

The image displays three logos. On the left is the AHRI (Africa Health Research Institute) logo, featuring the letters 'AHRI' in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font, with an orange circle above the 'I'. To the right of 'AHRI' is the text 'AFRICA HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, arranged in four lines. Below the AHRI logo is the Wellcome logo, which consists of a large, bold, black 'W' above the word 'wellcome' in a lowercase, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the Wellcome logo is the asaswei conference '23 logo, which features a colorful, stylized graphic of five human figures in orange, blue, green, red, and yellow, arranged in a circle around a central floral-like pattern. Below this graphic is the text 'asaswei' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and 'conference '23' in a smaller, green, sans-serif font.

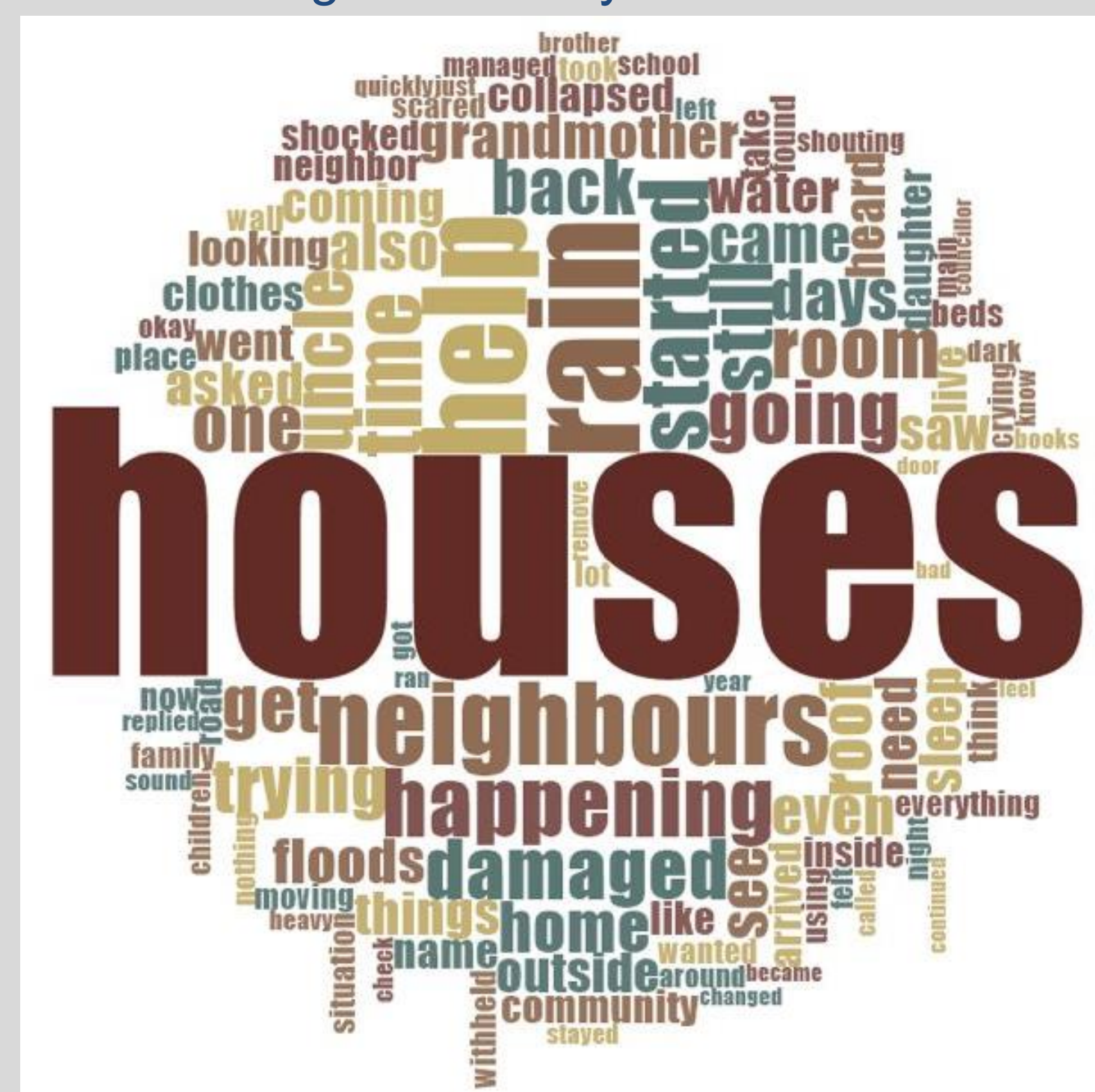
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- The WEMA project focuses on the critical issue of how extreme weather events (EWEs) affect the mental health of vulnerable populations in Africa.
- The focus of the project is particularly in 3 countries which are Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mozambique, and South Africa.
- Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of heatwaves, floods, and droughts, exacerbating health conditions and disproportionately impacting resource-poor settings.
- While the physical impacts of climate change are well-documented, the mental health consequences are often overlooked..

- Our goal is to highlight the direct link between EWEs and common mental disorders (CMDs) among vulnerable populations.
- This evidence will highlight the need for adaptation strategies to be integrated with community mental health care to promote good health and wellbeing among at-risk populations.

➤ This is the word cloud generated by NVivo from the DST transcripts.

- Generate new evidence on the effects of extreme weather events on common mental disorders using existing data.
- Investigate the burden and impact of CMDs among vulnerable populations exposed to EWEs.
- Engage stakeholders in interpreting evidence and brainstorming context-specific interventions.
- Deliver a targeted public engagement and strategic communication campaign to drive policy change.



- The digital story was created by a community-based co-researcher from Embo in KwaZulu-Natal at a workshop was in South Africa in June 2025. The workshop was hosted by the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI).
- The digital story is a product of the WEMA Project (The impact of extreme weather events on the mental health of vulnerable population in Africa). WEMA is funded by the Wellcome Trust and led by Ahrica Health Research Institute.