

ACCRA FLOODS

Four inches of rain in 24 hours is a lot of water anywhere, and in Accra, the capital of Ghana, it's one of the worst storms in living memory. Along some roads the buses can still just about move - but in many places a canoe is the most practical means of getting around. If you haven't got that - whatever you do, don't lose your umbrella.

The most badly hit parts of the capital are the Ring Road West area and the suburbs, where many old houses have collapsed, their walls undermined by the floodwater. And the danger isn't over when the rain stops. Struggling as best they can through ankle deep lakes of slimy mud, families rescue their belongings from tottering homes that may give way to any moment.

Learning from the disaster, the Government of the young Republic have started a flood control system which they say will lessen the threat when the rainy season comes round again.