

POVERTY DYNAMICS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AMIDST COMPLEX CRISES IN NIGERIA:

FINDINGS FROM THE BASIC RESEARCH

Prepared and Presented by development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC)
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Organizations: development Research & Projects Centre (dRPC), Chronic Poverty Advisory
Network (CPAN)/Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

Supported by: the FCDO Better Assistance in Crises Research (BASIC) and Data and
Evidence to End Extreme Poverty (DEEP)



The Better Assistance in Crisis (BASIC) Project, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network (CPAN)

BASIC is a research initiative that aims to understand poverty dynamics in Nigeria

Focus on the effects of & responses to complex crises, such as armed conflict, displacement, and economic shocks

OBJECTIVES:

1.To understand the relationship between complex crises (namely armed conflict, displacement, climate shocks and stressors, and COVID-19), poverty dynamics and social assistance in Nigeria

2.To engage in a dialogue with policy makers and program designers at federal and state levels (in selected states), and with development partners on priority measures for poverty reduction (with a focus but not limited to social assistance) and on key aspects of implementation



KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE BASIC CPAN STUDY

Poverty dynamics & livelihoods amidst complex crises

1. Why is **chronic poverty and multi-dimensional deprivation** so widespread, especially in the north of Nigeria?
2. How does **conflict, drought, and floods** affect livelihood pathways out of poverty?
3. What are the urban-rural variations in livelihood pathways, before and during **COVID-19**? How have these been affected by conflict, displacement and climate change?
4. What measures are governments in a position to take to **reduce poverty**?

Social assistance in response to protracted crises

1. What role do **state and federal governments** and other agencies play in a multi-hazard context?
2. Why and how are specific individuals or households or communities **targeted**?
3. What are **peoples' perceptions** of adequacy, reliability, fairness and appropriateness of different modalities?
4. What other **key interventions** are needed to improve poverty dynamics in crisis-affected regions and how can they best be delivered?

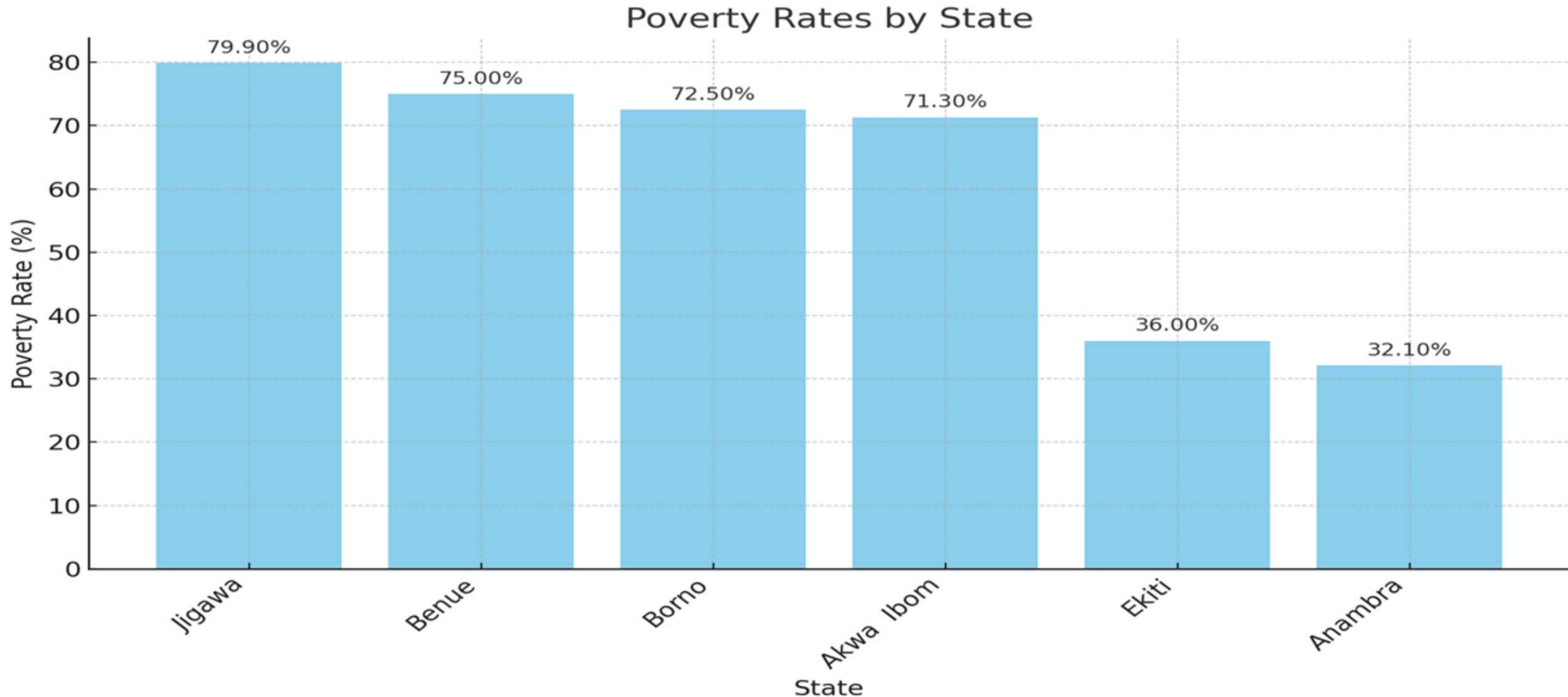
Knowledge products & outputs to date

- 6 Research Reports of the primary data collection on poverty drivers, dynamics, escapes & access to social assistance
- 1 Political Economy Analysis (PEA) of social assistance to mitigate the poverty impact of Fiscal and monetary policy shocks in Nigeria

Knowledge products of the BASIC Research

No.	KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS	FORUM VENUE PRESENTED
1	Poverty dynamics and social protection amidst complex crises in Nigeria	CORN West African Conference on Social Protection and Economic Uncertainties in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Societies held in Abuja, Nigeria on the 8 & 9 November 2023
2	Poverty dynamics and social assistance amidst intersecting crises in Nigeria. September 2024	Webinar titled ‘Poverty, crises and social assistance in Nigeria: Mixed methods insights and policy directions’ held on the September 3, 2024 between 12:00 pm – 13:00 pm, ‘Online on Zoom. Organised by Institute of Development Studies (IDS).
3	Poverty dynamics and social protection amidst complex crises in Nigeria. (Preliminary findings)	Panel on “Social Safety Nets for the Vulnerable” Webinar - 24 th October 2023: This webinar was organized by the Nigeria Economic Summit Group in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
4	Poverty Dynamics and Social Protection Amidst Complex Crises in Nigeria: A Qualitative Approach	Roundtable on Statistics and M&E meeting held on the 14 th of March 2024 at the Central Bank of Nigeria.
5	Poverty Escapes in Nigeria: A North-South Differential Analysis of Life Histories in the BASIC (Better Assistance in Crises) Research. September 2024.	To be presented in December 2024
6	Poverty Dynamics and Social Assistance Amidst Complex Crises in Nigeria: A Mixed Methods Analysis – Preliminary Report on Selective Sampling of 15 Life Histories in 3 States. April 2024.	
7	Political Economy Analysis of social assistance	To be presented in November 2024

Poverty Dynamics & Escapes Qualitative Study – State Selection



CPAN/BASIC States with Highest and Lowest Poverty Rates and Social Assistance Interventions

Poverty Rate (%)		Social Assistance Interventions											
		N50,000, Presidential Conditional Grant Scheme (PCGS), July 2023 to August 2024 (%)			Grant of N185 billion to 36 states and FCT for the purchase of rice and other grains to be distributed as palliatives (August 2023)			Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES): July 2024 Third Reimbursement			Vulnerable Group Fund (FGF) and Social Assistance Fund (SAF) Coverage. As at November 2024		
State	%	State	Beneficiaries	%	State	Approved Fund	%	State	Fund	%	State	Fund	%
Jigawa	79.90%	Benue	23,366	3.70%	Jigawa	N5 billion	2.70%	Borno	N5.89 billion	1.34%	Ekiti	432,331	7.66%
Benue	75.00%	Akwa Ibom	23,236	3.68%	Benue	N5 billion	2.70%	Jigawa	N5.77 billion	1.32%	Borno	119,426	2.12%
Borno	72.50%	Jigawa	17,249	2.73%	Borno	N5 billion	2.70%	Ekiti	N5.51 billion	1.26%	Jigawa	109,720	1.95%
Akwa Ibom	71.30%	Borno	17,268	2.73%	Akwa Ibom	N5 billion	2.70%	Benue	N4.91 billion	1.12%	Benue	56,020	0.99%
Ekiti	36.00%	Ekiti	14,322	2.27%	Ekiti	N5 billion	2.70%	Akwa Ibom	N2.43 billion	0.55%	Anambra	52,265	0.93%
Anambra	32.10%	Anambra	12,122	1.92%	Anambra	N5 billion	2.70%	Anambra	No Reimbursement for July-2024		Akwa Ibom	12,824	0.23%
National		631,389			N185 billion			N438.37 billion for Third Reimbursement; N619.07 billion for the First, Second & Third Reimbursement			5,640,783		

Poverty Dynamics & Escapes Qualitative Study

RELIGION (ZONE)	STATE/JUSTIFICATION	RURAL SITE	URBAN SITE
North-West	Jigawa (High poverty, high social assistance)	Kaugama	Hadejia
North-East	Borno (Banditry attacks, conflicts, IDPs Camps)	Konduga LGA	Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) LGA
		Boarding School IDPs Camp, Madarari, Konduga LGA (IDPs Camp)	Fariya Outreach IDPs Camp, Jere LGA (IDPs Camp)
North-Central	Benue (Pastoral farmer conflicts)	Guma LGA	Makurdi LGA
South-West	Ekiti (Slightly lower than average poverty, low social assistance)	Moba LGA	Ikere Ekiti LGA
South-East	Anambra (Low poverty rate in region)	Mbaukwu_Awka South	Urum Awka North
South-South	Akwa Ibom (Relatively low poverty rate and average social assistance receipt)	Nsit Atai LGA	Uruan LGA

SUMMARY OF DATA COLLECTED TO DATE BY TOOLS, POPULATIONS AND LOCATIONS

Instrument and sample size

INSTRUMENT	INSTRUMENT ADMINISTERED BY RESIDENCE	INSTRUMENT ADMINISTERED BY GENDER
Life History Interviews	6 states (10 urban & 10 rural) per state = 120 LHs	6 states (10 females & 10 males per state) = 120 LHs
Gender Disaggregated FGD	6 states (1 urban and 1 rural per state) = 12 FGDs	6 states (1 female and 1 male per state) = 12 FGDs
Key Informant Interviews (Long-term community residents)	6 states (1 rural, and 1 urban) = 12 KIs	6 states (1 female and 1 male) = 12 KIs
Key Informant Interviews (IDPs Camps)	1 State (Borno) (1 rural, and 1 urban) = 8 KIs	1 State (Borno) (4 females, and 4 males) = 8 KIs

Sampling Locations

Two local governments were selected for this research, one rural and the other urban, across six states:

- **Northern Region:** Borno in the Northeast, Benue in the North Central, Jigawa in the Northwest,
- **Southern Region:** Akwa Ibom in the South-South, Anambra in the Southeast, Ekiti in the Southwest

Analysis Process Using Nvivo Software

NOTE: Only 120 Life Histories (Interviews) were subjected to Analysis to date:

The analysis was conducted using NVivo software, a qualitative data analysis tool that supports systematic coding, visualization, and thematic analysis. The following steps were used in the analysis:

- **1. Data Import and Preparation:**

- 120 life history transcripts from six Nigerian states were imported into NVivo for structured analysis.

- **2. Thematic Coding:**

- Initial codes were created based on research objectives, including crises, responses, social assistance, and socio-cultural norms.
 - Open coding allowed for additional themes to emerge, capturing detailed aspects of the data.

- **3. Focused Analysis on Gender, Location, and Region:**

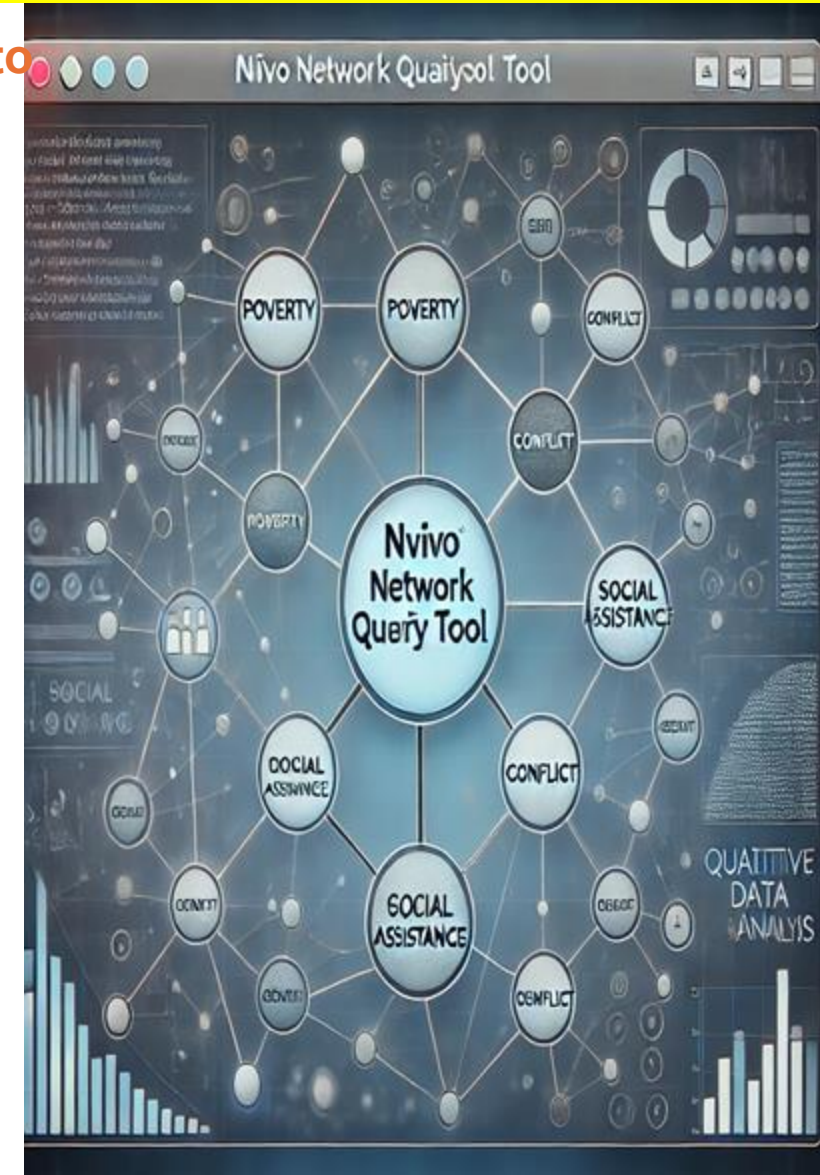
- Codes were refined to explore variations across gender, rural vs. urban locations, and North-South regions.

- **4. Visualization and Query Functions:**

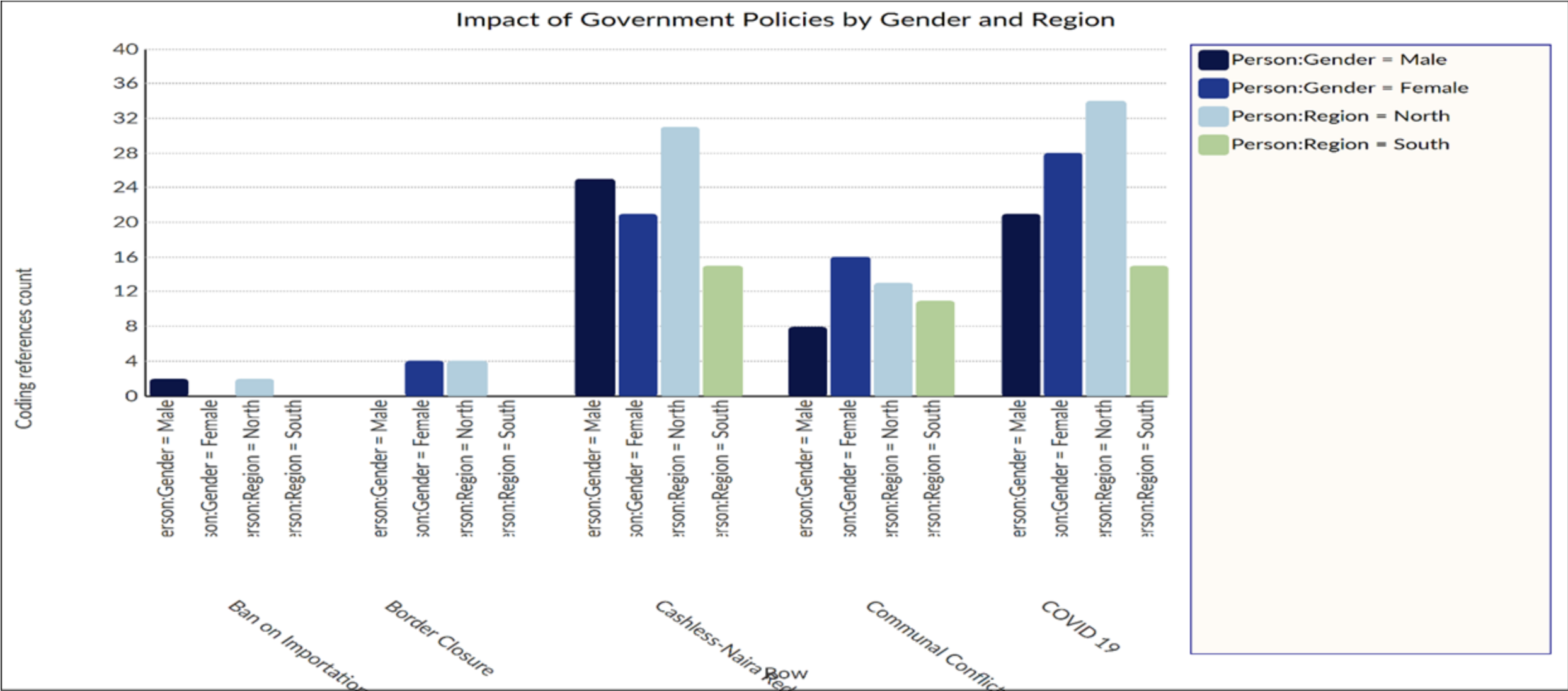
- NVivo's chart, query, and word cloud functions helped to explore relationships and visualize key themes, including frequency of terms related to crises and assistance.

- **5. Synthesis and Interpretation:**

- Thematic patterns were analyzed to draw insights into poverty dynamics, coping strategies, and the role of social assistance across different demographics.



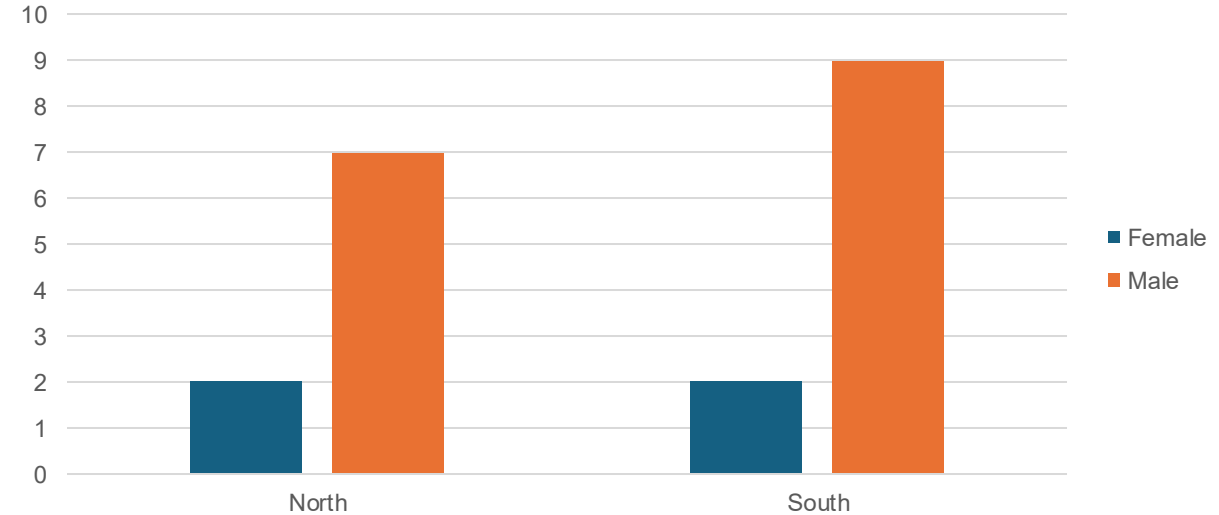
Key Findings: Exogenous Drivers of Poverty 1 - Government Policies



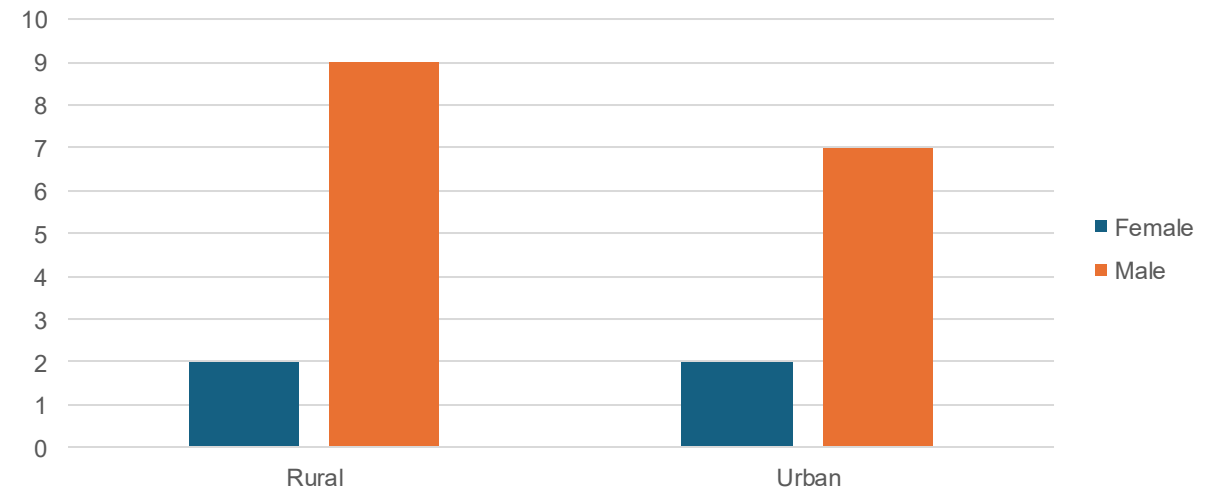
Key Findings: Exogenous Drivers of Poverty 2 – Climate Shocks

- **Climatic shocks**, such as droughts and floods, have different impacts across northern and southern regions, as well as between genders and rural-urban areas. (54 of 120 participants).
- **North-South Differential:** Northern regions faced more drought and desertification, while southern regions were more affected by floods, both disrupting agricultural livelihoods.
- **Gender Differential:** Women faced additional challenges in coping with climatic shocks due to limited access to resources and their caregiving roles.
- **Rural-Urban Differential:** Rural households suffered directly from agricultural losses, while urban households faced increased food prices due to disruptions in rural farming.
- **Quotes:**
 - 'Floods destroyed my entire rice farm. Since then, I haven't recovered.' (Benue, Male, Rural/North)
 - 'This year, there was no rain when we planted maize. The crops failed, and we ended up taking food on credit to survive.' (Ekiti, Female, Rural/South)

Extreme Weather Events by Region and Gender



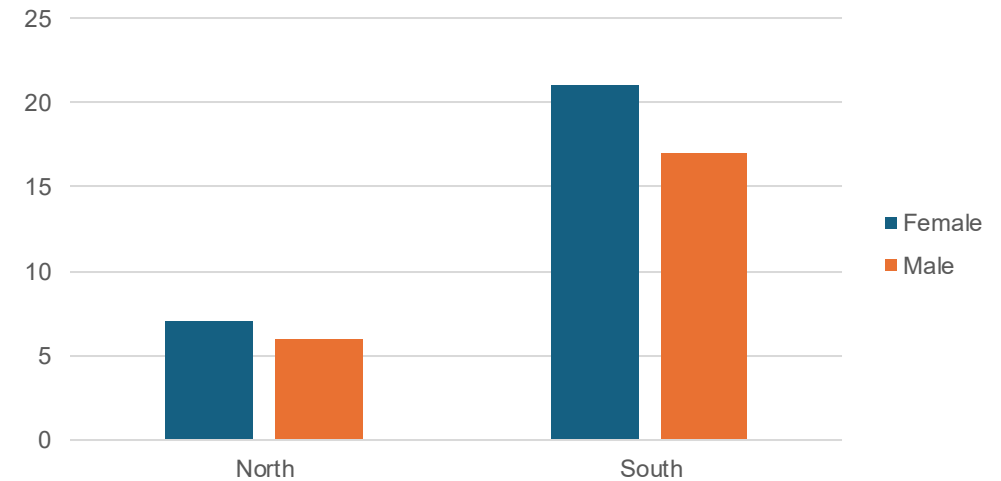
Extreme Weather Events by location and gender



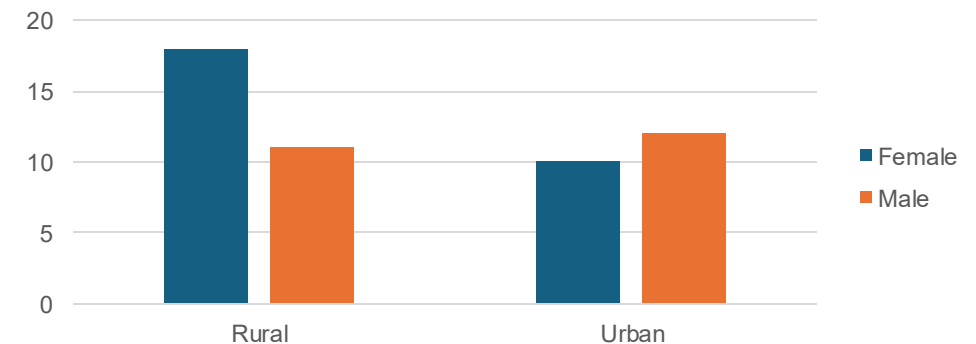
Key Findings - Endogenous drivers of poverty 1: Out-of-Pocket Health Expenditure (Gender, Geography, Location)

- **Out-of-pocket health expenditure** is a major driver of poverty, with significant north-south, gender, and rural-urban differences. (*106 of 120 participants stated this*).
- **North-South Differential:** Households in the southern region reported more health-related financial burdens due to better access to healthcare facilities, which increased their exposure to healthcare costs. Majority in the north lacks access to health care.
- **Gender Differential:** Women were disproportionately affected due to caregiving responsibilities, which limit their ability to engage in income-generating activities.
- **Rural-Urban Differential:** Rural households face greater challenges accessing healthcare services, leading to higher costs for transportation and delays in seeking treatment.
- **Quotes:**
 - *'In 2019, I sold one of my farmlands to cover the cost of surgery... Now, I have no land left to farm.'* (Borno, Male, Rural/North)
 - *'I had to stop working for months to care for my wife after her two caesarean sections. This worsened our economic situation.'* (Akwa Ibom, Female, Urban/South)

Out-of Pocket Health Expenditure by Gender & Region



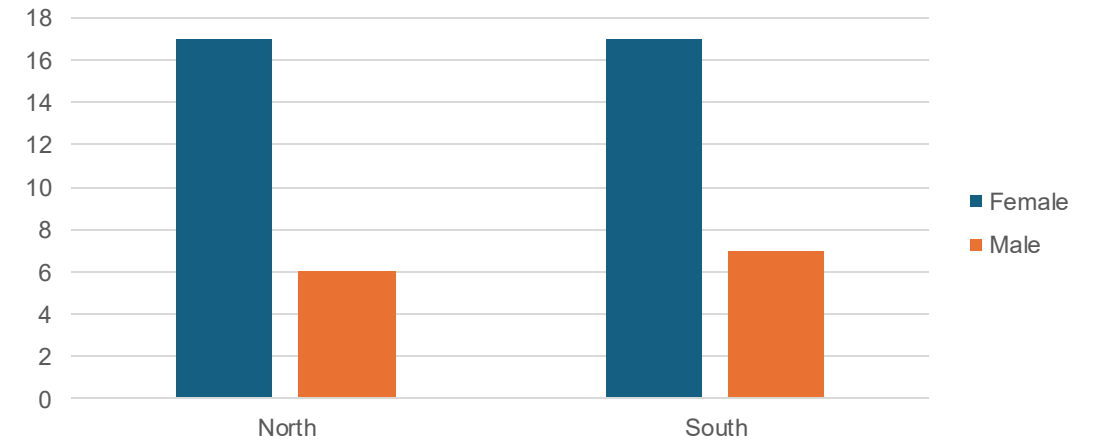
Out-of-pocket health expenditure by gender & location



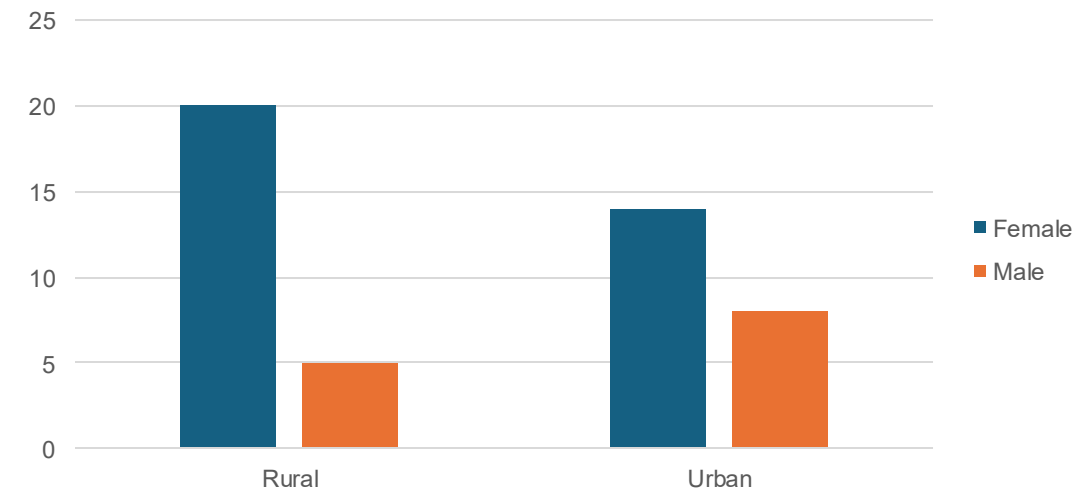
Key Findings: Endogenous driver of poverty 2. Death of provider

- **The death of a provider** often plunges households into economic destitution, with noticeable north-south, gender, and rural-urban differences. *(64 of 120 participants stated this).*
- **North-South Differential:** In the north, some women received limited support from extended family, while in the south, women were more likely to be dispossessed by in-laws.
- **Gender Differential:** Women faced greater challenges due to loss of financial support and inheritance rights, often having to take on multiple roles as caregivers and income earners.
- **Rural-Urban Differential:** Urban households were more likely to rely on petty trading, while rural households depended on farming, both of which were significantly impacted by the death of the breadwinner.
- **Quotes:**
 - *When my husband died, all our business profits were used for burial expenses. I was left to care for our children alone.'* (Ekiti, Female, Urban/South)
 - *My husband's brothers took over our land after his death, leaving me with no choice but to do menial jobs.'* (Benue, Female, Rural/North)

Impact of Death of a provider by Region and Gender



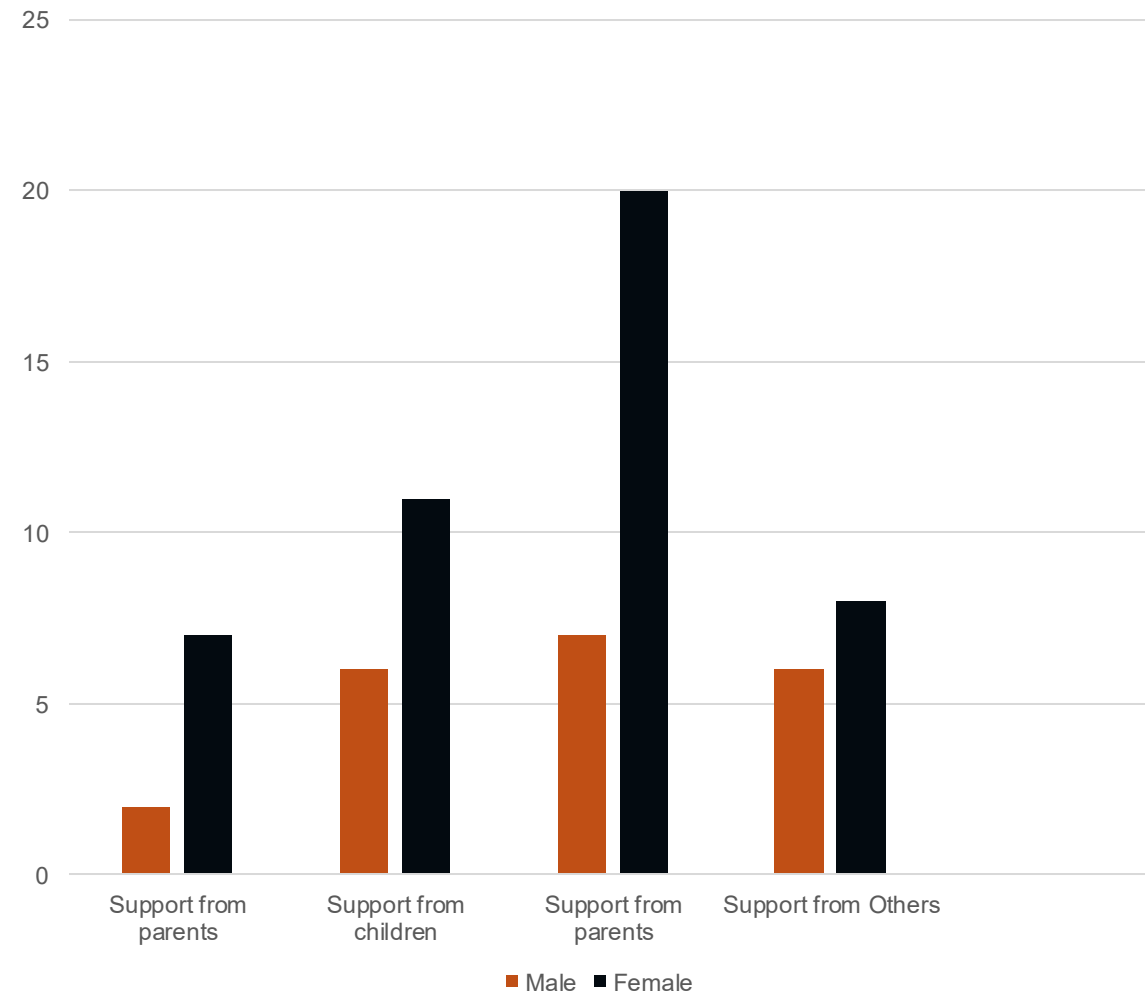
Impact of Death of a Provider by Location and Gender



Escapes from poverty 1: Family Networks as a Primary Safety Net

- **Family networks** play a crucial role in providing support, but their effectiveness varies across regions, genders, and rural-urban settings. (116 of 120 participants).
- **North-South Differential:** In the north, family networks are stronger, with extended family members providing support. In the south, respondents reported more instances of being dispossessed by in-laws.
- **Gender Differential:** Women relied more heavily on family support due to limited access to resources, while also being primary caregivers within the family network.
- **Rural-Urban Differential:** Rural households often depended on extended family support for agricultural work, while urban households received financial assistance from relatives.
- **Quotes:**
 - 'Every month, my four brothers contribute N5,000 each to support me. With the N20,000, I can at least feed my children.' (Borno, Female, Urban/North)
 - 'After my husband's death, I depended on help from my children and brothers-in-law to survive. Without their support, I don't know how I would have managed.' (Ekiti Female Rural/South)

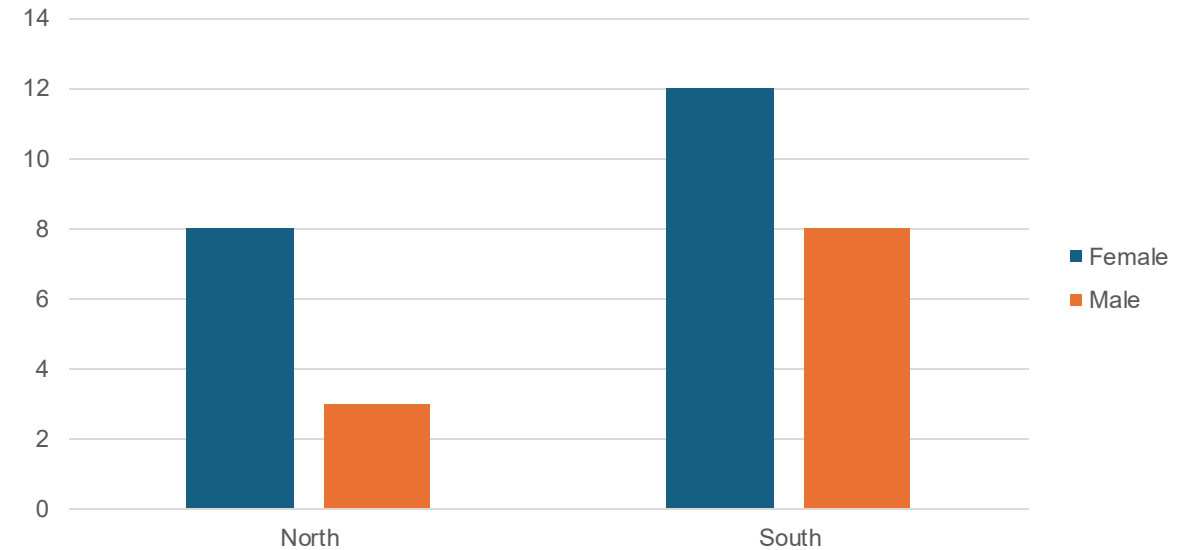
Reliance on Family Support by Gender



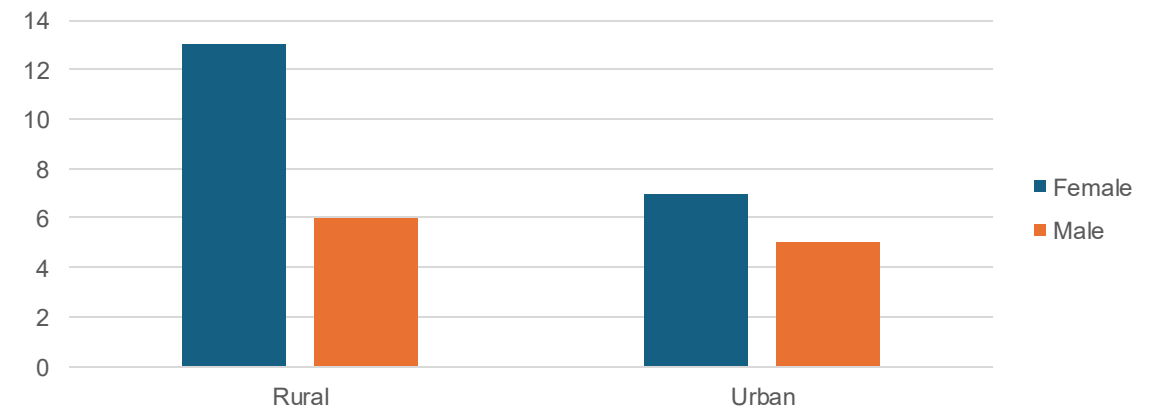
Escape from Poverty 2: Sale of Assets as a Coping Mechanism

- **The sale of assets** is a common coping mechanism during crises, with notable regional, gender, and rural-urban differences. (63 of 120 participants).
- **North-South Differential:** In the north, respondents primarily sold land and livestock, while in the south, urban respondents sold business equipment and household items.
- **Gender Differential:** Women were more likely to sell personal items, such as jewelry, while men sell productive assets like land and livestock, impacting future income opportunities.
- **Rural-Urban Differential:** Rural households sold farmland and livestock, while urban households sold vehicles and household goods to cope with financial crises.
- **Quotes:**
 - In 2019, I sold one of my farmlands to pay for hospital treatment. Now, I have no land left to farm.' (Borno, Male, Rural/North)
 - 'I sold my motorbike to raise money for hospital bills when I was about to give birth. I had no other way to pay.' (Anambra, Female, Urban/South)

Sale of Assets by Region and Gender



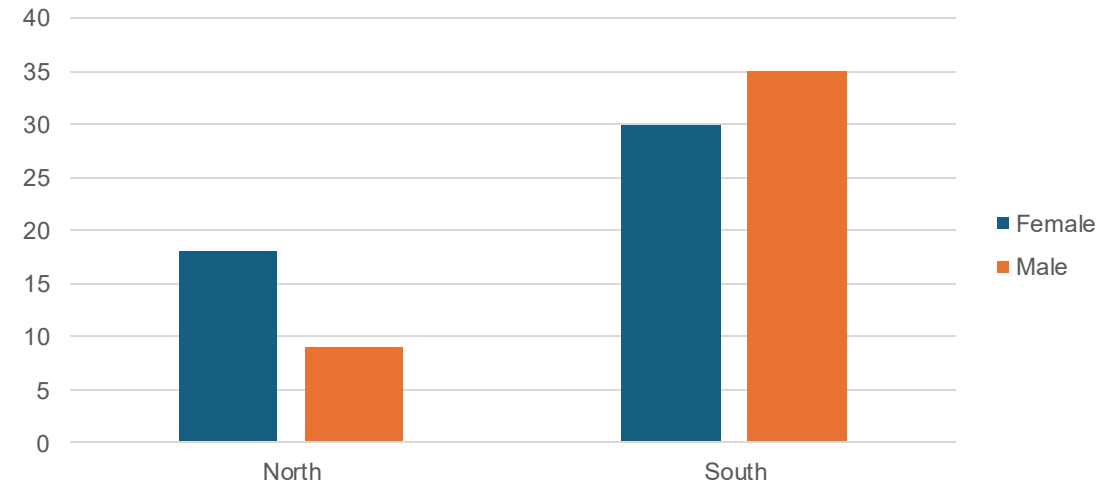
Sale of Assets by Location and Gender



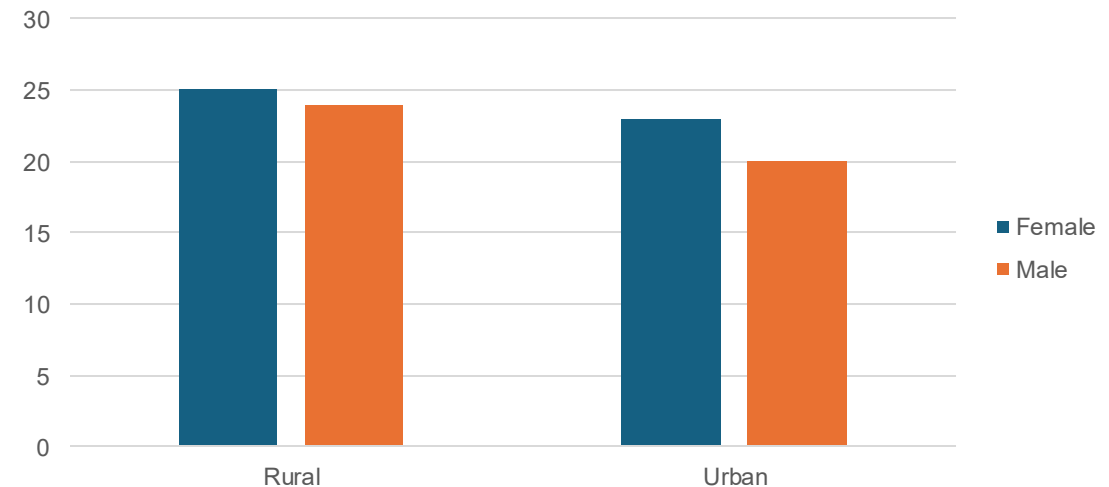
Escape from poverty 3: Migration as a Coping Strategy

- **Migration was a substantial coping mechanism** to adapt to economic and social crises. (66 of 120 participants).
- **North-South Differential:** Migration from northern states was often forced due to conflict and insecurity, while migration from southern states was driven by economic opportunities and apprenticeship.
- **Gender Differential:** Men migrated in search of jobs, while women often migrated for domestic work or due to marriage.
- **Rural-Urban Differential:** Rural residents moved to urban centers to access better economic opportunities.
- **Quotes:**
 - 'I moved to Maiduguri to find work after my farm was destroyed by Boko Haram.' (Borno, Male, Rural/North)
 - 'I came to Lagos to work as a housemaid after my parents couldn't afford my school fees.' (Ekiti, Female, Rural/South)
 - "I moved to Maiduguri to work with my kinsman who traded in fabrics, hoping to learn and earn more. But the harsh weather and insecurity forced me to return home after a few months." (Anambra, Male, Rural/South).

Migration by Region and Gender



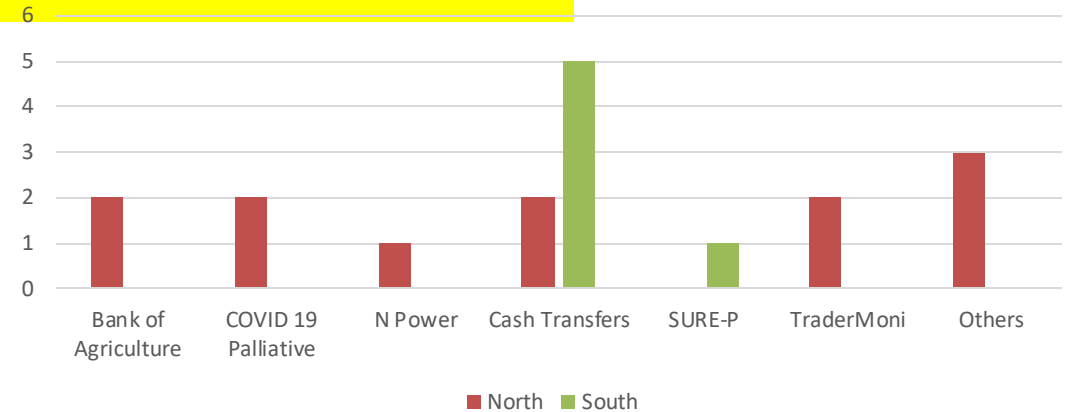
Migration by Location and Gender



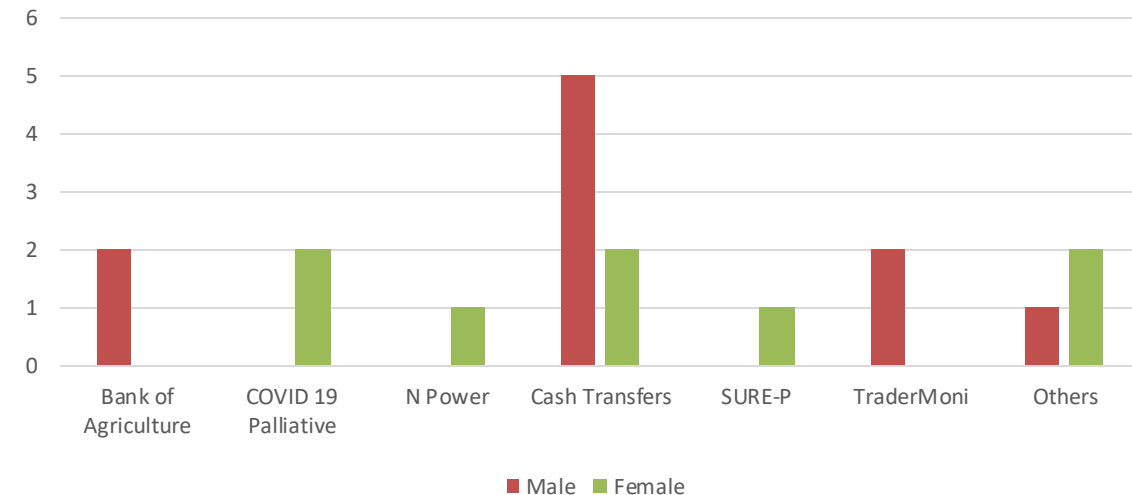
Escape from poverty 4: Government Programs under Social Assistance

- **Government programs** like the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) faced several challenges and showed different impacts across regions, genders, and urban-rural settings. (98 of 120 participants).
- **North-South Differential:** In the north, issues of corruption and inadequate targeting were prevalent, whereas in the south, delays in disbursements were reported.
- **Gender Differential:** Women were more likely to be excluded from cash transfers due to lack of identification documents.
- **Rural-Urban Differential:** Rural beneficiaries experienced greater difficulty accessing program offices for registration.
- **Quotes:**
 - 'We were promised cash transfers, but only a few people got the money.' (Jigawa, Female, Rural/North)
 - 'In the city, we had to wait in long lines for hours to register, and only some got paid.' (Anambra, Male, Urban/South)
 - 'The school feeding program stopped suddenly, and no one explained why.' (Ekiti, Male, Urban/South)

Types of government social assistance by region



Types of government social assistance by gender



PEA of Social Assistance to Mitigate the impact of fiscal and monetary policy shocks – report structure

- PEA 123-page report in 7 sections
- List over 50 interventions (new, scaled or re-purposed as in case of NG-CAREs) targeting specific beneficiaries to address situational poverty caused by the poverty conjuncture of dual shocks
- PEA – Who are actors influencing such interventions, what is their message, their channels of communication and what incentives do they offer to government?
- Secondary data analysis and primary interviews of experts
- Timeline from May 2023 to October 2024

PEA of Social Assistance to Mitigate the impact of fiscal and monetary policy shocks – methodology

Table 1: Data Extracted and Reviewed

Sources for Secondary Data Collection PEA	
Materials Extracted and Reviewed	Number
Peer Review Journal	21
Books	12
Newspaper Report/Articles extracted and/or reviewed	401
Social media (LinkedIn, X, YouTube) handles	10
Policy Documents	17
Reports	25
Government Press Statements	21
Total	507

Primary Data Collection		
Expert Respondent by demographics		
Experts	Female	Male
Government Officials		5
CSOs & Activists		2
Donors Multilateral	2	1
Donor INGO	1	
Independent Activists		1
Business & Private Sector		1
Advisor to Government	4	3
Total	7	13

PEA of Social Assistance to Mitigate the impact of fiscal and monetary policy shocks – key findings 1

- Actors – International development and financial institutions; Business; Labour; Economists and their associations; traditional and faith leaders; INGOs; Opposition political party actors; Government officials and party in power actors; Active Citizens; CSOs & the Media
- Channels of communication – formal and informal across most actors with active citizen having informal in indirect channels and International development and financial institutions having both formal and informal but always direct speaking to government directly
- Incentives – promise not to go on strike by labour; technical assistance by international development and financial institutions

PEA of Social Assistance to Mitigate the impact of fiscal and monetary policy shocks – key findings 2

- Criticisms and feedback on means tested interventions to address structural poverty continue to be levelled against situational poverty interventions to mitigate the impact of structural poverty
- Perception of weak, wrong-headed, unsustainable interventions for example, “A government of palliative by the palliative and for the palliative”
- Multiple national government MDAs addressing situational poverty with little evidence of coordination - Evidence of rivalry as new law seeks to enshrine poverty reduction in the Min of Finance

PEA of Social Assistance to Mitigate the impact of fiscal and monetary policy shocks – Inadequate funding key finding 3

Description	2023	2024	% Changes
Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation	382,358,506,329	262,829,297,721	-31.26%
Implementation of National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy -Service Wide Vote (SWV)	350,000,000,000	250,000,000,000	-28.57
Special Intervention SDG's 1 – SWV	46,500,000,000	67,021,087,924	44.13
National Social Investment Programme- SWV - (Cash Transfer, GEEP, N-Power, HGSFP)	200,000,000,000	2,200,000,000	-98.90%
National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme – SWV	Nil	100,000,000,000	-
Special Intervention Fund-SWV	200,000,000,000	545,500,000,000	172.75%
Special Intervention Programmes/Projects -SWV	7,000,000,000	7,000,000,000	0%
Other poverty lines funding in the budget across various MDAs capital budget	1,029,582,091	10,249,141,821	0%
Nigeria Youth Development Fund-SWV	25,000,000,000	25,000,000,000	0%
Consumer Credit Scheme		100,000,000,000	
Contribution to Vulnerable Groups for Catastrophic Expenditure.	Nil	5,000,000,000	-
Cash Transfer -SWV – Supplementary budget	400,000,000,000	-	-
Wage Award (4 Months) -SWV - Supplementary budget	110,000,000,000	-	-
Provision of Seedlings Other Agricultural Inputs and Supplies in 36 states. -SWV - Supplementary budget	75,000,000,000	-	-
Restocking of the national strategic reserve with 150,000mt of Assorted Food Commodities and Their Associated Components. -SWV - Supplementary budget	22,000,000,000	-	-
Emergency Funding for additional Production of 80,000 Hectares Food Security Crops (Cassava, Yam, Rice, Maize, Sorghum) -SWV	22,000,000,000	-	-
National Housing Program for the Construction of Units Renewed Hope Minicities/Estates Across the 36 States of the Federation-SWV - Supplementary budget	50,000,000,000	-	-
Provision of Agricultural Implements and Infrastructure across 36 states -SWV - Supplementary budget	75,000,000,000	-	-
Education Loan Fund (For Funding Students Loan) -SWV - Supplementary budget	10,000,000,000	-	-

PEA of Social Assistance to Mitigate the impact of fiscal and monetary policy shocks – key findings 4

- No evidence of methodological or design approaches to respond to permutations and combinations of overlapping crises (eg floods, disease burden, displacement, and generational poverty as in Borno). Also, articulation of national – state interventions not found
- Despite fiscal interventions targeting the manufacturing sector (Executive Orders) granting them tax exemptions they still send messages of threat of closure and retrenchment with no real incentives to government
- Implications for PEA theory as in case of Nigeria actors external to government are mainly active at implementation stage

WOBULU WORURU UWE ESE
NAGODE DEEME IMELA NUA
THANK YOU
SAM O ANYA DAALU AVO
SOSONGO ÉSEUN NAGO AVO
OVWAN KE OBIRUOWOSHI



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