

Living with Repeated Displacement: Family Coping and Community Support in Flood-Prone Areas

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Abstract

Repeated flood-related displacement is a cumulative psychosocial process affecting family functioning, social relationships, resource access, and resilience. Although disaster research has examined family coping, social capital, and social vulnerability, these dimensions are often treated separately. This conceptual study synthesizes the literature to develop the Integrated Family–Community Resilience Framework for Repeated Displacement (IFCR-RD), integrating the Double ABC-X Model of Family Stress and Adaptation, Social Capital Theory, and a social vulnerability perspective. The framework proposes that repeated displacement generates accumulated demands managed through family appraisal and coping, while bonding, bridging, and linking social capital provide external resources for adaptation. These processes are conditioned by structural vulnerability and unfold recursively across displacement cycles, producing either adaptive accumulation or cumulative depletion. The framework conceptualizes resilience as psychologically negotiated, socially supported, collectively produced, institutionally mediated, and structurally conditioned, providing a foundation for future empirical research and integrated disaster-resilience interventions.

Keywords: Community Resilience, Family Coping, Family Resilience, Repeated Displacement, Social Capital, Social Vulnerability

1. Introduction

Flooding is among the most widespread natural hazards, disrupting homes, livelihoods, infrastructure, essential services, and psychosocial well-being (Chen et al., 2020). Flood-related displacement extends beyond physical relocation because it disrupts family routines, social relationships, livelihoods, service access, and feelings of safety and belonging. In chronically flood-prone areas, families may experience recurring cycles of evacuation, displacement, return, recovery, and renewed exposure. Repeated displacement is therefore a cumulative and dynamic process in which previous losses, resources, coping experiences, and adaptations influence responses to subsequent events (Saja et al., 2021).

Psychologically, repeated displacement may generate continuing fear, uncertainty, loss, emotional distress, and concerns about future safety. Families may respond through problem solving, emotional regulation, communication, role adjustment, meaning-making, spirituality, preparedness, and learning from previous disasters. Resilience is therefore not simply the absence of distress but a dynamic process in which coping resources may strengthen or deteriorate across successive displacement experiences (Chen et al., 2020).

These processes are also socially and structurally embedded. Families rely on relatives, neighbors, community organizations, civil society groups, and formal institutions for emotional, informational, material, and practical support. Social capital and community resilience may strengthen family coping and psychological well-being (Hall et al., 2023); however, access to these resources is shaped by socioeconomic disadvantage, livelihood insecurity, housing conditions, marginalization, and institutional relationships. Understanding repeated displacement therefore requires consideration of both family coping and the social and structural conditions that enable or constrain adaptation.

Despite growing research on psychological distress, family resilience, social capital, and community resilience, significant conceptual gaps remain. Family-level processes are comparatively underrepresented, psychological and community resilience are frequently examined through separate disciplinary perspectives, and disaster research often focuses on individual events rather than adaptation trajectories across repeated exposure (Saja et al., 2021; Hall et al., 2023; Ferreira et al., 2024). The central gap is therefore the limited integration of psychological family-level processes with sociological community- and structural-level processes in explaining resilience to repeated displacement.

To address this gap, the study integrates the Double ABC-X Model of Family Stress and Adaptation with Social Capital Theory, supported by a social vulnerability perspective. These perspectives respectively explain accumulated family demands, appraisal and coping; access to resources through bonding, bridging, and linking relationships; and structural inequalities shaping exposure and adaptive capacity. Accordingly, this conceptual study synthesizes literature on family coping and community support to develop the Integrated Family–Community Resilience Framework for Repeated Displacement (IFCR-RD), linking repeated displacement, accumulated stressors, family coping, social capital, structural vulnerability, and family and community resilience. The framework conceptualizes repeated displacement as cumulative, socially embedded, and structurally conditioned, providing an integrated foundation for future empirical research and disaster-resilience interventions.

Aim of the Study

Repeated flood-related displacement is a multidimensional experience involving psychological stress, disrupted family functioning and social relationships, and unequal access to community and institutional resources. Although disaster research has examined family coping, resilience, social support, social capital, and vulnerability, these dimensions are often treated separately, limiting understanding of their interaction across repeated displacement

experiences. Accordingly, this conceptual study aimed to critically synthesize the psychological and sociological literature on repeated flood-related displacement and develop an integrated conceptual framework explaining how family coping, community support, social capital, and structural vulnerability interact to shape family and community adaptation and resilience.

Research Questions

- a. What psychological experiences, accumulated stressors, and family coping processes shape adaptation to repeated flood-related displacement?
- b. How do community support, social capital, collective practices, and institutional support influence family and community adaptation to repeated displacement?
- c. How do social and structural vulnerabilities shape families' exposure, access to coping and recovery resources, and capacity for adaptation?
- d. How can psychological/family, community/social, and structural processes be integrated to explain adaptation and resilience across repeated displacement cycles?

Theoretical Lens

This study integrates the Double ABC-X Model of Family Stress and Adaptation and Social Capital Theory to explain family adaptation to repeated flood-related displacement. The former provides the psychological and family-level lens, while the latter explains the sociological resources embedded in relationships and networks. Together, they conceptualize resilience as a process shaped by both family coping and socially accessible resources.

Double ABC-X Model of Family Stress and Adaptation

The Double ABC-X Model explains how families adapt to the pile-up of demands following crises. Repeated displacement may compound property loss, livelihood disruption, financial strain, housing instability, psychological distress, and family-role changes. Adaptation depends on the interaction among accumulated demands, family resources, appraisal, and coping. Previous displacement may strengthen preparedness and coping capacity or contribute to cumulative stress and resource depletion, producing different adaptation trajectories (Ntontis et al., 2021).

Social Capital Theory

Social Capital Theory explains how relationships provide resources for coping and recovery through bonding, bridging, and linking social capital. Bonding ties provide support through close relationships; bridging ties connect families with wider community networks; and linking ties provide access to government and formal institutions. Their importance may vary across displacement and recovery stages (Azad & Pritchard, 2023), while their effectiveness depends on their quality, accessibility, and capacity for activation.

Integrated Theoretical Lens

The two theories are complementary because family coping is socially embedded. The Double ABC-X Model explains how families appraise and manage accumulated demands, whereas Social Capital Theory explains how relational resources strengthen or constrain coping capacity. Their integration also captures the temporal

dynamics of repeated displacement, whereby previous experiences may generate adaptive accumulation through learning, preparedness, and stronger networks or cumulative depletion through recurring loss, psychological strain, and resource erosion. Resilience is therefore conceptualized as psychologically negotiated, socially supported, and collectively produced.

2. Methodology

Research Design and Document Analysis

This study employed a qualitative conceptual research design using document analysis to examine and integrate literature on repeated flood-related displacement, family coping, community support, social vulnerability, and resilience. Conceptual research is appropriate for clarifying constructs, integrating theoretical perspectives, identifying gaps, and developing new conceptual relationships rather than generating primary empirical data. The analysis integrated psychological and family-level processes—including cumulative stress, appraisal, coping, adaptation, and resilience—with sociological processes involving social support, social capital, collective action, institutional relationships, and structural vulnerability.

Peer-reviewed journal articles constituted the primary evidence base, supplemented by seminal theoretical works and credible institutional reports where necessary. Documents were examined for their conceptual and empirical contributions to understanding repeated displacement and the relationships among psychological, familial, community, and structural processes.

Literature Search and Selection

A structured literature search focused primarily on studies published from 2020 to 2026, with earlier seminal works retained for theoretical foundations. Literature was identified through Scopus, Web of Science, ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, Wiley Online Library, Taylor & Francis Online, SAGE Journals, PsycINFO, and Google Scholar. Search terms combined four domains: (1) flooding and repeated displacement, (2) psychological and family coping, (3) community support and social capital, and (4) resilience and social vulnerability. Representative combinations included *“flood displacement” AND “family coping,” “recurrent flooding” AND family, “disaster displacement” AND “family resilience,” “flood” AND “community support,” “disaster” AND “social capital,”* and *“disaster displacement” AND “social vulnerability.”* Reference lists of relevant studies were also examined to identify additional theoretical and empirical sources.

Studies were included when they addressed flood/disaster displacement, repeated disaster exposure, psychological consequences, family coping or resilience, community support, social capital, community resilience, or social vulnerability. Peer-reviewed empirical studies, reviews, and theoretical or conceptual papers published in English were prioritized. Purely technical studies of flooding without meaningful psychological or social relevance, non-scholarly sources, duplicate publications, and sources lacking sufficient conceptual or methodological relevance were excluded.

Document Organization and Thematic Analysis

Titles and abstracts were initially screened for relevance, followed by full-text examination of potentially eligible documents. Selected literature was organized using a document analysis matrix recording study context, methodological approach, psychological dimensions, family processes, community support, social capital, vulnerability, resilience, theoretical foundations, key findings, and contribution to conceptual development. Selection emphasized conceptual relevance and theoretical contribution rather than numerical representativeness.

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The documents were analyzed thematically to identify recurring concepts, relationships, contradictions, and explanatory mechanisms. Six sensitizing themes guided the analysis: (1) repeated displacement and cumulative stress, (2) psychological experiences and appraisal, (3) family coping and adaptation, (4) community support and social capital, (5) social and structural vulnerability, and (6) family and community resilience. These themes provided an initial analytical structure while allowing additional patterns and relationships to emerge from the literature.

Conceptual Synthesis and Framework Development

Following thematic analysis, conceptual synthesis was used to integrate the identified themes and examine relationships across psychological, familial, community, and structural levels. The Double ABC-X Model of Family Stress and Adaptation provided the primary psychological lens for understanding accumulated demands, resources, appraisal, coping, and adaptation; Social Capital Theory explained resources embedded in bonding, bridging, and linking relationships; and the social vulnerability perspective situated these processes within broader socioeconomic and institutional conditions.

Through iterative comparison of documentary evidence, themes, and theoretical concepts, the study developed the Integrated Family–Community Resilience Framework for Repeated Displacement (IFCR-RD). The framework conceptualizes repeated displacement as a dynamic process in which accumulated stressors influence family appraisal and coping, community support and social capital provide external resources, and structural vulnerability conditions access to resources and adaptation. Previous displacement experiences may subsequently strengthen preparedness and resilience or contribute to cumulative resource depletion, creating a feedback process across repeated displacement cycles.

3. Findings

Psychological Foundations of Repeated Displacement

Repeated flood-related displacement is more than the physical experience of leaving and returning home; it is a continuing psychological process involving threat, uncertainty, loss, coping, and adaptation. Unlike a single displacement episode, recurrent flooding may expose families to successive cycles of evacuation, disruption, recovery, anticipation, and renewed threat. Understanding these experiences therefore requires attention not only to psychological consequences but also to family stress processes, coping strategies, adaptation, and resilience.

Stress and Psychological Consequences. Flood-related displacement can generate substantial psychological distress through threats to safety, property loss, livelihood disruption, temporary relocation, and uncertainty about future living conditions. Disaster exposure has been associated with anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, and post-traumatic stress symptoms (Keya et al., 2023; Golitaleb et al., 2022). Displacement can intensify these effects

because the home represents not only shelter but also security, familiarity, identity, continuity, and attachment to place. Consequently, its disruption can create psychological consequences extending beyond material losses.

Repeated exposure adds a cumulative dimension to these experiences. Previous flooding may influence how families respond to heavy rainfall, weather warnings, or rising water levels, producing anticipatory stress even before another displacement occurs. Long-term evidence indicates that flood-related anxiety can persist years after an event and may be reactivated by subsequent weather threats (Twiddy et al., 2022). Psychological consequences may also be prolonged by secondary stressors such as temporary accommodation, financial difficulties, damaged property, livelihood interruption, and barriers to services (Balasuriya et al., 2024). Repeated displacement can therefore be understood as cumulative psychological exposure rather than a series of independent events.

Family Stress. The psychological consequences of repeated displacement occur within the family system. When one member experiences distress, livelihood disruption, or loss, these difficulties may influence caregiving responsibilities, household roles, relationships, and decision-making among other family members. Families may simultaneously manage concerns about children's safety, older or dependent members, finances, employment, housing, and future flood risk (Yakubu et al., 2026).

Repeated displacement can consequently produce a pile-up of family demands. Stressors from previous events may remain unresolved when another flood occurs, creating cumulative pressure on family resources. However, families differ in how they interpret and respond to these demands. Financial resources, previous disaster experience, family cohesion, communication, social support, and access to formal assistance can influence whether accumulated stress results in disruption or successful adaptation. Family stress should therefore be understood as a dynamic interaction among demands, resources, perceptions, and relationships rather than simply as an individual reaction to flooding (Cruz et al., 2020).

Coping. This refers to the cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and relational efforts through which families manage stressful demands. In repeated displacement, problem-focused coping may include preparing evacuation plans, protecting possessions, seeking temporary accommodation, securing financial resources, adjusting livelihoods, and redistributing household responsibilities. Emotion-focused and meaning-based coping may involve emotional expression, acceptance, reassurance, spirituality, religious practices, meaning-making, and seeking emotional support. Research among flood-affected populations suggests that social support, meaning in life, and religiosity can contribute to resilience following disaster experiences (Iqbal Bhatti et al., 2022).

Family coping differs from purely individual coping because responses are negotiated collectively. Family members may share responsibilities, provide emotional reassurance, make joint evacuation and relocation decisions, and manage limited resources together. Coping is therefore both an internal family process and a socially embedded process because families also draw upon relatives, neighbors, community organizations, and institutions for assistance.

Family Adaptation. This refers to how families reorganize and maintain functioning following displacement. Successful adaptation does not necessarily mean returning to pre-disaster conditions. Families may instead develop new routines, redistribute roles, diversify resources, improve preparedness, strengthen communication, or revise decisions about evacuation, return, and relocation.

Repeated displacement makes adaptation particularly dynamic because the outcome of one episode becomes part of the context for the next. Previous experience may strengthen preparedness, knowledge, coping confidence, and family coordination, but repeated losses may also deplete financial, emotional, and material resources. Thus,

adaptation may follow different trajectories: adaptive accumulation, where experience strengthens future capacity, or cumulative depletion, where repeated demands progressively weaken family resources.

Psychological Resilience. Psychological resilience in repeated displacement should not be understood as an inherent personality trait or the absence of distress. Families may experience fear, anxiety, grief, exhaustion, or uncertainty while continuing to function and adapt. Resilience is better conceptualized as a dynamic capacity to mobilize resources, reorganize family functioning, make meaning from adversity, and prepare for subsequent challenges. Evidence from flood-affected populations indicates that social support, community embeddedness, meaning-making, and religious coping can contribute to adaptive functioning (Panigrahi & Suar, 2021; Iqbal Bhatti et al., 2022; Cherry et al., 2023).

Importantly, psychological resilience is socially embedded. Families do not cope independently of relatives, neighbors, community organizations, and formal institutions. Perceived and actual social support can expand the resources available for managing repeated stress. Thus, the psychological foundation of the study conceptualizes repeated displacement as an interconnected process of cumulative stress → family appraisal → coping and resource mobilization → adaptation and resilience, while recognizing that these processes continuously interact with community and structural conditions. This provides the psychological foundation for the sociological analysis of community support and social capital that follows.

Sociological Foundations of Repeated Displacement

Repeated flood-related displacement is a socially embedded process shaped by relationships, networks, collective practices, and institutions. Families rely on relatives, neighbors, community organizations, and formal institutions for information, transportation, shelter, material assistance, emotional support, and recovery resources. Evidence from flood-prone communities indicates that personal and collective social capital can strengthen disaster preparedness and community resilience (Abunyewah et al., 2023). However, repeated disasters may also strain relationships, exhaust resources, and weaken families' capacity to mobilize support. Thus, the value of social networks depends not simply on their existence but on whether support is available, accessible, and activatable during crises (Schobert et al., 2023).

Social Capital and Community Support. Social Capital Theory provides the principal sociological lens for explaining how relationships become resources during displacement and recovery. Disaster research commonly distinguishes among bonding, bridging, and linking social capital (Azad & Pritchard, 2023; Schobert et al., 2023). Bonding capital refers to close ties with family, friends, and neighbors that can provide immediate emotional and practical assistance. Bridging capital connects families with wider community groups, NGOs, religious organizations, and other networks, expanding access to information and resources. Linking capital connects households with government agencies and formal institutions that control resources such as evacuation facilities, financial assistance, housing, healthcare, livelihood programs, and recovery services.

These forms of social capital may become important at different stages of the disaster cycle. Evidence from flood-prone Bangladesh indicates that bonding relationships are particularly important during flood onset, bridging networks can expand resources during crisis, and linking relationships become increasingly important during recovery (Azad & Pritchard, 2023). Their effectiveness, however, depends on the quality, accessibility, diversity, and capacity of relationships to be mobilized. Close networks may themselves be affected by flooding, while weak institutional trust or accessibility can restrict formal assistance (Schobert et al., 2023; Rasool et al., 2024).

Collective Action and Institutional Support. Social capital contributes to resilience when relationships are translated into collective action, including information sharing, evacuation assistance, resource pooling,

community preparedness, and advocacy. Social learning can transform individual disaster experiences into shared knowledge and coordinated practices, strengthening community preparedness across repeated events (Azad et al., 2022). Collective social capital has likewise been associated with stronger flood preparedness and community resilience (Abunyewah et al., 2023). Nevertheless, unequal participation and access to networks may exclude socially vulnerable households, demonstrating that social capital can both strengthen resilience and reproduce existing inequalities.

Formal institutions complement these community resources by providing warnings, evacuation support, shelters, relief, healthcare, livelihood assistance, infrastructure recovery, and relocation programs. Their effectiveness depends on accessibility, trust, coordination, and responsiveness to community needs (Rasool et al., 2024). Community-level institutions may also serve as intermediaries between residents and higher levels of governance, facilitating information, services, and coordinated response (Gao, 2022). Resilience therefore depends on effective connections between informal community support and formal institutional resources.

Sociological Synthesis. The sociological perspective demonstrates that resilience to repeated displacement is not solely a household attribute but emerges through interactions among families, communities, organizations, and institutions. Bonding, bridging, and linking social capital provide different but complementary resources, while collective action converts relational resources into coordinated responses. Importantly, social capital is a dynamic and mobilizable resource rather than a fixed community characteristic; repeated disasters may strengthen networks through shared learning or weaken them through resource depletion, exclusion, and declining trust (Azad & Pritchard, 2023; Schobert et al., 2023).

Within the proposed framework, Social Capital Theory complements the Double ABC-X Model of Family Stress and Adaptation. While the Double ABC-X Model explains how families experience accumulated demands, appraise adversity, mobilize resources, cope, and adapt, Social Capital Theory explains how external resources become accessible through social relationships. Together, these perspectives conceptualize repeated displacement as an interaction between internal family coping capacity and external social resources, helping explain why families exposed to similar flood hazards may experience different trajectories of vulnerability, adaptation, and resilience.

Social Vulnerability and Structural Context

Repeated flood-related displacement does not affect all families equally. Even under similar hazard exposure, households differ in their capacity to anticipate flooding, evacuate, absorb losses, maintain livelihoods, access assistance, and recover. These differences reflect social vulnerability, understood as the social, economic, institutional, and structural conditions shaping susceptibility and adaptive capacity. Contemporary flood research emphasizes its multidimensional character, incorporating socioeconomic status, housing, employment, transportation, services, governance, and institutional conditions (Hamidi et al., 2025; Isia et al., 2023). Vulnerability should therefore be understood not as an inherent characteristic of particular groups but as a condition produced through unequal access to resources, opportunities, protection, and institutional support.

Socioeconomic, Livelihood, and Housing Vulnerability. Poverty and livelihood insecurity can substantially constrain families' capacity to cope with repeated displacement. Low-income households may have fewer resources for evacuation, temporary accommodation, property replacement, housing repair, and livelihood recovery. Disasters can also reinforce poverty through recurring asset and income losses, producing a cycle in which socioeconomic disadvantage increases disaster vulnerability while disaster losses further reduce adaptive capacity (Hallegatte et al., 2020). Repeated displacement can intensify this process through declining savings, indebtedness, livelihood disruption, and reduced capacity to invest in future preparedness (Hamidi et al., 2025).

Housing further connects socioeconomic conditions with disaster exposure. Housing location, quality, tenure, affordability, and access to protective infrastructure influence both flood risk and recovery opportunities. Housing is consistently identified as a major dimension of flood-related social vulnerability (Hamidi et al., 2025), while evidence of socio-environmental inequalities indicates that disadvantaged populations may experience disproportionate exposure to flooding (Fujiki et al., 2024). Consequently, repeatedly returning to flood-prone locations may reflect structural constraints—including poverty, insecure tenure, livelihood location, limited housing alternatives, and community ties—rather than inadequate awareness of risk.

Inequality and Access to Essential Resources. Disaster vulnerability is also shaped by unequal access to resources and services. Income, education, age, disability, occupation, housing tenure, and other social positions can influence exposure and adaptive capacity; however, these characteristics should not be interpreted as inherently producing vulnerability. Rather, vulnerability emerges through social and institutional processes that determine access to housing, transportation, healthcare, financial resources, information, and decision-making (Fujiki et al., 2024; Hamidi et al., 2025). This shifts attention from identifying who is vulnerable toward explaining what conditions produce vulnerability.

Access to essential services can directly affect family coping. Transportation influences evacuation and access to assistance, while healthcare, education, communication, emergency shelters, social protection, and disaster information support recovery and everyday functioning. Barriers to these services may become secondary stressors that intensify displacement-related difficulties. Flood-vulnerability research therefore identifies transportation and healthcare access as important dimensions of social vulnerability (Hamidi et al., 2025; Isia et al., 2023).

Institutional Structures and Cumulative Vulnerability. Institutional structures shape vulnerability through land-use planning, early-warning systems, evacuation arrangements, relief distribution, housing assistance, livelihood recovery, social protection, and relocation policies. Multidimensional vulnerability research identifies governance and institutional capacity alongside socioeconomic and physical factors as important determinants of disaster vulnerability (Dhawale et al., 2024). Effective and inclusive institutions can reduce vulnerability, whereas weak coordination, inadequate preparedness, unequal assistance, and limited participation may reproduce it across successive disasters.

These dimensions are interconnected rather than independent. Poverty may restrict housing choices; insecure housing can increase exposure; flooding may disrupt livelihoods; livelihood losses can constrain transportation and healthcare; and inadequate institutional support may prolong displacement. Contemporary research consequently conceptualizes vulnerability as multidimensional, involving interacting socioeconomic, housing, service, governance, and institutional conditions (Dhawale et al., 2024; Isia et al., 2023; Hamidi et al., 2025). Under repeated displacement, these interactions may generate cumulative vulnerability, as each episode alters the resources available for coping with subsequent events. Conversely, effective institutional assistance, improved housing, livelihood diversification, preparedness, and stronger networks may reduce future vulnerability.

Integration with the Conceptual Framework. Within the proposed framework, social vulnerability functions as a cross-cutting structural context rather than a discrete variable. Poverty, livelihood security, housing, inequality, access to services, and institutional structures influence exposure, family coping resources, access to social capital, and prospects for adaptation and resilience.

This perspective complements the Double ABC-X Model of Family Stress and Adaptation and Social Capital Theory. While the Double ABC-X Model explains how families appraise and cope with accumulated demands, and Social Capital Theory explains how relationships provide access to external resources, social vulnerability explains why

these resources and opportunities are unequally distributed. Repeated displacement therefore emerges through interactions among environmental exposure, accumulated family stress, social relationships, and structural inequality. Resilience is consequently understood as psychologically negotiated, socially supported, and structurally conditioned.

Critical Synthesis of Literature

The literature on disaster displacement, coping, resilience, social capital, and social vulnerability provides substantial knowledge but remains fragmented across disciplinary and analytical levels. Psychological research generally emphasizes distress, appraisal, coping, and resilience, whereas sociological and disaster studies focus on social networks, collective capacity, institutional support, and structural vulnerability. Integrating these perspectives suggests that repeated displacement is best understood as a multilevel psychosocial process involving cumulative stress, family adaptation, community resources, and structurally unequal capacities for resilience.

Repeated Displacement, Cumulative Stress, and Family Adaptation. Repeated displacement should not be conceptualized as a succession of independent disaster events. Recurrent flooding can generate accumulated psychological, material, relational, and economic demands that persist across displacement cycles. Long-term flood research indicates that anxiety, insecurity, and concerns about future events may continue beyond immediate recovery (Twiddy et al., 2022), while resilience research emphasizes the importance of examining adaptation across multiple-disaster trajectories (Saja et al., 2021). Repeated displacement is therefore path-dependent: previous experiences may strengthen preparedness, knowledge, and coping confidence while simultaneously contributing to financial depletion, housing insecurity, livelihood disruption, and anticipatory stress. Cross-sectional approaches may inadequately capture these changing trajectories, reinforcing the need for a temporal understanding of adaptation (Chen et al., 2020).

Within this process, the family functions as an active unit of coping and adaptation. Displacement affects household routines, caregiving, decision-making, resource allocation, and family relationships, requiring families to reorganize roles and mobilize psychological and material resources. Resilience may coexist with distress and is better understood as the capacity to maintain or reorganize functioning under adversity rather than as the absence of psychological symptoms (Chen et al., 2020). However, explicit attention to the family unit and the full disaster-recovery trajectory remains comparatively limited (Ferreira et al., 2024). The Double ABC-X Model, particularly its emphasis on stressor pile-up, family resources, appraisal, and coping, therefore provides a useful explanation of family adaptation under repeated displacement.

Community Support, Social Capital, and Collective Resilience. Family coping occurs within broader social environments. Community networks can provide emotional support, information, transportation, temporary accommodation, material assistance, and connections to organizations, thereby functioning as external coping resources. Evidence indicates that personal and collective social capital can strengthen flood preparedness and community resilience (Abunyewah et al., 2023). However, support cannot be assumed to be continuously available; its contribution depends on whether resources are available, accessible, and activatable (Schobert et al., 2023). Repeated disasters may strengthen cooperation through shared experience but may also produce resource fatigue, relocation, competition, and weakening social ties.

Social Capital Theory further explains these processes through bonding, bridging, and linking social capital. Bonding relationships provide immediate support through close ties, bridging networks expand access to resources beyond immediate groups, and linking relationships connect households with formal institutions. These forms may become particularly important at different phases of flooding and recovery (Azad & Pritchard, 2023). Social capital can also facilitate social learning and collective action by transforming individual disaster experience into shared

knowledge and coordinated preparedness (Azad et al., 2022). Nevertheless, social capital is not inherently equitable; strong networks may benefit well-connected groups while excluding households with weaker ties. The limited theorization of such social dynamics within existing flood-resilience frameworks further supports their explicit integration into resilience research (Olatunji, 2025).

Social Vulnerability and Unequal Resilience. Resilience is further conditioned by unequal access to economic, social, and institutional resources. Flood vulnerability is shaped by socioeconomic status, housing, employment, transportation, healthcare, and institutional support (Isia et al., 2023). Although contemporary vulnerability research incorporates multiple dimensions, many assessments continue to emphasize measurable socioeconomic and demographic indicators while giving less attention to relational, institutional, and locally grounded structural processes (Hamidi et al., 2025). Flood exposure and social vulnerability also vary across populations and geographical settings, emphasizing the contextual nature of vulnerability (Tate et al., 2021).

Repeated displacement may consequently reproduce existing inequalities. Families with secure income, housing alternatives, transportation, and institutional connections may have greater capacity to recover or relocate, whereas resource-constrained households may repeatedly return to hazardous locations because safer alternatives remain inaccessible. Resilience should therefore not be framed solely as a household capacity to endure adversity. Doing so risks shifting responsibility toward families while overlooking structural conditions—including housing, livelihoods, infrastructure, and institutional support—that continually reproduce exposure and constrain adaptation.

Family–Community Interaction and Emerging Conceptual Argument. The literature ultimately suggests that family and community resilience are reciprocal and mutually constitutive. Families draw on community resources for information, material assistance, emotional support, and institutional access, while prepared and socially connected families contribute to collective response and community capacity. Resilience can therefore be conceptualized as a nested and interactive process in which individuals operate within families, families within communities, and communities within wider institutional and structural contexts. Resources and vulnerabilities move across these levels, making it difficult to explain repeated-displacement resilience through any single level of analysis.

This synthesis reveals several persistent gaps: disaster research remains predominantly event-centered; family-level processes receive comparatively limited attention; social capital is sometimes treated as inherently beneficial despite possible exclusion and depletion; vulnerability measures may inadequately capture structural processes; and psychological and sociological explanations frequently remain disconnected. Collectively, these limitations support a shift from the conventional pathway of Flood → Stress → Coping → Resilience toward a more integrated process:

Repeated Flooding → Repeated Displacement → Accumulated Psychological, Material, and Social Stressors → Family Appraisal and Coping ↔ Community Support and Social Capital → Family and Community Adaptation/Resilience, with social vulnerability and structural conditions influencing the entire process.

Importantly, this process is recursive rather than linear. Previous displacement experiences may strengthen future preparedness, coping resources, social relationships, and institutional connections or contribute to cumulative resource depletion and increased vulnerability. The synthesis therefore conceptualizes repeated-displacement resilience as psychologically negotiated, relationally supported, collectively produced, and structurally conditioned. This integrated argument provides the conceptual basis for the framework developed in the succeeding section.

Proposed Integrated Framework

The proposed Integrated Family–Community Resilience Framework for Repeated Displacement (IFCR-RD) conceptualizes recurrent flood displacement as a dynamic, multilevel process linking accumulated stress, family coping, community resources, structural vulnerability, and resilience.

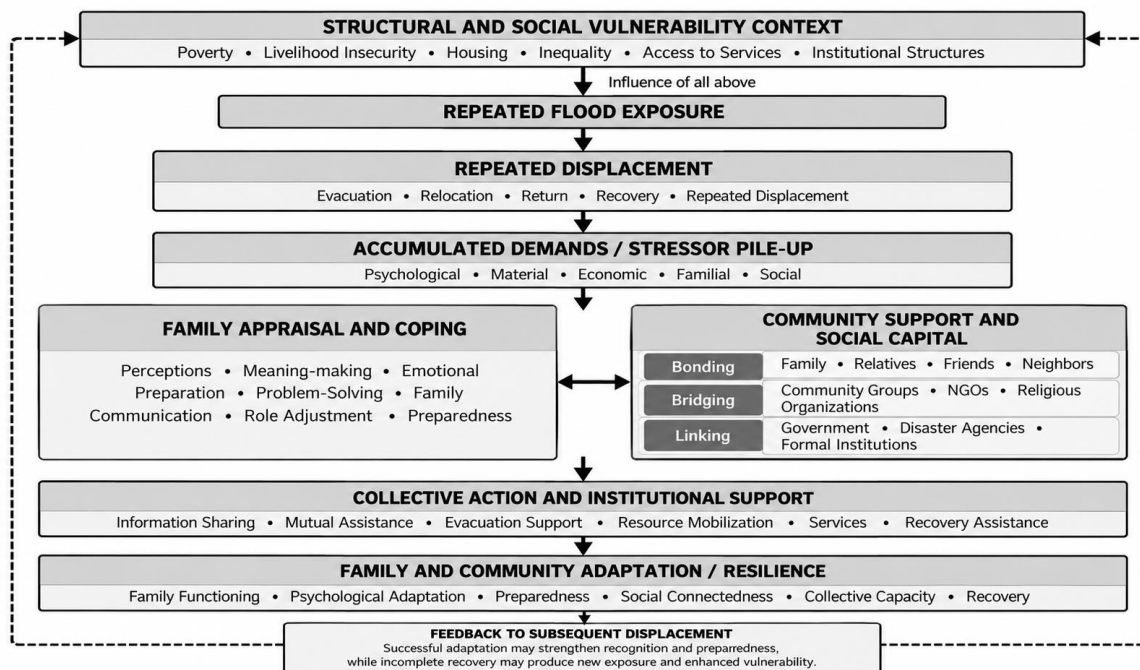


Figure 1. Integrated Family–Community Resilience Framework for Repeated Displacement (IFCR-RD).

Figure 1 presents the **Integrated Family–Community Resilience Framework for Repeated Displacement (IFCR-RD)**. It explains how families and communities adapt when they experience repeated flood exposure and repeated displacement.

The figure begins with the structural and social vulnerability context, which includes poverty, livelihood insecurity, housing conditions, inequality, access to services, and institutional structures. These conditions influence all stages of the displacement experience because they shape who is exposed to flooding, what resources are available, and how families recover.

The framework then shows a pathway from repeated flood exposure to repeated displacement, including evacuation, relocation, return, recovery, and renewed displacement. These recurring experiences create an accumulated demands or stressor pile-up, which may be psychological, material, economic, familial, and social.

At the center of the framework are two interacting processes. The first is family appraisal and coping, which includes perceptions, meaning-making, emotional preparation, problem-solving, family communication, role adjustment, and preparedness. The second is community support and social capital, which includes bonding support from family, relatives, friends, and neighbors; bridging support from community groups, NGOs, and religious organizations; and linking support from government, disaster agencies, and formal institutions.

These family and community processes lead to collective action and institutional support, such as information sharing, mutual assistance, evacuation support, resource mobilization, services, and recovery assistance. These supports contribute to family and community adaptation or resilience, including family functioning, psychological adaptation, preparedness, social connectedness, collective capacity, and recovery.

The feedback loop at the bottom shows that each displacement experience affects the next one. Successful adaptation may strengthen recognition, coping, and preparedness. However, incomplete recovery may create new exposure and greater vulnerability. Overall, Figure 1 explains resilience as a repeated, dynamic, and socially supported process shaped by family coping, community networks, institutional support, and structural conditions.

Propositions Derived from the Framework. The IFCR-RD generates seven propositions for future empirical examination:

- P1. Repeated displacement accumulates psychological, material, economic, familial, and social demands that shape subsequent adaptation.
- P2. Family adaptation depends on the appraisal and management of accumulated demands through available coping resources.
- P3. Accessible and activatable bonding, bridging, and linking social capital strengthens family coping and adaptation.
- P4. Social learning, mutual assistance, collective action, and institutional coordination strengthen community resilience.
- P5. Structural vulnerability conditions access to coping and community resources, producing unequal adaptation trajectories.
- P6. Family and community resilience are mutually reinforcing through reciprocal resource support and participation.
- P7. Repeated displacement may strengthen resilience through adaptive accumulation or increase vulnerability through cumulative resource depletion.

Conceptual Contribution of the IFCR-RD Framework. The IFCR-RD contributes an integrated explanation of repeated displacement by connecting family stress and coping, social capital, and structural vulnerability. It extends family stress perspectives by locating coping within community and structural contexts, applies Social Capital Theory to explain access to external resources, and incorporates social vulnerability to account for inequalities in adaptive capacity.

Importantly, the framework conceptualizes repeated displacement as recursive rather than episodic: previous experiences alter family resources, preparedness, social relationships, institutional connections, and subsequent vulnerability. This multilevel and temporal perspective advances resilience as psychologically negotiated, socially supported, collectively produced, and structurally conditioned, providing a foundation for future empirical research and integrated interventions addressing family coping, community capacity, and structural vulnerability.

4. Discussion

The Integrated Family–Community Resilience Framework for Repeated Displacement (IFCR-RD) advances understanding of recurrent flood displacement by integrating psychological, familial, sociological, and structural perspectives within a dynamic and recursive framework. Rather than treating displacement episodes as independent events, the framework emphasizes adaptation trajectories across successive displacement cycles, recognizing that experiences and outcomes from previous events influence the resources, perceptions,

relationships, and vulnerabilities carried into subsequent displacement. This temporal perspective extends conventional disaster-resilience approaches by positioning repeated displacement as an evolving process rather than a series of isolated crises.

At the family level, the framework extends the Double ABC-X Model by situating family appraisal and coping within broader community and structural contexts. Families respond to accumulated demands through communication, problem solving, role adjustment, meaning-making, preparedness, and resource mobilization; however, their capacity to do so is influenced by resources available beyond the household. Community relationships and institutional connections can expand coping opportunities, while families themselves contribute knowledge, participation, and support to collective preparedness and response. Family and community resilience are therefore interconnected rather than independent processes.

The framework also demonstrates that the contribution of social capital to resilience depends on whether relational resources are available, accessible, and capable of being mobilized during displacement and recovery (Schobert et al., 2023). Although community networks may provide important emotional, informational, material, and institutional resources, their benefits may be unevenly distributed. Socioeconomic disadvantage, livelihood insecurity, housing conditions, limited service access, and institutional arrangements can constrain families' ability to mobilize support (Azad & Pritchard, 2023). Social vulnerability therefore provides an important structural explanation for why households experiencing similar flood hazards may follow different adaptation trajectories. This integration prevents resilience from being understood solely as a function of family coping or community cohesion and recognizes the wider conditions that shape opportunities for recovery.

A central theoretical contribution of the IFCR-RD is its integration of three interconnected levels of explanation. The psychological/family level addresses how accumulated demands are appraised and managed; the sociological/community level explains how relational and collective resources support adaptation; and the structural level accounts for inequalities in exposure, resource access, and recovery opportunities. Connecting these levels helps bridge psychological and sociological explanations that are often examined separately in disaster research and provides a more comprehensive account of resilience under recurrent displacement (Saja et al., 2021). This multilevel integration is particularly important because resources and vulnerabilities can operate across family, community, and institutional boundaries rather than remaining confined to a single level of analysis.

The framework further contributes a temporal interpretation of resilience through the possibility of adaptive accumulation and cumulative depletion. Previous displacement experience may strengthen preparedness, knowledge, coordination, and coping capacity, while recurring losses may simultaneously erode financial, psychological, material, or social resources. These trajectories are not necessarily mutually exclusive; families may become more experienced and better prepared while also becoming increasingly resource-constrained. Consequently, resilience should not be treated as a fixed endpoint following recovery but as an evolving condition shaped by the interaction of previous experiences, available resources, social relationships, and structural circumstances. This recursive perspective provides a basis for examining how different resilience trajectories develop across repeated displacement cycles and for empirically testing the relationships proposed by the IFCR-RD.

5. Implications

The IFCR-RD has important implications for theory and future research by directing attention toward changes in family and community adaptation across successive displacement experiences rather than outcomes following a single disaster. Future studies should empirically examine the proposed relationships using longitudinal, mixed-method, and comparative designs that can capture changes in coping resources, social relationships, structural conditions, and resilience over time. Particular attention should be given to the reciprocal relationship between

family coping and community support and to how differences in access to social and institutional resources influence adaptation trajectories. Measurement research may also develop and validate indicators of cumulative displacement stress, family coping, community support, adaptive accumulation, resource depletion, and resilience to enable systematic testing and refinement of the framework. These directions are consistent with the propositions generated by the IFCR-RD for future empirical examination.

The framework also has important policy and practical implications. Responses to repeated displacement should extend beyond short-term evacuation, relief, and recovery toward integrated strategies that address both immediate coping needs and the conditions that contribute to recurrent vulnerability. Family preparedness and psychosocial support should be complemented by community-based initiatives and accessible institutional assistance, together with longer-term measures addressing housing security, livelihood protection, social protection, healthcare, and equitable access to essential services. Strengthening relationships among families, communities, organizations, and formal institutions may improve information sharing, mutual assistance, coordinated preparedness, and access to recovery resources.

Importantly, repeated disaster experience should not automatically be interpreted as evidence of increasing resilience. Although previous exposure may improve knowledge and preparedness, recurring displacement can progressively reduce the financial, material, psychological, and social resources available for subsequent recovery. Policies and interventions should therefore consider both capacity strengthening and resource depletion, particularly among households experiencing recurrent exposure and incomplete recovery. Community-based resilience initiatives should complement rather than substitute for institutional responsibility, especially where structural conditions constrain families' ability to avoid repeated displacement. Effective resilience-building consequently requires coordinated interventions across family, community, and institutional levels that strengthen adaptive capacity while reducing the conditions that perpetuate exposure and unequal recovery.

6. Conclusion

This study developed the Integrated Family–Community Resilience Framework for Repeated Displacement (IFCR-RD) to explain adaptation to recurrent flood-related displacement across family, community, and structural levels. By integrating the Double ABC-X Model, Social Capital Theory, and a social vulnerability perspective, the framework connects family coping with socially accessible resources and the structural conditions that shape their availability.

The framework's central contribution is its recursive and temporal perspective: outcomes from previous displacement experiences influence the resources and vulnerabilities carried into subsequent events. This provides a conceptual basis for examining why repeated exposure may lead to different adaptation trajectories across families and communities and offers a foundation for future empirical testing and integrated disaster-resilience interventions.

7. Recommendations

Future research should empirically test the IFCR-RD framework using longitudinal, mixed-method, and comparative designs to examine how cumulative stress, family coping, social capital, structural vulnerability, and resilience change across repeated displacement cycles. Research should also develop and validate measures of cumulative displacement stress, adaptive accumulation, resource depletion, family coping, community support, and resilience.



Policy and practice should move beyond short-term emergency response toward integrated strategies addressing family preparedness and psychosocial support, community networks, housing and livelihood security, social protection, equitable service access, and institutional responsiveness. Repeated displacement should be recognized as a form of chronic disaster vulnerability requiring coordinated family-, community-, and institution-level interventions that address both immediate needs and the cumulative consequences of recurrent displacement.

Credit Authorship Contribution

The primary author contributed to all aspects of the study, including conceptualization, methodology, formal analysis, investigation, data curation, and writing. The remaining three authors contributed to the literature search.

Ethical Statement

This study does not involve human participants, animals, or primary data collection. It is based solely on the analysis of publicly available literature, policy documents, and institutional reports. Therefore, ethical approval was not required.

Declaration of Interests

The author declares that there are no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Data Availability

The data supporting the findings of this study are derived from publicly available sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles, policy documents, and institutional reports. All relevant sources are cited within the manuscript. No new data were generated or analyzed in this study.

AI Usage Disclosure

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in a limited and supportive capacity during the preparation of this manuscript. Specifically, AI was employed to assist in identifying potential research topics, developing preliminary outlines, and refining language and grammar. The author assumes full responsibility for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the work.

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