



# Resilience of Nigeria's Micro, Small, and Medium-Scale Enterprises in the Face of Climate Change Uncertainties

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## SUMMARY

This thesis explores how support from the state and social institutions aid MSMEs to build resilience to climate change in Lagos State, Nigeria.

*The study is motivated by the urgent need to understand how African MSMEs - as economic backbone of the region - navigate the pervasive and unpredictable uncertainties of climate change, an area that remains underexplored in current adaptation research.*

## RESEARCH INQUIRY

To what extent do state and social institutions' interventions and other contextual factors enhance MSMEs' climate change awareness, responses, and resilience?

### Objectives:

1. Explore how MSMEs' climate awareness impacts their climate action.
2. Assess the factors that impact MSMEs' awareness about climate change and climate action.
3. Examine the extent to which the state and social institutions' interventions impact MSMEs' awareness about climate change.
4. Determine the extent to which interventions from the state and social institutions enhance MSMEs' in building resilience to shocks emerging from climate extremes.

## METHODS

The study adopts a concurrent mixed-methods design, combining semi-structured interviews, questionnaires, and document analysis. Using convenience and purposive sampling, data were collected from government and social institutional actors involved in climate change and MSME sustainability, alongside 200 MSME owners in Lagos State, Nigeria's commercial hub. The data were analysed through descriptive, inferential, and thematic approaches.



### Theoretical Anchor

Resilience and reflexivity theories provide insights on what motivates MSMEs' climate action and how this supports their resilience.

## FINDINGS

1. 98.5% and 95% had either heard of 'climate change' or observed consistent changes in weather patterns over a long period of time.  
9 in 10 practise pro-climate behaviour based on concern for climate change.
2. High-risk perception or personal experience with extreme weather events or climate-induced risks increases motivation for action.  
Limited finance constitutes a challenge to both institutional actors and MSMEs in effectively responding to climate change.
3. 6 of 10 MSMEs indicate the school as primary source of information on climate change.  
Support exists at various levels of institutions to create awareness on climate change, as well as general business support.
4. Existing Supply-demand gap -- availability of support does not translate to access.  
MSMEs' resilience is despite the interventions of state institutions.  
MSMEs' future resilience is better assured in social institutions and informal networks support.

## CONCLUSION: WHAT NEXT?

- Infrastructural and systemic challenges further compound MSMEs' vulnerability, and structural flaws force many businesses into unsustainable practices.
- Importantly, the study established reflexivity as part of resilience process. MSMEs displayed reflexive attributes supporting characteristics of resilience highlighted in literature.
- There is need for a collaborative governance process that channels state institutional support through social institutions and informal networks to build MSMEs' resilience to climate crisis.

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