CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF ALGERIAN FLOODS BETWEEN 1921 AND 2016

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By 2050, 80% of the population will be an urbanized population that will request the expansion of urban territories to new areas, especially peri-urban areas. In Algeria, the population has grown (increased) from 11 million in 1961 to 41 million habitants in 2016 with a prediction of 54.5 million habitants in 2050. In a space territory exceeding two million km², its occupation is completely heterogeneous and it is characterised by a polarity in the north of the country. 1.9% of the territory which represent the coastal strip is occupied by 36.5% of the Algerian population [National office of statistics, RGPH 2008], which involves either a densification of the urban fabric or an urban expansion. These two phenomena are the cause of a high vulnerability to hazards. In our case, floods, the first listed hazard by its direct impacts on the population, causing the largest losses and injuries recorded in Algeria (870 deaths during the exceptional event of November 2001 in Algiers). Therefore, the management of this risk in urban area is necessary. Our proposition consists to find solutions for a proper risk area management by looking for the problem at the sources. This finality depends first on a good contextual analysis of recorded events between 1921 and early 2017.

Keywords: Algeria, floods, population, urban area.

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