

Key aspects of flood preparedness for February 2026 in northern Morocco

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ABSTRACT

For many years, the Kingdom of Morocco has been pursuing an innovative and proactive flood risk prevention policy across its territory, driven in particular by the Directorate for Natural Risk Management (DGRN) of the Ministry of the Interior. The aim of this policy is to establish an integrated and operational flood management strategy, based on: the implementation of innovative concepts enabling the anticipation of protective measures, fostering communication between the various stakeholders involved (meteorological, water and risk management services) at different levels of intervention (national, regional and provincial), supported by the establishment of dedicated structures (CNGRI, CPGRI). The aim is to reduce the human and material consequences caused by these floods. The Vigirisque system has been implemented in four pilot areas across the country, each representing a specific type of flood: flash floods in Mohammedia, torrential floods in the Ourika Valley, river floods in the Gharb Plain (Kenitra Province) and floods in the desert fringe in the Guelmim area.

The recent major floods occurred in the north of the country, particularly in the Gharb plain, following the overflowing of the Sebou and its tributaries, affected one of the pilot areas of the Vigirisque project. Measures to secure the flooded areas had been jointly identified with the local authorities and formalised on the dedicated digital platform. In anticipation of the floods, these various tools were thus deployed during February 2026 to manage the historic flooding, which required the competent authorities to carry out preventive evacuation measures for over 140,000 people as of 5 February 2026. The aim here is to review the experience gained from managing these events in relation to the project's contributions, with a national roll-out planned over the coming years and specifically by 2030.

Keywords: flood management; Vigirisque; Early Warning System