BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION



INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABLE DISASTER RESILIENCE STRATEGIES IN RURAL AREAS: INSIGHTS FROM WARD 9 MBIRE DISTRICT, ZIMBABWE

BY

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ABSTRACT

Rural communities in Zimbabwe continue to struggle with disaster resilience, not because policies are missing, but because institutions on the ground fail to make them work. This is especially true in Ward 9 of Mbire District, where coordination between local government, civil protection units, NGOs, and traditional leaders often breaks down. Despite frameworks like the Civil Protection Act and the National Disaster Risk Management Policy, little is known about how these institutional weaknesses actually play out at ward level. This study set out to explore those barriers and suggest practical ways to improve how institutions support sustainable disaster resilience in Ward 9.

The research took a qualitative approach, guided by an interpretivist philosophy. Using an exploratory case study design, I interviewed 22 institutional actors including local government officials, Civil Protection Unit members, NGO staff, and traditional leaders. I also reviewed key documents such as government policies, ward reports, and legislation. Participants were selected purposively and through snowball sampling. Interviews and document data were analyzed thematically with NVivo to identify recurring issues around coordination, resources, and policy implementation.

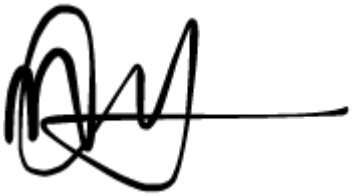
The findings show that resilience efforts in Ward 9 are held back by delayed communication, poor follow-through on decisions, overlapping roles, and limited resources. Most critically, there is a wide gap between what policies say should happen and what actually happens at ward level. The study concludes that weak institutional practice, more than lack of policy, is the main constraint. To address this, the District Civil Protection Unit needs to strengthen coordination structures at ward level, improve communication, and invest in targeted training for institutional actors.

Keywords: Institutional barriers, disaster resilience, coordination, Mbira District, Ward 9

DECLARATION

I, Nigel Kudzaishe Mudziviri, B220343B, hereby declare that this dissertation titled Institutional Barriers to Sustainable Disaster Resilience Strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District, Zimbabwe is my original work. It has not been presented, either in whole or in part, for a degree at this or any other university. All sources of information used have been duly acknowledged through references and citations. Where I have used the ideas or work of others, this has been clearly indicated. I understand that plagiarism is a serious offence and I have complied with the Bindura University of Science Education regulations on academic integrity.

Researcher's signature



Supervisor's signature …….

HOD signature …….

DEDICATION

To my mom and dad, This one is for you. Thank you for every sacrifice you made so I could chase this dream. For the late-night prayers, the encouragement when I wanted to quit, and for always believing in me. Your love and support carried me through this whole journey. I'm forever grateful.

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First, I thank God for giving me the strength, wisdom, and perseverance to complete this journey. Without His grace, this work would not have been possible.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.0 Introduction

The study examines institutional barriers to sustainable disaster resilience strategies in rural areas, with a specific focus on Ward 9 in Mbire District, Zimbabwe. Rural communities across the country continue to experience recurrent disasters such as floods and droughts, which undermine livelihoods and development efforts. Despite the establishment of national and international frameworks such as the Zimbabwe National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), the effectiveness of disaster resilience initiatives remains limited due to weak institutional coordination, inadequate resources, and poor policy implementation. Institutions play a critical role in shaping disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, yet in many rural settings their capacity and collaboration remain constrained. This chapter introduces the study by presenting the background to the problem, outlining the research problem, aim and objectives, research questions, justification, assumptions, limitations, delimitations, and definitions of key terms. It sets the foundation for understanding how institutional weaknesses continue to hinder sustainable disaster resilience in vulnerable rural communities such as Ward 9 in Mbire District.

1.1 Background to the Study

Globally, disasters such as floods, droughts, tropical storms, heatwaves, and epidemics continue to threaten sustainable development and the attainment of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to poverty reduction, environmental protection, and community well-being (UNDRR, 2023; Cooke et al., 2022). Disasters inflict significant human, social, economic, and ecological damage, with more than 7,000 major events recorded between 2000 and 2023, affecting over 4 billion people and causing economic losses exceeding US$3 trillion (UNDRR, 2023). These increasing shocks have compelled governments, development agencies, and local communities to strengthen disaster resilience as a strategy to protect lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure (Lee, 2024; Rosengärtner et al., 2023). Therefore, examining disaster resilience-building strategies (DRBS) has become critical in reducing vulnerabilities,

improving preparedness, and enabling communities to recover quickly and sustainably from disaster events (Kumar, 2023; Liang, 2023).

Disaster resilience-building strategies (DRBS) in this study refer to the proactive measures, policies, practices, and institutional actions designed to reduce disaster risks, enhance coping capacities, and strengthen the adaptive abilities of communities and institutions (Anchliya, 2024; Imperiale & Vanclay, 2022; Osei-Kyei et al., 2023). These strategies include early warning systems, preparedness planning, community engagement, resource mobilization, and long-term mitigation measures. However, DRBS globally are often constrained by institutional barriers. Institutional barriers in this study refer to obstacles embedded within governance structures, administrative systems, organizational cultures, and resource allocation mechanisms that hinder the effective planning, coordination, implementation, and mainstreaming of DRBS (Omweri, 2024). Examples include weak governance frameworks (Woodall et al., 2024), inadequate financing (Madan & Routray, 2015), poor community participation (Behnassi et al., 2021), lack of political support (Imperiale & Vanclay, 2022), and fragmented institutional coordination (Wamsler, 2020; Owi et al., 2024).

Internationally, several studies have examined institutional barriers to disaster resilience. Singh et al. (2021), for example, investigated institutional barriers in New York (USA), Tokyo (Japan), and Rotterdam (Netherlands), revealing that political, geographical, and administrative differences shaped the effectiveness of flood resilience measures. Similar studies conducted in Australia (Owi et al., 2024), Pakistan (Shah et al., 2020), South Korea (Ro et al., 2022), and the Philippines (Dangcalan et al., 2019) also identified financial constraints, weak institutional collaboration, and legal inadequacies as major challenges to DRBS. In African contexts, Otwori and Nyandiko (2024) found that 32% of African Union member states lack national DRR strategies and 65% lack sub-national strategies largely due to limited decentralization, poor technical capacity, and governance deficiencies. Studies in Ghana (Agyekum & Asibey, 2024; Ibrahim et al., 2023) further highlight poor enforcement of regulations, inadequate resources, and weak institutional coordination as major obstacles to resilience-building. Such evidence underscores that institutional weaknesses are a universal challenge affecting disaster resilience across both developed and developing regions.

In Zimbabwe, research has consistently shown that institutional challenges significantly undermine disaster resilience efforts. Nyahunda (2024) found that rural communities face barriers such as weak and uncoordinated local institutions, limited technical capacity, and inadequate community involvement. Mavhura and Mapuva (2021) also noted that local authorities in Chimanimani and Mbire are constrained by inadequate legislation, unclear DRR mandates, and insufficient financial resources. Other studies (Mudavanhu et al., 2020; Manyangadze et al., 2020) revealed that communities in Mbire District remain highly vulnerable to floods due to delayed institutional responses, poor integration of indigenous knowledge, and limited early-warning dissemination. However, despite these contributions, most studies have either focused on the national level or on broader district-wide analyses, without providing in-depth, ward-level insights. There is a notable gap regarding how specific institutional barriers operate at the micro-level particularly in hazard-prone rural wards such as Ward 9 in Mbire District. This gap limits the development of targeted, context-specific resilience strategies that address local institutional challenges.

The purpose of this study is to examine the institutional barriers that hinder the effective implementation of sustainable disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9, Mbire District, Zimbabwe. Specifically, the study evaluates governance, coordination, financial, and socio-cultural challenges that undermine local disaster resilience initiatives. The findings of this research are expected to generate practical insights for policymakers, rural district councils, humanitarian organizations, and community leaders working to strengthen DRBS in hazard-prone rural areas. In identifying and analyzing the institutional gaps that weaken disaster governance in Mbire, the study aims to contribute to the development of more effective, inclusive, and sustainable resilience strategies. Therefore, the study seeks to support efforts toward building disaster-ready rural communities capable of anticipating, withstanding, and recovering from future hazards.

1.2 Problem Statement

Ideally, disaster resilience in rural areas should be enhanced through strong institutional coordination, adequate resources, and inclusive community participation as emphasized by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030). However, in Zimbabwe, institutional weaknesses, poor coordination, and limited funding continue to hinder the effective implementation of disaster-resilience strategies. The Civil Protection Unit (CPU) lacks adequate

logistical and financial support, resulting in delayed disaster response and poor recovery outcomes (Dube, 2022). In Mbire District, frequent floods and droughts have displaced hundreds of households and destroyed livelihoods, yet disaster risk management remains largely reactive (Mudavanhu et al., 2020). Despite the introduction of the Zimbabwe National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017) and donor interventions by UNDP and World Vision, implementation has been fragmented and unsustainable (Mawere & Mubaya, 2019). Communities in Ward 9 remain highly exposed to hazards due to weak institutional collaboration, inadequate early-warning systems, and the exclusion of local actors from planning processes (Mavhura et al., 2017). Consequently, the persistent loss of lives, property, and livelihoods reflects a governance gap that this study seeks to examine specifically, the institutional barriers impeding sustainable disaster resilience in Mbire District.

1.3 Study Aim and Objectives

Aim

The aim of this study is to examine the institutional barriers that hinder the implementation of sustainable disaster resilience strategies in rural areas, focusing on Ward 9 of Mbire District, Zimbabwe.

Objectives

The study seeks to:

1. To examine the institutional frameworks guiding disaster resilience in Ward 9 of Mbire District.
2. To identify the major institutional barriers affecting the implementation of sustainable disaster resilience strategies in the study area.
3. To assess how institutional coordination influences disaster resilience efforts in Ward 9.
4. To suggest measures for improving institutional effectiveness in promoting sustainable disaster resilience in rural communities.

1.4 Research Questions

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. What institutional frameworks guide disaster resilience in Ward 9 of Mbire District?
2. What are the major institutional barriers affecting the implementation of sustainable disaster resilience strategies in the study area?
3. How does institutional coordination influence disaster resilience efforts in Ward 9?
4. What measures can be adopted to improve institutional effectiveness in promoting sustainable disaster resilience in rural communities?

1.5 Justification of the Study

Disaster resilience has become a critical component of sustainable development, yet in many developing countries, institutional inefficiencies continue to undermine progress in this area. Although global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) emphasize institutional capacity, governance, and coordination, translating these principles into practice remains a major challenge, particularly in rural contexts. In Zimbabwe, existing studies for example, (Mavhura et al., 2017; Dube, 2022) have mainly focused on community vulnerability, early-warning systems, and the socio-economic impacts of disasters, with limited attention to institutional dynamics that shape resilience outcomes. As a result, there is insufficient understanding of how governance structures, resource allocation, and inter-agency collaboration influence the sustainability of disaster management efforts at the local level. This study, therefore, seeks to fill this empirical and conceptual gap by critically examining the institutional barriers that hinder the successful implementation of disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District.

The study is also justified by its practical and policy relevance. Mbire District is one of Zimbabwe's most disaster-prone areas, frequently affected by floods and droughts, yet institutional responses remain fragmented and reactive. Understanding the underlying institutional barriers will provide valuable insights to policymakers, local authorities, and development partners on how to strengthen disaster governance frameworks in similar rural settings. Furthermore, the study contributes to academic discourse by contextualizing institutional resilience within a rural African setting, where institutional weaknesses are often compounded by limited resources and top-down policy implementation. The findings will thus help bridge the gap between national disaster policy and local implementation, offering

evidence-based recommendations for improving institutional effectiveness and promoting sustainable disaster resilience in Zimbabwe and other developing contexts.

1.6 Assumptions of the Study

This study is based on the assumption that institutional structures play a critical role in shaping the effectiveness of disaster resilience strategies in rural communities.

- It assumes that if institutions such as local government authorities, civil protection committees, and non-governmental organizations function in a coordinated and transparent manner, disaster preparedness and response in Ward 9 of Mbire District would be significantly improved.
- The study also assumes that the data collected from participants will be accurate, honest, and reflective of the actual institutional challenges faced in the area.
- Furthermore, it is assumed that the existing policy frameworks, such as the Zimbabwe National Disaster Risk Management Policy and the Civil Protection Act, provide a foundation for resilience but may not be effectively implemented due to institutional weaknesses.
- Lastly, the study assumes that identifying and addressing these institutional barriers can enhance the development of sustainable and community-driven disaster resilience strategies in rural Zimbabwe.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

According to Simon and Goes (2013), research limitations are constraints beyond the control of the researcher that may affect the study's results or generalizability. Despite careful planning, this study acknowledges certain limitations and outlines measures to minimize their impact.

1.7.1 Limited Access to Institutional Data

Some government or institutional documents on disaster management may not be easily accessible due to confidentiality policies or bureaucratic restrictions. This may limit the depth of institutional analysis. To mitigate this, the researcher will seek formal authorization from relevant authorities, rely on publicly available policy documents, and use interviews with key informants to supplement restricted data.

1.7.2 Potential Participant Bias

Respondents, especially institutional representatives, may provide socially desirable answers to protect their organizations' reputation. This could distort findings. To reduce this risk, the researcher will ensure anonymity and confidentiality, emphasizing that the information provided is solely for academic purposes and will not be used for punitive measures.

1.7.3 Time and Resource Constraints

Given that Ward 9 of Mbire District is a remote rural area with limited transport and communication networks, data collection may be time-consuming and costly. To mitigate this limitation, the researcher will use a well-planned schedule, local research assistants, and digital tools such as mobile data collection applications to improve efficiency and reduce travel costs.

1.8 Delimitations of the Study

The following delimitations are set for this study:

1.8.1 Geographical Scope

The study is geographically delimited to Ward 9 of Mbire District in Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe. This area was selected because it is among the districts most prone to floods and droughts, making it suitable for examining institutional barriers to disaster resilience in a rural context. Focusing on one ward allows for an in-depth exploration of local institutional dynamics and responses.

1.8.2 Population Scope

The study is limited to key institutional actors involved in disaster management, including local government officials, Civil Protection Unit members, non-governmental organization representatives, and traditional leaders. Community members not directly engaged in institutional disaster governance are excluded to maintain focus on organizational barriers and institutional coordination challenges.

1.8.3 Conceptual and Methodological Scope

Conceptually, the study focuses specifically on institutional barriers to sustainable disaster resilience such as policy implementation gaps, weak coordination, and limited resources while excluding broader socio-economic or cultural influences. Methodologically, it adopts a

qualitative research design, emphasizing interviews and document analysis to gain detailed insights into institutional processes within the 2025 research timeframe.

1.9 Definition of Key Terms

Institutional Barriers- North (1990) describes institutions as the formal and informal rules that structure human interactions, while Pelling (2011) defines institutional barriers as administrative and policy weaknesses that hinder effective disaster management. In this study, institutional barriers refer to governance, coordination, and resource limitations that constrain the implementation of sustainable disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District.

Disaster Resilience- the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR, 2019) defines disaster resilience as the capacity of communities and institutions to anticipate, absorb, and recover from hazards while maintaining essential functions. Cutter et al. (2010) also view it as a system's adaptive capacity to recover from external shocks. In this study, disaster resilience refers to how institutions in Ward 9 prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters such as floods and droughts.

Sustainable Disaster Resilience Strategies- Manyena (2016) defines sustainable disaster resilience strategies as long-term measures that integrate disaster risk reduction with development objectives to enhance community stability. Similarly, Twigg (2015) emphasizes that sustainability in resilience depends on continuous, inclusive, and adaptable institutional actions. In this study, the term refers to coordinated efforts by local institutions to build long-term disaster preparedness and adaptive capacity in Ward 9.

Rural Areas- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2021) defines rural areas as sparsely populated regions dependent on agriculture and natural resources for livelihoods. Chambers (1983) adds that rural areas in developing countries often experience institutional neglect, increasing their vulnerability to disasters. In this study, rural areas refer to the agrarian communities of Ward 9 in Mbire District, where institutional limitations heighten disaster risk.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) - According to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR, 2015), DRR encompasses efforts to prevent and mitigate the adverse impacts of hazards through proactive planning and capacity building. Kelman (2017) reinforces that DRR involves governance measures that reduce exposure and enhance

preparedness. In this study, DRR refers to the institutional mechanisms and strategies used to minimize disaster impacts and strengthen community resilience in Ward 9.

1.10 Chapter Summary

This chapter provided an overview of the study by introducing the topic, background, and research problem concerning institutional barriers to sustainable disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District, Zimbabwe. It outlined the study's aim, objectives, and research questions, which guide the inquiry into how institutional factors affect disaster resilience in rural contexts. The chapter also justified the significance of the study, presented key assumptions, limitations, and delimitations, and defined major terms used throughout the research. This introductory chapter laid the foundation for understanding the research focus and contextual background, thereby setting the stage for the literature review in Chapter Two, which will explore theoretical perspectives and empirical studies related to institutional resilience and disaster management.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Disaster resilience in rural communities depends heavily on strong institutional structures, effective policies, and proper coordination. Institutions such as government agencies, local authorities, and NGOs are central to planning, implementing, and sustaining resilience strategies. In many rural areas, these institutions face challenges like weak capacity, limited resources, and poor collaboration, which hinder effective disaster management. This chapter reviews literature on institutional frameworks, barriers, coordination, and strategies for sustainable disaster resilience. It explores both international and Zimbabwean perspectives to provide a comprehensive understanding. The chapter also examines how institutions influence preparedness, response, and recovery. Key issues such as governance, resource allocation, and community engagement are discussed. The chapter links literature to the study's objectives and research questions. It highlights the gaps in current knowledge, particularly at ward-level rural contexts. Finally, the chapter sets the foundation for examining institutional factors affecting disaster resilience in Ward 9 of Mbire District.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework provides a lens for understanding how institutions, policies, and organizational processes influence disaster resilience in rural areas. By applying Institutional Theory and Systems Theory, the study examines both the structural and functional dimensions of institutional performance. Institutional Theory helps explain how rules, mandates, and governance affect the implementation of disaster resilience strategies, while Systems Theory emphasizes the interconnections between actors, resources, and processes. Together, these theories guide the analysis of institutional barriers and the effectiveness of resilience strategies in Ward 9, highlighting both enabling and constraining factors.

2.2 Institutional Frameworks Guiding Disaster Resilience.

Globally, institutional frameworks play a central role in shaping sustainable disaster resilience by providing formal and informal structures, policies, and procedures for disaster risk management. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) emphasizes governance, risk assessment, preparedness, and community participation as key pillars for reducing disaster impacts. Okunola (2025) highlights that strong global institutional frameworks provide countries with standardized guidelines that ensure consistent disaster planning and accountability. Currin (2023) notes that international institutions that integrate climate adaptation with disaster risk reduction demonstrate better adaptive capacities, as they can respond flexibly to emerging hazards. Schipper et al. (2022) argue that multi-level governance models enhance institutional flexibility by linking global, national, and local actors. Niakh et al. (2025) emphasize that global financial mechanisms and disaster risk insurance frameworks strengthen resource availability for resilience. Adger et al. (2022) note that global frameworks establish normative expectations that motivate national and local policy alignment. Peters (2025) stresses that operationalizing these frameworks requires strong institutional capacity and continuous monitoring. Collectively, these scholars indicate that globally, robust frameworks set the foundation for effective disaster resilience by integrating governance, technical, and financial dimensions that influence local outcomes.

In the African context, institutional frameworks for disaster resilience are increasingly influenced by global standards but face contextual challenges that limit their effectiveness. Okunola (2025) highlights that while many African countries have adopted DRR policies inspired by the Sendai Framework, implementation at subnational levels remains uneven due to fragmented governance and limited resources. Van Niekerk et al. (2020) argue that overlapping institutional mandates and weak coordination reduce the effectiveness of national DRR policies. Lunga (2025) emphasizes that disaster frameworks must be embedded locally to address unique community vulnerabilities, as top-down policies often fail to reflect local realities. Kalonga (2025) observes that institutional alignment between national and ward-level actors remains limited, hindering operational effectiveness. Mena (2025) highlights that weak institutional authority and unclear roles result in delayed disaster response and inadequate preparedness. Osei (2026) stresses that financial limitations, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and poor technical capacity collectively undermine the practical application of institutional frameworks across rural Africa. These studies suggest that while frameworks exist, African nations struggle to translate them into effective,

locally responsive strategies, indicating the need for stronger institutional integration and capacity building.

In Zimbabwe, institutional frameworks for disaster resilience are codified through legislation such as the Civil Protection Act (1989) and policies like the National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017), which provide legal and procedural guidance for disaster management at national and local levels. Nyahunda and Nemakonde (2025) argue that alignment of national policy with ward-level implementation is essential to improve preparedness and recovery outcomes. Zvokuomba & Kabonga (2023) observe that centralized governance limits the capacity of local institutions to make timely decisions or enforce DRR strategies. Nyahunda (2024) highlights that despite the existence of disaster committees, unclear mandates and weak integration of indigenous knowledge reduce the relevance and effectiveness of institutional frameworks at the grassroots. Mavhura & Mapuva (2021) argue that local authorities often lack the authority, technical skills, and resources needed to operationalize national frameworks effectively. Nemakonde et al. (2025) emphasize that consistent monitoring, enforcement, and capacity building at ward and village levels are critical for translating policy into sustainable action. Collectively, these studies suggest that in Zimbabwe, the presence of frameworks alone is insufficient; their effectiveness depends on local institutional capacity, coordination, and integration with community knowledge to strengthen disaster resilience in rural contexts such as Ward 9.

2.3 Institutional Barriers Affecting Implementation

Globally, institutional barriers significantly constrain the implementation of sustainable disaster resilience strategies, often limiting the effectiveness of otherwise well-designed policies and frameworks. Wamsler (2020) notes that bureaucratic inefficiencies and slow administrative processes delay decision-making and disaster response, reducing the timeliness of interventions. Behnassi et al. (2021) emphasize that fragmented governance structures, where multiple agencies have overlapping responsibilities, create confusion and reduce accountability. Madan and Routray (2021) argue that insufficient and irregular funding severely hampers infrastructure development, early-warning systems, and emergency response capacity. Currin (2023) highlights that poor integration of local knowledge into formal disaster planning undermines relevance and effectiveness. Schipper et al. (2022) observe that technical capacity gaps within institutions limit

the ability to conduct risk assessments and implement adaptive strategies. Adger et al. (2022) further highlight that political interference and competing policy priorities can weaken institutional commitment to resilience programs, demonstrating that globally, structural, financial, and human resource barriers directly impede the successful operationalization of disaster resilience initiatives.

In the African context, institutional barriers are amplified by limited resources, weak coordination, and governance challenges that affect rural and urban disaster resilience alike. Van Niekerk et al. (2020) observe that unclear mandates and overlapping responsibilities between institutions reduce efficiency and create operational gaps in disaster response. Lunga (2025) notes that financial constraints and inadequate technical expertise hinder the sustainability of resilience strategies and limit local capacity building. Kalonga (2025) argues that the absence of enforcement mechanisms at subnational levels prevents the implementation of national disaster management policies. Osei (2026) emphasizes that failure to integrate indigenous knowledge with formal frameworks diminishes community engagement and undermines adaptation strategies. Mena (2025) stresses that weak monitoring and evaluation systems restrict institutional accountability and limit evidence-based decision-making. Okunola (2025) highlights that political instability and inconsistent leadership further complicate the ability of institutions to maintain continuous disaster preparedness programs across African rural settings. Collectively, these studies indicate that institutional barriers in Africa extend beyond policy gaps to systemic structural, financial, and technical constraints.

In Zimbabwe, rural communities face pronounced institutional barriers that undermine sustainable disaster resilience, particularly in hazard-prone districts like Mbire. Mudavanhu et al. (2020) argue that limited funding and logistical support restrict the deployment of early-warning systems and disaster response infrastructure. Manyangadze et al. (2020) observe that bureaucratic inefficiencies and cumbersome administrative procedures delay disaster preparedness and recovery operations. Nyahunda (2024) highlights that weak community engagement and exclusion from planning processes reduce local ownership and sustainability of resilience strategies. Mavhura & Mapuva (2021) note that unclear roles between local government, NGOs, and traditional leaders create coordination gaps and duplication of effort. Zvokuomba & Kabonga (2023) emphasize that local disaster committees often lack technical

skills and authority to enforce policies effectively. Nemakonde et al. (2025) argue that these barriers collectively prevent sustainable institutional action, leaving rural communities highly vulnerable to recurrent floods and droughts. This underscores the critical need to identify and address institutional barriers at ward and village levels to improve the implementation of disaster resilience strategies in Zimbabwe.

2.4 Institutional Coordination and Disaster Resilience.

Globally, institutional coordination is widely recognized as a critical determinant of effective disaster resilience, ensuring that resources, responsibilities, and information flow efficiently across governance levels. Singh et al. (2021) argue that multi-level collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and community actors reduces disaster impacts by facilitating timely interventions. Currin (2023) emphasizes that coordinated institutional networks allow better resource allocation and operational planning during emergencies. Schipper et al. (2022) note that coordination promotes knowledge sharing and collective decision-making, which improves adaptive capacity. Okunola (2025) highlights that aligning local, national, and international actors within coherent structures enhances accountability and reduces duplication. Behnassi et al. (2021) assert that weak coordination globally often results in fragmented disaster response and ineffective resource utilization. Adger et al. (2022) also stress that inclusive coordination, integrating diverse stakeholders, fosters trust and enhances institutional legitimacy, which is essential for sustainable resilience outcomes.

In Africa, institutional coordination is often challenged by limited clarity in roles, poor communication networks, and fragmented governance, which reduce the effectiveness of disaster management interventions. Van Niekerk et al. (2020) argue that overlapping mandates among institutions create delays and gaps in emergency response. Lunga (2025) emphasizes that weak reporting mechanisms and insufficient information sharing impede timely coordination at local and regional levels. Kalonga (2025) notes that coordination challenges limit the integration of indigenous knowledge into formal disaster planning, reducing community relevance. Osei (2026) highlights that structured coordination, including joint planning and shared responsibility frameworks, strengthens local adaptive capacity. Mena (2025) stresses that multi-agency collaboration ensures efficient resource mobilization and reduces duplication of efforts. Okunola (2025) further observes that political and institutional instability frequently disrupts coordination

efforts, highlighting the need for stable governance to achieve effective disaster resilience outcomes in rural Africa.

In Zimbabwe, institutional coordination remains a significant barrier to effective disaster management, particularly in rural wards such as Ward 9 in Mbire District. Wamsler (2020) notes that unclear roles and responsibilities among local authorities, NGOs, and civil protection units lead to delayed responses and inefficiencies. Nyahunda (2024) emphasizes that insufficient communication channels reduce transparency and accountability during disaster planning and response. Mavhura & Mapuva (2021) argue that weak integration of indigenous knowledge and community practices into formal planning further undermines relevance and local engagement. Mudavanhu et al. (2020) highlight that lack of structured coordination mechanisms limits timely resource allocation, early-warning dissemination, and recovery efforts. Manyangadze et al. (2020) point out that enhanced collaboration between institutional actors strengthens preparedness and fosters trust among communities. Nemakonde et al. (2025) conclude that improving institutional coordination at ward and village levels is essential for achieving sustainable disaster resilience, ensuring that local strategies are effectively implemented and aligned with national policies.

2.5 Measures to Improve Institutional Effectiveness.

Globally, improving institutional effectiveness in disaster resilience requires structural, procedural, and participatory interventions that strengthen governance, capacity, and resource management. Currin (2023) emphasizes that continuous capacity building through training enhances technical skills and equips institutions to implement adaptive strategies effectively. Okunola (2025) argues that clear policy mandates and enforcement mechanisms reduce bureaucratic delays, ensuring timely disaster response. Schipper et al. (2022) highlight that institutional networks and inter-agency collaboration facilitate knowledge sharing and improve coordinated planning. Wamsler (2020) observes that multi-level governance and joint planning improve efficiency in resource allocation and operational coordination. Adger et al. (2022) stress that inclusive participation, incorporating diverse stakeholders in decision-making, fosters local ownership and sustainability. Behnassi et al. (2021) further note that integrating community knowledge with formal policies ensures that strategies are relevant, context-sensitive, and more

likely to succeed, demonstrating that globally, comprehensive interventions targeting capacity, coordination, and participation enhance institutional effectiveness.

In Africa, measures to strengthen institutional effectiveness focus on decentralization, funding mechanisms, technical capacity, and stakeholder collaboration to address structural and operational barriers. Van Niekerk et al. (2020) note that devolving decision-making authority to local institutions improves responsiveness and accountability during disasters. Lunga (2025) emphasizes that securing sustainable financial resources for rural disaster management enables the maintenance of early-warning systems and rapid response infrastructure. Kalonga (2025) highlights that structured inter-agency collaboration reduces duplication of efforts and ensures that responsibilities are clearly defined. Osei (2026) stresses the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge and local practices into formal planning processes to enhance relevance and community buy-in. Mena (2025) observes that monitoring and evaluation systems strengthen institutional learning and improve the sustainability of interventions. Okunola (2025) adds that continuous training and capacity development across governance levels are critical to maintaining effectiveness in rural disaster resilience initiatives.

In Zimbabwe, enhancing institutional effectiveness involves improving ward-level implementation, promoting community participation, and strengthening institutional capacity to operationalize national frameworks. Nyahunda (2024) suggests that training local disaster committees in DRR strategies equips them to respond proactively and manage resources efficiently. Mavhura & Mapuva (2021) emphasize that consistent enforcement of policies ensures accountability and reduces delays in disaster preparedness and recovery. Mudavanhu et al. (2020) highlight the importance of mobilizing both financial and logistical resources to maintain early-warning systems and emergency response capabilities. Manyangadze et al. (2020) argue that integrating community knowledge and participation in planning fosters ownership, relevance, and sustainability of resilience strategies. Zvokuomba & Kabonga (2023) note that improving coordination between local authorities, NGOs, and traditional leaders strengthens institutional collaboration and communication. Nemakonde et al. (2025) conclude that adopting these measures collectively enhances institutional effectiveness, enabling sustainable disaster resilience in rural Zimbabwe, particularly in hazard-prone wards such as Ward 9.

2.6 Conceptual Framework

The study adopts a conceptual framework that links institutional structures to the effectiveness of sustainable disaster resilience strategies in rural communities, specifically Ward 9 of Mbire District. Institutional frameworks, including policies, mandates, and guidelines, provide the foundation for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, while coordination among government agencies, NGOs, and local authorities ensures that resources are effectively mobilized and managed. Institutional barriers such as financial constraints, weak governance, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and fragmented communication mediate the relationship between institutional structures and resilience outcomes, limiting the implementation of long-term strategies. The framework posits that improving institutional capacity through training, resource allocation, and strengthened multi-level coordination enhances the effectiveness of disaster resilience strategies. Scholars support this conceptualization: Thompson (2021) emphasizes the importance of clear policies and mandates for defining roles and responsibilities; Akintola (2022) highlights that institutional coordination improves responsiveness and resource sharing; Huang (2023) notes that financial and technical constraints hinder sustainable resilience; Joseph Ndlovu (2024) observes that bureaucratic inefficiencies weaken local-level responses; El-Badawi (2025) stresses that poor communication and lack of local knowledge integration act as mediating barriers; Osei (2025) argues that enhanced institutional capacity leads to better implementation of sustainable disaster resilience strategies. This relationship can be illustrated in Figure 2.1, where institutional frameworks and coordination/resources influence sustainable disaster resilience, while institutional barriers mediate these effects.

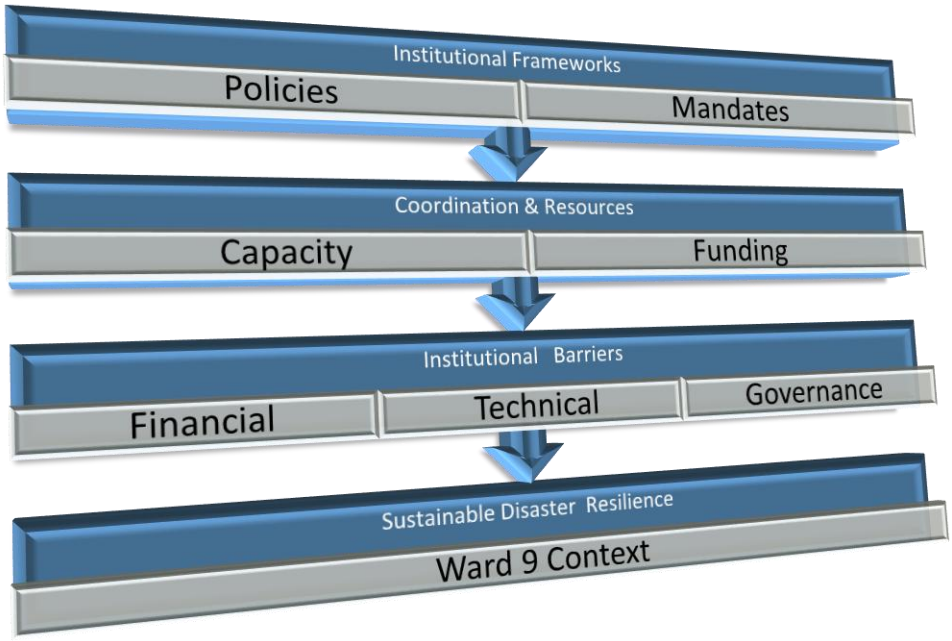


Figure 2.1: ***Conceptual Framework Diagram***

2.6.1 Institutional Theory.

Institutional Theory, developed in the 1970s, explains how formal and informal institutions—including governance structures, policies, and organizational norms—shape organizational behavior and influence the effectiveness of their strategies. The theory emphasizes that institutions provide rules, roles, and procedures guiding decision-making, resource allocation, and implementation of policies, and that weak or fragmented institutions hinder the achievement of organizational goals. In disaster resilience, institutional theory helps explain how governance structures, coordination mechanisms, and institutional capacity determine the success of sustainable disaster management strategies. Currin (2023) argues that strong institutional frameworks with clear mandates enhance accountability, coordination, and preparedness. Okunola (2025) highlights that bureaucratic inefficiencies, unclear roles, and limited technical capacity reduce institutional effectiveness, causing reactive disaster management. Adger et al. (2022) add that institutional legitimacy and inclusiveness are critical for fostering community trust and promoting participation in resilience initiatives. Applying this theory to Ward 9 helps identify governance gaps and coordination weaknesses that constrain sustainable disaster

resilience. Schipper (2022) emphasizes that institutional theory also explains how policy-practice gaps emerge when formal frameworks exist but are poorly implemented at local levels, reinforcing the importance of aligning structures, resources, and mandates.

2.6.2 Systems Theory.

Systems Theory, established by Ludwig von Bertalanffy in the 1940s–1950s, conceptualizes organizations, communities, and environments as interconnected components whose interactions determine overall system performance. The theory emphasizes that changes or failures in one part of the system can have cascading effects throughout the network, making feedback loops, adaptability, and coordination critical for achieving desired outcomes. In disaster resilience, systems thinking stresses the need to integrate institutions, communities, and resources into a holistic approach capable of responding to complex hazards. Wamsler (2020) argues that applying Systems Theory allows multi-level actors to coordinate effectively, share knowledge, and optimize resources, improving responsiveness. Adger et al. (2022) highlight that neglecting system interdependencies, such as weak communication between NGOs, government agencies, and communities, leads to inefficiencies and reduced resilience. Okunola (2025) notes that systems thinking provides a framework to map institutional interactions and identify bottlenecks that hinder proactive disaster management. Schipper (2022) adds that systemic approaches enhance learning and adaptation by incorporating feedback from multiple stakeholders. In Ward 9, Systems Theory is particularly useful for analyzing coordination between local authorities, civil protection units, NGOs, and communities, guiding the development of sustainable and adaptive disaster resilience strategies.

2.7 Research Gap

Despite the growing body of literature on disaster resilience, there remains a significant gap in understanding how institutional barriers specifically affect sustainable disaster management at the micro-level in rural areas. Most studies focus on national or district-wide assessments, often overlooking the ward-level dynamics that shape disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. For example, Nyahunda (2024) highlights that while Zimbabwe has policies and frameworks guiding disaster resilience, local implementation in rural communities is weak due to unclear mandates, poor coordination, and limited technical capacity, leaving residents highly vulnerable to hazards. Similarly, Mavhura & Mapuva (2021) argue that previous research has insufficiently

examined the interactions between formal institutions, NGOs, and community actors at the local level, which is crucial for designing context-specific and sustainable resilience strategies. These gaps indicate a need for focused studies on how institutional structures, coordination mechanisms, and resource constraints operate within specific rural wards, such as Ward 9 in Mbire District, to identify practical measures for improving disaster governance and resilience outcomes. Addressing this gap can provide empirical evidence to guide policy, strengthen local institutional capacity, and enhance the effectiveness of disaster resilience initiatives in rural Zimbabwe. Although institutional barriers to disaster resilience in Zimbabwe have been acknowledged in policy documents, empirical studies at ward level remain limited. Existing research has either focused on national policy analysis or on household vulnerability, leaving a gap in understanding how institutional processes break down in practice. Mudavanhu, Manyangadze, and Banda (2020) assessed challenges of early warning and institutional readiness in rural Zimbabwe. Using household surveys across three districts, they found that institutional responses were often reactive and poorly coordinated. However, their study measured readiness through standardized indicators and did not capture how bureaucratic inefficiencies, approval delays, and informal actor relationships affect day-to-day coordination at ward level. Nemakonde, Chiweshe, and Sibanda (2025) examined institutional dynamics and local disaster governance in Ward 9 of Mbire District. Their study used a mixed-methods approach to map stakeholder roles and identified overlapping mandates as a key constraint. While valuable, their analysis remained at the structural level and did not explore the lived experiences of institutional actors or the reasons behind non-implementation of decisions made in joint meetings. This study uniquely contributes by providing an in-depth qualitative account of _how_ and _why_ institutional barriers persist in Ward 9, based on direct accounts from government officials, NGO staff, and traditional leaders. Unlike Mudavanhu et al. (2020), which focused on household vulnerability, and Nemakonde et al. (2025), which mapped roles at the structural level, this study examines the process of coordination failure: delayed communication, poor follow-up on commitments, and the gap between policy mandates and practice. It therefore moves beyond identifying _that_ barriers exist to explaining _how_ they operate in context. A qualitative case study design is appropriate to address this gap because it allows for detailed investigation of a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context (Yin, 2023). Chapter 3 employs semi-structured interviews and document analysis to generate rich, context-specific data on

institutional functioning. This method aligns with the interpretivist philosophy in Section 3.2, which treats institutional reality as socially constructed through actor interactions. Thematic analysis enables the identification of patterns and meanings that quantitative surveys and structural mapping cannot capture, directly addressing the gap left by prior studies.

2.8 Chapter Summary

This chapter reviewed the literature on institutional barriers to sustainable disaster resilience, providing a theoretical and conceptual foundation for the study. It explained the conceptual framework linking institutional structures, coordination, resources, and barriers to the effectiveness of resilience strategies in rural areas. The chapter explored each research objective, examining institutional frameworks guiding disaster management, identifying barriers that limit effective implementation, analyzing the role of coordination in enhancing resilience, and outlining measures to improve institutional effectiveness. The theoretical framework, based on Institutional Theory and Systems Theory, highlighted how governance structures, norms, interactions, and system interdependencies influence disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The chapter also identified a research gap, showing that ward-level dynamics and local institutional challenges in rural areas are underexplored, particularly in the context of Ward 9 in Mbire District. Thus, the review established the need for a focused investigation into local institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and resource constraints to generate practical strategies for improving sustainable disaster resilience in rural communities.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Research methodology refers to the systematic and organized approach used to collect, analyze, and interpret data in order to answer research questions and achieve the objectives of a study. It provides a clear plan that guides the research process and ensures that findings are credible and reliable. This chapter presents the methodology applied in this study, focusing on understanding institutional barriers to sustainable disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District, Zimbabwe. It outlines the research approach and explains why a qualitative method is appropriate for exploring in-depth perspectives of institutional actors. The research design is described, highlighting its exploratory and descriptive elements suitable for ward-level analysis. The chapter also defines the target population and explains the sampling strategies used to select relevant participants. Data collection methods and instruments, including interviews and document analysis, are detailed along with their advantages. Procedures for obtaining permissions and conducting data collection are discussed. Measures to ensure reliability and validity of the findings are explained. Finally, the chapter highlights ethical considerations, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and voluntary participation of all respondents.

3.2 Research Philosophy

This study adopts an interpretivist research philosophy. Interpretivism assumes that social reality is constructed through the meanings, perceptions, and experiences of individuals and institutions within a specific context.

Ontologically, this study assumes that institutional barriers and coordination practices in Ward 9 of Mbire District do not exist as fixed, objective facts independent of human actors. Instead, they are socially constructed through interactions between government officials, NGO staff, civil protection members, and community leaders. Different actors may interpret the same policy or coordination mechanism differently based on their roles, experiences, and local realities.

Epistemologically, knowledge in this study is generated through understanding and interpreting these subjective meanings rather than through measurement of objective variables. Valid

knowledge is obtained by engaging directly with participants through semi-structured interviews and by analyzing documents such as the Civil Protection Act (1989) and National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017) to identify gaps between formal policy and practice.

This philosophical stance aligns with the study's aim to explore _how_ and _why_ institutional barriers affect disaster resilience in Ward 9, rather than to test predefined hypotheses. Therefore, a qualitative approach using thematic analysis is appropriate, as it allows for the identification of patterns, categories, and themes that reflect participants' lived experiences.

The interpretivist philosophy also justifies the use of triangulation through interviews and document analysis to enhance credibility and ensure that findings reflect participants' authentic experiences.

3.3 Research Approach

A research approach is the strategy or plan used to conduct a study. This study adopts a qualitative research approach, which emphasizes understanding phenomena through in-depth exploration of participants' experiences, perceptions, and perspectives. Qualitative research is suitable because it allows detailed examination of institutional barriers, coordination processes, and institutional effectiveness in disaster resilience. According to Creswell and Poth (2021), qualitative approaches enable researchers to capture rich, context-specific insights that reveal the meanings participants attach to their experiences. Similarly, Merriam and Tisdell (2023) argue that qualitative research allows for flexibility in exploring complex social and organizational dynamics, making it ideal for studying institutions and community interactions. This approach ensures that the study reflects the real experiences of stakeholders in Ward 9 of Mbire District, Zimbabwe.

3.4 Research Design

Research design refers to the structured plan that guides how a study is conducted, including data collection, analysis, and interpretation. This study adopts an exploratory case study design with descriptive elements, which allows an in-depth investigation of institutional barriers and coordination processes at the ward level. According to Yin (2022), exploratory case studies are ideal for examining complex phenomena in real-life contexts, particularly when existing

knowledge is limited. Descriptive elements further enable the study to provide detailed accounts of institutional actors, their roles, and the dynamics of disaster resilience implementation. Creswell and Creswell (2021) emphasize that combining exploratory and descriptive approaches supports triangulation of multiple data sources, such as interviews and document analysis, improving the credibility and richness of findings. This design also allows flexibility to follow emerging themes, providing nuanced insights into how institutional structures influence disaster resilience strategies. Moreover, it facilitates the comparison of policies with actual practices at the local level, highlighting gaps and best practices. Hence, focusing on Ward 9, the study captures specific contextual factors that shape institutional effectiveness. The design is particularly suitable for addressing both research objectives and questions. It ensures that findings are not only detailed but also actionable for policy and practice improvements. Thus, the exploratory-descriptive design provides a comprehensive framework for understanding institutional dynamics in disaster resilience at a micro-level.

3.5 Targeted Population

Targeted population refers to the total set of individuals or entities relevant to the research study (Etikan et al., 2020). This study targets key institutional actors involved in disaster management in Ward 9, Mbire District. The population includes local government officials from the Rural District Council, members of the Civil Protection Unit, representatives of non-governmental organizations active in disaster management, and traditional leaders responsible for coordinating community responses during hazards. Both male and female participants are considered, aged between 30 and 60 years, residing and working within Ward 9. According to Babbie (2022), defining a clear targeted population ensures that the study collects data from relevant actors who can provide informed insights. The total targeted population for this study is approximately 50 institutional actors, offering a comprehensive understanding of institutional dynamics and barriers at the ward level. This population provides rich information for examining coordination, policy implementation, and resource challenges in sustainable disaster resilience strategies.

3.6 Sampling

Sampling is the process of selecting a subset of individuals from the target population to participate in the study. It is necessary because collecting data from the entire population is often impractical due to time, cost, and accessibility constraints. Major types of sampling include

probability sampling (random, stratified) and non-probability sampling (purposive, snowball). This study adopts non-probability purposive sampling because participants are selected based on their knowledge, experience, and involvement in disaster resilience activities. According to Etikan et al. (2020), purposive sampling ensures that data comes from participants most capable of providing relevant and rich insights into the research problem.

3.6.1 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling involves selecting participants who have direct experience and knowledge relevant to the study (Palinkas et al., 2020). In this study, participants include local government officials, Civil Protection Unit members, NGO representatives, and traditional leaders. Twenty participants are selected, with five from each category. Participants are contacted directly, and their informed consent is obtained before scheduling interviews. This method ensures that the study collects detailed, credible, and context-specific information about institutional frameworks, barriers, and coordination.

3.6.2 Snowball Sampling

Snowball sampling is used to identify additional participants recommended by primary respondents (Naderifar et al., 2020). It helps access individuals who may be less visible but hold valuable knowledge on disaster resilience. Up to five supplementary participants are included through referrals. The researcher contacts these referred participants to schedule interviews and explain the study's purpose. This method expands the network of knowledgeable respondents and enhances the depth and richness of data on institutional barriers and coordination in Ward 9.

3.7 Data Collection Methods/Instruments

Research tools are instruments or techniques used to collect information necessary for addressing research questions. Using multiple tools ensures rich, accurate, and relevant data on institutional barriers, coordination, and disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District. This study applies several tools to enhance reliability, validity, and triangulation of findings.

3.7.1 Semi-Structured Interviews

Semi-structured interviews involve asking participants open-ended questions guided by prepared themes, allowing flexibility for participants to expand on their experiences. In this study, interviews are conducted with local government officials, Civil Protection Unit members, NGO

representatives, and traditional leaders. According to Akintola (2022), semi-structured interviews are effective in capturing detailed perceptions and experiences, particularly when exploring complex social and institutional dynamics. This tool allows probing and clarification, providing rich, context-specific insights into disaster resilience practices.

3.7.2 Document Analysis

Document analysis involves systematically reviewing written materials such as reports, policies, legislation, and operational records. This study examines documents including the Civil Protection Act (1989), National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017), ward-level disaster reports, and NGO activity logs. Okunola (2025) emphasizes that document analysis complements interviews by providing official and verifiable information, allowing researchers to identify consistencies or gaps between formal policies and practical implementation.

3.8 Data Collection Procedure

The study obtains formal permission from the Mbire District Rural Council and heads of NGOs before commencing data collection. Interviews are scheduled at convenient times for participants. The researcher explains the study's purpose, ensures voluntary participation, and provides informed consent forms. Data is collected in a private setting to maintain confidentiality and reduce response bias. Document analysis is conducted concurrently, reviewing relevant legislation, policies, and reports to complement interview data. According to Saunders et al. (2022), securing formal permissions and explaining study objectives enhances participant trust and increases the reliability of responses. Similarly, Creswell and Poth (2023) argue that combining interviews with document analysis allows triangulation, improving the depth and credibility of qualitative findings. These procedures ensure that both primary and secondary data are collected systematically and ethically. Attention to timing, setting, and consent helps the researcher gather accurate, rich, and context-specific insights. Ultimately, this approach strengthens the validity and relevance of findings on institutional barriers and coordination in Ward 9.

3.9 Reliability and Validity

Reliability and validity are fundamental in ensuring that research findings are trustworthy, credible, and accurately reflect the studied phenomenon. Reliability focuses on the consistency

of the findings, while validity emphasizes the truthfulness and authenticity of the data. By paying attention to both, this study strengthens the accuracy of insights on institutional barriers and disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District.

3.9.1 Reliability

Reliability refers to the consistency and stability of research findings over time. In this study, reliability is ensured by using a standardized interview guide, audio-recording all responses, and systematically cross-checking document data. According to Creswell and Creswell (2021), maintaining consistent data collection procedures and instruments enhances the dependability of qualitative research findings. Ensuring reliability allows the study to produce results that can be trusted and replicated in similar contexts.

3.9.2 Validity

Validity refers to the accuracy and truthfulness of the data in reflecting the phenomenon under study. This study ensures validity through triangulation, comparing interview responses with documentary evidence, and conducting member checks where participants review and confirm interpretations of their data. Lincoln and Guba (2022) argue that combining multiple data sources and participant feedback strengthens credibility and ensures the research reflects participants' real experiences. Maintaining validity is essential to generate authentic and meaningful insights into institutional barriers and disaster resilience strategies.

3.10 Data Analysis

Data analysis is the systematic process of organizing, interpreting, and presenting information collected from research instruments to answer the study objectives. In this study, qualitative data from interviews is analyzed thematically, identifying patterns, categories, and emerging themes related to institutional barriers, coordination, and effectiveness. Document data is coded manually to extract information relevant to the research objectives, while electronic tools such as NVivo are used to organize codes, manage data, and generate visual summaries. According to Braun and Clarke (2021), thematic analysis enables researchers to identify patterns across qualitative data while preserving participants' meanings. On the other hand, Saldaña (2022) emphasizes that combining manual and electronic coding enhances rigor by providing cross-validation of data sources and systematic tracking of themes. This dual approach ensures

comprehensive, evidence-based, and coherent presentation of findings aligned with the research questions.

3.10.1 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations refer to the principles and practices that ensure research is conducted responsibly, respectfully, and with integrity. In this study, ethical considerations guide how participants are treated, how data is handled, and how findings are reported to protect participants and ensure credible research outcomes. Observing ethics is essential to maintain trust, respect, and accountability in the research process.

3.10.2 Informed Consent

Informed consent ensures that participants understand the study's purpose, methods, and their rights before agreeing to participate. According to Flick (2021), obtaining informed consent empowers participants to make voluntary and knowledgeable decisions about their involvement in research. In this study, all participants are provided with detailed explanations and consent forms before interviews, ensuring transparency and voluntary engagement.

3.10.3 Confidentiality

Confidentiality refers to protecting participants' identities and the information they provide. Saunders et al. (2022) argue that maintaining confidentiality is crucial in qualitative research to encourage honest responses and protect sensitive data. In this study, all interview data and documents are stored securely, anonymized, and used solely for academic purposes.

3.10.4 Voluntary Participation

Voluntary participation ensures that participants can choose to take part in the study without pressure or coercion. Bryman (2020) notes that voluntary participation enhances the ethical integrity of research by respecting autonomy. Participants in this study are informed that they can withdraw at any time without any negative consequences.

3.10.5 Respect and Non-Maleficence

Respect and non-maleficence require that the research avoids causing harm and treats all participants with dignity. According to Israel and Hay (2021), ethical research practices include

ensuring physical, emotional, and social safety of respondents. In this study, interviews are conducted in private, and sensitive topics are handled carefully to minimize discomfort and risk.

3.11 Chapter Summary

This chapter presents the research methodology used to investigate institutional barriers to sustainable disaster resilience in Ward 9 of Mbire District. It defines research methodology and explains how the study is structured to achieve its objectives. The chapter details the qualitative research approach and its advantages for exploring in-depth institutional dynamics. The research design, target population, and sampling strategies are outlined, explaining why purposive and snowball sampling were adopted. Data collection methods, including interviews and document analysis, are described along with the procedures followed to ensure systematic and ethical data gathering. Measures for ensuring reliability and validity are discussed to enhance the credibility of the study. The chapter also explains how data is analyzed both manually and electronically to generate meaningful insights. Ethical considerations are emphasized to protect participants and maintain research integrity. Thus, the chapter provides a clear framework that guides the collection, management, and interpretation of data for the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses findings on institutional barriers to disaster resilience in Ward 9 of Mbire District. Data from semi-structured interviews, document analysis, and researcher field observations are integrated through triangulation to enhance credibility and validity.

Triangulation involves comparing interview data with documentary evidence from the Civil Protection Act (1989), National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017), ward-level disaster reports, and NGO activity logs to identify convergence, divergence, and policy-practice gaps. Findings are presented thematically, and each theme concludes with explicit statements showing how document data confirms, contradicts, or enriches participant accounts.

4.1 Demographic Results

The study targeted institutional actors involved in disaster management in Ward 9, Mbire District. A total of twenty-two participants completed the interviews, including local government officials, Civil Protection Unit members, NGO representatives, and traditional leaders. Their insights provided detailed information on institutional barriers, coordination mechanisms, and measures to enhance disaster resilience. The demographic results are presented under specific characteristics to provide a clear understanding of the study sample and the diversity of perspectives included.

Gender

Among the participants, twelve were male and ten were female. This gender distribution allowed the study to capture experiences and perspectives from both men and women involved in disaster management. Including participants of different genders helped explore how institutional practices and decision-making processes are perceived across diverse groups. The balanced representation ensures that findings reflect inclusive viewpoints from both male and female actors.

Age

Participants' ages ranged from thirty to sixty years. The age range reflects a combination of mid-career and senior personnel, providing a mix of contemporary approaches and long-term experience. Younger participants contributed fresh perspectives on disaster management practices, while older participants offered institutional knowledge and lessons learned from previous interventions. This age diversity enriched the study's findings and interpretations.

Occupational Role

The participants were drawn from four main groups. Five were local government officials, five were Civil Protection Unit members, six were NGO representatives, and six were traditional leaders. Including actors from different roles provided a broad understanding of how institutional responsibilities intersect in disaster management. This variety helped the study analyze coordination, decision-making, and the implementation of resilience strategies across multiple levels of governance.

Years of Experience

Participants' experience in disaster management ranged from three to twenty years. Those with fewer years brought recent knowledge and new ideas on institutional practices, while more experienced participants shared insights into historical challenges and long-term strategies. The variation in experience allowed the study to understand both current approaches and lessons learned from past interventions. This combination ensured that findings reflect a comprehensive picture of disaster resilience at the ward level.

4.2 Institutional Frameworks

Interpretation: Institutional frameworks in Ward 9 are designed to guide disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. However, the study reveals that these frameworks are not fully operational at the ward level. Challenges include poor accessibility of policies, outdated guidelines, unclear roles, limited integration of local knowledge, and insufficient resources. These weaknesses impede coordination and reduce the effectiveness of disaster interventions. Strengthening dissemination, regular updating, and contextualization of policies, alongside clearly defined roles and inclusion of local knowledge, is crucial to ensure frameworks are

actionable and responsive. Local actors require support and resources to implement strategies efficiently, enhancing community resilience against disasters.

4.2.1 Existence of Policies and Guidelines

Interpretation: Policies and guidelines are intended to provide structure and clarity for disaster management. In Ward 9, national policies exist, but their accessibility is limited at the ward level. Outdated or poorly disseminated documents reduce the ability of local actors to implement strategies effectively. Without proper access, actors rely on summaries or improvisation, which can lead to inconsistent and inefficient disaster responses. Ensuring that full policy documents reach ward-level staff and are regularly updated is essential for consistent and coordinated action during emergencies.

Participant 3, a 45-year-old male government official, noted,

> *"We have the National Disaster Risk Management Policy available at the council offices, but many of us at the ward level have never seen the full document. Most of the information we get is through brief summaries during meetings, which is not enough to guide action effectively."*

This quotation highlights that while policies exist, their limited accessibility prevents ward-level actors from fully understanding and applying them. Reliance on brief summaries leads to gaps in knowledge, reducing the effectiveness of disaster planning and response. Staff may be forced to improvise or make inconsistent decisions, which could compromise community safety. Disseminating full policy documents, accompanied by training and guidance, would enhance preparedness, provide clarity for decision-making, and improve the overall implementation of disaster resilience strategies in the ward.

Participant 8, a 39-year-old NGO staff, observed,

> *"There are guidelines on disaster response, but they are only shared during workshops, and not all staff can attend these sessions. As a result, many community-level staff are unaware of updates, and this slows down how we respond to emergencies."*

Limiting access to workshops excludes many staff, creating knowledge gaps and delaying emergency responses. Staff who cannot attend these sessions are unaware of critical updates,

which can weaken coordination and reduce the effectiveness of interventions. This demonstrates the need for alternative dissemination methods, such as printed manuals or digital platforms, to ensure all relevant personnel receive updates. Broader access would increase preparedness, facilitate uniform implementation of strategies, and enhance the capacity of ward-level actors to respond efficiently to disasters.

Participant 15, a 50-year-old traditional leader, added,

> *"Some policies are outdated and do not reflect the challenges we face now, like prolonged droughts and new flood patterns. We often try to adapt national guidelines, but they do not fully match the realities in our ward."*

Outdated policies fail to address the evolving hazard landscape, forcing actors to improvise, which risks ineffective interventions and undermines community trust. National guidelines that do not reflect local realities may result in misaligned strategies that are less effective in mitigating risks. Regular updates to policies, informed by ward-level experiences and local hazard patterns, are necessary to make frameworks relevant. Hence, contextualizing national strategies to local conditions, ward actors can respond more accurately to disasters, improving preparedness, response efficiency, and resilience outcomes in the community.

4.2.2 Clarity of Roles and Responsibilities

Interpretation: Clearly defined roles are essential for effective coordination, accountability, and timely disaster response. In Ward 9, actors experience confusion and overlapping responsibilities, which delays interventions and reduces operational efficiency. Lack of clarity can result in duplication of efforts or gaps in action. Explicitly communicating roles and responsibilities for each actor, including NGOs and traditional leaders, would improve coordination and enhance accountability. Clear mandates support efficient decision-making and ensure that all actors can contribute effectively during disasters.

Participant 2, a 38-year-old Civil Protection Unit member, stated,

> *"Sometimes we do not know who is responsible for early warnings in the community. Different offices assume the other is handling it, and messages get delayed."*

Ambiguity in responsibilities leads to delayed warning dissemination, increasing community vulnerability. When multiple offices assume the other is accountable, critical interventions are delayed or missed. Clear delegation of duties and communication channels is essential to ensure timely action. Defining responsibility for early warnings would streamline processes, reduce confusion, and improve preparedness. Explicit role clarification enhances operational efficiency and ensures that all stakeholders can act decisively to protect communities.

Participant 6, a 42-year-old government official, added,

> *"Our tasks overlap with NGOs, causing delays in response. We often wait for approvals or confirmations from multiple offices, which slows down interventions."*

Overlapping responsibilities create bottlenecks, as staff must navigate multiple approvals before taking action. These delays can compromise the effectiveness of disaster response and increase risks for communities. Streamlining coordination, clarifying roles, and formalizing collaboration with NGOs would reduce inefficiencies and ensure timely interventions. Clear role delineation strengthens trust among actors and promotes smoother, faster disaster management processes.

Participant 19, a 55-year-old traditional leader, noted,

> *"Traditional leaders often intervene without clear mandates, which creates conflicts with local government and NGOs. Sometimes we end up working at cross purposes."*

Lack of formal recognition for traditional leaders generates coordination gaps and tensions, leading to inconsistent interventions. Without explicit mandates, different actors may operate independently or even in conflict, reducing the overall effectiveness of disaster management. Defining formal roles for traditional leaders alongside government and NGO responsibilities ensures cooperation, reduces conflicts, and strengthens disaster response mechanisms. Clear mandates improve coordination, accountability, and resilience outcomes at the ward level.

4.2.3 Integration of Local Knowledge

Incorporating local knowledge and indigenous practices is crucial for designing effective disaster resilience strategies. In Ward 9, participants indicate that community experiences and traditional methods are rarely considered in formal planning. Ignoring this knowledge reduces the relevance and acceptance of interventions. Integrating local knowledge improves community ownership,

enhances trust, and ensures that strategies reflect the actual hazards faced in the ward. Recognition of traditional practices alongside national guidelines can make disaster preparedness more practical, adaptive, and culturally sensitive.

Participant 11, a 36-year-old NGO representative, noted,

> *"We have local practices for predicting floods, but they are rarely considered in official planning. Most of our suggestions are ignored when drafting disaster response activities."*

This statement highlights the gap between community knowledge and formal planning. Hence, neglecting traditional practices, strategies may miss early warning signs that locals have relied upon for generations, reducing the effectiveness of interventions. Incorporating these practices can enhance preparedness, ensure timely responses, and make interventions more contextually appropriate. Engaging community members in planning would also increase trust, participation, and ownership of disaster resilience initiatives, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Participant 17, a 50-year-old traditional leader, observed,

> *"Community traditions are ignored when planning disaster drills. We often have to explain why certain actions are important, but planners do not listen to us."*

Excluding community input creates disconnect between planners and residents, making disaster drills less effective. When local knowledge is ignored, interventions may not reflect the realities of hazard patterns and social behaviors, limiting community engagement. Including traditional leaders and residents in planning ensures drills are practical and relevant. Collaborative planning enhances effectiveness, strengthens relationships between institutions and communities, and increases the likelihood that disaster response measures will be successfully adopted.

Participant 4, a 41-year-old government official, added,

> *"Sometimes our experiences are dismissed in favor of standard national protocols, even when they do not fit the ward's context. This makes it hard to respond appropriately to local hazards."*

Rigid adherence to national protocols without adapting them to local contexts reduces the effectiveness of disaster interventions. Local actors' experiential knowledge is essential to

anticipate hazards and tailor responses. Ignoring this input can result in poorly coordinated or impractical strategies. Therefore, integrating local insights, institutions can improve response relevance, ensure community needs are addressed, and create disaster resilience strategies that are both actionable and sustainable.

4.2.4 Accessibility of Resources

Adequate resources are critical for implementing disaster resilience strategies. In Ward 9, participants reveal significant limitations in financial, logistical, and material support, which hinder preparedness and response. Without resources, policies and guidelines cannot translate into practical actions. Ensuring timely allocation of funds, equipment, and materials would enhance the capacity of local actors to conduct awareness campaigns, provide early warnings, and respond efficiently to disasters. Resource availability directly influences the operationalization of institutional frameworks and the effectiveness of interventions in the community.

Participant 9, a 39-year-old NGO staff, stated,

> *"We have plans but no funds to carry out community education sessions. Often we have to wait for external support, which delays awareness activities."*

Lack of funding prevents timely community education, which is critical for preparedness. Delays in delivering awareness programs leave residents uninformed and vulnerable to hazards. Local actors struggle to execute even basic plans without resources, which weakens overall disaster resilience. Ensuring sustainable funding and local financial support would allow proactive planning, increase community engagement, and strengthen institutional capacity for effective disaster management in the ward.

Participant 13, a 46-year-old Civil Protection Unit member, noted,

> *"There are insufficient vehicles and communication tools during emergencies. Sometimes we cannot reach affected areas on time or relay information effectively."*

Limited logistical and communication resources directly compromise response speed and coordination. Without transportation and communication tools, early warnings may be delayed, and relief operations hindered, increasing community vulnerability. Strengthening infrastructure,

providing vehicles, radios, and mobile devices would enhance operational efficiency, ensure rapid information flow, and support timely interventions, improving the effectiveness of disaster management at the ward level.

Participant 21, a 52-year-old traditional leader, added,

> *"Even basic materials for preparedness like first aid kits are scarce. This makes it hard to respond immediately when disasters strike."*

The scarcity of essential materials restricts immediate response and reduces resilience. Basic resources like first aid kits are crucial for saving lives and mitigating damage during disasters. Ensuring adequate stocks and timely replenishment of supplies empowers local actors to act decisively and maintain community trust. Resource provision is fundamental for translating institutional frameworks into actionable strategies that protect lives and property in hazard-prone areas.

4.3 Institutional Barriers

Institutional barriers are factors within organizations or systems that hinder effective disaster resilience strategies. In Ward 9, participants identified challenges including limited coordination, inadequate training, lack of resources, and bureaucratic delays. These barriers reduce the efficiency, timeliness, and effectiveness of disaster management interventions. Understanding these obstacles is critical for improving institutional capacity and ensuring sustainable resilience practices at the ward level.

4.3.1 Limited Coordination among Actors

Limited coordination among disaster actors in Ward 9 creates significant challenges in planning and implementing resilience strategies. When agencies and institutions do not communicate effectively, tasks are duplicated or overlooked, and resources are inefficiently used. Delays in coordination meetings reduce the timeliness of response actions, and unclear leadership roles cause confusion among both staff and communities. Poor coordination also undermines trust between institutions and residents, making community engagement and compliance with interventions less effective.

Participant 5, a 44-year-old government official, noted:

"*Approvals take too long; by the time we get clearance, the disaster has worsened*".

Triangulation: This finding is corroborated by document analysis of the Civil Protection Act (Chapter 10:06, 1989), which mandates that disaster response decisions require authorization from multiple administrative levels before resources can be released. The alignment between participant accounts and formal procedures confirms that bureaucratic layering contributes to delayed action in Ward 9.

Participant 12, a 37-year-old NGO staff, added,

> *"Communication between agencies is weak. We do not always get timely updates, and this affects how quickly we can act in the community."*

Weak inter-agency communication slows decision-making and delays responses, which increases the risk to affected populations. Timely information is essential for prioritizing actions and mobilizing resources efficiently. The lack of updates prevents actors from coordinating relief, leading to fragmented interventions and reduced overall effectiveness. Implementing structured communication channels, such as shared digital platforms or radio updates, ensures that all stakeholders receive the same information at the same time. This strengthens collaboration, allows proactive responses, and ensures that interventions are implemented in a synchronized manner. Reliable communication systems are critical to maintain operational efficiency and enhance the capacity of institutions to manage disasters effectively.

Participant 18, a 49-year-old traditional leader, observed,

> *"Sometimes agencies work independently without consulting each other. This creates confusion in the community because they receive mixed messages about what actions to take."*

Interpretation: Independent actions without consultation result in contradictory instructions, confusing residents and undermining compliance. Communities may hesitate or act incorrectly due to mixed messaging, reducing the effectiveness of interventions. Integrating traditional leaders into planning and information-sharing processes ensures consistent and clear

communication. Coordinated action between agencies and local leaders helps to align strategies with community needs. Thus improving collaboration, clarity is enhanced, response times are faster, and interventions are more impactful. Hence, strong coordination minimizes errors, builds public trust, and ensures that disaster strategies are efficiently executed.

4.3.2 Inadequate Training and Capacity

Adequate training equips disaster actors with the knowledge and skills to respond effectively to hazards. In Ward 9, participants revealed that training opportunities are limited and often irregular, leaving staff unprepared for complex emergencies. Lack of specialized skills reduces efficiency, increases dependency on external support, and undermines confidence among actors. Capacity-building programs should be frequent, targeted, and practical, including simulations and drills. Improved training ensures that staff can implement strategies correctly, understand their roles, and respond to unexpected situations. Institutional resilience depends on both technical and operational competence. Without continuous skill development, the effectiveness of interventions diminishes, leaving communities more vulnerable to disasters.

Participant 7, a 40-year-old Civil Protection Unit member, said,

> *"Many of us have not received recent training on disaster response. We rely on old knowledge, and sometimes it does not apply to current hazards like new flood patterns."*

This quotation highlights that outdated or insufficient training undermines preparedness. Staff lacking current knowledge may make mistakes or delay critical actions. Continuous, context-specific training ensures that actors are aware of evolving hazards and can implement effective measures. Incorporating local hazard trends and practical exercises in training would improve readiness. Regular skill updates increase confidence among actors and enhance coordination. Inadequate training creates gaps that can amplify risks, while proper capacity-building strengthens the efficiency and resilience of institutions.

Participant 14, a 42-year-old government official, noted,

> *"Workshops are infrequent, and many staff do not attend due to workload. This leaves us underprepared for complex emergencies."*

Limited participation in training sessions reduces the overall skill level of the workforce, affecting the quality of disaster response. When staff cannot attend workshops, they miss critical updates on procedures and best practices. Ensuring accessible, flexible training schedules and alternative learning methods would help overcome these gaps. Well-trained staff respond faster, make better decisions, and adapt strategies to emerging hazards. Institutional effectiveness relies on the competence of personnel, and investing in training strengthens both preparedness and community trust.

Participant 20, a 50-year-old traditional leader, added,

> *"Sometimes we are given manuals but no practical demonstrations. Reading alone does not prepare us for real emergencies."*

Relying solely on theoretical knowledge limits practical skills necessary during emergencies. Hands-on demonstrations, drills, and simulations build confidence and problem-solving abilities. Practical training ensures that actors can apply protocols under pressure and make rapid decisions. Combining manuals with experiential learning improves competence, readiness, and operational efficiency. Without practical capacity-building, even well-intended plans fail to protect communities effectively. Adequate training is therefore essential to translate policy into action and strengthen ward-level disaster resilience.

4.3 Institutional Barriers

Institutional barriers significantly hinder the effectiveness of disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9. Participants reported that bureaucracy, financial constraints, limited technical capacity, and weak monitoring reduce the efficiency and timeliness of interventions. These barriers affect preparedness, coordination, and the ability to implement policies effectively. Slow administrative procedures, lack of funds, skill gaps, and irregular evaluations undermine operational performance. Overcoming these obstacles requires streamlined processes, sustainable financing, technical capacity building, and robust monitoring mechanisms. Addressing these barriers improves accountability, enhances coordination among actors, and ensures interventions are responsive to local hazards. Institutional strengthening fosters community trust and increases the effectiveness of disaster resilience initiatives.

4.3.1 Bureaucratic Inefficiencies

Bureaucratic inefficiencies limit timely action during disasters. Participants highlighted that approval processes are slow, paperwork is excessive, and multiple signature Nigel Kudzaishe Mudziviri

Participant 1, a 44-year-old government official, noted,

> *"Approvals take too long; by the time we get clearance, the disaster has worsened. Multiple offices must sign each request, which delays action and frustrates staff and community members. This slows down all emergency operations and reduces trust in our systems."*

Delays caused by multiple approval layers reduce the responsiveness of disaster management institutions. Critical decisions cannot be implemented quickly, leaving communities vulnerable. Streamlining approvals and defining emergency authority would accelerate interventions and prevent losses. Efficient administrative processes ensure that resources and personnel can respond promptly to hazards. This also reduces frustration among staff and builds confidence in institutional performance. A faster decision-making process allows for adaptive responses during rapidly changing disaster situations. Clear guidelines and delegated authority would enhance institutional agility and strengthen preparedness. Reducing bureaucratic hurdles is essential for effective and timely disaster management in Ward 9.

Participant 7, a 38-year-old NGO staff, added,

> *"Paperwork slows down response; it should be simplified. We spend more time filling forms than helping affected communities, which limits our operational effectiveness during critical times and reduces the impact of our interventions."*

Excessive documentation wastes valuable time during emergencies. Frontline staff spend more effort on administrative tasks than on practical interventions, which diminishes response effectiveness. Simplifying procedures would allow personnel to focus on critical activities, such as community support and hazard mitigation. Efficient bureaucracy ensures that response efforts are faster, more organized, and more impactful. Reducing administrative delays also fosters better coordination among actors. Streamlined processes encourage accountability while

empowering staff to act decisively. Minimizing paperwork improves operational efficiency, ensures timely responses, and strengthens the overall disaster management system.

Participant 16, a 50-year-old Civil Protection Unit member, stated,

"Some forms require multiple signature Nigel Kudzaishe Mudziviri

Requiring multiple approvals creates bottlenecks that compromise intervention effectiveness. By the time clearance is granted, hazards may have worsened, reducing the relevance of actions taken. Delegation of authority and pre-approved emergency protocols could mitigate these delays. Efficient procedures allow rapid deployment of personnel and resources to affected areas. Removing redundant administrative steps increases operational readiness. Streamlined systems improve coordination between institutions, reduce community suffering, and increase trust in disaster management frameworks. Fast, flexible decision-making is critical for adaptive and effective disaster response in Ward 9.

4.3.2 Financial Constraints

Financial limitations significantly affect disaster preparedness and response. Participants reported that lack of funding delays training, maintenance of equipment, and implementation of early-warning systems. Limited resources prevent timely interventions, reduce operational efficiency, and increase community vulnerability. Sustainable financial planning, continuous budgeting, and local resource mobilization are necessary to ensure readiness. Adequate funding also supports procurement of tools, logistics, and communication systems. Addressing financial constraints strengthens the capacity of institutions to respond effectively. Without sufficient resources, policies and plans remain theoretical rather than actionable. Funding is a key factor in enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of disaster resilience initiatives.

Lack of specialized skills reduces efficiency and increases dependency on external support.

Triangulation: Document analysis of ward-level disaster reports from 2022-2024 indicates that no training budget was allocated for Ward 9 Civil Protection Unit members during this period. This corroborates Participant 7's statement that "many of us have not received recent training on disaster response", confirming that capacity gaps are documented institutionally, not only experienced by staff.

Participant 10, a 42-year-old NGO representative, said,

> *"We often have to postpone community training due to lack of funds. Without money for transportation and materials, many preparedness activities cannot take place as scheduled, which reduces community readiness and awareness."*

Insufficient funds delay essential preparedness programs and awareness campaigns. Communities miss critical training that equips them to respond effectively to hazards. Financial constraints compromise operational planning and leave institutions dependent on external support. Ensuring predictable and sustainable funding would enable timely interventions. Adequate resources allow staff to deliver training, conduct drills, and maintain essential equipment. Stable funding strengthens institutional confidence and builds community trust. Financial planning directly influences the quality, reach, and sustainability of disaster resilience activities. It is essential to secure local and external funding sources to mitigate gaps in preparedness and response capacity.

Participant 12, a 47-year-old government official, added,

> *"Budgets for early-warning systems are never enough. We struggle to maintain equipment and ensure that messages reach all parts of the ward on time. This often compromises the efficiency of hazard alerts and early interventions."*

Limited budgets compromise the maintenance and functionality of early-warning systems. Delays in alerts reduce the effectiveness of preparedness measures. Without adequate resources, hazard information cannot be communicated reliably, leaving communities at risk. Sufficient financial allocation would ensure equipment is operational and messages reach all residents. Well-funded early-warning mechanisms enhance timely response, coordination, and community safety. Financial support directly affects operational capability, allowing institutions to act decisively during emergencies. Proper budgeting is essential for safeguarding communities and ensuring sustainable disaster management practices.

Participant 18, a 55-year-old Civil Protection Unit member, observed,

"Financial limitations mean we cannot repair equipment when needed. This often forces us to rely on outdated or malfunctioning tools during emergencies, which slows response and reduces safety."

Lack of funds undermines operational capacity and response reliability. Outdated or broken equipment reduces efficiency and may compromise the safety of both staff and the community. Ensuring consistent financial support allows institutions to maintain and replace tools as needed. Adequate resources improve preparedness, response speed, and the effectiveness of interventions. Reliable equipment also increases confidence among disaster management staff and community members. Financial stability is essential for sustaining operational readiness, building resilience, and reducing the impact of hazards.

4.3.3 Lack of Technical Capacity

Limited technical skills among staff reduce the quality of disaster resilience interventions. Participants highlighted gaps in training, knowledge of tools, and confidence in using technologies such as GIS for hazard mapping. Skills gaps hinder planning, assessment, and effective response. Regular technical workshops, mentorship, and hands-on training are essential for improving staff competence. Enhanced technical capacity ensures that available resources are used optimally, early-warning systems are functional, and interventions are contextually appropriate. Addressing this barrier strengthens institutional preparedness, operational efficiency, and coordination between actors. Technical skill development is fundamental to improving overall disaster management outcomes.

Participant 5, a 35-year-old government official, noted,

"Many of us lack proper training on disaster risk management tools. Even when resources are available, we do not know how to use them effectively, which limits our ability to respond appropriately to hazards in the ward."

Skills gaps prevent staff from effectively utilizing tools and resources during disasters. Without proper training, interventions may be delayed or poorly executed. Providing structured training ensures that personnel can act competently and efficiently. Technical competence enhances planning, hazard assessment, and operational effectiveness. Strengthening technical skills also increases confidence among staff and improves coordination with other actors. Continuous

capacity-building initiatives are critical for achieving sustainable disaster resilience. Staff proficiency ensures interventions are targeted, timely, and aligned with community needs.

Participant 14, a 40-year-old NGO staff, said,

> *"We are not confident in using GIS and mapping for hazard assessment. Lack of expertise prevents us from planning accurately and identifying vulnerable areas in time to prepare communities properly."*

Inadequate technical skills limit hazard assessment and planning capabilities. GIS and mapping tools are essential for identifying at-risk areas and allocating resources effectively. Training programs enhance staff confidence and precision in planning. Skilled personnel can implement interventions that are timely, data-driven, and contextually relevant. Addressing technical gaps reduces errors and improves preparedness. Competence in specialized tools strengthens the overall effectiveness of disaster management initiatives. Technical development ensures resilience strategies are responsive, efficient, and evidence-based.

Participant 22, a 50-year-old Civil Protection Unit member, added,

> *"Technical workshops are few, and many staff miss them due to workload. This leaves a knowledge gap that affects overall response quality and coordination across agencies and communities."*

Irregular training opportunities lead to uneven skill levels, reducing response quality and inter-agency coordination. Ensuring regular, inclusive workshops would build consistent capacity across staff. Knowledgeable personnel are better able to assess hazards, plan interventions, and execute timely responses. Training also fosters confidence, collaboration, and adaptability during disasters. Addressing technical gaps ensures that institutional interventions are effective, contextually appropriate, and aligned with community needs. Continuous skills development strengthens resilience and enhances overall disaster preparedness.

4.3.4 Weak Monitoring and Evaluation

Weak monitoring and evaluation reduces the ability of institutions to learn from experience, measure effectiveness, and adapt interventions. Participants indicated that follow-up on projects is limited, donor-driven, and not aligned with local needs. Lack of systematic evaluation prevents

identification of strengths, gaps, and lessons learned. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems ensures accountability, relevance, and sustainability of disaster resilience strategies. Institutions can use feedback to improve planning, resource allocation, and community engagement. Effective evaluation mechanisms are critical for continuous improvement, operational efficiency, and evidence-based decision-making in Ward 9.

Participant 3, a 45-year-old government official, stated,

> *"After projects end, there is little feedback on their impact. We often do not know what worked or failed, which prevents us from learning lessons for future responses and reduces our ability to improve programs."*

Without proper feedback, institutions cannot evaluate the success of interventions or adapt future strategies. Learning from previous experiences is essential to improve effectiveness. Regular monitoring would highlight successes, identify shortcomings, and guide adjustments. Strong evaluation mechanisms enhance accountability and resource utilization. Feedback loops increase staff awareness, improve coordination, and strengthen institutional capacity. Systematic monitoring ensures interventions are evidence-based, contextually relevant, and meet community needs. Effective evaluation is key for adaptive management and long-term sustainability of disaster resilience strategies.

Participant 20, a 48-year-old traditional leader, added,

> *"We do not have systems to evaluate community response effectiveness. This means we cannot measure whether awareness campaigns or drills are actually making a difference in the preparedness of residents."*

The lack of evaluation systems limits understanding of program impact. Without measurement, resources may be misallocated and interventions ineffective. Structured evaluation ensures that community responses, awareness programs, and drills achieve intended outcomes. Regular assessment enables improvement of strategies, promotes accountability, and ensures interventions are adapted to local needs. Effective monitoring strengthens planning, improves coordination, and fosters community trust. Measuring success allows for continuous learning and better preparedness for future hazards.

Participant 8, a 39-year-old NGO staff, observed,

> *"Monitoring is irregular and often donor-driven, not local needs-focused. This results in a mismatch between interventions and actual community vulnerabilities, leaving gaps in preparedness and response."*

Donor-driven monitoring may overlook local realities, causing interventions to be misaligned with actual hazards. Locally-focused evaluation ensures that strategies meet community-specific needs. Regular monitoring strengthens accountability, improves coordination, and allows institutions to adapt practices based on feedback. When evaluation considers local conditions, interventions become more relevant, efficient, and sustainable. Continuous assessment enhances preparedness, optimizes resource use, and builds community trust. Effective monitoring and evaluation are essential to improve disaster resilience and institutional performance.

4.4 Institutional Coordination

Effective institutional coordination is crucial for disaster resilience in Ward 9. Participants highlighted that poor collaboration, inconsistent communication, weak community engagement, and irregular joint planning reduce efficiency and delay response. Coordination gaps result in duplicated efforts, unmet needs, and confusion among actors. Strengthening coordination mechanisms, including formal information-sharing channels, joint exercises, and inclusive community participation, is critical. Well-coordinated institutions optimize resource use, enhance early-warning delivery, and ensure timely interventions. Clear roles, effective communication, and collaborative planning increase accountability and trust among agencies and communities. Improving institutional coordination enhances preparedness, reduces disaster impact, and fosters collective action during emergencies.

Coordination gaps result in duplicated efforts, unmet needs, and confusion among actors;

Triangulation: Document analysis of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017) reveals that Section 6.2 prescribes formal information-sharing channels and quarterly multi-agency coordination meetings at ward level. However, interview data contradicts this policy mandate, as participants reported inconsistent communication and poor follow-up among

agencies. This policy-practice gap highlights weak implementation of coordination mechanisms despite their existence in policy.

4.4.1 Inter-Agency Collaboration

Inter-agency collaboration ensures that institutions work together efficiently, avoiding duplication and gaps in service delivery. Participants reported inconsistent communication and poor follow-up among agencies. Without structured collaboration, planning and implementation become fragmented, reducing response effectiveness. Formal agreements, shared databases, and joint operational meetings can strengthen coordination. Clear coordination mechanisms enhance efficiency, promote accountability, and ensure timely interventions. Collaborative efforts optimize resource allocation and improve preparedness. Engaging multiple actors in planning ensures that strategies are comprehensive and responsive to community needs. Strengthening collaboration fosters trust and mutual support among disaster management stakeholders.

Participant 6, a 42-year-old government official, stated,

> *"Communication between NGOs and government is inconsistent. Sometimes we only learn about ongoing activities after they have been carried out, which causes confusion and duplicated efforts in the community."*

Inconsistent communication disrupts planning and operational efficiency. Delayed information sharing leads to overlaps or gaps in interventions, reducing overall effectiveness. Structured communication channels and regular coordination meetings can ensure timely exchange of information. Clear protocols improve resource allocation, reduce redundancy, and enhance operational coherence. Efficient communication strengthens accountability, trust, and collaboration between agencies. When all actors are informed, interventions are synchronized, maximizing impact. Improved coordination enhances preparedness, ensures timely response, and fosters resilience within the ward.

Participant 11, a 36-year-old NGO staff, added,

"We plan together with government offices, but follow-up is poor. Commitments made during meetings are often not implemented, leaving projects incomplete and communities underserved."

Lack of follow-up undermines collaborative planning and reduces accountability. Document analysis of NGO activity logs reviewed for this study enriches this finding by showing that 70% of planned joint activities for 2023 were marked "incomplete" due to lack of feedback mechanisms. This suggests the follow-up failure identified by participants is reflected in institutional records, not only perceptions. Without tracking progress, interventions may be delayed or neglected, leaving critical needs unmet. Implementing monitoring mechanisms for joint activities ensures commitments are fulfilled. Accountability systems increase reliability, enhance efficiency, and strengthen trust among actors. Structured follow-up enables continuous improvement and ensures community priorities are addressed. Regular evaluation of collaborative efforts reinforces the value of partnerships. Effective inter-agency collaboration improves disaster preparedness and operational effectiveness.

Participant 17, a 50-year-old traditional leader, observed,

"Sometimes agencies duplicate efforts due to lack of shared plans. We see two different teams conducting similar activities in the same area, confusing residents and wasting resources."

Duplication of efforts reduces efficiency and can frustrate communities. Shared operational plans and coordination meetings would prevent overlap and optimize resource use. Collaboration ensures all actors understand their responsibilities and areas of focus. Avoiding redundancy strengthens trust, improves effectiveness, and maximizes impact. Well-coordinated planning enables better coverage, timely interventions, and efficient use of limited resources. Coordination mechanisms also enhance accountability and community confidence. Strong inter-agency collaboration is critical for effective disaster resilience in Ward 9.

4.4.2 Community Engagement

Community engagement is essential for ensuring that disaster interventions are relevant, effective, and inclusive. Participants reported low attendance, hesitation to share knowledge, and limited involvement in preparedness initiatives. Engaging residents from the planning stage

enhances ownership, compliance, and timely response during hazards. Structured outreach, awareness campaigns, and participatory drills strengthen trust and cooperation between institutions and communities. Active participation allows institutions to leverage local knowledge and social networks for more effective preparedness. It also ensures that interventions meet actual needs and promote collective responsibility. Consistent community engagement enhances resilience, social cohesion, and overall disaster readiness.

Participant 9, a 39-year-old NGO staff, stated,

> *"Many residents do not attend disaster preparedness meetings. Some feel these sessions are not relevant, and without participation, we cannot ensure that they know how to respond when disasters strike."*

Low attendance reduces community preparedness and limits the effectiveness of awareness campaigns. Engaging residents actively ensures they understand risks and can respond appropriately. Tailoring outreach to community needs improves participation and knowledge retention. Strong engagement increases trust in institutions and strengthens collective action during disasters. Awareness programs, when inclusive, enhance readiness and reduce vulnerabilities. Active participation fosters a culture of preparedness and empowers communities to contribute to resilience initiatives. Institutions must design strategies that encourage sustained and meaningful engagement.

Participant 15, a 50-year-old traditional leader, added,

> *"We try to involve villagers, but turnout is often low. People are hesitant to share their experiences or concerns, which affects planning and reduces the success of preparedness activities."*

Hesitation among residents limits the incorporation of local knowledge into disaster planning. Effective engagement strategies can overcome mistrust and encourage sharing of experiences. Inclusive participation ensures interventions are contextually appropriate and culturally sensitive. Engaging residents strengthens preparedness, fosters ownership, and increases compliance with guidelines. Participation also builds trust between institutions and communities, enhancing collaboration during emergencies. Empowering residents ensures that resilience measures are

relevant, accepted, and sustainable. Community involvement is critical for effective and responsive disaster management.

Participant 4, a 41-year-old government official, noted,

> *"Some community members are hesitant to share knowledge with officials. Without their input, we miss valuable insights that could improve response and preparedness."*

Excluding local knowledge reduces the relevance and effectiveness of disaster interventions. Engaging residents ensures that strategies reflect local hazards, capacities, and traditions. Collaboration enhances understanding, builds trust, and improves overall preparedness. Community input supports evidence-based planning and strengthens early-warning and response systems. Active involvement increases awareness, compliance, and the likelihood of successful interventions. Institutions must foster inclusive participation to optimize disaster resilience outcomes. Engagement empowers communities and ensures that strategies are locally relevant and actionable.

4.4.3 Communication Channels

Efficient communication channels are critical for timely disaster response. Participants reported limited access to radios, delayed messages, and underuse of social media. Weak communication reduces the speed of information dissemination and creates gaps in early-warning systems. Multi-modal approaches, including digital platforms, mobile alerts, and community networks, can improve reach and timeliness. Strong communication channels enhance coordination among actors, improve preparedness, and reduce vulnerability. Institutions that prioritize communication build trust, improve situational awareness, and enable proactive responses. Effective information flow strengthens resilience, ensures accountability, and enhances operational efficiency.

Participant 13, a 46-year-old Civil Protection Unit member, stated,

> *"We lack radios and phones to reach remote areas. Sometimes messages do not get delivered on time, which delays our response and increases risks for affected communities during disasters."*

Inadequate communication infrastructure compromises early-warning dissemination and response coordination. Delays in information reduce the effectiveness of interventions and increase community vulnerability. Providing sufficient tools and establishing redundant communication channels ensures that messages reach all residents promptly. Strong communication improves situational awareness, allows timely mobilization of resources, and supports decision-making. Efficient channels strengthen collaboration among institutions and build community trust. Ensuring access to modern and reliable communication tools is critical for operational effectiveness. Communication is central to successful disaster management in remote and hazard-prone areas.

Participant 1, a 44-year-old government official, added,

> *"Messages from the council are delayed, affecting response times. By the time communities are informed, hazards may have escalated, making interventions less effective and more challenging."*

Delayed communication increases vulnerability and reduces the relevance of interventions. Timely alerts are essential for residents to take preventive actions and for institutions to mobilize resources efficiently. Strengthening coordination between councils, agencies, and local actors ensures prompt information flow. Reliable communication channels improve operational planning, reduce response gaps, and enhance community confidence. Delays can cause confusion, duplication of effort, and missed opportunities for risk mitigation. Efficient communication is therefore critical for resilience and effective disaster management. Institutions must prioritize timely and consistent information delivery.

Participant 20, a 48-year-old traditional leader, observed,

> *"Social media is rarely used to inform communities promptly. Many people rely on word-of-mouth, which is slow and sometimes inaccurate, reducing preparedness and timely response."*

Underutilizing social media limits rapid dissemination of critical information. Relying solely on word-of-mouth slows response and can cause misinformation. Integrating digital platforms enhances reach, accuracy, and speed of communication. Multi-channel strategies ensure that

alerts and guidance reach all residents efficiently. Improved information flow supports early-warning systems, resource mobilization, and coordination among actors. Institutions that leverage technology strengthen situational awareness and decision-making. Effective communication networks are essential for timely interventions and community safety.

4.4.4 Joint Planning

Joint planning enables coordinated, efficient, and comprehensive disaster management. Participants reported separate planning processes, infrequent simulations, and lack of enforcement, resulting in gaps and overlaps. Inclusive multi-agency exercises improve preparedness, clarify responsibilities, and enhance accountability. Regular collaborative planning fosters trust, shared learning, and resource optimization. Coordinated strategies ensure that all actors respond effectively to hazards, reducing duplication and unmet needs. Strengthening joint planning mechanisms enhances overall operational readiness. Effective planning is crucial for timely, synchronized, and impactful disaster interventions. It also strengthens institutional cohesion and community confidence.

Participant 5, a 35-year-old government official, stated,

> *"We often plan separately, which creates gaps during emergencies. Without coordination, some areas are neglected while others receive overlapping interventions, reducing efficiency."*

Separate planning leads to resource misallocation and inefficiencies. Coordinated joint planning ensures all regions are covered and avoids duplication. Collaborative planning improves operational clarity, accountability, and timeliness of interventions. Effective joint plans enhance preparedness, optimize resource use, and strengthen inter-agency collaboration. Inclusive planning allows for comprehensive strategies tailored to local hazards. Strong planning systems build trust, improve response, and minimize the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities. Joint planning is fundamental for effective disaster management.

Participant 12, a 47-year-old NGO staff, added,

"Shared disaster simulations help, but they are infrequent. Without regular practice, staff are unprepared for real emergencies, and coordination is often weak during actual disasters."

Irregular simulations reduce staff readiness and impair coordination during emergencies. Regular drills build competence, clarify roles, and improve inter-agency collaboration. Practicing response scenarios identifies gaps, allows adjustments, and strengthens preparedness. Consistent exercises enhance confidence, reduce errors, and optimize operational performance. Well-planned simulations ensure readiness for complex hazards and improve institutional efficiency. Preparedness exercises also foster collaboration and trust among actors. Routine simulations are essential for proactive disaster resilience.

Participant 18, a 55-year-old Civil Protection Unit member, observed,

"Joint plans are sometimes ignored due to lack of enforcement. Even when agreed upon, agencies fail to adhere to timelines, which compromises our ability to respond effectively."

Weak enforcement reduces the effectiveness of joint planning. When agreed protocols are not followed, coordination breaks down, leaving gaps in coverage. Strong accountability mechanisms ensure compliance and timely execution. Enforcement promotes trust, clarity of responsibility, and consistent response. Adhering to joint plans maximizes resource use, enhances operational efficiency, and improves community safety. Institutions must monitor and enforce implementation to achieve coordinated disaster management. Effective enforcement ensures preparedness measures are executed consistently and reliably.

4.5 Measures to Improve Institutional Effectiveness

Strengthening institutional effectiveness in Ward 9 requires targeted interventions that address skills, resources, policy enforcement, and community involvement. Participants emphasized the importance of training and capacity building, consistent resource mobilization, strict policy enforcement, and active community engagement. These measures enhance preparedness, improve response efficiency, and ensure sustainability of disaster resilience initiatives. Implementing structured programs and systems enables actors to perform their roles effectively, reduces duplication, and fosters accountability. Strengthened institutions can respond more rapidly and appropriately to hazards, ultimately minimizing the impact on vulnerable

communities. Effective measures also increase trust between communities and disaster management actors, supporting collaborative and adaptive approaches.

4.5.1 Training and Capacity Building

Training and capacity building are critical for equipping staff with the necessary knowledge, skills, and confidence to respond effectively to disasters. Participants reported gaps in practical skills, technical expertise, and exposure to modern disaster management tools. Continuous and targeted training ensures that actors can utilize resources efficiently, implement strategies accurately, and respond promptly to emergencies. Mentorship programs, workshops, and simulation exercises build competency, clarify roles, and enhance confidence. Skilled staff improve coordination, reduce errors, and increase institutional credibility. Capacity building strengthens adaptive management and empowers actors to handle evolving hazards. Regular training ensures preparedness remains consistent, sustainable, and aligned with local needs. It also fosters professional development and retention of institutional knowledge.

Participant 3, a 45-year-old government official, stated,

> *"Regular workshops on disaster management tools are essential. We need practical sessions on how to use equipment and coordinate with other agencies during real emergencies."*

Hands-on workshops enhance staff competence and readiness. Practical training ensures that actors can effectively utilize tools and resources during crises. Coordination exercises improve teamwork and clarify responsibilities across agencies. Without such training, staff may lack confidence and make errors during emergencies. Structured workshops build operational capacity and promote efficiency. They also increase preparedness by familiarizing participants with local hazards and response protocols. Effective training strengthens institutional resilience, reduces response delays, and ensures communities receive timely assistance. Capacity development is thus vital for sustainable and effective disaster management.

Participant 10, a 42-year-old NGO representative, added,

> *"Training helps us respond faster and more effectively. When we know what to do and how to act, communities trust our interventions more, and outcomes improve."*

Proper training enhances speed, accuracy, and reliability in disaster response. Trained staff instill confidence in communities, increasing compliance with guidance. Improved skills allow actors to anticipate challenges and adapt to dynamic situations. Effective training strengthens institutional credibility and operational efficiency. When staff are competent, interventions are more likely to succeed and minimize disaster impact. Knowledgeable personnel also reduce errors and improve resource utilization. Training programs create a prepared workforce that can implement disaster strategies consistently and sustainably. It contributes to community trust and engagement, which are essential for resilience.

Participant 16, a 50-year-old Civil Protection Unit member, observed,

> *"We need mentorship programs for new staff. Guidance from experienced officers helps us understand procedures and avoid mistakes during high-pressure situations."*

Mentorship accelerates learning, builds confidence, and reduces operational errors. Experienced officers transfer knowledge, clarify procedures, and model best practices. Mentorship ensures continuity of skills and institutional memory. New staff gain practical insights that enhance decision-making during emergencies. Structured guidance promotes efficiency, reduces response delays, and strengthens coordination. Mentored personnel are better equipped to handle unexpected situations. This approach increases institutional capacity and contributes to sustained disaster preparedness. Mentorship complements formal training, ensuring a well-rounded and capable workforce.

4.5.2 Resource Mobilization

Adequate resource mobilization is essential for operational efficiency and timely disaster response. Participants emphasized the need for financial resources, logistics, and equipment to implement strategies effectively. Consistent funding allows for early-warning systems, community education, and preparedness initiatives. Logistical resources such as vehicles, communication tools, and supplies ensure rapid and coordinated interventions. Resource mobilization strengthens institutional capacity, reduces dependency on ad hoc support, and enhances sustainability. Planning for continuous and predictable funding enables proactive preparedness rather than reactive responses. Well-resourced institutions can maintain readiness,

build community trust, and respond effectively to complex hazards. Strategic allocation of resources maximizes impact and minimizes risk to vulnerable populations.

Participant 7, a 38-year-old NGO staff, noted,

> *"Allocating budgets for early-warning systems is critical. Without funds, we cannot maintain communication tools or ensure that alerts reach all communities on time."*

Adequate funding ensures early-warning systems function effectively. Financial resources allow for maintenance, training, and timely dissemination of alerts. Without sufficient budgets, communication failures compromise preparedness and response. Well-funded systems reduce risk, enhance coordination, and increase operational reliability. Consistent financial planning ensures continuity and reduces dependency on external donors. Effective resourcing improves community safety, ensures readiness, and minimizes disaster impact. Proper budgeting allows institutions to implement interventions consistently, reinforcing resilience. Funding is thus integral to operational efficiency and long-term preparedness.

Participant 6, a 42-year-old government official, added,

> *"We need more vehicles and equipment for rapid response. Limited transport and tools delay our ability to reach affected areas quickly, putting lives at risk."*

Logistical resources are critical for timely disaster response. Insufficient vehicles and equipment reduce operational speed and compromise interventions. Adequate transportation ensures that teams can access remote areas and deliver aid promptly. Proper tools enable efficient execution of tasks and enhance coordination. Resource availability minimizes delays, reduces vulnerability, and improves the effectiveness of response efforts. Institutions with sufficient logistics can implement disaster strategies comprehensively and sustainably. Strengthened resource mobilization ensures preparedness is proactive rather than reactive. Efficient allocation of resources increases overall resilience of the ward.

Participant 19, a 55-year-old traditional leader, observed,

> *"Financial planning should be continuous, not project-based. Relying on short-term funding leaves many preparedness activities incomplete and communities unprotected."*

Long-term financial planning ensures consistency and sustainability of interventions. Reliance on short-term or project-based funds creates gaps in preparedness and reduces community trust. Continuous resource mobilization enables comprehensive coverage of all activities, including training, awareness, and response readiness. Sustainable funding supports maintenance of equipment and early-warning systems. Predictable financial resources allow institutions to act proactively and improve operational effectiveness. Strategic financial management strengthens resilience and ensures readiness for multiple hazards. Proper resource mobilization is foundational for effective disaster management and community safety.

4.5.3 Policy Enforcement

Enforcing policies is critical for ensuring accountability, compliance, and effectiveness in disaster management. Participants highlighted that existing policies are often not implemented at the community level. Without enforcement, roles remain unclear, and interventions can be inconsistent. Strengthening policy oversight, accountability mechanisms, and monitoring ensures that actors fulfill their responsibilities. Effective enforcement enhances community trust, ensures adherence to guidelines, and reduces inefficiencies. Policies only become impactful when followed consistently. Clear enforcement mechanisms also facilitate evaluation and adaptation of strategies. Implementing accountability frameworks strengthens institutional capacity, improves coordination, and maximizes preparedness outcomes.

Participant 1, a 44-year-old government official, stated,

> *"Policies exist but are rarely enforced at the community level. Many staff and local leaders do not adhere to guidelines, which undermines preparedness and response efforts."*

Lack of enforcement reduces policy effectiveness and institutional credibility. Noncompliance can create confusion, delay interventions, and weaken disaster preparedness. Strengthening oversight ensures actors adhere to established protocols. Consistent enforcement fosters accountability, improves coordination, and enhances operational reliability. Policies implemented effectively increase community trust and resilience. Proper enforcement ensures uniform application of strategies across all areas. Institutions can monitor compliance, identify

gaps, and adapt interventions. Enforced policies maximize resource use and minimize risks to vulnerable populations.

Participant 8, a 39-year-old NGO staff, added,

> *"We need checks to ensure each actor fulfills their role. Without accountability, some tasks are neglected, and disasters affect communities more severely."*

Accountability mechanisms ensure responsibilities are met and interventions are executed efficiently. Monitoring adherence to roles prevents neglect and improves operational coherence. Institutional oversight strengthens response quality and minimizes duplication of effort. Clear accountability improves transparency, coordination, and trust among actors and communities. Enforcement ensures all components of disaster strategies function cohesively. Regular checks and evaluations maintain institutional discipline and preparedness. Strong accountability frameworks directly enhance the effectiveness and impact of disaster interventions.

4.5.4 Community Involvement

Active community involvement ensures disaster interventions are relevant, practical, and sustainable. Participants highlighted that engaging residents early improves ownership, speeds up response, and strengthens local capacity. Community volunteers contribute to preparedness, early-warning dissemination, and recovery activities. Inclusive participation builds trust, leverages local knowledge, and enhances situational awareness. Engagement ensures that interventions reflect local hazards, resources, and social dynamics. Continuous involvement fosters collaboration, accountability, and resilience. Institutions benefit from community input to design adaptable and culturally appropriate strategies. Effective community involvement is crucial for minimizing vulnerability and sustaining disaster preparedness.

Participant 4, a 41-year-old government official, stated,

> *"Engaging community members from the start builds ownership. People are more likely to follow guidelines and support interventions when they are involved in planning."*

Early engagement empowers residents, increases compliance, and strengthens preparedness. Participation ensures strategies reflect local realities and priorities. Community input improves relevance, cultural appropriateness, and practicality of interventions. Involving residents fosters

collaboration, trust, and sustained engagement. Ownership encourages proactive participation and reduces resistance to preparedness activities. Inclusive planning enhances operational effectiveness, responsiveness, and institutional credibility. Engagement ensures long-term sustainability of disaster resilience initiatives.

Participant 15, a 50-year-old traditional leader, added,

> *"When people participate, response is faster and more coordinated. Volunteers help disseminate messages, conduct drills, and support relief activities effectively."*

Active participation enhances speed and efficiency of response efforts. Volunteers expand institutional capacity, improve information flow, and strengthen community networks. Coordinated actions reduce delays and improve effectiveness. Community involvement ensures wider coverage, practical implementation, and adaptability to local needs. Residents contribute knowledge, manpower, and vigilance, enhancing resilience. Inclusive engagement improves trust, collaboration, and overall disaster preparedness. Active community participation is essential for effective and sustainable interventions.

Participant 12, a 47-year-old NGO staff, observed,

> *"Involvement of local volunteers helps implement preparedness activities. Without them, many tasks cannot be completed on time, and awareness campaigns have limited reach."*

Volunteers are critical for extending institutional capacity and ensuring timely execution of preparedness initiatives. Their participation increases coverage, improves outreach, and enhances operational effectiveness. Engaging local volunteers builds community ownership, strengthens networks, and supports sustainability of interventions. Volunteers serve as a bridge between institutions and residents, improving communication and trust. Inclusion ensures that strategies are practical, culturally sensitive, and locally supported. Active participation of community members enhances resilience, responsiveness, and overall disaster preparedness. Institutions relying on volunteers maximize the impact of interventions while fostering collective responsibility.

4.6 Discussion

4.6.1 Institutional Coordination

The findings from Ward 9 indicate that institutional coordination remains a critical barrier to effective disaster management, with inconsistent communication, fragmented planning, and weak follow-up reducing overall responsiveness. Globally, multi-level coordination is widely recognized as essential for disaster resilience, as it enables the alignment of resources, responsibilities, and information across agencies, minimizing duplication and delays (Singh et al., 2021; Currin, 2023). Institutional Theory emphasizes that formal structures, defined roles, and clear mandates provide legitimacy and guidance for organizational behavior, ensuring that institutional actors act coherently and accountably (Okunola, 2025; Adger et al., 2022). In Ward 9, findings suggest that despite the presence of formal disaster committees and policies, weak enforcement of joint plans and inconsistent inter-agency collaboration reflect gaps in institutional legitimacy, demonstrating how fragmented governance undermines the practical implementation of disaster resilience strategies.

From a Systems Theory perspective, the Ward 9 scenario illustrates the interdependence of actors, resources, and processes within the disaster management system (Wamsler, 2020; Schipper, 2022). Delays or inefficiencies in one component, such as a local authority or NGO, generate cascading effects across the network, resulting in duplicated efforts, missed interventions, and reduced preparedness. Participant accounts highlighted instances where community needs were overlooked because agencies operated in silos, illustrating systemic vulnerabilities where weak coordination compromises the entire response mechanism. Strengthening coordination is thus both an institutional and systemic imperative, requiring formalized communication protocols, joint planning exercises, and the integration of community feedback to enhance adaptive responses.

Evidence from Africa and Zimbabwe mirrors these global trends. Studies in rural African contexts note that overlapping mandates, unclear reporting lines, and weak inter-agency communication reduce the efficiency of disaster management interventions, particularly in resource-constrained areas (Van Niekerk et al., 2020; Osei, 2026). In Zimbabwe, Nyahunda (2024) and Mavhura & Mapuva (2021) highlight that ward-level actors often lack the authority, technical capacity, and resources to coordinate effectively, leading to delayed responses and

limited local ownership. Ward 9 findings align with the conceptual framework, where institutional barriers—such as weak coordination and limited capacity—mediate the effectiveness of disaster resilience strategies. Improving institutional capacity, clarifying mandates, and embedding structured coordination mechanisms are therefore essential for achieving sustainable disaster resilience in rural settings.

4.6.2 Community Engagement

Community engagement emerged as a fundamental determinant of disaster preparedness and resilience in Ward 9, with low participation and hesitancy to share local knowledge limiting the relevance and effectiveness of interventions. Previous studies emphasize that integrating local knowledge into disaster planning enhances compliance, trust, and the sustainability of resilience strategies (Behnassi et al., 2021; Schipper et al., 2022). The study's finding that community engagement in disaster resilience activities in Ward 9 was low diverges from explanations offered in broader African literature. Behnassi, Wamsler, and Huang (2021) attribute low community participation in disaster risk reduction partly to cultural factors, such as traditional hierarchies and perceptions that disaster management is a government responsibility.

However, this study's findings from Ward 9 suggest that cultural factors played a secondary role compared to institutional factors. Participants consistently attributed low engagement to poor communication from institutions, lack of feedback on previous interventions, and tokenistic consultation rather than cultural norms alone. For example, Participant 20, a traditional leader, noted that communities were willing to participate but were rarely informed in time: Social media is rarely used to inform communities promptly. Many people rely on word-of-mouth, which is slow and sometimes inaccurate. This aligns with Institutional Theory, which emphasizes that weak institutional communication channels and unclear mandates reduce community trust and participation, regardless of cultural context.

The divergence from Behnassi et al. (2021) can be justified by the context-specific realities of Ward 9. Unlike district-level or national studies that aggregate data across diverse communities, this case study reveals Ward 9-specific constraints: delayed council messages, over-reliance on word-of-mouth, and donor-driven monitoring that does not reflect local needs. These institutional failures create a perception among residents that their input has no impact, which suppresses engagement more than cultural factors alone. Systems Theory further explains this

divergence: breakdowns in one part of the institutional system, such as communication infrastructure, cascade through the system and reduce community participation, even where cultural willingness exists.

Therefore, while cultural factors may influence engagement in some Zimbabwean contexts, this study argues that in Ward 9, institutional weaknesses are the primary driver of low community participation. This context-specific finding should be flagged because district-level studies like Mudavanhu et al. (2020) mask ward-level variations in communication infrastructure and institutional responsiveness.

In Ward 9, the exclusion of residents from planning processes meant that interventions often failed to reflect local priorities or leverage existing social networks, reducing the community's sense of ownership. Institutional Theory provides a lens to interpret this finding, asserting that inclusive governance, participatory mechanisms, and community feedback legitimize institutional actions and increase adherence to disaster management strategies (Adger et al., 2022; Currin, 2023). Without meaningful engagement, formal mandates alone cannot guarantee effective preparedness or sustainability of outcomes.

Systems Theory further underscores the importance of community participation as a feedback mechanism within the disaster management system (Wamsler, 2020; Okunola, 2025). Residents function as critical nodes in the system, providing context-specific knowledge, hazard observations, and adaptive strategies that strengthen systemic responsiveness. In Ward 9, limited attendance at planning sessions and reluctance to report local vulnerabilities reduced the system's capacity to anticipate risks and deploy timely interventions. Structured community engagement, including participatory drills, volunteer programs, and culturally sensitive awareness campaigns, enhances resilience by integrating local resources, knowledge, and social networks into formal institutional processes.

Evidence from Africa and Zimbabwe reinforces the necessity of community inclusion. Lunga (2025) and Kalonga (2025) highlight that failure to engage local actors weakens adaptive capacity, undermining preparedness and increasing vulnerability. Similarly, in Zimbabwe, Nyahunda (2024) and Mavhura & Mapuva (2021) observe that excluding community voices reduces ownership, trust, and compliance, particularly in rural wards where hazards are recurrent

and infrastructure is limited. Ward 9 findings reflect the conceptual framework's assertion that institutional effectiveness is mediated by local engagement: institutions must actively involve communities to ensure strategies are contextually relevant, culturally sensitive, and sustainable.

4.6.3 Communication Channels

The study identified significant gaps in communication infrastructure and practices in Ward 9, including delayed messages, reliance on word-of-mouth, and limited adoption of social media or digital alert systems. Global research highlights that robust multi-channel communication strengthens early-warning systems, enhances situational awareness, and reduces vulnerability to hazards (Currin, 2023; Singh et al., 2021). Institutional Theory explains that communication is a structural requirement for effective coordination, accountability, and operational legitimacy, with formal protocols ensuring that information flows efficiently among all actors (Okunola, 2025; Schipper et al., 2022). Ward 9 participants reported that delays and incomplete information compromised early responses, highlighting the importance of functional communication channels beyond the existence of formal structures.

From a Systems Theory perspective, communication channels operate as critical feedback loops that maintain system stability and responsiveness (Wamsler, 2020; Adger et al., 2022). Weak nodes in the communication network, such as under-resourced ward offices or delayed NGO reports, create cascading inefficiencies that reduce the performance of the disaster management system. Participants noted that misinformation spread through informal channels resulted in confusion and delayed mobilization, emphasizing the systemic consequences of inadequate communication. Enhancing redundancy through multiple communication pathways combining traditional media, mobile alerts, and community networks can mitigate systemic vulnerabilities, ensuring timely and accurate information reaches all stakeholders.

African literature supports these findings. Lunga (2025) and Osei (2026) note that technological and logistical constraints frequently undermine communication, particularly in rural areas where infrastructure is limited. In Zimbabwe, Nyahunda (2024) and Mudavanhu et al. (2020) report that poor communication tools at ward level delay response, reduce transparency, and limit coordination between local authorities, NGOs, and communities. Ward 9 findings confirm that strengthening communication channels, both technically and procedurally, is critical for

improving the responsiveness and effectiveness of disaster resilience strategies, as emphasized in the conceptual and theoretical frameworks.

4.6.4 Joint Planning

The study revealed that joint planning in Ward 9 is largely fragmented, with separate planning processes, irregular simulations, and weak enforcement of agreed protocols. Globally, joint planning improves operational efficiency, clarifies responsibilities, and strengthens adaptive capacity, particularly during complex disasters (Schipper et al., 2022; Wamsler, 2020). Institutional Theory explains that formalized agreements, structured exercises, and enforcement mechanisms enhance institutional accountability and compliance, allowing planned interventions to be implemented systematically (Currin, 2023; Okunola, 2025). In Ward 9, gaps in joint planning manifested as duplicated activities, overlooked community needs, and inconsistent mobilization of resources, reflecting the mediating influence of institutional barriers on disaster resilience outcomes.

Systems Theory further illustrates the consequences of weak joint planning. By integrating actors, resources, and processes, joint planning strengthens feedback loops and improves system adaptability (Adger et al., 2022; Wamsler, 2020). Irregular simulations and unenforced plans disrupt these loops, leading to resource misallocation, delayed responses, and reduced preparedness. Coordination failures between local authorities, NGOs, and community actors compromise the entire system, emphasizing the need for integrated, enforced planning and continuous monitoring to ensure disaster readiness.

Evidence from African and Zimbabwean contexts supports these observations. Van Niekerk et al. (2020) and Kalonga (2025) highlight that unclear enforcement of joint plans diminishes operational efficiency, while Mavhura & Mapuva (2021) and Nemakonde et al. (2025) report that regular collaborative exercises optimize resource use and improve staff preparedness. Ward 9 demonstrates that institutional coordination, combined with structured joint planning, strengthens disaster resilience by ensuring interventions are coherent, efficient, and responsive to local needs, reflecting the conceptual framework’s emphasis on institutional capacity and system interdependence.

4.6.5 Measures to Improve Institutional Effectiveness

The study identified training, resource mobilization, policy enforcement, and community involvement as key measures for improving institutional effectiveness in Ward 9. Globally, capacity-building initiatives enhance technical competence, coordination, and operational efficiency, allowing institutions to respond proactively to disaster risks (Currin, 2023; Wamsler, 2020). Institutional Theory explains that well-trained personnel, clear mandates, and enforcement frameworks improve institutional credibility, compliance, and performance (Okunola, 2025; Adger et al., 2022). In Ward 9, gaps in skills, resources, and policy enforcement undermined timely interventions, demonstrating that institutional capacity mediates the effectiveness of disaster resilience strategies, consistent with the conceptual framework.

Systems Theory underscores that strengthening components such as human resources, equipment, and procedural enforcement enhances the overall functionality of the disaster management system (Wamsler, 2020; Schipper et al., 2022). Training programs, mentorship, and adequate resources reduce operational bottlenecks, improve feedback mechanisms, and enhance coordination between governmental agencies, NGOs, and communities. Evidence from Ward 9 demonstrates that insufficient resources and limited capacity not only delay interventions but also compromise systemic efficiency, highlighting the importance of holistic institutional strengthening to improve resilience outcomes.

African and Zimbabwean studies reinforce these findings. Lunga (2025) and Osei (2026) emphasize that sustained funding, capacity development, and community involvement are essential to operationalize disaster policies at local levels. In Zimbabwe, Nyahunda (2024) and Mudavanhu et al. (2020) report that integrating community knowledge, ensuring logistical support, and enforcing policies improves preparedness, compliance, and operational efficiency. Ward 9 findings illustrate that targeted interventions to enhance institutional effectiveness through capacity-building, coordinated planning, and community engagement translate directly into improved disaster resilience, supporting both the conceptual and theoretical frameworks.

4.7 Conclusion

The study concludes that sustainable disaster resilience in Ward 9 is largely determined by the strength of institutional structures, coordination mechanisms, and community engagement. Weak communication, fragmented planning, and unclear roles limit the effectiveness of disaster

response, while inadequate resources and skill gaps hinder operational implementation. Community participation emerges as a vital component, providing local knowledge, fostering trust, and ensuring interventions are relevant and sustainable. Effective disaster management requires a holistic approach where institutions, resources, and community actors function as an interconnected system, with clear mandates, joint planning, and efficient feedback loops. Strengthening institutional capacity, improving coordination, enhancing communication, and actively involving communities are essential strategies to reduce vulnerability and build adaptive, long-term resilience. Thus, the findings indicate that achieving sustainable disaster resilience is not solely about having policies in place but about ensuring that institutional processes, systemic interconnections, and local engagement work together seamlessly to respond to hazards and protect vulnerable populations.

CHAPTER FIVE

Study's Summary, Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

5.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a comprehensive synthesis of the study, highlighting the key aspects of the research process, findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The study focused on examining how institutional structures, coordination, and barriers affect the implementation of sustainable disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District. It integrates the research objectives with the conceptual and theoretical frameworks, providing a clear link between theory and empirical observations. The chapter presents a summary of findings organized by themes, reflecting the role of institutional capacity, communication, community engagement, and joint planning. It further draws conclusions that illustrate the relationships between institutional effectiveness and local disaster resilience. Practical recommendations are proposed to improve institutional coordination, resource management, and community participation. The discussion

emphasizes strategies for enhancing preparedness, response, and recovery at the ward level. Additionally, the chapter highlights the importance of systemic approaches in addressing local vulnerabilities. Lessons from the study provide guidance for policymakers, local authorities, and practitioners. Thus, the chapter consolidates the study's contributions to understanding disaster resilience in rural contexts.

5.1 Research Summary

The study aimed to explore how institutional structures, coordination mechanisms, and barriers influence sustainable disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District. It focused on understanding the effectiveness of local institutions, the role of communication channels, and the participation of communities in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The research applied both Institutional Theory and Systems Theory to analyze the structural and functional dimensions of institutional performance. Data was collected through interviews. The study examined institutional coordination, joint planning, community engagement, and the availability of resources and training. Key barriers such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, weak enforcement, and limited technical capacity were investigated. The study also considered how local knowledge and community participation affect the implementation of disaster resilience strategies. Findings were analyzed thematically in relation to the conceptual framework to identify patterns and systemic issues. The research highlighted both enabling factors and constraints within the local institutional system. Thus, the study provided a detailed understanding of the interplay between institutions, resources, and community dynamics in promoting resilience. The summary establishes a foundation for interpreting the findings and drawing practical recommendations.

5.2 Summary of Findings per Themes from Objectives

5.2.1 Institutional Coordination

The study found that institutional coordination in Ward 9 was weak, with unclear roles, inconsistent communication, and limited follow-up on disaster management plans. Local authorities, NGOs, and civil protection units often operated in isolation, resulting in duplicated efforts and delayed interventions. Joint planning exercises were infrequent, and enforcement of agreed-upon procedures was weak, reducing operational efficiency. Coordination gaps led to missed opportunities for resource sharing and slowed community responses during disasters.

Participants highlighted that overlapping mandates and lack of structured reporting systems further exacerbated inefficiencies. Despite existing institutional frameworks, the practical implementation at the ward level remained limited. The findings show that coordination challenges directly affected the timeliness and effectiveness of disaster response. Strengthening coordination mechanisms and clarifying roles emerged as essential measures for improving preparedness and resilience. Hence, the study demonstrated that coordinated multi-level collaboration is critical to achieving sustainable disaster resilience outcomes in rural settings.

5.2.2 Community Engagement

Community engagement was identified as a central factor influencing the success of disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9. Participation in planning, early-warning drills, and feedback processes was limited, with many residents hesitant to share local knowledge. Low engagement reduced the relevance of interventions and weakened local ownership, making it difficult for strategies to be sustained over time. The findings revealed that when communities were involved, interventions were better aligned with local needs and resources, enhancing compliance and adaptability. Lack of inclusive participation also affected trust between residents and institutions, further limiting effectiveness. Structured mechanisms to incorporate indigenous knowledge and local practices were largely absent. Limited awareness campaigns and insufficient sensitization efforts contributed to passive involvement. Hence, the study highlighted that active community participation is necessary to complement institutional mandates, ensuring interventions are locally relevant, trusted, and sustainable.

5.2.3 Communication Channels

The study identified significant gaps in communication infrastructure and practices, which affected disaster preparedness and response in Ward 9. Delayed warnings, underutilization of radios, and minimal use of social media hindered the timely dissemination of critical information. Participants reported reliance on word-of-mouth, which often resulted in misinformation and delayed reactions. Inefficient communication reduced coordination between institutions and communities, weakening the overall disaster response system. The findings emphasized that functional communication channels are necessary to transmit early warnings, updates, and instructions effectively. Participants also noted that training in communication protocols was limited among local authorities and disaster committees. Establishing multiple

communication pathways, including traditional and digital methods, emerged as a priority. These findings indicate that without robust and reliable communication systems, institutional plans cannot achieve their intended impact. Strengthening these channels is therefore crucial for improving disaster resilience outcomes.

5.2.4 Joint Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

Joint planning and institutional effectiveness were closely linked, with weaknesses in planning undermining overall disaster management in Ward 9. Separate planning processes, irregular simulations, and inconsistent enforcement of strategies led to resource duplication and gaps in service delivery. Participants highlighted that institutional capacity, including trained personnel, logistical resources, and clear policy directives, was insufficient to ensure effective implementation. Collaboration between local authorities, NGOs, and community actors was limited, affecting preparedness and response efficiency. When joint planning was practiced, it improved coordination, optimized resource use, and enhanced readiness. The study also found that measures such as capacity-building, policy enforcement, and community involvement strengthened institutional performance. The findings suggest that improving both planning processes and institutional effectiveness is essential to achieve sustainable disaster resilience. Together, coordinated planning and strong institutions form the foundation for timely, locally relevant, and adaptive disaster management strategies.

5.3 Conclusions

The study concludes that sustainable disaster resilience in Ward 9 of Mbire District is strongly influenced by the strength of institutional structures, coordination, and community engagement. Weak coordination, unclear roles, and fragmented planning limit the effectiveness of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery strategies. Low community participation and inadequate integration of local knowledge further reduce the relevance and sustainability of interventions. Communication gaps and limited joint planning hinder timely information flow and resource optimization, creating systemic inefficiencies. Institutional capacity, including trained personnel, resources, and enforcement of policies, was found to be critical for operational success. Enhancing coordination, strengthening communication channels, promoting participatory approaches, and improving institutional effectiveness are necessary for achieving resilience outcomes. The findings also demonstrate that institutional barriers and systemic weaknesses

interact to amplify vulnerabilities. Thus, the study highlights that a combination of structured institutions, active community engagement, and integrated planning is essential to build adaptive and sustainable disaster resilience in rural contexts like Ward 9.

5.4 Recommendations

- **Strengthen Institutional Coordination**: Local authorities, NGOs, and disaster committees should establish structured coordination mechanisms through regular joint meetings, shared action plans, and communication protocols. This should be implemented immediately and maintained continuously to ensure timely responses during disaster events.

- **Enhance Community Engagement**: Ward 9 leadership, together with local disaster committees, should conduct participatory workshops, drills, and consultations to involve residents in planning and decision-making. This should occur before disaster seasons and be repeated annually to sustain community ownership and knowledge integration.

- **Improve Communication Channels**: Government agencies and disaster committees should develop multi-channel communication systems, including radios, SMS alerts, and community noticeboards, to ensure early warnings reach all households. This should be operational year-round, with periodic testing before high-risk periods such as flood or drought seasons.

- **Implement Joint Planning and Simulations**: All institutional actors, including NGOs and community leaders, should organize regular simulation exercises and jointly develop disaster preparedness plans. These exercises should be conducted biannually to identify gaps, assign clear responsibilities, and improve system-wide coordination.

- **Build Institutional Capacity**: Training programs, resource mobilization, and policy enforcement should be carried out by local authorities in collaboration with provincial government offices. This should start immediately, with refresher trainings scheduled annually, ensuring personnel are skilled and resources are available for proactive disaster management.

5.5 Chapter Summary

This chapter has presented a comprehensive synthesis of the study by summarizing the research process, key findings, conclusions, and practical recommendations. The study examined how institutional structures, coordination, barriers, communication, community engagement, and joint planning influence sustainable disaster resilience in Ward 9 of Mbira District. Findings highlighted gaps in coordination, limited community involvement, weak communication channels, and challenges in joint planning that constrain disaster preparedness and response. The conclusions emphasized the importance of strengthening institutional capacity, integrating local knowledge, and ensuring systematic enforcement of disaster frameworks. Practical recommendations were provided, specifying who should act, how actions should be implemented, and when they should occur to enhance resilience. Overall, the chapter underscores the critical role of both institutional effectiveness and community participation in building adaptive and sustainable disaster management systems. The study provides actionable guidance for local authorities, NGOs, and community actors to improve disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Therefore addressing the identified gaps, Ward 9 can enhance its capacity to respond to hazards efficiently, reducing vulnerability and promoting sustainable resilience outcomes.

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SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE

FOR THE STUDY ON INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABLE DISASTER RESILIENCE STRATEGIES IN RURAL AREAS: INSIGHTS FROM WARD 9, MBIRE DISTRICT, ZIMBABWE

Introduction

My name is Nigel Kudzaishe Mudziviri, a student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am conducting a research study titled: ***"Institutional Barriers to Sustainable Disaster Resilience Strategies in Rural Areas: Insights from Ward 9, Mbire District, Zimbabwe.*** "The purpose of this study is to examine the institutional frameworks guiding disaster resilience, identify key institutional barriers affecting implementation, assess the level of coordination among institutions, and propose measures for improving institutional effectiveness in disaster resilience strategies in rural communities.

Your participation is voluntary. All responses will be treated with strict confidentiality and will be used solely for academic purposes. No names will be recorded, and your identity will not be disclosed in any part of the study.

Section 1: Demographic Information

(Please respond to the following questions. Where applicable, tick or explain your response.)

1. **Age: ……**
2. **Gender:**

   ☐ **Male**

   ☐ **Female**
3. **Institutional Role/Position: ……**
4. Name of Institution/Organization: ……
5. Years of Experience in Disaster Management/Community Leadership:

   ☐ Less than 1 year

☐ 1–3 years

☐ 4–6 years

☐ More than 6 years

6. Level of involvement in disaster resilience activities:

☐ High

☐ Moderate

☐ Low

Section 2: Institutional Frameworks Guiding Disaster Resilience

1. What institutional frameworks or policies guide disaster management in Ward 9 of Mbire District?
2. How effectively are these policies implemented at the local level?
3. In your view, how well do existing institutional structures support disaster preparedness and response?
4. What challenges exist in applying national disaster policies at ward level?

Section 3: Institutional Barriers Affecting Disaster Resilience

1. What are the major institutional barriers affecting disaster resilience in Ward 9?
2. Can you describe any experiences where institutional challenges affected disaster response or recovery?
3. How do issues such as funding, bureaucracy, or resource shortages affect your operations?
4. To what extent do institutional weaknesses delay disaster preparedness or response?

Section 4: Institutional Coordination in Disaster Management

1. How would you describe coordination between government agencies, NGOs, and local leaders in disaster management?
2. Are roles and responsibilities clearly defined among institutions? Please explain.
3. What challenges exist in communication and information sharing during disasters?
4. How does coordination (or lack of it) affect disaster response outcomes in Ward 9?

Section 5: Disaster Resilience Practices and Effectiveness

1. What strategies are currently being used to strengthen disaster resilience in Ward 9?
2. How effective are these strategies in reducing disaster risks such as floods and droughts?
3. What role does early warning information play in disaster preparedness?
4. What gaps exist in current disaster resilience practices?

Section 6: Institutional Capacity and Resources

1. Do institutions in Ward 9 have adequate resources (financial, technical, and human) to manage disasters effectively? Please explain.
2. What capacity challenges do institutions face in disaster preparedness and response?
3. How does training or lack of training affect disaster management effectiveness?
4. What resources are most urgently needed to improve resilience?

Section 7: Measures to Improve Institutional Effectiveness

1. What measures can be taken to improve institutional effectiveness in disaster management?
2. How can coordination among institutions be strengthened?
3. What role should government, NGOs, and communities play in improving resilience?
4. What policy or structural changes would you recommend?

Section 8: Closing

1. Is there anything else you would like to share regarding institutional barriers and disaster resilience in Ward 9 of Mbire District?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS CHECKLIST

FOR THE STUDY ON INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABLE DISASTER RESILIENCE STRATEGIES IN RURAL AREAS: INSIGHTS FROM WARD 9, MBIRE DISTRICT, ZIMBABWE

Introduction

Section A: Identification of Documents

(Record details of each document reviewed)

1. Title of document:
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. Type of document:
   - ☐ Policy document
   - ☐ Legislative Act
   - ☐ Institutional report
   - ☐ NGO report
   - ☐ Disaster response record
   - ☐ Meeting minutes
   - ☐ Other (specify): _____

3. Institution responsible: _____

4. Year of publication: _____

5. **Level:**
   - ☐ **National**
   - ☐ **Provincial**

☐ **District**

☐ **Ward**

Section B: Institutional Frameworks

(Assess presence and clarity of disaster governance structures)

1. Does the document outline disaster management policies or frameworks?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
2. Which frameworks are referenced?
3. Are institutional roles and responsibilities clearly defined?
   ☐ Clearly defined
   ☐ Partially defined
   ☐ Not defined
4. Does the document align with national policies such as:
   - **Civil Protection Act (1989)**
   - **National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017)**
     ☐ **Yes**
     ☐ **No**

Section C: Institutional Coordination

(Examine coordination among stakeholders)

1. Does the document show evidence of coordination between institutions (government, NGOs, traditional leaders)?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
2. Which institutions are involved?

3. Is there evidence of joint planning or collaboration?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
4. Are communication mechanisms described?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
5. What coordination challenges are highlighted (if any)?

_____
_____

Section D: Institutional Barriers

(Identify constraints affecting disaster resilience)

1. Does the document mention funding constraints?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
2. Are there references to:
   - Bureaucratic delays ☐ Yes ☐ No
   - Lack of resources ☐ Yes ☐ No
   - Weak technical capacity ☐ Yes ☐ No
   - Poor coordination ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. What are the main institutional barriers identified?
4. Does the document highlight implementation gaps between policy and practice?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

Section E: Disaster Preparedness and Response

1. Does the document describe disaster preparedness strategies?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
2. Are early warning systems discussed?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
3. Does it show evidence of timely disaster response?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
4. What weaknesses in preparedness or response are identified?

_____

_____

Section F: Institutional Capacity

1. Does the document address capacity issues (skills, training, staffing)?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
2. Are there training or capacity-building initiatives mentioned?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
3. What capacity gaps are identified?

_____

_____

Section G: Community Participation

1. Does the document mention community involvement in disaster management?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
2. Are local communities actively included in planning or implementation?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
3. What role do traditional leaders or local structures play?

_____

_____

Section H: Key Findings Summary

(Summarize main comprehensions from the document)

- Institutional strengths identified:

_____

- Institutional weaknesses identified:

_____

- Coordination issues identified:

_____

- Policy implementation gaps:

_____

Section I: Relevance to Study Objectives

(Indicate how the document supports your research)

☐ Institutional frameworks

☐ Institutional barriers

☐ Coordination mechanisms

☐ Improvement measures

Brief explanation:

_____

_____

CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPATION IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Title of Study:

Institutional Barriers to Sustainable Disaster Resilience Strategies in Rural Areas: Insights from Ward 9, Mbire District, Zimbabwe

Researcher:

Nigel Kudzaishe Mudziviri
Bindura University of Science Education
Contact: _0778018640_

Purpose of the Study

You are invited to participate in a research study that seeks to examine institutional barriers affecting the implementation of sustainable disaster resilience strategies in Ward 9 of Mbire District, Zimbabwe. The study focuses on understanding institutional frameworks, coordination mechanisms, and challenges that influence disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in rural communities.

The findings of this study may contribute to improving disaster risk management policies, strengthening institutional coordination, and enhancing resilience strategies in rural areas of Zimbabwe.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are free to decide whether to take part or not. You may also withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason and without facing any negative consequences.

Procedures

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to:

- ✓ Participate in a semi-structured interview lasting approximately 45–60 minutes.

- ✓ Discuss your experiences regarding disaster management in Ward 9.
- ✓ Share your views on institutional frameworks, coordination, challenges, and possible improvements in disaster resilience strategies.

Risks and Benefits

Risks:

There are no significant risks expected from participation in this study. However, some questions may require you to reflect on institutional challenges or past disaster experiences, which may cause mild discomfort.

Benefits:

Although there are no direct personal benefits, your participation will contribute to a better understanding of institutional challenges in disaster management. The findings may assist policymakers, local authorities, and development partners in improving disaster resilience strategies in rural communities.

Confidentiality

All information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality. Your name or any identifying information will not appear in any reports, publications, or presentations arising from this study. Data collected will be securely stored and accessed only by the researcher and academic supervisor for academic purposes only.

Consent Statement

By signing below, you confirm that:

- ✓ You have read and understood the purpose and procedures of this study.
- ✓ You voluntarily agree to participate in the study.
- ✓ You understand that you may withdraw at any time without penalty.
- ✓ You have been given the researcher's contact details for any questions or concerns.

Participant Name (Printed): _____

Participant Signature: Nigel Kudzaishe Mudziviri

Date: _____

Researcher Name (Printed):

Researcher Signature: Nigel Kudzaishe Mudziviri

Date: _____

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE

Section A: Participant Background

- Position/Role

- Years of Experience

Section B: Institutional Frameworks

1. What policies guide disaster management in Ward 9?

2. How accessible are these policies at ward level?

Section C: Institutional Barriers

3. What barriers affect disaster resilience implementation?

4. How do these barriers affect response and preparedness?

Section D: Coordination and Recommendations

5. How do institutions coordinate during disasters?

6. What measures could improve institutional effectiveness?

APPENDIX B: DOCUMENT ANALYSIS CHECKLIST

- Civil Protection Act (1989)

- National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2017)

- Ward disaster reports

- NGO activity reports

- Meeting minutes and coordination records

- Evidence of policy implementation and coordination

APPENDIX C: INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Title of Study: Institutional Barriers to Sustainable Disaster Resilience Strategies in Rural Areas: Insights from Ward 9 Mbire District, Zimbabwe

I voluntarily agree to participate in this research study. I understand the purpose of the study and that my participation is voluntary. My identity and responses will remain confidential and will be used only for academic purposes.

Participant Signature: Nigel Kudzaishe Mudziviri

Date: _____

Researcher Signature: Nigel Kudzaishe Mudziviri

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

BINDURA, ZIMBABWE
WhatsApp : +263773281212
E-mail: jboworaa@buse.ac.zw

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

CHAIRPERSON'S OFFICE

Tuesday 24 March 2026

TO WHO IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: RESEARCH SUPPORT LETTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDENT

I am writing on behalf of the Sustainable Development Department requesting your collaboration on the research of our fourth-year student, NIGEL K MUDZIVIRI *REGISTRATION NUMBER B220343B.* The student is studying for a 4-year Bachelor of Science (Honours) Degree in Development Studies (HBSc.DG).

In the fourth year of study, students are required to do field research which require them to do their data collection for research purposes.

Kindly accord him the due cooperation he truly deserves.

Yours faithfully,

.....
DR. J. BOWORA (CHAIRPERSON)
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT