural Change & Social Engineering

73% RISE IN CITY CLEANLINESS & HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS

Quarterly national clean-ups, sustained cross-media campaigns, evacuation points, retention ponds and household rainwater storage.



03

Technology & Research-Led Initiatives

RESPONSIVENESS AND AWARENESS UP 80%

AI prediction models, dynamic flood maps, SMS/WhatsApp alerts and university partnerships for homegrown engineering solutions.



04

South Africa Is Key

STRUCTURED KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Deepen cooperation with countries running mature flood-management systems — South Africa, Mauritius and the Seychelles.



05

Direct Action From Government

LOW-COST, LONG-TERM BENEFIT

Expand the plastic ban, incentivise return schemes, and suspend new approvals in mapped flood-prone areas pending risk assessment.

CONCLUSION



By leveraging technology, sustained mass communication and social engineering, strengthening coordination of all efforts and expanding the ongoing plastic ban, the GH¢350 million can deliver measurable impact in under 18 months. **Every citizen must get involved.**

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Source: CSIDT Policy Brief, Flooding in Accra — 17 July 2026