

The Gendered Face of Climate Chaos: Surviving Loss and Damage in Conflict-Ridden Nigeria

16 April 2024, prepared by Trimita Chakma, Alma Sinumlag and Jane Siwa

Contents

Introduction	3
Methodology	3
Household Surveys	3
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)	6
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)	6
Findings	7
Climate Change Knowledge and Impact	7
Awareness and Knowledge	7
Climate Change Hazards and Impacts	9
Impact of Climate Change in Communities	12
Conflict and Its Impact	12
Conflict and Climate Change Nexus	17
Gender Based Violence (GBV)	18
Women's Livelihoods and Well-being	20
Girls' Education	21
Food Security	22
Health	24
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	25
Migration	26
Community Resilience and Adaptation	28
Proposed Solutions and Recommendations	29
Conclusion	31

Introduction

This report presents the findings from a comprehensive study conducted in Nigeria to investigate the impacts of climate change on women and girls in conflict-affected areas. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, consisting of 150 household surveys, eight Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and 10 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted in Nasarawa and Benue States. The report also includes a comparative analysis of the impacts of climate change and conflict on women in these two states, with Benue being affected by both conflict and climate change, while Nasarawa has primarily been affected by climate change.

Methodology

Household Surveys

The household surveys were designed to assess respondents' understanding of climate change, experiences with conflicts, community issues, and efforts to build resilience. The survey sample included 150 women from Benue and Nasarawa encompassing diverse backgrounds, varying in age, marital status, education level, household size, state, and religion. This approach aimed to capture a representative cross-section of the population and their perspectives on the research topic.

Comparing the profile of respondents from Benue and Nasarawa, results show that in both states respondents were similar in terms of age distribution and marital status. However, there were notable differences in education levels and religion. In Benue, 62.7% of respondents had no schooling, compared to only 21.3% in Nasarawa. Conversely, Nasarawa had a higher proportion of respondents with secondary (29.3%) and higher education (29.3%) compared to Benue (13.3% and 4.0%, respectively). Additionally, all respondents in Benue were Christian, while Nasarawa had a mix of Christianity (81.3%) and Islam (18.7%).

Table 1. Profile of respondents (all women) (n=150)

Respondents Profile	All		Benue		Nasarawa	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Age group						
19 - 35	67	44.7%	30	40.0%	37	49.3%
36 - 59	69	46.0%	34	45.3%	35	46.7%
60 above	14	9.3%	11	14.7%	3	4.0%
Marital status						
Divorced	7	4.7%	4	5.3%	3	4.0%
Married	102	68.0%	54	72.0%	48	64.0%
Single	9	6.0%	1	1.3%	8	10.7%
Widowed	32	21.3%	16	21.3%	16	21.3%
Education						
No schooling	63	42.0%	47	62.7%	16	21.3%

Primary	21	14.0%	13	17.3%	8	10.7%
Secondary	32	21.3%	10	13.3%	22	29.3%
Vocational training	1	0.7%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%
Higher education	25	16.7%	3	4.0%	22	29.3%
Others	8	5.3%	2	2.7%	6	8.0%
Household size						
4 and below	40	26.7%	16	21.3%	24	32.0%
5 to 9	96	64.0%	49	65.3%	47	62.7%
10 and above	14	9.3%	10	13.3%	4	5.3%
State						
Benue	75	50.0%				
Nasarawa	75	50.0%				
Religion						
Christianity	136	90.7%	75	100.0%	61	81.3%
Islam	14	9.3%	0	0.0%	14	18.7%

Figure 1

Nigeria survey respondents by age group (N=144)

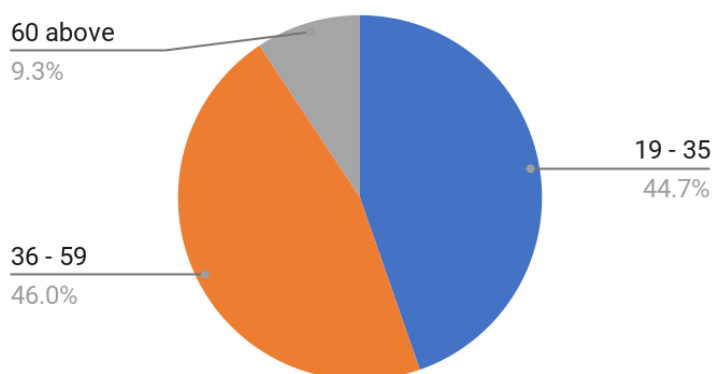


Figure 2

Nigeria survey respondents by marital status

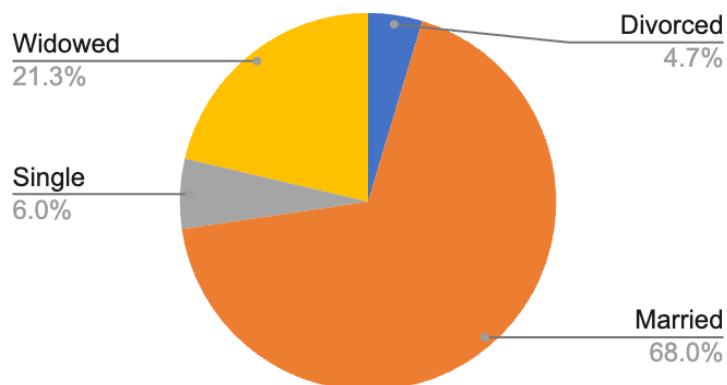


Figure 3

Nigeria survey respondents by education level (N=144)

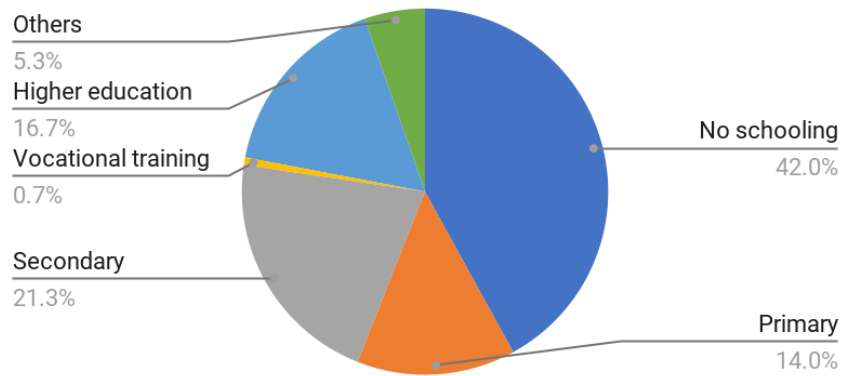


Figure 4

Nigeria survey respondents by household size (N=144)

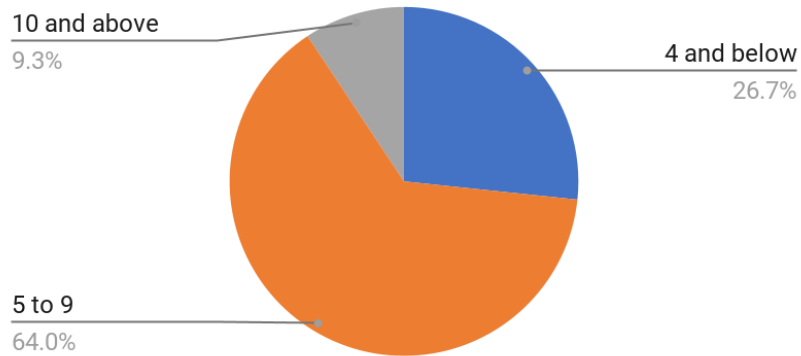
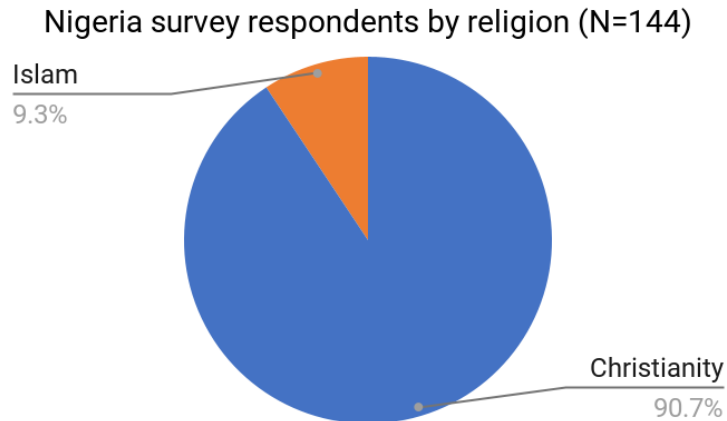


Figure 5

Nigeria survey respondents by state (N=144)



Figure 6



Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Eight FGDs were conducted with community members, including young women, older women, and experts from various locations such as Sabon Peggì Shabu, Ichwa, Makurdi, and Lafia. The FGDs provided a platform for participants to share their experiences and perspectives on the challenges faced by their communities, particularly related to climate change and conflict, and how these issues affect women and girls. The discussions allowed for in-depth exploration of the topics and facilitated the identification of common themes and concerns.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

Ten KIIs were conducted with key stakeholders, such as government officials, NGO representatives, and community leaders in Nasarawa and Benue States. The KIIs aimed to gather insights from individuals with specialised knowledge or experience related to the research topic. These interviews provided valuable context and supplemented the findings from the household surveys and FGDs.

Findings

Climate Change Knowledge and Impact

Awareness and Knowledge

The household surveys revealed that nearly all women (96%) have awareness and knowledge of climate change. Among those who are aware of climate change, a great majority source their information from community members (69.0%) and radio (67.0%), while a sizable percentage also mentioned television (30.0%) as a source. Only a few women cited that they get climate change information from schools (8.0%), newspapers (6.0%), and organisations/workplaces (3.0%). Women identified various climate change hazards experienced in their communities, with flooding (57%) and heatwaves (53%) being the most prevalent, followed by drought (34%) and storms (13%). See Table 2.

Comparing climate change awareness and sources of information between Benue and Nasarawa states, results show that climate change was high in both states, with 100% of respondents in Benue and 92% in Nasarawa reporting knowledge of the issue. However, the primary sources of information differed, with community members (78.3%) and radio (78.3%) being more prevalent in Nasarawa compared to Benue (61.3% and 56.0%, respectively).

The two states experienced different climate change hazards. In Benue, flooding (61.3%) was the most reported hazard, while in Nasarawa, heatwaves (93.3%) and drought (56.0%) were more prevalent. The impact of climate change on households was similar in both states (80.0% in Benue and 77.3% in Nasarawa). However, Benue reported a higher percentage of deaths in the community (37.3%) and within families (37.3%) due to climate change compared to Nasarawa (24.0% and 10.7%, respectively).

Table 2: Knowledge about climate change and reported impact

	All (n=150)		Benue (n=75)		Nasarawa (n=75)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Knows about climate change						
No	6	4.0%	0	0	6	8.0%
Yes	144	96.0%	75	100.0%	69	92.0%
Source of climate change info*						
Radio	96	66.7%	42	56.0%	54	78.3%
TV	43	29.9%	12	16.0%	31	44.9%
Newspaper	9	6.3%	1	1.3%	8	11.6%
School	11	7.6%	4	5.3%	7	10.1%
Community members	100	69.4%	46	61.3%	54	78.3%
Organisation/ work	5	3.5%	0	0.0%	5	7.2%
Climate change hazard						
Flooding	85	56.7%	46	61.3%	39	52.0%
Drought	51	34.0%	9	12.0%	42	56.0%
Storm	19	12.7%	3	4.0%	16	21.3%
Landslides	4	2.7%	0	0.0%	4	5.3%
Heatwaves	80	53.3%	10	13.3%	70	93.3%
Others	41	27.3%	24	32.0%	17	22.7%

**n is equal to the frequency of "Yes" in the question Do you have knowledge of climate change? (All = 144; Benue = 75; Nasarawa = 69)*

Figure 7

Nigeria survey respondents: Source of information on climate change (N=144)

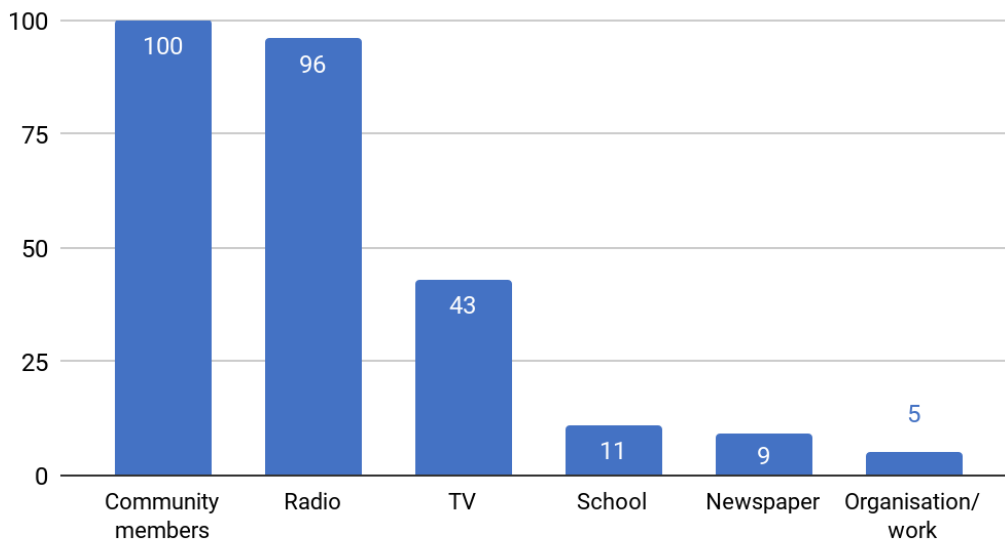
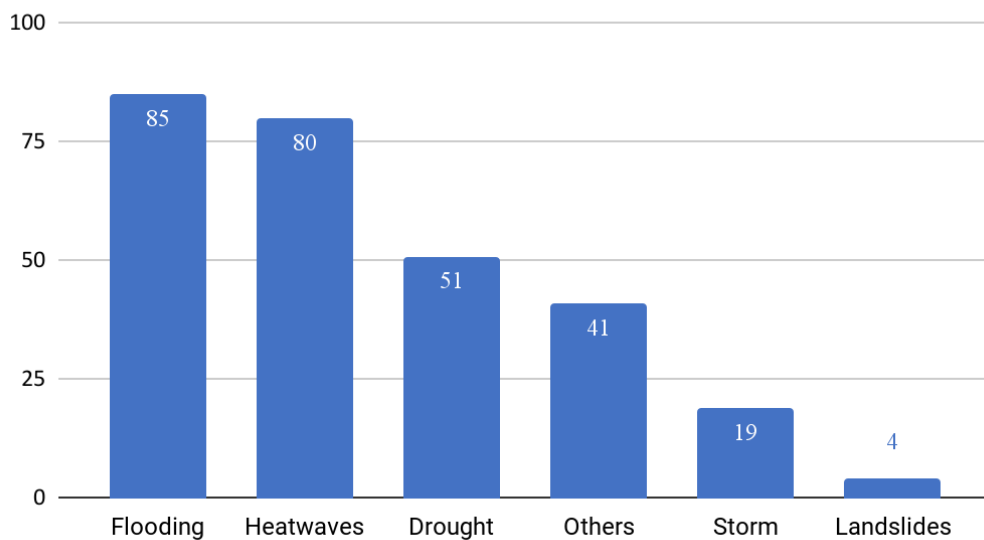


Figure 8

Nigeria survey respondents: Experience of climate change hazards (N=150)



FGD and KII participants demonstrated an understanding of climate change as changes in weather patterns, such as shifts in rainfall and temperature, and the frequent occurrence of drought and flooding. They mentioned learning about climate change through various sources, including radio, newsletters, outreach activities, social media, and academic research. As stated by a participant, "I have an idea about climate change. It is the change in weather compared to what we used to have before, like now the heat we are experiencing is very worrisome. Even when the rains come, sand will flood it all around. I think it is as a result of climate change. This particular 2024 is the worst of it that we saw that is so glaring. This year was the first year we saw a sand storm after which we saw the clouds become coloured

and turned into rain. Usually, we have clouds form and culminate into rain but this year was different around Nassarawa." Another participant pointed out that climate change is a global phenomenon that is a result of too much greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere as a result of unprecedented human activities affecting the ozone layer.

Climate Change Hazards and Impacts

More than 3 in every 4 women (78.67%) reported that their households were affected by climate change, and close to a third (30.67%) reported knowing of deaths in their communities attributed to climate change hazards. Nearly one in four household women (24.00%) reported experiencing the death of a family member due to climate change hazards. See Table 3a. Among 46 reported community deaths, 28 were reported in Benue while only 18 were reported in Nasarawa. Similarly, of the 36 reported deaths among family members due to climate change, a huge portion, 28 were reported in Benue and only 8 were reported in Nasarawa. Although the sample size is small, this pattern indicates the climate hazards in Benue can be more fatal than those in Nasarawa.

Table 3a. Households affected and deaths due to climate change

	All (n=150)		Benue (n=75)		Nasarawa (n=75)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Household affected by climate change	118	78.7%	60	80.0%	58	77.3%
Know deaths in community due to climate change	46	30.7%	28	37.3%	18	24.0%
Deaths of family member due to climate change	36	24.0%	28	37.3%	8	10.7%

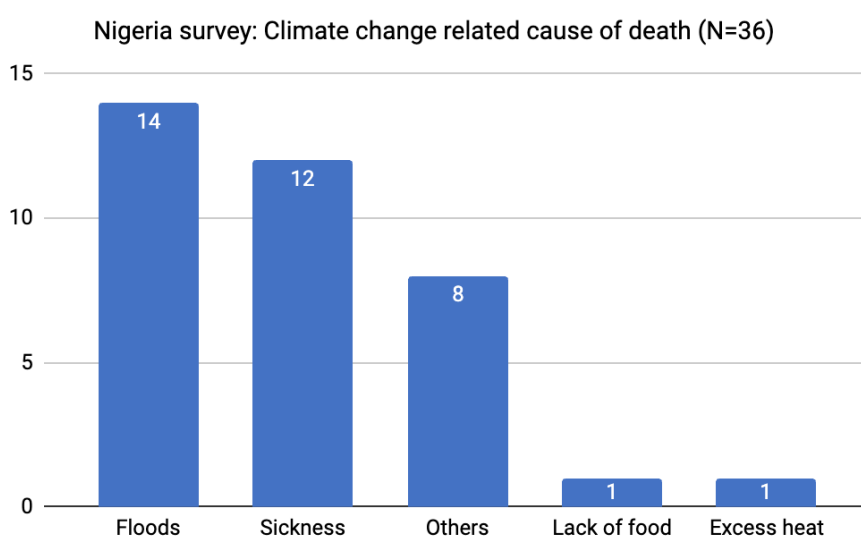
Most of the deceased family members were male, accounting for 77.78% of the cases, while females comprised 22.22%. In terms of age, the highest proportion was found in the age group of 36-59 (36.11%), followed by those under 18 years old (27.78%) and those aged 19-35 (30.56%). Only a small percentage of these deaths belong to the elderly group, aged 60 and above (5.56%). See Table 3b.

Table 3b. Details about climate change related deaths in the household (n=36)

Details	All (n=36)		Benue (n=28)		Nasarawa (n=8)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Sex						
Female	8	22.2%	6	21.4%	2	25.0%
Male	28	77.8%	22	78.6%	6	75.0%
Age						

Under 18	10	27.8%	10	35.7%	0	0.0%
19 - 35	11	30.6%	8	28.6%	3	37.5%
36 - 59	13	36.1%	9	32.1%	4	50.0%
60 and above	2	5.6%	1	3.6%	1	12.5%
Cause of death						
Excess heat	1	2.8%	0	0.0%	1	12.5%
Floods	14	38.9%	11	39.3%	3	37.5%
Lack of food	1	2.8%	0	0.0%	1	12.5%
Others	8	22.2%	8	28.6%		
Sickness	12	33.3%	9	32.1%	3	37.5%

Figure 9



Nearly two in every five households (38.9%) who experienced climate change-related deaths within their family attributed these deaths to floods. Meanwhile, only 1 of the reported 36 (2.7%) family deaths was attributed to excess heat. These two cited causes of deaths demonstrate the direct and devastating impact of extreme climate events resulting in loss of human lives. About one-third (33.3%) said the family deaths were due to sickness, indicating the indirect health consequences of climate change as members of the population become more vulnerable to diseases and reduced access to healthcare services. Lack of food was also cited as a contributing factor to climate-related deaths. These highlight the various ways in which climate change can adversely affect human health and well-being.

While about 3 in 4 family deaths were male, the distribution by cause of death is worth noting. Among the 8 female family deaths recorded, the majority (5) died due to flooding, while among the 28 male family deaths recorded, the greatest number of deaths was due to sickness (11), followed only by flooding. While the cases of family deaths are quite small to make generalisations, this pattern nonetheless indicates the greater vulnerability of women to floods.

Table 3c. Sex of deceased family member by cause of death

Sex	Cause of death											
	Excess heat		Floods		Lack of food		Sickness		Others		Total	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Female	1	12.5%	5	62.5%	0	0.0%	1	12.5%	1	12.5%	8	100%
Male	0	0%	9	32.1%	1	3.6%	11	39.3%	7	25.0%	28	100%
Total	1	2.8%	14	38.9%	1	2.8%	12	33.3%	8	22.2%	36	110%

Respondents in the survey were asked to rate how various aspects of their lives have been affected by climate change on a scale of 0-4, with 0 meaning climate change does not affect this aspect at all, and 4 meaning it affects this aspect extremely. The results show that a majority of the households express that climate change tends to have a huge impact (either "a lot" or "an extreme amount") on their financial security and livelihood. More than a third of respondents also said their physical and mental well-being was affected a lot or extremely by climate change. The same is true for access to education and water, sanitation, and health (WASH). It is also notable that a total of 30.7% of the respondents expressed that the risk of gender-based violence is greatly affected by climate change.

Table 3d. Self-rated impact of climate change on various aspects (n=150)

Aspect	Not at all	A little	A medium amount	A lot	An extreme amount
Physical health	8.67%	26.00%	30.67%	24.00%	10.67%
Mental health	13.33%	22.00%	26.67%	26.67%	11.33%
Financial security	4.67%	8.00%	14.67%	38.00%	34.67%
Risk of GBV	26.00%	21.33%	22.00%	24.67%	6.00%
Loss of livelihood	8.67%	9.33%	24.67%	45.33%	12.00%
Access to education	14.00%	18.67%	30.00%	25.33%	12.00%
Access to wash	10.67%	25.33%	31.33%	22.00%	10.67%
Access to market	16.67%	27.33%	29.33%	26.00%	0.67%

Impact of Climate Change in Communities

FGD and KII participants discussed the range of climate change impacts experienced by their communities, including agricultural impacts, water scarcity, changes in rainfall patterns, health issues, deforestation, flooding, loss of natural habitat, and extreme weather conditions. As mentioned by a participant, "some of these changes bring about bad harvests in farm produce such as yam harvest, guinea corn harvest and cassava harvest for dried flex etc. It has changed the agricultural calendar." A participant lamented that they used to be the major producer of yams but this time, because of the extreme heat, their plants are rotting away. Weather patterns forced them to adjust their agricultural calendars; otherwise, their crop yields would suffer. A participant stated, "we used to start planting February/March and harvest June/July but because of climate change, rains return in April/May and this is when we start farming and harvest August/September."

Another participant related that the agricultural impacts have been causing devastating food insecurity, adding that the drought has negated agricultural productivity of both plants and animals. Participants also pointed out the connection between climate change and health, with the more frequent occurrence of communicable diseases. A participant from the health sector explained that recently, there has been a rampant spread of transmittable diseases like smallpox, chickenpox, and measles, among others. FGD participants also shared the rising cases of meningitis and malaria due to extreme hot weather.

Conflict and Its Impact

The household surveys indicated a high perception of conflicts within communities. A significant proportion of conflicts were attributed to herders (41.3%), which may arise from disputes over land, water resources, or grazing areas. Other types of community conflicts identified were related to crimes like kidnapping and theft (2.0%), tribal or religious conflicts (2.7%), and family conflicts (1.33%).

The majority of the surveyed households (52.00%) reported that climate change had caused conflicts within their communities, highlighting the intersection of environmental factors that aggravate social tensions. Among those who reported climate change-induced conflicts, the impact on women was particularly pronounced, with 48.72% indicating that women were affected a lot by such conflicts. Additionally, 11.54% reported that women were impacted by these conflicts extremely, highlighting the disproportionate burden borne by women in conflict-affected settings. See Table 4a and Table 4b.

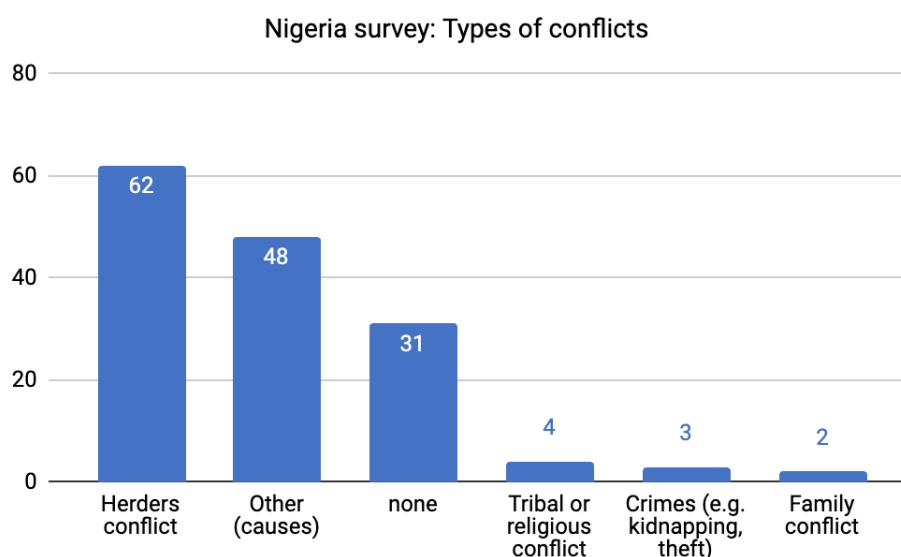
Table 4a. Conflict and climate change

Types of conflicts	All (n=150)		Benue (n=75)		Nasarawa (n=75)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Crimes (e.g. kidnapping, theft)	3	2.0%	0	0.0%	3	4.0%
Family conflict	2	1.3%	0	0.0%	2	2.7%
Herders conflict	62	41.3%	48	64.0%	14	18.7%
none	31	20.7%	6	8.0%	25	33.3%
Tribal or religious conflict	4	2.7%	3	4.0%	1	1.3%
Other (causes)	48	32.0%	18	24.0%	30	40.0%

Table 4b. Has climate change caused conflict?

	All (n=150)		Benue (n=75)		Nasarawa (n=75)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
No	72	48.0%	43	57.3%	29	38.7%
Yes	78	52.0%	32	42.7%	46	61.3%

Figure 10



Women were also asked to rate (0 to 4, none to an extreme amount) how conflict exacerbated the impact of climate change on various aspects of their lives. Conflict significantly worsened the impact of climate change on physical health and mental health for 50.33% and 48.7% (combined for "A lot" and "An extreme amount") of the respondents, respectively. These findings underscore the compounding effects of conflict and climate change on individuals' overall health and well-being.

Conflict was perceived to have the most significant impact on financial security and livelihood. Exactly 71% of respondents indicated either "a lot" or "an extreme amount" of worsening of financial security due to conflict, while 60% indicated they experienced a lot or an extreme amount of loss of livelihood. The findings highlight the economic vulnerabilities faced by communities grappling with both conflict and climate change.

Women also noted the negative effects of conflict on the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), loss of access to education, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and markets. About a third noted that the risk of GBV increased a lot or an extreme amount, while about two-fifths expressed a huge negative impact of conflict and climate change on their access to education and WASH.

Table 4c. Self-rating of how conflict worsened the impact of climate change (n=150)

To what extent has conflict worsened the impact of climate change (n=150)	Not at all	A little	A medium amount	A lot	An extreme amount
Physical health	9.3%	15.3%	24.7%	37.3%	13.3%
Mental health	14.0%	12.7%	24.7%	29.3%	19.3%
Financial security	10.0%	4.7%	13.3%	24.7%	47.3%
Risk of GBV	17.3%	24.7%	23.3%	19.3%	15.3%
Loss of livelihood	9.3%	8.0%	22.7%	40.7%	19.3%

Access to education	16.7%	16.7%	28.0%	22.0%	16.7%
Access to wash	12.0%	15.3%	28.7%	32.7%	11.3%
Access to market	16.0%	23.3%	26.7%	28.7%	5.3%

Between the two states, survey reveals that herder-related conflicts were more prevalent in Benue (64.0%) compared to Nasarawa (18.7%). Interestingly, a higher proportion of respondents in Nasarawa (61.3%) reported that climate change had caused conflicts in their communities, compared to Benue (42.7%). The impact of climate change-induced conflict on women was more severe in Benue, with 21.9% reporting an extreme amount of impact, compared to only 4.3% in Nasarawa.

Table 4d. Self-rating of how conflict worsened the impact of climate change in Benue (n=75)

To what extent has conflict worsened the impact of climate change (n=150)	Benue				
	Not at all	A little	A medium amount	A lot	An extreme amount
Physical health	0.0%	8.0%	25.3%	41.3%	25.3%
Mental health	5.3%	6.7%	26.7%	36.0%	25.3%
Financial security	0.0%	4.0%	13.3%	28.0%	54.7%
Risk of GBV	1.3%	12.0%	26.7%	30.7%	29.3%
Loss of livelihood	0.0%	4.0%	17.3%	50.7%	28.0%
Access to education	0.0%	12.0%	37.3%	22.7%	28.0%
Access to wash	0.0%	9.3%	25.3%	42.7%	22.7%
Access to market	0.0%	24.0%	37.3%	36.0%	2.7%

Table 4e. Self-rating of how conflict worsened the impact of climate change in Benue (n=75)

To what extent has conflict worsened the impact of climate change (n=150)	Nasarawa				
	Not at all	A little	A medium amount	A lot	An extreme amount
Physical health	18.7%	22.7%	24.0%	33.3%	1.3%
Mental health	22.7%	18.7%	22.7%	22.7%	13.3%
Financial security	20.0%	5.3%	13.3%	21.3%	40.0%
Risk of GBV	33.3%	37.3%	20.0%	8.0%	1.3%
Loss of livelihood	18.7%	12.0%	28.0%	30.7%	10.7%
Access to education	33.3%	21.3%	18.7%	21.3%	5.3%
Access to wash	24.0%	21.3%	32.0%	22.7%	0.0%
Access to market	32.0%	22.7%	16.0%	21.3%	8.0%

FGD and KII participants described conflict as disagreements, misunderstandings, or fights between individuals, groups, or communities, often arising from selfish interests or competition for scarce resources. As stated by an FGD participant, "It is misunderstanding

between people, groups of people or communities. It is the absence of peace among people." During the data gathering, participants mentioned ongoing conflicts in Gwer East, Agatu, Ukum, Kwande, Ofi, Ado, and Guma.

Another participant always thinks of violence when hearing about conflict. They have fled from their community because of conflict between farmers and herders that have become violent and traumatic. The herders invaded their village, and they fled to safety. It has destroyed their lives and properties.

Participants highlighted the high prevalence of farmer-herder conflicts and communal clashes in the communities, discussing how climate change-induced resource scarcity has exacerbated these conflicts. As mentioned by a participant in an FGD, "the farmer-herder conflict is because of climate change which has caused drought in the far north, so the herders do not have anywhere to feed their cattle, and they come down."

Participants discussed the devastating impacts of conflict on their communities, including displacement and migration, disruption of livelihoods, destruction of infrastructure, food insecurity, and loss of lives and properties. A participant narrated their experience of how a farmer-herder conflict is devastating their lives, stating, "For a Tiv man, if our time for cultivation is due and we cannot go and do it, it disturbs us a lot. Sometimes you plant your crops and a herder passes with his herd of cattle and goes to destroy your crops. Once you complain he becomes violent. If you attempt to stop or touch his cattle he looks for a way to attack you."

Another participant expressed his frustration with the situation, yearning to go back to their ancestral homes and start farming again, but the conflict is still raging. The participant stated, "Even today, as we are sitting, we got news of herders hacking down a farmer at Agan." People fled the village in the morning.

Participants recalled how their properties and crops were destroyed by the Fulani herders at the height of the conflict. "My house was burnt completely with everything in it including all the food stuff," recalled one participant. Another added that the Fulani herders brought their cattle to feed on their crops. Aside from houses and farms, schools and health facilities were either destroyed or burnt.

"The conflict has made more widows who do not have rights to own land in some areas, therefore they cannot get enough food," lamented an FGD participant. Some even witnessed their fathers killed. Another narrated that one night over 30 men were killed, and they were just lucky to have fled. This situation forced the farmers to flee and seek safety in nearby villages and IDP camps.

The participants living in the IDP camps were displaced mostly due to conflict. This phenomenon is congesting IDP camps and leading to food insecurity. Participants lament that back home, they were growing their own food and have not experienced scarcity of food.

They have no lands to cultivate in the camps and are only relying on aid for survival. Back in their village, their homes have been taken over by herders. One participant said, "we cannot even access our communities to bury our dead."

Even though farmers still have access to their farms, they can no longer engage in farming because of fear. Participants mentioned that farmers fear being ambushed by herders. Women and children fear being kidnapped and killed. Conflict has disrupted any remaining agricultural activity, leading to reduced productivity and food insecurity.

Conflict and Climate Change Nexus

The FGDs and KIIs revealed the interconnectedness of climate change and conflict, with participants highlighting how climate change-induced resource scarcity has triggered or worsened conflicts in their communities. As explained by a participant, "This farmer-herder conflicts can also be linked to the climate change, the herders used to come here before but were not harmful and ferocious, they used to come in the dry season and leave in the rainy season when the crops were on the farm and they did not have to kill anyone." With the more frequent and prolonged drought, conflict began due to resource scarcity.

A key informant further explained that in recent years, they have observed the movements of cattle from the Sahara coming down to West Africa, particularly in Nigeria, in search of grasses or fodder. Another mentioned that there has been a trend of water scarcity in the North, leading herdsman to migrate to the South and refusing to leave, causing conflicts. Conflict has been crippling the ability of the community to cope with the impacts of climate change. As one participant said, "we are only managing to survive. There is no other coping mechanism than to skip meals." Instead of eating three times a day, some families eat once or twice a day to save on food.

The survey data also highlights the intersection of environmental factors that aggravate social tensions. The majority of the surveyed households (52.00%) reported that climate change had caused conflicts within their communities (See Table 4a. Conflict and climate change). This finding aligns with the qualitative data from the FGDs and KIIs, which shed light on the specific ways in which climate change exacerbates conflicts, such as through resource scarcity and migration.

Furthermore, the survey data reveals the compounding effects of conflict and climate change on various aspects of people's lives. Respondents were asked to rate how conflict exacerbated the impact of climate change on different dimensions, and the results show significant negative impacts on physical health, mental health, financial security, livelihoods, access to education, and access to WASH (See Table 4b. Self-rating of how conflict worsened the impact of climate change). These findings underscore the complex interplay between climate change and conflict, as they mutually reinforce each other's adverse consequences on communities.

The qualitative and quantitative data collectively demonstrate the conflict and climate change nexus, highlighting how climate change can fuel conflicts and how conflicts, in turn, undermine communities' resilience and adaptive capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change. This vicious cycle underscores the urgent need for integrated approaches that address both climate change and conflict simultaneously, recognising their interconnectedness and the necessity of tackling them holistically to build sustainable peace and resilience.

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

The most common form of gender-based violence witnessed is intimate partner relationship. Majority of the respondents (55.3%) said that they witnessed this in their community. This indicates incidents of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse inflicted by romantic or marital partners. Next is child marriage which also emerged as a prevalent form of GBV, with 47.3% of respondents reporting its occurrence. Three in every ten of the respondents reported sexual violence within the community. A greater proportion (42%) of the respondents observed sexual harassment. Female genital mutilation is still happening in Nigeria although only a few respondents (2.0%) reported noticing this form of GBV. See Table 5.

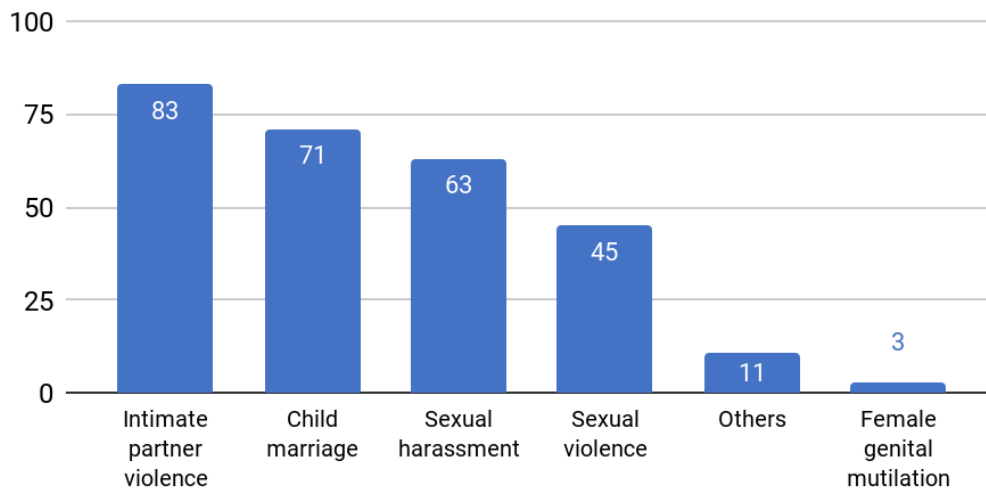
Intimate partner violence was the most reported form of GBV in both states, with 40.7% in Nasarawa and 29.3% in Benue. Sexual violence, sexual harassment and child marriage were more prevalent in Benue (37.3%, 48.0%, and 42.7% respectively) compared to Nasarawa (11.3%, 18.0%, 26.0% respectively). Intimate partner violence was more common in Nasarawa (40.7%) than in Benue (29.3%).

Table 5. Forms of GBVs noticed in the community (multiple responses)

Forms of GBVs	All (n=150)		Benue (n=75)		Nasarawa (n=75)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Sexual violence	45	30.0%	28	37.3%	17	11.3%
Sexual harassment	63	42.0%	36	48.0%	27	18.0%
Child marriage	71	47.3%	32	42.7%	39	26.0%
Female genital mutilation	3	2.0%	0	0.0%	3	2.0%
Intimate partner violence	83	55.3%	22	29.3%	61	40.7%
Others	11	7.3%	11	14.7%	0	0.0%

Figure 11

Nigeria survey: Forms of GBVs noticed in the community (N=150)
(multiple response)



Participants discussed various forms of GBV prevalent in their communities, including sexual violence, domestic violence, denial of inheritance rights, and economic violence/abandonment. As mentioned by a participant, "Women are raped sometimes, abducted or kidnapped due to the conflict situations. When you go searching for water far away from the home, the men will follow the younger women and begin to demand sex. They sometimes rape them." Participants revealed that even a 13-year-old girl was raped, and women are raped when they are fleeing to safety due to flooding. A participant lamented that some girls end up with unwanted pregnancies as a result of rape, and sometimes they don't even know whom it belongs to because many men have taken advantage of their vulnerability.

Cases of domestic violence also escalate during conflict. Reasons for domestic violence include women spending longer time fetching water and having interest in engaging in family planning. In both cases, men beat their wives or deprive them of their privileges. Participants also revealed cases of economic violence in the form of abandonment during conflict situations. As one participant stated, "Women are left to fend for their children alone. The men easily abandon their wives and children and never look back. They go where they can live their lives."

There is a mention of cases where widows are denied their inheritance rights, leaving the women struggling to make a living after their husbands die in conflict. Moreover, some participants mentioned female genital mutilation cases. The tradition is already dying due to educational campaigns launched for years with the support of UNFPA and UNICEF. However, there are still communities that remain practising it, making women and girls vulnerable. A key informant stated, "In Benue State, these things happen in areas around the Zone C without prejudice, predominantly the Iggede speaking areas are noted for the cases of genital mutilation."

Participants revealed the risk factors contributing to GBV, such as displacement, lack of resources, and the breakdown of social structures. As stated by a participant, "The unavailability of water is exposing young girls; if you have water in your house, your daughter may not face some of these things."

Participants discussed the limited access to support services for GBV survivors, with some mentioning the availability of police stations, hospitals, and village chiefs, while others highlighted the lack of counselling units and the underreporting of cases. One participant stated, "There is no counselling unit for victims, and they end up being depressed. Sometimes the government arrests some offenders (of rape), but they are hardly prosecuted." Another participant added that only the community is providing support and solace to survivors of GBV. The police may respond, but offenders have never been prosecuted and put to justice.

Several key informants mentioned NGOs offering assistance to GBV survivors, but they have limited reach. Also, there is a group of female lawyers called Federation of Female Lawyers (FIBA) that is doing a great job in defending the survivors of GBV. The government also created a section in the Ministry of Justice that specialises in domestic violence.

Women's Livelihoods and Well-being

Participants discussed the specific challenges faced by women, including increased burden of care, loss of livelihoods, vulnerability during conflicts, limited access to healthcare, and trauma and psychological impacts. As stated by a participant, "Women suffer more because they have to cater for themselves and the children, including nursing mothers." Another participant pointed out that conflict resulted in killing mostly men, leaving women and girls without fathers and husbands, making them vulnerable to all sorts of danger.

Women in the conflict-affected areas are farmers who tend to their farms, raising domestic animals like goats, chickens, and sheep. These livelihood activities are destroyed during conflict, making it difficult for them to feed themselves and their families. The disruption of their livelihood makes some women dependent on others for survival. Some of them work for other people who sometimes refuse to pay. Without formal education, it is difficult for women to find jobs.

When it comes to sexual and reproductive health, women are forced to look for water even in the woods despite the dangers because they need water to clean themselves during the menstrual period. "Even if you are insulted you still go back the following day without shame," a participant said. Adding to the difficulties in conflict is the refusal of men to undergo family planning, leading to several pregnancies despite women's health concerns, especially during conflict. A participant stated that there has been an increase in unwanted and unintended pregnancies.

Several participants discussed the high vulnerabilities of women in times of conflict. A participant stated that some men are taking advantage of the absence of law and order to

have their ways with women, including rape. In dire situations of hunger, women sell sex for food to survive. As one participant pointed out, some men leave their wives and children behind during conflict, leaving women to fend for themselves and their children.

The proportion of respondents attributing girls' school dropout to climate change or conflict was similar in both states (68.0% in Benue and 62.7% in Nasarawa). However, respondents perceived the associated risks differently, with poverty and early pregnancy being more prevalent in Nasarawa (95.7% and 80.9%, respectively) compared to Benue (66.7% and 52.9%, respectively).

Girls' Education

The study revealed a significant impact of conflict and climate change on education accessibility, particularly for girls. The household surveys showed that two-thirds of the women (65.33%) attributed girls' school dropout to either climate change or conflict, highlighting the adverse impact of environmental and socio-political factors on girls' education.

Among women who identified climate change or conflict as contributing factors to girls' school dropout, poverty was the most cited risk, with 80.6% of women identifying it as a likely consequence of school drop out of girls. Dropping out of school also increases a girl's risk of early pregnancy and early marriage, according to a great majority of the women, 66.3% and 57.1%, respectively. Girls who leave school prematurely are also likely to experience gender-based violence, according to 32.7% of respondents (see Tables 5b and 5c).

Table 6. School drop out among girls due to climate change or conflict

Girls' school drop out	All (n = 150)		Benue (n=75)		Nasarawa (n=75)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Due to climate change or conflict?						
I don't know	23	15.3%	5	6.7%	18	24.0%
No	29	19.3%	19	25.3%	10	13.3%
Yes	98	65.3%	51	68.0%	47	62.7%
Risks associated with girls drop out*						
Poverty	79	80.6%	34	66.7%	45	95.7%
Early marriage	56	57.1%	22	43.1%	34	72.3%
Early pregnancy	65	66.3%	27	52.9%	38	80.9%
GBV	32	32.7%	20	39.2%	12	25.5%
Others	6	6.1%	4	7.8%	2	4.3%

*n for this variable is equal to the frequency of "yes" answer for the question, Are girls dropping out of school because of climate/ conflict? (All = 98; Benue = 51; Nasarawa = 47)

Participants revealed the specific challenges faced by girls, including early marriage, disruption of education, and sexual exploitation and abuse. They also mentioned how conflict and climate change have exacerbated these issues. As mentioned by a participant, "Some of these issues are hunger-induced; we are hungry and sometimes have to give out our children in marriage in order that we can get a bag of food and eat with the younger ones. That is why we are forcing our female children into child marriage." Key informants also raised concerns about the rise of early marriage during conflict, with some girls marrying early in the hope of escaping hardship, and some parents giving their children in marriage to reduce the burden of taking care of them.

FGD and KII participants pointed out the destruction of schools, lack of schooling facilities in IDP camps, and the increasing dropout of girls due to various factors, including lack of financial resources, distance to schools, and the prioritisation of boys' education. As stated by a participant, "Everyone knows that when we were in our home village, we used to farm and get money to pay our children's school fees. For now, little children are crying of hunger, and there is not a muddle of guinea corn for food. How will we ignore saving the lives of our children to send children to school?" Another participant mentioned, "Girls are forced to render cheap labour in order to survive because their parents can hardly afford to cater to their needs. There is absolutely no finance for school."

The situation leads girls to idleness and vulnerabilities to trafficking and exploitation. Data also revealed an increasing concern about the trafficking of girls. A participant mentioned, "people come to deceive the parents and girls with promises of a better future." A key informant narrated a story that happened in an IDP camp where children are sold into slavery and have experienced all sorts of injustice. When they went running back to their parents, their parents refused to help them as they did not see the danger in the situation. Rape of girls is also an alarming situation during conflict. When their mothers report the rape, they are denied help or access to justice. Moreover, girls fall prey to sexual exploitation in exchange for a bag of food.

Some participants mentioned alternative learning opportunities, such as skills acquisition centres and informal education, while others highlighted the lack of such alternatives in their communities. As stated by a participant, "We parents normally squeeze ourselves and put our children in skills acquisition centres to aid them acquire skills that will enable them to earn. Some go to learn how to mill rice while some learn tailoring."

Food Security

The triangulation of data from the FGDs and KIIs highlights the severe food insecurity and malnutrition experienced by communities in Nigeria due to climate change and conflict. Participants discussed the reduction in food quantity and quality, limited market access, and the increased risk of hunger and malnutrition. As stated by a participant, "We are supposed

to be looking fatter than this but because they have destroyed all food crops we are starving. You are not even allowed to complain. Even the money to buy the food is a big issue."

Participants lamented that since the conflict, they have been reduced to dependents of aid. Their choice of food is also limited, unlike back in their village where they can grow their own food and eat whatever food and whenever they like. Now, they have been forced to ration food aid. There are times when aid runs out, and they cannot find other means to get food, so they become dependents or just live without eating. Most of the time, the food they find is only enough for their children. As one participant stated, "It has reduced us to mere dependents, we rely on the government, organisations, and individuals for our daily needs."

Another participant narrated that for five years, their family has been eating once a day. They have been in survival mode for several years. "We basically eat to survive not minding the quality of what we are eating," the participant said.

Conflict and climate change have disrupted agricultural activities. Participants mentioned the inability to access their farms, low crop yields, and changes in agricultural calendars. As mentioned by a participant, "The truth is one cannot go to his farm freely again because the Fulani man (herder) will behead you." Another participant added that when they insist on planting yams, the Fulani herdsmen will destroy the plants and throw them to their cattle to feed on.

Water scarcity is also causing them problems with their harvest. In the recent crop seasons, their yam and rice harvests have significantly reduced. The combination of climate change and conflict doubles the impact on their food security. As one participant described, "conflict doubles food insecurities as women are unable to farm out of fear of herdsmen attacking them. They are now at IDP camps without anything to eat and when hungry women can go as far as prostituting to feed their children or give their children out to early marriages just for food."

To cope with the severe food insecurity, participants shared reducing the number of meals, relying on humanitarian assistance, and engaging in alternative income-generating activities. As stated by a participant, "When the day breaks, some of our children go and pick up wasted iron materials to sell. Some go to the rice mill where they winnow rice chaffs and bring for food. The women also do this, and we are able to get it to feed."

While the survey data does not directly address food security, it does provide insights into the impact of climate change and conflict on agricultural productivity and livelihoods, as discussed in the "Climate Change Knowledge and Impact" and "Conflict and Its Impact" sections. The disruption of agricultural activities and loss of livelihoods highlighted in the survey data corroborate the experiences shared by FGD and KII participants regarding food insecurity and malnutrition.

Health

The study revealed the severe impact of conflict and climate change on healthcare delivery and access to healthcare facilities in the affected communities. Conflict has disrupted the delivery of healthcare services, with healthcare workers fleeing for their lives and facilities being abandoned or destroyed. A participant mentioned, "In the period of the conflict, all healthcare workers run for their lives, and the facilities are completely abandoned. During this period, our pregnant women and children are completely denied access to health services." This is a common response across all the participants of Nigeria. Healthcare workers will not risk their own lives by staying in a community engulfed in conflict.

If healthcare facilities are still open during conflict, healthcare providers are overwhelmed because of crowding. The quality of healthcare services is sacrificed. A key informant further explained, "In many regions, healthcare systems already struggle to meet basic needs. The additional strain from conflict and climate change can overwhelm these systems, leaving people with limited access to essential care."

Climate change has been causing an increased prevalence of diseases and health complications due to extreme weather conditions. As stated by a participant, "Extreme heat causes meningitis, and this has been on the increase in recent times." The increasing trend of water scarcity has also led to illnesses due to the consumption of contaminated water. In addition, participants observed the rise of respiratory diseases.

Participants pointed out long distances to health facilities, lack of transportation, and financial constraints as key barriers to healthcare access. As mentioned by a participant, "We have a clinic, but the workers close by 6 PM, and other days they do not come to work. Which makes access difficult. No reliable income, so accessing healthcare is difficult for many if not all of us here."

Participants lamented that since the conflict, they have no stable source of income, and as a result, they cannot access good quality health services. For most of them, finance is always the barrier. "Even getting mobility to get to the health centre is an issue due to lack of finance," a participant added. The situation is worse for pregnant women who are in need of prenatal services.

Specific health challenges are faced by the internally displaced persons (IDP) living in IDP camps, including overcrowding, lack of facilities, and disease outbreaks. A participant narrated, "Here at this IDP Camp, there is no clinic or hospital. If you recall, an old woman died here unattended due to the unavailability of a health facility here. A woman recently had a miscarriage of twins just last week. We do not even have the money to think of seeking health care services here."

The living conditions in the IDP camps lead people to acquire illnesses such as malaria, diarrhoea, worm infestation, and pneumonia. The infants who are more vulnerable get sick without receiving medical attention, leading to death.

Disease outbreaks have plagued the camps and were not easily curtailed due to the congestion. A participant mentioned that the solution for this is to resolve the farmer-herder conflict so that people will go back to their homes and rebuild.

Overall, the conflict and climate change have brought irreparable psychological trauma. Women can hardly have the will and zeal to continue with life. "Depression from too much loss makes them stagnate," a participant said.

The survey data provides additional insights into the impact of climate change and conflict on health. As discussed in the "Climate Change Knowledge and Impact" section, respondents reported knowing of deaths in their communities attributed to climate change (30.67%) and experiencing the death of a family member due to climate change (24.00%). The survey data also reveals the self-rated impact of climate change on physical and mental health, with more than a third of respondents indicating that their physical and mental well-being were affected a lot or extremely by climate change (See Table 3d). Furthermore, the survey data shows that conflict significantly worsened the impact of climate change on physical health and mental health for 50.33% and 48.7% of the respondents, respectively (See Table 4b).

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to clean water and adequate WASH services emerged as significant challenges in the study. The FGDs and KIIs highlighted the challenges in accessing clean water due to conflict and climate change, with participants mentioning the contamination of water sources, long distances to water points, and the drying up of wells and boreholes. As mentioned by a participant, "we do not have safe water within nearby reach, our wells have been contaminated by the sand rain. Even the contaminated one is not easy to access."

Participants recalled that back in their home village, they freely went to the streams to fetch drinking water and bathe there. In the IDP camps, when boreholes dry up, they try to go to other people's wells but are denied access and receive insults.

Participants discussed the various challenges in accessing WASH services, including the lack of infrastructure, the risks associated with water collection (such as rape and kidnapping), and the impact of conflict on WASH facilities. As stated by a participant, "women face the danger of rape, they could be murdered, kidnapping at some lonely places, elopement to marry willingly or by force." The challenges worsen during spells when women need to travel long distances in search of water.

The findings from the FGDs and KIIs underscore the urgent need to address the WASH challenges faced by conflict-affected communities. Interventions should focus on restoring

and improving WASH infrastructure, ensuring safe access to water points, and mitigating the risks associated with water collection, particularly for women and girls.

Migration

The household surveys revealed that nearly half of the respondents (46%) reported having moved away from their hometowns within the last five years, demonstrating a significant level of displacement within the community. Among those who reported moving (n=69), conflicts were cited as the primary reason for displacement by the majority of respondents (55.07%), underscoring the impact of conflict on the stability of lives of families and the community. Loss of livelihood/food scarcity was also reported as an important reason for migration, with 29% of respondents citing it as a cause.

Displacement and migration appears to be a more prevalent experience among those residing in Benue with the majority of the respondents (56%) expressing that they have moved from their hometown in the last 5 years, compared to only 36% among respondents in Nasarawa. Displacement conflict was more common in Benue (78.6%) compared to Nasarawa (18.5%). In contrast, displacement due to loss of livelihood or food scarcity was more prevalent in Nasarawa (51.9%) than in Benue (14.3%).

Table 7. Displacement and hosting of displaced people

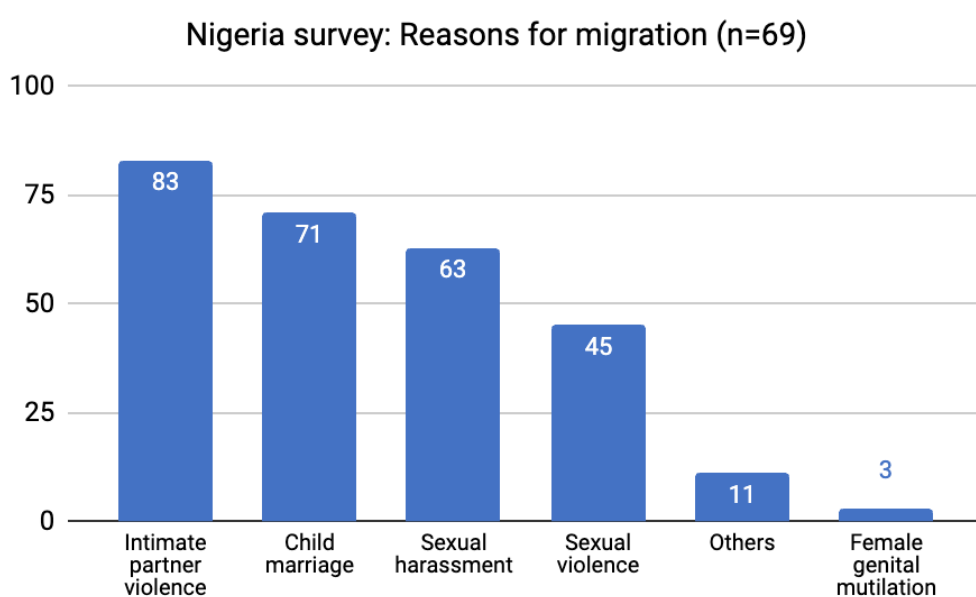
Displacement	All (n = 150)		Benue (n=75)		Nasarawa (n=75)	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Moved away from hometown the last 5 years?						
No	77	51.3%	29	38.7%	48	64.0%
Not, but I am considering moving soon	4	2.7%	4	5.3%	0	0.0%
Yes	69	46.0%	42	56.0%	27	36.0%
Reason for moving*						
Conflicts	38	55.1%	33	78.6%	5	18.5%
Drought/desertification	3	4.3%	0	0.0%	3	11.1%
Flooding	2	2.9%	2	4.8%	0	0.0%
Loss of livelihood/food scarcity	20	29.0%	6	14.3%	14	51.9%
Others	6	8.7%	1	2.4%	5	18.5%
Hosting displaced people						
I don't know	17	11.3%	13	17.3%	4	5.3%
No	56	37.3%	23	30.7%	33	44.0%
Yes	77	51.3%	39	52.0%	38	50.7%

Risk to women of hosting displaced people**						
I don't know	11	14.3%	8	20.5%	3	7.9%
No	34	44.2%	13	33.3%	21	55.3%
Yes	32	41.6%	18	46.2%	14	36.8%

*n for this variable is equal to the frequency of "yes" answer for the question, Have you moved away from your hometown in the last 5 years? (All = 69; Benue = 42; Nasarawa = 27)

** n for this variable is equal to the frequency of "yes" answer for the question, Has this displacement to your community caused any risk to women and girls in your community? (All = 77; Benue = 39; Nasarawa = 38)

Figure 12



The FGDs and KIIs further revealed the main causes of migration in the communities, including conflict, climate change, and the search for better livelihood opportunities. As mentioned by a participant in FGD 1, "I believe that the herders come here to graze their cattle because of unfavourable climatic changes. I think this conflict is climate-induced." Some participants have migrated from conflict-affected areas to IDP camps or other communities. As stated by a participant, "Yes, we all migrated from different communities. We have people from Yogbo, Nyiev, Tyoshin, Mbagwen, and many different other places all here."

The household surveys also showed that a majority of respondents (51.33%) reported having hosted displaced people within their community, suggesting a high level of internal displacement and community support for those affected by conflicts or other crises. However, hosting displaced people is perceived to pose risks to women by a significant proportion of respondents (41.56%), including gender-based violence, exploitation, and increased vulnerability in resource-constrained settings.

The findings highlight the complex interplay of conflict and climate change in driving migration and displacement in the affected communities. Interventions should aim to address the root causes of displacement, provide support for host communities, and ensure the protection and well-being of displaced populations, particularly women and girls.

Community Resilience and Adaptation

The study highlighted the proactive efforts of communities to enhance resilience and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and conflicts. FGD and KII participants discussed several resilience and adaptation strategies employed by the communities, such as engaging in alternative income-generating activities, relying on humanitarian assistance, and community-led initiatives. As mentioned by a participant, "My little children usually go out and cut grasses and sell at the cattle market, that is what is sustaining us. Some days the military men will beat them up, they will cry, but they will not stop going since it is the only source of livelihood."

Participants also highlighted the role of government, NGOs, and international organisations in providing support and assistance to the communities. Participants mentioned initiatives such as skills training, economic empowerment, and the provision of basic amenities. As stated by a participant, "Yes, we have received help from various organisations, government, and well-meaning individuals since arriving at this camp."

However, the household surveys revealed that only two in every five respondents (41.33%) reported their community receiving aid from NGOs. Less than half of the respondents were aware of how external support from NGOs had changed in their community, with 12.67% noting the support had decreased, 27.3% saying there was no change, and only 4.0% saying the aid received had increased. When asked about the influence of conflict on changes in aid provision (n=82), the majority of those who responded (76.83%) reported that conflict did not affect aid provision at all, while a few said conflict had a little (4.88%), medium (12.20%), or a lot (6.10%) of impact on the change in aid that the community received.

A higher proportion of respondents in Benue (80.0%) reported receiving aid from NGOs compared to Nasarawa (2.7%). However, 24.0% of respondents in Benue reported a decrease in aid, while only 1.3% in Nasarawa reported the same. The impact of conflict on changes in aid was more pronounced in Benue, with 40.0% reporting a medium amount of impact and 20.0% reporting a little impact, compared to 3.2% and 0.0% in Nasarawa, respectively.

Table 6. Aid received by the communities from NGOs

	All		Benue		Nasarawa	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Received aid						
I don't know	30	20.0%	9	12.0%	21	28.0%
No	58	38.7%	6	8.0%	52	69.3%
Yes	62	41.3%	60	80.0%	2	2.7%

Change in aid received						
I don't know	84	56.0%	22	29.3%	62	82.7%
It decreased	19	12.7%	18	24.0%	1	1.3%
It didn't change	41	27.3%	29	38.7%	12	16.0%
It increased	6	4.0%	6	8.0%	0	0.0%
Is conflict affecting change in aid						
A little	4	4.9%	4	20.0%	0	0.0%
A lot	5	6.1%	1	5.0%	4	6.5%
A medium amount	10	12.2%	8	40.0%	2	3.2%
Not at all	63	76.8%	7	35.0%	56	90.3%

Key informants from government authorities pointed out several responses from the government whenever there is displacement, such as allotting several billions of the Government Cash Contribution (GCC) for WASH services. On the other hand, community participants revealed that they have not been receiving any palliatives from the government. A participant stated, "There is a great famine in the community. We hear over the radios of the government's efforts by releasing palliatives to cushion the effects of hunger but they have never for once gotten to our community."

The findings underscore the importance of community-led initiatives and external support in strengthening resilience and adaptation to the impacts of climate change and conflict.

Proposed Solutions and Recommendations

In the surveys in Nigeria and Somaliland, respondents were also asked about proposed solutions to the problems faced by the communities. In Nigeria, coding of the open-ended question, reveals that a sizeable proportion of the respondents (32.7%) pointed to addressing and finding ways to resolve the conflict and keeping security of the community as important means of resolving long standing problems. Ensuring a secure and peaceful community is also tightly linked to issues of displacement. Given the urgency and life and death situation faced by members of the community, support for basic needs like food, shelter, and water were also noted by 32% of the respondents. Capacity building for women and girls as well as livelihood and job creation programs were also mentioned by 10.0% and 20.7% of the respondents respectively. Other notable solutions suggested by the respondents were: programs on addressing climate change (8.0%), building of infrastructures including roads, schools, waterways, and hospitals (6.7%), providing specific support to farming communities such as seeds etc. (4.7%) and improving access to education of members of the community especially girls (10%) and improving health services (2.7%).

Table 7. Proposed solutions by household survey respondents from Nigeria (multiple response, categories created from open ended survey question, n=150)

Proposed solutions	Frequency	Percentage
Aid and support from gov't and NGOs	43	28.7%
Support for basic needs (i.e. food, shelter, water)	48	32.0%
Programs on climate change	12	8.0%
Capacity building for women and girls	15	10.0%
Programs for livelihood/ job creation	31	20.7%
Infrastructure	10	6.7%
Address conflict	49	32.7%
Farming programs	7	4.7%
Education	15	10.0%
Address displacement	25	16.7%
Health services	4	2.7%

Based on the household surveys, KIIs, and FGDs conducted in Nigeria, the following proposed solutions and recommendations have been identified to address the challenges posed by climate change and conflict:

1. **Conflict resolution and peacebuilding:** Respondents emphasised the importance of addressing and resolving conflicts to ensure the security and stability of communities. Peacebuilding efforts should be prioritised to create an enabling environment for climate change adaptation and development.
2. **Support for basic needs:** Given the urgency of the situation faced by community members, respondents highlighted the need for support in meeting basic needs such as food, shelter, and water. Humanitarian assistance and social protection programs should be strengthened to address the immediate needs of vulnerable populations.
3. **Capacity building for women and girls:** Respondents recommended investing in capacity building programs for women and girls to enhance their skills, knowledge, and resilience to climate change and conflict. This can include vocational training, leadership development, and education support.
4. **Livelihood and job creation programs:** To promote economic empowerment and reduce vulnerability, respondents suggested implementing livelihood and job creation programs. These initiatives can focus on sustainable agriculture, small business development, and skills training.
5. **Infrastructure development:** Respondents identified the need for investments in infrastructure, such as roads, schools, waterways, and hospitals, to improve access to essential services and enhance community resilience.
6. **Education and health services:** Respondents recommended improving access to education, particularly for girls, and strengthening health services to address the impacts of climate change and conflict on the well-being of communities.
7. **Early warning systems and climate change awareness:** Respondents emphasised the importance of raising awareness about climate change and its impacts on

communities. Early warning systems should be established to enhance preparedness and resilience to climate-related hazards.

By implementing these proposed solutions and recommendations, Nigeria can work towards building a more resilient and inclusive society that effectively addresses the challenges posed by climate change and conflict, while prioritising the needs and rights of women and girls.

Conclusion

The study findings reveal the devastating impacts of climate change and conflict on communities in Nigeria, particularly for women and girls. The data highlights how climate hazards like flooding, drought, and heatwaves have caused loss of lives, disrupted livelihoods, and led to food insecurity. Conflicts, exacerbated by climate-induced resource scarcity, have further compounded these challenges through displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and breakdown of social support systems.

Women and girls face disproportionate vulnerabilities, including increased risks of gender-based violence, lack of access to education and healthcare, and economic insecurity. The intersecting crises of conflict and climate change have created a vicious cycle that threatens the resilience and adaptive capacities of affected communities.

While communities have demonstrated resilience through coping mechanisms and adaptation strategies, the findings underscore the urgent need for integrated interventions that address the interlinked challenges. Concerted efforts from governments, non-governmental organisations, and communities are crucial to build sustainable peace, enhance climate resilience, and ensure the protection and empowerment of women and girls in conflict-affected areas of Nigeria.

Comparing the situation of communities in the two states reveals that while both Benue and Nasarawa have been affected by climate change, the impact of conflict has been more severe in Benue. This is evident in the higher prevalence of herder-related conflicts, the more severe impact of climate change-induced conflict on women, the greater number of reported deaths, and the higher rates of displacement due to conflict in Benue.

The analysis also highlights differences in the forms of GBV experienced in the two states, with sexual violence and harassment being more prevalent in Benue, and child marriage being more common in Nasarawa. Additionally, the risks associated with girls' school dropout differed, with poverty and early pregnancy being more prevalent in Nasarawa.

The findings underscore the need for targeted interventions that address the specific challenges faced by women in each state. In Benue, efforts should focus on addressing the impact of conflict, reducing the prevalence of sexual violence and harassment, and ensuring the continuity of aid and assistance. In Nasarawa, interventions should prioritise addressing

the risks associated with girls' school dropout, such as poverty and early pregnancy, and supporting displaced populations affected by loss of livelihood or food scarcity.

By understanding the unique experiences and challenges faced by women in Benue and Nasarawa, policymakers and development organisations can design more effective interventions to build resilience, promote gender equality, and support sustainable development in the face of climate change and conflict.