



## VULNERABILITY OF RESIDENCE TO FORCED MIGRATION IN NIGERIA

OLUWASEUN TOSIN BAMIGBOYE, SEGUN BAMIDELE FAKAYODE AND SHARON DAMILOLA SAMUEL

### Abstract

On the place of departure and destination, migration has both beneficial and detrimental effects with increasing rates of residents from rural to urban centres or foreign countries. Forced rates of migration are the push factors that drive individuals away from their place of residence, while pull factors are the beneficial conditions that attract individuals to a new residence. In 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees stated that around 2.2 million Nigerians had to leave their homes within the country because of conflict, communal violence, and natural disasters. This research examines how residents in Nigeria are at risk of being forced to migrate. It specifically investigates the causes and impacts of forced displacement. Data from the United Nations Population Division about migration rate and rural/urban population in Nigeria were examined and literature related to the study was also reviewed. Between 2012 and 2016, there was a 51.3% increase in the rural population and a 48.7% increase in the urban population, according to the findings. The urban population kept increasing and reached its highest point at 52.7% in 2021. In 2012, the immigration rate was 0.25 per 1,000 population, while the emigration rate declined in 2015, 2019, 2018, and 2021 to -0.79, -0.51, -0.41, and -0.36 per 1,000 population respectively. The rural population moved to urban areas mostly because of economic factors, with security concerns following behind. These results highlight the importance of the Nigerian government and other key players in addressing economic shocks and insecurity factors that lead to involuntary migration, while also promoting conditions conducive to rural development.

**Keywords:** Forced Migration, International Migration, Rural-Urban Migration, Vulnerability

### Introduction

The most populous country in Africa, Nigeria, has an estimated population of 202 million with 53.73% of the total population in urban and rural areas within 15-64 years (World Bank, 2022). As a developing country, Gallent and Scotts (2017), observed that improvement of the economy

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at the rural level is crucial to rural development planning. Rural Nigeria depends more on extractive capital (Ekanem and Umoh 2021), enriched with human and natural resources (Frank and Hibbard 2017), quality mass of arable land, biodiversity, reservoir of indigenous knowledge, tourist centre (Scott *et al.*, 2019), supply of food and industrial raw materials (Frank and Hibbard 2017; United Nations 2018). Nigeria has had tremendous high rates of urbanization since independence. The urban population growth (Fig. 1) continued to increase tremendously at 3.9% against rural population growth at 0.8% in the year 2020 (World Bank, 2022).

Huynh and Stringer (2018) describe vulnerability as socio-economic factors inhibiting people from coping with stress or change, which allows groups to differ. Several socio-economic factors expose the rural populace to hazards leading to forced migration. Based on the report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in 2021, approximately 2.2 million Nigerians were displaced within their own country as a result of forced migration caused by insurgency, communal conflicts, and natural disasters (UNHCR 2021). Forced migration as described by Erdal (2020) is a situation when migration comes in circumstances of economic and communal conflict; people are left with a choice to either leave or stay behind. This term according to the Advanced Comparative Law lecture note, also refers to the movement of people who are forced to leave for political reasons due to war, uprising, tension, religious or ethnic conflicts (Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, CARFMS Online Research and Teaching Tools, ORTT 2023). Calderon and Seren (2014), opined that vulnerability is a combination of hazard, exposure and sensitivity. The degree to which the rural populace is vulnerable to forced migration results in a decrease in rural population, underutilized arable lands and reduced general well-being of livelihood of rural dwellers.



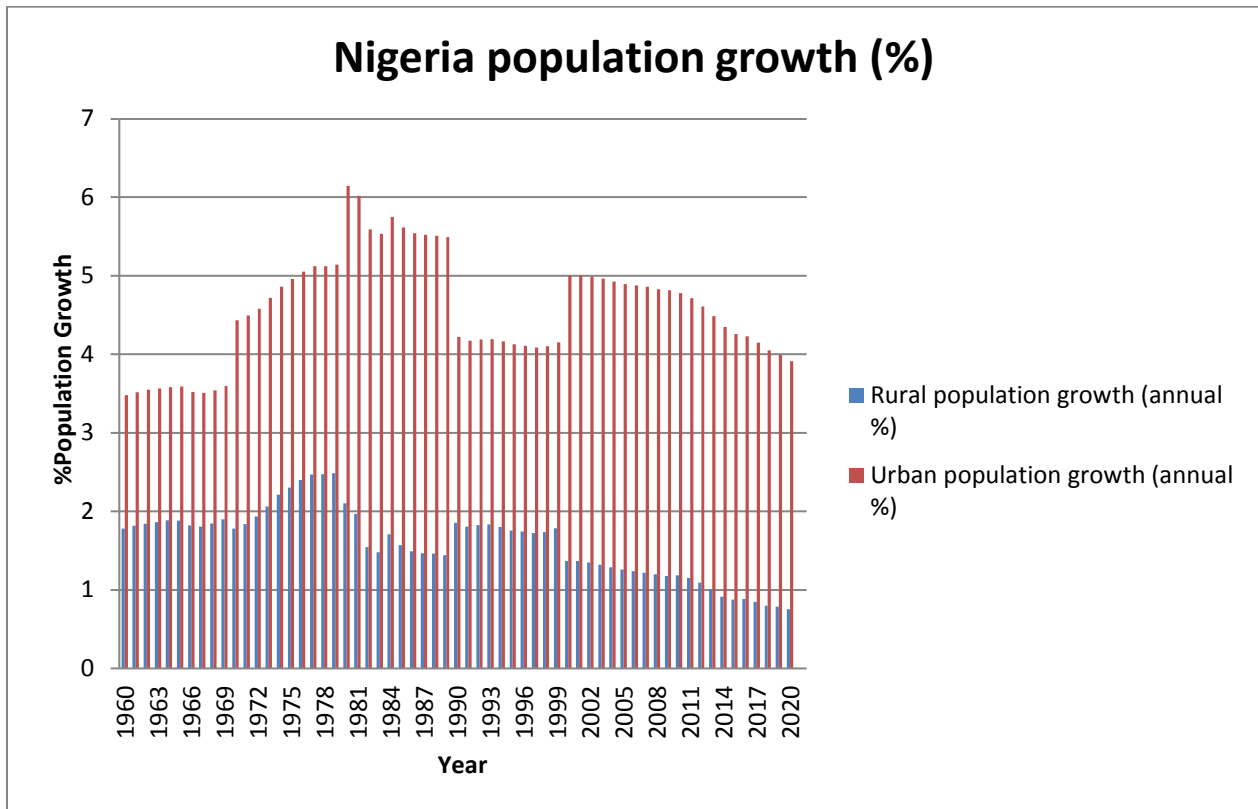


Gwanshaket *et al.*, (2021), reveal that the migration of people from rural to urban areas has led to deterioration in the economic activities of rural areas, causing poverty and food insecurity. Several pull factors such as political instability, conflicts, unemployment, economic instability, rapid urbanization, and religious crisis, among others, influence the rate of migration as rural dwellers are forced to move to different locations to secure their livelihood. Rapid urbanization in the last two decades in Nigeria has drifted the rural populace to urban areas (Abass, 2012; Aliyu and Amadu, 2017; Bukar *et al.*, 2012; Nwalusiet *et al.*, 2022; Oyeleye, 2013). This has led to inadequate waste management, congestion, pollution, and poor sanitation resulting in urban health crises (Aliyu and Amadu, 2017), and more severe damage to the fragile natural resources and the ecosystem (Ibrahim and Hassan, 2018).

Oginni and Tahirou (2019), conducted their study using a living standards measurement survey and the result shows that rural-urban migration of youths causes household farm income to be reduced by \$88 US, as the incidence of poverty among households with youth migrants would have been lower by 15% if youths did not migrate. Conversely, Nigeria has also been affected by international migration with Nigerian emigrants contributing positively abroad, while at home, the negative effects of migration hinder development (Odeyemi, 2021). Many Nigerians travel abroad seeking improved economic opportunities, education, and safety from political unrest and violence (Adibe, Baban'umma and Prince, 2023; Ikuteyijo, 2019). This movement often results in brain drain, and skilled and talented people depart from the nation (Kingsley and Onchi2022), thereby diminishing the growth rate of their local communities. Nevertheless, international migrants' remittances can also offer substantial financial aid to Nigerian families, assisting in reducing poverty and enhancing living conditions. Therefore, while discussing forced migration in Nigeria,



it is important to examine the causes and impacts and suggest ways to build resilience among residents.



**Figure 1: Nigeria population growth (%)**

Data source: World Development Indicator (World Bank, 2022)

## Review of Literature on Migration Issues in Nigeria

Both internal and international migration have a notable effect on Nigeria's socio-economic situation. Various factors motivate both rural-urban migration and international migration,

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impacting both origin and destination areas significantly. This review delves into the issues of migration in Nigeria, specifically examining rural-urban migration, international migration, and the push-pull factors that impact these movements.

## Rural-urban Migration

Migration from rural areas to urban areas has been a prominent aspect of Nigeria's demographic shift in recent decades. Odeyemi (2021), pointed out that migration is a significant and growing trend in Nigeria, driven by insecurity, unemployment, and inadequate social amenities. Mberu (2005), analyzed data from the 1993 Migration and Urbanization Survey of Nigeria, using multinomial logistic regression. Findings revealed that migration patterns vary by education, religion, and ethnicity. The Kanuri-Shau Arabs rarely migrate, while Hausa-Fulani and Yoruba tend toward rural-rural migration, with the Igbo-Ibibio and Urhobo-Isoko-Edo preferring rural-urban migration. Christians are more mobile than Muslims, and the highly educated often move to urban areas, though many also migrate to other rural areas.

Many research studies have emphasised the socio-economic factors behind this shift. Urbanization in Nigeria has surged from 10% in 1953 to 50% in 2015 due to socioeconomic inequalities favoring urban areas (Ikwuyatum, 2016). Likewise, Ayuba *et al.* (2023), posited that massive migration into cities causes food insecurity among the urban poor in Nigeria, who rely on purchases and lack access to urban agriculture or reliable food sources, thereby increasing urban poverty. The study highlights insecurity and conflicts as key migration drivers. Since the late 1960s, Nigeria's focus on oil revenue has led to the decline of its agricultural sector, prompting rural-urban migration. Despite government attempts to curb this trend with rural development programs, urban poverty and slums have grown (Sackey, Liverpool-Tasie, Salau and Awoyemi, 2012).

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Fox, Bloch and Monroy (2017), pointed out that Nigeria's urban population is rapidly growing, driven by rural-urban migration and rural transformation. The study of Abass (2012), explores migration as a long-standing phenomenon that has led to the formation of stratified socio-economic and geo-political settlements classified as either 'rural' or 'urban' in Nigeria. Thus, despite efforts of public policies to address a wide range of human settlement issues, sustainable solutions remain elusive in Nigeria.

## International Migration

Global movement of people across borders and international migration still has a significant impact on the country. The period of Nigerian emigration can be categorized into four-time frames: the civil unrest in the 1960s, the decline of the oil boom in the 1980s, the rule of the military in the mid-1990s, and the significant movement of people from Nigeria to various countries globally in the last twenty years (Inegbedion, 2022). According to Okunade and Awosusi (2023), post-COVID-19 led to Nigeria's migrating to the UK, a trend known as "japa", which has complex implications for both countries. A large number of Nigerians move abroad seeking improved economic opportunities, education, and protection from political unrest and violence. Nwodom, Emmanuel, Ojiego and Onye (2021), examined the impact of international migration on Nigeria's socio-economic development. The study finds that migration has increased diaspora remittances and improved living standards.

On the other hand, international migration between Nigeria and neighbouring countries like Niger, Chad, and Benin has impacted Nigeria's foreign policy due to porous borders that allow illegal entry (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012). Eboraka and Oyefara (2015), examined international migration





patterns using in-depth interviews with 38 Lagos respondents. The study found that there is a high level of irregular migration. The study by Ikuteyijo (2019), also revealed that Nigerian youths, the largest group migrating from the Global South to the Global North, were aware of irregular migration risks, but driven by economic factors, family dynamics, and social media, still embarked on such trips

A recent evidence-based survey was conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (2020) on awareness and perception of irregular migration among intending and returned migrants in Delta, Edo, Imo, and Lagos States in Nigeria. Key findings include high intentions to migrate internationally for better opportunities, the predominance of young and unmarried individuals with secondary education, and a significant lack of awareness about government migration policies. The study highlights the need for targeted interventions to address the root causes of irregular migration, such as job creation and enhanced awareness programs, to discourage irregular international migration. Furthermore, the study of Popoola (2020), examined the integration of cross-border migrants in rural border communities of Ogun and Oyo States, Nigeria. Most migrants face economic hardships and lack legal residency, indicating low integration levels.

### **Methodology**

Qualitative data on migration rate and rural/urban populations in Nigeria from 1960 to 2021 were gathered for this research. Data on Nigeria's population growth was sourced from the World Bank. Migration rate from United Nations Population Division and published literature were reviewed from 2012 to 2022 in which forced migration was discussed. Also, thematic analysis was employed to identify the push and pull factors driving both internal and international migration. Additionally, the analysis provided insights into strategies for building resilience among residents affected by these migration dynamics.

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## Results and Discussion

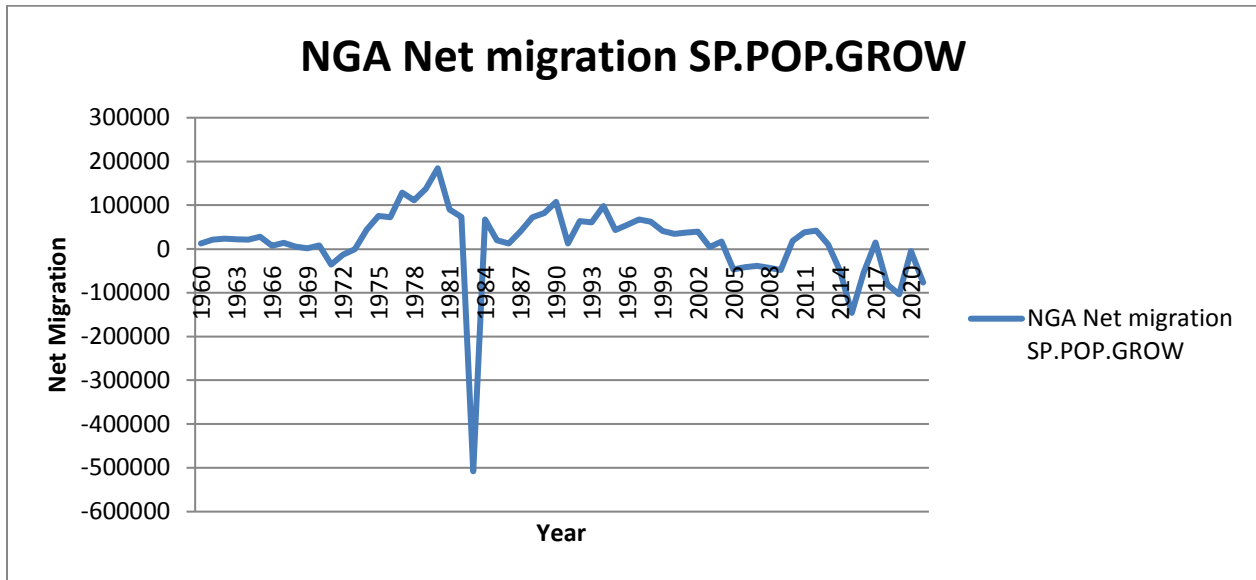
### Net migration in Nigeria

This line chart in Fig.2 indicates the net migration during the period of 1960-2021 in Nigeria. The United Nations Population Division (World Bank 2022), defined net migration as the net total of migrants during the period, that is, the total number of immigrants less the annual number of emigrants, including both citizens and non-citizens. Positive net migration indicates that the number of immigrants is higher than the number of emigrants (net immigration), while negative net migration indicates that the number of emigrants is greater than the number of immigrants (net emigration). Since independence, Nigeria is a country that has experienced both net immigration and net emigration.

A surge in the year 1983 was a result of the expulsion of over two million illegal migrants from Nigeria due to social and economic reasons (Aremu 2013). The development of legal and policy frameworks in Nigeria reformed the migration policy after the 1983 saga (Hargrave 2021). From 1984-2004, the country witnessed net immigration. While the trend of net immigration and net emigration persisted from 2005-2021, however, from 2018 to 2021 (Table 1), the country experienced just net emigration. This shows that Nigeria which is an important migration destination (Okikiola 2022) has consistently recorded a negative net migration over the past two decades. Further study by Okikiola (2022), indicates that real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita and unemployment rate were found to have a significant impact on net migration. The cross-sectional survey by (Onah *et al.*, 2022), showed that the majority of Nigerian physicians wanted to emigrate because of poor remuneration, rising insecurity and inadequate diagnostic facilities.







**Figure 2: Nigeria's net migration**

Data source: United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects (2022)

Table 1 shows the immigration rate per 1,000 population in 2012 (0.25), 2013(0.06), and 2017 (0.08). On the other hand, the outflow of individuals was greater in 2015, 2019, 2018, and 2021, with rates of -0.79, -0.51, -0.41 and -0.36 per 1,000 inhabitants, respectively. During this time, the amount of individuals exiting Nigeria is just a bit greater than the number of people entering the country.

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**Table 1: Immigration and emigration of people in Nigeria**

Year	Population (p)	Net migration (N)	% Net migration rate (NMR) $= \frac{N}{P}$	Number of migrants per 1,000 household = NMR x 1000
2012	170075932	41741	0.000245426	0.25
2013	174726123	10588	0.000060598	0.06
2014	179379016	-49351	-0.000275121	-0.28
2015	183995785	-145917	-0.000793045	-0.79
2016	188666931	-54315	-0.000287888	-0.29
2017	193495907	15016	0.000077604	0.08
2018	198387623	-81384	-0.000410227	-0.41
2019	203304492	-103989	-0.000511494	-0.51
2020	208327405	-4824	-0.000023156	-0.02
2021	213401323	-76364	-0.000357842	-0.36

Data source: United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects (2022)

### Rural-urban population trend in Nigeria

The population trend increased in rural Nigeria from 2012 to 2016 with 51.3% in rural areas and 48.7% in urban areas (Table 2). Urban population picked up from 2018 at 50.3% and 52.7% in 2021. United Nations (2018), reported that one-quarter of the population of countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD, still resides in rural areas. However, in the year 2018, 50.3% of the total population resided in urban areas. Still, there was a dependency on the rural areas for food as well as a supply of basic raw materials for industrial use (UN 2018).





**Table 2: Rural-urban population trend in Nigeria**

Year	Total Population	Rural population	Urban population	% Rural population	% Urban population
2012	170075932	93123376	76952556	54.8	45.2
2013	174726123	94145930	80580193	53.9	46.1
2014	179379016	95103167	84275849	53.0	47.0
2015	183995785	95975881	88019904	52.2	47.8
2016	188666931	96818209	91848722	51.3	48.7
2017	193495907	97678669	95817238	50.5	49.5
2018	198387623	98511358	99876265	49.7	50.3
2019	203304492	99300013	104004479	48.8	51.2
2020	208327405	100084652	108242753	48.0	52.0
2021	213401323	100840661	112560662	47.3	52.7

**Data source:** World Development Indicator (World Bank, 2022)

### **The Push-Pull Factors that Impact these Movements and their Effects**

Nigeria's rural-urban migration has changed over the past 20 to 30 years, with increasing rates of movement of rural residents to urban centers or foreign countries. There are underlying factors that the push-pull framework provides, which influence migration. Push factors are conditions that drive individuals away from their places of residence, while pull factors are conditions that attract individuals to new residences. In Nigeria, several factors contribute to both rural-urban and international migration.

### **Push Factors**

Poor infrastructure and unhappiness with one's lifestyle; inadequate infrastructure and amenities such as electricity, roads, water, and health services in rural areas can push individuals to migrate to urban areas where there is better access to essential services and to have a more fulfilling and dynamic lifestyle. Alarima (2018), investigated rural-urban youth migration in Osun State,

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Nigeria, finding that push factors like poor infrastructure (electricity, roads, water) drive migration. Also, persistent infrastructure deficiency can drive people to seek better living conditions in other countries where these services are more reliable.

**Political Anxiety:** when there is instability in government policies, it creates uncertainty and can lead individuals to migrate to where they can perceive a greater degree of stability or better access to information and opportunities. According to Bukar, Mohamed, and Ngada (2021), political anxiety leads to migration and is more prevalent in emerging nations. Likewise, fear of political persecution or instability can push individuals to migrate internationally to countries with stable political environments and freedom.

**Lack of food:** individuals move because of food insecurity. They search for reliable sources of food and support systems. Chronic food shortages and hunger can drive individuals to migrate to where food is plenty and accessible, seeking better living conditions and food security. Iwunze and Chikwere (2021), assert that food insecurity drives rural-urban migration, impacting both areas differently. To improve food security, tailored approaches are needed for rural and urban settings. Population growth should be managed, and significant agricultural advancements are required in both areas.

**Armed conflict and Insecurity:** individuals flee rural areas affected by armed conflict for safety, security, and access to humanitarian aid. The rural areas in Northeast Nigeria have experienced insecurity, conflict and water scarcity for almost two decades as a result of insurgency by the Islamist terrorist group, Boko Haram. This triggers the migration of the rural populace to urban areas (Kamta, Schilling and Scheffran 2020). The counter-insurgency by the Nigerian security forces and Boko Haram terrorists are the primary causes of forced migration (Gwadebe, Salleh,





Ahmad and Jamil 2018). Nigerians flee for safety either to urban Nigeria or crossing borders to neighbouring countries and this has created a major challenge to agricultural practices in this region as a result of various attacks on farmers by insurgents (Ogbonna and Jimenez 2017). People seek refuge in other countries to escape violence and instability associated with armed conflict.

Inequality in the development of both urban and rural Nigeria. Oginni and Tahirou (2019), posit that although one of the economic policies in Nigeria should be to bridge the gap of development between the urban and rural areas, past and present Nigerian governments have done little to ensure equity in socioeconomic development of the urban/rural areas, concentrating most of the development in urban areas. The rural populace is thereby pushed to the urban areas or developed nations as a result of huge and rapid development in such areas.

Climate variability: This appears to have influenced urbanization trends in developing nations, such as rural-urban migration in sub-Saharan Africa (Haoyang, Zengchuan, Mahendran, Jaya and Saket 2019). Because of this, the impact of natural calamities like droughts and flooding can be unclear which may eliminate all sources of driving migrants out of the affected areas in large numbers (Haoyang, Zengchuan, Mahendran, Jaya and Saket 2019; Chen *et al.*, 2017; Moriconi-Ebrard, Harre and Heinrigs 2016; Gray and Mueller, 2012).

Unemployment: An unemployed person is more likely to move. Rural migrants are frequently motivated by their expectations of better employment or earnings, and their desire to urbanize, even though migration between rural and urban areas may hurt urban employment (Haoyang, Zengchuan, Mahendran, Jaya and Saket 2019; Chen, 2007). According to Gwanshak, Yusoff, and Shafie (2021), unemployed persons move to find paid employment so that they can later send money back to their families to improve the welfare of rural residents who are left behind. Aside





from unemployment, youth migrate abroad to seek greener pastures, and possibilities of foreign education which can earn them residency and higher economic prospects (Kingsley and Onchi 2022; United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs 2014)

### **Pull Factors**

**Economic reasons:** Urban areas or countries with strong economies, more job opportunities and higher wages, attract people seeking better economic and financial stability. Iderawumi and Abiodun (2014), observed that studies on Nigeria's migration challenge point to economic condition as playing a major influence in rural-to-urban migration. The normative explanation of migration is a response to wage rate fluctuation. According to them, migration happens because migrants believe they will be more satisfied in their new locations than they were in their previous ones, both economically and other ways.

**Better Living Conditions:** Cities usually provide better housing, sanitation, and better healthcare facilities, drawing individuals from rural areas to seek improved living conditions in urban areas. Research conducted by Alarima (2018), pointed out that most respondents preferred urban life which included better job opportunities and living conditions despite improvements in rural conditions. Further findings reveal that age, gender, and education significantly influence migration decisions, suggesting the need for rural amenities to retain the youth thereof. Migrants are attracted to countries with higher standards of living, modern infrastructure, and better quality of life (Mutandwa, Knuma, Uwimana, Gakwandi and Mugisha, 2011).

**Educational Opportunities:** Urban areas often have more educational institutions, and better schools than rural areas, thereby attracting students to migrate to urban areas (Wood, 2023). However, Trask (2022), highlights that individuals remaining in the rural areas face declining





access to social services and educational programs as higher-quality opportunities become concentrated in urban areas. In the same vein, migrants leave their countries for prestigious institutions in other countries that are known for high-quality education systems to pursue their academic careers (Border, 2018).

Human rights and freedom: Luca, Terrero-Davila, Stein and Lee (2023), examined the urban-rural divide in values. Findings revealed significant urban-rural differences in progressive values like immigration and gender rights between the rural and urban areas.

Infrastructure and amenities: Access to modern infrastructure and amenities such as transportation, communication, and other utilities in urban areas draws people seeking convenience and efficiency. People move to places with modern infrastructure, reliable utilities, and well-developed public services, to ensure a higher standard of living (Kalu, Ibiam, Stephen and Ijeoma, 2014).

Business and investment opportunities: Urban areas are often seen as business hubs, newly developed initiatives, and entrepreneurial activities, drawing people who seek to start or grow their businesses. Places with favourable business environments, investment opportunities, and supportive economic policies attract entrepreneurs and investors. Grossmann (2016) finds that high-skilled immigration attracts foreign direct investment, enhances firms' ability to find investment opportunities abroad, and boosts per capita income through increased productivity.

Family Reunification: People move to where their family members may already be residing, seeking support networks and reconnection with the family. These individuals join their relatives who have already migrated, strengthening their family ties and support systems. Anschütz and Mazzucato (2021), explored youth migration from the Global South to the Global North, highlighting family reunification as a key motivator. Through 18 months of ethnographic

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fieldwork in Belgium and Ghana, the study revealed that family reunification often involves multiple caregivers and can entail family separation.

## The Effect

On the place of departure and destination, migration has both beneficial and detrimental effects. Positively, as reported by Kingsley and Onchi (2022), brain-gain migrants in developed Nations spur economic dynamism through developments of their technology sectors. Negative repercussions of migration include the loss of natural resources, environmental pollution, income inequality, redundancy, over-urbanization, social unrest, and population density (Bukar, Mohammed and Ngada, 2021). Migration has facilitated development, accelerated the industrialization process, served as a source of income for families, and provided a means of escaping famine and drought (Bukar, Mohammed, and Ngada, 2021). Most rural areas' weak economies result in low agricultural productivity, low labour productivity, and food insecurity, all of which contribute to poverty (Gwanshak, Yusoff, and Shafie, 2021, Amrevurayire and Ojeh, 2016). Excessive migration from rural to urban areas often leads to high congestion, crime, encumbrance on available infrastructural facilities, electricity, and the creation of large slums, leading to outbreak of diseases (Kingsley and Onchi 2022).

## Building Resilience by Rural Residents against Forced Migration

Building resilience to forced migration in rural populations involves implementing strategies and interventions that address both the immediate and long-term needs of these communities. Here are several key approaches:

1. Strengthening Local Economies: Rural residents can broaden their ways of making a living by diversifying their means of livelihood. This is by reducing their dependency on a single

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source of income to make communities more resilient to shocks. This promotes a variety of income-generating activities (Bamigboye, Ogunjimi and Adara, 2021). Martin and Lorenza's study (2016) on rural southern Laos finds that livelihood diversification is linked to higher wealth and asset ownership, with households engaging in a mix of agricultural and non-agricultural activities. Wealthier households benefit from diversifies income sources and reduced risks, while poorer households remain vulnerable to shocks. Providing training and resources for rural residents on alternative agricultural practices, small-scale businesses, and vocational skills can strengthen their livelihood diversification (Balestri, 2024). Enhancing access to microfinance services can help rural populations start or expand businesses, thus providing a financial buffer in times of crisis (Asian Development Bank, 2020).

2. Enhancing infrastructure and services: Developing better roads, communication networks, and transportation can facilitate access to markets, services, and emergency assistance (Mogaji, Adekunle and Nguyen, 2021; Musa 2019). Investing in education and healthcare can improve human capital and reduce vulnerability (Zajacova and Lawrence, 2018). For instance, educational programs can increase awareness about rights and resources available during displacement.
3. Community-based approaches: Strengthening local organizations and networks can enhance collective actions and mutual support in times of crisis. These organizations can play a critical role in emergency preparedness and response (Berardi, Hernandez and Brennan, 2022). Involving community members in planning and decision-making processes ensures that interventions are culturally appropriated and address the actual needs of the population





4. Policy and governance: Governments should develop policies that protect the rights of rural populations and provide support during forced migration. This includes legal frameworks that ensure land tenure security and access to social services (Kasimbazi, 2017). However, implementing disaster risk reduction, such as early warning systems and disaster preparedness training, can mitigate the impacts of natural disasters that often trigger forced migration. The study of Trogrlić, Homberg, and Golding (2022), highlights the importance of understanding risks, using evidence-based decisions, and addressing gaps in social components, multi-hazards, funding, data availability, and stakeholder engagement for effective early warning systems implementation. Providing education and training on disaster risk management, sustainable livelihoods, and rights can empower rural populations to better cope with forced migration
5. Social protection programs: This includes cash transfers, food aid, and public works programs, which can provide immediate relief and reduce the vulnerability of rural populations to forced migration (Food and Agriculture Organization, 1996; Lash, Nair, Markarian and Greene, 2023). According to Clarke and Dercon (2009), well-designed insurance schemes focusing on severe risks can enhance poverty reduction beyond microcredit and existing support systems. Therefore, developing crop and health insurance schemes can provide a safety net for rural households, reducing the economic impact of disasters and shocks.
6. Environmental management: Rural areas produce the majority of food, therefore promoting sustainable agricultural practices and natural resource management can enhance the resilience of rural livelihoods to environmental changes. Implementing climate adaptation strategies, such as water conservation techniques, and drought-resistant crops,





can reduce the impact of climate-induced displacement (Grigorieva, Livenets and Stelmakh, 2023).

7. Capacity building and empowerment: Focusing on gender-specific needs and empowering women can enhance overall community resilience, as women often play key roles in maintaining household and community stability. Onoh, Elona and Clement (2023, analyzed women's roles in climate resilience and sustainable farming in Nigeria. Women contribute through knowledge, resource management, and community resilience, but face challenges like limited resources and discrimination. The study advocates for gender-inclusive policies, improved access to financing and training, and enhanced women's leadership to address climate impacts and promote sustainable development.

### Conclusion and recommendation

The study outlined the issues of forced migration of residents in Nigeria from rural to urban areas or internationally. On the place of departure and destination, migration has both beneficial and detrimental effects with an increasing rate of rural residents to urban centres or foreign countries. Forced migration rates are the push factors that drive individuals away from their place of residence, while pull factors are the beneficial conditions that attract individuals to a new residence. This underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to reverse this trend and foster rural development. Addressing forced migration in rural areas is a multifaceted challenge that demands a concerted effort from the government, stakeholders, and the broader community. Building the resilience of people to forced migration requires an approach that integrates economic, social, environmental, and governance strategies.

The study recommends that the Nigerian government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, should prioritize the development of rural areas through substantial investments in infrastructure.

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They should implement a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the progress and impact of rural development initiatives to ensure accountability and the effective use of resources. The rural populace should have access to quality education at all levels, from primary to tertiary institutions. This equips rural populations with the skills and knowledge needed to participate in a diverse range of economic activities and contributes to their self-sufficiency. Also, establishing robust security architecture in rural areas is vital to creating a safe and stable environment. This security is essential for retaining the population and encouraging investment and business development.

Rural community leaders and stakeholders should be inclusive in decision-making in the planning and execution of development projects. A bottom-up approach and social inclusiveness of these community leaders ensure that initiatives are aligned with the specific needs and priorities of the local communities. This leads to more effective and sustainable development outcomes.

The positive impact of academic institutions in rural development is evident, as exemplified by the Federal University Oye Ekiti in Southwest Nigeria, creating programs in the host communities- Oye and Ikole Ekiti and environs- Ayegbaju, Ilupeju, Itapa, Itaji, Ire, Ifaki, Ayedun (FUOYE, 2022). Academic institutions should continue to create programs that engage with and support local communities, fostering economic growth and job creation.

By strengthening local economies, enhancing infrastructure and services, promoting community-based approaches, ensuring inclusive policies, implementing social protection programs, managing environmental sustainability, and empowering communities, we can mitigate vulnerability and foster resilience. These strategies should be tailored to the specific contexts and needs of the rural populations to be effective.





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