

# An Assessment of the Socio-economic Impact of Maiganga Resettlement Scheme, Akko LGA, Gombe State, Nigeria

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**Abstract**— *The paper has examined the socio-economic impact of Maiganga resettlement scheme in Akko LGA of Gombe State. Data was collected through field observation, use of structured questionnaire, interviews and secondary materials. The findings of the study shows that Maiganga resettlement scheme is a coal mine induced resettlement scheme. Three communities of Maiganga, Kargawal and Lakandangari consisting 976 persons were resettled. Despite the provision of 75 houses, 4 boreholes, 1 primary school of three blocks of classroom, 1 skill acquisition centre, 3 primary health care/maternity, 3 transformer with electricity, a mosques and church, there was much agitation after the resettlement scheme. Monetary compensations were paid to the farmers for loss of farm lands. The compensation ranges between ₦10,000 (USD 36) to ₦150,000 (USD 536) depending on the size of farm land lost. The local communities claimed that the amount paid to them as compensation was grossly inadequate and that the management of the company reneged on most of the issues agreed upon in their informal gentleman arrangement. This agitation resulted in the stoppage of work in the coal mine for two weeks in 2014. The study recommends the need to sustain dialogue with the local communities, employ teachers and health workers in the primary school and health care facility to make it functional.*

**Keywords**— *Akko, Gombe, Maiganga, Resettlement and Socio-economic.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Resettlement is the process of helping people to live in a new area or establishing a new livelihood in a pre-existing social relation of production and consumption. Resettlement takes place when major development projects, which are important elements of development, force people who have lived in a region for a long time to leave their homes, and their place in society, economic and agricultural activities, relationships and opportunities and any other immovable properties, to live in other places (Dogan *et al*, 1991).

Resettlement scheme is aimed at providing assistance to the displaced people so as to improve their overall living standards. Activities under this scheme include the acquisition of land for civil works, reconstruction of some of the basic civic amenities to the remaining population and host population and payment of compensation for economic losses and other rehabilitation benefits. The over-riding objective of resettlement scheme is to ensure that persons unavoidably losing land or property as a result of this mining activity attain equal or better livelihoods and living standards than “without” project status. The primary objectives of the resettlement programme are to mitigate the adverse impacts of the project and to assist the affected persons in resettlement and restoration of their income and livelihoods.

Cernea (2000) observed that displacement is not only the physical eviction from a dwelling, but also the expropriation of productive lands and other assets needed for other alternative uses. In Africa for instance, most communities are constantly disturbed by displacement and resettlement due to the need for mineral exploration (Ackuayi *et al*, 2014). Sonnenberg and Münster (2001) observed that in Africa, about 42,258 persons have been displaced by mining. Resettlement in most cases is inevitable especially in mine land affected communities.

Such form of displacement and resettlement consequently are accompanied by severe impoverishments such as landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, health risk, loss of access to common resources, marginalization among others (Asian Development Bank, 1998).

Some scholars argued that the tragedy of displacement due to development projects is compounded because the affected bears the cost but have no share in the benefits (Shiva, 1993). Colchester points out that the experience of indigenous peoples with the development projects has led to cultural alienation, dispossession of land and resources, lack of consultation, insufficient or a complete lack of compensation, human rights abuses, and a lowering of living standards. The specific and strong cultural connection that many indigenous groups have with the land and the environment in which they live makes their physical dislocation potentially more harmful than is often the case for other groups (Colchester, 2000). Many have got

very minimal compensation which is never enough to sustain a family with many children having education in private institutions. These effects are not only economic, but social, cultural, psychological and environmental as well.

The Maiganga resettlement scheme is a mining-induced displacement and resettlement exercise which was necessitated by the discovery of coal mineral in the community. The land on which the local people inhabited and carry out their day to day activity, mostly farming was acquired by the management of Ashaka Cement Company. Mining activity in Maiganga area commenced in October, 2007. The coal which is of the lignite grade has an estimated proven reserve of 4.5 million tons which is expected to satisfy the company's requirement for more than 25years.

In the process of the Maiganga resettlement scheme, land assessment was completed by the Gombe State Ministry of Lands and Survey and compensation was made to the land owners according to Government rate. Ashaka Cement Plc, as part of its social responsibility was to undertake the complete resettlement of the Maiganga village and 3 other hamlets and provide infrastructures such as construction of 14 kilometer feeder road up to Sambo Daji the district headquarter, 3 bridges and about 20 culverts. Other amenities include the building of a primary school, mosque, a church, dispensary and boreholes for those affected (Rawls, 1971) communities. The company planned to open employment opportunity to local communities at least 80% of the unskilled labour. This study examines the socio-economic impact of the resettlement programmes on the livelihoods of the local communities in Maiganga village of Akko Local Government Area (LGA) of Gombe State, Nigeria.

### 1.1 Theoretical Conception

This study is based on the social justice theory of resettlement scheme. The social justice theory was propounded by John Rawls. The theory is about fairness involving the ideas of original position, the veil of ignorance and the derivation of two principles of justice (Rawls, 1971). John Rawl emphasized on egalitarianism and distributive justice. These concepts have their relevance to the concepts of involuntary resettlement particularly when we argue for distributive justice, land for land and evaluation of pre and post development projects conditions under involuntary resettlement (Bala, 2006). Rawl's theory argued that development projects such as mineral mining which displace whole communities can be utilitarian nightmares. According to him involuntary resettlement is more than a question of sheer number, but rather a human right issue involving accountability, governance, participation, capacity building, relevant legal and policy framework. In this respect, distributive justice in the light of allocation has remarkable relevance and provides productive ways to safeguard the rights of involuntarily resettled persons ousted by development initiatives (Bala, 2006). According to Bala, 2006, resettled persons with the exception of refugees are legitimate citizens and as such are entitled to the fundamental rights guaranteed to them by their respective country's constitution.

One of the most salient results of Rawl's theory is his conception of injustice as that which creates advantages for some parts of a community rather than benefits all. "Injustice," he argues, "is simply inequalities that are not to the benefit of all". Rawl's general conception recognizes some of the problems encountered by the "oustees" as injustices. An unsuccessful resettlement scheme cannot only fail to benefit displaced persons and family, but also, as the literature shows, can impoverish those affected (Rawls, 1971). In Rawlsian terms, it can create new inequalities by depriving people not only of income and wealth but also of social goods in two other categories: liberty and opportunity, and social bases of respect. Then, the first contribution of the Rawlsian general conception of justice is to synthesize these various impoverishing effects of bad resettlement plans as evidence of injustice. The second contribution is to support and somewhat strengthen standards for best practice in treatment of people displaced by development projects. The ideas of compensation and mitigation come nowhere close to satisfying this conception of justice, which would require that the condition of displaced people be improved not only in terms of income and wealth (conceived broadly to include access to land, to productive resources, and to other subsistence resources such as forests) but also in terms of liberty and opportunity (entailing consultation and self-determination for affected communities and individuals) as well as social bases for respect (including community social organization sufficient for cultural survival) (Rawls, 1971). Displacement and faulty resettlement can impoverish people by removing or degrading the assets or resources which they had formerly relied upon to provide for their own subsistence and income (Oruonye, 2012).

## II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2.1 Description of the Study area

The study area, Maiganga village is located in Akko Local Government Area (LGA) of Gombe state. It is located 8km off Gombe – Yola road. Maiganga village is located west of Kumo town between Latitude 09°18', and 11°59'E (Fig. 1). The study area, Maiganga community covers an area of about 20,129.47 Acres (48.16 Km<sup>2</sup>) (Benjamin *et al*, 2016). The study

area lies within the tropical continental type of climate characterized by well marked wet and dry season. Rainfall ranges between 850 to 1000mm<sup>3</sup> and the rainy season last between 5 to 6 months. Temperature is relatively high for most part of the year. Geologically the study area is developed on basement complex rocks. The vegetation consists of sparse trees, scrubs and open grasses. Some of the tree species in the area include *butyrospermum*, *Mumparadoxum*, *Tamanrindus indica*, *Pakia biglobosa*, *Balanite aegyptiaca*, *Azelia Africana*, *fabia*, *albida*. The population of the study area consists of ethnic groups such as Jukun, Fulani and Tangale the dominant group among others. The population of Maiganga village based on the 2006 population census is about 3,520 people. The economic activity of the study area is farming which includes the cultivation of different crops such as maize, millet, guinea corn, groundnut, sorghum and groundnut

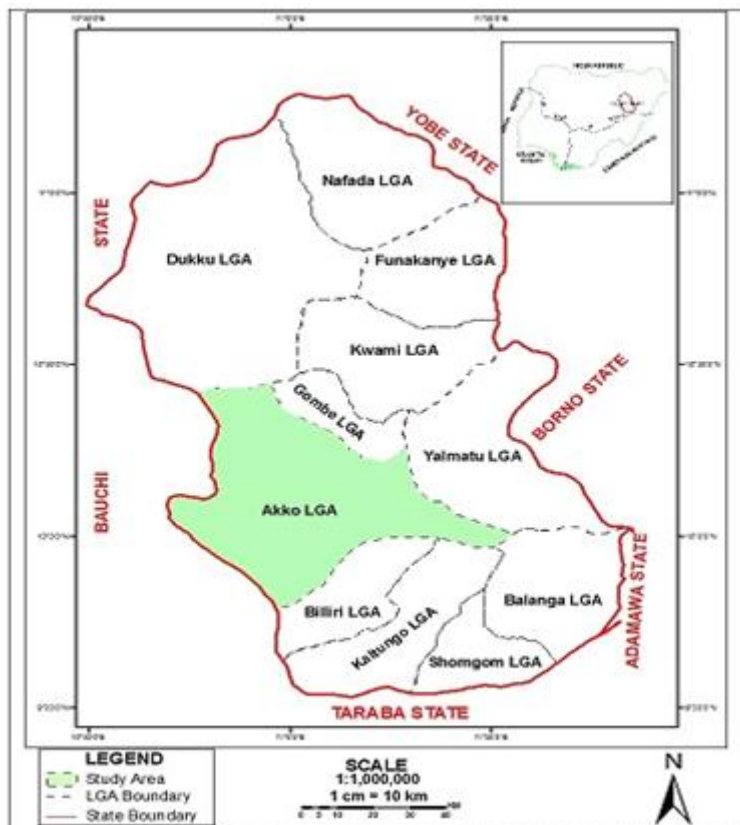
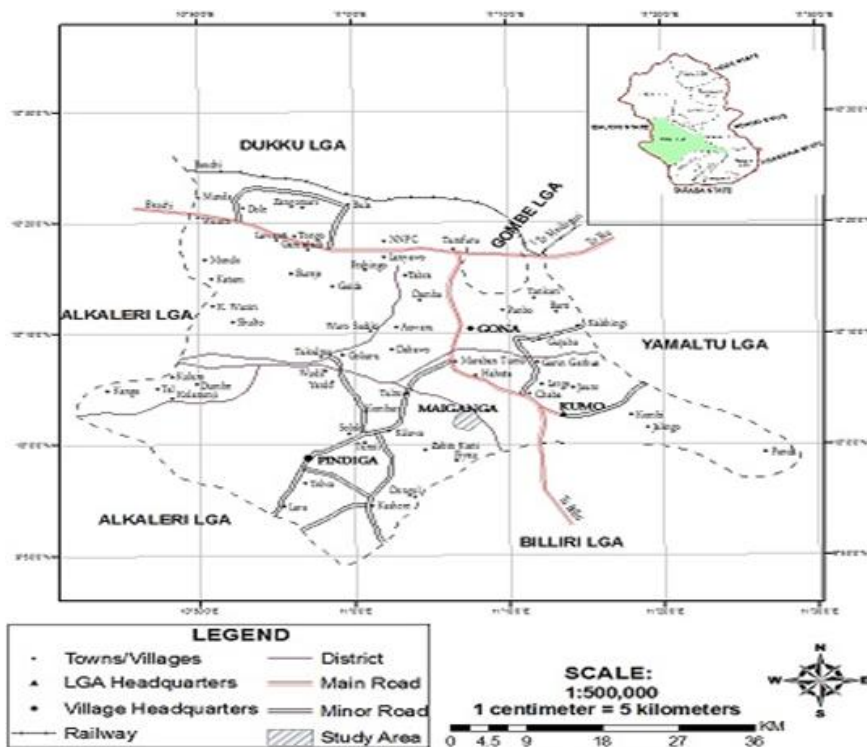


FIGURE 1: GOMBE STATE MAP SHOWING STUDY AREA



PLATE 1. ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMER AND MATERNITY CLINIC BUILT BY ASHAKA CEMENT COMPANY



**FIGURE 2: MAP OF AKKO SHOWING MAIGANGA**



**PLATE 2A. RESETTLEMENT HOUSES**



**PLATE 2B. BLOCK OF CLASSROOM**



**PLATE 3A. OVERHEAD TANK**



**PLATE 3B. HOUSES AT THE RESETTLEMENT SITE**

## 2.2 Sources and Methods of Data Collection

The researcher used information from both secondary and primary sources to assess the effects of the resettlement programme on the livelihoods of the people in Maiganga community. The secondary sources provided the theoretical and conceptual arguments of the socio-economic impact of resettlement programmes on livelihoods of people. These were collected through desk study of published and unpublished materials relevant for the study. The primary data were collected from field surveys using semi-structured questionnaires, interview guides (which help in recording responses from key informants) and field observation. The type of questionnaire used for collecting the required data was a combination of the close-end and open-ended type for collecting both qualitative and quantitative data. The fieldwork was initially carried out in 2013 and again in 2016 during which some of the information were updated.

## 2.3 Data Analysis and Presentation

Quantitative and qualitative data were gathered from the communities (resettlement affected households) through interviews using semi-structured questionnaires. The quantitative data were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), version 10 and expressed in forms of arithmetic mean, frequency and percentage. The qualitative data were analyzed using the content and interpretive approaches.

### III. RESULT OF THE FINDINGS

#### 3.1 Demographic characteristics of respondents

The demographic data shows that 80% of the respondents are male and 20% are female as shown in Table 1 below. The demographic data also shows that 16% of the respondents are within the ages of 15 - 25 years, 38% are between 26-35years, 30% between 36 - 45 years and 16% are above 46years. The result also shows that 33% of the respondents are farmers, 4% are civil servant, while 8% are housewife.

**TABLE 1**  
**DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS**

<b>GENDER</b>		
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	72	96
Female	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>AGE</b>		
15 - 25yrs	11	14.7
26 – 35yrs	18	24.0
36 – 45yrs	22	29.3
46yrs and above	24	32.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Occupation</b>		
Farming	45	60.0
Civil Servant	11	14.7
Student	16	21.3
Housewife	3	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Level of Education</b>		
Primary Education	35	46.7
Secondary Education	20	26.7
Tertiary Education	2	2.6
No Formal Education	18	24.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>

The study finding shows that 976 people (including men, women and children) were displaced and resettled by the Management of Maiganga coal mining company. The distribution of the affected people and communities are presented in Table 2.

**TABLE 2**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF DISPLACED COMMUNITIES AND POPULATION IN THE STUDY AREA**

S/No	Displaced Communities	Population
1	Maiganga	532
2	Kargawal	237
3	Lakandangari	207
4	<b>Total</b>	<b>976</b>

Source: Fieldwork 2016.

### 3.2 The economic effects of resettlement on the people

The people in the study area (Maiganga) primarily depend on agriculture as their major sources of livelihood. Large farms were owned and cultivated by individuals in the community. It was on these farmlands around their communities that coal was explored and currently under mining activity. The lands were taken over by the government and the people were paid compensation.

### 3.3 Inadequate compensation

The distribution of the amount paid as compensation to the local communities is presented in Table 3. The Table shows that all the household heads were compensated for the land lost to mining in the area. However satisfaction with the compensation is not positive. All the respondents complained or claimed that the compensation is too small. The Table 3 shows that the amount paid as compensation ranges from ten thousand naira (₦10,000) to one hundred and seventy naira (₦170,000). The local communities have decried inadequate compensation by the company. A member of the community claimed that his farmland worth over N7million was taken and only N800, 000 was given to him. The amount of farmlands loss by individuals in the community is presented in Table 4. Government officials claimed that the compensation was calculated based on the sizes of farmlands lost to the mining activity.

**TABLE 3**  
**AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAID TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

S/NO	Compensation amount (₦)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	₦10,000 - ₦40,000	25	33.3
2	₦41,000 - ₦70,000	18	24.0
3	₦71,000 - ₦100,000	15	20.1
4	₦101,000 - ₦130,000	10	13.3
5	₦131,000 - ₦170,000	7	9.3
6	<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Fieldwork 2013

### 3.4 Loss of Farmlands

Table 4 shows that about 75 percent of the local communities' loss between 1 to 10 hectares of their farmlands, while 25 percent loss between 11 to 50 hectares of their farmlands to the mining activities of the company. The largest farm size is those within the ranges of 41 – 50hectares and the smallest farm size of 1-10heactares is where the majority of the households belongs. The local communities claimed that the amount of money paid to them as compensation cannot afford them replacement of the lost land.

**TABLE 4**  
**AMOUNT OF FARMLANDS LOSS BY INDIVIDUAL FRAMERS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

S/NO	Loss of Farmlands (hectares)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	1 -10	56	74.7
2	11 – 20	7	9.3
3	21 – 30	6	8.0
4	31 – 40	4	5.3
5	41 – 50	2	2.7
6	<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Fieldwork 2013

### 3.5 Reduction in Crop yield

The crop yield from the previous farmlands cannot be compared with the crop yield from the present farmlands. On the previous farmlands, a maximum of 1000 bags (Table 5) of farm produce was recorded while on the present farmland, the highest number of bags harvested was in the range of 81 to 100bags (Table 5).

**TABLE 5**  
**CROP YIELD IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES BEFORE THE RESETTLEMENT SCHEME**

S/NO	Crop yield (No. of bags)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	1 – 100	35	46.7
2	101 – 200	6	8.0
3	201 – 300	4	5.4
4	301 – 400	10	13.3
5	401 – 500	2	2.6
6	501 – 600	3	4.0
7	601 – 700	5	6.7
8	Above 700	10	13.3
9	<b>Total</b>	75	100

Source: Fieldwork 2013

**TABLE 6**  
**CROP YIELD IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES AFTER THE RESETTLEMENT SCHEME**

S/NO	Crop yield (No. of bags)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	1 – 20	14	18.6
2	21 – 40	10	13.3
3	41 – 60	23	30.6
4	61 – 80	21	28.0
5	81 – 100	7	9.3
6	<b>Total</b>	75	100

Source: Fieldwork 2013

Table 7 shows the distribution of infrastructures and social amenities before and after the resettlement exercise. Before the resettlement scheme, the native buildings of Maiganga community consist of mud houses with thatch roofs but with the resettlement, this has been replaced with modern houses made of brick walls and zinc roofing sheets. The study finding also shows that the people have no good source of potable water supply. The local people only have one well at the centre of the community but in the new resettlement site, 3 boreholes were drilled with overhead tanks to provide potable water to the people. The local people do not have school or clinic at the old site but at the new resettlement site, a school of 3 blocks of classroom and clinic and skill acquisition centre were built.

**TABLE 7**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES BEFORE AND AFTER THE RESETTLEMENT SCHEME**

S/NO	Infrastructure/Amenities	Before Resettlement	After Resettlement
1	Housing Standard	75 low or mud houses	75 brick wall houses
2	Electricity	Electricity without transformer	Electricity with three transformer
3	School	No School	Primary school of 3 blocks of classrooms
4	Water Supply	One well	4 boreholes
5	Clinic/Maternity	No Clinic/Maternity	3 Primary Health Care /Maternity
6	Access Road	No good access road	Graded access road but not tarred
7	Mosque	No Mosque	One Mosque
8	Church	No Church	One Church
9	Skill Acquisition Centre	None	One Skill Acquisition Centre

Source: Fieldwork 2016

### 3.6 Health Impact

Maiganga community and its environment suffers from the effects of coal dust particles emanating from the quarrying site. The problem causes respiratory disorder as complained by the local people. Specifically, the local people claimed that it cause asthma to their family members. The village head also confirm incidence of death resulting from the asthma.

The findings of the study shows that the local communities claimed that before the company started mining in the area they signed an unwritten agreement (what people called gentleman agreement). The local communities insist that the company promised the following;

- i. To relocate them to a new site.
- ii. To construct an eight-kilometer road linking the village to the main road (Gombe-Yola road).
- iii. Build a good school
- iv. Skills acquisition centre for their women and the youth.
- v. Employ at least 80 per cent of their unskilled workforce from the community,

### 3.7 Community agitation

- i. Members of the community claimed that the learnt from reliable source that the company earmarked over 300billion (Nigerian naira) for their resettlement. That the company built 66 houses instead of 300 houses that were earlier earmarked for the communities.
- ii. Out of the 80% employment of unskilled workers, only 5 members of the local community were employed.

Despite all the effort of Ashaka Cement Company in resettling the local communities, the process falls short of best practices in resettlement scheme. The people affected by resettlement are supposed to be better off in terms of their living conditions, social amenities and livelihood opportunities provided. They are supposed to be involved at every stage of resettlement process as was done in the Kainji resettlement. This short falls in the resettlement process has generated a lot of agitation by local communities in the area. One of such protest led to the closure of Maiganga coal mine for two weeks in 2014. The Management of the company insisted that some of the internal issues that existed between the company and some community members have since been sorted out and that it is normal for such to happen from time to time in any human endeavour. The company management claimed that they have mechanisms in place to resolve issues before they degenerate into crisis and that since inception, the company has never "taken over" any farmland from the farmers. He claimed that the company goes through the government whenever it needs additional reserves. It is the government that assesses and pays compensation to the farmers.

The EIA of any project details the process of consultation and involvement of critical stakeholders particularly those that will be displaced by a project. Therefore, if the Maiganga coal mining EIA was adequately followed by way of implementation and monitoring, the rate of agitation by the local communities would have been very minimal.

Past experience of project execution in the country shows that Nigeria is very good in project plan design but very poor at implementation of those project plans. This has been attributed to unqualified personnel, corruption and inadequate funding of project. To achieve sustainability in the area, there is need to maintain continuous dialogue with the local communities on the best way out that will achieve a win-win scenario for both the mining company and local communities.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Resettlement is always associated with challenges either from the affected or the body responsible for the resettlement. This study has examined the socio-economic impact of Maiganga resettlement scheme in Akko Local Government Area of Gombe State Nigeria. Despite the provision of some basic amenities in the new resettlement site, the local people insist that the resettlement exercise has deprived them of their farmlands, resulting in low agricultural productivity and income in the area. Although the local communities were paid compensation for their farm lands that were taken over, the people believed that the compensation was grossly inadequate and has impoverished them. The local communities have protested a number of times out of dissatisfaction with the resettlement exercise and claimed that the company reneged on most of the issues contained in their unwritten gentleman agreement with the company.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are suggested;

- i. There is need for the management of the company to sustained dialogue with the local communities and put in place an effective mechanism for conflict resolution between the local communities and the management of the company.
- ii. The Management of the company should revisit the issues in the so-called unwritten agreement with a view to meeting some of them.
- iii. The school and clinic built by the company has not been functional as a result of lack of teachers and health workers. The State Government can do well by posting teachers and health workers to man the school and clinic, thereby making them functional.

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