Nigeria Ammunition Depot Explosion

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- Probably caused by a fire in the adjacent local market.
- Estimated 200+ fatalities from the initial blast and fragmentation hazards.
- Over 2000 fatalities from the resultant panic. Many drowned trying to cross a river to escape the explosions.
- UK DfID deployed 2 x ATOs to assist in post blast safety operations.
Problems

- Total explosive content of blasts unknown.
- Ammunition losses unknown due to incomplete ammunition accounting system.
Conventional wisdom normally suggests that when you build an ammo compound, the storage buildings should be tougher than the surrounding trees.
Some stray rounds were easier to find than others.
And some seemed to make themselves quite comfortable in their new surroundings.
Problems and Lessons Learnt

- Inadequate Outside Quantity Distances (OQD) to reduce the risk to the civilian population.
- Inadequate Inside Quantity Distances (IQD) to reduce the risk of propagation of blast to adjacent explosive storehouses.
Problems and Lessons Learnt

- No contingency plan for dealing with a disaster of this magnitude.
Questions ?