

ABSTRACT

Barriers and Pathways: Understanding the Challenges Refugee Women Face in Accessing Education and Economic Opportunities in Abuja and Other Refugee-Hosting Regions of Nigeria.

Access to education and economic opportunities is vital for refugee women to rebuild their lives, contribute meaningfully to host communities, and break cycles of dependency and poverty. Yet, refugee women in Nigeria face multi-layered challenges that limit their participation and progress in these critical areas.

This research will examine the specific barriers that refugee women encounter in accessing formal and informal education, vocational training, and income-generating activities in Abuja and selected refugee-hosting regions across Nigeria. The study will explore structural factors such as legal status, language barriers, limited mobility, insecurity, and socio-cultural norms, as well as institutional gaps in policy implementation and support systems.

Combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews with refugee women, local community leaders, NGOs, and policymakers, the research aims to map the lived experiences and coping strategies of refugee women, highlighting their resilience and agency amid adversity.

Findings from this study will inform actionable recommendations for government agencies, humanitarian organizations, and community-based actors to design inclusive education programs, targeted economic empowerment initiatives, and gender-responsive policies that address the unique needs of refugee women.

By shedding light on both the barriers and potential pathways, this research seeks to amplify the voices of refugee women in Nigeria and contribute to national and regional dialogues on gender, displacement, and sustainable livelihoods.

Keywords: Refugee women, education access, economic empowerment, gender, barriers, resilience, policy recommendations.