DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.64633/wissj.v9i7.27

Keywords

Flood disasters; Human Security Framework; disaster management; KADSEMA; early-warning systems

Abstract

Research Problem:
Flood disasters have become increasingly frequent and devastating in Kaduna State between 2020 and 2024, exposing deep weaknesses in local governance and threatening the human-security foundations of affected communities. These floods disrupt livelihoods, erode public trust, and create socio-economic insecurities that intersect with broader questions of safety and development.

Methods/Theory:
The study adopts a qualitative descriptive design guided by the Human Security Framework (UNDP, 1994). It relies on secondary data from Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (KADSEMA), NEMA, and international development reports. Content analysis and comparative assessment were used to evaluate institutional effectiveness and community resilience.

Results
Findings indicate that recurring floods persist because of weak inter-agency coordination, inadequate early-warning mechanisms, insufficient funding, and limited community preparedness.

Conclusion
These challenges magnify economic, food, health, and environmental insecurities, undermining citizens' dignity and safety. Integrating human-security principles into state disaster governance improves resilience and policy accountability.

Key Contribution to Knowledge:
This paper extends the Human Security framework to sub-national

disaster governance in Nigeria. It shows how local institutional performance directly shapes human security outcomes and provides a model for embedding human-centric thinking within disaster-risk-reduction practice.

Recommendation

The study recommends stronger institutional funding for KADSEMA, integrated early-warning systems, community-based preparedness networks, and continuous human-security monitoring to guide state and national policies.

1. Introduction

Floods are one of the most devastating natural hazards facing Nigeria, resulting in significant losses of life, property, and means of subsistence. From 2020 to 2024, Kaduna State encountered several flooding incidents that revealed significant deficiencies in preparedness and reaction. Current literature (Adelekan, 2016; Olanrewaju et al., 2019; Adedeji & Okocha, 2022) underscores enduring institutional deficiencies, however these analyses frequently regard disaster management as solely a technological endeavour. This study examines that perspective through the lens of Human Security, highlighting the protection of humans over infrastructure.

The extant literature is structured in layers: foundational works concentrate on physical mitigation (Alexander, 2013); intermediate analysis investigate governance issues (Obeta, 2014); contemporary studies associate catastrophes with socio-economic vulnerability (Adewuyi&Odugbemi, 2019). Nevertheless, few examine the nexus between catastrophe administration and human security at the sub-national tier. This gap delineates the novelty of the current research, which enhances scholarship by employing human-security theory to assess Kaduna State's disaster-management efficacy and its ramifications for public welfare.

2. Research Problem

Notwithstanding numerous efforts, floods in Kaduna State persistently ravage communities each year. KADSEMA (2023) reports indicate that more than 18,000 individuals were impacted from 2020 to 2023. What accounts for the continued occurrence of such losses notwithstanding the presence of institutions? The primary issue resides in the disparity between structural readiness and human-security priority. Many studies focus on physical infrastructure while overlooking the human-centered aspects of safety, trust, and empowerment. This study thus fills the research gap by assessing the influence of human-security concepts, or their lack, on disaster outcomes in Kaduna State.

2.1 Objectives of the Study

This study is guided by two key objectives:

1. To examine how disaster-management practices in Kaduna State influence the human-security dimensions of affected communities between 2020 and 2024.
2. To assess the institutional, policy, and community-based factors that enhance or constrain the integration of human-security principles into sub-national disaster governance.

3. Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

3.1 Conceptualizing Disaster Management

Disaster management denotes the systematic utilisation of administrative, organisational, and operational resources to alleviate hazards and diminish vulnerability (UNDRR, 2015). In Nigeria, organisations like NEMA and KADSEMA are responsible for these duties; nevertheless, evidence (Adedeji & Okocha, 2022) indicates disjointed coordination and inadequately funded frameworks. Effective management necessitates proactive planning, communication, and community engagement.

3.2 Comprehending Human Security

Human security, as described by UNDP (1994) as "freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live in dignity," includes economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political aspects. In Kaduna, flooding concurrently devastates all three sectors, obliterating agricultural lands, disseminating illness, and displacing communities. Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy (2007) contend that human-security analysis shifts focus from state protection to individual well-being, a perspective that underpins the analytical foundation of this work.

3.3 Theoretical Framework

This research is exclusively based on the Human Security Theory, which asserts that genuine development and stability rely on protecting individuals from persistent risks. The theory offers a comprehensive framework for analysing disaster-management efficacy and its effects on dignity, equity, and resilience in Kaduna State.

4. Methodology

The research utilises a qualitative descriptive framework augmented by content analysis of secondary sources. Data was sourced from official reports of KADSEMA, NEMA, the Federal Ministry of Environment, and UN organisations from 2020 to 2024. Supplementary data were obtained from peer-reviewed articles and policy documents. The analysis adhered to the principles of thematic categorisation, encompassing institutional capability, community readiness, funding, and inter-agency cooperation, as interpreted within the human-security framework.

5. Thrust of the Study

This paper posits that disaster management in Kaduna State ought to be redefined as a human-security governance issue rather than only a technical or humanitarian endeavour. Analysing the findings through the Human Security framework indicates that floods continue due to institutional emphasis on post-disaster relief rather than on preventive, people-centered strategies. The study posits that efficiency should be evaluated based on the extent to which policy safeguards livelihoods and dignity, rather than solely focussing on infrastructure. Theoretically, the findings broaden the Human Security paradigm to the sub-national tier. This research diverges from previous Nigerian studies (Adelekan, 2016; Obeta, 2014) that examined flood control through administrative or engineering lenses, by emphasising the human ramifications of institutional inertia

. The study corroborates the assertions of Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy (2007) that resilience necessitates both structural and social interventions, while furthering their argument by illustrating that local agencies like KADSEMA serve as essential operational venues for the real-time application of theory in governance.The findings indicate that disaster-management strategies directly affect

human-security outcomes, including economic stability, food access, and community cohesion. The study reveals a disparity between policy language and execution on the second objective: while human-security objectives are recognised in discourse, they are inadequately established in practice. This insight both corroborates and challenges existing material. It corresponds with prior research that identified inadequate coordination, yet distinguishes itself by reconceptualising such deficiencies as dangers to human security instead of mere administrative inefficiencies.

The study's primary focus is to reframe flood governance within the human-security framework, asserting that prioritising the protection of individuals over assets should be the fundamental principle of disaster management in Kaduna State and Nigeria as a whole.

6. Findings and Discussion

6.1 Discussion of Findings in Line with Research Questions

The findings are interpreted in relation to the study's two objectives and their corresponding research questions.

6.2 Flood Disaster Trends in Kaduna State

Research Question 1: In what manner have flood trends from 2020 to 2023 influenced the human-security circumstances of communities in Kaduna State? From 2020 to 2023, Kaduna had recurrent floods of diverse intensity. The 2022 flood impacted over 16,000 individuals and obliterated more than 500 residences (IOM, 2024). The research indicates that these floods have evolved from natural risks into governance-induced human security concerns. Unregulated urbanisation, obstructed drainage systems, and development upon floodplains indicate institutional vulnerability. This corresponds with Adedeji and Okocha (2022) but expands their thesis by reconceptualising the issue as a lack of human security rather than solely environmental mismanagement. Consequently, the flood patterns in Kaduna directly undermine economic stability, food accessibility, and dignityvalidating the initial research purpose.

6.3 Institutional Capability and Coordination

Research Question 2: To what degree do institutional capability and inter-agency collaboration affect disaster response in Kaduna State? KADSEMA's function as the coordinating agency is compromised by insufficient budget, inadequate logistics, and ineffective collaboration with NEMA and local councils. Empirical research indicates improvised coordination and postponed assistance, substantiating systemic inequity. Conversely, South Africa's organised response to the 2022 KwaZulu-Natal floods reduced casualties via swift interdepartmental cooperation (UNDRR, 2022). Consequently, the research identifies institutional disarticulation as the primary impediment to effective human-security governance. This corroborates Obeta's (2014) findings while theoretically enhancing them by conceptualising inadequate coordination as a jeopardy to human dignity and safeguarding. The second purpose is therefore addressed: institutional effectiveness significantly influences human-security outcomes.

6.4 Community Readiness and Preemptive Alert Systems

Research Question 3: In what manner can community preparedness and early-warning distribution influence human security in flood-prone regions? Public knowledge is insufficient, and NiMet's precipitation forecasts are seldom specific to local areas. Early-warning systems are present in policy but absent in practice. This discovery

corresponds with Akpan and Iwok (2021), who emphasise Nigeria's deficient communication network linking meteorological data to grassroots initiatives.
The study indicates that inadequate community preparedness exacerbates human insecurity. Conversely, Mozambique's community-oriented strategy during Cyclone Idai (2019) lowered fatalities (IFRC, 2019). The lack of local engagement in Kaduna underscores that human security cannot be achieved without empowering communities as active collaborators.

6.5 Human Security Dimensions

Research Question 4: How do flood catastrophes specifically compromise the seven pillars of human security in Kaduna State? Flooding impedes all seven facets of human security:
Financial Stability: Devastated agricultural areas and markets, rising unemployment (NEMA, 2023).

Food Security: Agricultural losses in 2022 impacted significant crop regions (NBS, 2023).
Health Security: More than 11% of healthcare institutions sustained damage; subsequent outbreaks of cholera and malaria occurred (IOM, 2024). Environmental Security: Inadequate urban planning and deforestation increase vulnerability (Amoako & Boamah, 2017). Personal and Community Security: Displacement exacerbates criminal activity and gender-based violence (Aremu& Suleiman, 2022). Political Security: Procrastinated assistance and partiality undermine public confidence (Obeta, 2014). The research substantiates that floods concurrently generate several insecurity, affirming the pertinence of the human-security paradigm to local administration.

6.6 Comparative Lessons from Africa

Research Question 5: What insights may Kaduna glean from other African nations that incorporate human security into disaster management? The Disaster Management Act of 2002 in South Africa established coordination and participation; Mozambique's decentralisation enhanced early-warning capabilities; Ghana's post-2015 reforms integrated urban planning with public accountability. In comparison, Kaduna's model is predominantly reactive.The study suggests that incorporating human-security principles of participation, dignity, and prevention into governance is vital. This enhances African catastrophe study by demonstrating that human security is both a moral and operational necessity.

7. Conclusion

This study investigated the intersection of catastrophe management and human security in Kaduna State from 2020 to 2024. The results indicate that repeated floods reveal structural, institutional, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Technical measures alone cannot ensure safety without incorporating human-security considerations that safeguard livelihoods, dignity, and participation. Enhancing KADSEMA's institutional capability and cultivating community partnerships are essential for sustainable resilience.

8. Recommendations

1. Institutional Reform: Augment budgetary allocation to KADSEMA and establish specialised human security sections within the agency.
2. Integrated Early Warning: Establish real-time communication among NEMA, KADSEMA, and NiMet for localised alerts.

3. Community-Centric Preparedness: Establish local volunteer groups proficient in first aid, evacuation procedures, and data collection.
4. Public Education: Initiate ongoing awareness efforts in vernacular languages via media and educational institutions.
5. Human-Security Mainstreaming: Integrate human-security indicators such as health, food, housing, and safety into catastrophe assessment instruments.
6. Research and Data Development: Collaborate with institutions to sustain a state-level disaster database to inform evidence-based decision-making.

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