

# Livelihood Access and Challenges in Mining Resettlement Communities: Insight from Ghana

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## Abstract

The study acknowledges that though mining has contributed to the development of many economies globally, it comes with unanticipated challenges especially on the people who are directly affected by the mining activities. The study aims to understand the implications of such challenges faced in mining resettled communities and the versatile practices followed to stay in the mist of such livelihood challenges in mining resettlement communities. The study also focuses on the coping strategies adapted to cope with these challenges in mining resettlement communities. Qualitative approach was done to capture the rich essence of the subject matter. The study used focus groups and in-depth interviews as techniques and interviewed members from different households of the mining resettlements communities (Salman, Teleku-Bokazo and Nkroful) including land owners, opinion leaders, chiefs and from the institutional perspectives. As a result, it was found out that the livelihood challenges that clearly manifested itself was in the area of income, employment and morbidity issues. The evidence was shown that in all the challenges, coping measures are in place to enable the people live in their new settlements, but not adequate.

**Keywords:** Resettlement, livelihood challenges, mining, copying.

With the availability of modern sophisticated machines to detect mineral deposits in remote locations through aerial reconnaissance, the tendency to relocate people has become inevitable in the world. Involuntary relocating and resettling communities in most cases makes people confront with heightened risks of poverty and more importantly, social instability as a

result of the peoples unfamiliarity with their new locations (Adam Owen, et al., 2015). Furthermore, some become far removed, while others have to learn a new trade all together for survival (Twerefoo, 2021).

The issue of displacement has now gain a global perspective and this makes governments of various countries considering the

displacement of their people for development or mineral exploitation issues as security threat. This sees government bearing long-term liabilities caused by the displacement, including pressure to address risk in remote locations (Owen Kemp, 2015).

Ghana has opened her doors for the emergence of a number of international mining firms since the discovery of various mineral deposits in the country. The 2019 report of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, a body charged to oversee mining activities in the country indicated that 31,127 kilometer square representing 12.1% of the total land area of the country has been devoted to mining.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicated in a statistics released that between 2003 and 2008, Goldfields Ghana Limited (GGL) resettled 30,000 landlords and their families. Similarly, between 2013 and 2015, Aboso Goldfields Limited (AGL) resettled 4 households (an average of 16 persons). Newmont Ahafo Mines also displaced between 10,000 and 20,000 landlords during the first and second phases of the company's operations (Twerefoo, 2021). These involuntary movement of the people ultimately brings enormous challenges to the livelihood of the people in the affected communities. To address some of these challenges as a result of resettlements, the government of Ghana has formulated certain policies to promote and protect citizens' livelihood. Popular among these policies are the Minerals and Mining Policy of Ghana 2024: Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703) and Minerals and Mining (compensation and resettlement) Regulation, 2012 (LI 2175). The government of Ghana requires mining firms to be guided by the aforementioned policies in the formulation and implementation of their resettlement planning framework. Section 10.11 of the Mineral and Mining Policy categorically mandates the inculcation of sustainable livelihood programmes as an integral part of the planning of any mining activity. This raises critical question as to how these policies are

adhered to as well as the implications of the resettlement on the livelihood dynamics of the affected communities. Discovery of mineral deposit and it subsequent displacement and resettlement of the affected people comes with many challenges on the livelihood of the people if those in management fail to adopt proper measures to ensure effective rehabilitation of the people who have lost their entire livelihoods. It is an established fact that mining operations across the globe, people and countries have been affected negatively by pollution and loss of main source of livelihood. Many of these people have become idle and frustrated. They are living without jobs and catering for their households is a challenge for them. This is the question that this paper seeks to address. It does so through a case study of Adamus resettlement of the Salman, Teleku-Bokazo and Nkroful communities in the Ellembelle District of the Western Region of Ghana.

#### 1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify some of the livelihood issues pertaining in a resettled community.
2. To examine the livelihood challenges face by the people in a resettlement community.
3. To access the copying strategies mounted to overcome the challenges.

#### 1.3 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The interview sample size has been confined to only 54 participants.
2. The study was limited to Ellembelle District in the Western Region of Ghana.
3. The study has been carried in a recent resettlement at Ellembelle, so the findings may vary accordingly, as in other parts of the country there may be a different challenge.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Chambers and Conway, 1992) cited in (Twerefoo, 2021) in their attempt to define livelihood, it was said that livelihood is made up of capabilities, capacities (institution and human) and assets (stores, resource, claims and

access) and activities (actions at various levels) needed to help one make a living. They added that a sustainable livelihood should help people to overcome challenges and trauma they face as a result of denial of livelihood sources and be able to provide livelihood opportunity for the next generation. A livelihood has to depict key elements of sustainability and possess the ability to cope and overcome stress and shocks.

### 2.1 The concept of livelihood

According to (Dugbazah, 2012) the concept of livelihood is a people centred approach which he sees the world constituted by individuals, household and social classes making all the necessary effort to make ends meet in the tough situations with insufficient assets in the hands. The impact and the importance of the externality of shocks could be linked with the available assets and the access the poor people have.

According to (Solesbury, 2018) it is the adaptation of Chambers and Conway's definition by international development organisations such as NUDP, Oxfam and CARE and Society for International Development (SID) that put the definition into operation

Scoones modified the Chambers and Conway definition

(Scoones, 1998) asserted that a livelihood is made up of capabilities, assets and means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it is able to cope with and also help people to overcome

stress and shocks without ignoring the natural resource base. A livelihood concept tries to bring to bear the factors that consistently affect the strength of individual or family coping or survival strategies. The activities these people engage in to make a living and meet other specific goals of life.

### 2.2 Components of livelihood

(Ellis, 2000) stated the components of livelihood to include people's assets, actions or activities and access. These components determines standard of living by each individual or household. Rural livelihood diversification is explained as a way by which household heads create diverse activities that help raise money to improve their living conditions (Ellis, 2000). (Ellis, 2000) used social relation to explain access. He explained that access is made up of rules and norms which determines different abilities of the local residents to own and make good use of land and other common property. He went further by saying that access includes not only having the right to but also the capacity to participate and benefits gained from your relations and general goods and services delivered by public. If there is an alternative method of livelihood that permits higher means of access to the poor people who in one way or the other may be negatively affected should be encouraged. Putting a lot of resources to create livelihood opportunity would be laudable idea.

DFID SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FRAMEWORK

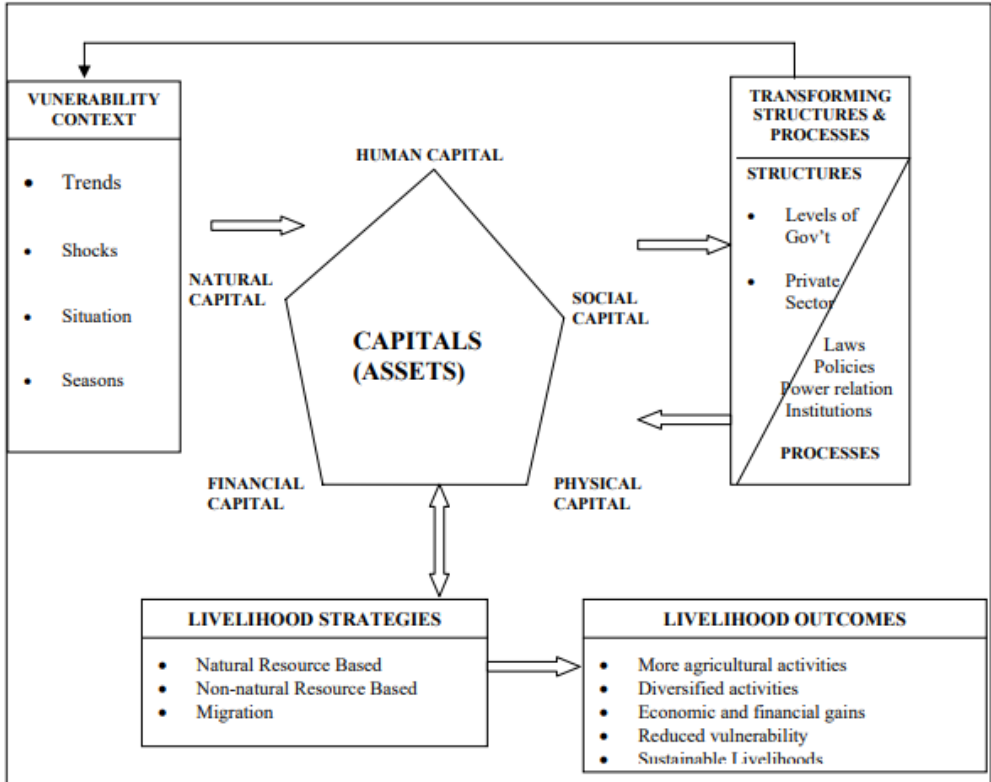


Figure 1 DFID Livelihood Framework  
 Source: (DFID sustainable livelihood framework, 27th May, 2019)

The Department for International Development (DFID) framework is people centred and holistic, and focuses on accessibility to assets. It also makes use of livelihood analysis, including institutional and political issues (DIFD 1999).

The DIFD model group’s assets into five types of core capitals, namely human capital, natural capital, financial capital, social capital and physical capital.

According to (Serrat, 2017) the goal the people aspire such as increased income or a well-being are termed as livelihood outcomes. But the steps or the methods or approaches they use to achieve these outcomes are called livelihood

strategies. Getting employment is a strategy but the income an employee receives is an outcome.

(Rakodi, 2002) access to and the availability of assets is the central part of livelihood framework approach. It is crucial to mention that those assets are not limited to cash, savings or other materials means but rather considers non-material aspects such as health, their labour, their knowledge and skills, their friends and family.

The explanations of human, natural, financial, physical and social capitals are adapted from DFID Sustainable Livelihood Framework, 1999.

### 2.2.1 Human capital

It refers to the skills, knowledge and ability a person possess that help him or her to adopt new livelihood strategies to achieve their livelihood objectives.

### 2.2.2 Natural capital

It refers to the natural resources such as wildlife, land water, and environment. In the study area land for farming and water bodies are most important natural resources. Most of the rural folks derive their livelihood source from the farm lands and the water bodies.

### 2.2.3 Financial capital

It refers to financial resources made available for them to help the people identify the alternative livelihood. These resources include loan facilities or credit, pensions and savings. The earnings of employees in the form of compensations and wages from part of the financial assets.

### 2.2.4 Physical capital

They are the tangible infrastructures such as affordable transportation, shelter and building, adequate water supply, clean energy and access to information, and the production materials and tool that help people search for livelihood alternative.

### 2.2.5 Social capital

It refers to networks and connections of formal group and relationship that build trust and aid people pursue their livelihood objectives.

In order for the citizens in Western Region, specifically in the Ellebelle District to overcome the challenges of livelihood, the aspects of capital should be made available to them. The most important capitals in this study are the human, financial and natural capitals. The human capital can be measured with human development index (HDI) at the national level. It helps people to become self-reliance and avoid depending on one means of livelihood to survive. The farmers in these mining communities were trained only on how to farm and this has become the only sources of livelihood. This has led to majority of the farmers over depending on farming as the only means to survive.

### 2.3 Vulnerability Context

The vulnerability context looks on the external environment within which people operate or live. Changes in trends and season of which people have minimal control affect their livelihood and assets. Examples include resource trends, trend in governance, national and international economic trends, technology trends, human health shocks, natural shocks, economic shocks, conflict, crops and livestock shocks, changes in prices, production and employment opportunities, (DFID 1999).

The poor in the society suffers more than the rich when it comes to external shocks, crises and stresses. When the poor are hit with external event recovering is always a problem. (Chamber Conway, 1991) vulnerability has two divisions. These are external and internal vulnerability. The external include stresses and shocks and the internal, the ability and the capacity to withstand or cope.

External (stresses and shocks) can be unfolds as a result changes in demographic or resources available; repetitive changes in time for instance constant price increases and finally short term shocks such as conflicts or natural disasters (Rakodi, 2002). Rakodi makes it explicit when he reasoned that policies, ‘the interactions of processes and institutions are factors that affect the vulnerability of individuals, households and communities’. The state’s decisions to build mining companies with their Processing Plant in the western region by acquiring land that belong to the farmers are very necessary to note.

According to (Scoones, 1998) compulsory land acquisition certainly falls into infrequent, unpredictable disturbance with the immediate impact. The individuals, households and communities are able to cope with vulnerability, when they have the assets that deal with those situations. People with social network as capital are able to fall on them to obtain land and other help when faced with shocks. The study also considers to what extent compensation regime and alternative livelihood programmes have provided solutions against internal and external

shocks are explored in the context of vulnerability in the oil communities to secure their livelihood assets.

#### 2.4 Conceptual framework

The sustainable livelihood framework and the impoverishment risk and reconstruction model (Cernea, 2019) have been used extensively in the development-induced displacement and resettlement literature. Though mining-induced displacement and resettlement is a type of development-induced displacement and resettlement, it has its own unique challenges. Mining activities are undertaken in rural communities where most of the affected persons are agrarians and depend solely on their lands for their livelihood. This means that the livelihood strategies available to them in the event of losing their lands to mining activities appear limited. For example, the livelihood strategy of agricultural intensification or extensification as envisaged by Scoones (1998) will no longer be available. The affected persons may either diversify into off-farm income earning activities or have to migrate to other areas in search of a better livelihood. The institutional processes and organisational structures also influence the kind of livelihood strategies to adopt. This suggests that a framework which is tailored to mining-induced displacement and resettlement research is required in examining the sustainability of the livelihood dynamics of communities affected by mining. Therefore, in relating sustainable livelihoods framework, and impoverishment risk and reconstruction model to mining-induced displacement and resettlement, the following assumptions are made. First, the institutional (formal and informal rules) and organisational arrangement on resettlement and compensation will compel mining companies to adopt effective livelihood strategies during the design of a resettlement planning framework. These strategies could include the implementation of alternative livelihood programmes for affected persons who seek to diversify their source of livelihood, and the adoption of a sustainable compensation policy for affected persons who

seek to migrate in search of a better livelihood. "Sustainable compensation" here refers to an income-generating activity or asset and not a one-off payment. Second, the livelihood strategies can then be combined with any of the livelihood resources. Third, the effective combination of livelihood strategies and any livelihood resources will, therefore, lead to the creation of a sustainable livelihood outcome. The sustainable livelihood outcomes referred to here can be in the form of employment opportunities, skills training to undertake off-farm activities, micro-enterprise development programmes, and so on. Finally, it can further be assumed that the nature and type of alternative livelihood programmes and sustainable compensation strategies to be adopted cannot be done without the involvement of the affected communities. Community participation will motivate the affected persons to fully appreciate and embrace the programmes and strategies implemented by the mining companies.

#### 2.5 Theoretical review

Impoverishment risks and the reconstruction model (IRR)

The impoverishment risks and reconstruction (IRR) model developed by Michael Cernea provides valuable insights into the hazards connected to involuntary resettlements and is a theory of great value in this regard. Cernea identified eight core dangers that affect people displaced due to development, including landlessness, unemployment, homelessness, marginalization, food insecurity, loss of access to common property resources, increased illness and mortality and community disarticulation are among the eight core dangers identified by Cernea as affecting people who are displaced due to development. While land loss is a notable risk factor in MIDR, it accounts for just 10–20% of the risks of impoverishment associated with involuntary displacement. Additional displacement-related hazards have been found, which represent serious dangers to sustainability. If these dangers are not addressed or reduced, "new poverty" may arise, exacerbating the

problems already faced by APs. This may cause the living conditions and dignity of the underprivileged to further deteriorate. Furthermore, MIDR has significant long-term effects that significantly restrict people's opportunities for sustainable growth on both a societal and personal level. Societies that have existed for centuries may crumble and become unstable due to the strains of forced relocation. On the other hand, well-thought-out actions that lessen but do not completely eradicate the impacts of MIDR enhance societal sustainability.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### A QUALITATIVE APPROACH

As a subfield of social science study, qualitative research concentrates on collecting and interpreting non-numerical data to help understand social processes within specific groups or situations (Crossman, 2020). Although there have been many complaints regarding the quality of qualitative research, those who support this approach still believe that quality is the most important prerequisite. To ensure qualitative research meets quality standards, several elements have been proposed, including a worthy topic, rigorous methodology, sincerity, credibility, resonance, significant contribution, ethical considerations, and meaningful coherence (Tracy, 2010). Furthermore, in certain situations, referential sufficiency, structural corroboration, and triangulation provide assurances for quality assurance (Eisner, 1997). Since qualitative research examines social or human problems in natural settings, researchers are urged to carefully analyse whether the qualitative technique is appropriate for their topic and study objectives (Silverman, 2008).

#### 3.1 SELECTION OF RESEARCH TECHNIQUE

This study employed a qualitative method for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, the researcher set out to look into the livelihood challenges of mining resettlements on impacted

people in their natural surroundings (Adjei, 2007). This is in line with the opinions of proponents of qualitative research, who favour flexible and social context-aware data gathering techniques over inflexible, distant, and inferential ones (Denzin and Lincoln 2005). The necessity for a nuanced understanding of complicated problems like money, work, and morbidity—which can only be elicited through direct talks with participants that allow them to freely express their experiences—also made a qualitative method preferable (Creswell, 2014). In addition, the research entailed obtaining data from professionals and high-ranking government employees in the mining industry, resulting in a small sample size (N-size) deemed appropriate for qualitative analysis. This made it necessary to use qualitative data gathering tools like focus groups and in-depth interviews, which allowed for a thorough examination of the topic because participants offered a variety of viewpoints (Creswell, 2014). After the data was collected from multiple sources, it was triangulated utilizing qualitative techniques to guarantee thorough comprehension (Yin, 2013). The study selected the qualitative technique to investigate the socioeconomic effects of mining resettlement directly from the viewpoints of those living in these resettled communities, who are directly impacted by the ensuing benefits or challenges. The qualitative technique was more suitable because of the subtle nature of these encounters and the requirement to record subjective opinions.

#### 3.2 SELECTION OF RESEARCH SUBJECTS

Conversational methods, focus group discussions, observations and interviews were some of the key methods used in the qualitative approach. It is noteworthy that this research is grounded in context and seeks to obtain distinctive perspectives from each home, focus group and key informants. The qualitative approach was thought to be the most appropriate because of the subjective character of these perspectives and the need to capture the variety

of individual experiences. The participants were consciously chosen from three (3) resettled mining communities to get a holistic understanding. Interview selection process involved identifying potential people from the selected resettled communities. The list of participants comprises household heads, opinion leaders, market women, focus group and personnel from institutions involved in the resettlement programme.

3.3 SAMPLING DESIGN

Table 3.1: Interviewees details

NAMES OF RESETTLED COMMUNITIES	TARGET PERSONS INTERVIEWED	NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS
Salman community, Nkroful community and Teleku-Bokazo community	Household	12
	Institutional level	6
	Opinion leaders	9
	<b>FOCUS GROUP</b>	
Salman community		9
Nkroful community		9
Teleku-Bokazo		9
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>

3.4 DATA COLLECTION

After selection of communities, the next step was connecting with potential participants. This was done by the researcher visiting the selected resettled communities to seek the indulgence of the participants to take part in the research willingly. The actual process of interview involved conducting semi-structured or unstructured interviews with them to learn their challenges and coping strategies on livelihood issues. The participants were informed in advance through the visit of the researcher to the selected communities. Each participants was checked for a day of availability and then

interviews were scheduled. At the start of the session a consent was obtained from each participant to document and record the interviews and then each participant was asked questions based on the questionnaire protocol prepared but it was personalised according to each participant’s response and follow up questions were asked to make use of the in-depth interview method. The questionnaire protocol involved the following questions.

1. Can you tell me how the resettlement process happened and how it turn out for you?
2. Describe your way of life/how you went about doing things before the resettlement?
3. Describe your way of life/how you go about doing things now?
4. What was your total yearly income before/after the resettlement?
5. What employment opportunities are available to you after the resettlement?
6. Describe the struggles you are experiencing now?
7. What was your livelihood centred on before the resettlement?
8. How is your way of life assured in your new resettlement?
9. Do you have any health related issues as a result of the resettlement?
10. How are you coping in your new resettlement?

After the completion of interviews and focus group discussions in the three communities selected, the responses were transformed from verbatim to e-form like excel for further thematic coding and analysis.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The analysis revealed that mining resettlements create many unfavourable issues which affect the general livelihood of the affected people. The interviews and the focus group discussions revealed three major livelihood issues that the Salman, Teleku-Bokazo and Nkroful resettled mining communities face. These were income,



employment and morbidity issues. Though the thematic groupings from the data obtained brought up other livelihood issues like pollution of the environment, the people no longer having access to their land as it used to be, expensive food prices due to the influx of people into the communities and loss of their cultural artefacts etc.

Participants in the study were challenged by various livelihood issues and they used different strategies to cope up with the challenges.

#### 4.1 CHALLENGES

##### 4.1.1 Challenges face from income

The goal was analyzed qualitatively to see how the income levels of residents of the western area of Ghana's resettlement villages have been impacted. This was important in determining whether their income has decreased or appreciated in their newly settled communities, as income levels will go a long way in determining how they can take care of their families. To answer Objective 2, participants had to describe their income levels in their previous settlement and in their current abode. Thus, data relating to the income levels of the resettled residents in the three communities was analyzed. The initial illustrative codes on income were classified into four categories: lack of socio-economic activities, absence of commercial centres in some communities, and loss of dependent properties. Participants from the three resettled communities shared thick perspectives underlying how the resettlement had inflicted untoward hardships on residents and impoverished the entire community at large. In particular, they explained various elements that capped their levels of impoverishment due to loss of income, and severe hardship. Most of them were battling with severe hardships because they had lost the arrays of occupational opportunities that enabled them to generate income. For instance, a participant intimated:

"I was farming cocoa and other cash crops at the old site, from which I gained a lot of money. Now I have lost everything, and nothing has come to me since the coming of the mining

company. Fishing activities have come to a halt as the swamp is now being used as a tailings dam".

Lack of chances for generating revenue for the residents of the resettled settlements is one of the main factors contributing to destitution. Opportunities to generate income are morally justifiable within the framework of ethical values due to its instrumental role in fostering individual responsibility and ensuring proper upkeep. The absence of income-generation avenues not only impoverishes people but also becomes a problem that affects a greater number of stakeholders. The absence of income-generating activities is the second theme that surfaced from the data in relation to the second study question. The perspectives of the participants indicated that their inability to generate income at the new site was explained by a scarcity of socio-economic activities, the absence of a commercial centre at Teleku-Bokazo, Salman, and the loss of dependents' properties. Evidence suggests that, unlike the old site, the resettled communities offer no socio-economic opportunities for residents to take advantage of. Additionally, residents' emphasised that, the new site relate not only to the absence of socio-economic activities and commercial centres but also to the loss of dependent properties such as farmlands, palm plantations, and cocoa farms.

##### 4.1.2 Challenges faced from employment

The field data on employment concerns for citizens in the three resettled communities was analyzed. A comprehensive examination of several probing questions about the employment opportunities available to residents of the new settlements. Three categories—employment discrimination, unemployment, and loss of career focus were identified. The developed categories were combined into one overarching theme, "stagnation of livelihood". One of the key topics that came out of the field in relation to the livelihood challenges was stagnation of livelihood. Evidence from the data indicates that residents' livelihoods in the newly settled

communities' have stagnated due to issues relating to unemployment at the new site, though few have had the opportunity to be employed. In particular, it shows that unlike the old site, where sources of revenue opportunities abound, the resettled communities offer few employment avenues for people to take advantage of. A participant in the in-depth interview lamented, stating,

"... Currently, there are no jobs in the new town apart from the mines. Moving into this community has rendered me unemployed because there are no other employment opportunities available for us. Every attempt to be employed by the mining company has yielded no results". The results presented are consistent with the research of (Drechsel et al., 2019), which shows that highly technical abilities are largely needed for mining, and these skills are usually possessed by those with formal education. As a result, few residents of the nearby villages have the necessary degree of education (Drechsel et al., 2019). Wilson (2019) adds more credence to this idea by claiming that representatives of the industry frequently tell people that they do not have the abilities required for long-term employment in the mining corporation (Wilson, 2019). Consequently, despite the aim of addressing unemployment and the risk of impoverishment through reemployment, this goal remains unattainable for the resettled communities.

#### 4.1.3 Challenges faced from morbidity

The term "morbidity" describes the prevalence of a specific illness or condition in a particular population, referring to the number of people with it at any given time. (Cambridge Dictionary). Common examples of this include heart disease, respiratory disease, diabetes and obesity etc. In accordance with the livelihood challenges requirements in objective 2, this research question looked at participant perspectives on the morbidity issues that the three resettlement communities' members deal with. The primary goal was to critically assess and fully understand the perspectives of those

questioned on health-related difficulties in the recently resettled community. The findings on the morbidity issues confronting the people of the three resettled communities revealed that they were being confronted with three main diseases, which were malaria, coughing and diarrhea. The possible causes of these ailments were categorized as lack of facilities like potable water and sanitation and a dusty environment that are what have caused several morbidity-related problems, including malaria infections, diarrhea, and coughing. The incidence of illness from participants' expressions was explained by the deplorable living conditions in the findings. According to the participants, frequent ailments such as malaria, coughs and diarrhoea are the dominant types of morbidity issues confronting the communities after their resettlement. The findings showed that mosquitoes, which mostly carried malaria to the populations during the wet seasons, bred in the weedy surrounds, the clogged gutters, and the exposed prospecting dugouts. In a similar vein, the participants named coughing brought on by the dusty roads as their primary illness affecting the neighbourhood. They said that because there were no asphalt roads in the new town, big trucks that travelled through it caused dense dust and polluted the environment as they moved to the mining sites. The communities' residents eventually breathe in the thick dust, which causes severe coughs.

#### 4.2 COPING STRATEGIES

##### 4.2.1 Issues on income

The findings from the research across all the resettled communities under study showed that indeed, there were mitigation measures put in place to help alleviate the hardship and poverty in which the resettled communities found themselves. The implementation of the livelihood copying measures, as confirmed by the impacted individuals, included limited farming practices, capacity-building initiatives. The two primary themes that emerged from the categories of findings in this case were modern facilities and programmes that provide

alternative livelihood support. The literature reveals that the principles and recommendations pertaining to displacement and involuntary relocation necessitate the restoration of livelihoods for affected people (WB 2001; IFC 2002). This is consistent with the research conducted by (Sturman, 2015); (Kidido et al., 2015); (Wilson, 2019). The literature also confirms the necessity of putting some programmes in place to provide alternative means of income generation for the affected people in the communities (Twerefoo 2021). The copying measures put in place were aimed at resuscitating the livelihood of the people, which includes substitute livelihood copying programmes and diversified employment activities.

The substitute livelihood copying programmes found as mitigating measures include restricted farming, where lands were issued to the affected farmers to grow only food crops for the sustenance of households and communities, which affirms what (Twerefoo, 2021) revealed in her study of mining resettlement at Damang, also in Ghana. Her study posits that parcels of land demarcated by the mining company were given to the people for the cultivation of food crops. The results of the study on alternative livelihoods also revealed that women in the areas affected by the mining operations were given special consideration and targeted for the development of plantations that would yield palm oil. This result supports the local economic development (LED) theory's tenets, which are described in the 2018 South African Mining Charter and encourages mining corporations to enhance the socioeconomic conditions in the areas surrounding their operations. The Ghanaian government has responded to the adverse effects of mining resettlements by enacting various policies that are designed to promote and protect the welfare of the populace. Important among these policies are the Minerals and Mining Policies of Ghana (2014), the Minerals and Mining (Compensation and Resettlement) Regulation of 2012 (LI 2175),

and the Minerals and Mining Act of 2006 Act 703 (Twerefoo, 2021). To maintain the livelihoods of the impacted individuals in the communities, it was found that experts and facilitators were brought into the communities to train residents in various livelihood copying options like snail farming, piggery, sheep, goats, rabbit farming, and grass cutter farming. In contrast, research indicates that a livelihood is considered sustainable if it can endure shocks and strains, preserve or increase capacities and assets over time, and not deplete the base of natural resources (Owen, 2016). Therefore, many individuals interviewed from the communities regarded the interventions and mitigation measures mentioned above as temporary. As no one asset type or category is sufficient to meet people's demands for a sustainable lifestyle, the theory of sustainable livelihood outcomes on assets holds that people need a combination of several asset kinds to attain sustainable livelihood outcomes (Owen, 2016). Moreover, the findings on livelihood copying measures revealed that training programmes were provided to enhance the capacity of individuals to participate in alternative livelihood initiatives. Participants who completed these programmes received microcredit as initial capital or seed funding for the specific activities they were trained in, such as tailoring or animal rearing. This result is in line with the Ghana Minerals and Mining Act, which stipulates that residents who choose to be resettled after being displaced by proposed mining operations must settle on suitable alternative land to ensure their economic well-being and compliance with applicable town planning laws (Ghana Minerals and Mining Act, 2006).

#### 4.2.2 Issues on employment

The findings also underscore the implementation of coping strategies to sustain livelihoods, which is consistent with the theory of coping strategies commonly employed by individuals affected by involuntary displacement (Adams, et al., 2015). According to (Adams, et

al., 2015), coping strategies are temporary actions taken by households during times of crisis to lessen the negative effects of outside developments. These solutions use capital assets and available resources to reduce the negative effects of unanticipated events or disasters on livelihoods. Despite their temporary nature, coping mechanisms can exacerbate deteriorating situations (Adams, et al., 2015). Some were able to secure land elsewhere and engage in farming and in petty trading using the compensation they received. Some community members also received instructions in animal farming to support their livelihoods, women were trained in the extraction of palm oil and palm kernel oil as well as soap-making. These results are consistent with (Cernea's, 2019) livelihood model, which highlights the relationship between a household's access to capital assets and its options for subsistence. According to their choices and the opportunities that are available, the model advises household members to participate in a variety of livelihood activities, such as trading, manual labour on farms, or formal employment inside organizations or groups. Furthermore, as part of the localization strategy, these actions align with the provisions delineated in Ghana's Minerals and Mining Act of 2006, which places a strong emphasis on hiring and training Ghanaian workers.

#### 4.2.3 Issues on morbidity

The findings also showed the copying strategy an attempt to reduce morbidity issues in the communities by establishing clinics manned by health professionals assigned to the communities, occasional watering of the dusty roads to prevent dust from settling in the communities, and supplying them with drinking water from boreholes, although the people are still skeptical about the oily substance that settles on the water surface after a bucket of water is allowed to stand for some time. The construction of two or three communal toilets for the entire community aimed to enhance sanitation standards.

These findings confirm the theory of Alternative Livelihood Programmes as a policy document in South Africa, also known as the Mining Charter in South Africa 2018 (Morolo, 2023). The obligation of mining firms to improve the social and economic infrastructure of local communities is emphasized in the charter, with a specific focus on six important areas:

- Education: Building schools to improve education in surrounding communities.
- Healthcare: Constructing hospitals and health clinics to enhance healthcare delivery.
- Housing: Improving housing facilities to provide decent living conditions that uphold the dignity of community members.
- Water and Sanitation: Enhancing water and sanitation infrastructure to improve the quality of life for residents (Morolo, 2023).

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 FINDINGS

Based on the research questions, the study's major findings, as presented show that relocation has led to difficulty for the people, culminating in a state of impoverishment throughout the entire community. The main livelihood challenge on income include either a loss of income or a reduction in income. The finding also revealed a loss of the people's dependable properties, which provide a regular income to sustain their families. It was also revealed that, as far as income to sustain themselves was concerned, their living circumstances were better before the resettlement. According to the findings, what worries people is the irregular nature of what they are now relying on as their sources of income. The result, however, makes it clear that a few people who managed to seek land elsewhere to continue their farming operations as usual are succeeding in terms of income acquisition activities. The qualitative results also show how those who are making it quickly adopted a particular coping strategy method to lessen their burden (Owen, 2016). Poor households frequently utilize coping

mechanisms to minimize and escape the stress and shocks of uncertain livelihoods throughout the year. They also change their consumption habits, such as spending less on food (Davis 1963; 1966, cited in (Owen, 2016). The livelihood challenge in the area of employment opportunities available to the resettled people also revealed three main problems, including employment discrimination, unemployment, and loss of career focus. The findings show that job prospects in the mines for the majority of the people living in the resettlement villages are few. Age concerns and a lack of the required skills and talents are two acceptable explanations for this deprivation. The data analysis results indicated that residents in the three resettled communities experienced comparable health problems attributed to diseases associated with their new location. The findings showed that malaria, coughing and diarrhoea were the primary morbidity challenges in the studied areas. The people in the region described malaria as a long-standing issue due to its location in the western region of Ghana, which is an ideal environment for the mass breeding of mosquitoes. They explained that this situation was aggravated by a pit containing stagnant water left uncovered by mining companies, coupled with the people's practice of not attending to weedy and choked gutters in their vicinities.

## 5.2 RECOMMENDATION

5.2.1 Policy recommendations for policymakers and resettlement advocacy groups:

□ Given that arbitrary compensation techniques frequently cause friction and confrontations between impacted farmers and mining officials, government control is crucial to ensuring fairness and justice. Mining corporations should also simplify the bureaucratic processes involved in paying compensation. In the absence of a more equitable compensation structure, mining must permit impacted farmers to bargain for a fair price for their farmlands.

□ Financial compensation should be directed towards the development of local communities. Encouraging entrepreneurship and providing opportunities for individuals to start their businesses can help prevent emigration. Programmes for microcredit can also be quite helpful in promoting entrepreneurial activities.

□ Apart from monetary recompense, assistance ought to be extended for supplementary sources of income, including raising cattle, manufacturing soap, extracting palm oil and palm kernel oil, and engaging in small-scale commerce, in addition to farming. The resilience of rural households depends on this diversification of rural enterprises.

□ Providing employment opportunities is another essential way to help rural households achieve sustainable livelihoods. Given that farming might not be as desirable as it once was, mining corporations ought to think about providing temporary jobs to impacted rural households. In the event that these households are deemed incapable of finding work in the mining industry, on-the-job training may be offered to them in anticipation of their future career prospects. To further strengthen household livelihoods, mining employment prospects should be extended to farmer's wives. In order to guarantee continued benefits for impacted rural households, mining companies should continue to give contract jobs to the community and convert them into regular roles. This will lessen livelihood vulnerability, increase financial resources, and allow rural households to diversify their sources of income.

□ Preventing and managing widespread diseases requires educating the community on the effects that mining operations have on the environment and human health. Mining companies, government agencies, and NGOs should collaborate to address the high incidence of diseases in affected communities. Continuous education on pollution and blasting activities and their effects on the residents is essential to minimize health hazards.

## CONCLUSION

This study employed a qualitative method research approach, which involved conducting interviews to solicit the views of people in a chosen area on certain situations in which they find themselves. Ultimately, this means conducting research using a solitary technique that exclusively employs a qualitative approach known for its prowess in gathering detailed data from the attitudes, experiences, actions, and sentiments of individuals in a community that has been resettled through semi-structured interviews and focus groups.

The primary goal of the study was to examine the livelihood challenges of mining resettlements in Ghana's western region and determine how these challenges appear in three (3) important areas: income, employment and morbidity. It also sought to identify the copying measures adapted and implemented to address the livelihood issues of the resettlements. The results indeed showed there were enormous challenges in the resettlements in the areas of investigation (income, employment and morbidity) which the resettled communities have to deal with as far as their livelihood is concern.

Two primary lines of reasoning served as the study's motivation. First, most residents in resettled villages lead lives that are regressive. Instead of realizing an upward increment in their standard of living, the opposite occurs. The members of the resettled communities are left to their own devices in terms of survival. When the actual operations of the mine take off, the mining companies tantalizing promises that convinced the people in the areas of operation to accept the proposals on resettlement are completely abandoned. Secondly, the challenges facing resettled mining communities are enormous (Cernea, 2019) and basic amenities provided and handed over to the community by mine companies are not properly taken care of in terms of proper management for the benefit of the entire community. This makes some of these valuable assets belonging to the community deteriorate at a faster rate, thus leaving the entire resettled society in a worse state than it was before. People are preconditioned by a system of social and economic challenges that form a part of society and communities. These effects are considered a barrier to people living in resettled mining communities.

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