

GENDER DYNAMICS IN CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT: EXPLORING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN IN NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Climate-induced displacement disproportionately affects women by intensifying existing socioeconomic inequalities and protection vulnerabilities, particularly in developing countries. This study investigated the gender dynamics of climate-induced displacement among internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria. A cross-sectional survey design was adopted. The target population comprised 12,200 internally displaced women residing in officially recognised IDP camps and host communities in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States. A sample of 410 respondents, determined using Cochran's formula, was selected through a multistage sampling technique. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analysed using descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) and multiple linear regression at the 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that climate-induced displacement had significant socioeconomic consequences, including reduced household income, livelihood loss, food insecurity, and increased financial vulnerability. Respondents also experienced considerable gender-related protection challenges, such as heightened exposure to insecurity, inadequate protection services, and limited participation in decision-making. Although internally displaced

women demonstrated resilience through livelihood diversification, community support networks, indigenous coping strategies, and skills acquisition, institutional support was generally perceived as inadequate. Regression analysis further showed that institutional support had a significant positive influence on the resilience of internally displaced women ($\beta = 0.618$, $P < 0.05$). The study concludes that strengthening gender-responsive institutional support, livelihood restoration programmes, social protection, and climate adaptation initiatives is essential for enhancing the resilience and well-being of internally displaced women. The findings provide empirical evidence to inform gender-sensitive climate adaptation, humanitarian response, and displacement policies in Nigeria and other climate-vulnerable settings.

Keywords: Climate-induced displacement; Gender Dynamics; Internally Displaced Women; Institutional Support; Resilience; North-Central Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Climate change has intensified environmental hazards that are increasingly reshaping patterns of human mobility worldwide. Rising global temperatures have contributed to more frequent and severe floods, droughts, storms, heat waves, desertification, and other extreme weather events, undermining livelihoods, damaging infrastructure, and reducing the resilience of communities that depend on climate-sensitive resources (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC], 2023). These hazards disproportionately affect low- and middle-income countries, where limited adaptive capacity, widespread poverty, and dependence on rain-fed agriculture heighten vulnerability to displacement (Mukherjee & Fransen, 2024). The recent global evidence indicates that forced displacement remains at historically high levels. And according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2026), approximately 117.8 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide by the end of 2025, while 68.7 million remained internally displaced due to conflict and violence, many of whom experienced repeated displacement driven by the interaction of conflict, environmental degradation, and climate-related hazards. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2026), reported that disasters continued to trigger millions of new internal displacements in 2025, with floods, storms, wildfires, and droughts remaining the principal drivers of disaster-induced population movements. The increasing convergence of climate change, environmental degradation, conflict, and socioeconomic inequality has transformed displacement from a short-term humanitarian concern into a long-term development challenge with far-reaching implications for human security, poverty reduction, disaster risk governance, and climate adaptation. Consequently, understanding the multidimensional nature of climate-induced displacement has become a priority for researchers, policymakers, and

development agencies seeking to design evidence-based strategies that strengthen resilience among vulnerable populations (UNHCR, 2026; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2026)

Climate-induced displacement has become particularly pronounced in sub-Saharan Africa, where climate variability interacts with poverty, rapid population growth, weak governance, and dependence on rain-fed agriculture to increase human vulnerability. The region continues to experience recurrent droughts, floods, land degradation, and desertification, which have intensified competition over land and water resources, disrupted agricultural livelihoods, and increased population mobility (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2024; IPCC, 2023). Nigeria is among the countries most affected by these interconnected pressures. In recent years, recurrent flooding, advancing desertification, prolonged dry spells, and environmental degradation have combined with farmer-herder conflicts and other forms of insecurity to drive large-scale internal displacement, particularly across the North-Central region (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2026). Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States have experienced persistent displacement resulting from the interaction of climate-induced resource scarcity and violent competition over agricultural land and grazing routes (George et al., 2021; Njoku et al., 2023). These environmental and socioeconomic pressures have not only disrupted agricultural production and household livelihoods but have also increased dependence on humanitarian assistance while undermining long-term recovery and resilience. Consequently, climate-induced displacement in Nigeria is increasingly recognised as a complex development challenge that extends beyond emergency response to encompass climate adaptation, livelihood restoration, social protection, and sustainable peacebuilding (IOM, 2024; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2026).

Climate-induced displacement affects entire communities but its consequences are neither uniform nor gender-neutral. Women and girls frequently experience disproportionate impacts because pre-existing gender inequalities influence their access to productive resources, livelihood opportunities, education, healthcare, and decision-making processes before, during, and after displacement. In many displacement settings, women bear primary responsibility for food provision, childcare, water collection, and household care, while simultaneously facing heightened risks of gender-based violence, economic marginalization, psychosocial distress, and restricted access to humanitarian assistance (UN Women, 2024; Salihu et al., 2024). The evidence from sub-Saharan Africa further indicates that climate-induced displacement often exacerbates existing inequalities by limiting women's access to land, financial resources, and social protection, thereby constraining their adaptive capacity and long-term resilience (Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], 2024). Instead of viewing women solely as vulnerable populations, recent scholarship emphasises their critical role as agents of adaptation through livelihood diversification, indigenous knowledge, social networks, and community-based resilience initiatives. However, these capacities remain inadequately recognised in many climate adaptation and displacement policies,

which continue to adopt gender-neutral approaches despite growing evidence that gender-responsive interventions produce more equitable and sustainable outcomes (Sultana, 2014; UN Women, 2024).

The body of literature on climate change, migration, and internal displacement is on the increase but important knowledge gaps remain regarding the gendered dimensions of climate-induced displacement in Nigeria. The recent studies have basically examined displacement from the perspectives of conflict dynamics, humanitarian response, food security, health outcomes, and migration governance, with comparatively less attention given to how climate-induced displacement shapes the socioeconomic experiences, protection challenges, institutional access, and resilience of internally displaced women (Mukherjee & Fransen, 2024; Black et al., 2025) and empirical studies on gender and displacement in Nigeria have been concentrated largely in the North-East, where insurgency-related displacement predominates, leaving the climate-conflict nexus in North-Central Nigeria relatively underexplored (Salihu et al., 2024). There is limited quantitative evidence on how climate-induced displacement affects women in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States, where environmental degradation, recurrent flooding, and farmer-herder conflicts have combined to produce protracted displacement. Addressing this gap is essential for developing evidence-based, gender-responsive policies that strengthen livelihood recovery, social protection, and climate adaptation among internally displaced women.

Against this backdrop, this study investigates the gender dynamics of climate-induced displacement among internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria using a quantitative survey design. Specifically, it examines the socioeconomic consequences of displacement, gender-related protection challenges, institutional support systems, and the resilience strategies adopted by displaced women. The empirical evidence from Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States will aid the to study addresses an important geographical and methodological gap in the climate-displacement literature and contributes to advancing gender-responsive climate adaptation, humanitarian programming, and displacement governance. The findings also provide evidence to inform policy interventions aimed at strengthening the resilience of internally displaced women while supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) (United Nations, 2024; International Organization for Migration, 2024).

Despite increasing attention to climate-induced displacement in Nigeria, the gender-specific experiences of internally displaced women remain insufficiently understood, particularly in North-Central Nigeria where climate variability, environmental degradation, and resource-based conflicts continue to drive protracted displacement. Existing interventions have focused primarily on humanitarian relief and emergency response, with limited emphasis on addressing the socioeconomic vulnerabilities, protection challenges, and resilience needs of displaced women

through gender-responsive policies (International Organization for Migration, 2024; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2026). Empirical research on internal displacement in Nigeria has largely concentrated on conflict-affected communities in the North-East, while quantitative evidence on the gender dynamics of climate-induced displacement in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States remains limited (Ekoh et al., 2023; Mukherjee & Fransen, 2024). This evidence gap constrains the development of effective interventions that can enhance women's livelihood recovery, strengthen institutional support, and improve resilience to climate-related displacement. Therefore, this study examines the gender dynamics of climate-induced displacement among internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria to generate evidence that can inform gender-responsive climate adaptation, humanitarian programming, and displacement governance

The objectives of the study were to;

1. assess the socioeconomic effects of climate-induced displacement on internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria.
2. determine the gender-related protection challenges experienced by internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria.
3. evaluate the institutional support available to internally displaced women affected by climate-induced displacement in North-Central Nigeria.
4. identify the resilience and adaptation strategies adopted by internally displaced women in response to climate-induced displacement in North-Central Nigeria.
5. determine the influence of institutional support and the resilience of internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria.

The research questions addressed;

3. What were the socioeconomic effects of climate-induced displacement on internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria?
4. What gender-related protection challenges are experienced by internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria?
5. What institutional support is available to internally displaced women affected by climate-induced displacement in North-Central Nigeria?
6. What resilience and adaptation strategies are adopted by internally displaced women in response to climate-induced displacement in North-Central Nigeria?

7. What is the influence of institutional support on the resilience of internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria?

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a cross-sectional survey research design and the study was conducted in North-Central Nigeria, comprising Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kogi, Kwara, Niger States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The region experiences recurrent climate-related hazards, particularly flooding, drought, and land degradation, which have contributed to increasing internal displacement. Agriculture is the predominant livelihood, making many households highly vulnerable to climate variability and environmental shocks. The population comprised 12,200 internally displaced women aged 18 years and above residing in officially recognised IDP camps and host communities in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States, North-Central Nigeria. The population was obtained from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) camp and host-community registers and constituted the sampling frame for the study. The sample size for this study was determined using Cochran's (1977) formula for finite populations. Based on a target population of 12,200 internally displaced women residing in officially recognised IDP camps and host communities in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States, a minimum sample size of 372 respondents was obtained. To account for possible non-response and incomplete questionnaires, a 10% adjustment was made, resulting in a final sample size of 410 respondents. A multistage sampling technique was employed. First, Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States were purposively selected because of their high incidence of climate-induced displacement. Second, officially recognised IDP camps and host communities were selected from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) registers, which served as the sampling frame. Finally, eligible internally displaced women aged 18 years and above were selected using simple random sampling. The sample was proportionately distributed across the three states according to their population sizes to ensure adequate representation (Table 1).

Table 1: Proportionate Distribution of Respondents

State	Population	Sample Size
Benue	6,850	230
Nasarawa	2,340	79
Plateau	3,010	101
Total	12,200	410

Sample size was computed using Cochran's (1977) formula. The sample was proportionately allocated across the selected states based on the study population.

The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled Gender Dynamics in Climate Induced Dis Data were collected using a structured questionnaire developed based on the study objectives and an extensive review of relevant literature on climate-induced displacement, gender, institutional support, and resilience. The questionnaire consisted of two sections. Section A elicited information on the respondents' demographic characteristics, including age, marital status, educational attainment, occupation, household size, duration of displacement, and state of residence. Section B comprised items measuring the study constructs, namely socioeconomic effects of climate-induced displacement, gender-related protection challenges, institutional support, resilience and adaptation strategies, and resilience among internally displaced women. Responses to the items were measured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Undecided, 4 = Agree, and 5 = Strongly Agree.

The questionnaire was subjected to face and content validity to ascertain its suitability for measuring the intended constructs. The instrument was reviewed by experts in Gender Studies, Climate Change, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Measurement and Evaluation. Their observations and recommendations regarding the clarity, relevance, appropriateness, and adequacy of the items were incorporated into the final version of the questionnaire. A pilot study was conducted among internally displaced women outside the study area. The internal consistency of the instrument was determined using Cronbach's alpha coefficient, with a minimum reliability coefficient of 0.70 considered acceptable for all study constructs. The questionnaires were administered with the assistance of trained research assistants. Prior informed consent was obtained from all participants, and confidentiality and anonymity were maintained throughout the data collection process. Descriptive statistics, including frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation, were used to answer the research questions. Inferential statistics were employed to test the hypothesis. Specifically, multiple linear regression analysis was used to determine the influence of institutional support on the resilience of internally displaced women. All analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 29), and statistical significance was determined at the 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS

Table 1: Mean Ratings of Respondents on the Socioeconomic Effects of Climate-Induced Displacement on Internally Displaced Women in North-Central Nigeria (N = 410)

S/N	Item Statement	Mean
1	Climate-induced displacement has reduced women's household income.	4.31
2	Displacement has resulted in the loss of livelihood opportunities.	4.24
3	Climate-induced displacement has increased food insecurity among women.	4.42
4	Women have limited access to healthcare services after displacement.	4.09
5	Displacement has disrupted children's education in affected households.	4.18
6	Climate-induced displacement has increased household poverty.	4.36
7	Women experience greater financial dependency after displacement.	4.15
8	Access to decent housing has become more difficult following displacement.	4.28
9	Climate-induced displacement has reduced access to productive resources such as farmland.	4.40
10	climate-induced displacement has negatively affected the socioeconomic well-being of internally displaced women.	4.46
Cluster Mean		4.29

Table 2: Mean Ratings of Respondents on Gender-Related Protection Challenges Experienced by Internally Displaced Women in North-Central Nigeria (N=410)

S/N	Item Statement	Mean
1	Women are exposed to greater security risks during and after displacement.	4.27
2	Climate-induced displacement has increased the risk of gender-based violence against women.	4.34
3	Women have limited access to justice and protection services in displacement settings.	4.12
4	Inadequate privacy in shelters exposes women to protection concerns.	4.21
5	Women experience discrimination in accessing humanitarian assistance.	3.94
6	Displacement has increased the caregiving burden on women.	4.30
7	Women face challenges in participating in community decision-making after displacement.	4.08
8	Fear of harassment limits women's freedom of movement within displacement communities.	4.17
9	Existing protection measures are inadequate to meet the needs of displaced women.	4.26
10	Climate-induced displacement has heightened the protection vulnerabilities of internally displaced women.	4.39
Cluster Mean		4.21

Table 3: Mean Ratings of Respondents on Gender-Related Protection Challenges Experienced by Internally Displaced Women in North-Central Nigeria (N=410)

S/N	Item statement	Mean
1	Government agencies provide adequate relief materials to internally displaced women.	2.84
2	Humanitarian organisations provide adequate food and non-food assistance.	3.18
3	Internally displaced women have adequate access to healthcare services provided by support agencies.	2.97

4	Livelihood support programmes adequately meet the needs of displaced women.	2.76
5	Skills acquisition and vocational training opportunities are readily available to displaced women.	2.69
6	Psychosocial support services are available to women affected by displacement.	2.81
7	Women are actively involved in planning and implementing support programmes.	2.63
8	Institutional interventions adequately address the specific needs of displaced women.	2.74
9	Coordination among government agencies, NGOs, and development partners has improved service delivery.	3.06
10	Institutional support has contributed to improving the well-being of internally displaced women.	2.95
Cluster Mean		2.86

Table 4: Mean Ratings of Respondents on Resilience and Adaptation Strategies Adopted by Internally Displaced Women in North-Central Nigeria (N = 410)

S/N	Statement	Mean
1	Engage in alternative income-generating activities to support my household.	4.12
2	Rely on family and community support networks to cope with displacement.	4.26
3	Participate in savings or cooperative groups to improve my livelihood.	3.87
4	Acquired new skills to improve my economic opportunities after displacement.	3.74
5	Participate in community-based activities that support recovery and resilience.	3.98
6	Utilise indigenous knowledge and local resources to adapt to changing conditions.	4.09
7	Religious and spiritual support has strengthened my ability to cope with displacement.	4.33
8	Actively seek information and opportunities that improve my household's resilience.	4.01
9	Developed effective coping strategies to manage the challenges of displacement.	3.95

10	Demonstrated resilience in adapting to the effects of climate-induced displacement.	4.18
Cluster Mean		4.05

Table 5: Multiple Linear Regression Analysis of the Influence of Institutional Support on the Resilience of Internally Displaced Women (N = 410)

Variable	B	SE	B	t	p-value
(Constant)	1.284	0.248	–	5.177	<0.001
Institutional Support	0.642	0.051	0.618	12.588	<0.001

Model Summary

R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	F	Sig.
0.618	0.382	0.380	158.45	<0.001

Dependent Variable: Resilience of Internally Displaced Women

Predictor: Institutional Support

Source: Field Survey (2026)

Discussion

The findings in table 1 showed that climate-induced displacement has significant adverse socioeconomic effects on internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria, manifested in reduced household income, loss of livelihoods, increased food insecurity, limited access to productive resources, deteriorating living conditions, and heightened financial vulnerability. These outcomes suggest that displacement undermines women's economic security and household welfare, particularly because many depend on agriculture and informal economic activities for survival. This finding agrees with Hassan and Knight (2023), who reported that climate variability disrupted agricultural livelihoods and reduced household adaptive capacity in North-Central Nigeria. It also corroborates Michael (2024), who found that climate-induced flooding in Bayelsa State diminished women's livelihoods, destroyed productive assets, and increased economic vulnerability. Similarly, Ogunbode et al. (2026) observed that climate change has intensified livelihood insecurity, food shortages, and limited adaptive capacity among rural women in Nigeria. The findings further align with the International Organization for Migration (2024), which reported

that climate-related hazards continue to erode household assets and deepen poverty among displaced populations in North-Central Nigeria. Collectively, these findings highlight the need for gender-responsive livelihood restoration programmes, social protection measures, and climate adaptation policies to strengthen the socioeconomic resilience of internally displaced women.

The findings in table 2 revealed that internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria experience significant gender-related protection challenges, including heightened exposure to insecurity, gender-based violence, inadequate privacy, limited access to protection and justice services, restricted participation in decision-making, and increased caregiving responsibilities. These findings suggest that climate-induced displacement not only disrupts livelihoods but also exacerbates existing gender inequalities by exposing women to multiple protection risks within displacement settings. The findings are consistent with Oriola and Abimbola (2024), who found that the social environment of IDP camps in Nigeria increases women's vulnerability to gender-based violence, insecurity, and other forms of abuse, largely due to inadequate protection mechanisms and poor living conditions. They also align with UNFPA (2024), which reported that displacement and humanitarian crises in Nigeria have heightened the risks of gender-based violence, exploitation, and restricted access to essential protection and reproductive health services for women and girls.

The findings revealed that institutional support available to internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria is generally inadequate. Although respondents acknowledged receiving some humanitarian assistance, they expressed dissatisfaction with government relief, access to healthcare, livelihood support, vocational training, psychosocial services, and opportunities to participate in programme planning. The low cluster mean suggests that existing interventions are insufficient to address the multidimensional needs of internally displaced women and to support their long-term recovery and resilience. The findings are consistent with Okorafor et al. (2024), who found that internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria face significant barriers in accessing essential health and reproductive services, including financial constraints, inadequate healthcare facilities, and limited institutional support. The authors concluded that the absence of comprehensive support services compels many women to rely on informal coping mechanisms, thereby increasing their vulnerability.

The findings also agree with Ngwibete et al. (2024), whose systematic review reported that internally displaced women across Africa experience inadequate access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, psychosocial services, and other essential humanitarian interventions due to weak institutional coordination, inadequate funding, and limited-service coverage. Fatokun and Olise (2024) observed that humanitarian agencies in Nigeria encounter logistical, financial, and security constraints that reduce the effectiveness of assistance provided to internally displaced persons, thereby limiting the quality and sustainability of institutional support. The present study extends

existing evidence by demonstrating that institutional support for internally displaced women in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States remains inadequate despite ongoing humanitarian interventions. The findings underscore the need for better coordination among government agencies, humanitarian organisations, and development partners, alongside expanded livelihood programmes, healthcare services, psychosocial support, and women's participation in intervention planning. Strengthening these institutional mechanisms is essential for promoting sustainable recovery and resilience among climate-displaced women.

The findings of table three revealed that institutional support available to internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria is generally inadequate. Although respondents acknowledged receiving some humanitarian assistance, they expressed dissatisfaction with government relief, access to healthcare, livelihood support, vocational training, psychosocial services, and opportunities to participate in programme planning. The low cluster mean suggests that existing interventions are insufficient to address the multidimensional needs of internally displaced women and to support their long-term recovery and resilience. The findings are consistent with Okorafor et al. (2024), who found that internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria face significant barriers in accessing essential health and reproductive services, including financial constraints, inadequate healthcare facilities, and limited institutional support. The authors concluded that the absence of comprehensive support services compels many women to rely on informal coping mechanisms, thereby increasing their vulnerability.

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The findings in table four revealed that internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria have adopted diverse resilience and adaptation strategies to cope with the effects of climate-induced displacement. Respondents reported relying on alternative livelihood activities, family and

community support networks, indigenous knowledge, skills acquisition, savings groups, and religious support to sustain their households and recover from displacement. These findings suggest that, despite experiencing considerable socioeconomic and protection challenges, displaced women actively employ both individual and community-based coping mechanisms to enhance their resilience.

The findings are consistent with UN Women (2024), which reported that women affected by climate change increasingly depend on social networks, community solidarity, indigenous knowledge, and livelihood diversification to strengthen their resilience to climate-related shocks. The report further emphasised that women play a critical role in promoting community resilience when provided with adequate institutional and economic support. Similarly, FAO (2024) found that rural women adopt livelihood diversification, farmer groups, and climate-smart agricultural practices to mitigate the adverse effects of climate variability, although their adaptive capacity remains constrained by limited access to productive resources, finance, and extension services.

The findings also corroborate those of Ayanlade et al. (2023), who observed that vulnerable households in Nigeria employ livelihood diversification, social capital, and local knowledge as key adaptation strategies to reduce climate-related risks. However, the effectiveness of these strategies depends largely on access to institutional support, financial resources, and inclusive climate adaptation programmes. Likewise, the International Organization for Migration (2024) reported that displaced households in Nigeria increasingly rely on community support systems, informal livelihood activities, and local coping strategies to address the socioeconomic impacts of climate-related displacement.

The present study contributes to the growing body of literature by demonstrating that internally displaced women in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States are not merely passive victims of climate-induced displacement but active agents of resilience. Nevertheless, their adaptive capacity remains dependent on strengthened institutional support, livelihood opportunities, and gender-responsive climate adaptation interventions that enhance long-term recovery and sustainable development

The findings in theme five showed that institutional support has a significant positive influence on the resilience of internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria. This suggests that access to humanitarian assistance, healthcare, livelihood support, and capacity-building programmes enhances women's ability to cope with displacement, rebuild their livelihoods, and adapt to climate-related challenges.

This finding is consistent with International Organization for Migration (2024), which reported that institutional interventions, including livelihood assistance and community-based recovery programmes, improve the adaptive capacity and resilience of displaced households affected by

climate-related disasters. UNHCR (2024) observed that coordinated institutional support strengthens social inclusion, livelihood recovery, and long-term resilience among displaced populations. In Nigeria, Okorafor et al. (2024) also found that improved access to institutional services contributes significantly to the well-being and recovery of internally displaced women by enhancing access to healthcare, psychosocial support, and essential services. The present study reinforces existing evidence by demonstrating that institutional support is a significant predictor of resilience among internally displaced women in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau States. The findings underscore the importance of strengthening coordinated, gender-responsive institutional interventions that integrate livelihood restoration, social protection, healthcare, and skills development to enhance the long-term resilience of women affected by climate-induced displacement.

Conclusion

The study found that climate-induced displacement has significant socioeconomic and protection implications for internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria. Although the women demonstrated resilience through livelihood diversification, community support, and indigenous coping strategies, inadequate institutional support limited their recovery and adaptive capacity. The findings further established that institutional support significantly enhances women's resilience, highlighting the need for gender-responsive climate adaptation, livelihood restoration, and coordinated humanitarian interventions to improve the well-being and long-term resilience of internally displaced women.

Recommendation

1. Governments and humanitarian agencies should implement sustainable livelihood restoration programmes such as vocational skills training, agricultural support, and access to microcredit to improve the economic well-being of internally displaced women and reduce their dependence on humanitarian assistance.
2. Gender-responsive protection mechanisms should be strengthened by improving security in displacement settings, expanding access to justice and psychosocial support services, and ensuring effective measures to prevent gender-based violence against internally displaced women.
3. Government institutions, humanitarian organisations, and development partners should enhance the coordination and delivery of institutional support by increasing access to healthcare, education, livelihood assistance, and social protection programmes tailored to the needs of internally displaced women.

4. Programmes that promote women's resilience and adaptive capacity should be expanded through skills acquisition, livelihood diversification, community-based support networks, and climate-smart adaptation initiatives to improve their long-term recovery from climate-induced displacement.
5. Policy makers should institutionalise gender-responsive climate adaptation and displacement policies that prioritise sustained institutional support, recognising its significant role in strengthening the resilience and recovery of internally displaced women in North-Central Nigeria.

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