

**EFFECT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND IN  
IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE NEW SENCHI RESETTLEMENT  
COMMUNITY**

**BY**  
**KNUST**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE LEARNING,  
KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI, IN  
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A  
COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTERS DEGREE IN BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION**

**FACULTY OF DISTANCE LEARNING  
KNUST KUMASI**

**JULY, 2012**

**DECLARATION**

I, hereby declare that this submission is my own work towards the CEMBA and that, to the best of my knowledge, it contains no material previously published by another person nor material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of the University, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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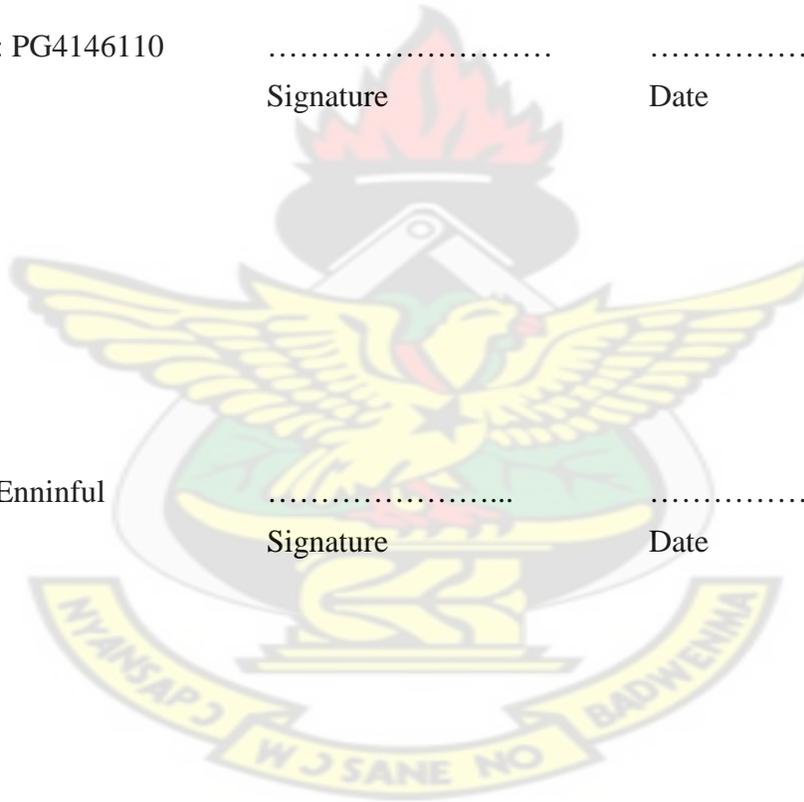
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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to the almighty God for seeing me through my Masters Degree in Commonwealth Executive Masters' in Business Administration (CEMBA).

My next dedication goes to my Husband, Mr. Kwadwo Nsiah, my lovely father Mr. Stephen Tetteh Obuobisah and my mother Mrs. Agnes Tetteh Obuobisah.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my gratitude to all those who dedicatedly have ensured the completion of this work. I am particularly grateful for the hard work and tolerance shown me by my supervisor, Mr. Samuel Kwesi Enninful of both the Methodist University College, Accra and KNUST (Part-time)

Special thanks go to Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Mensah-Sarbah, Mr. R.D. Salawu, Ms. Charity-Salome Torgbor, Clement Agalic and friends for their assistance and co-operation in my data collection.



## ABSTRACT

The study set out to explore the effect of the activities of VRA Resettlement Trust Fund on improving the lot of New Senchi community. The study objectives included finding out how sustainable the Trust Fund has been since its inception in 1996 as well as whether its activities has been effective in rehabilitating and improving the livelihood of citizens of New Senchi. Various studies reviewed from the very past history and recent history in international circles as well as studies by indigenous Ghanaians has revealed interesting issues bothering on resettlement and rehabilitation. The basic conclusion was that resettlement and rehabilitation had never been completely satisfactory to ressetlers. This will require that long-term planning with community consultation and participation would have to be engaged in to resolve all challenges amicably prior to a development and resettlement programme by Governments and development authorities. Data collected through interviews with seven (7) staff of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund and survey questionnaires administered to one hundred (100) respondents of various socio-economic and educational status of New Senchi resettlement community seem to suggest the following: Although New Senchi citizens acknowledged the sustainability of the work being done by VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, they are of the view that there is more room for improvement. To them, this improvement must reflect in the quantum and rate of the provision of social amenities, health and sanitation, water and so on. It is recommended that Government and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who are development partners must all play a role in assisting all Resettlement Townships. They must involve those communities in their development programmes since such communities have sacrificed their naturally given real-estate and occupation for the larger good and public interest of the entire society.

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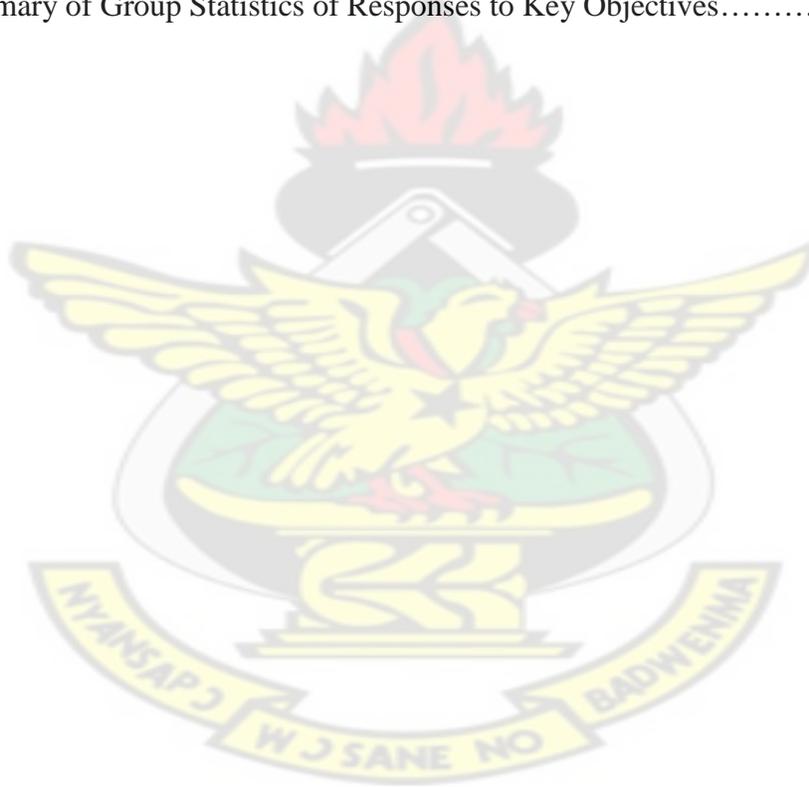
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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

New Senchi Resettlement Township is a small community situated at Akrade between Kpong and Akosombo. The vegetation of the area consists of grass with isolated patches of shrubs and occasional tree. Nim trees are quite common. New Senchi is predominantly inhabited by Akan people with few Ewes. The economic activity in this area can be grouped into three categories namely: the subsistence farmers who are in majority, fishermen and petty traders. The original places of abode for the people in this community were Apaaso, Ewurahai Dasaase and Apease. It is one of the fifty-two (52) communities created as a result of the displacement of people due to the construction of the Akosombo dam. Its population is 4,970 according to the 2010 census. Since the creation of the town, it has benefited from several interventions from the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. The Intervention programmes have ranged from construction of schools, building of public places of convenience, provision of water, electricity and other health and sanitation amenities such as clinic and Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pits (KVIPs) and Vault Chamber Latrines. Periodic training programmes were also conducted for citizens by various government agencies in order to fully resettle them and be restored to their former lives if not enhance it.

In the 1880's, the introduction stage of industrialization, was broadly discussed whether or not companies should be socially responsible (Carlsson and Akerstom, 2008). Nowadays, it is becoming increasingly necessary for companies to communicate their corporate social responsibility (CSR) (APCO, 2004). According to Löhman & Steinholz (2003), companies have always been part of society, but the companies of yesterday have grown and the proportions

between the public and private sector have changed and in fact it is now common to talk about the balance between three values; social, environmental and financial.

In the African context, there is often a lack of capacity in government and civil society to enforce compliance with formal standards, and few incentives, beyond the general sense of responsibility to ‘give something back,’ through resettlement for companies to extend their corporate social responsibilities. Building capacity for the oversight functions, creating opportunities for the sectors to develop a shared understanding to fit African realities are important tasks to be undertaken to strengthen the private sector’s contribution to Africa’s development (Kivuitu et al, 2005).

In Ghana, eighty thousand (80,000) people had to be resettled in 52 communities as a result of the construction of the Akosombo dam on the Volta River in 1964 (Kalitsi, 1970; Yeboah, 1999). A further three thousand (3,000) are being resettled as a result of the construction of the Bui Dam (BPA, data). An inventory of major dams in Ghana undertaken by Gordon in 2007 indicates that there are seven (7) dams being operated by the Ghana Water Company Ltd. which supply potable water to mainly urban communities. (Gordon, 2007)

The largest is the Weija Dam [volume ( $10^6 \text{ m}^3$ ): 116.04] on the Densu River which serves the city of Accra. There are 22 irrigation schemes some of which have their own dams and managed by the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (GIDA-MOFA). The Volta River Authority operates the hydropower dams of Akosombo (1020 MW) and Kpong (160 MW) on the Volta River (Gordon, 2007).

In view of the problems and challenges associated with dam construction, particularly large ones, opposition to dams grew and became more widespread as dam building accelerated after the

1950s (WCD, 2000). Such protests and resistance have been organized by dam-affected communities, conservationists, NGOs and civil society in general.

These protests particularly the one resulting from the construction of the Akosombo Hydroelectric Dam yielded dividend when in 1995, the Volta River Authority (VRA), the managers of the Dam in collaboration with the Ghana Government, represented by the then Ministry of Mines and Energy, established a special fund known as the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. With an annual amount of the Cedi equivalent of Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US\$500,000.00), the fund is expected to be shared among the 52 resettlement townships created as a result of the construction of the Akosombo Dam. According to the VRA this money is to be expended on developmental projects of the communities' choices (Briefs and Activities of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, 2007).

The mission of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life in the 52 Resettlement Communities through the carrying out of socio-economic projects such as provision of educational, social, health and sanitation facilities, reliable and potable water supply as well as the economic empowerment of the people through income generating activities and any other projects and needs that are approved by the Managing Trustees.

However, there is a very fine line between trust fund that creates dependency and trust fund that develops a community or region in a sustainable way through development. The challenge for some companies therefore is to develop trust fund programmes that maintain good will for the company and address the long-term developmental needs of communities in a sustainable way, without creating a culture of dependency (Anaman, 2008).

## **1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The overall goal of constructing dams is to stimulate on one hand economic development and promote social welfare. On the other hand however, traditional dam development efforts have led to the marginalisation of traditional societies and cultures culminating in widening poverty gaps. The VRA Resettlement Trust Fund was set up to address some perennial problems such as; lack of access to potable water, low levels of education, inadequate access to healthcare and poor sanitation. The question however is; fifteen years on, has the fund been able to address the various challenges faced by the communities? What has been the level of the community participation in the administration of the fund?

Dam-affected people are faced with the greatest risk of dam construction because they are not included in decision making with respect to resettlement, needs assessment and available options according to the world commission on Dams (WCD, 2000).

It is unquestionable that the interventions that have been carried out at New Senchi over the years would have massive impact on the citizens and their entire wellbeing. The current study hopes to find out the specific improvement at the New Senchi through the Resettlement programme of the VRA Trust Fund.

## **1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

It is important to investigate how the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund has improved the livelihood of the people of New Senchi and how effective is the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund.

Specifically, the study aims:

1. To find out how the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund has been sustained and administered with specific reference to the New Senchi Resettlement Township.
2. To examine the level of involvement of the New Senchi community in the administration of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund.
3. To find out how the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund has helped rehabilitate and improve the livelihood of the people of New Senchi following the construction of the dam.

#### **1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The questions that guided this study include:

1. How has the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund been sustained and administered especially in the New Senchi Resettlement Township?
2. What is the level of involvement of the New Senchi community in the administration of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund?
3. How has the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund helped rehabilitate and improve the lives of the people of New Senchi communities who were affected by the construction of the Akosombo Dam?

#### **1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY**

It is an undisputable fact that the impoundment of the Volta River has flooded and submerged the homes of about 80,000 people in 756 villages in the Volta Basin (Chambers, 1970) In an attempt to address the plight of the re-settlers, the Volta River Authority (VRA) in collaboration with the Government of Ghana, represented by the then Ministry of Mines and Energy set up the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund in 1996, to assist the communities (Yeboah, 1999).

According to page one (1) paragraph two (2) of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund's Deed, the Trust Fund exists to improve the quality of lives of the 52 Resettlement Communities through the carrying out of socio-economic projects such as provision of educational, social, health and sanitation facilities, reliable and potable water supply as well as economic empowerment. Globally, the use of resettlement fund has not always been very successful. Some researchers were of the view that such funds have always not got down to the people who mostly needed them (Fahim 1983; Fernea and Fernea 1991; Fernea 1998).

This research therefore is to examine the role of the VRA resettlement Trust Fund in improving the living conditions of the New Senchi resettlement community. The findings of this research will help the administrators of the fund to properly channel the funds to where it is so needed and also improve upon the structures being provided in terms of modernisation to suit current situations.

The study has the potential to bring to light and unearth the opportunities and challenges of VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. The findings and recommendations of this study will be useful for employers for designing employee oriented programmes to improve work output. The research

will also bring to the fore more questions and expose gaps that would require further investigation. The study will also contribute to existing body of knowledge in the study area.

### **1.5 SCOPE OF STUDY**

The New Senchi Township was used as a case study with much concentration on the impact of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund in the life of the township. The study was conducted based on the information gathered and collected from the field. It is believed that the findings can serve as a model for reference for other communities who go through similar experiences like New Senchi.

### **1.6 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The current study is obviously limited in terms of its level of generalization to all Resettlement Townships. This difficulty is logically due to the fact that the study was conducted as a case Study in order to understand in depth the unique situations of the New Senchi Resettlement programme. Although it may be limited in generalization it can still offer useful recommendations for all other resettlement programmes of this nature.

Other natural difficulties were the age old problem of respondents' hesitation in tendering in questionnaires promptly. More time was also consumed in translating questionnaire items to non-literate respondents. In spite of these challenges, the work was completed with grace and speed.

### **1.8 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

The study is set out in five chapters. Chapter one sets forth the introduction, the problem statement, objectives, the research questions as well as the significance of the study. The literature review is chapter two. Chapter three is devoted to research methodology. Chapter four contains the analysis of the data collected from the field, and the final chapter which is chapter five also shows a summary of the findings, conclusion and recommendations.

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## CHAPTER TWO

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter review relevant literature on the key areas that the study covers. Scholars have studied the Resettlement Trust Funds from different perspectives which therefore gives the necessity to review other works in order to place this study (von Schantz, 2005). The review of literature from different perspectives is to help situate the current study in a broad framework of varied models and actual experiences.

The approach for this literature review is to review researches conducted in the area of resettlement of displaced people due to dam construction. Other experiences in certain jurisdictions and countries in terms of how people were displaced and how they were resettled had been reviewed in order to have a better perspective of the Resettlement programme.

### **2.2 INFORMATION PRIOR TO DISPLACEMENT**

An important aspect of displacement resulting from the construction of dams or other major projects is the issue of information communication, prior warning and adequate orientation for citizens to be displaced. A study conducted by Bartolome et al (1999) revealed that there tends to be poor information communication practices during the construction of projects that displaces citizens to be affected by the project. They observed that the lack of adequate information, prior warning and comprehensive orientation to displaced victims, makes the trauma of displaced persons more severe. In most cases, there are no reasonable prior notifications to residents of a particular community concerning a plan to relocate them. In cases where there are; the notice is unreasonably short to the project-affected residents. Assuming without admitting that reasonable long notices are given to residents to be relocated, such notices would also have to be backed

with several considerations of the human rights of citizens to assent and the obligation of the project executers to conduct series of comprehensive training and orientation for those residents. Indeed a mere duration of notice without frequent contact and engagement with residents about their concerns falls short of meeting the human rights obligation. For instance, it would be quite unfair to even give a six months' notice to a group of individuals who have lived on a particular land from birth to quickly prepare to leave that land and be relocated to a new place without addressing all their unique concerns apart from relocation and occupation. A positive impact can be made on citizens to be relocated if they are amply engaged on all the relevant concerns they have with regard to the relocation. It is doubtless that the importance of information communication cannot be overemphasized but most project executors unfortunately discounts such importance, especially in our third world countries which are in dying need for development. But development must come with unreasonable demands on an entire community who have to relocate for the sake of the projects. The current study explored whether citizens of New Senchi were victims of such poor information communication practise or otherwise

### **2.3 THE ILLEGALITY OF DISPLACEMENT WITHOUT RECOURSE TO ADEQUATE INVOLVEMENT**

Quite apart from this displacement problem being unfortunate, it also constitutes an illegality and an infringement on the fundamental human rights on all displaced residents. The UN General Assembly in 1986 adopted a Declaration on the Right to Development which states that “every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.” In spite of this articulate UN convention, the problem even grows more because displaced people are not considered and allowed to fully participate in and contribute to

the development process. Displaced people are treated like sacrificial lambs for the so called interests of the larger community. This is ceaselessly done with impunity with the slogan that the public interest is more important to minority rights. If that is indeed the case, then the minority rights should be looked at by fully consulting them so that an amicable compromise and better resettlement compensation can be sought for them. It is obvious that these considerations are what influenced the setting up of the VRA Resettlement Trust. But the question being asked is that has the Trust been successful and efficient to live up to its full mandate as expected?

#### **2.4 THE STAGGERING SCOPE OF DISPLACEMENTS**

Having mentioned the unfortunate neglect adequate prior information and training for to-be-displaced and relocated people, it is important to understand that the scope of displacement due to development projects is staggering. For instance in 1994, a study of World Bank-assisted development projects from 1986-1993, a range of seven years that involved population displacement traces the phenomenon to infrastructure provision in roads and transportation, water supply and other urban infrastructures. This indicates that apart from displacement that are caused through natural disasters or war, a significant good number of displacements are deliberately caused through legitimate developmental projects such as those for education, health and transport to mention a few. Although development is good, but the negative effect of ill planned displacement and resettlement affects a great number of people globally. Information from the World Bank study data in 1994 estimated that in early 1990s, the construction of 300 high dams (above 15 metres) each year displaced four million people. Apart from the displacement caused by dams alone, urban transportation infrastructure alone displaced a staggering six million people each year. It is these staggering displacement figures which are feared to be even more today in 2012 than the later years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that makes it

imperative the call to carry it out with all the necessary care and welfare to those displaced people at heart.

## **2.5 THE NATURE OF RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION**

Apart from the pain of inadequate information prior to displacement of citizens who legitimately inhabit a place, resettlement programmes are equally forced down on citizens. This can also be referred to as involuntary resettlement. More so, the resettlement programme lacks the comprehensiveness it requires. Resettlement programmes tend to focus on relocation alone. Resettlement programmes fail to incorporate risks associated with loss of livelihood, psychological adaptation to new environment as well as the requisite training to effectively acquire the skills to make a new livelihood from the relocated place.

A study by Cernea (1998), considered the resettlement programmes as an authority undertaking major projects that displace people adopt. Unfortunately he found that those resettlement programmes leave much to be desired. In the study, Cernea (1998) found that risks to adversely affected people are not a component of conventional project analysis. The key economic risks to affected people are from the loss of livelihood and income sources such as arable land, common property resources such as forests, grazing land, ground and surface water, fisheries and changed access to and control of productive resources. The loss of economic power with the breakdown of complex livelihood systems results in temporary or permanent, often irreversible, decline in living standards leading to marginalisation. And if these are meted out on the displaced peoples without their voluntary participation (i.e. *involuntary displacement*), it makes the whole problem even worse. According to Walter Kalin (2000), the work on Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the World Bank's Operational Directive on Involuntary

Resettlement, involuntary resettlement should be avoided or minimized where feasible, exploring all viable alternative project designs. For example, realignment of roads or reductions in dam height may significantly reduce resettlement needs. In this light the World Bank Directive further states that “in every case, the alternative to refrain from carrying out the project (the non-action alternative) should seriously be considered, and people’s needs and environmental protection must be given due weight in the decision making process.

The question we ask is that is this a deliberately neglected part of resettlement programmes or it is an oversight? New Senchi Resettlement Township offers an opportunity to explore this question whether it is always an inevitable evil or deliberate programmes can be adopted to mitigate the negative effects of all risk factors associated with resettlements.

## **2.6 COMPENSATION PAYMENTS FOR LOSS PROPERTIES DUE TO RELOCATION**

The problems associated with resettling displaced communities do not end with the displacement and relocation alone. Another critical area is compensation for relocated citizens. Ideally compensation is expected to alleviate the potential risks associated with the displacement and relocation. Unfortunately, many compensation schemes rather than restore one to wellbeing by alleviating poverty, aggravate same by displacing large numbers of people without viably compensating them for the lost incurred through the relocation. According to Bartolome, et al (1999), compensation usually takes the form of a one-off payment either in cash or kind and it principally about awards to negatively affected persons.

In a work by Cernia (2003), he offers comprehensive critique of the compensation principle. In Cernia’s view the current practises of compensation is foxed with fallacies, distortions and

unsatisfactory outcomes. The whole theory of compensation tends to focus on socio-economic recovery of those displaced by merely compensating for asset losses. Although, the compensation theory has the guise of satisfying those dislocated comprehensively, it falls short by compensating only for economic losses. Cernia (2003) proposes that there has to be a shift from the “economics of compensation” towards “economics of resettlement with development.” A compensation that embraces economics of resettlement with development will pursue the final goal of affected people’s sustainable re-establishment rather than be focussed narrowly on compensation delivery, regardless of final overall delivery (Cernia, 2003). Indeed it must be added that compensation for dislocated people due to developmental projects should go beyond paying damages in effort to recovering those affected unto rewarding those affected for willing sacrificing in the larger interest for the greater society and greater public good. Unfortunately the current situation leaves much to be desired in many circles. In the Ghanaian context, the problem is obvious. Since the establishment of the VRA Trust Fund in 1996, it cannot be said that affected communities have been restored to the expected level let alone to rewarding them by way of pursuing their development and forward growth.

Unfortunately, the statistics of affected people who did not to have the right compensation being proposed in all areas of the world where developmental projects are being undertaken are frightening. Cernia (2003) observes that in India alone, more than twenty million people were forcibly displaced (also referred to as involuntary displacement, a situation against UN Fundamental Human Right convention and World Bank Directives) by development interventions between 1950 and 1980. According to Fernandes and associates (1989), of these twenty million displaced people, about 75% that is 15 million people ended up *worse-off* than before the resettlement. China also has recorded 40-45 million people who have been displaced

over fifty years (1950-2000). Shi et al (2002) further states that in a subsequent work done, out of more than twenty million people displaced by water and dam projects alone, just about one-third were “resettled well”; of the rest one-third were resettled only “so-and-so” and one-third were resettled “not well” (Shi, Su and Yuan, 2002).

## **2.7 AN IMPACT OF THE RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND ON RE-SETTLERS**

According to VRA Resettlement Trust Fund (2007), the Trust Fund helped to facilitate a number of projects in all the 52 resettlement townships. According to the report, lives have been affected by this fund. Other towns mostly along the sub-transmission line routes also benefited from the electrification project, making a total of one hundred and seventy-one (171) beneficiary towns. It has been reported that, the Trust Fund has also funded other socio-economic infrastructural facilities spanning the health, education, water and sanitation since its inception in 1996. Thus from 1996 to 2011, the report has it that the Fund has constructed and rehabilitated the following: Community Centres, Health Centres and Nurses Quarters, Educational facilities ranging from Kindergarten to the Junior High Schools, Sanitation and Small Town Water Systems.

## **2.8 FINANCING AND BUDGETING RESETTLEMENT**

The efficacy of a resettlement programme hinges upon the financial resources available to implement it. With most projects, it has been found that funds tend to dry up once the relocation is effected and that leaves the resettled and other negatively affected people extremely vulnerable. Resettlement projects are often under-financed, particularly because the emphasis does not extend beyond physical relocation to the social and economic development of the resettled communities.

China's Xiaolangdi project marks a major departure from the usual pattern of financing resettlement. It has the highest resettlement budget per person of any project. With the support of the World Bank, a separate credit facility has been created to ensure sufficient financial and human resources to facilitate resettlement. While the outcomes are yet to be determined, there is no doubt that adequate financial resources have allowed for the drawing up of a comprehensive development plan involving both agriculture and industry for the resettled people (China Report 1999).

The Itaipu Binacional, the bi-national entity of Brazil and Paraguay, that owns and operates the Itaipu Hydroelectric power plant, pays a royalty of US \$13 million per month to each of the partner countries. In Brazil, about 38% of that amount is distributed by the Federal Government among the municipalities, in proportion to the areas of their respective territories that have been submerged, for investing in local economic development (Filho, 1999). Financing resettlement and development need to be seen as investments for the future, rather than being viewed as burdens of cost. An appropriately financed resettlement programme would in the long run reduce the additional burden of finding resources to overcome the disabilities that are bound to set in with poor resettlement.

In order to ensure resources over the long run for the process of development of the resettled communities, a share of the returns from the project may be set aside for this purpose. The share should be according to a previously agreed formula that is part of a legally binding agreement between the project entity and the people.

One of the main reasons for the financial bottlenecks has been inappropriate budgeting, typically characterised by the absence of clearly spelt out costs with respect to every individual

component of the resettlement plan. The lack of attention in budgeting every detail of the resettlement plan often leads to situations of shortages affecting the process crucially. The global review paper (Bartolome et al. 1999), drawing from the World Bank's policy, addresses some of the important issues:

### **Defining Dam-affected communities**

It is well known that dam construction alters aquatic ecology and river hydrology upstream and downstream, affecting water quality, quantity and riverine ecosystems in general. Dam-affected people or communities can broadly be categorized into two; those directly affected by the damming and those who serve as host for displaced populations. The directly affected people comprise upstream populations and downstream riverine communities.

## **2.9 COMMUNITIES DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY DAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

### **UPSTREAM COMMUNITIES**

Upstream dam-affected groups are those who are compelled to vacate their homes and abandon their lands for the flood waters and the lake. Such lands are determined during technical design of the project and the affected people are expected to be relocated in resettlement communities constructed purposely to house them. They are also expected to be compensated for loss of land and property. But there have been several cases where resettlement structures and compensations have fallen short of expectations as noted by Diaw and Schimdt-Kallert (1990) in the case of the

Volta River Project or never addressed as in the case of the Chixoy Dam in Guatemala (Anonymous, 2009).

### **Downstream Communities**

Downstream dam-affected people are community groups below the dam wall and whose culture and way of live have greatly been influenced by floodplain riverine ecosystem. Their livelihoods depend on the resources of their natural surroundings but alteration of river hydrology as a result of damming disrupts their ways of life and creates problems for their livelihoods. According to Adams (2000), downstream impact of dams is complex, daunting and often remote from the dam site and usually not perceived by project planners. These adverse effects can be categorized as material losses, changes in water quality and damages to riverine ecology (CRES, 2001) in the form of reduction in fish populations, proliferation of aquatic plants and incidence of water borne diseases (VBRP, 1997). There are also intangible socio-cultural impact including culture, political identity, freedom, mobility and impacts of mobility (Adams, 2000). There can be no rigid way of defining dam-affected downstream communities since the extent to which people depend on riverine conditions taper off with distance from the river channel. However, in order not to make the definition arbitrary the guiding principle for defining downstream communities could be the extent to which they depend on and are influenced by the riverine conditions. This could be achieved through intensive field survey and observations with the assistance of local community members.

### **2.10 INDIRECTLY AFFECTED COMMUNITIES/HOST COMMUNITIES**

The second category of dam-affected communities is those who play host to the dam displaced communities. Thus, they are not directly affected by the dam construction and river

impoundment. Governments and project implementing agencies are compelled to acquire lands in the host communities in order to resettle displaced communities. The expectations are that these groups of people co-exist and for this reason there is the need to consider certain critical issues in the selection of host communities.

Two major considerations for selecting host communities for displaced populations are:

- Compatibility of the communities in terms of tradition, culture and livelihood styles;
- History of communal/ethnic rivalries (VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, 2007)

These issues are necessary for ensuring a smooth integration process, harmonious co-existence and minimizing potential conflicts between host communities and re-settlers. It is also absolutely important for potential host communities to consent to the programme and discuss dispassionately their expectations from the settlers. Once these conditions are satisfied, the negotiation processes for land acquisition and other conditions relating the resettlement could proceed. It is also important that adequate land parcels are secured for the re-settlers to enable them support their livelihoods.

In dam development therefore, would-be dam-affected upstream and downstream communities as well as communities expected to host displaced populations constitute important stakeholders in dam development and should be active participants in the decision-making process (Adams, 2000).

## **2.11 AN OVERVIEW OF DAM-RELATED RESETTLEMENT IN AFRICA**

Many dams in Africa have been built in terms of a set of national goals and programmes, and it has been assumed that it is unfortunate, but unavoidable, that ‘the few’ such as re-settlers should

suffer in the process. Fahim points to the tensions around this issue when he argues that, while the re-settlers have clearly undergone significant suffering as a result of the dam at Aswan, one also needs to keep a wider national perspective in mind when evaluating the overall success of the Aswan High Dam Project (Fahim, 1981)

De Wet (1999) suggested that a number of specific outcomes should come out of a resettlement process for it to be deemed as successful. According to him, re-settlers should be better-off than before resettlement in a number of specific ways, which need to be sustainable over time. These include:

- Income levels, as well as diversity of income sources, both agricultural and non-agricultural
- Increasing control, and autonomy, over their productive activities
- Property rights and security of tenure in the resettlement area
- Access to services and infrastructure, which should also be reflected in better health indices.

## **2.12 PLANNING AND PARTICIPATION OF RE-SETTLERS**

The participation of re-settlers and other affected people in the planning of and preparations for resettlement has varied very significantly on African dam projects, not least because participation and consultation have become over time more firmly entrenched as part of the resettlement process. Perhaps the starkest example of non-participation is found in one of the earlier dam projects, that is, Kariba. In 1958, a headman and his village refused to move. The authorities attempted to arrest them. There were riots, resulting in the fatal shooting of 8

Gwembe Tonga people (Colson 1971). It is however not only those at the wrong end of the power relationship that are denied participation. In the case of the Orange River, farmers who were members of the powerful white agricultural lobby, were not consulted about the dam or the impending move, and took no part in the planning of projects that affected them (World Commission on Dams, 1998:24). At the other end of the spectrum, Nangbeto serves as a successful instance of participation. Villages formed committees to supervise their own resettlement, the re-settlers 'participated in designing the program, constructing the resettlement houses, and selecting village sites and household plots within the village' (World Bank 1998:16). The Lesotho Highlands Water Project is designing a 'People's Involvement Programme' to emphasise local committees to negotiate favourable resettlement conditions. (LHWP:PoE Report, June 1996;).

Perhaps reflecting what has been occurring more widely is the situation at Manatali, where a greater degree of participation was achieved in planning, but less in implementation, because of the tight time frames that were involved (Koenig and Horowitz 1998).

The problem of time frames has dogged the planning of resettlement in Africa, perhaps nowhere more dramatically than at Akosombo, where the formation of Lake Volta started more than a year ahead of plan - which put tremendous pressure on the planning and preparation of resettlement (Lumsden 1973). The lack of time is a constant refrain in the first major volume on the Volta River Project (Chambers, 1970). This led to heavy costs. 'Parkinson's law worked in reverse: tasks were tailored to fit the short time available' (Chambers 1970, p. 261). This had the implication that because of the fact that issues around evacuation and relocation had to be prioritised, other long-term, development-focussed issues had to be delayed or abandoned.

In stark contrast to the disastrous telescoping of activities at Akosombo, were the more leisurely and more participatory planning at Nangbeto (discussed above), where planners had three years before the reservoir was due to fill (World Bank 1998:3) and at Akosombo's successor - Kpong, where resettlement surveys were completed in time to allow their findings to be applied in the planning process (Adu-Aryee 1993:150). A key factor influencing the issue of time constraints would appear to relate to the degree to which resettlement planning and dam and infrastructure construction schedules are (or are not) co-ordinated.

In a number of instances, the actual relocation was carried out fairly successfully. People participated in its preparation, were allowed to move as communities, houses in a number of cases were ready before the move (although the first relocation campaigns at Aswan and at Manantali did not go quite so smoothly, as not all the houses were ready in time : Grimm 1991; Fahim 1983). At Kainji, there was 'Only minimum necessary pressure' to move (Ayeni et al 1992) and at Nangbeto 'Disturbance was minimal' (World Bank 1998). Basic services were available in the new settlements.

However, there does not seem to have been the same commitment to longer-term development planning. At Akosombo, pressured schedules meant that there was competition for construction equipment between housing and agricultural programmes, with the result that fields were not cleared by the time resettlers arrived in the new areas (Chambers 1970). But in a number of other cases, time constraint does not appear to have been the problem. At Nangbeto (where there was plenty of time for planning), there simply was no provision made for rehabilitation. 'There was no income restoration beyond re-creating the previous farm economy' (World Bank 1998:21). Manantali lacked a coherent development plan for the region. 'A fatal flaw of the entire project [was that] it, lacked an emphasis on the need for income-generated actions' (Grimm 1991). The

first major academic study of Kainji warned that there was a looming crisis with regard to matters such as the provision of water, sanitation and housing (Oyedipe 1973). The reports of the Panel of Experts for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project repeatedly complained that relocation plans were not synchronised with development strategies, and that there were problematic delays in the supply of basic services such as water and sanitation.

These critical omissions in terms of longer term developmental planning seem to relate to the reduction of resettlement to relocation, in terms of the idea that once the people had been moved, the job had in effect been done (World Bank 1998).

### **2.13 THE VRA TRUST FUND (VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND)**

There has been no single definition of Trust Fund. However, Trust Fund can be said to be an amount of capital which a person (the trustor) places in custody of a trustee to be administered for the benefit of another (the beneficiary). The property that is owned by a trust can include cash, stocks, bonds, personal effects, life insurance, business interests, and real estate.

The forced relocations of the people whose lands had been inundated by the lake formation of the Volta River Project caused profound disruptions in the lives of the thousands of individuals affected. Over forty (40) years of their existence, the resettlement townships have suffered degradation due to deprivation and life has been very difficult in those resettlement communities.

(Briefs and Activities of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, 2007)

The most ironical situation was that until the year 1996, even electricity supplies for which people in the resettlement township paid the ultimate price of losing their entire livelihood and human dignity had been denied them. For over thirty (30) years, the resettlement townships have wallowed in darkness and abject poverty as the rest of the country took for granted the many

economic and social benefits of cheap, reliable electricity, made possible by the sacrifices of the displaced people. To address these VRA in collaboration with the then Ministry of Mines and Energy representing the Government of Ghana established the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. The VRA commits annually the cedi equivalent of US\$500,000 to the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund to support development initiatives in its resettlement towns. These projects include environmental improvement, social welfare, public health, education, electricity, potable water supply and sanitation activities. In 2003, VRA introduced the Community Development Initiative programme as a framework for supporting communities within all its operational areas.

As a result of the above difficulties, numerous complaints were persistently directed at VRA by members of the resettled communities regarding their plight. Finally in 1995, the VRA, in collaboration with government, represented by the then Ministry of Mines and Energy, decided to establish a special fund to cater for the needs of the resettlement townships. This fund, known as the **VRA Resettlement Trust Fund**, was established in 1996. Details of this collaboration is expressed and defined in a **Trust Deed** which, among others, requires VRA to allocate the Cedi equivalent of Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US\$500,000.00) to be shared among the 52 resettlement townships to be expended on developmental projects of their choice. This, up till this day is the main source of revenue for the Trust Fund. The Trust Deed however, gives the Managing Trustees the mandate to explore other sources of revenue for the Fund.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The previous chapter reviewed the relevant literature available on the study. This chapter aims at providing an overview of the methodological approach and the research design selected for this study.

Research methods are ways and means that we used in a bid to discovering what we seek to know (Kumakpor 2002:28). It therefore requires the researcher that “he breaks complex issue into complex parts for systematic and unbiased analysis” (Kumakpor 2002:32).

The geographical area where the study was conducted, the study design, the population and sample are described. It begins with a justification for the research paradigm chosen for this research. The chapter describes and justifies the survey research methodology which was employed under the specific paradigm, data collection procedure, collection and analysis.

#### **3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN**

This section reviews the methodology used in the study. It covers operational definitions, sampling, choice of data collection method and concludes with a consideration of problems

encountered in the data collection. Primary source of information were used by the researcher. The primary data was collected from two categories of respondents through face to face interviews and through the distribution of questionnaires. The first category of the respondents was the ressetlers of New Senchi who happened to be the beneficiaries of the activities of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. The benefits included several social interventions to the community in health, sanitation, water and educational facilities. The second category is the staff and management of the Trust Fund itself. This organization is made up of seven functional staff all of whom were interviewed.

This research was designed using questionnaire to obtain information from respondents in New Senchi. Opinions of prospective and substantive citizens of the New Senchi Township were sought as to how they perceive and are affected by the impact of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. Also face-to-face interviews were conducted with the staff and management of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. The face-to-face interview survey was chosen in order to ascertain in-depth information from the managers and staff of the Trust Fund. Basically it was also meant to seek their opinions about the performance and the effect of the Fund on the lives of the people of New Senchi community.

### **3.3 POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZE**

As typical of any case study, a convenient sampling technique was used to pick New Senchi which happens to be a major town among the 52 townships which are beneficiary communities of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. New Senchi was picked based on the researcher's discretion as a resettlement community that typifies all the significant characteristics of all of the resettlement communities in terms of demographics and even opinions on resettlement issues.

This was discovered by the researcher due to her wide involvement with several resettlement communities as a result of her occupation and line of duties over the years.

Based on the population of 4,970 (2010 census) of New Senchi citizens, a sample size of one hundred (100) respondents and seven (7) staff were selected using convenient sampling. These One hundred (100) questionnaires were earlier, distributed but the collection was not successful since ninety percent of the questionnaires were not returned to the researcher. This was a pilot project intended to familiarize with attitude of the population prior to the study. Subsequently another 100 questionnaires were sent which yielded hundred percent return due to more rigorous monitoring and follow-up. With regards to the sample size of the VRA Trust Fund all seven functional employees were interviewed on their perception on all relevant interventions being provided by their outfit to the New Senchi community.

### **3.4 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE**

The sampling technique used in this research was convenient sampling. Convenient sampling is the basic sampling technique where a group of respondents are selected based on easy accessibility. Providentially New Senchi seemed to be a homogenous society where all individuals mix effectively regardless of their socioeconomic, gender or educational backgrounds. However, individuals are free to express their opinions based on their own understanding and convictions. Each individual was chosen entirely by chance and each member of the population had an equal chance of being included in the sample.

In addition to this convenient approach, a random place was picked where it was expected that people from different socioeconomic backgrounds could converge yielding the opportunity for all citizens of the community to have fair representation to be administered the questionnaires.

Providentially, the research took place in the community centre where a health programme was being held for two days. This brought almost all the diverse demographic characteristics of New Senchi population into the community centre.

Every possible sample of a given size has the same chance of selection. This means that each member of the hundred (100) that was chosen in New Senchi Township was equally likely to be chosen at any stage in the sampling process. The advantages observed in using a sample randomly gathered for this research are that; it is free of classification error, prevent biases of the researcher and it requires minimum advance knowledge of the population.

### **3.5 QUESTIONNAIRE ADMINISTRATION**

Questionnaires were distributed to randomly sampled respondents residing in the New Senchi community. The Questionnaires were administered at group tests. This means respondents were gathered in groups of ten (10) at a time. The researcher and the assistant researcher helped respondents who could not understand some of the items on the questionnaire by explaining it to them. Also respondents who could not read and write were assisted to answer the items on the questionnaire. This was however, done cautiously so as not to influence responses of the respondents and confound the study. In all the questionnaire administration and responses to the items took two days to complete.

Interviews conducted with the VRA Trust Fund Staff also involved the use of structured questionnaires. However, these questionnaires allowed more room for the provision of explanations and elaborations of relevant objectives as well as interventions being done by the VRA Trust Fund outfit. This is because they are the administrators of the Fund and have more

insightful information regarding their core activities and mandate. Unlike the survey questionnaires administered to the respondents of New Senchi, each of the seven staff was given the free allowance to express their view without restraining them to a yes and no responses only.

### **3.6 THE NATURE AND SCORING OF THE VRA TRUST FUND'S ACTIVITIES**

#### **(VRATFA)**

The Questionnaire which was drawn based on the VRA Trust Fund's activities in the New Senchi community was a two-point scale, carefully designed for this particular study. It is so called two-point scale because it had Yes and No multiple choice responses to the items in sections B and C which deal with personal information while section D allows respondents to freely make recommendations to the researcher and the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. The questionnaire was designed to seek responses from the New Senchi residents about their opinions on all relevant activities of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund in the community. The completed questionnaires were later collated and analysed with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences Software (SPSS) version 16. Out of these analyses, descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution tables on gender, age, education, Job status and marital status with relevant corresponding charts are depicted. Also, a summary of inferential statistics such as the mean, standard deviation, standard error of the means were also depicted in a common table (table 4.7).

In this common table unanimous responses made on the three (3) main research questions of the sustainability, community involvement and rehabilitation effectiveness were also depicted.

### **3.7 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS**

The questionnaires were administered to the selected respondents in the New Senchi Township. The questionnaires were taken as a guideline for the survey in this assessment. Questions were both closed-ended answerable by checking one of several predetermined answers and open-ended requiring respondents to answer in their own words. No interviewer bias was introduced, and responses have been kept completely confidential.

The questionnaire was chosen due to its associated advantages to this research. The costs of printing, distribution, collection, analysis are low, relative to that of other methods such as personal interviews. Respondents could respond in their own convenient way.

### **3.8 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

In view of the fact that the study utilized human participants in gathering primary data and investigated or evaluated the impact of VRA Resettlement Trust Fund activities on New Senchi citizens, certain ethical issues were addressed. Most of these ethical issues have been prescribed as Guidelines for Social Science Research by the American Psychological Association (APA, 2010). The thoughtfulness of these issues is necessary for the purpose of pursuing their privacy as well as the security of the participants. Among the significant issues that were considered included consent, confidentiality and data protection.

**Fairness and No Ambiguity:** In the conduct of the research, the questionnaires were drafted in a very clear and concise manner to prevent conflicts among respondents. People who participated in the research were given ample time to respond to the questions posed on them to avoid errors and inaccuracies in their answers. This was done to ensure that respondents are not unduly burdened for offering themselves to contribute to the study freely.

Confidentiality: Confidentiality was first achieved through anonymity. Respondents were not required to add their names to the questionnaires they responded to. This meant that even the researcher would not notice who gave what response. The respondents were also given a waiver regarding the confidentiality of their identity and the information that they did not wish to disclose. The respondents' cooperation was eagerly sought after, and they were assured that the data gathered from them would be treated with the strictest confidence, so that they would be more open. This was done with the hope that it would promote trust between the researcher and the respondents.

Informed Consent: Prospective respondents were given the free will to choose to accept to respond to items on the questionnaire or refrain from it. All respondents who participated in the study did so, on their own personal volition and willingness to contribute to discussion and knowledge other than coercive force. They were free to participate and free to opt out at any stage they thought the items on the questionnaire gave them any form of offense.

Debriefing: Respondents were given a fair understanding of the purpose of the study. They were made to understand that the study was meant for academic purpose and that it could yield the future good if the truth of their state of affairs is published in the future. The true state of affairs in terms of their honest responses to the item on the questionnaires can be to their benefit when so done.

### **3.9 DATA ANALYSIS**

The obtained data was analyzed through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16. SPSS was the main analysis software because of its high flexibility in data treatment and

management. The results from the field were organized and presented in tables, figures such as Pie Chart, Bar Graphs, and relevant Tables were placed in Chapter Four.

The responses of the open ended questions of the questionnaire basically had to do with elaborations. Some respondents gave explanations in addition to their yes or no choice responses. Explanations given that were found to be relevant and insightful, were integrated in the overall analysis of data. Also respondents were given opportunity to make recommendations which were also open ended items in nature. The recommendations that were found to be common among many respondents were also incorporated into the recommendations of the study.

### **3.10 PROFILE OF THE VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST**

The implementation of the Akosombo Hydro-electric Power Project (the Volta River Project) during the period 1961-1964 resulted in the formation of the Volta Lake. The Volta Lake inundated 730 villages with a total population of 80,000 people. This situation required that the affected people be compelled to move from their original ancestral homes to different location. These displaced people were relocated and resettled in fifty two (52) townships spread over four (4) regions of the country; namely Volta, Eastern, Brong-Ahafo and Northern Regions and covering seventeen (17) districts of the country.

- Human settlement: Houses built originally were inadequate.
- Water: Inadequate supply of potable water: In an attempt to meet this need, some of the communities depend on raw, untreated water from streams and from the lake. There is therefore a high incidence of water related diseases.

- **High Unemployment:** This is due to the absence of employment opportunities from both private and public sources, lack of access to farm lands and difficulty in accessing bank credit to start business. The resultant effect is low production in all the townships.
- **Low level of education:** This is due to limited access to educational facilities, even at the basic level.
- **Inadequate Access to Healthcare:** Inadequate number of health facilities (health posts, clinics etc.), inadequacy of resident health personnel, poor nature of roads makes it difficult for the communities to travel to enjoy health services in neighboring towns.
- **Low Income Levels:** There are generally low income levels throughout the resettlement townships. Household incomes are abysmally low and this tends to affect their ability to pay for basic goods and services.
- **Poor condition of roads:** The roads in the townships are un-tarred with all almost washed away by erosion. Access roads to the resettlement townships are also poor conditions.

As a result of the above difficulties in 1996, the VRA, in collaboration with Government, represented by the then Ministry of Mines and Energy, established a special fund called the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, to cater for the needs of the resettlement townships. Details of this collaboration is expressed and defined in a Trust Deed which, among others, requires VRA to allocate the Cedi equivalent of Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US\$500,000.00) to be shared among the 52 resettlement townships to be expended on developmental projects of their choice.

### **Mission of the Trust Fund**

The mission of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund is to carry out social and welfare projects for the benefit of the 52 resettled communities in the following areas:

- (i) Environmental amelioration projects.
- (ii) Social welfare projects like Community Centres, Markets, etc.
- (iii) Public health projects.
- (iv) Educational projects.
- (v) Electricity projects
- (vi) Water supply and sanitation projects.
- (vii) Any other projects and needs approved by the Managing Trustees.

### **Vision of the Trust Fund**

The vision of the Fund is to contribute to the improvement of quality of life in the Resettlement Communities through the provision of educational, social and health facilities, reliable and potable water supply as well as economic empowerment through income generating activities.

### **Administration of the Fund**

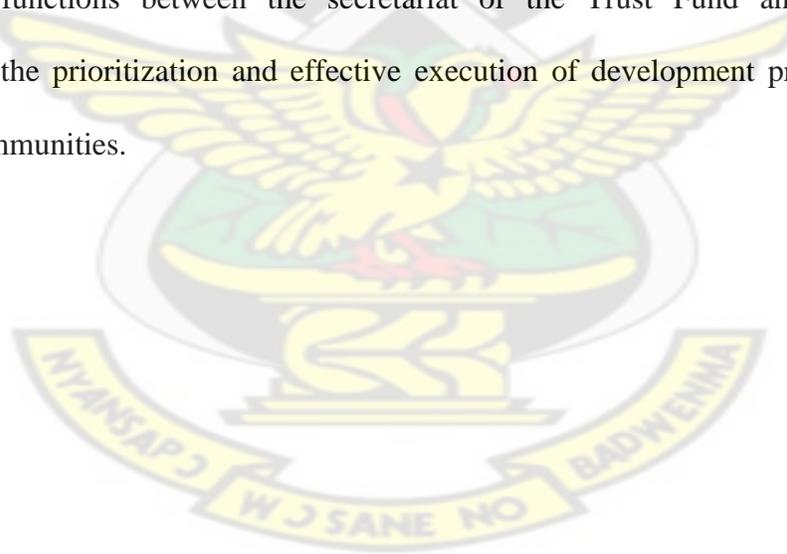
The Trust Fund is administered by a Board of Trustees which reports annually to the Minister of Energy. The Trust Deed which established the Fund stipulates the composition of the Board as follows:

- (i) A Board Chairman appointed by the Government
- (ii) Ten (10) MPs from affected constituencies in the four Regions of Ghana

- (iii) Two (2) representatives from VRA
- (iv) Three (3) representatives from the Ministry of Energy
- (v) Another Managing Trustee appointed by the Minister of Energy as required by the Trust Deed.

The Regional Co-ordinating Councils in the four affected regions of Ghana namely: Volta, Eastern, Northern and Brong Ahafo regions are the appointing authorities of the MPs to serve on the Board. The Deed also gives the Minister for Energy the authority to appoint an additional Managing Trustee in consultation with the Managing Trustees.

At the local level, Town Development Committees have been established in all the townships to perform liaison functions between the secretariat of the Trust Fund and the respective communities for the prioritization and effective execution of development projects within the Resettlement Communities.



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

#### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter examined and analysed the data gathered from the questionnaire administered to the respondents of New Senchi Resettlement Township as well as the interviews conducted with the Staff and Management of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. As it has been said in the earlier chapter, the research project considered a total of one hundred (100) questionnaires for respondents. One hundred (100) questionnaires were returned. This was used for the analysis. The analysis was done in sections; starting with the background information, discussions of the respondents used in the survey and discussions of the key issues of the study which were captured in the questionnaires.

#### **4.2 RESPONDENTS BACKGROUND DATA**

Respondents of the survey questionnaires about the activities of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund came from varied backgrounds of gender, socioeconomic status, educational levels as well as occupations. Male respondents (61) while female respondents (39) representing 61% and 39% respectively took part in the study. Majority of the respondents were married and represented those who could be described as peasants and also of basic educational background. Few respondents such as came from educational background that was tertiary specifically being diplomas and Degrees from a university. A more vivid representation of the biographic characteristics of respondents can be observed in Frequency Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 below:

#### 4.2.1 GENDER DISTRIBUTION RESPONDENTS

The distribution of gender of respondents in the community is presented in table 4.1.

**TABLE 4.1: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION ON GENDER**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	61	61
Female	39	39
Total	100	100

Source: Field data, April 2012

As indicated in Table 4.1, Gender distribution among the sample size was approximately 3 to 2 male female quota respectively. This ratio proportionally produced sixty-one (61) male respondents and thirty-nine (39) female respondents. There were no identifiable gender sensitive responses to the items of the questionnaire except for biographic information. This meant that both male and female respondents in the study gave unanimous response to the sustainability of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, Community Involvement in VRA Activities and Programmes as well as the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation. This implied that the results given on the main objects of the study were unanimous regardless of gender. Responses did not reflect gender related differences. Both males and females believed that VRA Activities have not reached satisfactory level and that there is more room for improvement in all areas of resettlement and development.

#### 4.2.2 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

The age distribution of the respondents is depicted in table 4.2 below.

**TABLE4. 2: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION ON AGE**

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Response	2	2.0
18-23	10	10.0
24-29	14	14.0
30-35	12	12.0
36-41	16	16.0
42-47	16	16.0
48 or above	30	30.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field data, April 2012

Table 4.2 represents the age distribution among the population sample admitted into the study. As can be deduced, ten (10) respondents form the young adult population falls within the age of 18-23years. Respondents from age 42 -47 years can conveniently be described as middle aged who were sixteen (16) and forms 11% of the population. Finally those who fall within the age range of forty-eight (48years) and above amounted to thirty respondents which is 30.% of the population sample. From all psychological categories of age who participated in the study, there were still no age differences in responses and final outcome of the study except for the individual personal data characteristics. This implies that, young adults falling between 18-23years did not

differ in their responses to the study objects as compared to the middle aged or their aged counterparts. Normally it should have been expected that the responses of the youth will drastically differ from those of their aged counterparts. But in this issue all categories of ages in the population were unanimous on the three main issues of VRA Trust Fund's sustainability, community involvement in VRA Activities as well as Effectiveness of Rehabilitation efforts.

#### 4.2.3 MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

Table 4.3 below shows the marital status of respondents.

**TABLE 4.3: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION ON MARITAL STATUS**

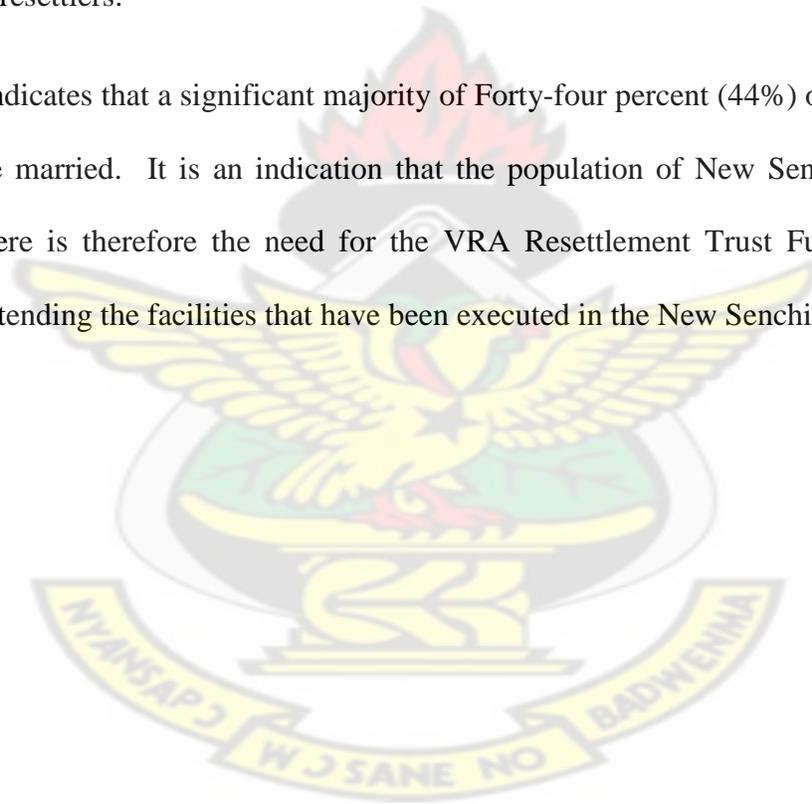
Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Response	14	14.0
Single	20	20.0
Married	44	44.0
Separated	8	8.0
Divorced	3	3.0
Widowed	11	11.0
Total	100	100.0

**Source:** Field data, April 2012

Table 4.3 depicts the marital status of respondents of the population sample. The table reports twenty (20) individuals making exactly 20% of the population to be single whiles forty-four (44) individuals representing 44% of the population were married. In all, three percent (3%) were divorced; eleven percent (11%) were widowed while 8 percent were separated from their

spouses. Once again the marital status of respondents did not reveal any significant differences in their believe about the three main objects of the study such as sustainability of Trust Fund, Community Involvement in Trust Fund Activities as well as the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation efforts being advanced by the Fund. Again, respondents who are divorced or separated from their partners were of the same view with their counterparts who are married that, the efforts of development partners in resettling those who are relocated falls beneath satisfactory levels. This implies summarily that marital status does not affect perception of delivery towards resettlement for New Senchi resettlers.

The table also indicates that a significant majority of Forty-four percent (44%) of the citizenry of New Senchi are married. It is an indication that the population of New Senchi will keep on increasing. There is therefore the need for the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund to decide on expanding or extending the facilities that have been executed in the New Senchi Community.



#### **4.2.4. EDUCATIONAL LEVELS OF THE RESPONDENTS**

The educational levels of the respondents are presented in table 4.4. below.

**TABLE 4.4: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION ON EDUCATIONAL LEVEL**

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Response	18	18.0
SSS/SHS/O' Level	25	25.0
A' Level / Post-Secondary	11	11.0
Diploma / HND	14	14.0
Degree	13	13.0
Middle School	5	5.0
No Education	14	14.0
Total	100	100.0

**Source:** Field data, April 2012

Table 4.4 outlines the various educational levels of the population sample represented in the study. The Questionnaire was able to capture various educational levels ranging right from non-educated to respondents with a Degree from a University. Exactly fourteen percent (14%) of respondents had no education at all, while twenty-five percent (25%) obtained Secondary education. About thirty-eight percent (38%) being the sum of eleven (11) Post-Secondary respondents, Fourteen (14) Diploma and HND certificates Holders and thirteen (13) university Degrees represents those with tertiary level education. Here again the educational status of respondents notwithstanding, the sample selected was unanimous on the three main study questions on sustainability, community Involvement and Rehabilitation Effectiveness. By implication educational status of people would not yield different responses when the issue of non-satisfactory resettlement programme is overly obvious to all.

Furthermore, table 4.4 depicts that majority of the people of New Senchi are educated. Those educated which includes the sum of respondents ranging from Secondary to tertiary education constitute sixty-eight percent (68%) of the population. This implies that those who can read and write are in a significant majority. As a result, it would be helpful for the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund to create employable jobs for all these residents with various employable skills of New Senchi.

#### 4.2.5 OCCUPATION OF RESPONDENTS

The categories of occupation of the respondents is presented in table 4.5

**TABLE 4.5: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION ON OCCUPATION**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Response	33	33.0
Farming	25	25.0
Trading	17	17.0
Fishing	3	3.0
Others	22	22.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field data, April 2012

Table 4.5 represents a cross section of occupations by the respondents of New Senchi. About twenty-five percent (25%) identifies themselves as Farmers; Traders (17%), Fishermen (3%) while other jobs which could involve office or white colour jobs as well as self-entrepreneurial individuals make up. Here again, there was no differences in opinions to the level of satisfaction of the Resettlement programme conducted by the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund.

#### 4.2.6 JOB STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

**TABLE 4.6: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION ON JOB STATUS**

<b>Job Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No Response	58	58.0
Management	19	19.0
Senior Officer	13	13.0
Junior Officer	10	10.0
Total	100	100.0

**Source:** Field data, April 2012

Table 4.6 represents the specific job status of those indicated that they were doing other jobs apart from Agricultural occupations such as Farming and Fishing as well as the usual Trading business. Nineteen percent (19%) of respondents indicated to be working as Management Staffs, thirteen percent (13%) and ten percent (10%) as Senior Officers and Junior Officers respectively in their place of employment. Regardless of the job status and rank in the workplace respondents were unanimous in asserting that there is more room for improvement as far as the VRA Resettlement Programme was concerned.

In summary to the six tables referred to above, the important demographic characteristics of respondents was broad with participation from young and old, married and single, peasants farmers and highly qualified civil servants, as well as a fairly good representation of the gender. Items captioned missing includes specific responses which respondents failed to give on the questionnaire therefore recorded as missing from the system.

Apart from the relevant demographic characteristics, inferential statistics on important objectives of the study are also tabulated as follows: Table 4.7 below reviews the means, standard deviations and the Standard errors of the mean on key factors such as Gender, the Sustainability objective factor, Community Involvement Factor as well as Rehabilitation Effectiveness Factors as resulted from the data analysis:

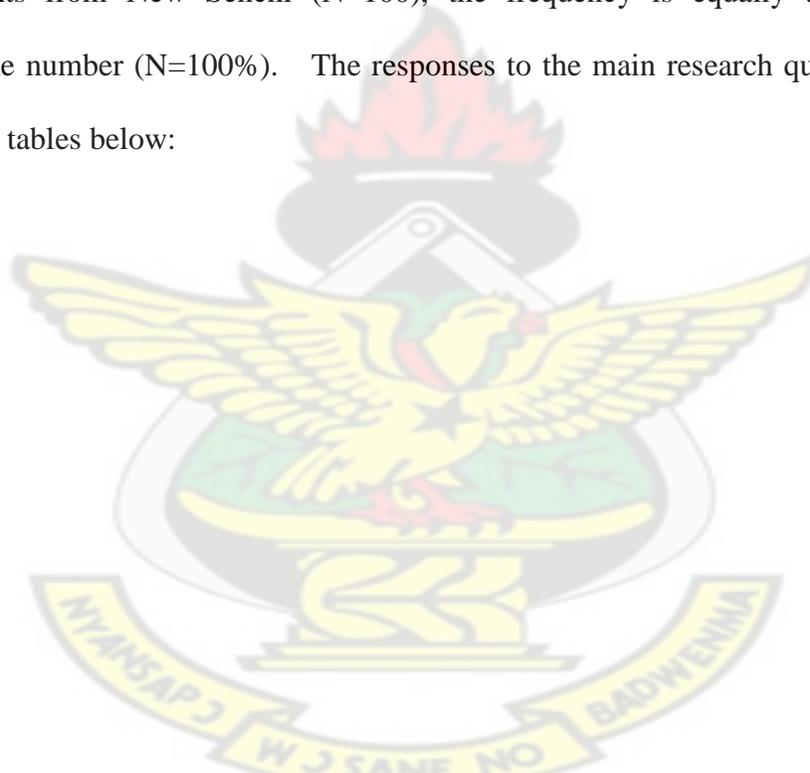
#### **4.2.7 SUMMARY OF GROUP STATISTICS OF RESPONSES TO KEY OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH**

**TABLE 4.7: SUMMARY OF GROUP STATISTICS OF RESPONSES TO KEY  
OBJECTIVES**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>Standard Error, Mean</b>
<b>Gender</b>				
-Male	61	6.33		
Female	39	18.28	0.490	0.049
<b>Sustainability –</b>		<b>1.36</b>		
Yes	60		0.523	0.052
No	38			
<b>Community Involvement</b>		<b>2.43</b>		
- Yes	72		4.058	0.402
No	24			
<b>Rehabilitation Effectiveness:</b>		<b>1.00</b>		
Yes	9		0.569	0.057
No	87			

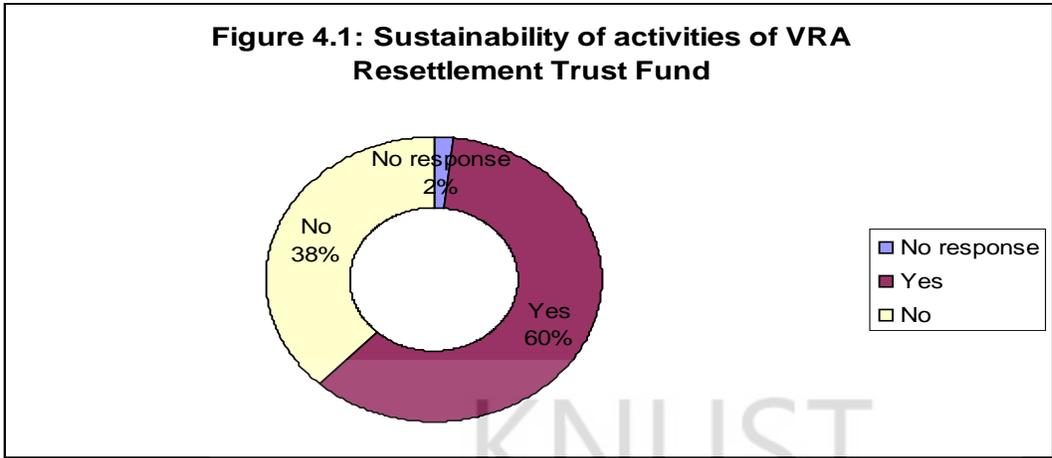
In Table 4.7 above, all the important responses given to the three main research questions and objectives being investigated are duly represented. Those three main objectives have been coded

as sustainability, community involvement and Rehabilitation Effectiveness. For the purposes of this study, Sustainability means the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund has sustained its activities and programmes over the years in New Senchi. Community Involvement means there has been Community (New Senchi) Involvement and patronage of VRA Activities and Programmes and Rehabilitation Effectiveness mean, the residents of New Senchi have been effectively rehabilitated by VRA Activities respectively. Responses given by respondents follow each objective in close succession. Since the number of respondents to the questionnaires are exactly hundred residents from New Senchi (N=100), the frequency is equally the same as the percentage of the number (N=100%). The responses to the main research questions objective are shown in the tables below:



#### **4.3.1 RESPONSES ON SUSTAINABILITY OF THE VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND'S ACTIVITIES.**

**FIGURE 4.1: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ON SUSTAINABILITY OF THE VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND'S ACTIVITIES IN NEW SENCHI COMMUNITY**

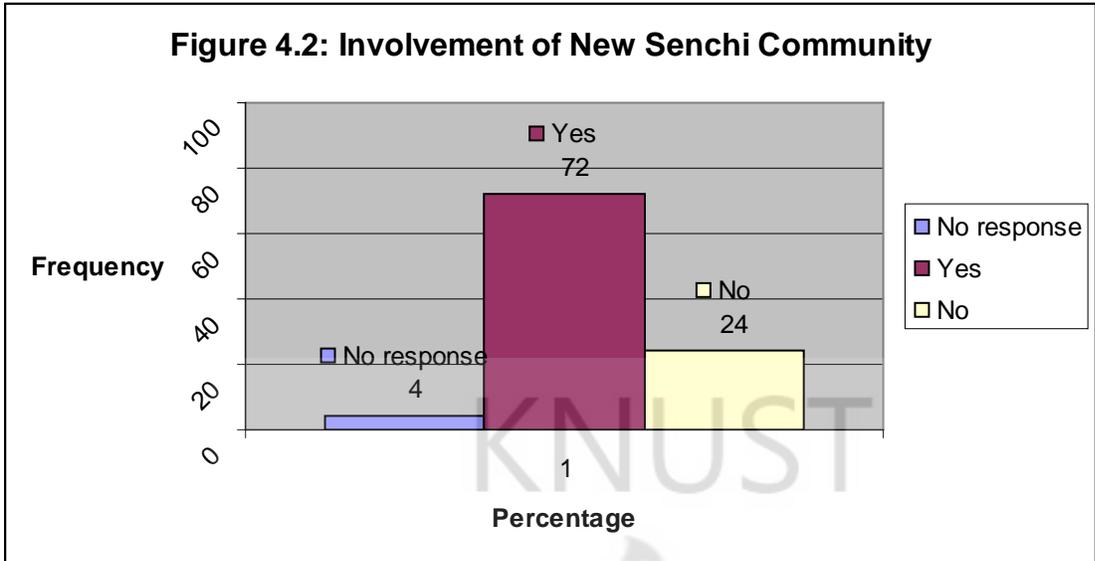


**Source:** Field data, April 2012

Table 4.8 reveals that sixty percent (60%) of New Senchi residents are of the view that the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund activities and projects have been sustained over the years in New Senchi. Exactly 38 percent held a contrary view to that item. In simple percentiles, it is quite significant statistically for 60 percent (60%) to hold the view in the affirmative.

**4.3.2 RESPONSES ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRUST FUNDS ACTIVITIES**

**FIGURE 4.2: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ON INVOLVEMENT OF THE NEW SENCHI COMMUNITY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND**

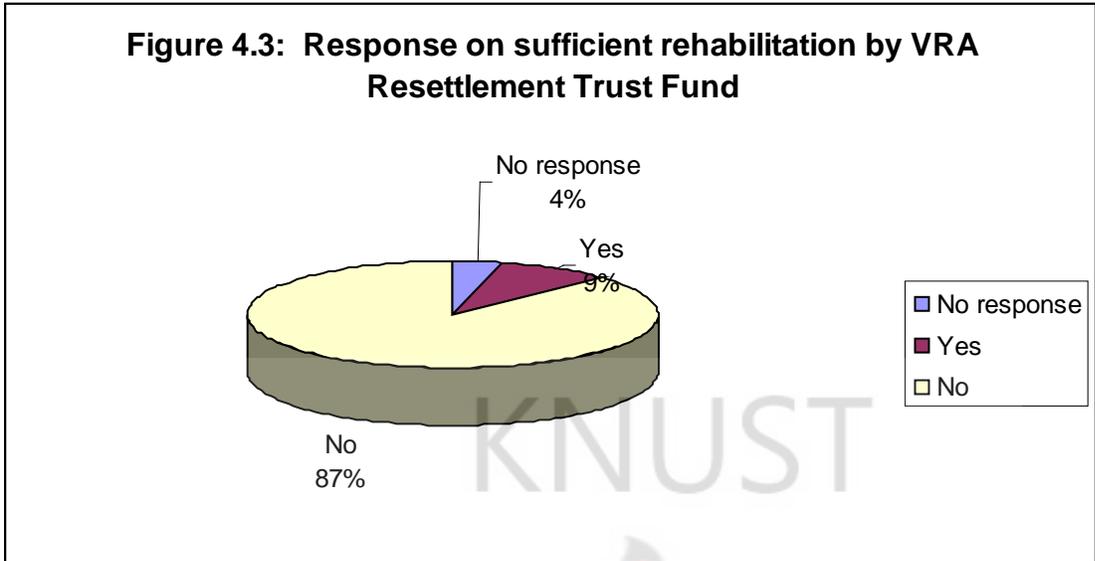


Source: Field data, April 2012

On the question of the level of community participation, involvement or patronage of the events, activities and programmes of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund in New Senchi, table 4.8 depicts that seventy-two percent (72%) of respondents believed that the citizens do participate in all VRA Resettlement Trust Fund activities while twenty-four percent (24%) hold a contrary view. Again seventy-two (72%) is statistically a significant percentile as compared to those with the dissenting view.

**4.3.3 SUFFICIENCY IN REHABILITATING THE RESIDENTS OF NEW SENCHI COMMUNITY**

**FIGURE 4.3: FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ON WHETHER THE VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND HAD SUFFICIENTLY REHABILITATED THE RESIDENTS OF NEW SENCHI COMMUNITY.**



**Source:** Field data, April 2012

Finally, the third research question focussed on whether the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund has been effective in rehabilitating the lives of residents of New Senchi over the years. On this item, residents had a drastically different response. **Eighty- seven percent (87%)** disagreed with the assertion that VRA Trust Fund activities has rehabilitated or even improved the livelihood of citizens of New Senchi. Only a statistically insignificant 9percent had the view that there has been some form of rehabilitation. This could imply that if any amount of people had rehabilitation at all, it is only a privileged few who are not representative of the entire population of New Senchi.

**4.4 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS WITH STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF VRA TRUST FUND**

**4.4.1 JUSTIFICATION FOR VERBAL INTERVIEWS**

The Natural Science boasts of accuracy based on the use of quantitative values to substantiate the exactness of outcomes and conclusions made on issues. It must be noted that Social science

though a science is not an exact science. It is therefore important to also analyse the subjective views of significant stake holders on an issue in order to establish facts and possibly truth. When verbal interviews are conducted in a fair manner so that all potential interviewer biases are eliminated, the results gathered can be as accurate as counting quantitatively. It was 20<sup>th</sup> century; Albert Einstein (1879-1955) who was quoted to hold the view that “everything that can be counted does not necessarily count and everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted.” In this regard whether something is scientific or not is not a function of the use of quantities or qualities. It is the function of the use of objective procedure to arrive at the outcome.

#### **4.4.2 PROCEDURE FOR VERBAL INTERVIEWS**

Appointments were booked with all seven (7) functional Staffs and Management of the Trust Fund. They were given ample information about the purpose of the study and how that their candid views were being solicited for a study that would help contribute to the emerging industry of resettlement. They were also encouraged to admit to limitations of their outfit where necessary. All disclosed information that was sensitive to an individual’s person was to be kept confidential and anonymous in a professional way. The interviewer bias was eliminated by the adherence to strict research rules and protocol.

#### **4.4.3 INTERVIEW WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND**

According to the executive director of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, the scheme has been of tremendous benefit to all resettlement townships and particularly the people of New Senchi. The Executive Director intimated that if it were not for the establishment of the Trust Fund life would have been burdensome to all resettlement communities. When asked about the sustainability of

the activities and social interventions of the Fund, the Director said: “the fund has been sustained right from its inception in 1996 during the first Government of the fourth republic under the leadership of President Rawlings. When the second Government of the fourth republic took over in the year 2000 under the presidency of John Kuffor, the scheme was still sustained and administered strictly to its purpose. Currently under President Mills and President Mahama all efforts to ensure that the scheme is supported and even enhanced to achieve its core objectives are underway.”

On the question of the involvement of the residents of New Senchi in the determination of the final activities of the Fund this is what the Director said: “We have always ensured that the resettlement communities fully participate in the determination of projects to their communities. This is to help us undertake projects that directly meet their needs and elicit their patronage of them. We do this by ensuring that we consult with all the relevant stake holders of the town. These stake holders include the respective district assemblies, the members of parliament and the VRA Town Development Committees (TDCs) who are supposed to be on the ground to find out areas of the most need to the communities. The evidence of this success can be proved by the impressive community patronage in all our events and activities carried out.”

Finally, as to whether, the Trust Fund has been successful in rehabilitating and improving the livelihood of the people of New Senchi and other resettlement townships, the Director answered in the affirmative without any shred of doubt: “Rehabilitation of those dislocated by the construction of the Akosombo Dam is one of the foremost objectives of the Trust Fund. The Scheme has never relented once in ensuring that all our social interventions goes to alleviate the plight of residents and restore them to a decent and more comfortable living. Provision of projects such as potable water, good sanitation facilities, health facilities such as clinics, schools

and even accommodation for health workers in the communities have been pursued more vigorously. All these and others are the things any meaningful Trust Fund organization must engage in to rehabilitate those who have been displaced and to improve their livelihood” (Personal communication with Executive Director, VRA Trust Fund, July, 2012)

#### **4.4.4 INTERVIEW WITH THE TECHNICAL OFFICER OF VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND**

The Technical Officer of the Trust Fund had this to say on the question of the sustainability of the Fund: “The fund has been sustained without fail but the initial amount provided has not been reviewed upward. Since the inception of the fund, the annual amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) has not been increased ever since. It therefore has not been easy for the Trust Administrators to increase their rate of developmental activities as they would normally wish to.”

On the issue of the involvement of New Senchi residents in the Fund’s activities, the Technical Officer is of the view that little is better than none. The officer said: “Although we expect to have additional funds, what has been achieved with the little funding which comes through the VRA is judiciously utilized to meet the needs of New Senchi and the others resettlement townships. The residents very well appreciate and therefore come in their numbers whenever a new project is being commissioned. They thank the Fund constantly and keep requesting the Administrators not to relent to attend to their other areas of need. The positive patronage and grateful attitude with which residents come to be part of all activities of the fund is a solid testimony of their patronage and involvement in all purpose of the Fund.”

When asked about why some of the residents may claim that their lives has neither been rehabilitated nor improved, the Technical Officer however said that: “the issue of rehabilitation

would be based on the individual's perception. Everybody has a unique way of looking at reality. From the Trust Fund's perspective we know we have used the limited resources judiciously in order to better the lot of all resettlement dwellers. However, some of them may think because their personal fortunes have not improved in the ways they expected it to be; nothing has been done. Rather it has to be said that something has been done but a lot more need to be done for improving people's lives" he added. (Personal Communication with the Technical Officer of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, July, 2012)

#### **4.4.5 INTERVIEW WITH THE FINANCE OFFICER OF VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND**

According to the Finance Officer the Trust Fund is on course fulfilling its core mandate to all the resettlement communities including Senchi. He said, "The Fund has been sustained by the faithfulness of the Volta River Authority to release the funds annually without fail though not enough. The sustainability of the Fund has also been made possible by the ingenious efforts of management to invest some of the funds so they can reap increase values to do greater developmental projects.

With regards to the participation of the New Senchi residents in the VRA Trust Fund's determination of projects, the Finance Officer stated that they constantly receive requests of developmental needs the residents expect them to intervene on. The Trust Fund therefore factor that into what projects they deem most appropriate based on the available resources at the point in time. They subsequently fulfil that request by undertaking those projects promptly. He said, "It is due to the trust and participatory spirit that has been cultivated between the Trust

Administrators and the residents that such constant dialogue continues to meet each other's expectations.”

Concerning the rehabilitation of the New Senchi Township, the Finance officer said “Rehabilitation is not an event. It is a process. It is possible to have some of the residents claiming that their lives have neither been rehabilitated nor improved. However what is important is that, we are in the process of rehabilitating and improving their lives. We may have not arrived there but we are sure on course to arriving there.” (Personal Communication with the Finance Officer of the VRA Trust Fund, July, 2012)

#### **4.4.5 INTERVIEW WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND**

The administrative officer is of the view that, the Fund has done its best under the available financial and logistical constraints to meet the ever-increasing expectations of all the resettlement communities. According to her “Although people's expectations have increased, the fund's expectations for increased subvention from VRA has never increased. However the fund has managed to sustain their provision of social amenities in health, sanitation, water, education as well as some accommodation for some health workers in some of the communities. The administration of the Fund's activities has been sustained without doubt although it is faced with numerous financial and logistical constraints.

On the issue of the involvement and patronage of the ressetlers, the Administrative officer holds the view that the communities do patronize the Trust Funds activities without fail. However, the Communities still tends to have complaints about areas they would want the Trust Fund to attend to first. This is common in any society. One person's scale of preference differs from another.

Each person prioritizes differently. Whereas some expects the provision of a market or factory first, others think they should be given a school and a health post first. It is not in doubt that the community is actively involved with the work of the Fund although there may be few priority differences.”

On the question of the rehabilitation and improvement of the Senchi community, the Administrative officer believes that rehabilitation would be arrived at but in the distant future due to the limited resources available to the Trust Fund. The Fund should also concentrate on training more residents on income generating activities and entrepreneurial ventures to facilitate the rate of the improvement of individual household economies, she added. (Personal Communication with the Administrative Officer of the VRA Trust Fund, July, 2012)

#### **4.4.6 INTERVIEW WITH THE ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT OF VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND**

The Accounting Assistant nearly declined in talking to the researcher. Unequivocally the Finance Assistant stated that she stands and aligns with all the sentiments that the superior, the Finance Officer holds. The Finance Assistant mentioned that those sentiments are occasionally expressed and shared between them. To her, the Trust Fund has obviously been sustained over the years and that is why it is still operating successfully. Also the Fund has dealt with the community and the community with the fund that is why they know where to go with their needs. Finally, she holds the view that rehabilitation is a systematic journey that would hopefully be attained in the future. (Personal Communication with the Finance Assistant of the VRA Trust Fund, August, 2012)

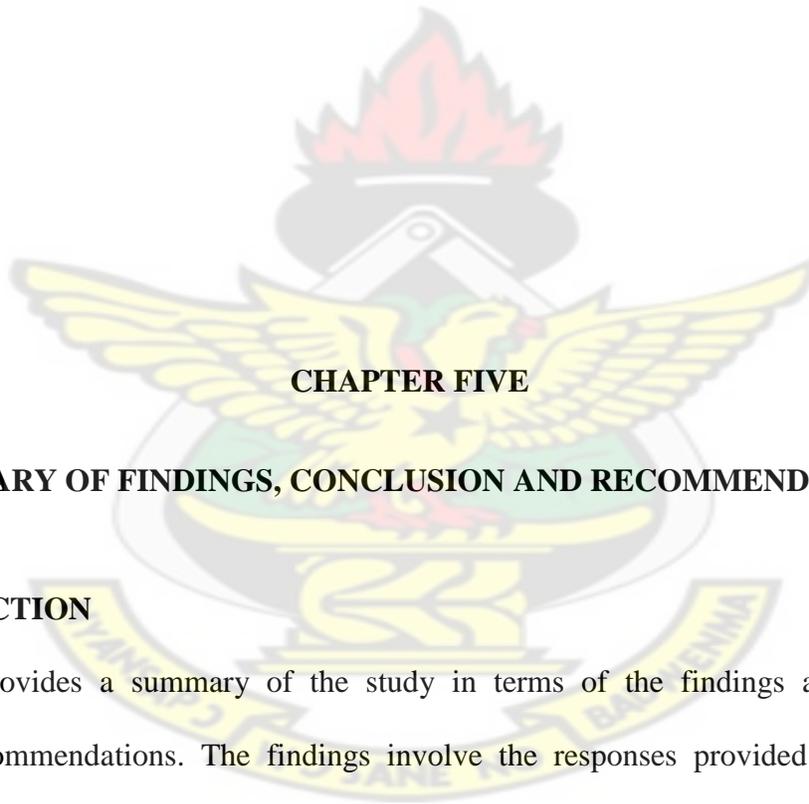
#### **4.4.7 INTERVIEW WITH THE OFFICE STAFFS ATTENDANT OF VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND**

The staff attendant believes the Fund has been consistent with its operations since its commencement. He is of the view that the communities are happy with the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund that is why they always make calls and sends requests to the Trust Fund. The Office Staff attendant is impressed by the momentous response of people of New Senchi when a durbar to commission a project is organized. The Staff believes definitely, the lives of the community have been improved by the Trust Fund. (Personal Communication with the Office Staffs Attendant of the VRA Trust Fund, August, 2012).

#### **4.4.8 INTERVIEW WITH THE DRIVER OF VRA RESETTLEMENT TRUST FUND**

The driver is also impressed by the great work being done by the Fund. To him, the amount of projects being financed by the Fund from year to year without fail is a good testimony to the fund's sustainability. It also shows that the various resettlement communities have accepted to be in partnership with the Fund and therefore patronizes all their activities. The driver mentioned that, the lot of the ressetlers have been bettered by the hard work of the Management and Staffs of the VRA Resettlement Trust Funds (Personal Communication with the Driver of the VRA Trust Fund, August, 2012).

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## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter provides a summary of the study in terms of the findings and provides the appropriate recommendations. The findings involve the responses provided by the hundred residents sampled from New Senchi to answer the Survey questionnaires as well as verbal face to face interviews with all Seven (7) Management and Staffs of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund.

The analysis of this study was done on the data collected which essentially involved residents in the catchment area of New Senchi, a community that was relocated due to the construction of the Akonsombo dam. The analysis was performed around the objectives for this study; however,

other relevant details were added for better presentation of findings. Descriptive statistical Tables of relevant demographic characteristics of respondents as well as relevant inferential statistical indices were employed to summarize the data collected.

Providentially, one hundred (100) questionnaires for respondents were returned representing the entire 100% sent to collect the data. This meant there was *nil attrition* though there were few abstinence in responses to few of the questionnaire items by some respondents. Such abstinent responses always add up the difference to make the overall sum of 100percent on all items.

The main objective of the study therefore was to find out how the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund has been sustained and administered especially in the New Senchi Resettlement Township. Also, the study sought to explore the level of involvement of the residents of New Senchi in the events and activities being advanced to them by the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. Finally, the study also sought to discover residents' perception on the extent to which they believe rehabilitation programmes advanced by the Trust Fund has been effective in improving the lives of New Senchi citizens. Below are the key findings of the study.

## **5.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

As indicated and repeated often, there was a fair gender spread in the population and the sample taken. Sixty-one percent (61%) male respondents and thirty-nine percent (39%) female respondents was only fair when the kind of gender distribution in Senchi is considered.

Research results on the item of the sustainability of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund's Activities have been affirmed to be consistent right from the inception of the Trust Fund in 1996.

The VRA, Government and the Trust Fund have not relented in their efforts to develop and ameliorate the plight of the resident of New Senchi ever since. Subsequently, the residents who live in New Senchi, their current relocated settlement have also affirmed that it is undeniable that the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund is making significant efforts to engage them by way of attending to their developmental needs and other socially relevant needs. This position was taken in their affirmative 72% yes response to the visibility of all the events, activities and programmes of the VRA Trust Fund that are advanced towards their community. Some of these events, activities and programmes include, provision of school blocks, health centre, water and sanitation as well as being hooked to the national electricity grid. As a result of how sustainable the Fund has been, the community have identified with all those social interventions brought by the Fund. It was not only the residents of New Senchi who held this perception, all the management and staff of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund were also unanimous that the Trust Fund had been sustainable and that the resettlement communities have fully patronize the Fund's interventions.

The question however is to what extent do the residents think these social amenities and infrastructures have gone to rehabilitate them from their distressed situation due to the relocation or improve their livelihood ever since. Although there was majority consensus, on responses to objectives one and two which are sustainability of the Fund and involvement and patronage of the community respectively by both residents of New Senchi and Staff of the Trust Fund, there were dissenting views on the item of rehabilitation and improvement of livelihood expressed by these two categories of samples.

On this item, namely, the rehabilitation and improvement of livelihood residents gave the most massive dissent to the question that all of the efforts that the VRA, its Trust Fund and even

Government itself have been making are woefully inadequate in rehabilitating them. On the centrally, management and staff of the Trust Fund believed that rehabilitation and improvement of livelihood had been attained to a far extent. We may ask as researchers, is this the usual proverbial Oliver Twist situation who keeps asking for more or it is indeed the true state of affairs in New Senchi and perhaps all other resettlement communities in Ghana and the world over! Once again is it also, an issue of human needs being insatiable or would people be fair in admitting to a reasonable level of compensation and rehabilitation that restores a person to their greatest potential they could attain given the original habitation that God offered them!

The responses of residents on objective three (3); that their lives have not been rehabilitated are not unique to the resident of New Senchi alone. In the world over, many communities that are relocated never achieve the reasonable rehabilitation they require to put their lives on the right pedestal to achieve the potentials they believe they had before they were *uprooted* from their original habitation due to a developmental project. Perhaps the disparity between the views of the New Senchi residents and the management and staff of the Trust Fund is that of perception and self- interest. Whereas the managers of the Fund perceived that their efforts should and have actually contributed to rehabilitating and improving the livelihood of the New Senchi community, the community residents have a different perception claiming it is woefully inadequate. The management and staff of the Fund have an interest to protect. That interest is the claim that they have made the effort to rehabilitate the New Senchi Community. The New Senchi Community also has an interest to protect. The community's interest is that they need more of the social interventions than what had been given to them in order to improve their livelihood.

From the perspective of this study, the following are being proposed as part of the key reasons why New Senchi community view relocation and rehabilitation in New Senchi as failure although the management and staff think otherwise. Issues of prior information to relocation, participation of the communities to be relocated in decision making, the nature of compensation and how it has been construed and even the fundamental human rights of people in the first place are important reasons why relocation programmes world-wide and Africa in particular are disorganized.

As indicated by the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development, humans are vested with rights. This declaration of the UN General Assembly states: “every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.” Unfortunately, many development agents such as governments never consider the rights of their minority citizens who live in particular areas when they contemplate on developmental programmes. To these developmental agents, it is always a foregone conclusion that when the public good is being sought, minority rights must be necessarily flouted with impunity. This unfortunate trend has created spates of tensions, animosities and hatred among development agents and those minorities who are supposed to be relocated for the interest of the public good development projects. The UN General Assembly by its declaration are proposing that the interest of minority groups should be carefully addressed to their satisfaction so that they would willingly embrace the proposed relocation with much delight.

New Senchi like several other relocated communities do not believe that the relocation they had undergone had rehabilitated them or improved their livelihood because they were not psychologically prepared reasonably long enough to undergo that life time trauma. For a group

of people to be uprooted from their original land given to them by divine providence and replanted in another locality where their inherent skills do not match with the physical, psychological and occupational characteristics of the new place, they need to have been given a reasonably long notice, through prior information and training. Unfortunately, this convention is flouted by many development agents one of which is Governments of all states. To Governments, the moment a development project comes to mind, the next is to hastily use executive powers to secure all lands in such catchment areas, pay some paltry compensations and head on with the project without any recourse to the further wellbeing of the poor folks who might have to adapt to an entirely new area they are being relocated to. This unfortunate trend is what Bartolome et al (1999) found when they reported in their study that information communication practices during the construction of projects in a place are especially poor prior to the relocation of the substantive residents of the area. Imagine a people who live in a coastal town or by a river side whose main occupation is fish farming and due to a development project, have to be relocated to another place where there is no water body to engage their natural skills and potentials. This unfortunate situation is what tends to characterize many of our developments agendas and worse in Africa in particular.

It must however be mentioned that rehabilitation is not an event, it is a long term process. Residents who have been displaced and are being resettled must exercise patience and show good faith to administrators of resettlement trust funds so they all work together in mutual cooperation towards the ultimate holistic rehabilitation. In this, it may not be entirely true that in the world over interests of minority groups have been flouted without the due recourse to law or resettlement procedures. It might be that displaced people are not wholly resettled as yet but just

as rehabilitation is a process when they cooperate with the process it would eventually be attained.

Even worse is the issue of compensation. To development agents, such as government and foreign investors, compensation has been interpreted to mean finding a new place for indigents of a place and supporting them from time to time so they can survive. This is unfortunate because compensation should take into account the people's aspirations, aptitudes, skills and all they want to achieve for themselves at the original places that they used to live. As a result, any compensation package that fails to take these issues into consideration reduces the livelihood of a people from achievement of their potentials into mere struggle for survival.

One time payment compensation aimed at ameliorating the plight of those who were affected is inconsistent. This kind of compensation practice focuses only on the one side of resettlement which is amelioration. There is the need therefore to add a development component to the amelioration to make a full resettlement. Once again in this light, citizens of New Senchi had been categorical in resounding the same old cry or lamentation of almost all relocated citizens, the world over.

Another thing taken for granted by development agents is the issue of participation and involvement of the citizens to be relocated. Failure to involve the to-be-relocated citizens is psychological attack on their humanity and freedom to choose. It does not matter the 'big' compensation amount paid to these citizens. The refusal to solicit their opinions and contributions is a form of disenfranchisement. As observed from some of the literatures reviewed, a development programmes in the form of dams construction are done without the involvement and participation of the stakeholder. Like this Orange River Dam case identified by

Colson, 1971, where farmers who were members of the powerful white agricultural lobby, were not consulted about the dam or the impending move of the construction. Many relocations are undertaken without the participation and involvement of significant parties.

Providentially, in the case of New Senchi, the complained of lack of participation and involvement of the two main stakeholders being the development authorities/government and the to-be-resettlement community was not reported. This means both the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund as well as the New Senchi community affirmed that there were broad consultation prior to resettlement. Additionally, the New Senchi community have been constantly engage by the VRA Trust Fund through its Town Development Committee who receive inputs and request from the community on to Fund. This is factored into the social interventions and development projects that are carried out in the resettlement township.

### **5.3 CONCLUSIONS**

It is abundantly evident that the issue of relocation and resettlement the world over, had not been done following a reasonable and more comprehensive programmes. There are however divergent perceptions on this matter. Whereas governments and development agents believed procedures are followed, the resettlement townships and their sympathisers such as pressure groups and other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are of a contrary view. In some cases, one factor is addressed and the other factors neglected. In others, two or more factors are addressed and yet still very important other factors are neglected. In worse case scenarios almost none of the crucial matters are addressed to begin with.

The study of the activities of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund in Ghana as it pertains to the New Senchi community is even more revealing of the critical problems and issues involving

relocation and resettlement. Although the research adopted a case study approach focussing on New Senchi community, one of the 52 resettlement communities, findings from the study does corroborate or support earlier findings of several other wide spread studies in Africa and the world over. These finding specifically include the fact that there is no doubt that relocation and resettlement is a notion amongst development authorities and relocated citizens. Although the notion and concept is appreciated by these significant stakeholders especially the development authorities', proper procedures are not followed or worse still the willingness to fully resettle is not forth coming from the development authorities in the perception of the resettlement communities.

Secondary it is apparent that relocated settlers seem to appreciate the offers being made across to them and therefore to their best understanding such may be a goodwill being shown by the development authorities and must be embraced willingly. This is why relocated communities like New Senchi kept patronizing and availing themselves to all the development programmes and activities being carried over across to them. Unfortunately, they only discover at the end that it merely came to whet their appetite which would not be satisfied in the immediate or perhaps in their lives time.

Finally, finding from the study of New Senchi like many other finding the world over, have been revealed that people do not pretend about their conditions. They would affirm if there is a government agency to improve their lives and would also affirm their willingness and availability to those development activities and programmes and they would equally admit or otherwise if the purpose of those development agencies and their programmes have been achieved in their lives.

## **5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Proper costing of the Relocation packages**

The development agents must take into accounts all the significant cost components of the to-be-relocated citizens. This may include an amount that can take care of their present needs to restore them of what they lost and future needs to develop them to attain their inspirations. Apart from the monetary aspect, psychological acceptance through allowing the citizens to participate in the relocation as well as training them to sharpen their skills and even tap their capabilities to achieve their lives aspirations.

### **Timing of resettlement processes**

Another recommendation is to ensure that census of the affected people take place early on in the process. Sites are to be identified well in advance before carrying out resettlement processes in future hasty relocation.

### **Participation of affected persons**

All those communities including New Sechi that are being affected by the activities of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund need to be fully involved in the decision making process in various aspects concerning their lives including choice of resettlement sites, development projects, job among others.

### **Compensation of the displaced**

Adequate compensation using both monetary and non-monetary parameters/benefits should take into account, local conditions and cultural requirements of the to-be-relocated. Example,

consideration of the extended family system especially in Ghana should be in mind when deciding on the size of houses to be undertaken in the communities.

### **Clear rules on compensation should be made known to the beneficiaries**

Clear rules and policies regarding disbursement of funds for lost properties should be made known to the resettlers. This will help them identify the agencies that can solve their compensation matters.

### **Land Title Deeds and Layouts**

Land Title Deeds and Layouts should be provided for the resettlement communities to help forestall some of the oppressive treatments being meted out by their landlords as complained by the New Senchi Community.

### **Increment of Grant from the VRA to the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund**

An appeal should be made to the Volta River Authority by the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund to increase its contribution to enable the Trust Fund constitutently provide the social amenities to the resettlement communities. Government should also add a percentage to the electricity tariffs for development of the resettlement communities since they have suffered and are still suffering as a result of the construction of Akosombo Dam for the generation of electricity

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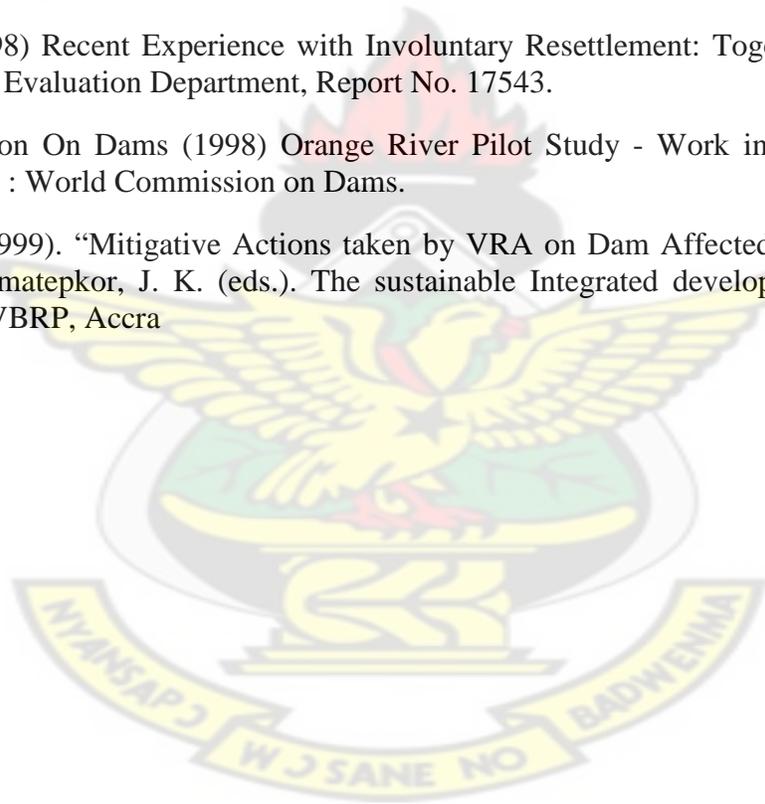
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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS



APA	American Psychological Association
SSS	Senior Secondary School
SHS	Senior High School
O' Level	Ordinary Level
A' Level	Advanced Level
HND	Higher National Diploma
KVIP	Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
VRA	Volta River Authority
WCD	World Commission on Dams

**APPENDIX**

**VERBAL FACE TO FACE INTERVIEW GUIDE WITH MANAGEMENT AND STAFFS  
OF VRA RESSETLEMENT TRUST FUND**

This instrument is meant to solicit data on “effect of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund in improving the livelihood of the New Senchi Resettlement Township”.

The researcher is a student in KNUST Institute of Distance Learning, Commonwealth Executive Masters in Business Administration (CEMBA) and this research work constitutes the long essay component of the entire course work. Please be assured that this research is purely an academic exercise and as such your response will be kept strictly confidential. Please be at ease in providing clear, accurate and objective responses to the questions in this questionnaire.

Thank you.

**A. Respondent’s Occupational Information**

- 1. What is your job position?.....
- 2. How long have you been in the Service?.....

**B. Impact of VRA Resettlement Trust Fund on the New Senchi Community.**

- 3. How has the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund been sustained?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 4. How has the Fund been administered in the New Senchi Resettlement Community.

.....  
.....  
.....

3. Has the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund’s activities have any impact on the New Senchi Resettlement community?

4. Have you seen the impact as positive?

5. Do you think the facilities provided by the Trust Fund are improving on the livelihood of the people of New Senchi?

6. Is the New Senchi Community involved in the administration of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund?

7. How does the New Senchi Community involved in the administration of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund?:.....

.....  
.....  
.....

8. How has the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund helped rehabilitate and improve the livelihood of the people of New Senchi communities?.....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

9. What suggestions do you have for improving the activities of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund?

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**Kwame Nkrumah University Science and Technology (KNUST) Institute of Distance Learning, Commonwealth Executive Masters In Public Administration (CEMPA)**

### **Effect of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund in Improving the Living Conditions of the New Senchi Resettlement Township**

This instrument is meant to solicit data on “effect of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund in improving the living conditions of the New Senchi resettlement township”.

The researcher is a student in KNUST Institute of Distance Learning, Commonwealth Executive Masters in Public Administration (CEMPA) and this research work constitutes the long essay component of the entire course work. Please be assured that this research is purely an academic exercise and as such your response will be kept strictly confidential. Please be at ease in providing clear, accurate and objective responses to the questions in this questionnaire.

Thank you.

#### **QUESTIONNAIRE OF VRA TRUST FUND ACTIVITIES IN NEW SENCHI**

#### **SECTION A: PERSONAL PROFILE**

1. **Gender:** [1] Male            [2] Female
2. **Age:** [1] 18-23    [2] 24-29    [3] 30-35    [4] 36-41    [5] 42-47    [6] 48 or more
3. **Marital Status:** [1] Single    [2] Married    [3] Separated    [4] Divorced    [5] Widowed



12. Do you think People of New Senchi have been patronizing any new thing initiated by the VRA Trust Fund Administrators? a) Yes [ ]      b) No [ ]

Do you want to explain? .....

.....

.....

13. Do you think the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund have sufficiently rehabilitated the residents of New Senchi? a) Yes [ ]      b) No [ ]

14. Would you commend the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund for having done a good job in attempting to improve the livelihood of the residents of New Senchi? a) Yes [ ]      b) No [ ]

**SECTION D: RECOMMENDATIONS**

15. Please, what are your recommendations to the management of VRA and the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund? .....

.....

.....

