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Flood-Induced Displacement and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in Tsholotsho District: Lessons from Cyclone Dineo

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Abstract

Floods are among the most frequent climate-related hazards in Tsholotsho District, causing displacement, loss of livelihoods, destruction of homes and productive assets, disruption of agricultural activities, and reduced access to essential services. This study examined the socio-economic impact of flood-induced displacement on vulnerable groups in Tsholotsho District following Cyclone Dineo in 2017. Specifically, the study explored how displacement affected livelihoods, access to services, and community resilience among affected households. Guided by an interpretivist research paradigm, the study adopted a qualitative case study design. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and field observations involving 35 participants drawn from displaced households, host communities, village heads, government departments, and non-governmental organizations. Participants were selected using purposive and snowball sampling techniques. Data were analysed thematically. Findings indicate that displacement had far-reaching socio-economic consequences, including loss of agricultural land and livestock, food insecurity, interrupted schooling, limited access to healthcare, inadequate water and sanitation facilities, and damage to housing and property. The study found that vulnerability was shaped by multiple factors, including poverty, gender, age, and employment status. While women were disproportionately affected, men also experienced significant physical, emotional, and social challenges associated with displacement. The findings further reveal that many households continue to reside in flood-prone areas due to affordability constraints, livelihood attachments, and limited resettlement alternatives. Although communities employed various coping strategies, their resilience remained inadequate in the face of recurring flood risks. The study concludes that effective resettlement requires integrating disaster risk reduction with livelihood restoration and the provision of essential infrastructure and services to displaced populations.

Keywords: Flood-Induced Displacement, Socio-Economic Vulnerability, Climate Change Adaptation, Livelihoods, Community Resilience, Zimbabwe

Introduction

Climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, with floods emerging as one of the most destructive hazards globally (Brown *et al.*, 2012; Affoh *et al.*, 2022; Mutizwa, 2023). Floods are a major driver of disaster-induced displacement, disrupting livelihoods, damaging infrastructure, and exacerbating existing social and economic vulnerabilities, particularly among poor and marginalized populations (Mtapuri, Dube and Matunhu, 2018; Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022; Ndlovu *et al.*, 2024; Mamba *et al.*, 2026). Globally, millions of people are displaced annually by flood events, with developing countries bearing a disproportionate share of the impacts due to limited adaptive capacity, high levels of poverty, and dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods (Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022; Cornelius *et al.*, 2025; Mamba *et al.*, 2026; Ndlovu and Maviza, 2026). Climate-induced displacement is increasingly recognised as both a humanitarian and development challenge, as it disrupts livelihoods, weakens social networks, and can generate long-term socio-economic vulnerabilities among affected populations (Black *et al.*, 2011; Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022).

Sub-Saharan Africa remains particularly vulnerable to flood-related disasters. Recent flood events in countries such as Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa, and Zimbabwe have demonstrated how climate-related hazards can trigger displacement, disrupt livelihoods, and undermine development gains (Chatiza, 2019; Nhamo, Dube and Saurombe, 2021; Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022; Ndlovu and Maviza, 2026). Within Zimbabwe, recurrent floods and tropical cyclones have emerged as major drivers of displacement, livelihood disruption, and socio-economic vulnerability, particularly in rural communities that depend heavily on climate-sensitive livelihoods. Notable examples include Cyclone Eline (2000), the Tokwe-Mukosi flood disaster (2014), Cyclone Dineo (2017), and Cyclone Idai (2019), all of which resulted in substantial human, economic, and infrastructural losses (Chatiza, 2019; Mavhura, 2020; Nhamo, Dube and Saurombe, 2021; Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022; Aderinto, 2023). Vulnerability to flood-induced displacement is often shaped by pre-existing socio-economic conditions, including poverty, gender inequalities, age, limited access to resources, and dependence on subsistence agriculture.

Tsholotsho District in Matabeleland North Province is one of Zimbabwe's most flood-prone rural areas due to its proximity to the Gwayi River system, low-lying terrain, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, and high levels of poverty (Mtapuri, Dube and Matunhu, 2018; Ndlovu *et al.*, 2024; Cornelius *et al.*, 2025). The district has experienced recurrent flood disasters over the past two decades, making it particularly vulnerable to climate-induced displacement. Severe flooding associated with Cyclone Eline in 2000 caused extensive damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, and settlements (Dube, Mtapuri and Matunhu, 2018; Cornelius *et al.*, 2025). Subsequent flood events during the 2013/2014 rainy season further exposed communities to environmental and socio-economic risks. In 2017, Cyclone Dineo triggered the overflow of the Gwayi River, inundating

homes, agricultural land, and public infrastructure, and displacing approximately 2,000 people (Dube, Mtapuri and Matunhu, 2018).

The most severe impacts were reported in Wards 5 and 6, where communities experienced substantial losses of property, productive assets, and livelihood opportunities (Sibanda and Matsa, 2020; Ngulube, Tatano and Samaddar, 2024). These recurring flood events have not only disrupted local development but have also heightened the vulnerability of already marginalised groups, including women, children, the elderly, and low-income households (Dube, Mtapuri and Matunhu, 2018; Shayamano, Masinga and Dube, 2025). Beyond the immediate humanitarian consequences, displacement often results in long-term socio-economic challenges such as food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, interrupted education, reduced access to healthcare, weakened social networks, and increased dependency on external assistance (Dube, Mtapuri and Matunhu, 2018; Sibanda and Matsa, 2020; Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022; Ngulube, Tatano and Samaddar, 2024; Cornelius *et al.*, 2025; Mamba *et al.*, 2026; Ndlovu and Maviza, 2026).

While existing studies have examined disaster-induced displacement in Zimbabwe, much of the literature has focused on Cyclone Idai and the Tokwe-Mukosi disaster, with limited attention given to the socio-economic implications of Cyclone Dineo in Tsholotsho District (Mavhura, 2020; Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022; Shayamano, Masinga and Dube, 2025). Furthermore, limited empirical research has examined the long-term socio-economic consequences of Cyclone Dineo-induced displacement on vulnerable households in Tsholotsho District, particularly with respect to livelihoods, access to services, social well-being, and adaptive capacity. This study addresses this gap by examining the socio-economic impacts of Cyclone Dineo-induced displacement on vulnerable communities in Tsholotsho District. Specifically, the study seeks to: (i) analyse the trends and drivers of flood-induced displacement; (ii) examine the socio-economic impacts of displacement on vulnerable households; and (iii) assess the coping and adaptation strategies adopted by affected communities. By generating empirical evidence from Tsholotsho District, the study contributes to emerging debates on climate-induced displacement, vulnerability, and disaster risk reduction, while providing policy-relevant insights for improving resettlement planning, livelihood restoration, and community resilience in flood-prone areas.

Methodology

This study was guided by an interpretivist research paradigm, which seeks to understand and interpret participants' lived experiences and perceptions of flood-induced displacement and its socio-economic impacts. An interpretivist perspective was considered appropriate because the study aimed to explore how vulnerable households experienced, understood, and responded to displacement following Cyclone Dineo in Tsholotsho District.

The research adopted a qualitative case study design, focusing on communities affected by Cyclone Dineo in Tsholotsho District, Zimbabwe. The case study approach enabled an in-depth

examination of the socio-economic consequences of flood-induced displacement within a specific geographical and social context. Fieldwork was conducted in the affected wards of Tamuhli, Mapili, Mbamba, and Mahlaba, as well as the resettlement areas of Tshino and Sawudweni.

The study employed purposive and snowball sampling techniques. Purposive sampling was initially used to identify individuals with direct experience of displacement, while snowball sampling facilitated the identification of additional participants through referrals from initial respondents. A total of 35 participants were recruited, comprising displaced household members, village heads, community leaders, government officials, and representatives of non-governmental organisations involved in disaster response and resettlement activities.

Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, field observations, and secondary sources, including government reports, NGO publications, disaster assessment reports, and relevant scholarly literature on flood-induced displacement. The study was informed by Social Vulnerability Theory and Risk Society Theory, which provided a framework for understanding the factors that shape vulnerability and exposure to flood risks. All interviews and focus group discussions were audio-recorded with participants' consent, transcribed verbatim, and analysed using thematic content analysis. NVivo software was utilised to organise, code, and identify emerging themes within the qualitative data. Descriptive statistics and visual presentations, including tables and graphs, were produced using Microsoft Excel to support the presentation of findings. Ethical principles of informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity, and voluntary participation were strictly observed throughout the study.

Results

Socio-Economic Impacts of Flood-Induced Displacement on Vulnerable Households

The study explored the socio-economic impacts of flood-induced displacement among households affected by Cyclone Dineo in Tsholotsho District. Data were obtained from 35 participants comprising displaced household members, community leaders, government officials, and representatives of non-governmental organisations through interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), and field observations.

Livelihoods and Food Security

Results from interviews and FGDs indicated that displacement significantly disrupted household livelihoods. Participants reported that the resettlement areas of Tshino and Sawudweni are characterised by poor soil quality and limited access to reliable water sources, reducing agricultural productivity and household food security. Most participants indicated that crop cultivation had become increasingly difficult compared to their former settlements along the Gwayi River floodplain.

One participant from Tshino stated:

The soils here are not suitable for farming. We continue to rely on our old fields because crops do not perform well in the resettlement area.

Field observations confirmed limited agricultural activity in the resettlement sites, with many households maintaining cultivation plots in their former areas. Participants reported that low crop yields during the 2023/2024 agricultural season further increased food insecurity and household vulnerability. Consequently, several households depended on food purchases, remittances, and humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.

Household Structure and Social Well-being

Findings from FGDs revealed that displacement altered family structures and social relations. Participants reported that the three-room houses provided during resettlement were inadequate for large households. As a result, some family members continued residing in their former settlements while others occupied the new houses.

Respondents indicated that this separation placed additional burdens on women, who remained responsible for agricultural production, childcare, and household maintenance. Community leaders also reported that population movements associated with relocation disrupted traditional leadership structures and reduced the number of residents under their jurisdiction.

Access to Health Services

The study found that access to healthcare services declined following displacement. Interview participants reported that although Tshino and Sipepa clinics served the resettled communities, the facilities were located far from many households. Participants highlighted transport challenges and financial constraints as major barriers to accessing healthcare.

Women participating in FGDs noted that long travelling distances often delayed treatment seeking, particularly during emergencies. Respondents further reported increased exposure to waterborne diseases, including cholera and typhoid, which they associated with overcrowding at communal water points and periodic water shortages.

Water and Sanitation

Field observations revealed that water infrastructure, including solar-powered taps and boreholes, had been installed in the resettlement areas. However, participants reported frequent breakdowns of water points and inconsistent water supply. Several households indicated that damaged taps and declining groundwater levels limited access to clean water.

As a result, some households resorted to alternative water sources, increasing their exposure to health risks. Participants consistently identified water shortages as one of the major challenges affecting their well-being and livelihoods in the resettlement areas.

Education

Results indicated that displacement also affected access to education. Households reported that children travelled long distances to access schools, particularly secondary education facilities. Participants identified overcrowding, shortages of teaching staff, and inadequate infrastructure as major challenges affecting educational outcomes.

FGD participants reported that Tshino Primary School accommodated a growing number of learners following relocation, resulting in large class sizes. Community leaders indicated that efforts had been made to establish educational facilities closer to the resettled communities; however, challenges related to infrastructure and staffing remained.

Housing Conditions

The findings further revealed that housing provision remained incomplete several years after relocation. Participants reported that only a portion of the planned houses had been completed, leaving some households responsible for constructing their own dwellings despite limited financial resources.

Field observations showed variations in housing quality, with some structures displaying signs of deterioration. Respondents expressed concerns regarding housing durability and the inability of low-income households to undertake necessary repairs. Several participants indicated that these challenges had contributed to the abandonment of some resettlement houses and the continued use of former homesteads for livelihood activities.

Trends and Drivers of Flood-Induced Displacement in Tsholotsho District

The study sought to examine the trends and drivers of flood-induced displacement in Tsholotsho District following Cyclone Dineo. Findings from interviews and focus group discussions revealed that flood-related displacement is not a new phenomenon in the district. Participants reported that communities residing along the Gwayi River and low-lying areas experience seasonal flooding, forcing households to temporarily or permanently relocate to safer areas.

Results indicate that displacement patterns are closely linked to the geographical characteristics of Tsholotsho, particularly its low-lying terrain, proximity to river systems, and poor drainage networks. Participants noted that heavy rainfall events frequently result in overflowing rivers and inundation of homesteads, agricultural fields, and infrastructure.

Women who participated in focus group discussions reported that indigenous knowledge systems continue to play an important role in predicting flood events and informing relocation decisions. Participants indicated that observations of rainfall patterns, river behaviour, vegetation changes, and animal movements are commonly used to anticipate flooding risks.

Despite recurrent flooding, some households reported reluctance to relocate permanently. Interviews revealed that attachment to ancestral land, cultural ties, and concerns regarding livelihoods influenced decisions to remain in flood-prone areas.

One elderly participant explained:

Ngikhulele lapha labokhokho, ngingasuka bazasala lobani?

(I grew up here with my ancestors; if I leave, who will remain with them?)

Participants further indicated that previous relocation initiatives did not adequately incorporate community preferences and livelihood needs. Respondents reported dissatisfaction with the location of resettlement sites due to poor agricultural conditions and limited access to essential resources. Consequently, some households either resisted relocation or returned to their former settlements after relocation.

Interviews with village heads and local leaders confirmed that flood-induced displacement has become an increasingly common adaptation response among vulnerable households. However, participants emphasised that displacement often creates new forms of socio-economic vulnerability rather than eliminating existing risks.

Coping and Adaptation Strategies Employed by Displaced Households

The study further examined the coping and adaptation strategies employed by displaced households to mitigate the impacts of displacement and livelihood disruption. Findings indicate that households adopted a range of short-term and long-term strategies to enhance their survival and resilience.

One of the most commonly reported strategies was the continued utilisation of agricultural fields located in former settlements. Participants explained that although they had been relocated to Tshino and Sawudweni, they continued cultivating crops in their previous fields because of higher soil fertility and better access to water resources.

Field observations confirmed that many households regularly travelled between the resettlement areas and their former homesteads to maintain agricultural activities. Participants viewed this strategy as essential for sustaining food production and household income.

Households that remained in flood-prone areas reported adopting flood-risk reduction measures such as constructing houses on elevated ground and avoiding settlement in areas frequently affected by flooding. Participants also highlighted the continued use of indigenous knowledge systems to monitor environmental indicators and prepare for potential flood events.

Livestock management emerged as another important adaptation strategy. Respondents reported practising livestock loaning arrangements (*ukulagisa/kusisa*), whereby animals are temporarily moved to areas with better grazing conditions and water availability during periods of environmental stress.

In addition, participants indicated that livelihood diversification had become increasingly important following displacement. Some households engaged in casual labour, small-scale trading,

and informal income-generating activities to supplement household income. Others relied on remittances from family members working in urban centres or neighbouring countries.

Respondents also reported receiving assistance from churches, non-governmental organisations, and community-based support networks. Participants specifically mentioned support from religious organisations, including the Roman Catholic Church and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as well as humanitarian organisations operating in the district.

However, interviews revealed concerns regarding the sustainability of these coping mechanisms. Several participants indicated that humanitarian assistance had declined over time following their relocation.

One participant noted:

Life is difficult here because the soil does not produce enough food. We survive through assistance from relatives and occasional support from churches and NGOs.

Participants further reported that some households resorted to negative coping strategies, including reducing meal frequency, selling productive assets, and engaging in precarious income-generating activities. These measures, while providing short-term relief, were viewed as unsustainable and likely to increase future vulnerability.

Overall, the findings suggest that while displaced households have developed a range of coping and adaptation strategies, these measures remain constrained by limited livelihood opportunities, poor agricultural conditions, inadequate infrastructure, and declining external support. Consequently, community resilience remains fragile, highlighting the need for integrated livelihood restoration, improved resettlement planning, and targeted support for vulnerable households.

Discussion

The findings demonstrate that flood-induced displacement has become a recurring feature of life in Tsholotsho District, largely driven by the district's geographical exposure to flooding and increasing climate variability. Participants reported repeated experiences of displacement associated with river overflows and extreme rainfall events, particularly in communities located along the Gwayi River system. These findings support broader evidence that climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, thereby elevating displacement risks in vulnerable communities (Brown et al., 2012; Affoh et al., 2022; Mutizwa, 2023). The recurrent nature of flooding in Tsholotsho further reflects patterns observed across Sub-Saharan Africa, where climate-related hazards continue to undermine local development and force households to adopt mobility as a survival strategy (Chatiza, 2019; Nhamo, Dube & Saurombe, 2021; Mucherera & Spiegel, 2022).

Despite recurring flood risks, the study found that some households remained reluctant to relocate permanently from flood-prone areas. Participants cited strong cultural attachments to ancestral land, livelihood considerations, and concerns about the suitability of resettlement sites. These findings suggest that displacement decisions are shaped not only by environmental risks but also by social, cultural, and economic factors. Similar observations have been made in Zimbabwe and elsewhere, where communities often remain in hazard-prone environments because relocation may threaten social identity, livelihood security, and community cohesion (Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022; Cornelius et al., 2025).

The study revealed that displacement following Cyclone Dineo had profound socio-economic consequences for affected households. Participants reported significant disruptions to agricultural production, reduced access to productive land, declining household incomes, and heightened food insecurity. Given that most households in Tsholotsho depend on rain-fed agriculture and livestock production, displacement weakened the primary livelihood systems upon which communities rely. These findings are consistent with studies showing that disaster-induced displacement frequently results in livelihood losses and increased poverty among already vulnerable populations (Mtapuri, Dube and Matunhu, 2018; Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022; Ndlovu et al., 2024).

The findings further indicate that displacement extended beyond economic losses to affect broader dimensions of human well-being. Participants reported challenges related to housing, healthcare access, education, water supply, and sanitation. Such outcomes illustrate how displacement can create multiple and interconnected forms of vulnerability. Previous studies in Zimbabwe have similarly demonstrated that flood disasters often have cascading impacts on social services and household welfare, thereby reinforcing cycles of poverty and marginalisation (Sibanda and Matsa, 2020; Ngulube, Tatano and Samaddar, 2024).

Particularly notable was the disproportionate impact of displacement on vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, and low-income households. While women were frequently identified as the most affected group due to their caregiving responsibilities and dependence on natural resources, the study also found that men experienced significant emotional, social, and economic challenges following displacement. These findings support emerging scholarship that views vulnerability as multidimensional and shaped by intersecting socio-economic factors rather than gender alone (Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022; Shayamano, Masinga and Dube, 2025).

The findings reveal that displaced households employed a range of coping and adaptation strategies to mitigate the impacts of displacement and food insecurity. These included continued cultivation of former agricultural fields, livelihood diversification, reliance on remittances, support from faith-based organisations, and the use of indigenous knowledge systems to anticipate flood events. Such strategies demonstrate the agency and resilience of affected communities despite limited resources and institutional support.

The continued reliance on former agricultural lands suggests that resettlement programmes may not have adequately considered the livelihood needs of displaced households. Participants frequently described the resettlement areas as having poorer soils and limited agricultural potential, compelling them to maintain ties with their former settlements. Similar concerns have been raised in studies examining displacement and resettlement in Zimbabwe, which argue that successful relocation requires the restoration of livelihood opportunities alongside the provision of housing and basic services (Mavhura, 2020; Mucherera and Spiegel, 2022).

Although households demonstrated considerable adaptability, the study found that many coping mechanisms remained largely reactive and insufficient to address long-term vulnerability. Dependence on humanitarian assistance, reduction of food consumption, and the sale of productive assets were commonly reported, indicating limited adaptive capacity among affected households. These findings support arguments that resilience cannot be achieved through household-level strategies alone but requires sustained institutional support, disaster risk reduction initiatives, and investments in livelihood recovery (Chatiza, 2019; Nhamo, Dube and Maviza, 2026).

The findings highlight the need for more integrated approaches to disaster risk reduction, displacement management, and livelihood restoration in flood-prone areas. While relocation reduced immediate exposure to flood hazards, participants reported persistent challenges related to food security, service provision, and livelihood recovery. This suggests that successful resettlement should extend beyond the physical relocation of households to include the provision of productive land, reliable water sources, healthcare facilities, educational infrastructure, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. The study therefore reinforces calls for people-centred and context-specific approaches to climate adaptation and displacement governance in Zimbabwe. Strengthening community resilience will require greater collaboration between government institutions, humanitarian organisations, traditional leaders, and affected communities to address both the immediate and long-term consequences of flood-induced displacement. Such interventions are increasingly important as climate change continues to intensify flood risks and displacement pressures across vulnerable regions of the country (Affoh et al., 2022; Mutizwa, 2023; Ndlovua and Maviza, 2026).

Conclusion

This study examined the socio-economic impacts of flood-induced displacement on vulnerable communities in Tsholotsho District following Cyclone Dineo in 2017. The findings demonstrate that flood-induced displacement remains a significant challenge in Tsholotsho, driven by recurrent flooding, geographical exposure, and increasing climate variability. The study established that displacement is not merely a physical relocation process but a complex socio-economic phenomenon that reshapes livelihoods, access to resources, and community well-being.

The findings revealed that displacement had far-reaching consequences for affected households, including loss of agricultural land, reduced agricultural productivity, food insecurity, disruptions to education and healthcare services, inadequate housing, and limited access to water and sanitation facilities. These impacts were particularly pronounced among vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, and low-income households, whose adaptive capacity was constrained by poverty and limited livelihood opportunities. The study further found that while resettlement reduced immediate exposure to flood hazards, it often introduced new challenges associated with livelihood restoration, access to productive resources, and service provision.

The research also highlighted the resilience of affected communities through the adoption of various coping and adaptation strategies, including livelihood diversification, reliance on social networks, cultivation of former agricultural fields, and the use of indigenous knowledge systems. However, these strategies were largely insufficient to address the long-term socio-economic vulnerabilities associated with displacement. The continued dependence on humanitarian assistance and informal coping mechanisms underscores the need for more sustainable and comprehensive interventions. Overall, the study concludes that effective responses to flood-induced displacement requires approaches that go beyond emergency relief and physical relocation. Building resilience among displaced populations necessitates integrated strategies that simultaneously address disaster risk reduction, livelihood recovery, social protection, and access to essential services.

Recommendations

The findings of this study highlight the need for integrated and long-term interventions to address the socio-economic challenges associated with flood-induced displacement in Tsholotsho District. Strengthening disaster risk reduction and preparedness mechanisms should be prioritised through the enhancement of community-based early warning systems that combine scientific forecasting with indigenous knowledge. Such approaches can improve community preparedness and reduce the adverse impacts of future flood events. The study further recommends that resettlement programmes adopt a people-centred approach that extends beyond the physical relocation of households. Government agencies and development partners should ensure that resettlement sites are equipped with adequate infrastructure and essential services, including schools, healthcare facilities, reliable water supply systems, roads, and market facilities. Access to productive agricultural land should also be prioritised to enable displaced households to restore their livelihoods and improve household food security.

Given the significant livelihood disruptions experienced by displaced communities, there is a need for targeted livelihood restoration programmes. Support initiatives should focus on climate-smart agriculture, provision of agricultural inputs, irrigation development, livestock restocking, and the promotion of small-scale enterprises to diversify income sources and strengthen household resilience. Such interventions would reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance while promoting sustainable economic recovery. The findings also underscore the importance of

strengthening social protection mechanisms for vulnerable groups disproportionately affected by displacement, including women, children, older persons, and low-income households. Targeted interventions such as food assistance, cash transfer programmes, educational support, and healthcare subsidies can help reduce vulnerability during the recovery and resettlement process.

Furthermore, investment in climate-resilient infrastructure is essential to reduce future disaster risks. This includes the construction of flood-resistant housing, improved drainage systems, water harvesting facilities, and resilient public infrastructure capable of withstanding extreme weather events. Strengthening collaboration among government institutions, traditional leaders, humanitarian organisations, civil society actors, and local communities is equally important to ensure coordinated and sustainable responses to displacement and recovery challenges.

Finally, future research should explore the long-term socio-economic outcomes of resettlement among displaced populations and assess the effectiveness of existing adaptation and resilience-building interventions. Comparative studies across different flood-prone districts in Zimbabwe would also provide valuable insights into context-specific drivers of vulnerability and resilience, thereby informing more effective disaster risk reduction and displacement management policies.

Declaration of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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