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**Unpacking Land Expropriation of the Jiji-Mulembwe
Hydroelectric Power Project in Burundi
An Analysis of Its Impacts on Livelihoods**

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Disclaimer:

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List of Acronyms

IDA	International Development Association
UNGPs	United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
MW	Megawatts
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

Abstract

Located in Burundi, the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project signifies a substantial initiative to cater to the nation's growing energy demands. However, this ambitious project has entailed expropriating land, which poses significant consequences that sabotage the sustenance of the communities inhabiting the region designated for the project. The issue of land expropriation to implement mega infrastructure projects has generated widespread discussion globally. Although such projects might offer massive economic growth, enhanced energy accessibility, and improved infrastructure, they often adversely impact local communities that depend on the land for their sustenance and cultural identity. Thus, it is necessary to comprehensively assess the consequences of land expropriation for the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project on the livelihood strategies, economic activities, social networks, and cultural practices of the communities. The considerable adverse consequences among the indigenous populations emphasise the pressing necessity for implementing comprehensive mitigation strategies and inclusive development approaches to tackle the underlying effects effectively and ensure the people affected by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project receive just compensation.

The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project in Burundi requires substantial land expropriation to establish mega infrastructure. Tura (2018) alleged that a comprehensive understanding of the precise effects of land expropriation on livelihoods is of tremendous significance in fostering equitable and balanced development and addressing potential adverse outcomes (p.248). The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project entails a strategic decision to effectively meet the increasing electricity requirements of Burundi and facilitate economic advancement. However, the implementation and functioning of this project require land procurement. This process may trigger problems in the lives and economic activities of the communities residing in the affected regions. In the context of this research, the key research question addressed in this study is: "What are the distinctive effects of the land expropriation procedure related to the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project on the local populations in Burundi, and what are specific socioeconomic and cultural factors that contribute to these special impacts?"

Keywords

Land expropriation, the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project, affected communities, and livelihoods.

Chapter 1

Unpacking Land Expropriation of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project in Burundi

1.1 Nature of the Problem

The issue surrounding the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project in Burundi centres on land expropriation and its impact on local communities and people's ability to make a living. Cao and Zhang (2018) asserted that the land expropriation issue raises questions regarding the fundamental principles of land rights and the extent of governmental involvement in such matters (p.167). The motivation behind this research topic originates from acknowledging the possible wide-ranging effects of large infrastructural projects on nearby communities and the pressing necessity to comprehend, evaluate, and mitigate these consequences. Besides, investigating this topic arises from scholarly and practical motivations. Academically, this research explores the complicated relationship between infrastructure development, land expropriation, and livelihood dynamics. Infrastructure development is necessary, but land expropriation must be done correctly to minimise adverse effects and ensure equal benefits for affected populations (Xu 2018, p.778). Fair compensation for landowners and affected communities is essential. Compensation should include the market value of the land and any losses, such as livelihoods and cultural links. Thus, the primary objective of this research is to address the existing gaps in the current body of literature, such as how to conduct effective compensation during land expropriation and make a valuable contribution to the academic discussion around development-induced displacement and its associated consequences.

From a practical perspective, the key characteristics that make this research topic captivating include humanitarian concerns, sustainable development, and community resilience. The involuntary displacement of communities from large-scale development projects raises significant humanitarian and ethical considerations (Bontempi, Del Bene, and Di Felice 2021, p.7). Understanding the comprehensive range of consequences is vital to advocate for the rights and welfare of persons who have been affected. Likewise, the fundamental difficulty involves balancing the need for infrastructural development and the necessity to preserve local livelihoods and cultural heritage. This study also aims to offer valuable perspectives on attaining sustainable development goals while minimising the adverse impact on marginalised populations. It examines the effectiveness of current policies and governance structures related to compensation, resettlement, and community engagement. Therefore, humanitarian concerns, sustainable development, and community resilience make this research topic intriguing.



Figure 1: Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Site Before Construction of the Dam (Andritz, 2023).

1.1 Theoretical Framework

This research uses the conflicts of valuation languages and land grabbing as its theoretical frameworks to examine how the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project affects neighbouring residents. A theoretical framework serves as a conceptual framework that facilitates comprehension of the study problem and directs the formulation of research inquiries, methodologies, and analyses (Varpio et al., 2019, p.989). This research utilises these theoretical frameworks to examine the various aspects of the challenge and comprehend its complexity. At a practical level, the research involves fieldwork in Bururi Province, including qualitative interviews and surveys to collect primary data from populations impacted by the issue under investigation. Consequently, this research thoroughly examines the effects of land expropriation on livelihoods by integrating theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence to identify solutions that reduce adverse consequences and foster favourable results.



Figure 2: Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Site During Construction of the Dam

(Jiji and Mulembwe Hydroelectric Project, 2023).

Language assumes a substantial role in land expropriation. It is a multifunctional instrument for communication, negotiation, and manipulation within land acquisition (Verma, 2014, p.68). It can serve as a means to disseminate propaganda and misinformation, facilitating the justification of land expropriation efforts. Individuals who aspire to obtain land may utilize persuasive language and deceptive narratives to secure support from the public or government for their actions. They can present land acquisition as a development opportunity or depict local communities as obstacles to progress. Likewise, language is essential for communities and activists combating land expropriation (Kus et al., 2023, p.300). Communities and activists utilise language to organise, increase awareness, and garner support for their causes. As a result, the conflicts of valuation languages will highlight how language played a vital role in the construction of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

1.2.1 Land Grabbing

Land grabbing highlights the power disparities that exist within land acquisition procedures. The contemporary form of land grabbing involves the involvement of international multinational corporations and governments in procuring land within developing nations for a diverse range of purposes, including mining activities, extensive infrastructure development projects, oil exploration endeavours, and the establishment of large-scale irrigation systems (Kariuki and Ng'etich, 2016, p.80). Land grabbing is characterised by the extensive displacement of disadvantaged people residing in rural regions, lacking adequate compensation, and the consequent degradation of ecological systems to facilitate the establishment of industrial and agricultural projects (Borras and Franco, 2011, p.50). Within the framework of the Jiji-Mulembwe project, this research project will employ the land-grabbing theoretical framework to analyse the project in which prominent actors, both domestic and international, have successfully acquired the land for the hydroelectric power facility, thereby adversely affecting the interests of residents. Consequently, this approach will highlight displacement, dispossession, and unequal benefit distribution, highlighting social inequities that arise from such undertakings.

Land grabbing highlights power disparities in land acquisition, especially in developing nations. International firms and governments from wealthy countries use these disparities to purchase massive amounts of land in developing nations for mining, infrastructure, oil exploration, and large-scale irrigation. Borras and Franco (2011) allege that land grabbing carries significant consequences for the indigenous inhabitants living in rural regions (p.35). Socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals frequently experience involuntary displacement from their ancestral homelands, resulting in the disruption of their residences and social networks. These people often do not receive compensation, do not have legal protection, or a way to voice their complaints, making them vulnerable and marginalised. Land grabbing also degrades fragile natural systems and displaces people. Consequently, this degradation affects biodiversity, ecosystem health, and the immediate environment.

The utilisation of the land-grabbing theoretical framework plays a pivotal role as an indispensable analytical tool inside the distinct framework of the Jiji-Mulembwe project. The land-grabbing theoretical framework will enable this research project to analyse the complex relationships of power and exploitation, clarifying the collaborative efforts of prominent local and international actors in acquiring land for projects such as the Jiji-Mulembwe project. The consequences of such activities are significant and diverse. According to Borras and Franco (2011), displacement, a prominent characteristic of land grabbing, causes the

disruption of social cohesion within communities, resulting in the fragmentation of established networks and the deprivation of individuals from previously available support systems (p.35). Dispossession worsens this issue since communities lose their homes, cultural history, and land-based identity. Consequently, uneven benefit distribution perpetuates poverty and inequality by preventing economic gains from these initiatives from reaching displaced populations.

This research study utilises the land-grabbing theoretical framework to facilitate an exhaustive understanding of the social inequalities that emerge from the Jiji-Mulembwe project. Borras and Franco suppose that the land-grabbing theoretical framework offers a perspective for critically analysing the complex interplay of power dynamics, economic motivations, and infringements on human rights (p.55). This analysis provides vital insights into the operational mechanisms of land grabbing, which policymakers, activists, and scholars can utilise to argue for land acquisition policies and practises that are both equitable and sustainable. Therefore, examining and resolving the underlying factors contributing to land grabbing is essential to promote equitable distribution of resources, safeguard marginalised populations, and uphold the ecological balance in the context of accelerated industrialization and globalisation.

1.2.2 Conflicts of Valuation Languages

Environmental disputes exist worldwide. Local disputes often arise when communities protest initiatives limiting their access to natural resources, eliminating their resource base, and posing health and community life threats. Avcı, Adaman, and Özkaynak (2010) suppose that these conflicts are characterised by diverse valuation languages used by actors to argue for or against resource use, including economic benefits, local development, territorial rights, environmental and social justice, livelihood, and ecological integrity (p.228). Consequently, in the Jiji-Mulembwe project, the conflicts of valuation languages perspective will help examine how local populations, the government, investors, and environmentalists perceive the land's ecological value and economic potential. These conflicts in valuation can give rise to disagreements and, in certain instances, intensify tensions among the relevant parties (Avcı, Adaman, and Özkaynak 2010, p.230). Thus, this perspective will highlight how divergent viewpoints can hinder development efforts like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

Conflicts in valuation languages highlight the complex dynamics behind environmental issues, particularly in projects such as the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. In the context of extensive infrastructure projects, many stakeholders, including local communities, governmental bodies, investors, and environmental advocates, frequently contribute their distinct viewpoints and principles to the dialogue (Moreda, 2015, p.517). The stakeholders may perceive the land's ecological worth and economic potential from diverse perspectives, prioritising different factors such as economic advantages, community growth, land ownership, environmental and social equity, sustenance, and ecological preservation. A clash between different valuation languages can also escalate arguments and tensions among the persons concerned. Therefore, diverse perspectives contribute to a conducive environment for disagreements, consequently limiting the advancement of development endeavours such as the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

This research project will combine these theoretical perspectives to understand better how land expropriation caused by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project affects Burundian's lives. Land grabbing will explain power disparities in the Jiji-Mulembwe project. Powerful parties like governments and multinational investors generally dominate the land acquisition procedures (Lanz, Gerber, and Haller 2018, p.1530). This research will illustrate how stakeholders may use their authority to acquire land for the project, displacing

and dispossessing local communities. Besides, practical policy implications arise from these perspectives. This approach will identify policy interventions needed for minimising the adverse effects of land expropriation while maximising its benefits. Therefore, this research project will analyse the impact of land expropriation on the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project using theoretical perspectives of land grabbing and conflicts of valuation languages.

1.2 Justification and relevance of this research

Conducting research on this topic holds substantial importance within the wider academic sphere. It contributes to various critical discussions and considerations about the importance of compensation to the affected locals during land expropriation for large infrastructural projects. This research on the effects of land expropriation on individuals explores the complex relationship among social, economic, and environmental elements, providing insights into significant matters relevant across various disciplines and current global challenges. According to Li et al. (2021), land expropriation elicits conflicting opinions, as proponents contend it is essential for collective welfare (p.4). However, Borras and Franco (2011) assert that land expropriation infringes upon the rights associated with land ownership (p.50). Researching this topic contributes to discussions on sustainable development by highlighting the fundamental compromises and relationships between the expansion of energy infrastructure and the welfare of communities impacted by infrastructural developments like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. Hence, researching this topic is essential academically and adds to many meaningful conversations and considerations.

The analysis presented in this research aligns with the discussion surrounding environmental justice and social equity, as it acknowledges the tendency for land expropriation to impact vulnerable groups disproportionately. Environmental justice and social equity are of tremendous significance as they relate to the equitable allocation of ecological advantages and disadvantages among various communities, particularly those that are disadvantaged or susceptible (Hendricks and Van Zandt 2021, p. 87). Investigating the correlation between land expropriation and environmental justice and social equity within the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project framework enhances the comprehensiveness of this research project and enriches the broader scholarly discussion. The research results have the potential to provide valuable insights for the development of policy recommendations aimed at advancing environmental justice and fostering social equity. Therefore, contextualising this study within the environmental justice and social equity framework will contribute to a more significant comprehension of how development initiatives can perpetuate or challenge existing inequalities.

Integrating comparative analysis of other major infrastructural projects and gathering policy insights in this research will significantly enhance this study's practical significance and applicability. Greckhamer et al. (2018) suppose that comparative analysis involves the examination of similar situations or initiatives within distinct contexts to establish significant similarities, identify trends, and collect essential insights (p.482). This research will be able to position its findings in a broader framework and provide practical policy suggestions that go beyond its boundaries by adopting this method. This research will identify prevalent trends, challenges, and outcomes by comparing the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project with similar endeavours undertaken in other areas or countries. A comprehensive analysis will also enable a complete understanding of how diverse elements, including governance systems, legal frameworks, and community dynamics, contribute to different results. Therefore,

comparative analysis and policy insights will boost this study's practical relevance and usefulness.

1.3 Background to the Proposed Study

The Jiji and Mulembwe Hydropower Plants Development Project's primary objective was to enhance Burundi's electric power-producing capacity. The existing electric power supply in Burundi is significantly limited, with an approximate effective supply capacity of 35MW ((World Bank 2013, p.66). The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project is a notable example that interconnects multiple spheres of infrastructure advancement, land expropriation, and socioeconomic consequences. Burundi is a landlocked nation situated in the central region of East Africa, sharing borders with Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east and south, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west (Tushabe, Callixte and Mahina 2023, p.195). The Jiji-Mulembwe project is strategically located in the hilly topography of Burundi to harness the hydroelectric capacity of the Jiji and Mulembwe rivers, thereby mitigating the country's energy shortage. Its construction resulted in the displacement of many individuals, predominantly those engaged in agricultural and pastoral activities. The demographic most impacted by this project consisted primarily of economically disadvantaged people who relied on subsistence agriculture as their primary sustenance. Hence, the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project integrates infrastructure development, land expropriation, and socioeconomic impacts.

The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project's land expropriation issue is complex. As Liu and Xu (2018) explained, land expropriation for infrastructure projects is highly debated globally, frequently entailing extensive discussions among governmental entities, developers, and indigenous communities (p.4). The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project is widely regarded as a crucial development initiative that will address Burundi's pressing need for power. However, the expropriation of land emerged as a significant concern for the individuals impacted by this project, as they expressed concerns regarding potential displacement from their residences and the subsequent loss of their means of sustenance. The communities affected by the event were predominantly subsistence farmers who greatly depended on the fertile soil near the Jiji and Mulembwe rivers for sustenance. Thus, the land expropriation issue related to the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project is multifaceted.

The problem is the potential adverse consequences on the well-being of the individuals affected by the land expropriation for the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. Batungwanayo et al. (2023) suppose that the socioeconomic situation in Burundi is defined by a significant poverty rate and restricted availability of essential services (p.1). The communities impacted by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project consisted predominantly of subsistence farmers. Besides, land expropriation destabilises established cultural practices and aggravates pre-existing socioeconomic disparities at the local level. However, the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project manifests Burundi's commitment to achieving energy security and its ambitions for fostering economic growth at the national level. The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project also adds to the international conversation about sustainable development by highlighting the tension between meeting rising energy demands and protecting vulnerable communities and ecosystems. Thus, the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project emphasises the importance of inclusive decision-making and sustainable development in designing similar programs in Burundi and globally.

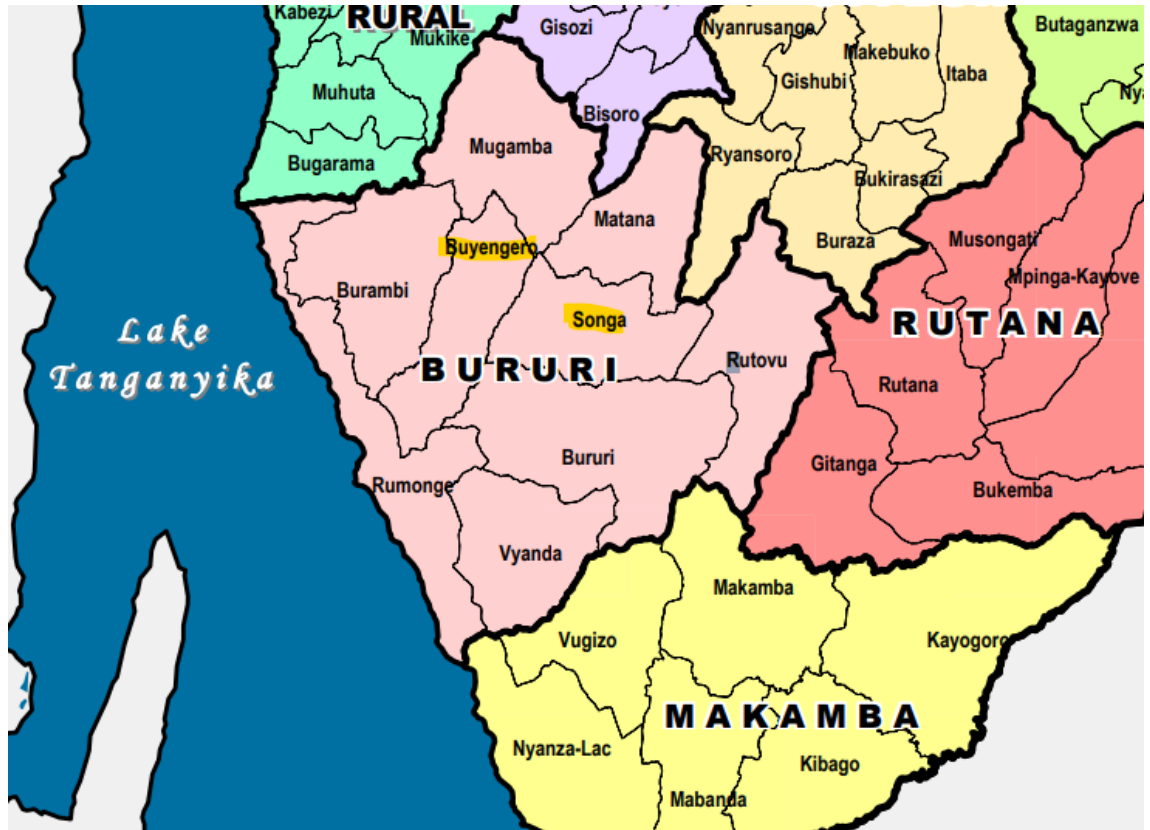


Figure 3: An Inset Map of some of the Affected Communes (Buyengeru and Songa) (OCHA, 2004).

1.4 Research objectives and questions

The research objectives for this study include:

- a. This research investigates the effects of land expropriation on the standard of living in the Jiji-Mulembwe project region.
- b. This study aims to investigate the opinions of those affected by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

The research objectives serve as a framework for collecting, analysing, and interpreting data. Therefore, by adhering to these objectives, the research aims to obtain a thorough understanding of the effects of land expropriation on livelihoods within the specific context of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

Research questions serve as the foundational element in initiating a well-conducted research project. They are a guiding framework to determine a study's direction and highlight and concentrate on areas where further research is necessary (Bans-Akutey and Tiimub 2021, p.1). In the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project context, the key research question is:

What are the distinctive effects of the land expropriation procedure related to the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project on the local populations in Burundi, and what are specific socioeconomic and cultural factors that contribute to these notable impacts?

Sub-questions serve as supplementary inquiries interconnected with a principal or primary research topic, enabling the systematic deconstruction and in-depth examination of one particular aspect of the fundamental subject. According to Wisse and Roeland (2022), sub-questions within a research study clarify the primary research question and offer a more focused and particular direction for the research project (p.26). In the context of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project research, the sub-questions include:

- a. What are the legal and regulatory structures that govern land expropriation in Burundi?
- b. What are the various impacts of land expropriation on communities' livelihoods within the project area?

The sub-questions will aid in identifying the primary elements that have affected the process of land expropriation. Thus, by comprehending these crucial elements, this research will possess enhanced capabilities to formulate recommendations for improving the land expropriation procedure in Burundi.

1.5 Methodology and Methods

This study utilises a qualitative approach to gain a deeper understanding of the effects of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project on the socioeconomic well-being of local populations residing in Burundi. Ngozwana (2018) supposed that qualitative research enables researchers to inquire into events that are not quantifiable, facilitating an in-depth understanding of the human experience (p.20). In the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project context, qualitative research is particularly suitable for investigating complex social phenomena and acquiring comprehensive insights into the daily experiences and viewpoints of persons and communities impacted by the project. The qualitative research design allows the research process to tailor to the study's specific socio-cultural and environmental factors. Thus, the research design utilised in this study adopts a qualitative approach to thoroughly investigate the effects of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project on the livelihoods of individuals in Burundi.

1.5.1 Data Collection

This research adopts data collection techniques such as open-ended interviews, surveys based on stratified sampling, and focus group on households in affected communes: Songa and Buyengero.

Open-ended interviews

Open-ended interviews exemplify a qualitative method of data collecting that enables researchers to acquire comprehensive and in-depth information directly from participants. My fundamental objective was to comprehend participants' perspectives better, facilitating a full investigation of their experiences related to the research subject matter (DeJonckheere and Vaughn 2019, p.1). In contrast to structured interviews that employ prepared questions, open-ended interviews enabled my participants to express their thoughts, emotions, experiences, and viewpoints in their own words. Equally, the open-ended interviews used in this research offered flexibility. Using open-ended interviews in this research facilitated the comprehensive acquisition of detailed information, emotional responses, and contextual factors that may not be adequately captured through more rigid and structured methodologies. Therefore, open-ended interviews were a highly effective method for collecting primary data on the impact of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project on the livelihoods of residents in the affected regions, Songa and Buyengero.

The utilisation of open-ended interviews has significant importance within this research endeavour, as it seeks to examine the impact of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project on the socioeconomic well-being of individuals residing in Songa and Buyengero. Open-ended interviews allow participants to contribute significant insights regarding a particular topic (DeJonckheere and Vaughn 2019, p.1). During open-ended interviews, participants can express their thoughts, emotions, and viewpoints that align with their preferences. Utilising a qualitative methodology resulted in the acquisition of extensive and detailed data that contributed to a more profound comprehension of the complex and diverse effects of the hydroelectric power project on individuals' means of subsistence. This research project also probed the unique settings, complexity, and local dynamics that influence the project's effects on various ways of life through open-ended conversations. Thus, this research project sought to understand how the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project has affected people's daily lives in Songa and Buyengero through in-depth, open-ended interviews.

Conducting open-ended interviews for this research project took careful planning and consideration of many elements. Starting with a precise research topic or objective was crucial for successful open-ended interviewing (DeJonckheere and Vaughn 2019, p.5). The primary aim of this research endeavour was to thoroughly investigate the many experiences, thoughts, feelings, and perspectives of persons the hydroelectric power project has affected. This research project aimed to carefully choose a diverse group of participants, including residents, community leaders, project workers, and specialists, to guarantee the inclusion of various and representative viewpoints. It placed utmost importance on obtaining informed consent from participants and upholding their privacy and confidentiality for the study. It also cultivated a hospitable atmosphere, starting with cordial warm-up questions to establish rapport. Thus, this research project was carefully structured with open-ended interviews to ensure effective data collection.

Selecting a broad and representative sample of participants of 37 household representatives was crucial for ensuring the effectiveness of open-ended interviews. Levitt (2021) supposed that carefully selecting a diverse and inclusive sample of participants is vital to enhance the generalizability of research findings to the broader community (p.100). This approach improved this research project's external validity, leading to more reliable conclusions. Consequently, understanding the effects of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project requires input from many different parties, including locals, community leaders, project personnel, environmental experts, and government officials. Locals provided first-hand accounts, while community leaders offered insights into the collective sentiment. The project workers disclosed operational complexities, while environmental specialists provided insights into the ecological consequences of the project. Government officials also provided insights into policies and their broader implications. Therefore, this research project selected various participants from 37 households to enhance its validity.

This research project utilised a comprehensive semi-structured interview to guide the open-ended interviews. A semi-structured method compromises openness and precision, allowing the discussion to progress while covering all relevant points (Adeoye-Olatunde and Olenik, 2021, p.1360). Key open-ended questions structured the conversation and directed it toward this research project's aims. Initiating a warm-up question that fostered a sense of rapport among participants, promoting a relaxed atmosphere and facilitating open sharing of thoughts and ideas. Active listening was also essential during the interview to capture not just the words stated but also the emotions and specifics, elevating the qualitative data collected. Hence, open-ended interviews will help reveal complex viewpoints and contribute to this research on the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project's impact on Burundian livelihoods, particularly in Songa and Buyengero, with careful preparation.

During the interview process, it was crucial to ensure precise data documentation. Reyes, Bogumil, and Welch (2021) supposed that documenting interview data provides accuracy, transparency, and a dependable record, enabling data analysis and interpretation (p.4). Carefully transcribing information or capturing audio recordings during interviews, with the explicit approval of all participants, safeguards and maintains valuable data. The open-ended interviews this research project utilised ensured that it captured participants' responses, expressions, and contextual cues, enhancing the richness of qualitative data. Likewise, the next step, analysing the data, was vital. The qualitative analysis systematically reviews the collected data (Hennink and Kaiser, 2022, p.4). Coding responses involves systematically categorising data into distinct themes, facilitating identifying patterns and repeating concepts. Hence, by adhering to this systematic methodology, this research endeavoured to enhance its significance and reliability, providing detailed perspectives on the socioeconomic structure of Burundi concerning the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

Focus group discussions

Focus groups demonstrate a qualitative research methodology that entails gathering a limited number of participants to engage in guided conversations about a specific topic or research inquiry. The fundamental objective of focus groups is to gather collective views, opinions, and experiences from members within a group context (Nyumba et al., 2018, p.21). Focus groups facilitated the interaction of diverse participants for 37 households from Songa and Buyengero, enabling the comprehensive capture of a broad spectrum of viewpoints, ideas, and experiences related to the hydroelectric power project. During focus group conversations, participants were critically examined and evaluated to substantiate their perspectives, enhancing the overall validity and reliability of the research findings. The peer validation process with the three research guides also aided in assessing the reliability and precision of the participants' narratives in this research. Hence, including focus groups offered an extensive and comprehensive perspective of the effects of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project on livelihoods in Burundi.

This study used focus groups to facilitate lively conversations between participants and elicit interesting new perspectives and experiences. Nyumba et al. (2018) alleged that focus groups are particularly significant in examining shared experiences, group norms, and collaborative attitudes (p.21). Likewise, the focus group approach aimed to convene persons with shared backgrounds or experiences about the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. The Focus groups offered valuable insights into the dynamics of the affected persons and social interactions with them and outlined problems that might not have been as apparent in a few individual interviews. Thus, through the facilitation of exchange and the promotion of dynamic discussions, the focus group offered valuable insights relating to the social dynamics, shared concerns, and various viewpoints of the individuals in Songa and Buyengero impacted by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

1.6 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations have significant importance in every research project. Researchers can ensure the protection of participants' well-being, rights, and dignity while also upholding the integrity and credibility of their research by adhering to ethical norms (Hasan et al., 2021, p.2). Research participants frequently consist of vulnerable individuals who may be exposed to potential risks due to their involvement in research. Ethical concerns play a crucial role in safeguarding the equitable treatment and respectful handling of research participants while ensuring their rights and well-being. Besides, ethical considerations are essential to guaranteeing rigorous and scientific research. Ensuring the accuracy and reliability of study

findings is of paramount importance. Ethical considerations also play a crucial role in upholding the integrity of the scientific process and fostering public confidence in research endeavours. Thus, this research project adheres to ethical considerations, including informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity, respect for participants, and equity and inclusion.

Informed consent

The informed consent process entails providing research participants with comprehensive information necessary for making an informed choice regarding their research study participation. Manti and Licari (2018) asserted that the implementation of informed consent serves to safeguard the rights of individuals involved in research endeavours by guaranteeing their comprehension of the prospective hazards and advantages associated with their participation, as well as affording them the autonomy to make an independent decision regarding their involvement (p.145). Equally, participants in this study received a clear and exhaustive explanation of the research goal, objectives, procedures, potential risks, rewards, and their role in the survey. This research also provided participants sufficient time to contemplate their involvement and seek clarification by posing questions before granting informed consent. Thus, this research adhered to ethical considerations of conducting research by seeking informed consent from participants.

Confidentiality and anonymity

Confidentiality and anonymity are critical ethical considerations that hold significant importance within research. They are associated with safeguarding the confidentiality and privacy of individuals involved in research (Elkoumy et al., 2021, p.8). Confidentiality denotes the ethical obligation of researchers to maintain privacy and protect the sensitive information gathered from research participants. Anonymity describes the condition in which researchers are unaware of the personal identities of the individuals who participate in a research study. Equally, this study addressed the ethical concern of confidentiality by assuring participants that their personal information, responses, and identities were safeguarded and kept confidential. This study also addressed the ethical consideration of anonymity by guaranteeing the preservation of participants' identities in all forms of reporting and publication. Thus, this research implements the ethical considerations of confidentiality and anonymity.

Respect for participants

One of the core ethical considerations in research is the obligation to demonstrate respect for participants. As per Shaw et al. (2019), researchers can contribute to the responsible and ethical execution of their work by showing respect for research participants (p.280). Likewise, this study treated each participant with respect, empathy, and cultural awareness. This study considered participants' needs, emotions, and limits throughout every research project phase. It also demonstrated recognition and respect for cultural norms, traditions, and beliefs that might impact the viewpoints and willingness of participants to disclose information. It displayed a heightened awareness and consideration for all participants' diverse needs and concerns, irrespective of their racial or ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, or any other individual attributes. Hence, this research respected every participant.

Equity and inclusion

Equity and inclusion are fundamental principles within research. The significance of equity and inclusion in research lies in their ability to foster fairness and inclusivity within the research process (Arsel, Crockett, and Scott 2021, p. 923). This study incorporated principles of fairness by guaranteeing that all participants receive equitable treatment and have an equal chance to contribute, irrespective of variables such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, or background. It also integrated inclusive representation by actively seeking an inclusive

participant pool, covering a range of viewpoints and experiences relevant to the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project and livelihoods in Burundi. Hence, by adhering to these ethical concerns, this research showcased a dedication to engaging in ethical and considerate research that safeguards the rights and welfare of its participants.

Chapter 2 Land Acquisition in Burundi

The Land Code of Burundi acknowledges the existence of state-owned and privately owned land. Pemunta, Ngo, and Cumber (2020) allege that the Land Code 2011 regulates acquiring land in Burundi (p.340). The Land Code acknowledges the existence of two distinct categories of land ownership: governmental land and private land. State land describes a property that lacks ownership, whereas private land relates to land possessed by persons or groups. In Burundi, people can obtain land by various methods, including purchase, inheritance, gift, concession, and compulsory acquisition. The Land Code in Burundi establishes the privileges and responsibilities granted to land proprietors. Landowners own the legal entitlement to utilise, derive pleasure from, and transfer ownership of their land, yet they also bear the responsibility to use their land to promote sustainability. Thus, the Land Code of 2011 governs land acquisition in Burundi.

2.1 Driving Forces Behind Land Expropriation in Burundi

2.1.1 Population Pressure

Burundi experiences a notable problem due to its increasing population density, which leads to conflicts arising from competing land utilisation. In 2010, Burundi had a population of 8.4 million, making it the second most densely-populated nation in Africa, with a population density of 310 individuals per square kilometre (Nzokirishaka and Itua, 2018, p.2). The country's population has increased steadily over the recent years. The increasing population has created competition for scarce resources like arable land and building plots. Population growth accelerates these pressures, increasing the need for government land expropriation for urban development and other critical infrastructure projects. Tensions rise between communities as the need for shelter and farmland increases, frequently leading to evictions and relocation. This struggle for land highlights the delicate balance between satisfying the demands of an expanding population and safeguarding the societal structure. Thus, urban planning, sustainable agriculture, and equitable land allocation are necessary to reduce conflicts and address land expropriation in Burundi.

2.1.2 Political Instability

A significant cause of land expropriation in Burundi has been political instability. Land dynamics in Burundi have been heavily influenced by the country's turbulent political and ethnic past (Pemunta, Ngo and Cumber, 2020, p. 327). Instances of conflict and civil upheaval have frequently led to the involuntary displacement of populations and land expropriation. Historical clashes have intensified ethnic differences, which have resulted in ethnically motivated land grabs and forced population relocations. Political unrest further aggravates the problem, upsetting communities and necessitating relocation and reprioritisation of resources. In periods characterised by political dynamics, governmental actions have frequently resulted in forced land expropriation, causing significant disruptions to the livelihoods of several individuals in Burundi. Therefore, challenges regarding land rights, reconciliation, and sustainable development persist after political instability in Burundi.

2.1.3 Economic Development

Infrastructure projects like highways, dams, and industrial zones in Burundi require much land, often leading to expropriation. In the interest of societal advancement, governmental entities may resort to the compulsory acquisition of land, displacing indigenous communities (Bluwstein et al., 2018, p.820). Such projects are critical for improving the nation's infrastructure and fostering economic expansion. However, this progress has consequences, disrupting established communities and their traditional way of living. Suppose the expropriation process fails to occur responsibly. In that case, it can result in social unrest, forced displacement, and economic difficulties for the affected populations. Achieving an appropriate balance between the pursuit of economic progress and the safeguarding of individuals' rights necessitates careful strategising, the implementation of clear policies, and the adoption of equitable compensating practises. Hence, this balance must exist to guarantee economic success benefits local populations equally and minimises its negative impacts in Burundi to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

2.1.4 Foreign Investment

Foreign investments in agricultural or industrial ventures can have positive and negative implications for countries like Burundi. Industrial investments promise economic growth and infrastructure development, but they also need significant land acquisitions, raising concerns about land expropriation (Ogwang and Vanclay, 2019, p.109). Burundi, like several African countries, struggles with this dilemma. In pursuit of economic progress, the government may perceive these investments as advantageous, leading it to engage in land expropriation to implement these projects. However, this process can disturb indigenous populations, affecting their means of subsistence and social integration. Achieving an appropriate balance between attracting foreign investments and protecting indigenous inhabitants' rights is paramount. Transparent legislation, rigorous impact studies, equitable compensation and alternative land options for affected populations are crucial. Therefore, this delicate balance guarantees that foreign investments promote sustainable growth without jeopardising Burundi's residents' rights.

2.1.5 Land Tenure Systems

The land tenure systems in Burundi, rooted in traditional practises, exhibit informal characteristics and a lack of comprehensive documentation. Consequently, these systems pose many issues and complexity concerning property ownership (Bisoka and Giraud, 2020, p.150). The lack of well-defined legal frameworks sometimes leads to land disputes, creating a conducive environment for conflicts. Within these conflicts, influential entities such as government agencies or private entities may take advantage of the absence of official documentation, leading to forced evictions or land expropriation. Vulnerable groups, characterised by a lack of legal safeguards, often experience the primary impacts of these actions, including displacement and the erosion of their means of subsistence. Burundi needs widespread land reform prioritising accurate record-keeping, community involvement, and the formal recognition of traditional property rights. Thus, by promoting land reforms, Burundi can reduce conflicts, enhance social stability, and preserve citizens' rights within its distinctive traditional land systems.

2.1.6 Natural Disasters

Natural disasters are also a driving force of land expropriation in Burundi. They can relocate communities, compelling them to abandon their residences and agricultural territories

(Mucherera and Spiegel, 2021, p.3855). In the aftermath, the government frequently considers the option of land expropriation to address the difficulty of resettling populations affected by the event. This approach often involves acquiring land to provide accommodation for displaced groups. However, the process is complex, giving rise to ethical and environmental considerations. Displaced individuals who have already experienced trauma due to the disaster encounter further challenges as they lose the use of their land, which serves as a crucial means of sustenance. Hence, natural catastrophes present a significant hazard to land stability in Burundi, frequently resulting in the flooding, landslip, or other destruction of extensive regions.

2.1. 7 Government Policies

In Burundi, government policies considerably impact land expropriation, influencing the country's socio-economic landscape. Land reform policies frequently initiate expropriation to address historical injustices or advance the cause of equitable land distribution (Xaba and Akinola, 2022, p.140). Similarly, endeavours centred on the modernisation of agriculture may give rise to the need for extensive land purchases, resulting in the displacement of indigenous communities residing in those areas. Although designed to solve immediate needs, resettlement strategies have led to forced land expropriation, affecting people particularly susceptible to adverse consequences. The government of Burundi has used land expropriation to right past wrongs and improve social equity. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of these policies relies heavily on meticulous execution. Consequently, the policies of Burundi's government must balance socio-economic progress and citizens' rights to promote sustainable development and respect Burundi's diverse population's dignity and livelihoods.

2.2 Historical Context of Large Infrastructure Projects and Land Expropriation

Large infrastructure projects and land expropriation have a long and complicated history. Schäfer (2019) alleges that governments frequently exercise the authority of eminent domain to expropriate land to develop massive infrastructure initiatives, including dams, motorways, and power plants (p.429). This circumstance frequently causes conflict between displaced individuals and communities, as they may have been compelled to relocate to unfamiliar regions or provided insufficient compensation. Recently, there has been increasing recognition of the adverse consequences of land expropriation for infrastructural endeavours. Numerous governmental entities have implemented regulations to mitigate human displacement and environmental harm. However, land expropriation remains a contentious topic, with a high probability of persisting as a catalyst for conflict in the future. Thus, the historical backdrop surrounding extensive infrastructure endeavours and land expropriation is complex, and determining their justifiability is a challenging task lacking a straightforward solution.

2.3 Brief Overview of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project

The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project represents a substantial and ambitious infrastructural endeavour initiated by the Burundian government to mitigate the nation's escalating energy requirements and promote economic progress. Burundi faces the challenge of providing dependable and enduring energy sources to facilitate the needs of its industrial

sector, metropolitan areas, and rural people (Manirambona, Talai, and Kimutai 2022, p.1). The primary objective of the Jiji-Mulembwe project is to effectively utilise the considerable water resources inside the country, with a specific emphasis on the Jiji and Mulembwe rivers, to generate hydroelectric energy. The rivers possess significant potential for hydropower generation due to their steady flow and variations in elevation, making them very suitable for producing clean energy. Hence, the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project's primary goal is to contribute substantially to Burundi's energy capacity and decrease its dependence on traditional energy sources.

Like several extensive infrastructure projects, the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project involved the process of land expropriation to establish reservoirs and essential infrastructure required for power generation. Land expropriation presents complex issues, including consequences such as the potential effects on indigenous populations, the disruption of economic activities, and environmental considerations (Qi et al., 2018, p.246). The viability of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project depended on its capability to provide renewable and environmentally friendly energy and manage the social, economic, and environmental aspects associated with its expansion. It is also vital to analyse previous extensive projects like the Three Gorges Dam and the Belo Monte Dam and how they affected the neighbouring populations to acknowledge the impact of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project on people's livelihoods. Therefore, comparing the effects of these previous infrastructural projects on neighbouring populations can help determine the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project's social and environmental implications on livelihoods.

2.4 Case Studies of Similar Hydroelectric Power Projects Worldwide

The Three Gorges Dam, a widely recognised hydroelectric project, relocated many individuals and caused substantial environmental and social consequences. Its primary purpose is to produce electrical energy, with an installed capacity of over 22,500 megawatts (MW), positioning it as one of the largest hydroelectric power stations globally (Anson et al., 2018, p.208). However, large-scale population relocation due to reservoir flooding is one of the main points of controversy over the Three Gorges Dam. The Three Gorges Dam project forced more than one million individuals to relocate from residences, agricultural areas, and ancestral villages. It resulted in the erosion of communal structures and the disruption of customary lifestyles ((Ren et al., 2018, p. 23756). It also led to environmental concerns and geological consequences. Therefore, the controversies surrounding the Three Gorges Dam project highlighted the significance of including local people and professionals in decision-making to guarantee an in-depth understanding of potential consequences.

Located in the Brazilian state of Pará on the Xingu River, the Belo Monte Dam is a network of hydroelectric dams. Castro-Diaz, Lopez, and Moran (2018) suppose the Belo Monte Dam is the third largest hydroelectric dam globally regarding its installed capacity (p.411). The Belo Monte Dam has garnered significant criticism due to its profound environmental implications on the Amazon rainforest and its consequential influence on indigenous tribes. It has faced considerable criticism due to its flooding of extensive rainforest regions, resulting in adverse effects of biodiversity loss and the relocation of indigenous communities. It has also faced criticism due to its role in diminishing the flow of the Xingu River, resulting in adverse effects on fish populations and other forms of aquatic biodiversity ((Ribeiro and Morato 2020, p.869). Thus, the Belo Monte Dam project has elicited much controversy due to its profound implications for the Amazon rainforest and the indigenous populations residing in the vicinity.

2.4.1 Historical Patterns of Land Expropriation and the Impact on Livelihoods

The Tarbela Dam, located in Pakistan, is the largest earth-filled dam in the country and ranks as the sixth largest of its kind globally. Ullah et al. (2023) allege that the Tarbela Dam was built on the Indus River within the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (p.3). The construction of the Tarbela Dam resulted in a significant number of the residents in the region being displaced. The Pakistani government had to relocate the affected individuals to other areas. Resettling the individuals affected by the Tarbela Dam posed significant complexities and challenges. The newly established communities frequently occupied geographically isolated regions characterised by inadequate infrastructure, presenting challenges for the displaced individuals in their pursuit of alternative sustenance. Thus, the consequences of resetting and restoring livelihoods at Tarbela Dam have had a notable influence on the impacted populace.

2.4.2 Lessons Learned from Past Projects

Comprehensive impact assessments are essential for comprehending the potential effects of land expropriation on subsistence. Tagliarino et al. (2018) suppose that land expropriation is an extensive topic with significant implications, warranting a comprehensive analysis before reaching any definitive conclusions (p.8). Land expropriation can have negative environmental and social consequences, including the loss of biodiversity, the depletion of natural resources, the disruption of ecosystem services, displacement, loss of livelihood, and social cohesion collapse. It should consider the financial consequences of land expropriation, including reduced production, diminished investment, and increased poverty rates. The impact assessment should also examine the potential mitigation strategies governments and relevant authorities may implement to reduce the adverse consequences of land expropriation. Therefore, a comprehensive impact assessment would be valuable for decision-makers considering land expropriation.

Incorporating the participation of local populations in the decision-making process and effectively resolving their concerns can contribute to mitigating disputes and enhancing project outcomes related to land expropriation. The study conducted by Long, Dai, and Fan (2020) revealed that including stakeholders in a project involving land expropriation is essential for its effectiveness (p.1842). By actively engaging local people in the decision-making process and effectively resolving their concerns, proponents of a project can contribute to the mitigation of disputes and enhance the overall outcomes of the project. When local communities are actively engaged in the decision-making process, there is a higher probability that they will perceive their concerns as acknowledged and their interests as duly considered. Project stakeholders can engage with local communities meaningfully through meetings and focus groups. Thus, meaningful stakeholder engagement reduces conflicts in projects involving land expropriation.

Ensuring equitable remuneration and effective relocation measures are crucial in mitigating the adverse consequences of land expropriation on individuals' means of subsistence. Nikuze et al. (2019) alleged that the displacement of communities from their land frequently results in the loss of their residences, sources of income, and social cohesion (p.44). Adequate remuneration can assist in minimising these losses, while transparent and sustainable strategies for relocation can guarantee the ability of displaced communities to reconstruct their livelihoods. Governments and relevant authorities must consider several elements when formulating equitable compensation and resettlement strategies. The factors to consider in the context of land expropriation include the valuation of the land affected by expropriation, the effects of such expropriation on the sustenance of the displaced people, and the existence of viable alternatives in terms of both land and employment prospects.

Hence, by considering these factors, it is possible to formulate equitable compensation and relocation strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of land expropriation on individuals' means of subsistence.

Flexibility in project design and management facilitates the ability to make necessary adaptations in response to dynamic conditions and growing difficulties related to land expropriation. Adaptive management illustrates a systematic approach to project planning and management that incorporates modifications in response to changing circumstances and unforeseen obstacles (Kusters et al., 2018, p.175). Given the complexity and unpredictability of land expropriation, adaptive management is essential. There exist different approaches for integrating adaptive management principles into land expropriation initiatives. One method is to design the project with flexibility. It involves accommodating modifications in the project's goals, objectives, or timeframe as necessary. Another approach to integrating adaptive management into a project is implementing a comprehensive monitoring and assessment system. Tracking the project's development and promptly identifying any possible issues will be beneficial. Thus, integrating adaptive management strategies into land expropriation initiatives makes it possible to enhance the probability of achieving favourable outcomes.

The matter of land expropriation is multifaceted and has substantial implications for both the ecological landscape and the indigenous population residing in the affected areas of a large infrastructural project such as the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. Achieving an appropriate balance between the necessity of energy generation and environmental preservation becomes crucial when land becomes subject to expropriation for developmental purposes (Yıldız 2020, p.9). This process may present difficulties; however, it remains vital for the sustained well-being of both ecosystems and communities. An essential measure in balancing energy requirements with environmental preservation during land expropriation involves implementing an environmental impact assessment (EIA) before any development activities. An EIA will facilitate the identification of potential environmental consequences associated with the project, as well as the formulation of appropriate mitigation strategies aimed at minimising these impacts. Therefore, integrating energy requirements and environmental preservation during land expropriation is crucial for promoting sustainable growth while safeguarding both the natural surroundings and the local population.

Shared water resources play a crucial role in global ecology, serving as a fundamental component frequently utilised by multiple nations. This scenario may cause conflicts, particularly when a country intends to appropriate territory within another nation's borders, including a shared water supply. The Nile River is a shared water resource among Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan, and in 2011, construction began on a hydroelectric project on the river (El-Nashar and Elyamany 2018, p.2383). Egypt expressed concern regarding the potential reduction of downstream water flow resulting from the dam's construction. It conveyed its willingness to employ military measures to stall the project. This case exemplifies the significance of international coordination and diplomacy in effectively addressing possible conflicts arising from using shared water resources. When nations collaborate, they have the potential to identify and implement resolutions that yield mutual benefits for all parties involved. Hence, international collaboration is crucial in effectively managing shared water resources sustainably and equitably, particularly during land expropriation.

2.5 Community Engagement and Participation

The success of infrastructure projects in any given location depends upon effective community engagement and participation. Project developers should consult extensively with the communities directly affected by it (Lakhanpal 2019, p.10). There exist various

approaches to participate in local communities actively. One such method involves regular meetings with key community stakeholders and constituents. The project developers can accomplish this through face-to-face interactions or alternative channels, such as radio transmissions or local print publications. Another approach to fostering community engagement involves the establishment of a community liaison office. The community liaison office possesses the capacity to provide project-related information and additionally functions as a platform for community members to articulate their issues. Therefore, through active and substantive involvement with local communities, project developers can effectively contribute to the implementation of the project in a manner that yields advantageous outcomes for the local populace.

2.5.1 Importance of Early and Meaningful Engagement with Affected Communities

The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project is an extensive infrastructural endeavour that continues to influence the local populations within its designated territory substantially. However, the project developers needed to conduct early and meaningful engagement with affected communities to reduce conflict between them. In a study conducted by Colvin et al. (2019), the findings illustrated that a project's successful implementation, with the least possible negative consequences and the most significant possible advantages, relies on early and substantial involvement with the communities affected (p.41). Including affected communities in the project planning process at an early stage facilitates their active participation and enables them to express their perspectives and concerns. This approach can contribute to the project's alignment with the communities' requirements and effectively resolve their issues.

The establishment of early and meaningful interaction has the potential to foster trust between project developers and the communities involved. In a research conducted by Bond-Barnard, Fletcher, and Steyn (2018), the authors demonstrated that trust is essential for successful project implementation (p.4). The establishment of meaningful participation promotes the development of a sense of ownership, trust, and transparency, hence diminishing the probability of disputes and opposition during the execution of a project. Besides, active participation in the project during its first phase and in a significant manner can help minimise the negative consequences. Project developers can reduce the probability of conflict and social unrest by identifying and resolving possible issues. Therefore, the project developers of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project should have conducted early and meaningful interactions with the individuals the project was going to affect to foster trust.

2.5.2 Stakeholder Involvement in Decision-Making Processes

The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project affected numerous individuals, necessitating stakeholder involvement in decision-making. Lange, Page, and Cummins (2018) supposed that incorporating a broad spectrum of stakeholders throughout a project, including local communities, civil society groups, and experts, serves to enhance the quality of decision-making processes by ensuring that they are well-informed and integrate an extensive range of opinions (p.44). Participatory decision-making facilitates the promotion of social inclusion, empowerment of marginalised groups, and cultivation of a collective sense of responsibility for the project's achievements. Likewise, utilising collaborative decision-making processes can foster the development of innovative solutions and instil a sense of ownership among participants, enhancing the project's long-term sustainability. The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project should have also involved local communities,

civil society groups, and experts in the decision-making process of its construction. Hence, this engagement would have reduced the project's adverse impacts on the affected individuals.

However, effective community engagement and participation in the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project required a comprehensive approach, such as open and transparent communication and community-based planning. According to Shakeri and Khalilzadeh (2020), it is necessary for significant infrastructure initiatives to develop well-defined communication channels to effectively distribute project-related information, schedules, and potential consequences (p.2). The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project should have provided frequent updates and accessible resources to foster trust and facilitate informed decision-making. The incorporation of local communities in the planning phase of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project would have been essential to achieving alignment between project operations and the needs, values, and objectives of the communities involved. The engagement of community members could have facilitated the determination of suitable sites, optimal timing, and practical strategies for compensation and relocation. Therefore, the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project required a comprehensive approach to effective community engagement and participation.

Chapter 3 Analysis and Discussion

3.1 Introduction

This discussion and analysis section examines the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project, which involves infrastructure development, land expropriation, and socioeconomic effects in Burundi. The project's strategic position and importance in minimising Burundi's electricity need have displaced mostly economically disadvantaged subsistence farmers. The project's involved parties have concerns about land expropriation, a global issue, causing us to examine its many consequences. This discussion highlights the potential adverse effects on affected communities and Burundi's socioeconomic dynamics. This chapter also evaluates the project's wider consequences, from Burundi's energy security and economic growth to its contribution to sustainable development worldwide. It explores the project's influence on the lives of residents and the elements that determine these impacts through a qualitative research strategy and the use of interviews as the primary data collection tool.

3.2 Policy and Institutional Frameworks

Burundi's legal framework governing land is characterised by a hybrid system incorporating customary practises and statutory restrictions. The Land Code of Burundi, enacted in 2005, serves as the fundamental basis of the legal structure, acknowledging the existence of private and collective land ownership (Mbazumutima 2022, p. 17). Most land tenure in the country is communal, with land owned collectively by local communities. The government's involvement in land management is of considerable importance, as land transactions frequently necessitate the consent of governmental authorities. Land disputes are prevalent, often intensified by population expansion and continuing consequences of historical land inequities. Consequently, the land legislation in Burundi is undergoing constant development in response to the country's efforts to tackle these difficulties and foster sustainable land governance and fair distribution of land resources.

Numerous international treaties and conventions emphasise safeguarding property rights, ensuring the sustainability of livelihoods, and upholding the rights of indigenous and marginalised populations. Nascimento (2018) alleged that the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights acknowledges the entitlement to a satisfactory living level, including the rights to shelter and means of subsistence (p.2). The principles of customary international law support the idea of prior and informed consent for indigenous groups, imposing an obligation on states to participate in substantive consultations before initiating projects that may impact their territory and means of subsistence. Besides, if the project includes funding from global organisations like the World Bank, the World Bank's protection policies may apply. These guidelines include precise directives relating to the procurement of land, relocation of individuals, and provision of remuneration. Hence, many international treaties emphasize compensation policies in projects like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

3.2.1 Compensation and Resettlement Policies

Since a significant adverse impact of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project is the displacement of individuals and disruption to their socioeconomic lifestyle, it is vital to analyse compensation and resettlement policies in the context of land expropriation. The

research conducted by Cao et al. (2018) demonstrated that efficient compensation and resettlement strategies can significantly mitigate the adverse impacts of land expropriation (p.101). It highlighted that the principles of compensation and resettlement should include fairness and equity, adequacy, transparency, and participation. It is vital to establish compensation mechanisms characterised by fairness and equity, to prevent any unfair disadvantage experienced by individuals and communities harmed by the expropriation. The compensation should adequately address the loss of land, assets, and livelihood prospects, thereby facilitating the affected households to reconstruct their lives. Thus, project managers of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project should have adopted the principles of compensation and resettlement when compensating the affected individuals.

However, implementing compensation and resettlement policies presents numerous challenges. Ward and Swyngedouw (2018) argued that determining the value of land is complex (p.16). In regions characterised by informal land tenure systems, the absence of official land records poses challenges in determining land ownership and worth. In certain instances, many individuals asserting ownership over a particular piece of land can also pose challenges in determining the rightful compensation recipient. Likewise, in regions characterised by informal land tenure arrangements, the absence or scarcity of market data related to land poses challenges in accurately assessing its valuation. In certain instances, individuals may also assign significant subjective importance to their land, irrespective of its relatively low monetary value. Hence, these factors presented numerous challenges for the project managers of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project when implementing the compensation and resettlement policies.

International institutions, including the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), financed the Jiji and Mulembwe Hydropower Project. Due to this, the project stakeholders adopted the World Bank's Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement to compensate the affected individuals. The World Bank's Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement outlines the requisite guidelines for involuntary displacement projects (Wilmsen, Adjarney, and Van Hulst 2018, p.4). It aims to guarantee fair and equitable treatment for the displaced due to projects supported by the Bank. It also seeks to enable these individuals to enhance their livelihoods and elevate their levels of life. It applies to projects that involuntarily resettle a minimum of 25 homes or 100 individuals, such as the Jiji and Mulembwe Hydropower Project. Hence, the World Bank's Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement significantly enhanced the well-being of many relocated individuals due to the Jiji and Mulembwe Hydropower Project.

The Jiji and Mulembwe Hydropower Project managers implemented the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) when compensating those affected by the project. According to Mutung'u (2022), the UNGPs include a comprehensive collection of 31 principles that offer valuable direction to enterprises to uphold and safeguard human rights (p. 117). The UNGPs emphasise the obligation of both governments and enterprises to maintain and protect human rights, particularly concerning land and livelihoods. They offer a comprehensive framework for effectively addressing the various implications of land expropriation in the context of hydroelectric power projects such as the Jiji and Mulembwe Hydropower Project stakeholders, particularly regarding its effects on livelihoods. Therefore, the UNGPs ensured that the Jiji and Mulembwe Hydropower advanced development while protecting impacted communities' rights and well-being by emphasizing governments' and corporations' human rights obligations.

3.3 Data Presentation and Discussion

This section discusses the responses from the interview and relates them to the research question and objectives. This research project collected data from 37 residents affected by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

3.3.1 History and Significance of the Land Before the Project

The historical background and importance of the land within the community impacted by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project reveal a constant and emotionally impactful theme throughout the diverse responses. Batungwanayo et al. (2023) assert that agriculture provides roughly 28.9% of Burundi's gross domestic product (GDP) and supports at least 80% of the population (p.2). Consequently, the community within the project area heavily depended on agriculture for their sustenance. All the 37 residents revealed that they depended on the land for daily sustenance. The community's land shaped the residents' lives beyond food. The community relied on the land for cohesion, solidarity, and self-sufficiency, not only in agricultural fields. The data shows how the lands provided households with food by growing crops and rearing cattle. The community's dynamics changed drastically after the land expropriation. An interviewer affected by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project said, "We can no longer continue our daily economic activities since this project has destroyed our livelihood." Therefore, the data highlights the community's profound connection to the land and how the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project has displaced and altered their lives, causing enormous suffering.

3.3.2 Project Plans

Before the project implementation phase, the stakeholders of the Jiji-Mulembwe project communicated the need to build the project in the region. However, out of the 37 residents interviewed, 20 revealed that they did not receive sufficient information regarding the potential consequences on their land and means of subsistence. Transparency and participation between project developers and affected communities are essential for building confidence, reducing conflict, and meeting community demands (Liu et al., 2018, p.2). The data reveals a significant deficiency in the community participation process. Although the impacted communities received information regarding the project's presence and intentions, there remained a lack of clarity regarding its comprehensive consequences on their lands and means of sustenance. This observation emphasises the necessity for effective communication and consultation to ensure that affected communities are aware and able to voice their concerns and wants in development projects.

3.3.3 Positive and Negative Changes after the Project's Initiation

The interviews showed that 27 participants primarily observed adverse impacts on means of sustenance after the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project began, without any explicit reference to positive outcomes. One participant stated, "One of the actions that was taken was that they provided us with compensation, although a little one. This project has harmed our land. These initiatives are incredibly ineffective." This statistic provides a clear and compelling depiction of the detrimental effects that this initiative has had on the communities' lives. Mayeda and Boyd (2020) supposed that project conception and implementation require community engagement and mitigation since large infrastructure projects disrupt local lifestyles, hurt the environment, and displace people (p.3). Consequently, the adverse outcomes resulting from the deprivation of the residents' arable

lands, which are essential for agricultural production and the maintenance of livelihoods, were highly destructive. The data indicates that the affected locals cannot acquire parcels of comparable quality land due to escalating expenses, resulting in reduced agricultural productivity and financial hardship.

3.3.4 Compensation

The data reveals that the stakeholders of the Jiji-Mulembwe project initiated compensation initiatives. All 37 participants received compensation but demonstrated displeasure with the amount they received. Compensation after land acquisition fosters social fairness, preserves public trust in development programs, and helps affected individuals and communities rebuild their lives and mitigate the purchase's adverse effects (Cao et al., 2018, p.101). However, the findings indicate a sense of dissatisfaction over these compensation efforts, caused mainly by unfulfilled commitments and inequities in remuneration. The data reveals a perception of unmet expectations, highlighting a significant disparity between the initial promises made and the actual outcomes achieved. It highlights the crucial need to implement transparent and equitable compensation mechanisms in cases of land expropriation for development initiatives. Consequently, the disparities in the compensation provided not only worsened the negative consequences of land deprivation on the community's livelihood but also undermined confidence in the Jiji-Mulembwe project.

3.3.5 Conflicts over the Project

The data consistently demonstrated conflicts and concerns within the community related to land acquisition and compensation concerning the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. However, the 37 participants revealed that they did not engage in physical altercations with the project stakeholders but presented their concerns to the rightful authorities. Rugadya (2020) supposed that project developers and local populations clash over property rights, compensation, and interests during land acquisition (p.2). Consequently, the data reveal that in the context of the Jiji-Mulembwe project, the confrontations centred on perceived disparities in remuneration, unfulfilled commitments, and a perception of inequity. The project developers disagreed with the individuals impacted by the initiative, emphasising the escalating division between the two entities. These disagreements have adversely affected social cohesion and further aggravated the existing issues faced by the community, hence increasing their obligations. Therefore, the data show a community struggling with land expropriation, marginalisation, and perceived injustices.

3.3.6 Opinions of the Affected Individuals

Despite the stakeholders of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project promising to consider the opinions and concerns of the affected residents, they failed to do so. The 37 participants interviewed revealed that the project stakeholders did not seek their input before beginning the project. Cao and Zhang (2018) alleged that project developers may neglect affected communities' problems due to profit-driven ambitions, lack of transparency, or insufficient regulatory requirements, prompting community opposition and land acquisition conflicts (p.169). The data reveals a lack of consideration given by the project developers towards the perspectives of affected locals. The significant disparity observed between the experiences of the community and the stated consultation process highlights a fundamental gap in the project's development. The collected data also reveals that the lack of alignment between the project developers and the community has undermined the confidence in the

project developers and given rise to significant inquiries on the principles of community involvement and inclusive decision-making.

3.3.7 Settling Disputes

The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project caused numerous disputes. Lezak et al. (2019) asserted that negotiations, legal processes, and mediation or arbitration could resolve land acquisition disputes involving compensation, property rights, and developer-community ties (p.11). Consequently, out of the 37 participants in the interview, 19 of the participants indicated that there were efforts to promote communication or talks between community members, project developers, and government authorities. These attempts focused on communicating the project's significance for its development. The data also indicate that the project representatives emphasised the importance of collaboration and endorsement, presenting the project as a representation of advancement that the community should support. Although the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project stakeholders acknowledged community engagement efforts, the data indicate a complex relationship between the latter and the affected residents. Thus, the data suggest that while a discussion began, the community may not have had the means to communicate its concerns, desires, or criticisms.

3.3.8 Future Impacts of the Project

Several residents within the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project area express pessimism about the project's potential benefits for their livelihoods and the community, implying that any positive change or importance may be intended for the project creators. Of the 37 participants interviewed, 22 were not hopeful that the project would benefit them. A project can affect the local environment, social dynamics, and economic conditions after land acquisition, which can be positive or harmful depending on its nature and management (Malkamäki et al., 2018, p.100). Consequently, the powerlessness exhibited by the affected individuals in the context of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project highlights the project's inequities and the necessity for fairer solutions. Despite the dissatisfaction, there is optimism for constructive change. The data shows that some impacted individuals expect electricity and improved road infrastructure after the project's completion. Therefore, the affected community wants fundamental requirements like electricity and better transportation, even if they mistrust the equitable distribution of benefits.

3.3.9 Compensation and If It Reflects Value of Land

Compensation after land acquisition is vital since it guarantees harmony between locals and the project developers. Property owners or affected individuals receive financial or in-kind compensation after land acquisition to offset their losses and ensure fair treatment during the acquisition process (Patil et al., 2020, p.1). The data reveals that the affected locals expressed their concerns about how the compensation they received did not reflect the genuine value of their land. Monetary compensation for land expropriation may not reflect the land's value to the affected parties. The 37 participants interviewed expressed the financial discrepancy between the amount they received and their perception of fair reimbursement for their damages. Thus, the findings emphasise the need for more thorough and equitable compensation systems that recognise the land's importance to affected populations, reducing negative impacts and promoting a more equitable resolution.

3.4 Interpretation of Findings

The data collected reveal the devastating impact of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project's land acquisition process on the standard of living in the project area. The expropriated lands held a significance that extended beyond their mere status as properties, as they served as vital resources for the populations impacted by their expropriation. Andrews (2018) alleged that human existence and economic prosperity depend on land for agriculture, minerals, forests, and water (p.240). In the context of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project, these lands sustained local businesses and the daily livelihoods of their inhabitants. The loss of these fertile lands caused an abrupt decline in agricultural productivity, causing food shortages that affected the community's well-being. Rising replacement land costs also increased the community's economic distress. Hence, the findings constantly show how land expropriation caused by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project has hurt the local inhabitants.

The findings show that people affected by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project feel marginalised and disappointed. The residents around the project area feel frustrated because they feel the stakeholders did not consider their thoughts and concerns during project development. According to Susskind et al. (2022), neglecting residents' opinions during a project can lead to community opposition, social unrest, legal and environmental difficulties, and project delays and costs (p.3). Consequently, this contrast between the community's experiences and the supposed engagement process highlights a significant divide between the affected individuals and the project developers. The findings indicate that external pressures and the belief that opposing the project meant rejecting development forced the affected individuals to accept it. Hence, this disconnect has damaged project developers' credibility and called community engagement and participatory decision-making into question.

Although the findings do not directly examine the factors motivating land expropriation, they indirectly provide insights into possible underlying concerns. The affected individuals' discontent with their compensation and the perceived injustice of the procedure suggest structural issues in land expropriation negotiation and conflict resolution. Admasu et al. (2019) supposed that infrastructure development, urban expansion, economic growth, and public interest goals drive land expropriation (p.3). Consequently, the general dissatisfaction with compensation shows that it may not reflect the genuine value of the expropriated land. This finding implies poor appraisal processes, lack of transparency in compensation amounts, or disregard for the land's fundamental value to affected communities. The perceived injustice in the process also shows a power imbalance between project developers and the affected individuals, which may be rooted in governance and community participation concerns. Hence, the findings indicate underlying issues that motivated the land expropriation.

The findings illustrate the unique impacts of land expropriation within the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project context. They effectively emphasise the extensive and adverse effects of the land expropriation process on the community's livelihood. The negative consequences associated with land expropriation include the displacement of communities, the loss of livelihoods, the emergence of social unrest, and the destruction of the environment (Dires et al., 2021, p.614). The findings highlight the considerable importance of the expropriated lands, not just as a means of sustenance but also as essential components of the community's cultural and economic identity. The loss of these lands disrupted agricultural output and food security, making the people more vulnerable to hunger and poverty. Therefore, the findings demonstrate the distinct effects of land expropriation in the specific setting of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

3.5 Interpretation of Findings through a Theoretical Perspective

3.5.1 Conflicts of Valuation Languages

The theoretical framework of conflicts in valuation languages offers a comprehensive and complex understanding of the dynamics involved in the context of land expropriation for the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. The findings demonstrate the significant impact that different perceptions of land value have on the conflicts that emerge during expropriation procedures. According to Avcı, Adaman, and Özkaynak (2010), project stakeholders utilise numerous valuation languages to argue for or against resource usage in land conflicts (p.228). Consequently, in the context of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project, the community's land assessment and compensation differ significantly, revealing a valuation language difference. From the affected peoples' perspective, the land holds significance beyond its mere status as a property since it represents the community's cultural identity, livelihood, and heritage. However, compensation neglects to consider these complex worth levels, leading to discontentment and unfairness among the affected individuals.

The problems arising from different valuation languages trigger tensions and disagreements as the affected individuals rightfully advocate for the value they attribute to their land. Land conflicts from implementing extensive infrastructural projects can cause mistrust, animosity, and a perceived sense of dispossession (Kennedy 2019, p.750). The theoretical framework of conflicts in valuation languages highlights the need to address conflicts in valuation and the need for fair and culturally responsive compensating systems to resolve these inequalities. It emphasises the importance of avoiding marginalising or disenfranchising impacted populations during land expropriation. Instead, it advocates for recognising and integrating their distinct viewpoints and values into the design and implementation of the development project.

3.5.2 Land Grabbing

The theoretical framework of land grabbing is of utmost significance in comprehending the complex issues associated with land expropriation within the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project context. According to Kariuki and Ng'etich (2016), land grabbing involves the forced displacement of rural residents without compensation (p.80). In the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project context, the dissatisfaction the impacted populations expressed with the provided remuneration and the perceived inequity of the overall expropriation procedure corresponds to several fundamental attributes commonly associated with land grabbing. Land grabbing is a common occurrence characterised by the coercive appropriation of land from local communities, sometimes initiated by influential entities. This practice commonly leads to the displacement and dispossession of marginalised populations. Thus, the affected communities within the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project feel dispossessed and disenfranchised because they have lost their lands, which provide their livelihood and cultural identity.

The findings present a counterargument to the widely held belief that development projects universally bring about positive outcomes for all stakeholders. Instead, the significance of conducting a thorough assessment of the effects of large infrastructural initiatives, especially on marginalised populations, is vital (Lombardi et al., 2020, p.13). The theoretical framework of land grabbing clarifies the power differentials that accompany the processes of land expropriation. In numerous instances, these disparities exhibit a disproportionate inclination towards the preferences of influential players, such as project developers and government officials, to the cost of the populations impacted by these

actions. Therefore, these findings emphasise the necessity of adopting a more detailed and community-oriented strategy toward land utilisation to achieve sustainable development.

Including the perspectives of the impacted populations in the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project is not merely necessary but essential in comprehending the extensive human consequences of land expropriation. These communities have experienced economic marginalisation and possess longstanding links to the lands they have resided in and cultivated for many generations. The significance of lands for its inhabitants extends beyond their economic value, including their cultural identity, historical roots, and customary way of life (Borras and Franco, 2011, p.50). Consequently, the communities affected by the Jiji-Mulembwe project express dissatisfaction with their compensation and perceived inequities in the expropriation process. Their sentiments reflect a profound and emotional feeling of loss. These are not nameless victims or abstract numbers lost in the name of progress; they are real people, whole communities uprooted from their homes and ways of life.

These affected communities' stories challenge the narratives of development and economic prosperity commonly promoted by large-scale infrastructure projects. Large infrastructure projects offer progress, but land grabbing causes significant social, cultural, and economic disturbances in these communities (Borras and Franco, 2011, p.41). The perspectives of those impacted, characterised by feelings of disappointment and a sense of injustice, serve as a reminder of the urgent necessity for a development approach that is more inclusive and encourages active participation. They advocate for a comprehensive reassessment of priorities, emphasising the importance of the rights and dignity of these communities. Engaging the affected communities is crucial, ensuring their perspectives and concerns are acknowledged and addressed through appropriate actions to promote effective decision-making. Thus, the views of the affected emphasise the ethical need for sustainable development to empower marginalised groups and actively improve their well-being.

3.6 Participants' and Project stakeholders' Perspectives on the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project

3.6.1 Participants' Perspectives

22 of the participants expressed their displeasure with the compensation they received, citing the compensation did not match the value of their lands. One participant stated, "They gave us money, they constructed a house for me. However, I am not satisfied with this amount; I am satisfied with only 40%. The value of our land is very high because it is very fertile." However, conflicts arising from the compensation claims are due to inadequate documentation and land rights. Pemunta, Ngo, and Cumber (2020) asserted that the lack of genuine land ownership documents hinders appropriate compensation for land expropriation victims in many developing countries, including Burundi (p.343). In Burundi, land rights exist in informal, communal, or undocumented arrangements. Due to the absence of formal recognition and comprehensive land rights documentation, identifying legitimate claimants eligible for compensation proved challenging. Consequently, confusion in this context fostered an environment conducive to conflicts and complaints, as numerous individuals asserted ownership over the same land.

The absence of transparency and effective dissemination of information during the construction of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project significantly contributed to discrepancies in compensation during land expropriation procedures. Community support, social and environmental mitigation, and sustainable development require fair and

transparent compensation for affected residents during projects (Urban et al., 2018, p.565). The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project in Burundi demonstrated a deficiency in providing comprehensive information to the local communities regarding the compensation procedures, their entitlements, and the factors used in determining the compensation amounts. The presence of this information gap led to several adverse outcomes. Some of the affected locals exhibited a lack of awareness regarding their eligibility for compensation, thereby unintentionally removing themselves from the compensation process. The lack of clarity also posed challenges for individuals impacted by compensation choices, hindering their understanding and capacity to contest such determinations, resulting in injustice. Thus, a lack of transparency and communication led to compensation challenges in the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project context.

Corruption and bureaucratic delays were persistent concerns that led to significant differences in compensation procedures throughout the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. They included bribery, kickbacks, and favouritism. Owusu and Chan (2019) supposed that corruption during infrastructure project compensation processes can result in unjust and inadequate compensation, stakeholder distrust, societal unrest, and project delays, threatening project success and local community impact (p.3). Several individuals impacted by the Jiji-Mulembwe project experienced unjust exclusion from compensation or received insufficient compensation, while specific individuals gained advantages from unethical practices. Bureaucratic inefficiency and excessive administrative procedures worsened the issue. The presence of protracted and complex managerial procedures fostered an environment conducive to the growth of corrupt practises, as these processes hindered efficiency and reduced transparency. Thus, corruption and bureaucratic delays resulted in compensation challenges among the locals affected by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

37 participants revealed that the compensation process for the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project exhibited inadequate consultation. In land expropriation projects like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project, insufficient engagement with impacted people and the lack of grievance channels lead to disagreements and unresolved compensation claims. Unheard community voices during large infrastructural projects lead to misconceptions and resentment when not sufficiently consulted (Campbell et al., 2018, p.430). Consequently, the lack of effective grievance processes resulted in a situation where those impacted have no appropriate means to express their concerns or contest compensation decisions that they perceive as unjust. The absence of available alternatives has disproportionately impacted the residents residing around the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. Many affected by this situation have been deprived of a viable avenue to pursue legal recourse, intensifying their perception of inequity. Hence, the participants expressed that inadequate consultation and grievance mechanisms contributed to compensation challenges in the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project context.

3.6.2 Project Stakeholders' Perspective

The company responsible for overseeing the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project exhibited diverse perspectives from those affected individuals. It emphasised the project's transformative potential, citing that Burundi would benefit significantly. It highlighted that the reliable electricity supply created by the project would spur economic development, creating new jobs. Hentschel, Ketter, and Collins (2018) alleged that the availability of dependable energy is a crucial factor in facilitating the growth of industries, allowing established businesses to expand their operations and attracting new enterprises (p.66). Consequently, the company responsible for the project believed it would strengthen the country's economic foundation. The company projected that the anticipated economic

expansion would help eliminate poverty and raise living standards for many people. Thus, the company in charge of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project had views different from those of the impacted people.

The company's viewpoint on energy access emphasised the crucial significance of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project in tackling a substantial issue in Burundi, namely the inadequate availability of dependable electricity access. A significant segment of the population in Burundi faces limitations or a complete absence of electrical access, which hinders socio-economic advancement (Nsabimana, 2020, p.3). The company projected that the hydroelectric project could potentially address this inadequacy through its capacity to provide a consistent and significant amount of electricity. The project would expand the provision of electricity to marginalised groups, minimising imbalances and promoting a more fair use of power resources through enhancing energy infrastructure. The company anticipated that the project would significantly influence the daily lives of individuals in Burundi, facilitating improved lighting, enhanced access to contemporary appliances, and the formation of small-scale enterprises. Hence, the company's energy access perspective stressed the importance of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project in addressing Burundi's electricity access issue.

The provision of compensation to the individuals impacted by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project was a crucial element of the project's social responsibility and ethical dedication from the company's perspective. The company was firmly committed to ensuring just and impartial remuneration for individuals and communities who experienced displacement due to the project. The purpose of this compensation was to cover not just the financial worth of the land but also the potential socio-economic and cultural adverse effects that individuals would experience (Nsabimana, 2020, p.6). The corporation also acknowledged the significance of actively involving impacted communities during the compensation procedure. The approach highlighted the importance of engaging in consultations with the affected community members to get insight into their needs and concerns and actively including them in the decision-making process, ensuring that their perspectives are acknowledged and considered. Therefore, the company responsible for overseeing the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project was fully committed to fair compensation.

3. 7 Conclusion

The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project in Burundi has had significant and predominantly adverse impacts on the local communities, primarily due to land expropriation and infrastructural development. The findings indicate that the process of land expropriation has had an unfavourable effect on economically disadvantaged subsistence farmers, who relied on their land not only for sustenance but also for cultural identity and social unity. Conflicts, mistrust, and discontent have arisen within the affected individuals due to a combination of factors, including a lack of openness, insufficient community participation, and perceived disparities in compensation. Besides, from a theoretical perspective, conflicts in valuation languages and land grabbing offer significant frameworks for comprehending the complex dynamics that characterise the current situation. Conflicts have worsened due to varying valuations of land and power structures. Consequently, sustainable development requires land expropriation, equitable compensation, and community involvement, especially in underprivileged groups, for major infrastructure projects.

Chapter 4 Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusion

The Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project in Burundi has resulted in significant and predominantly unfavourable outcomes for the local community, primarily attributable to the land expropriation procedure and subsequent infrastructural development. The findings indicate that the relocation of socioeconomically disadvantaged subsistence farmers, who relied extensively on their land for sustenance, cultural identity, and social unity, has resulted in significant hardship within these populations. The land served as a means of sustenance and held deep connections to their cultural practices, ancestral traditions, and communal ties. The sudden loss of this land, which was the fundamental basis of their livelihood, has profoundly disrupted the societal structure of these communities. The displacement of families, the disruption of traditional farming practices, and the fragmentation of social cohesion have occurred. Thus, the locals have suffered much from this displacement, losing their livelihoods and cultural and social identity.

Conflicts in valuation languages and land grabbing provide theoretical insights into the complex dynamics of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project's land expropriation. Disagreements and tensions have emerged due to fundamental differences in valuation languages, highlighting the central role of different perceptions of land worth in generating conflicts and tensions. Within the context of the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project, there exists a difference in the valuation perspectives between the impacted people and the project developers. The affected individuals express the opinion that the compensation paid by the project developers is insufficient in adequately reflecting the diverse and complex value of their land. However, the project developers feel the remuneration they have paid to the locals is adequate and represents the land value. Therefore, this difference in the use of valuation languages has caused conflicts and discontentment.

Simultaneously, the concept of land grabbing reveals the power imbalances integral to land expropriation processes. The eviction of marginalised communities characterises land grabbing and typically involves forced land purchase, frequently without fair compensation. In the context of the Jiji-Mulembwe project, the impacted communities experience a profound sense of dispossession and disenfranchisement as they feel deprived of the fundamental foundations of their existence. Power imbalances between project developers with significant influence and marginalised populations are readily apparent, emphasising the need for a more equal and fair approach to land expropriation. Hence, these theoretical frameworks highlight the significance of recognising diverse land valuations and addressing power disparities to ensure fair and equitable development processes that respect the interests and well-being of local communities.

This research project extends beyond factual findings to initiate ethical and policy debate on the complex relationship between development and human rights. Like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project, land expropriation routinely displaces and marginalises disadvantaged populations. It raises serious ethical considerations about how marginalised groups pay for economic growth and infrastructure. It also highlights the urgent necessity to re-evaluate development initiatives' ethical aspects. Besides, governments, international entities, and project developers must balance economic expansion with human rights, cultural heritage, and environmental sustainability. Failure to address these ethical considerations risks continuing social inequities and environmental degradation, which can undermine development initiatives' goals. This research project serves as a reminder that

extensive infrastructural projects should improve humanity, respect cultural variety, and protect the environment for future generations. Hence, this research project urges global stakeholders to adopt a more compassionate and ethical development approach.

Achieving sustainable development, especially in the context of extensive infrastructure initiatives such as the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project, necessitates implementing a comprehensive and community-oriented approach. It is essential to prioritise the welfare of marginalised communities on the development agenda. This process involves acknowledging the fundamental value of their lands, means of sustenance, and cultural affiliations. Transparent and participative decision-making processes enable local populations to exercise their agency in shaping development projects that directly affect their lives. Likewise, it is vital to maintain the ideals of fairness and equity throughout the process of property expropriation. Communities affected by the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project must not endure an inequitable share of the developmental consequences that compromise their overall welfare. Thus, this approach signifies a dedication to justice, equality, and environmental stewardship.

This research project also demonstrates the complex effects of land expropriation in the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. The emergence of conflicts resulting from different valuations of the land value and the imminent threat of land appropriation highlights the complex dynamics characterising processes involving land expropriation. These dynamics create a need to incorporate essential concepts related to equitable remuneration, substantial community engagement, and an increased emphasis on ethical issues across the various phases of development initiatives. Equally, it is crucial to acknowledge that development projects should exceed mere economic advancement and incorporate the welfare and entitlements of all impacted people, with specific consideration given to marginalised and disadvantaged communities. This approach prioritises the rights of local communities, acknowledges their distinct perspectives and beliefs, and protects their cultural heritage. Thus, we can create a more sustainable and just development model that benefits all sections of society and safeguards our planet for future generations by employing a holistic, ethical, and equitable approach when constructing extensive infrastructural projects like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project.

4.2 Recommendations

Transparent communication and consultation are essential to ethical project development, especially for major projects like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. Geekiyanage, Fernando, and Keraminiyage (2020) supposed that effective and transparent communication from the project's inception is crucial as it enables impacted communities to feel empowered and engaged in the decision-making procedures (p.2). Communities can make better decisions and voice their concerns when they know the project's goals, potential impacts on their property, and compensation systems. Consequently, this facilitates a perception of ownership and engagement in the development process. Transparent communication also fosters confidence between project developers and the communities they affect. Trust is crucial in ensuring the successful execution of large infrastructural projects. Communities are more likely to collaborate with project developers when they perceive honest and open communication. Consequently, this can result in more streamlined project implementation and decreased disagreements.

Ethical land expropriation relies on equitable compensation to minimise the effects of large-scale development projects like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project. Tura (2018) alleged that the compensation provided throughout the process of land expropriation should accurately and fairly represent the actual value of the land to the

communities that are directly affected (p.248). This remuneration should extend beyond mere market value evaluations. It should reflect the land's cultural, social, and economic worth to the community. Besides, fair compensation extends beyond mere monetary values. Adequate compensation should comprise a range of initiatives to facilitate community adaptation and rebuilding livelihoods following land loss. It can include assistance with livelihood transitions, education, and social support to reduce the effects of displacement. Hence, equitable compensation recognises that land's cultural and social importance extends beyond its economic value.

The active engagement and participation of the community are essential elements of responsible and sustainable development, as they significantly affect minimising the negative consequences associated with land expropriation. Including affected people in decision-making can improve projects like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project in several ways. Komendantova, Riegler, and Neumueller (2018) asserted that community engagement and active participation in infrastructure projects serve as a means to empower them (p.143). The opinions, knowledge, and concerns of those impacted by a project might offer valuable insights that may not be readily available to project creators. This collaboration ensures that the project design meets local needs and goals. Community involvement also promotes ownership and accountability. Active community participation in decision-making increases project support and reduces resistance and conflict. Thus, community involvement ensures that the project matches local needs and values.

Land expropriation in extensive development projects like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project needs regulatory oversight to ensure fairness and transparency. Governmental authorities must assume an active and watchful role in the comprehensive management of the entire process of land expropriation, including the initial phases of land acquisition and extending to the final compensation procedures (Wang and Wissenbach 2019, p.286). Regulatory oversight plays a crucial role in ensuring that all aspects of land expropriation comply with existing laws, regulations, and policies. It protects the rights of affected communities and project developers, preventing violations. Likewise, regulatory oversight mandates that all relevant information and decisions be documented and made public, promoting transparency. This transparency fosters trust and ensures all parties are responsible for their actions. Therefore, regulatory oversight prevents power imbalances and provides fair, transparent, and legal land expropriation.

Extensive infrastructural projects like the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project necessitate cultural sensitivity. Understanding and respecting local cultural customs and heritage is crucial to the success of any endeavour (Nagy and Seguí, 2020, p.150). Cultural sensitivity acknowledges the distinct identities, traditions, and historical significance of communities, emphasising the importance of respecting and safeguarding these aspects throughout the planning and execution of a project. Implementing cultural impact assessments by project stakeholders is necessary to thoroughly assess the potential influence of the project on local cultures and heritage sites. These assessments should involve working closely with local communities, professionals, and cultural authorities to determine potential impacts and offer recommendations for mitigation. Through an extensive understanding of the cultural value associated with specific regions, artefacts, or practises, project developers can implement strategies to safeguard and conserve them. Hence, cultural sensitivity extends beyond mere adherence to regulations, including an ethical obligation to respect and acknowledge the diversity and cultural legacy of the communities affected by the project.

Appendix: Questionnaire

Interview Questions for Affected Locals

1. Can you tell me about the history and significance of the land in your community that the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project has impacted?
2. How were you made aware of the project's plans and their prospective impact on your land and livelihood?
3. What changes have you noticed in your means of subsistence since the project's initiation? Could you kindly share specific instances of both positive and negative changes?
4. Have any initiatives been made to provide compensation or alternative land or resources to impacted communities? If so, how effective have these efforts been?
5. Could you provide an overview of any conflicts or issues that have emerged within your community or with project developers over land acquisition and the issue of compensation?
6. How do you feel the opinions and concerns of your community have been considered during the project's development?
7. Have any initiatives been undertaken to facilitate dialogue or negotiations among community members, project developers, and government officials to settle disputes and concerns related to land expropriation?
8. In the future, what do you expect to witness in terms of addressing the project's impacts on your livelihood and community, and what do you believe are the necessary changes or actions for a more equitable resolution?
9. Please describe the compensation you received from the Jiji-Mulembwe Hydroelectric Power Project land expropriation. How satisfied are you with the amount of compensation, and do you believe it adequately reflects the value of your land and its impact on your livelihood?

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