

**KENYA'S NEGLECTED INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS). THE
TALES OF FLOOD DISASTER VICTIMS AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
FAMILIAL NETWORKS IN NYANDO RIVER BASIN OF WESTERN KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Communities faced with continuous climate-related disasters such as drought and floods have often crafted and deployed traditional ways of responding to such calamities based on their understanding of changes occurring in the environment. While government-led interventions have been spending huge sums of money on interventions aimed at helping flood victims cope with such disasters, traditional practices deployed by the local people in response to extreme weather events have never been taken on board. Moreover, scanty information is available regarding whether social-cultural practices related to conservation of the environment are still maintained especially among communities faced with climate change-related flood disasters such as the Nyando River Basin. This study explored the misfortunes facing families during and after flood events in Nyando River Basin, and analyses the role played by local networks such close and extended families in providing support systems to cement social resilience of the affected households. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse quantitative data. Qualitative data from interviews and FGDs were analysed through thematic analysis and presented in narrative forms. Findings showed that family networks described as Od Wadu and JokaNg'ato plays significant roles in response to flood disasters. Alarm raised of rivers/streams breaking their banks often arouse myriads of actions among the villagers collectively aimed at managing the impacts of the floods such as salvaging properties and protecting human lives. Modern forms of communicating the on-set of flood disasters through mobile phones would be more efficient than shouting, screaming or wailing as an alert mechanism for disseminating disaster information.

Keywords: Adaptive capacities; Climate Change; family support networks; Flood Disaster; Nyando River Basin