



# **Social Change Experienced by Displaced Communities Due To Mining Projects' Impacts on Livelihoods**

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## Introduction

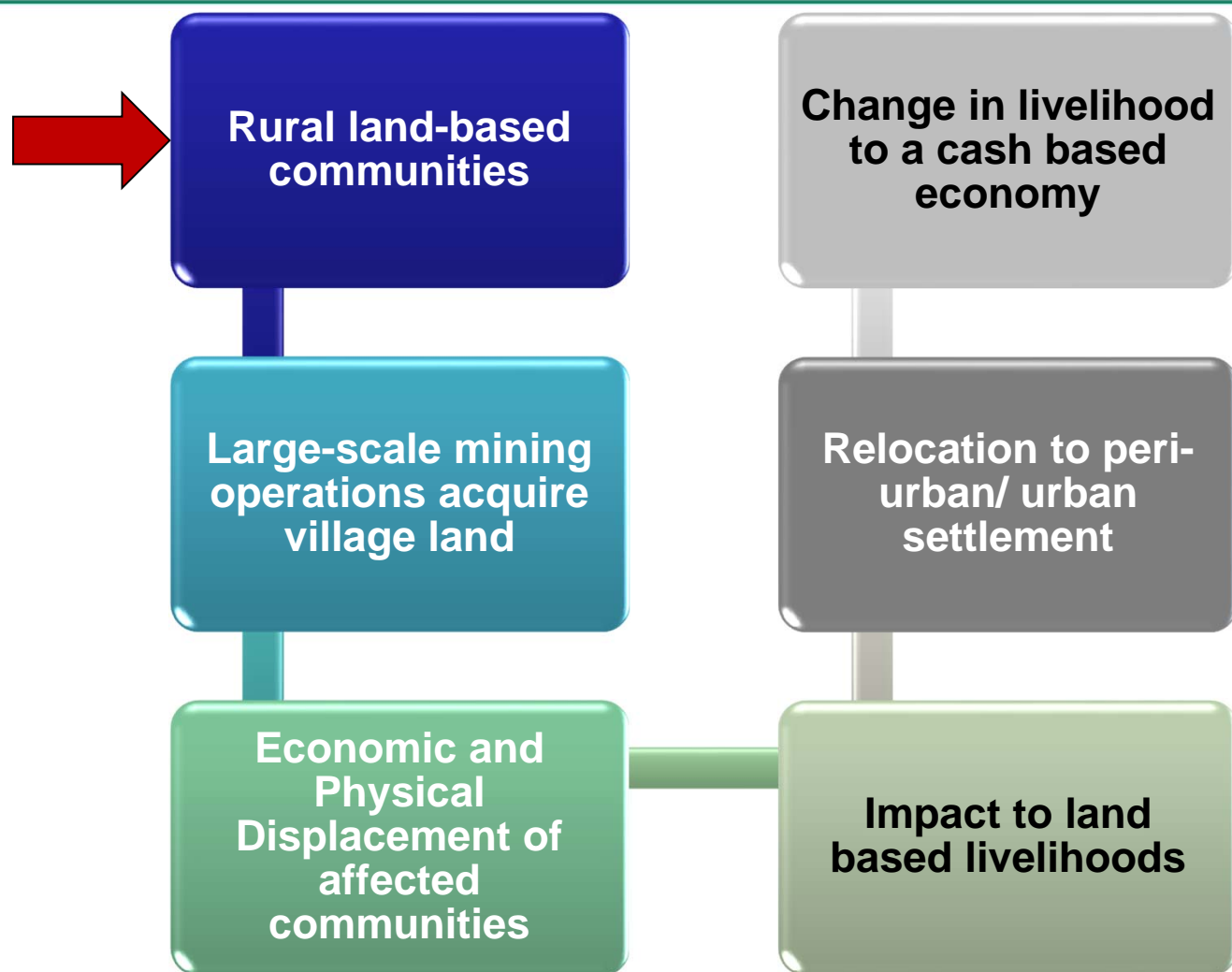
- Defining Social Change:
  - *“Social change refers to any significant alteration over time in behaviour patterns and cultural values and norms”* – Encyclopedia Britannica
  - *“Social change is the transformation of culture and social institutions over time”* – Education Portal
  - *“Social change is any alteration in the cultural, structural, population, or ecological characteristics of a social system”* – About Sociology.com
  - *“Social impacts which are not merely change, but a physical or cognitive experience of a changed situation”* - Bekker and Vanclay, International Handbook of SIA







## Social Change Process





## Methodology used for case studies

- Two case studies in different regions of Ghana
- Qualitative methods were used to gain insight into understanding human behaviour and the reasons which govern that behaviour.
- Qualitative tools:
  - Participant observations
  - Focus Group Discussions
  - Key Informant interviews
- Maintain confidentiality







## Project A: Pre-resettlement Example



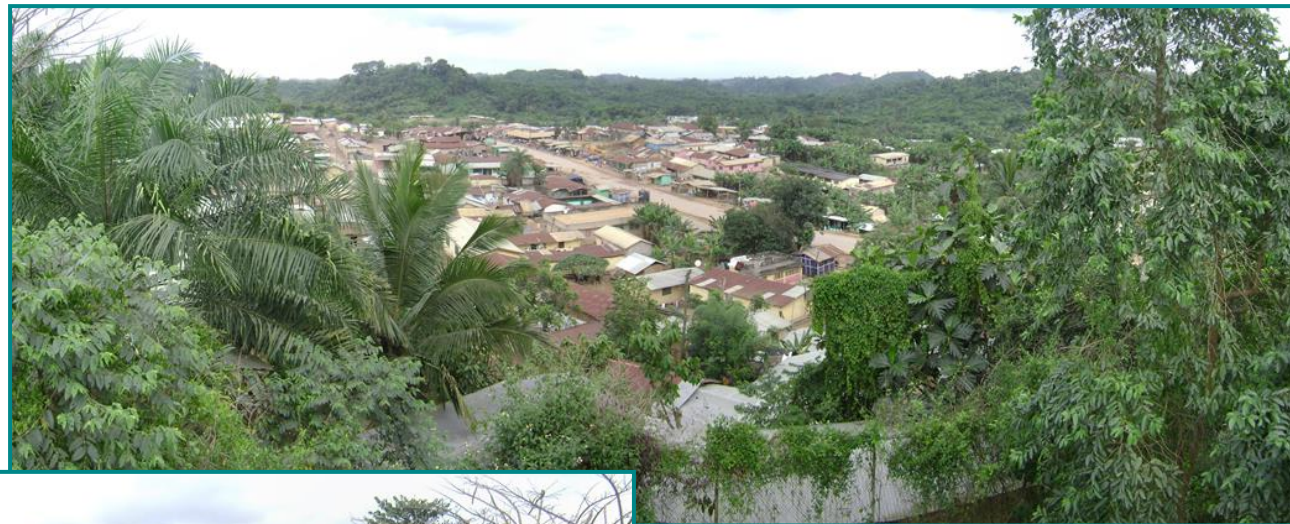
- Historical mining pit earmarked for future mining and the village next to it zoned for resettlement.
- Peri-urban settlement surrounded by agricultural fields
- Access to main road
- Implementation of alternative skills training prior to resettlement
- Chosen host site was in an area similar to the current environment with access to main road and the village structure remained in tact





## Project A: Pre-Resettlement Environment

- Large village but isolated from other villages in the area
- Rural homesteads which allowed for subsistence crops close to the homesteads



- Road access allowed for trade with nearby villages
- Lack of adequate transport system stunted economic growth
- Villagers remain subsistence farmers





## Existing Land Based Livelihood Systems



**Subsistence crops around homesteads and away in the fields**



**Fish ponds**



**Livestock breeding**





## Project B: Post-resettlement Example

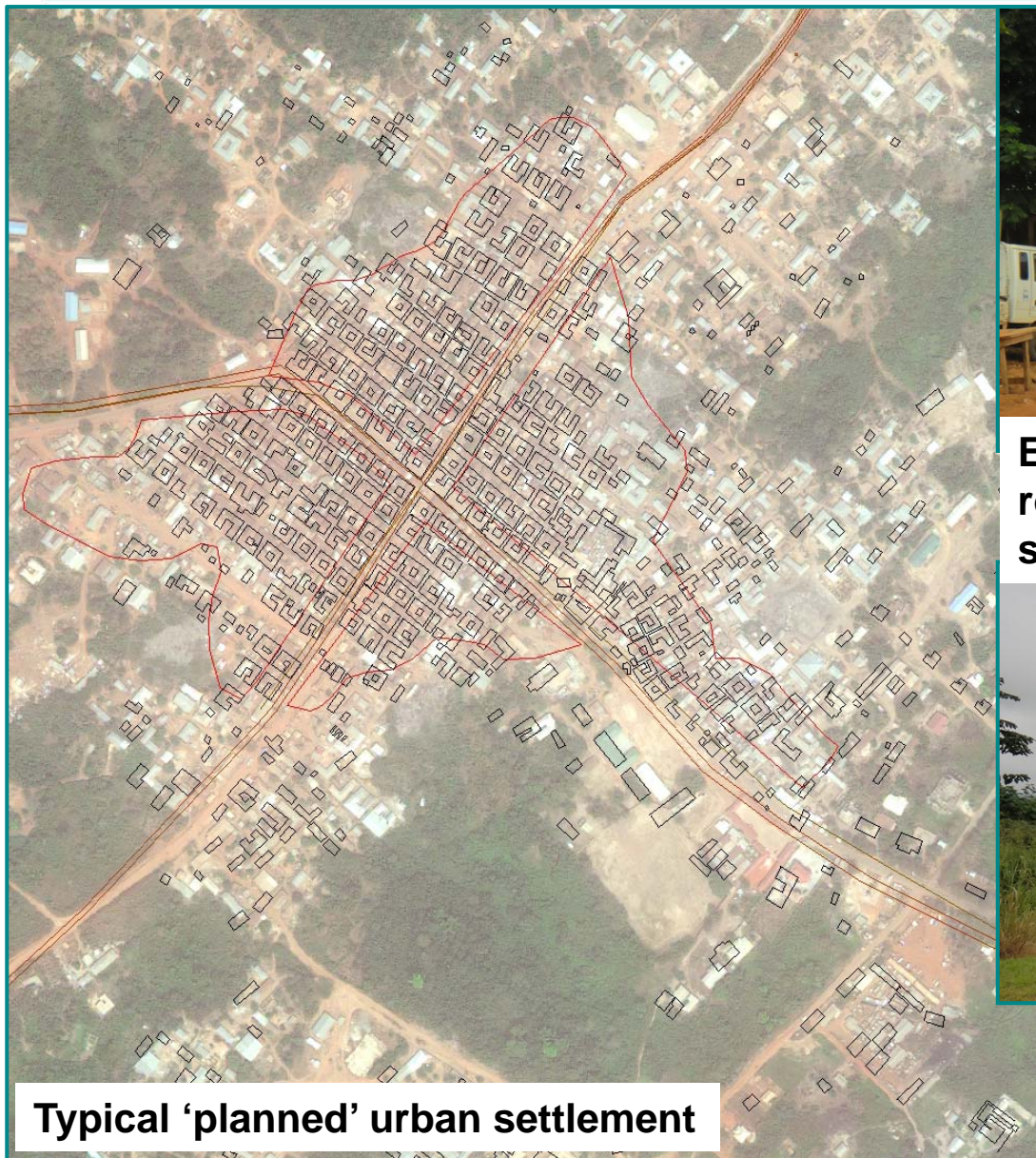
- Five urban settlements surrounding the mining operations.
- Land acquisition displaced rural villagers and were relocated into existing urban settlements
- Implementation of livelihood restoration programs with a focus on agriculture
- Eight years post resettlement, the urban settlements had evolved into bustling towns with an inter-connected trade route and markets
- Due to population concentrations in urban settings, agriculture fields are over 10km away from the town
- Resettled communities were given the option to continue farming and were allocated land outside of the town







## Project B: Host Site Environment



**Typical 'planned' urban settlement**



**Examples of the town along the main road and on the outskirts of the urban settlement**







## Existing Cash Based Livelihood Systems



Excess crops harvested are sold at local market



Hairdresser/Salon



Shop (produce bought from larger town)





## Existing Artisanal Mining (cash based income)

- Galamsey or artisanal mining is considered illegal but still provides employment and cash income
- Health and safety risks
- Use of child labour
- Migrant miners settle in village for seasonal periods







## Mitigation Strategies

- Aim to minimise the impact of change experienced by communities with land-based livelihoods to cash-based income generating activities.
- Project A implemented alternative livelihood programmes through skills development prior to relocation
- Project B implemented livelihood restoration and community development projects







## Project A Mitigation Strategies

### ■ Alternative skills training







# Palm Oil Processing Business

Crush fruit through pressing machine to separate the nut/seed



Boil kernels to release oil



Strain excess roughage to get cleaner oil



Harvest palm fruit from palm tree







## Project B: Mitigation Strategies

- Implemented programs to address:
  - Access to farm land
  - Skills development and income improvement
  - Agribusiness growth
  - Community development
- These programmes generally have been successful and beneficial to the communities in the project area but the resettled community still have the perception that they are “poorer” than the rest or the town residents
- Resettled farmers report that access to land has been affected as farmers have to travel further to their replacement land, and the price of labour has increased due to the distances that need to be travelled.
- The mine also enhanced the capacity of local infrastructure in the host communities to absorb the increased demand, which appears to have been successful in mitigating impacts on host communities.



## Project B: Mitigation Strategies

- Why is there this negative perception?
  - Resettlement impacts livelihoods and restoration projects seem successful
  - Different knowledge base means common strategies to offset loss of land-based livelihoods may not be suitable
- Other contributing factors:
  - Overall economic downturn as other respondents who were not resettled also indicated increased financial hardship.
  - General feedback from the focus group discussions that the increased cost of living in major towns compounded the economic challenges households faced.







## Conclusion

- Communities feel the impact of the presence of the mine in the effect it has on their ability to meet daily needs.
- Village communities experience pressure that their land-based subsistence livelihoods do not meet high cash income of urban communities
- Developing appropriate mitigation strategies to address knowledge gaps
- Mitigation measures to assist communities to improve their income generating activities were successful.
- Sustainability of these restoration projects rests on the interest and commitment of the affected communities.







# Thank you

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