

# International Collaboration and Diplomacy in Disaster Management: Analyzing Türkiye's Response to the 2023 Nigerian Floods

## Afet Yönetiminde Uluslararası İş Birliği ve Diplomasi: Türkiye'nin 2023 Nijerya Sel Felaketine Yanıtının Analizi

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### ABSTRACT

Disaster management has increasingly become a platform for international collaboration and diplomacy, highlighting the role of state and non-state actors in addressing transnational crises. This study examines Türkiye's response to the 2023 Nigerian floods, focusing on its humanitarian aid efforts and diplomatic engagement. The floods, among the most severe in Nigeria's recent history, caused widespread devastation, including significant loss of life, displacement, and economic disruption. Through the lens of disaster diplomacy, the article evaluates Türkiye's mobilization of resources, personnel, and financial assistance, alongside its coordination with Nigerian authorities and international organizations. Primary data from official reports, statements by Nigerian and Turkish authorities, and secondary literature provide insights into the disaster's scope and the effectiveness of Türkiye's interventions. This study contributes to the broader discourse on international disaster management by identifying best practices and areas for improvement in Türkiye's approach. It concludes with recommendations for strengthening bilateral and multilateral frameworks to enhance the resilience of disaster-prone regions like Nigeria. This research has implications for policymakers, humanitarian actors, and scholars of international relations.

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**Keywords:** Disaster management, International collaboration, humanitarian aid, Türkiye-Nigeria relations, flood response

## ÖZET

Afet yönetimi, uluslararası iş birliği ve diplomasi için giderek önemli bir platform hâline gelmekte ve devlet ve devlet dışı aktörlerin ulusötesi krizlerin çözümündeki rolünü vurgulamaktadır. Bu çalışma, Türkiye'nin 2023 Nijerya sel felaketine yönelik yanıtını, insani yardım çabaları ve diplomatik angajmanına odaklanarak incelemektedir. Nijerya'nın yakın tarihindeki en ciddi sel felaketlerinden biri olan bu afet, can kaybı, yerinden edilme ve ekonomik yıkım dâhil olmak üzere geniş çaplı tahribata yol açmıştır. Makale, afet diplomasisi perspektifinden, Türkiye'nin kaynak, personel ve finansal yardım seferberliğini, Nijeryalı yetkililer ve uluslararası kuruluşlarla koordinasyonunu değerlendirmektedir. Nijerya ve Türk yetkililerin resmî raporlarından, açıklamalarından ve ikincil literatürden elde edilen veriler, afetin boyutları ve Türkiye'nin müdahalelerinin etkinliği hakkında önemli bilgiler sunmaktadır. Bu çalışma, Türkiye'nin yaklaşımında en iyi uygulamaları ve geliştirilmesi gereken alanları belirleyerek uluslararası afet yönetimi söylemine katkıda bulunmaktadır. Sonuç olarak, Nijerya gibi afetlere eğilimli bölgelerin dayanıklılığını artırmak için ikili ve çok taraflı çerçevelerin güçlendirilmesine yönelik öneriler sunmaktadır. Araştırma, politika yapıcılar, insani yardım aktörleri ve uluslararası ilişkiler akademisyenleri için önemli çıkarımlar içermektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Afet yönetimi, uluslararası işbirliği, insani yardım, Türkiye-Nijerya ilişkileri, sel müdahalesi

## INTRODUCTION

The increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters globally have underscored the need for international collaboration in disaster management. As crises become more complex and far-reaching, no single nation can adequately address the challenges posed by such events alone. Disasters, particularly those of a transnational nature, necessitate a coordinated response involving multiple stakeholders—governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society actors. The 2023 Nigerian floods present a significant case study in this regard, illustrating both the vulnerabilities of nations to large-scale environmental crises and the critical role of international collaboration in disaster management (Akpınar et al., 2024).

The 2023 floods in Nigeria were among the most catastrophic in recent memory, affecting millions and exposing several critical gaps in the country's disaster preparedness, response systems, and infrastructure. The floods were caused by a combination of extreme rainfall patterns, inadequate flood management infrastructure, and



upstream factors such as the release of water from the Lagdo Dam in neighboring Cameroon (OCHA, 2023). This led to widespread devastation, including the destruction of homes, displacement of communities, and severe economic losses. Despite the Nigerian government's efforts to provide aid and manage the disaster, the scale of the flooding exceeded local capabilities, revealing the necessity for external support (Turkish Red Crescent, 2024).

The methodology combines qualitative analysis of primary data, including official reports and statements from Turkish and Nigerian authorities, with a review of secondary literature on disaster diplomacy and international humanitarian aid. This approach enables a comprehensive evaluation of Türkiye's response, examining its coordination mechanisms, resource allocation, and the broader implications for multilateral collaboration in disaster management.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### *Disaster Diplomacy: Conceptual Foundations*

Disaster diplomacy is a relatively recent concept within the field of international relations, emphasizing the role that natural disasters can play in fostering diplomatic relations, cooperation, and conflict resolution between states and non-state actors. It refers to the potential of disasters as a catalyst for dialogue, collaboration, and sometimes the bridging of long-standing geopolitical tensions (Komolafe et al., 2020). This concept challenges traditional views of disaster response, where relief efforts are often seen solely in humanitarian terms, and highlights how these crises can offer opportunities for diplomatic engagement. In the context of international relations, disaster diplomacy suggests that the aftermath of a natural disaster can sometimes lead to more peaceful cooperation between nations or regions, helping to overcome historical tensions or conflicts through shared human and material concerns.

In the case of the 2023 Nigerian floods, disaster diplomacy took center stage as Türkiye, a key external actor, engaged in humanitarian assistance despite Nigeria's political and governance challenges. Türkiye's willingness to provide aid and its ability to coordinate resources with Nigerian authorities illustrated how disaster diplomacy could be leveraged in a context where both countries had established diplomatic relations. Türkiye's engagement, which involved providing relief supplies and medical assistance, helped strengthen ties between the two nations, particularly as Türkiye has been focusing its foreign policy on increasing its presence in Africa (Eyrice-Tepciklioğlu, 2023). The floods, which affected a broad range of Nigerian communities, underscored the importance of external actors contributing to national relief efforts, but also raised questions about the alignment of international aid with local needs

and priorities. Türkiye's response, while beneficial in terms of immediate relief, also highlighted gaps in disaster diplomacy, including insufficient data sharing, limited coordination with Nigerian local authorities, and difficulties in translating external aid into sustainable solutions.

The 2023 floods thus provide a critical lens through which to examine the conceptual foundations of disaster diplomacy. While disaster diplomacy offers a promising framework for understanding international cooperation in times of crisis, its success is highly contingent upon states' political will, coordination mechanisms' effectiveness, and the ability to integrate local knowledge and priorities into the disaster response (Komolafe, 2020). The challenges observed during the Nigerian floods—ranging from the absence of reliable data to political and logistical barriers—illustrate the limitations of disaster diplomacy as a tool for international cooperation and emphasize the importance of a more integrated, collaborative approach to disaster management (Lumbroso, 2017).

### ***Application to the Türkiye-Nigeria Case***

The application of disaster diplomacy to the Türkiye-Nigeria case, specifically in the context of the 2023 Nigerian floods, highlights the opportunities and challenges inherent in international cooperation during times of crisis.

Türkiye's aid process involved key institutions such as the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay), the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA). Together, these organizations mobilized financial assistance amounting to \$5 million, alongside deploying specialized personnel and resources to support relief and recovery efforts in the flood-affected regions of Nigeria (Turkish Red Crescent, 2024).

One of the significant aspects of Türkiye's intervention in Nigeria was its ability to mobilize resources quickly. The Turkish government, through its humanitarian organizations such as the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) and the Turkish Red Crescent, delivered aid, medical supplies, and other forms of support to Nigeria (Turkish Red Crescent, 2024). Türkiye's swift response was driven by humanitarian motives and the recognition of the strategic importance of enhancing bilateral relations with Nigeria, a key player in Africa. In this sense, Türkiye's disaster diplomacy aimed to strengthen diplomatic ties while responding to a critical humanitarian need. Türkiye's engagement highlighted the country's growing role in African affairs, as it has increasingly looked to position itself as a partner for development, stability, and disaster management across the continent (Ozkan, 2010).

However, while the delivery of aid was an important gesture, the case also underscored some of the limitations and complexities of disaster diplomacy in practice. One key issue was the lack of coordination between Türkiye's aid efforts and the lo-



cal Nigerian authorities. While Türkiye offered resources and logistical support, the absence of clear and reliable communication channels between the Turkish government, its humanitarian organizations, and Nigerian officials sometimes hampered the effectiveness of relief operations (OCHA, 2024). Aid was delivered, but there were challenges in ensuring that it reached the most affected areas promptly, as local authorities in Nigeria were often overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster. The political and administrative challenges within Nigeria—exacerbated by corruption, governance issues, and logistical inefficiencies—meant that external aid often did not reach its intended destinations most efficiently. These obstacles reflect the inherent limitations of disaster diplomacy when external actors, regardless of their good intentions, are not adequately integrated into the local response framework.

Moreover, Türkiye's response was also complicated by the absence of real-time data from Nigerian authorities regarding the scope of the floods. Official reports and statements were often delayed or inconsistent, making it difficult for international partners, including Türkiye, to accurately assess the situation on the ground (OCHA, 2024). This lack of reliable information further hindered the timely and appropriate allocation of resources. The situation also revealed how disaster diplomacy, while offering an opportunity for international cooperation, relies heavily on the availability of transparent and coordinated information from the affected country. Without a clear understanding of the scale of the disaster, Türkiye's aid efforts, while valuable, may have been somewhat misdirected or insufficient in addressing the most pressing needs of those affected.

## **The 2023 Nigerian Floods: Impact and Challenges**

### ***Humanitarian and Economic Impacts***

The humanitarian and economic impacts of the 2023 Nigerian floods were profound, with both immediate and long-lasting consequences for the affected populations and the country's economy. The flooding, one of the most severe in recent Nigerian history, devastated vast swathes of the country, with numerous regions submerged under water. The humanitarian toll was particularly harrowing, as thousands of lives were lost, and hundreds of thousands of people were displaced from their homes (OCHA, 2024). As floodwaters inundated villages, towns, and cities, they displaced entire communities, forcing people to seek refuge in temporary shelters that often lacked basic amenities such as clean water, sanitation, and adequate food supplies.

The scale of displacement created significant humanitarian challenges for both Nigerian authorities and international humanitarian organizations (IOM, 2024). Local governments were overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster, with infrastructure, in-

cluding roads and bridges, severely damaged, making it difficult for relief efforts to reach affected areas. The Nigerian Red Cross, along with other humanitarian actors, was involved in providing immediate relief, but the logistical difficulties posed by the floods complicated these efforts. Temporary shelters, though essential for immediate refuge, were often overcrowded, increasing vulnerability to disease outbreaks. The lack of access to proper healthcare and sanitation facilities contributed to the spread of waterborne diseases, further exacerbating the public health crisis in the aftermath of the floods (Turkish Red Crescent, 2023). This highlights the difficulty of managing large-scale humanitarian interventions in a context where basic infrastructure has been destroyed and local capacities are stretched thin.

From an economic perspective, the floods inflicted severe damage on Nigeria's already fragile economy. The agricultural sector was particularly hard hit, as many farms were submerged by floodwater, destroying crops and livestock (Haruna, 2024). This resulted in significant food insecurity, particularly in rural areas that depend on agriculture as a primary source of income. In a country where a large percentage of the population relies on subsistence farming, the destruction of crops had a ripple effect that extended far beyond the immediate flood zone. It led to a sharp increase in food prices, compounding the economic struggles of millions of Nigerians already facing poverty. The destruction of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and energy facilities, also hampered trade, making it difficult for goods and services to flow both within and outside the country (IOM, 2023). This disruption to the supply chain had far-reaching consequences, as the cost of goods skyrocketed, and many businesses were forced to close or operate at a reduced capacity.

The economic toll of the floods was not limited to the agricultural sector. The manufacturing and services sectors also faced significant disruptions, with factories and offices unable to operate due to the widespread damage. Transportation and communication networks, essential for businesses to function, were severely impaired. The long-term economic impact of the floods, therefore, was not just the immediate costs of rebuilding infrastructure and providing aid, but also the sustained economic slowdown that followed. Nigeria, already grappling with economic challenges such as inflation, unemployment, and fiscal deficits, faced additional pressures on its economy. The flooding exacerbated these challenges by diverting much-needed resources into disaster recovery efforts, potentially delaying or impeding ongoing development initiatives.

Furthermore, the floods had a profound impact on Nigeria's health system. Hospitals and healthcare facilities, already under strain due to chronic underinvestment and poor infrastructure, were further stretched as they struggled to cope with the influx of flood-related injuries and illnesses (Fidan, 2023). The limited availability of medical supplies, combined with the difficulty in transporting aid and personnel to affected



regions, created a public health crisis. In addition to the immediate physical toll, the psychological impacts of the disaster were significant. Many individuals experienced trauma from losing loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. The long-term mental health consequences of such events are often underestimated but can be just as devastating as the physical damage. The prolonged displacement, economic hardships, and the loss of familiar social structures contributed to a growing mental health crisis that requires sustained attention (Okunola et al., 2023).

The humanitarian and economic impacts of the 2023 Nigerian floods were devastating, affecting millions of people across the country (IOM, 2024). The immediate consequences included widespread displacement, loss of life, and the spread of disease, while the long-term economic impacts reverberated across key sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and infrastructure. The floods not only exacerbated Nigeria's existing vulnerabilities but also underscored the complex challenges involved in managing large-scale disasters, both for local governments and international aid providers (Ülgen et al., 2024). The ongoing effects of the disaster highlight the need for comprehensive disaster management strategies that integrate immediate relief efforts with long-term recovery and resilience-building initiatives.

### ***Challenges in Local and International Response***

The response to the 2023 Nigerian floods, both locally and internationally, was fraught with significant challenges, which highlighted the complexities of disaster management on such a large scale. These challenges were multifaceted, encompassing logistical difficulties, coordination issues, resource shortages, and political complexities, all of which hindered the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall relief effort (Unicef, 2023). One of the most significant challenges was the sheer scale of the disaster itself. The floods affected large swaths of Nigeria, spanning multiple regions with varying degrees of damage. This vast area of devastation overwhelmed local authorities and response teams, who lacked the necessary resources and infrastructure to reach all the affected populations promptly. The damage to critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and communication networks made it even more difficult for aid to reach those most in need. In rural areas, where access to transportation and healthcare services is already limited, floodwaters isolated communities, further complicating the humanitarian response (IOM, 2023).

From a logistical standpoint, the scale of the disaster required a vast mobilization of resources, both in terms of personnel and financial support. Nigeria, which has been grappling with an economic crisis and political instability, faced enormous difficulties in mobilizing sufficient local resources for effective disaster relief. Government agencies, such as the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), struggled to coordinate relief efforts due to a lack of infrastructure, funding, and trained personnel

(National Bureau of Statistics, 2023). While the government's initial response was swift in some areas, it was hampered by its inability to manage the scale of the disaster across the entire country. In addition, there was a lack of sufficient coordination between various local actors, including federal, state, and local governments, which often resulted in duplicated efforts or gaps in aid distribution. The absence of a clear, unified command structure delayed response efforts, and at times, aid was not allocated to the regions that needed it most.

International aid organizations, despite their best efforts, also faced considerable challenges in their response to the floods. While countries like Türkiye, through institutions like the Turkish Red Crescent, provided vital humanitarian assistance, the coordination of international aid was problematic. In large-scale international disaster relief efforts, one of the biggest challenges is ensuring that aid is efficiently distributed, especially in countries with limited infrastructure. The sheer volume of aid arriving from multiple countries and organizations often complicated the distribution, with some areas receiving more assistance than others (Turkish Red Crescent, 2024). Furthermore, the complexity of coordinating among various international stakeholders, each with its procedures, priorities, and agendas, often led to inefficiencies. International organizations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization faced difficulties in navigating Nigeria's complex political landscape, where local authorities sometimes viewed foreign intervention with suspicion, especially in areas of political sensitivity. This political dimension added another layer of complexity to the international response, as different levels of government in Nigeria struggled to reconcile international assistance with national priorities.

Moreover, there were significant gaps in the data available to both local and international actors regarding the scope and scale of the flooding. The absence of real-time, accurate data hindered the ability of response teams to deploy aid efficiently. The Nigerian government and international aid organizations faced difficulties in assessing the immediate needs of the population due to damaged communication systems and a lack of infrastructure. Official figures on the death toll, number of displaced individuals, and the extent of damage were slow to emerge, and initial estimates were often incomplete or inconsistent. Without reliable data, aid distribution was often reactive rather than proactive, and resources were not always directed where they were most needed. This lack of accurate information also contributed to the difficulty in planning for long-term recovery, as response efforts were heavily focused on immediate relief, rather than addressing the root causes of the disaster or preparing for future events.

Another major challenge in both local and international responses was the issue of funding. While the Nigerian government allocated emergency funds for disaster relief, these resources were insufficient given the scale of the floods. Additionally, the country's broader economic difficulties, such as high inflation and a budget deficit,





limited the government's ability to respond effectively. International donors also faced challenges in committing and mobilizing resources. The political and economic climate in many donor countries, especially those in Europe and the U.S., was characterized by caution due to domestic concerns about their economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and other global challenges (Jongman, 2022). Consequently, pledges of aid from the international community were slow to materialize, and financial support fell short of what was required to meet the immediate needs of those affected. This financial constraint was exacerbated by a lack of long-term planning for sustainable recovery, leaving the Nigerian government and international organizations reliant on sporadic emergency donations rather than a coordinated, comprehensive recovery plan.

## **Türkiye's Response to the 2023 Nigerian Floods**

### ***Timeline and Scope of Türkiye's Assistance***

Türkiye's response to the 2023 Nigerian floods unfolded in a phased and systematic manner, guided by both humanitarian imperatives and diplomatic considerations. As one of the first international actors to offer aid, Türkiye's intervention was swift, beginning almost immediately after the disaster's onset. The first phase of Türkiye's involvement was primarily focused on emergency relief. Within days of the floods' impact, Turkish humanitarian organizations such as the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) and the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) mobilized resources, sending medical teams, food, clean water, and essential supplies (Turkish Red Crescent, 2024). The rapid deployment of aid was crucial, especially given the severity of the flooding and the overwhelmed state of Nigerian authorities, who struggled with limited infrastructure and logistical challenges in the flood-affected regions. In a country where access to remote areas is often impeded by damaged roads, Türkiye's experience in disaster relief, particularly in complex environments like Syria and Iraq, allowed for a relatively smooth operational capacity in responding to Nigeria's needs (Fakuade, 2023).

The scope of Türkiye's assistance expanded in stages. As the immediate crisis subsided, the Turkish government, through its humanitarian institutions, shifted focus toward long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts. This included both physical reconstruction and capacity building, which were pivotal in addressing the broader impacts of the disaster. Türkiye, through its various agencies and in partnership with international organizations, played an important role in helping restore critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and medical facilities that were devastated by the floods (OCHA, 2023). The rebuilding phase was not only about physical structures but also involved technical support in flood risk management, providing knowledge and expertise that could help mitigate the risk of future flooding. This component of assis-

tance also focused on enhancing disaster preparedness through training programs for local responders, establishing early warning systems, and integrating disaster-resilient technologies into urban planning.

The timeline of Türkiye's involvement can be broken down into specific phases, beginning with immediate relief and extending through to recovery and rebuilding efforts. Within the first weeks of the flood, Türkiye's humanitarian teams were already on the ground, working alongside Nigerian officials to distribute food, medical supplies, and clean water. The immediate response phase involved Turkish Red Crescent medical teams offering emergency treatment and support in flooded areas. By the second month, Türkiye's response expanded to include construction materials and technical assistance, with Turkish teams helping to rebuild roads, bridges, and public facilities that had been destroyed in the floods. This was followed by an emphasis on disaster risk reduction, where Türkiye provided crucial technical expertise to Nigerian authorities on flood management systems, helping to prepare the country for future floods (IOM, 2023).

One example of the scope of Türkiye's assistance can be seen in the specific sectors targeted by its aid. Türkiye's aid was multifaceted, addressing immediate survival needs as well as longer-term recovery efforts. For example, while the Turkish Red Crescent provided over 20,000 food packages and thousands of blankets and medical supplies, Türkiye also sent technical experts to assist in building flood barriers and restoring irrigation systems (Turkish Red Crescent, 2024). Moreover, a notable part of Türkiye's contribution was the medical outreach, which included the deployment of emergency medical teams and mobile hospitals in flood-affected regions. Turkish aid agencies also partnered with local Nigerian organizations to distribute aid more effectively, ensuring that remote and hard-to-reach areas were not overlooked in the distribution process. This comprehensive approach allowed Türkiye to address both the immediate humanitarian needs and the longer-term recovery requirements of the affected populations (Turkish Red Crescent, 2023).

Türkiye's response to the 2023 Nigerian floods was both timely and comprehensive but also constrained by logistical and financial limitations. While Türkiye's immediate aid was critical in providing life-saving assistance, its long-term contribution through technical support, infrastructure rebuilding, and capacity-building efforts demonstrated the depth and scope of its involvement. The assistance was well-coordinated with Nigerian authorities, illustrating Türkiye's commitment not only to humanitarian relief but also to strengthening diplomatic relations and promoting disaster resilience in Nigeria. However, the financial constraints faced by Türkiye, given its economic challenges, limited the overall scale of its aid, showing that even well-intentioned and capable countries face significant hurdles when responding to large-scale disasters abroad.



### ***Resources and Personnel Mobilized***

Türkiye's response to the 2023 Nigerian floods was characterized by a well-coordinated mobilization of both resources and personnel, reflecting its commitment to providing both immediate relief and long-term recovery. The Turkish government, in collaboration with humanitarian organizations like the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) and the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), ensured that a wide array of resources, including financial, material, and human, were allocated toward responding to the crisis. However, the mobilization of these resources also faced significant challenges, ranging from logistical hurdles to financial constraints, which ultimately influenced the scope and effectiveness of Türkiye's intervention.

One of the key components of Türkiye's response was the mobilization of material resources. Immediately after the flood struck, Türkiye sent large shipments of essential goods, including food, water, medical supplies, blankets, and tents. The Turkish Red Crescent, for instance, provided emergency aid such as ready-to-eat meals, hygiene kits, and first aid supplies. This rapid response was critical, as Nigeria's infrastructure, already weakened by the flood's widespread devastation, struggled to cope with the magnitude of the crisis. Türkiye's experience in managing disaster response within its borders, particularly during crises like the 1999 Izmit earthquake and ongoing flood risks in the Black Sea region, proved invaluable in the efficient mobilization and distribution of these resources (OCHA, 2023). The Turkish agencies leveraged their existing logistical networks, including partnerships with international organizations and local Nigerian groups, to ensure the swift delivery of aid to affected areas, even those that were difficult to access due to damaged roads and infrastructure.

On the human resources front, Türkiye deployed a wide range of skilled personnel to assist with the immediate relief efforts and longer-term recovery projects. One of the most notable aspects of Türkiye's response was the rapid deployment of emergency medical teams. These teams included doctors, nurses, and emergency medical technicians who were sent to flood-affected regions to provide life-saving medical care. This was particularly important as flood-related health risks, such as waterborne diseases, quickly emerged as secondary crises. Türkiye's medical teams worked in conjunction with Nigerian health authorities and other international medical organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), to provide emergency care and stabilize the affected population. In addition to healthcare workers, Türkiye sent experts in water purification and sanitation, who set up mobile water treatment systems to provide clean drinking water to flood victims. This was crucial in preventing the spread of waterborne diseases like cholera, which often spike in the aftermath of flooding (IOM, 2023).

The mobilization of financial resources was another critical aspect of Türkiye's response. While Türkiye was facing its economic challenges, including high inflation and budgetary pressures, it allocated substantial financial support for its disaster relief efforts. Türkiye's foreign aid budget, managed by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was significantly directed towards supporting relief operations in Nigeria (Turkish Red Crescent, 2024). This funding was used for both the procurement of goods and the dispatching of humanitarian teams. However, despite the sizable financial support, Türkiye's response was not without limitations. The ongoing economic pressures at home meant that Türkiye could not provide as large a scale of assistance as might have been possible under more favorable financial conditions. This limitation also meant that Türkiye had to rely heavily on donations from private citizens and Turkish civil society groups, who mobilized significant funds to complement the official government efforts. Additionally, Türkiye collaborated with international donors and agencies, such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), to ensure that its financial resources were effectively utilized (OCHA, 2024).

### ***Multilateral Collaboration Efforts***

Multilateral collaborations played a critical role in shaping Türkiye's response to the 2023 Nigerian floods. Türkiye's commitment to international cooperation, particularly in disaster management, was evident in its efforts to work both directly with the Nigerian government and in concert with international partners. These collaborations were pivotal in maximizing the impact of Türkiye's assistance and ensuring that resources were efficiently allocated to meet the needs of the affected population.

Multilateral collaboration between Türkiye and Nigeria was a cornerstone of the relief effort. Türkiye's strong diplomatic relations with Nigeria provided a framework for coordinated action on the ground (Haruna, 2024). Turkish diplomats in Nigeria facilitated communication between Türkiye's humanitarian agencies and Nigerian authorities, ensuring that the aid reached the most affected regions. This direct diplomatic engagement was crucial for overcoming bureaucratic hurdles and streamlining the deployment of aid. The Nigerian government welcomed Türkiye's assistance due to its reputation for effective disaster management, and this mutual trust helped to expedite the distribution of aid (Fidan, 2023). Through multilateral collaboration, Türkiye was able to align its response efforts with Nigeria's national priorities and disaster management strategies, ensuring that its interventions complemented local recovery efforts rather than duplicating them.

Türkiye's multilateral efforts were supported by its participation in global humanitarian forums, where it contributed to shaping international standards for disaster relief. Türkiye has long been an active participant in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). During the 2023 Nigerian floods, Türkiye used these platforms to advocate



for enhanced disaster risk reduction strategies, leveraging its experience in managing large-scale natural disasters. As a member of the OIC, Türkiye was also able to coordinate its flood response with several other Muslim-majority countries, such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, who also provided aid to Nigeria (Mustapha, 2024). This network of cooperation, based on shared regional and cultural ties, helped to strengthen Türkiye's position in the international relief community and ensured that a wide array of resources flowed into Nigeria.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2023 Nigerian floods presented a severe humanitarian crisis, requiring a multifaceted response that involved both national and international actors. Türkiye's response to the disaster, characterized by its diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance, and resource mobilization, highlighted the growing importance of disaster diplomacy in addressing global crises. This study has critically examined Türkiye's role, providing insights into how international collaboration can enhance the effectiveness of disaster management, especially in transnational crises like the Nigerian floods. However, the analysis also revealed significant gaps in the integration of primary sources, theoretical frameworks, and the effectiveness of coordination among various international actors. To build on these efforts and improve future responses, several key recommendations emerge.

Firstly, there is a need for more robust coordination mechanisms in international disaster response (Teo et al., 2018). While Türkiye's bilateral and multilateral efforts were largely successful, inefficiencies arose from overlapping aid, inconsistent resource distribution, and logistical challenges. The international community must strengthen coordination frameworks, such as the UN's humanitarian cluster system, to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and that all affected regions receive the assistance they need. Effective communication between governments, humanitarian organizations, and local communities is critical to achieving this goal. For instance, a more centralized platform for coordinating international assistance could have streamlined the relief efforts in Nigeria, reducing redundancy and enhancing the speed of aid delivery.

Secondly, it is crucial to incorporate more comprehensive, up-to-date data into disaster response strategies. In the case of the Nigerian floods, the lack of official reports and accurate data on the scale of the disaster in Türkiye's response led to gaps in understanding the full scope of the humanitarian needs. Accurate and timely data from both the affected country and international agencies is vital for assessing the immediate needs of disaster-stricken populations and tailoring responses accordingly (IOM, 2024). Türkiye's assistance, while significant, could have been more effective had it been based on a clearer picture of the flood's long-term consequences. This under-

scores the importance of investing in better disaster data collection systems, not just for immediate relief but for longer-term recovery and resilience building.

Thirdly, disaster diplomacy should be a key area of focus in strengthening international responses to natural disasters. Türkiye's diplomatic engagement in Nigeria was an effective way to align its assistance with Nigerian priorities, but more could have been done to integrate disaster diplomacy into the wider international response strategy. By leveraging its diplomatic ties, Türkiye was able to offer aid in a manner that was politically sensitive and culturally appropriate. Other donor countries should adopt a similar approach, engaging with local governments in disaster-stricken areas to ensure that aid complements national recovery strategies and respects local political dynamics. Furthermore, the coordination of disaster relief through diplomatic channels could reduce tensions and foster greater cooperation among international actors.

In addition, the inclusion of local and indigenous knowledge in disaster management practices should be prioritized (Olokesusi et al., 2015). While international assistance is essential in large-scale disasters, local communities often possess valuable insights into how to manage and mitigate risks based on their lived experiences. In Nigeria, local knowledge about flood patterns and regional vulnerabilities was often overlooked in favor of externally imposed solutions. Integrating local expertise into international response efforts could enhance the effectiveness of aid and make it more sustainable. This approach would also contribute to building local capacity, which is essential for long-term recovery and resilience to future disasters.

Finally, future responses to natural disasters, including those in Nigeria, should place a greater emphasis on building resilience and long-term recovery capabilities (Okunola et al., 2023). Disaster management should not be limited to emergency relief but should also focus on strengthening the infrastructure, institutions, and communities that are most vulnerable to such crises. Türkiye's assistance to Nigeria, while timely and impactful, could have been enhanced by greater investment in long-term development projects aimed at improving flood resilience, such as the construction of flood barriers, the reinforcement of public health systems, and the improvement of disaster preparedness infrastructure. By prioritizing long-term recovery alongside immediate relief, the international community can help countries like Nigeria not only recover from disasters but also better prepare for future crises.

In conclusion, while Türkiye's response to the 2023 Nigerian floods demonstrated the vital role of international collaboration in disaster management, it also highlighted several areas for improvement. Strengthening coordination among international actors, improving the integration of local knowledge, ensuring better data collection, and prioritizing long-term resilience are all critical to enhancing the effectiveness of future disaster responses. These lessons are invaluable for the international commu-

nity and should inform the development of more effective disaster diplomacy frameworks, better resource management strategies, and more sustainable disaster relief efforts in the future.



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