



## **Disaster Communication and Institutional Responsibility in Nigeria: A Systematic Review of Preparedness and Response Strategies in Flood and Conflict Contexts**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Effective disaster communication is crucial for enhancing preparedness and response in complex risk situations. In Nigeria, various organisations, including the National Emergency Management Agency and State Emergency Management Agencies, are responsible for coordinating risk communication in various crisis situations, particularly those related to floods and conflicts.

**Objective:** This study analyses disaster communication and institutional accountability in Nigeria by comparing preparedness and response tactics in flood and conflict scenarios.

**Method:** The study employs a systematic review process utilising secondary data from peer-reviewed articles, policy documents, and reports obtained through Scopus and Google Scholar. The study concentrates on articles from 2010 to 2025, utilising content analysis to ensure comparability across various disaster scenarios. Initially, 304 publications were discovered, and following screening, 254 pertinent to disaster communication, institutional responsibilities, and flood and conflict contexts were analysed.

**Result:** The results indicate that communication during flood situations is predominantly organised and anticipatory, focusing on early warnings and public awareness, but communication in conflict-related disasters is more reactive and hindered by insecurity, restricted access, and informational obstacles. Divergences in institutional capability and coordination additionally affect the efficacy of communication within these contexts.

**Conclusion:** The study suggests that disaster communication in Nigeria is inadequately tailored to the distinct requirements of flood and conflict scenarios, thereby hindering institutional efficacy in disaster preparedness and response.

**Unique Contribution:** This study offers a comparative analysis of catastrophe communication by synthesising flood and war situations, thereby enhancing the contextual understanding of institutional communication practices in Nigeria.

**Key Recommendation:** The study advocates for the implementation of context-specific and adaptable communication strategies, enhanced institutional coordination, and augmented capability for successful catastrophe communication across various risk situations.

**Keywords:** Disaster Communication, Institutional Responsibility, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response, and Flood and Conflict Disasters



## INTRODUCTION

The significance of effective communication within the realm of disaster management is paramount, particularly in regions susceptible to floods and conflict disasters across Nigeria. Flood catastrophes and conflict-related crises continue to be the most enduring hazards nationwide (Asaju & Kwakano, 2025). Flooding frequently transpires in various regions, especially in coastal and riverine states like Bayelsa and Anambra, along with other areas of the country, typically instigated by intense precipitation, inadequate drainage systems, river surges, and discharges from upstream reservoirs (Aiyewunmi, 2023; Ade, 2022). These occurrences lead to extensive displacement, infrastructural devastation, and considerable economic losses.

Likewise, conflict-induced disasters are not confined to a certain area but are prevalent throughout Nigeria. Insurgency has been most evident in North-Eastern Nigeria; however, other manifestations of violent conflict, such as communal clashes, disease outbreaks, banditry, and farmer-herder disputes, are prevalent in states including Benue, Plateau, Zamfara, and certain regions of Southern Nigeria (Asaju & Kwakano, 2025; Ojo et al., 2023). These conflicts have produced intricate humanitarian crises marked by displacement, instability, and interruption of socio-economic activities.

The efficacy of responses to these disasters is largely contingent upon the ability of institutions to convey risk, coordinate response initiatives, and deliver prompt and precise information to impacted communities (Okunola, 2025; Odoemelam et al., 2013; Bang & Fanama et al., 2024; Akande et al., 2023). Communication strategies vary across catastrophe contexts, influencing preparedness and timely responses to ongoing disasters (Aruku et al., 2025; Nwafor et al., 2022). Flood-related communication is predominantly proactive, depending on early warning systems and public awareness initiatives to educate communities prior to possible disasters (Ben-Enukora et al., 2025). Conversely, communication in conflict environments is frequently adaptable and responsive, influenced by unstable security conditions, limited access, and the necessity to address misinformation and public ambiguity (Nasidi et al., 2025; Akande et al., 2023).

Disaster communication has become a crucial element of global disaster risk reduction efforts. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) highlights the importance of effective communication in reducing vulnerability and building resilience in areas affected by disasters (UNDRR, 2021). The ratification of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) by UN member states underscores the necessity of enhanced communication networks in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery endeavors (UNDRR, 2021). Consequently, this underscores the critical role of knowledge in building resilience and empowering communities to manage the consequences of disasters effectively. Furthermore, Africa's growing vulnerability to a variety of disasters has highlighted the importance of effective disaster communication strategies and strong institutions directly or indirectly responsible for disaster management, as well as the capacity to respond to the consequences of hazardous events (Ziga-Abortta & Kruse, 2023). Sub-Saharan Africa frequently experiences natural hazards like droughts, floods, and disease outbreaks, along with human-made disasters



such as armed conflicts and political instability (Bello et al., 2025; Nsude & Nwafor 2016; Adedeji, 2020).

Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, faces significant challenges in disaster management and communication, made worse by its growing population and inadequate infrastructure (Adedeji, 2020). The country has experienced many disasters, including floods, droughts, and health crises like Ebola, along with ongoing conflict in the northeast (Ali & Bello, 2022). Despite efforts to create national disaster management systems that include communication strategies, Nigeria still struggles with timely information sharing and coordination among different groups, particularly for vulnerable populations (Nwosu & Ibe, 2021; Adeyemi, 2023).

Institutional frameworks are fundamental to disaster governance within Nigeria, especially concerning the coordination of preparedness and emergency response across diverse administrative tiers. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), founded in 1999, functions as the principal coordinating entity for national disaster management (Onyekwelu, 2024), with State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) responsible for implementing state-level programs. Furthermore, the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction provides policy guidance and strategic coordination for humanitarian efforts. The effectiveness of these institutions is essential for improving disaster preparedness, communication, and response procedures (Mondal & Basu, 2023).

Despite the rising amount of research on disaster communication and institutional response, most studies in Nigeria have focused on discrete disaster contexts, such as flood risk management or conflict-related emergencies. While such studies provide valuable insights into communication practices and institutional coordination, they do not provide a comparative picture of how disaster communication tactics and institutional duties differ between types of catastrophes. Considering that flood disasters are relatively predictable and allow for anticipatory communication for better preparedness and early intervention in Nigeria (Olawuyi et al., 2025), whereas conflict-related emergencies are complex and frequently unpredictable due to political tensions, ethnic or religious divisions (Okonkwo & Akanji, 2025), The absence of comparative analysis leads to a significant shortcoming in understanding how disaster communication systems adapt to diverse risk environments, particularly as communication effectiveness is shaped by the nature of hazards and contextual uncertainties (Aruku et al., 2025; Iwuchukwu-Udeagha 2025; Oramah et al., 2025), as well as the specific institutional and socio-environmental conditions associated with disasters (Mbanefo et al., 2025).

This lack of comparative analysis impedes the creation of context-specific communication frameworks and reduces institutions' ability to construct adaptive preparedness and response plans for numerous crisis scenarios (Okoro & Nwafor 2015; Iwuchukwu-Udeagha, 2025). As a result, there is a need for a thorough review of existing information on disaster communication and institutional accountability in both flood and conflict contexts. This study aims to thoroughly



analyse disaster communication and institutional responsibility in Nigeria by conducting comparative analysis of preparedness and response practices in flood and conflict scenarios.

## CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

The term "disaster" encompasses both natural and human-made events, and its definition varies depending on the country, organization, or academic field (Yamori & Goltz, 2021). Originating from the Latin "dis-astrum," the word historically denoted an occurrence influenced by adverse celestial forces, once perceived as beyond human influence (Garcia, 2022). Flooding continues to be one of the most prolific natural hazards in Nigeria, affecting a wide range of geographical regions, including coastal, river-adjacent, and inland regions such as Bayelsa State, Anambra State, and Borno State. Scholarly research underscores the fact that flood disasters are comparatively predictable as a result of the availability of hydrological monitoring systems, seasonal rainfall patterns, and meteorological data (Umar & Grey, 2023). In Nigeria, the Disasters and Safety Act characterize a disaster as an event that jeopardizes the lives and assets of the populace (Ejemeyovwi et al., 2022; Mashi, 2019). Natural disasters, including earthquakes and droughts, pose significant health risks and socioeconomic challenges. Their impact depends on factors like the disaster's size, strength, and the vulnerability of the affected area (IFRC, 2021; Teh & Khan, 2021).

Conflict-related disasters in Nigeria produce a communication environment characterised by uncertainty, insecurity, and limited access to affected populations. While insurgency is most prevalent in northeastern Nigeria, hostilities also occur in Benue, Plateau, and Zamfara states. Communication in such contexts tends to be reactive, focused on emergency coordination and safety information, because unstable conditions frequently interrupt traditional communication channels (Johnson, 2023)

Conversely, disasters instigated by human agency originate from human conduct, frequently resulting from systemic deficiencies or negligence, and manifesting in incidents such as industrial accidents and environmental harm (Smith et al., 2023). The mitigation of these events depends on the rigorous application of policies and the execution of effective risk management protocols (Seo, 2019). Disaster communication is essential to risk management, with the objective of providing the public and pertinent stakeholders with timely and accurate information (Akande et al., 2023). Furthermore, the advancement of technology, especially social media, has transformed disaster communication, facilitating swifter information dissemination and enhanced preparedness (Oladele, 2024). However, the risk of disinformation and trust difficulties remains a concern (Ologunbe & Taiwo, 2025; Inobemhe et al., 2024).

Advanced technologies, including 3D wireless networks, enhance disaster communication by enabling the transmission of vital information even when conventional infrastructure is compromised (Oladele, 2024). Conversely, unequal access to these technologies can intensify the vulnerabilities experienced by marginalised groups (Ogwuegbu & Ajobiwe, 2025). To address these disparities, inclusive communication strategies must account for socioeconomic and



linguistic limitations (Nweze et al., 2023). Moreover, interpersonal communication is crucial for strengthening community resilience and psychological well-being in the aftermath of disasters (Atar & Hamid, 2023). Effective disaster management in Nigeria necessitates collaboration among various organizations, particularly the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and local governments (Mondal & Basu, 2023). NEMA's transition from a reactive to a proactive stance is critical for enhancing catastrophe preparedness and response through improved communication (Seddiky et al., 2022). The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the National Orientation Agency (NOA) play roles in policy oversight and community engagement, respectively. Overall, integrated institutional structures and timely communication are critical to efficient disaster management in Nigeria.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Disaster management in Nigeria is framed within broader concepts of risk governance, crisis communication, and integrated emergency management systems, which are essential for effective disaster preparedness. This perspective highlights that disaster management extends beyond immediate response to encompass a structured governance system that anticipates, prepares for, responds to, and recovers from disasters (Jalonen & Uusikylä, 2024). The primary goal is to predict, avert, or mitigate the adverse effects of both natural and human-made disasters while managing emergency responses efficiently (Akinlosotu, 2026). Risk governance theory posits that formal institutions are crucial in addressing uncertainties by establishing regulatory frameworks, fostering inter-agency communication, and organizing information flows. In Nigeria, this institutionalisation was solidified with the establishment of NEMA under the National Emergency Management Act of 1999, which marked a shift from fragmented and reactive emergency responses to a more coordinated approach (Ejemeyovwi et al., 2022).

NEMA has addressed challenges associated with previous ad hoc responses that relied heavily on presidential directives and military interventions. Its establishment introduced a centralised authority responsible for developing national disaster management policies, coordinating emergency responses, and collaborating with international partners for resource mobilization (Gambo et al., 2024). NEMA's National Disaster Response Plan institutionalised structured preparedness methods, including contingency planning and hazard mapping (Onyekwelu, 2024; Mashi et al., 2019; Mbaeze & Eneasato, 2019).

Onyekwelu (2024) notes that NEMA serves as the principal coordinating body within Nigeria's disaster management framework, encompassing duties from emergency response to risk assessment and public education. NEMA operates through zonal offices, enhancing regional coordination and response times while facilitating proactive measures to mitigate disaster impacts. Its collaboration with meteorological agencies for climate predictions and flood warnings underscores its proactive stance in disaster preparedness (Bello et al., 2025).

At the subnational level, State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA) implement localised preparedness and response initiatives, mobilizing local resources and communicating effectively based on cultural contexts (World Health Organisation, 2025; Seeger et al., 2021). The proliferation of SEMA offices across Nigeria's states reflects decentralised governance, allowing



local authorities to tailor national frameworks to their specific realities (Onyekwelu, 2024). Okunola (2025) argues that decentralisation in disaster management enables local authorities to leverage contextual knowledge of community vulnerabilities, fostering active participation from diverse stakeholders and enhancing bottom-up decision-making.

However, disparities in the capacities of SEMA offices impact disaster management efficacy. Variations in financial resources, administrative commitment, technical skills, and infrastructure affect operational preparedness (Lee & Chen, 2021). Some states with established emergency coordination centres and trained response units demonstrate organised preparedness and timely responses, while others face structural constraints that hinder performance (Akinlosotu, 2026). These discrepancies highlight the importance of institutional capacity in disaster risk governance and its influence on overall resilience (Anago, 2024).

The distribution of responsibilities between federal and state agencies emphasizes the need for vertical coordination in Nigeria's emergency governance structure. Effective disaster preparedness and response rely on clearly defined institutional linkages that connect federal policies with state-level operations (Tangban et al., 2025). NEMA provides strategic guidance and national coordination, while SEMA translates these directives into localised strategies (Okunola, 2025). This intergovernmental dynamic exemplifies multi-level governance, where collaboration between national and subnational entities is vital for addressing complex emergency scenarios (Godwins et al., 2024).

Communication governance is a critical aspect of institutional responsibility in disaster management, serving as a linchpin for coordinating emergency operations and guiding public decision-making (Akande et al., 2023). Disaster communication involves structured processes for disseminating risk information, offering guidance, and facilitating operational responses (Nurjanah et al., 2025). Federal and state institutions are tasked with maintaining effective communication systems to ensure accurate, timely, and reliable information dissemination throughout all disaster phases (Abbas & Miller, 2025).

Structured information flows connecting national institutions, state authorities, local communities, and the media enhance communication governance (Yamah & Folorunsho, 2026; Dukiya & Oghenah, 2021). These networks facilitate the distribution of early warning alerts and emergency instructions, promoting institutional coherence and reducing conflicting public messages. Integrated communication mechanisms, such as joint simulation exercises and standardised protocols, improve public trust and enhance disaster response efficiency (Garba, 2024; Bonfanti et al., 2023). Overall, effective communication governance is essential for improving public preparedness and the capacity of communities to respond to hazards.

Nigeria's disaster management governance is shaped by ministerial leadership, particularly through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, which plays a crucial role in regulatory supervision, policy coordination, and institutional alignment for disaster management initiatives (Ofuegbe & Santas, 2026). The Ministry's responsibilities extend beyond administration; it strategically influences national development plans and integrates disaster risk reduction into broader socioeconomic goals, fostering long-term preparedness



strategies that prioritize prevention and resilience (Okunola, 2025; Orimoogunje & Aniramu, 2025). This ministerial oversight enhances institutional accountability within the national disaster management framework (Omoyemi & Okereka, 2025).

Collaboration with public awareness institutions is vital for shaping societal perceptions and fostering social cohesion during emergencies (Elmond, 2025; Akande et al., 2023). The National Orientation Agency supports disaster communication through public awareness campaigns and community engagement, promoting proactive disaster preparedness behaviours (Ezugwu & Okpoko, 2025; Ndubuisi et al., 2025). Partnerships with media and civil society enhance the dissemination of risk information, fostering mutual understanding and resilience in conflict-prone areas (Ben-Enukora et al., 2025; Elmond, 2025; Akande et al., 2023).

Technological advancements have significantly enhanced disaster management capabilities. Communication technologies, including mobile networks and satellite communications, support emergency operations, and coordination (Oladele, 2024; Uyimleshi, 2023). Digital tools like early-warning systems and geographic information systems (GIS) enable organizations to monitor hazards and share warnings effectively (Adebayo, 2025). When combined with traditional methods, these technologies improve the reach of disaster communication strategies (Alobele, 2023).

Effective disaster communication relies on more than technology; it requires institutional coordination and strategic information management. Emergency operations centres serve as coordination hubs, facilitating real-time communication among responders and organizations, which enhances resource allocation and decision-making (Oladele, 2024). This centralised approach helps deliver unified messages to the public, reducing misinformation and improving compliance with emergency directives.

However, structural challenges such as overlapping mandates and administrative delays can hinder communication and coordination efficiency. Addressing these issues necessitates standardised communication protocols, improved data-sharing mechanisms, and ongoing training for disaster management personnel (Adebayo, 2025; Oladele, 2024). Strengthening these institutional aspects is crucial for developing a coherent disaster governance system capable of effectively responding to complex emergencies.

In summary, Nigeria's disaster management governance is characterised by the interplay of operational agencies, ministerial oversight, and public communication institutions. Responsibilities extend beyond coordination to include communication governance and strategic policy alignment. Continuous enhancement of institutional capacity, communication infrastructure, and coordination mechanisms is essential for improving preparedness and supporting long-term disaster risk reduction (Okunola, 2025; Ndubuisi et al., 2025).



## **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

Risk Governance Theory was established in 2005 by the International Risk Governance Council (IRGC), led by Ortwin Renn, who introduced the IRGC Risk Governance Framework as a comprehensive method for addressing intricate societal hazards. The approach was developed to tackle increasing global hazards marked by ambiguity, complexity, and substantial societal impacts. It underscores systematic procedures like risk identification, risk assessment, risk communication, and collaborative institutional decision-making. The framework emphasises the significance of collaboration among political institutions, scientific organisations, and civil society in efficiently managing risk to prevent or reduce damages on the victim of disaster (Okunola, 2025; Renn, 2008). Within disaster management studies, Risk Governance Theory highlights the importance of organised institutional frameworks capable of identifying hazards, disseminating early warnings, and coordinating preparedness strategies to impact the overall resilience of disaster management systems among multiple actors (Abbas & Miller, 2025; Anago, 2024). In Nigeria, the National Emergency Management Agency, and the State Emergency Management Agency function within this governance framework to perform risk assessments, implement public education initiatives, foster stakeholder collaboration, and improve the capacity of subnational agencies (Onyekwelu, 2024; Mashi et al., 2019; Mbaeze & Eneasato, 2019). These efforts aim to enhance disaster preparedness planning, coordinate emergency response operations, and promote inter-agency collaboration.

The theory suggests that effective risk governance requires transparent communication, clearly defined institutional responsibilities, and structured information flows among governmental agencies and communities to effectiveness manage disaster situation in Nigeria (Okunola, 2025; Okocha et al., 2024). When applied to disaster preparedness and response, the framework underscores the need for integrated communication systems and coordinated institutional action to strengthen resilience and minimise disaster impacts (Renn, 2008).

The Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) Theory was created by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2002. Barbara Reynolds was the major figure in the creation of this hypothesis. The theory's structure allows for successful communication before, during, and after a crisis. It emphasises the importance of providing consistent, accurate, and timely communications to aid individuals and communities in making informed decisions that may mitigate the impact of disasters (Reynolds & Seeger, 2005). According to Seeger et al. (2020) research, CERC is a mixture of crisis communication and risk communication. This is because CERC recognises that anticipating and responding are both required for effectively regulating community perceptions and behaviour during emergency circumstances.

The theory includes five stages of communication: pre-crisis, initial occurrence, maintenance, resolution, and evaluation. During the pre-crisis phase, communication professionals emphasise public education, trust-building, and readiness promotion. When the first event occurs, there is a move towards delivering specific and actionable information, despite the fact that there is still uncertainty. The resolution phase emphasises on establishing recovery methods and future risk



mitigation, whereas the maintenance phase is more concerned with giving continuing information and comfort. During the evaluation phase, the primary goal is to get relevant insights from the event to improve future communication efforts (Reynolds, 2011). At each stage, the goal is to ensure that the communication between authorities and the general public fosters confidence, credibility, and collaboration.

The CERC Theory's emphasis on trust and promptness, both of which are critical components of effective crisis communication, is one of its most notable qualities. According to Sellnow and Seeger (2021) and Hansson et al. (2020), the paradigm accepts that when faced with ambiguity, people seek guidance from reliable sources. Furthermore, it acknowledges that the method in which information is conveyed can influence the public's reaction and resilience. The theory provides practical advice for communication professionals, such as the most efficient strategies to ensure communication clarity, empathy, and agency coordination.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study employs a systematic review methodology to analyse disaster communication and institutional accountability in Nigeria, concentrating on preparedness and responses in flood and conflict scenarios. Secondary data were obtained from peer-reviewed academic papers, institutional reports, and policy documents indexed in Scopus and Google Scholar through the use of pertinent keywords. A total of 304 publications were first discovered through database searches. After screening and assessing eligibility, 254 publications focusing on disaster communication, institutional roles, and settings of flood and conflict were selected and analysed for the study. Studies published from 2010 to 2025 that pertain to disaster communication and institutional functions were selected based on their relevance. The chosen papers underwent content analysis, facilitating the comparison of techniques for communication and institutional responsibilities in flood and conflict scenarios.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The review suggests that disaster communication during conflict-related disasters in Nigeria is predominantly reactive and influenced by security limitations stemming from an unsafe environment for disseminating information about the conflict, the potential exaggeration of the disaster, and challenges in reaching the affected populations (Abubakar et al., 2025). Current research indicates that communication in conflict zones is frequently disjointed and hindered by operational difficulties, including the necessity for military escorts, damaged telecommunications infrastructure, and inadequate internet connectivity (Wilson, 2025; Wilson, 2018). Additionally, there is a restricted institutional presence, as organisations fail to adequately connect with or involve the impacted population (Aruku et al., 2025; Akande et al., 2023). In these situations, communication activities primarily emphasise emergency coordination, the broadcast of safety information, and humanitarian reaction, rather than proactive readiness. This corresponds with previous studies indicating that conflict situations hinder formal communication channels and diminish the efficacy of reactive centralised information systems in Nigeria (Nasidi et al., 2025; Okonkwo & Akanji, 2025).



Conversely, communication during flood-related disasters is more systematic and anticipatory, depending on the distribution of early warnings, public awareness initiatives to refine public perception and comprehension for behavioural responses, and pre-disaster preparedness strategies to improve precautionary measures and protocols (Ben-Enukora et al., 2025; Ezugwu & Okpoko, 2025; Bang & Fanama, 2024). Research on flood risk management in Nigeria has consistently demonstrated that access to meteorological forecasts and seasonal predictions allows institutions to conduct anticipatory communication (Olawuyi et al., 2025; Bang & Fanama, 2024; Oke et al., 2023). Nonetheless, despite these systematic methods, researchers observe that the efficacy of flood communication is frequently constrained by factors such as insufficient message localisation, inadequate community involvement, and diminished public trust (Ezugwu & Okpoko, 2025; Ndubuisi et al., 2025). This indicates that although flood communication gains from prediction, its efficacy is contingent upon the adaptation of information to local situations.

The distinctions noted between flood and conflict communication align with the tenets of Risk Governance Theory, which asserts that risk management strategies alter based on the characteristics and intricacy of hazards (Aven & Renn, 2019; Renn, 2008). Prior research substantiates this viewpoint by illustrating those predictable risks, like flooding, facilitate organised communication and planning, while complex and uncertain risks, such as armed conflict, necessitate adaptive and flexible communication strategies (Ben-Enukora et al., 2025; Olawuyi et al., 2025; Bang & Fanama, 2024). The results of this study thus support the assertion that disaster communication systems must be customised to particular risk situations to achieve efficacy.

The findings correspond with the Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) framework, which differentiates various phases of communication in disaster management (Ajayi & Aloba, 2025; Reynolds & Seeger, 2005). Empirical research indicates that successful communication during the pre-crisis phase typical of flood scenarios emphasises risk knowledge, preparedness, and early warning (Ndubuisi et al., 2025; Anago, 2024). Conversely, communication in crisis situations typical of conflict contexts is marked by swift information transmission to the impacted population, management of uncertainty, and public reassurance aimed at influencing conduct (Aruku et al., 2025; Nasidi et al., 2025). This study identifies issues such as misinformation, restricted access, and inconsistent messaging in conflict situations, which have been extensively documented in crisis communication literature (Abubakar et al., 2025; Wilson, 2025).

In both crisis scenarios, entities like the National Emergency Management Agency and State Emergency Management Agencies are pivotal in orchestrating communication and response efforts. The review underscores discrepancies in institutional efficacy, especially at the subnational tier. Prior research attributes these discrepancies to variances in resource allocation, technical capability, and political commitment among states (Okunola, 2025; Oladele, 2024). Moreover, studies indicate that inadequate coordination mechanisms and overlapping institutional mandates frequently result in communication inconsistencies and redundant efforts (Ofuegbe & Santas, 2026).



The findings indicate that disaster communication in Nigeria is significantly context-dependent, shaped by hazard features and institutional capabilities. This aligns with extensive research highlighting the necessity for cohesive and flexible communication frameworks capable of addressing both foreseeable and intricate crisis situations (Adebayo, 2025; Akande et al., 2023). The lack of such frameworks, as noted in this study, persists in hindering the efficacy of disaster planning and response initiatives in Nigeria.

## **CONCLUSION**

This study concludes that disaster communication in Nigeria is inadequately tailored to the diverse requirements of various crisis scenarios, thereby hindering the efficacy of institutional responses. This limitation illustrates the inadequacy of current communication strategies to address the distinctions between predictable hazards, like flooding, and intricate emergencies, such as conflict-related disasters, as underscored by risk governance perspectives that emphasize the context-specific nature of risk management.

The study indicates that institutional performance in disaster communication relies not only on formal structures but also on the ability of institutions to develop and execute context-sensitive communication strategies. This conforms to the principles of crisis and emergency risk communication, which emphasize the necessity for communication strategies that adequately address various phases and circumstances of disaster scenarios. In the absence of such adaptability, communication becomes inconsistent, less credible, and ineffective in facilitating preparedness and response initiatives.

The analysis indicates that variations in institutional ability and coordination persistently hinder the coherence of catastrophe communication across different governance levels. This indicates that in the absence of a cohesive and flexible communication architecture, institutional initiatives for disaster planning and response will be limited.

The study indicates that enhancing disaster communication in Nigeria necessitates a fundamental transition to adaptable, context-aware strategies that connect institutional practices with the complexities of varied risk settings and changing catastrophe conditions.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

This study advocates for the reorganisation of disaster communication in Nigeria to align with the context-specific characteristics of various disaster kinds. Institutions must to abandon standardised communication methods and implement tactics customised to the attributes of both foreseeable risks, like flooding, and intricate emergencies, such as war scenarios. This will improve the pertinence and efficacy of communication in various risk contexts.

Moreover, disaster management organisations, specifically the National Emergency Management Agency and State Emergency Management Agencies, ought to enhance their capabilities to execute adaptive communication frameworks that correspond with various stages of disaster management. This entails strengthening early warning and preparedness communication regarding flood threats, while augmenting quick response and crisis communication systems in conflict-affected regions.



Moreover, it is imperative to enhance institutional coordination and guarantee uniformity in information distribution across federal and subnational tiers. Implementing standardised communication protocols and linked information-sharing systems will diminish discrepancies, bolster message trustworthiness, and augment public trust in emergency scenarios.

Ultimately, ongoing investment in institutional capacity is crucial, especially regarding crisis communication training and the establishment of inclusive and accessible communication channels. Enhancing these capacities will augment institutions' capability to provide timely, accurate, and contextually relevant information, hence improving disaster preparedness, response efficacy, and overall resilience.

### **Ethical Clearance**

This investigation did not necessitate ethical approval, as it relied solely on secondary data that was acquired from publicly accessible sources, such as institutional reports, policy documents, and peer-reviewed journal articles.

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### **Conflict of Interest**

The author declares that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

### **Authors' Contributions**

John Vendaga conceived and designed the study. John Vendaga conducted the literature search and data collection. John Vendaga performed the analysis and interpretation of the data and drafted the manuscript. The author has reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript and takes responsibility for its content.

### **Data Availability Statement**

The data supporting the findings of this study are derived from publicly available sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles and institutional publications. These sources are properly cited within the manuscript. Additional details are available from the author upon reasonable request.

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