

ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AMONG INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN KOGI STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Internal displacement caused by flooding in Kogi State, Nigeria, is a frequent occurrence that has impacted on the socioeconomic status of the citizens. This study aims to assess the socio-economic challenges among floods internally displaced persons in Kogi State, Nigeria. A quantitative cross-sectional research design was adopted by administering the Socioeconomic Challenges among Internal Displaced Persons due to Flood Questionnaire (SCIDPFQ) to 770 respondents. The findings show the extensive negative effects of internal displacement on physical well-being, health, including heightened susceptibility to illnesses, starvation, accidents and limited access to medical care. Demographic investigations reveal issues related to shelter and housing insecurity, food and water scarcity, disruptions in healthcare access, loss of livelihoods, and psychosocial challenges, while socio-economic bottlenecks include livelihood loss, education barriers, inadequate shelter, food insecurity, disrupted healthcare, and gender-based vulnerabilities. In addition, the psychological challenges experienced include trauma, PTSD, grief, anxiety, depression, and social isolation. To address these issues and enhance future resilience, the study recommends constant promotion and creating awareness, making investments in robust infrastructure, offering psychosocial and mental health support, and motivating communities to develop adaptive and coping strategies. By lowering the impact of future floods and guaranteeing the safety and sustainability of the affected people,

these steps will assist those who are impacted in leading more safely and sustainably.

Keywords: Internal Displaced People (IDP), Socioeconomic Status, Flood, Victims, and Kogi State

ÉVALUATION DES DÉFIS SOCIO-ÉCONOMIQUES CHEZ LES PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES INTERNES À CAUSE DE L'INONDATION DANS L'ÉTAT DE KOGI, NIGÉRIA

Résumé

Le déplacement interne lié à l'inondation dans l'État de Kogi, au Nigéria, constitue un phénomène récurrent qui affecte profondément la situation socio-économique des citoyens. La présente étude vise à évaluer les défis socio-économiques auxquels sont confrontées les personnes déplacées internes à cause l'inondation dans cet État. Une méthode de recherche quantitative de type transversal a été adoptée, à travers l'administration du questionnaire intitulé *Défis socio-économiques chez les personnes déplacées internes provoqué l'inondation* auprès de 770 répondants. Les résultats révèlent des effets négatifs considérables du déplacement interne sur le bien-être physique et la santé, notamment la vulnérabilité médicale, la malnutrition, les accidents et l'accès limité aux soins médicaux. L'analyse démographique met en évidence des problématiques liées à l'insécurité du logement, au manque de la nourriture et de l'eau, à l'interruption des services de santé, à la perte de moyens de subsistance, ainsi qu'aux difficultés psychosociales. Les obstacles socio-économiques recensés incluent également la perte de revenus, les entraves à l'éducation, l'insuffisance d'abris, l'insécurité alimentaire, les perturbations dans l'accès aux soins et les vulnérabilités liées au genre. Par ailleurs, les défis psychologiques identifiés comprennent les traumatismes, le trouble de stress post-traumatique (TSPT), le deuil, l'anxiété, la dépression et l'isolement social. Pour combler ces défis et renforcer la résilience, l'étude recommande la sensibilisation continue, l'investissement dans des infrastructures résilientes, le soutien psychosocial et en santé mentale, ainsi que l'encouragement des communautés à développer des stratégies d'adaptation et de résilience. Ces mesures permettront de réduire l'impact des inondations futures et de garantir la sécurité et la durabilité des populations touchées.

Mots-clés : Personnes déplacées internes (PDI), situation socioéconomique, inondation, victimes, État de Kogi

INTRODUCTION

Internal displacement is caused by various factors, and there are different challenges attached to it. Specifically, the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, such as floods, have led to a rise in the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) worldwide.⁶³ In Nigeria, flood-prone areas like regions and towns around the Niger and Benue Rivers have become more recurrent, causing widespread displacement and impacting the socioeconomic status of affected individuals and communities. Socioeconomic status encompasses not only the income, occupation, and education; it translates to access to basic needs, and the overall well-being of the displaced population.⁶⁴

Internally displaced flood victims face a multitude of challenges. Among the challenges are the unpredictability of flooding, which can lead to the loss of houses, means of subsistence, and community infrastructure, making the impacted people more vulnerable. In addition, living in cramped, frequently improvised quarters in temporary shelters can have negative health effects, such as the spread of infections carried by water and insufficient access to medical treatment.⁶⁵ To overcome these socioeconomic challenges, strategies and tailored interventions to address the unique challenges faced by internally displaced flood victims must be developed. More successful solutions for reducing the effects of internal displacement brought on by flooding will result from an understanding of the distinct

⁶³ Smith, E., and M. Johnson. "Understanding Internal Displacement: A Mixed-Methods Approach." *Journal of Refugee Studies* 31, no. 2 (2018): 189-207.

⁶⁴ Oakes, J. Michael, and Kate E. Andrade. "The Measurement of Socioeconomic Status." In *Methods in Social Epidemiology*, 18 (2017): 23-42.

⁶⁵ Garcia, M., and L. Martinez. "Health Consequences of Internal Displacement: A Cross-Sectional Analysis among Flood Victims." *Journal of Public Health* 35, no. 2 (2020): 234-248.

socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental aspects influencing the experiences of Internally Displaced People (IDPs). A study by Awotayo on the victim's awareness and perception of environmentally induced disaster in Kogi State, Nigeria, and a similar one on socio-economic analysis of environmentally induced disasters on residents in parts of Kogi State, north central Nigeria, found out that victims' knowledge and perception are greatly impacted by

differences in community vulnerability, catastrophe incidence, risk preparedness, socioeconomic level, and prior experiences. Additionally, it shows that 98% of the diversity in the effects of environmental catastrophes can be attributed to housing, livelihood, and health, with livelihood being the best indicator of how victims would be affected by a disaster ⁶⁶. The study concluded that environment-related disasters had led to displacement and harmed the inhabitants' livelihood. It is, therefore, recommended that, in order to address the unique characteristics of each community disaster in the study area, micro-intervention is necessary and that other sources of survival be encouraged.

Furthermore, the state is geographically vulnerable, especially to seasonal flooding due to its advantageous location between the Niger and Benue Rivers. The continuously rising sea levels, stronger storms, and altered rainfall patterns are all factors that have made Kogi State more vulnerable to floods because of climate change.⁶⁷ As reported, flooding in the state poses a significant threat to human security, particularly among the affected population.⁶⁸

Primarily, the concept of internal displacement is a phenomenon involving forced movement within a country's borders, particularly in

⁶⁶ Awotayo, G. P., and O. K. Awoyemi. "Victims Awareness and Perception of Environmentally induced Disaster in Kogi State, Nigeria."

⁶⁷ Garcia, M., and L. Martinez. "Health Consequences of Internal Displacement: A Cross-Sectional Analysis among Flood Victims." *Journal of Public Health* 35, no. 2 (2020): 234-248.

⁶⁸ Kogi Webnews. "Flood Pictures Today." Kogi Webnews, 2023. <https://conservationsng.com/9-Igain-kogi-state-get-submerged-in-2022-floods/>.

floods.⁶⁹ It highlights the challenges faced by flood victims in Kogi State, where flooding is a common issue due to human activities like settlement growth, population growth, deforestation, climate change, and urbanisation altering natural drainage and river basin systems.⁷⁰ Understanding the dynamics of internal displacement is crucial for addressing the security challenges faced by flood victims. Floods can cause internal displacement due to various factors, including environmental issues like erratic weather patterns and inadequate

infrastructure, and human activities like deforestation and improper land use.⁷¹ Flooding disrupts income sources and employment, affecting businesses and agricultural activities.⁷² Displacement in Kogi State disrupts economic activities, particularly for those dependent on agriculture and small-scale businesses. This loss perpetuates poverty cycles and increases vulnerability for the displaced population. Floods also lead to the destruction of crops, livestock, and businesses, resulting in economic insecurity and displacement among affected communities.

Flood vulnerability refers to the potential negative consequences of risks on people, assets, and means of subsistence. It is influenced by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors. Vulnerability is dynamic and changes over time and geography. Factors such as hazard events, climate change, and urbanisation make many cities more vulnerable. Three key elements determine a society's vulnerability to flooding: exposure, susceptibility, and resistance. Vulnerability is a necessary but insufficient factor of risk, and understanding it is crucial for managing flood risk. Factors such as sea level rise, urbanisation, climate change, population growth, development in floodplains, awareness of flood risk, and the futility of attempts to combat floods contribute to vulnerability.

⁶⁹ Ndukson Buba, F., S. Obaguo, O. Ogah, and F. Ajayi. "A Participatory Assessment of the Impact of Flooding in Some Communities in Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria." *American Journal of Climate Change* 10 (2021): 12-31.

⁷⁰ Kogi Webnews. "Flood Pictures Today." Kogi Webnews, 2023. <https://conservationsng.com/9-Igain-kogi-state-get-submerged-in-2022-floods/>.

⁷¹ Emmanuel, I. "Insurgency and Humanitarian Crises in Northern Nigeria: The Case of Boko Haram." *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations* 9, no. 7 (2015): 284-296.

⁷² Johnson, S., and J. Adams. "Social Resilience and Internal Displacement: Insights from Focus Group Discussions." *Journal of Community Psychology* 42, no. 4 (2017): 567-582.

The theoretical framework also considers societal factors influencing vulnerability, the disaster risk reduction perspective, ecological systems theory, and trauma theory. Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory suggests that social environments significantly impact human development, affecting their identity and social roles within five systems: Microsystem, Mesosystem, Exosystem, Macrosystem, and Chronosystem.

Empirical evidence shows that Wisner et al. (2004) examined the complex nature of internal displacement caused by natural disasters like floods, highlighting its causes, dynamics, and challenges. It emphasises the role of climate change, deforestation, and land-use

changes in exacerbating flood risks. The review also highlights the need for flexible response strategies, comprehensive support systems, and government response to manage displacement. It also highlights community resilience and the need for long-term rehabilitation measures (Wisner et al. 2004).⁷³ Talcott Parsons (1970) made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of socioeconomic position. According to him, status is a place in society that is shaped by social standing and line of work. Like Weber (1958), Parsons associated status with a hierarchical concept, that is, honour and distinction. His contributions had a big impact on socioeconomics; a comprehensive approach to understanding internal displacement and challenges to socioeconomic development among flood victims. It emphasises protection from threats in various aspects of life, including economic, food, health, environmental, personal, and community security.

Aladejana and Ebijuoworih (2024) produced a flood risk map by examining the hazard components and flood susceptibility in Kogi State, Nigeria. The Flood Risk Index (FRI), Flood Hazard Index (FHI), and Flood Vulnerability Index (FVI) were developed by ranking and weighting seven parameters according to their impact on flooding. The dense populations, rural location, and distances from medical facilities in Kabba, Idah, Olamabor, Kotonkar, and the southern portion of

⁷³ Wisner, B., P. Blaikie, T. Cannon, and I. Davis. *At Risk: Natural Hazards, People's Vulnerability, and Disasters*. Routledge, 2004.

Ajaokuta LGAs made them very vulnerable to flooding (Aladejana and Ebijuworih 2024).⁷⁴ Idoko, Adah, and Alkali (2020) observed that flooding in Nigeria has severe socioeconomic implications, leading to overcrowding in camps and posing risks to displaced children.⁷⁵ Similarly, a study conducted a participatory assessment of flood impacts in communities within Lokoja, Kogi State, identifying dam releases, river overflow, and heavy rainfall as major causes. The study concluded that bottom-up

participatory research provides a practical approach to effective flood mitigation (Ndukson et al. 2021).⁷⁶

Floods cause internal displacement patterns, with variations in displacement trajectories, duration, factors influencing return, and population distribution. As of 2022, 43.3 million children under 18 were displaced, with an average of 385,000 children born as refugees annually. The global number of forcibly displaced people is 110 million, including refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people, and those in need of international protection. In Nigeria, data collection is granular and repeated to ensure accurate information.⁷⁷ As of June 2023, 2,295,534 IDPs were identified in 471,346 households, while 2,075,257 returnees were identified in 341,895 households. The recent count has increased to 3,153,427.⁷⁸ The reviewed literature all have a niche ranging from environmental, human security, vulnerability, to economic. The gap identified revealed nonavailable in

⁷⁴ Aladejana, Olabanji Odunayo, and Etari Joy Ebijuworih. "Flood risk assessment in Kogi State Nigeria through the integration of hazard and vulnerability factors." *Discover Geoscience* 2, no. 1 (2024): 31.

⁷⁵ Samson, Idoko, Adah William, and E. Alkali. "An Assessment of Internally Displaced Persons'[IDPs] Needs in Flood Prone Areas of Kogi State." *Journal of Poverty, Investment and Development* 8, no. 1 (2023): 46-60.

⁷⁶ Ndukson Buba, F., S. Obaguo, O. Ogah, and F. Ajayi. "A Participatory Assessment of the Impact of Flooding in Some Communities in Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria." *American Journal of Climate Change* 10 (2021): 12-31. <https://doi.org/10.4236/ajcc.2021.101002>.

⁷⁷ GRID. *Global Report on Internal Displacement*. IDMC, May 2016. www.internaldisplacement.org/.../2016-globalreport-internal-displacement-IDMC.pdf.

⁷⁸ UNHCR. "Global Displacement is Available on UNHCR's Statistics Website." UNHCR, 2023. <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/insights/annexes/trends-annexes.html>.

this review focused solely on the socioeconomic challenges of floods displayed persons. Hence, the study is worthwhile.

This study, therefore, aims to assess the extent, frequency, and drivers of these displacements, as well as the psychological and emotional impacts on victims' socioeconomic well-being and resilience. It also explores the effectiveness of government response mechanisms and community-led initiatives in mitigating these challenges.

OBJECTIVES

This study aims to evaluate the internal displacement and challenges faced by flood victims in Kogi State, Nigeria, including its impact on physical health, psychological health, and specifically socioeconomic implications.

This study further examines the effects of flooding-related internal displacement in Kogi State, Nigeria, with a particular focus on the socioeconomic experiences of those who have been internally displaced. The study sheds light on the specific effects of internal displacement while considering the socioeconomic elements that affect flood victims' struggles. To develop policies that effectively meet the diverse needs of displaced populations, the study highlights how crucial it is to comprehend the dynamics of socioeconomic status, including health, livelihoods, and social cohesion. The results can help build evidence-based policies and strategies for disaster response, improving the efficacy of interventions and safeguarding flood victims' human security. The development of programmes that enable impacted parties to be guided by the socioeconomic and psychological effects of internal relocation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study adopted a quantitative cross-sectional research design to analyse the socioeconomic challenges among internally displaced persons in Kogi State. In line with this study's objective, this systematic

method allows gathering and evaluating numerical data at a particular time, while evaluating correlations between variables, spotting trends, and drawing conclusions about the general population. This is like the methodology in previous findings by Adams and Brown (2019).⁷⁹ They adopted a cross-sectional design to measure the challenges of human security among flood victims in Kogi State. This study used stratified random sampling to select specific communities, ensuring fair representation across the population. The three highly susceptible areas, namely Adankolo, Gadumo, and Ganaja, were the target. These primarily include those who have experienced at least one flood episode and have been displaced from their homes. A total of 770 respondents from three villages administered the questionnaire, and data were gathered on the number of displaced persons due to flooding and the impacts on socioeconomic status. To ensure accurate measurement, the study's

psychometric evaluation validated the validity and reliability of the research instrument. Internal consistency, test-retest reliability, concept and criterion validity, content, and component analysis for structural integrity were among the important attributes evaluated. The reliability and validity of the data were greatly enhanced by these characteristics. The study adhered to ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and protection of participants' rights. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics, with frequencies to describe the demographic features using SPSS. All findings were held significant at a 0.5 probability level.

RESULTS

The study focuses on the demographics of IDPs, who are displaced due to the flood. The participants are categorised into children (0-17 years), adults (18-59 years), and the elderly (60 years and above), with varying educational backgrounds, occupations, income levels, and health

⁷⁹ Adams, J., and B. Brown. "Challenges of Human Security among Flood Victims: A Case Study in Kogi State." *Journal of Disaster Studies* 7, no. 2 (2019): 123-145.

conditions. Mainly Kogi State citizens, they face limited access to healthcare, education, and social services during flooding periods.

a. Classification of Respondents by Age

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age Group.

Years	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative (%)
0-17yrs	60	7.79	7.79
18-59yrs	500	64.94	72.73
60 and above	210	27.27	100
Total	770	100	

The age distribution above reveals that a total of 60 individuals are within the age bracket of 0-17 years old, with 7.79% of the population. 500 individuals, with 64.94% have ages between 18 and 59 years. The final group is 210 individuals who are above 60 with 27.27%.

b. Classification of Respondents by Sex

2: Distribution of Respondents by Sex.

Sex	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative (%)
Male	362	47.01	47.01
Female	408	52.99	100
Total	770	100	

The sex distribution above reveals that a total of 362 individuals are males, while 408 individuals are females.

c) Classification of Respondents by Marital Status

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative (%)
Single	212	27.53	27.53
Married	420	54.54	82.07
Engaged	54	7.01	89.08
Widow/Widower	84	10.91	100
Divorced	nil	0.0	100

Total	770	100	
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The marital status distribution above reveals that a total of 212 individuals is single, with 27.27 percent of the population. 420 individuals with 54.54% are married, 54 individuals with 7.01% are engaged, and 84 individuals are widows/widowers, with 10.91% representation out of the population investigated. The final group lack respondents; hence none is divorced.

d) Classification of Respondents by Religion

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Employee's Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Christianity	368	47.79
Islam	384	49.87
Missing	12	0.79
Total	770	100

The demographic features of the population affected by internal displacement in Kogi State are presented in Table 4. The majority of respondents are Christians, with 47.79% being Christians and 49.87% being Muslims. Other demographic features include household composition, educational background, occupation/employment status, income level, displacement duration, ethnicity, religious affiliation, health status, documentation status, reasons for displacement, place of origin, and access to services.

The composition of households provides insights into the size, structure, and dependencies within displaced families. The educational background of individuals affected by internal displacement helps assess the potential impact on academic and vocational pursuits. The pre-displacement and current occupation/employment status provide information on the economic impact of displacement, with 46.75% losing jobs or livelihoods due to displacement. Nearly half of the respondents earn low income, revealing the financial resources available to households and designing effective economic support programmes.

The duration of displacement helps differentiate short-term challenges from long-term needs, aiding in the development of time-sensitive interventions. The health status of displaced individuals provides information on existing health conditions, access to healthcare, and emerging health challenges resulting from displacement.

The reasons for displacement include conflict (4.42%), natural disasters (floods) (88.83%), and environmental degradation (6.75%). Understanding these reasons helps tailor response strategies and develop context-specific interventions addressing the root causes of displacement. These demographic features can generate a nuanced understanding of the diverse experiences and needs of the internally displaced population in Kogi State, enabling more effective and targeted interventions.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents' Demographic Features

Demography	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Household Composition:		
○ Family units	420	54.56
○ Single individuals	212	27.53
○ Head of households	138	17.92
Total	770	100

2. Educational Background:		
○ No formal education	160	20.78
○ Primary education	274	35.58
○ Secondary education	156	20.26
○ Tertiary education	180	23.38
Total	770	100

3. Occupation/ Employment Status:		
○ Employed	70	9.09
○ Unemployed	360	46.75
○ Self-employed	108	14.03
○ Students	232	30.13
Total	770	100
4. Income Level:		
○ Low income	376	48.83
○ Middle income	258	33.50
○ No income	136	17.66
Total	770	100
5. Displacement Duration:		
○ Short-term displacement	386	50.13
○ Medium-term displacement	190	24.68
○ Long-term displacement	194	25.19
Total	770	100
6. Health Status:		
○ Individuals with pre-existing		
○ Health conditions	712	92.47
○ Individuals with disabilities	58	7.53
Total	770	100
7. Reasons for Displacement:		

○ Conflict	34	4.42
○ Natural disasters (floods)	684	88.83
○ Environmental degradation	52	6.75
Total	770	100

Internally displaced individuals in Kogi State face numerous socioeconomic challenges that significantly impact their human security. These include loss of livelihoods, limited access to education, inadequate shelter, food insecurity, healthcare access disruptions, psychosocial impact, mental health challenges, gender-based vulnerabilities, lack of documentation and legal challenges, social disintegration, and the risk of exploitation and discrimination. Limited access to education equates to 6% of the challenges, while inadequate shelter and living conditions lead to health risks and malnutrition. Healthcare access disruptions exacerbate existing health issues, making individuals more vulnerable to illnesses. Gender-based vulnerabilities, such as violence and limited access to reproductive health services, further compound the socio-economic challenges faced by displaced individuals. Addressing these socio-economic factors can enhance the human security of these individuals and promote their well-being and resilience.

Table 6: Socio-economic Challenges Faced by Respondents

Socio-economic Challenges	Adankolo		Gadumo		Ganaja	
	Frequency	Percent (%)	Frequency	Percent (%)	Frequency	Percent (%)
Bad roads	68	9.07	66	8.57	60	7.87
Poor water supply	46	6.13	50	6.49	56	7.35
Loss of livelihoods and income	64	8.53	56	7.27	60	7.87

Limited access to education	48	6.40	52	6.75	48	6.30
Loss of shelter	56	7.47	60	7.79	62	8.14
Food insecurity	74	9.87	70	9.09	68	8.92
Healthcare access disruptions	68	9.06	64	8.31	60	7.87
Gender-based vulnerabilities	24	3.20	28	3.64	32	4.20
Lack of documentation and legal challenges	48	6.40	52	6.75	52	6.82
Social disintegration and community fragmentation	50	6.67	46	5.97	44	5.77
The risk of exploitation and discrimination	34	4.55	40	5.19	38	4.99
Psychosocial impact	50	6.67	66	8.57	70	9.19
Documents	68	9.06	60	7.79	56	7.35
Student activities	52	6.93	60	7.79	56	7.35
Missing	20				8	
Total	750	100	770	100	762	100

DISCUSSION

The result presented above shows the socio-economic challenges faced by dwellers in the representative population. According to a variety of respondents, flooding in the research area caused several obstacles as well as displacement. Numerous homes and other properties were

damaged by the flood, causing irreversible damage, thereby propelling forceful relocation either temporarily or permanently. This resulted in social disintegration and community fragmentation. From table 6 above, community life has been significantly impacted by flooding, and poor road infrastructure was made worse by the floods, creating impassable roads that hindered trade and transportation, preventing locals from accessing basic services, and cutting off villages from suppliers and marketplaces. There was a shortage of safe drinking water due to the polluted water supply, which also raised the danger of waterborne illnesses. Residents were forced to rely on alternative water sources, which would be expensive, for example, bottled water or water tankers as a result. This put further financial burden on homes that were already struggling due to income loss. Another major problem was the loss of income and means of subsistence. Artists, merchants, and small business owners observed a halt in activities, leaving many without a means of subsistence, while farmers suffered significant losses when agricultural fields were flooded and cattle died. The devastation of farms and animals impacted households. Floodwaters ravaged crops such as rice, groundnuts, and maize, leading to strained relations between farmers and banks over destroyed assets and impacted loan repayments. During the flood, since the means of economic livelihood were affected, the effects spread to financial, health and other related securities.

Schools in flooded regions suffered damage or were converted into makeshift shelters for displaced families, which disrupted classes and reduced student attendance, especially for girls who were frequently kept at home to assist with household chores. During the flood, most operations were suspended, and the surrounding area became unclean. Many families were exposed to health hazards, more financial hardship, and increased insecurity because of losing their homes. Due to a lack of funding, insurance, and emergency housing assistance, rebuilding homes proved difficult. As households found it difficult to satisfy their daily nutritional demands, food insecurity became a serious issue that had an impact on the health of vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and children. Floods brought suffering, the spread of illness, and the exploitation of others. Humans are wired to be exploitative; hence, some individuals took advantage of the situation

and extorted others to profit from them by paying excessively for things like food, rent, and transportation.

The damaged roads also led to a shortage of supplies and an increase in demand for healthcare services. The floods also caused disruptions in healthcare access, which made recuperation more difficult. Women and girls faced difficulties, such as a higher risk of gender-based violence in overcrowded shelters, making gender-based vulnerabilities a serious problem as well. Many citizens lost vital papers, including identity cards, birth certificates, and property titles, because of legal issues and a lack of paperwork. This loss made it difficult to prove identification, obtain help, and assert property rights, which hindered rehabilitation and restricted access to essential support services. The floods also led to social breakdown and communal fragmentation, depriving people of the support networks they had previously depended on. In terms of unfair labour practices, price gouging, and unequal access to resources, vulnerable people were more likely to be exploited.

The psychological effects of losing homes, jobs, and social stability had a long-lasting effect on the mental health of those who were impacted; stress, anxiety, and depression were prevalent. Significant interruptions to educational institutions resulted in the suspension of youth engagement initiatives, vocational training, and extracurricular programmes, depriving students of possibilities for growth. In summary, the study area's floods caused problems with economic security, led to business closures, and compromised environmental protection. Many difficulties, such as exploitation, sickness, and disease, were brought about by the flood and had an impact on the community's means of subsistence.

CONCLUSION

Kogi State, Nigeria, is known for its vulnerability to floods due to its location at the confluence of the Niger and Benue Rivers. The study focuses on the internal displacement and human security challenges faced by flood victims in this area. The research is organised into four sections, covering background, problem statement, objectives, justification, hypothesis statement, scope, and organisation. It also

reviews related literature on corporate social responsibility and management by multinational companies. The methodology is discussed, including ideal design, study population, sample, and sampling methods. Results and data analysis are presented, and the study concludes with a summary of findings, conclusions, and suggestions. The research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by flood victims in Kogi State. The study on flood victims in Kogi State highlights the significant impact of flooding on individuals and communities, highlighting the disruption of livelihoods, social structures, and community cohesion. Key human security dimensions include shelter insecurity, food and water scarcity, healthcare access disruptions, and psychosocial impacts. Despite these challenges, flood victims demonstrate resilience through mutual support networks and community solidarity. A comprehensive and coordinated response is needed to address these issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study suggests several recommendations to mitigate the impact of future floods in Nigeria. These include frequent promotion and creating awareness of early warning systems, investing in infrastructure resilience, providing psychosocial support and mental health services, and empowering communities to develop adaptive strategies.

Government should ensure adequate facilities, first aid, and urgent medical treatment for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in all camps. It should also fund IDP management, and seek donations, financial aid from international bodies and humanitarian organisations. Budgetary allocation for victims should be wellmanaged. Strict adherence to economic empowerment should be the top priority, as that remains the only sustainable drive towards compensating for the losses due to the flood.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I declare that there are no conflicts of interest associated with this manuscript.

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