

Research Article

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Re-thinking community engagement in resettlement programmes: A systematic review and meta-analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract: Over the past few decades, governments in Sub-Saharan Africa have implemented decentralization initiatives through privatization and devolution to enhance public service delivery at regional, state, provincial, district, and municipal levels. These efforts aim to improve government competence, reduce programme costs, and enhance institutional effectiveness. However, significant challenges remain in effectively engaging communities and leveraging multi-stakeholder expertise for resource mobilization and economic development. This study employs the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) methodology, utilizing SCOPUS and Research4Life as primary databases, resulting in the selection of 16 articles for in-depth analysis. Key factors identified in the literature include participation, community satisfaction, collaboration, spatial issues, social capital, and community cohesion. These elements are interconnected, collectively contributing to effective community engagement. Failure to address these factors results in ineffective engagement and, consequently, poor livelihoods. The study also highlights a methodological trend where researchers prefer qualitative methods over mixed methods for data collection. However, the use of mixed methods could provide more comprehensive and generalizable insights, crucial for successful community development programmes. The findings indicate a lack of extensive research on community engagement in resettlement programmes in emerging economies within Sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, there is an urgent need for further research to explore all facets of community engagement in resettlement initiatives, with the goal of fostering sustainable livelihoods, reducing poverty, and creating livable post-displacement environments.

Keywords – Community engagement, Community involvement, Participation, Resettlement, Sustainable livelihood

1. INTRODUCTION

Over a few decades, numerous governments have embarked on decentralization initiatives through privatization and devolution measures in Sub-Saharan Africa. Governments in the region have been doing so to enhance the delivery of public services to subnational government entities, including regions, states, provinces, districts, and

municipalities (Dickovick & Wunsch, 2014). Again, these measures have been meant to bolster government competence, minimise programme costs and improve institutional effectiveness (Casady & Peci, 2021). However, challenges in effectively engaging communities and harnessing multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary expertise in resource mobilization for economic development (Lopez-Aviles et al., 2019) have persisted. Furthermore, in the context of achieving community growth, community engagement has been recognized as a paramount factor. Different development stakeholders such as donors, researchers, and development practitioners are now striving to involve the community in different development programmes (Skovdal & Cornish, 2015; Brouwer et al., 2019; Steinke et al., 2022). Community involvement has been practiced across various development domains including environmental management, land use planning, water resources management, housing, education, tourism, and resettlement management, often as integral components of local government initiatives (URT, 2019).

Subsequently, community engagement is considered a cornerstone of development programmes and good governance, contributing to an increase in accountability, transparency, trust, and the long-term viability of development initiatives worldwide (Lee & Kwak, 2012; Mwiru, 2015; Mollock et al., 2018). Community governance involves efficiently interacting with human capital, organisational resources, and social capital to address collective problems and maintain community well-being. It entails forming partnerships and coalitions that drive resource mobilization, system influence, and transformations in policies, programmes, and practices (George et al., 2015). Involving communities in development programmes instills a sense of responsibility, ownership, and belonging, allowing community members to exert control over assets, improve living conditions and health, help members acquire technical expertise, and foster social cohesion (Aragon-Amonarriz et al., 2019).

Moreover, in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, and the 2063 Agenda for Sustainable Development, no one should be left behind including the socio-economically disadvantaged (Weir et al., 2017; Hall et al., 2020). The agendas stress the notion that community engagement is the focus of sustainable socio-economic development in any country (Nkiaka et al., 2021). Socio-economic development becomes sustainable when the grassroots society is fully engaged in development programmes from the mobilization stage, which involves sharing of knowledge to operations and monitoring of project activities (O'Leary, 2017). Accordingly, community involvement in these stages leads to sustainable projects hence poverty reduction and sustainable community livelihood. Similarly, community involvement in resettlement programmes represents a critical component of both development expansion and disaster management mechanisms. Traditionally, resettlement decisions have been made in response to either developmental initiatives or disasters (Tadgell et al., 2018). In this respect, resettlement is a multifaceted social process designed to support and nurture the coping and adaptation mechanisms that enable communities to regain functionality and cohesiveness, making them more resilient in dealing with social and environmental stressors (Mucheru, 2021). However, the literature indicates that resettlement is a complex and multidimensional process with potentially significant negative impacts if not properly planned and implemented (Arnall et al., 2013; Magembe-Mushi & Lupala, 2015; John et al., 2019).

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

2.1. Community engagement in resettlement programmes

Community engagement in development programmes such as resettlement becomes a challenge in many developing countries (Konsti-Laakso & Rantala, 2018; Geekiyanage et al., 2020). This has made most development programmes subject local communities to the risk of poverty and impoverishment (Magembe-Mushi, 2018). A good example is Mozambique where the government resettled people from Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers in a bid to rescue them from flood-prone environments. The government involved other stakeholders to restore the resettles lives, however, the project failed because most of the resettles abandoned their houses and went back to other areas causing densification and poverty (Arnall et al., 2013). Additionally, a study by Schade (2017) in Kenya on Olkaria IV as a large-scale renewable energy project is another example. The project faced implementation challenges due to human rights violations during programme implementation. Furthermore, in Tanzania, a study by Magembe-Mushi (2011)

on the Community Infrastructure Upgrading Programme (CIUP) illustrates a similar phenomenon. The project had a significant negative impact on the displaced people who were left in poverty and dissatisfactions.

Similarly, a study by John et al. (2019) explored the resettlement of community members from Msimbazi River to Mabwepande and its associated challenges. The authors detailed how this resettlement led to poor housing conditions, disruption in economic and income-generating activities, unreliable social and technical infrastructure services, difficulties in developing new plots, and an overall decline in living standards. This situation made resettled individuals leave their designated areas and return to other slum regions, resulting in an increase in densification and poverty. Consequently, these situations raise questions about the level of community engagement in resettlement programmes and its ability to achieve sustainable livelihoods. This study builds on preliminary findings of a systematic review of available literature that has examined community participation in resettlement programmes and to answer the following questions; what is the effectiveness of community engagement in resettlement programmes? What research methods have been used? What are the research gaps and directions for future research?

The questions were answered using standard systematic review methods: systematic and exhaustive searching, quality-assured data extraction, and a narrative synthesis to compile the findings, as detailed in the following sections.

3. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Despite extensive decentralization efforts across Sub-Saharan Africa aimed at improving public service delivery and government efficiency, challenges in effectively engaging communities in resettlement programmes have been frequent. These challenges often lead to unsatisfactory outcomes such as poverty and dissatisfaction among resettled populations. Although community engagement is recognized as vital for the success of resettlement initiatives, there is limited understanding of how to effectively engage the community to development programmes. This systematic review and meta-analysis sought to address this gap by evaluating the existing research on community engagement in resettlement programmes, identifying key factors that influence success, and proposing a framework for improved community involvement to enhance sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.

Table 1: The database search strings

1	SCOPUS	TITLE-ABS-KEY (“community” OR “public” OR “civic” OR “communal”) AND (“engagement” OR “participation” OR “involvement”) AND (“resettlement” OR “relocation”) AND (“program” OR “project”))
2	Research4life	(“community” OR “public”) AND (“engagement” OR “participation”) AND (“resettlement” OR “relocation”) AND (“program” OR “project”))

Source: Author’s construct, 2024

Table 2: Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criteria	Eligibility	Exclusion
Literature type	Journal (research articles)	Journal (review), book series, book, book chapter, conference proceedings
Language	English	Non- English
Time	2013 – 2024	Below 2013
Scope	Sub-Saharan countries	Non-Sub-Saharan countries
Subject area	Social science, environmental science, arts and humanities, relocation, resettlement, participation, and community involvement	Other than social science, environmental science, arts and humanities, relocation, resettlement, participation, and community involvement

Source: Author’s construct, 2024

Table 3: Methodological analysis of the reviewed article

Articles	Qualitative method	Mixed method
1. Agayi, C. O., & Serdaroglu Sag, N. (2020).	•	
2. Charitonidou, M. (2022).	•	
3. Yakubu, I., Spocter, M., & Donaldson, R. (2021).		•
4. Kita, S. M. (2017).		•
5. Smyth, E., Steyn, M., Esteves, A. M., Franks, D. M., & Vaz, K. (2015).	•	
6. Asiam, K., Lengoiboni, M., & Van der Molen, P. (2017).	•	
7. Van der Ploeg, L., & Vanclay, F. (2018).	•	
8. Levenson, Z. (2019).	•	
9. Sharp, K., Le Billon, P., & Zerriffi, H. (2019).		•
10. Nikuze, A., Sliuzas, R., & Flacke, J. (2020).	•	
11. Jordhus-Lier, D. (2015).	•	
12. Symons, K. (2016).		•
13. Ijabadeniyi, A., & Vanclay, F. (2020).	•	
14. Cherunya, P. C., Truffer, B., Samuel, E. M., & Lüthi, C. (2021).	•	
15. Nikuze, A., Flacke, J., Sliuzas, R., & van Maarseveen, M. (2022).	•	
16. Shannon, M., Otsuki, K., Zoomers, A., & Kaag, M. (2018).	•	
Total	16	4

Source: Author's construct, 2024

Table 4: Variables' distribution in the reviewed articles

Participation	- Agayi, C. O., & Serdaroglu Sag, N. (2020), Charitonidou, M. (2022), Yakubu, I., Spocter, M., & Donaldson, R. (2021), Kita, S. M. (2017), Smyth, E., Steyn, M., Esteves, A. M., Franks, D. M., & Vaz, K. (2015), Asiam, K., Lengoiboni, M., & Van der Molen, P. (2017), Van der Ploeg, L., & Vanclay, F. (2018), Levenson, Z. (2019), Sharp, K., Le Billon, P., & Zerriffi, H. (2019), Nikuze, A., Sliuzas, R., & Flacke, J. (2020), Jordhus-Lier, D. (2015), Symons, K. (2016), Ijabadeniyi, A., & Vanclay, F. (2020), Cherunya, P. C., Truffer, B., Samuel, E. M., & Lüthi, C. (2021).
Collaboration	Agayi, C. O., & Serdaroglu Sag, N. (2020), Charitonidou, M. (2022), Nikuze, A., Flacke, J., Sliuzas, R., & van Maarseveen, M. (2022), Yakubu, I., Spocter, M., & Donaldson, R. (2021), Asiam, K., Lengoiboni, M., & Van der Molen, P. (2017), Van der Ploeg, L., & Vanclay, F. (2018), Nikuze, A., Sliuzas, R., & Flacke, J. (2020), Jordhus-Lier, D. (2015), Ijabadeniyi, A., & Vanclay, F. (2020).
Community satisfaction	-Charitonidou, M. (2022), Van der Ploeg, L., & Vanclay, F. (2018), Levenson, Z. (2019), Sharp, K., Le Billon, P., & Zerriffi, H. (2019), Nikuze, A., Sliuzas, R., & Flacke, J. (2020), Cherunya, P. C., Truffer, B., Samuel, E. M., & Lüthi, C. (2021).
Spatial issues	-Nikuze, A., Flacke, J., Sliuzas, R., & van Maarseveen, M. (2022), Agayi, C. O., & Serdaroglu Sag, N. (2020), Charitonidou, M. (2022), Yakubu, I., Spocter, M., & Donaldson, R. (2021), Smyth, E., Steyn, M., Esteves, A. M., Franks, D. M., & Vaz, K. (2015), Asiam, K., Lengoiboni, M., & Van der Molen, P. (2017), Sharp, K., Le Billon, P., & Zerriffi, H. (2019), Symons, K. (2016), Ijabadeniyi, A., & Vanclay, F. (2020), Shannon, M., Otsuki, K., Zoomers, A., & Kaag, M. (2018), Cherunya, P. C., Truffer, B., Samuel, E. M., & Lüthi, C. (2021)
Social capital	Charitonidou, M. (2022)
Community cohesion	Kita, S. M. (2017), Van der Ploeg, L., & Vanclay, F. (2018)

Source: Author's construct, 2024

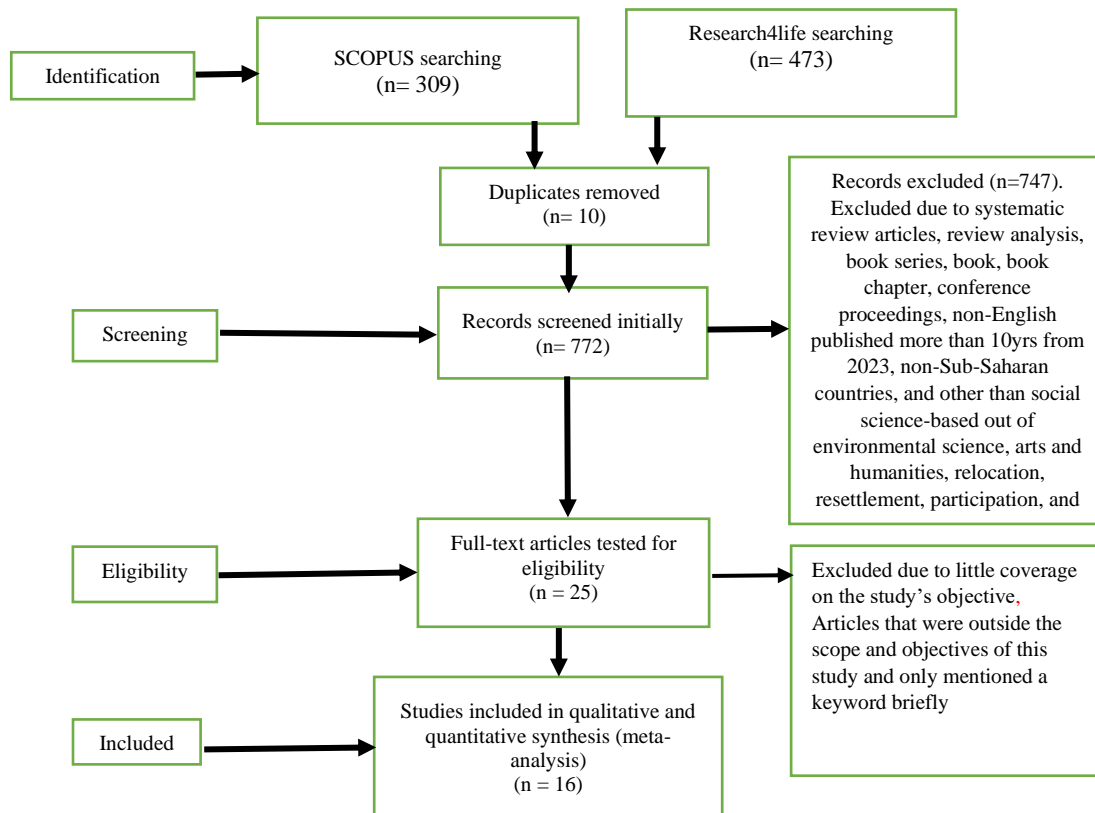


Figure 1: Flow diagram adapted for eligibility of pieces of literature
 Source: Online open access (Google)

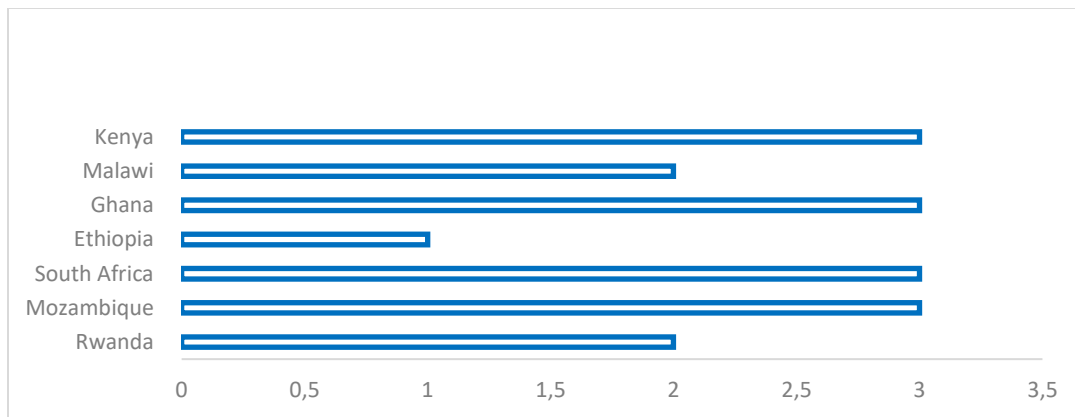


Figure 2: Geographical distribution of reviewed articles
 Source: Authors construct 2024

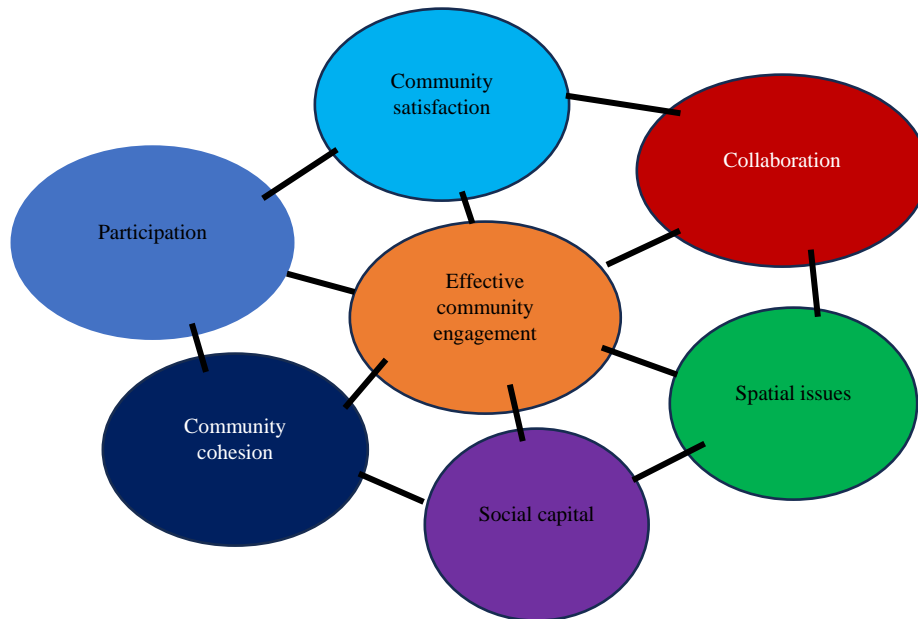


Figure 3: A conceptual web of effective community engagement

Source: Authors' construct, 2024

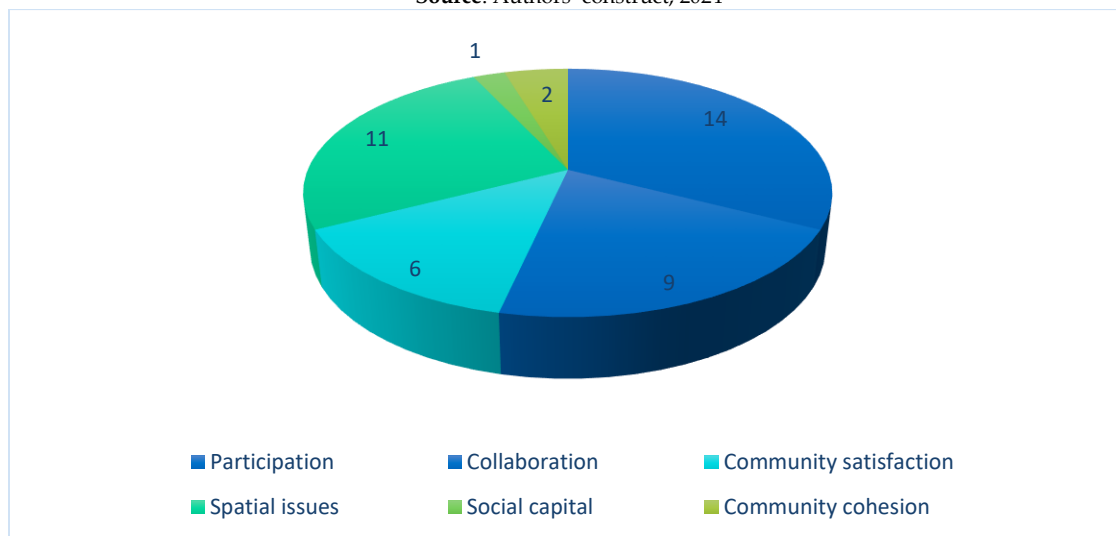


Figure 4: Variables' distribution in the reviewed articles

Source: Authors' construct, 2024

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study reviewed literature with a guide of PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) (Moher et al., 2010). Relevant studies for inclusion are defined by a set of eligibility criteria. The selected articles based on community engagement and resettlement, mirrored the Sub-Saharan Africa setting in a contemporary dated, and accessible in reputable databases. This guaranteed the reliability of the evidence presented in the study. SCOPUS and research4life databases were used to select pertinent literature. Boolean indicators (AND/OR) joined the search terms in the dialogue box. PRISMA is comprised of three main stages (identification,

screening, and eligibility). When these stages followed, a final list of articles was found for inclusion in a systematic review.

4.1. Identification stage

To search for literature on community engagement in resettlement programmes, it was necessary to choose the most suitable academic databases to search in the context of the current study. The decision was based on the availability of several scholarly articles that could serve as appropriate secondary data. Furthermore, these sources offer search capabilities that simplify filtering and downloading literature works for systematic review (Memon et al., 2021). After selecting Scopus and Research4life, relevant keywords were identified and entered into both search engines (see Table 1).

4.2. Screening

The second step of data selection involved a screening process to check for and remove duplicate articles. Initially, 10 articles were excluded in the first stage of screening. In the second stage, 772 articles were screened based on specific inclusion and exclusion criteria. An initial search was conducted on February 15, 2024, and both databases generated a total of 782 results, 309 from Scopus and 473 from research4life. To retrieve the targeted documents, the preliminary search was restricted to journals, as they are primary sources of empirical data. Consequently, research articles in the forms of reviews, systematic reviews, meta-syntheses, meta-analyses, books, book chapters, book series, and conference proceedings were excluded. The study focused specifically on published English-language research articles in the social sciences (subject areas – environmental science, arts and humanities, relocation, resettlement, participation, and community involvement), articles published in the last ten years (2013 to 2023), and articles focusing on Sub-Saharan context were selected. These restrictions spontaneously excluded 747 out of the 772 documents and remained with 25 documents. Titles and abstracts that focused on technical specifications were exempted (see Table 2).

4.3. Eligibility stage (list of studies to include)

The third stage of data selection focused on eligibility. The inclusion and exclusion criteria of 25 documents (articles) were assessed to identify relevant documents to the study. Detailed reviews of titles, abstracts, and main content were conducted to ensure that all selected articles met the inclusion criteria and were suitable for review. Consequently, 8 research articles were excluded at this stage due to limited coverage of their study objectives. Articles that were out of scope or mentioned only a relevant keyword without substantive content were also removed. As a result, 17 articles were deemed suitable for this study. These findings align with findings from previous research, as noted by Babitsch et al. (2012) as well as Chesser et al. (2019), who utilized fewer articles. The flow diagram outlining this process is shown in Figure 1.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

5.1. Selected articles overview

Resettlement can be a complex and demanding process for both those being resettled and those involved in the design and implementation of the resettlement. However, when managed effectively, resettlement has the potential to deliver significant long-term economic and social benefits to the affected communities. The success of such a programme hinges on the initial investment through actively listening to and engaging with the affected populations to develop solutions that address their needs (Smyth et al., 2015; Vanclay, 2017). Often community involvement has been narrowly defined as mere participation, thus overlooking the critical need for livelihood reconstruction in upgrading projects (Cherunya et al., 2021). As argued by scholars, genuine community participation in resettlement is essential for alleviating fear and misinformation among the affected individuals, enhancing transparency and trust,

and ensuring that community concerns are adequately addressed (Neema et al., 2017; Nikuze et al., 2020). Thus, effective participation is a crucial strategy for mitigating conflicts that may arise owing to conflicts of interest from diverse stakeholders. Thus, meaningful participation is key to the success of any resettlement plans (Nikuze et al., 2020).

Arnstein's ladder of participation, which is widely adopted by scholars, has been used to describe various levels of participation. The model operates on an implicit normative assumption that arranges these forms on a spectrum, ranging from minimal participation to substantial control over decision-making (Blue et al., 2019). According to scholars, participation in many land acquisition and resettlement projects has often remained limited and passive (Moreda, 2017; Nikuze et al., 2020). Additionally, there is a paucity of studies that critically examine the lived experiences of beneficiaries and how they address their livelihood needs during the upgrading process (Cherunya et al., 2021). Community engagement has widely been recognized as crucial to the success of any research project, however, effective methods for measuring the level of community engagement in research projects remain insufficiently developed.

5.2. Findings from the systematic review

The current section presents the geographical distribution of the reviewed articles, the methodological and thematic analysis made on the reviewed articles, and the effectiveness of community engagement as traced in the reviewed articles are explained in the following sub-sections.

5.2.1. Geographical distribution of the reviewed articles

In Sub-Saharan Africa, there has been an increase in development programmes that resulted in the displacement and resettlement of people (Verwimp & Maystadt, 2015; Vanclay, 2017; Uzoma et al., 2020). These programmes are a result of global development initiatives which prioritize development in global countries. Out of the reviewed 17 articles, three articles were from Mozambique, South Africa, Ghana, and Kenya all discussing resettlement programmes, community engagement, and displacement of people. Malawi and Rwanda had two articles each and only one article from Ethiopia discussing similar topics. These results, therefore, indicate the slow uptake of development in Sub-Saharan countries that implement development programmes by involving communities in their activities, as shown in Figure 2.

5.2.2. Methodological analysis

This section explains the methods used by different development practitioners and clients in tapping information from stakeholders for development projects that involved displacement of people and resettlement. In the 16 articles reviewed, several methods were found to have been used by different authors in Sub-Saharan countries to collect information. The methods include qualitative (Interview, observation, focus group discussion, and document analysis) and mixed methods (interview, focus group discussion, document analysis, and survey) as illustrated in Table 3.

The findings in Table 3 on the analysis of 16 articles show that most studies used qualitative methods for data collection (12), and others used mixed methods (4). The qualitative method is among the most useful research methods for data collection, it is simple to use and unproblematic (Allwood, 2012; Flick, 2018). The qualitative method normally selects participants to be involved in the study, it does not involve the whole population but rather representatives hence it fails to tap the potential grassroots ideas in data collection (Merriam & Grenier, 2019). This made most of the development programmes fail to meet the majority's needs and the objectives for community development (Gardiner et al., 2018).

Accordingly, mixed methods of data collection integrate both qualitative and quantitative approaches. This combination allows for a comprehensive exploration of data, incorporating insights from a broad range of

participants, and enhancing and validating information from diverse sources, including local communities, thus, providing a comprehensive data set for investigating relevant issues (Östlund et al., 2011; Palinkas et al., 2015; Bergin, 2018). Thus, researchers are increasingly adopting mixed-method techniques to broaden the scope and strengthen the analytical depth of their studies (Gibson, 2017).

However, out of the 16 articles reviewed, only four used mixed methods; this implies that most researchers use either qualitative or quantitative methods rather than mixed methods in data collection; as a result, they fail to explore pertinent issues that can shed light on project implementation (Torrance, 2012; Riazzi et al., 2014). However, the literature reveals that using multiple methods and techniques for data collection can help researchers obtain a wide range of data from different sources and produce robust results for research in development programmes (Olsen, 2011). The following section analyses the effectiveness of community engagement that was found in the 16 articles reviewed.

5.2.3. Effectiveness of community engagement

After analysing various articles on community engagement in resettlement programmes, some key factors/variables were identified. These factors include participation, community satisfaction, the level of collaboration, spatial issues, social capital, and community cohesion as also observed by Kyessi (2011) (see Figure 4). In the following sub-section, the reflection and importance of these themes on community engagement in resettlement programmes are explained.

Participation

Engaging communities is essential for unlocking the full potential of planning projects and ensuring their successful implementation (Hasan et al., 2018). Projects that incorporate community participation often lead to more sustainable and inclusive development outcomes. Moreover, community involvement plays a critical role in enhancing the efficiency and success of resettlement processes. As observed by Azad and MacElhinney (2011), achieving resilience depends on involving affected communities throughout the entire process. Active community participation and consensus with residents are the most effective approaches to relocating people (Abebe & Hesselberg, 2015; Shand, 2018; Ahmad & Islam, 2024). The importance of involving the public through consultation in the planning and management of development activities has been underscored by a growing body of research (Bednarska-Olejniczak et al., 2019). For example, Abebe and Hesselberg (2015) emphasize the significant benefits of engaging those affected directly in all phases of urban development processes.

Mitlin's study validates the vital role of local communities and their grassroots organizations in shaping policies related to urban development projects. By actively participating in these initiatives, community members can not only express their needs and desires but also safeguard the development efforts that are tailored to benefit them (Mitlin et al., 2019; Mitlin, 2023). Furthermore, participation can have a positive impact on people's lives by increasing their self-sufficiency and self-respect (Kim, 2023). According to Aaron (2012), participation plays an important role in reducing poverty. He argues that voicelessness and marginalisation are key factors contributing to poverty, and that participation helps individuals take control of their lives and become more responsible for their well-being. However, mere consultation is not enough; participation must involve empowering affected individuals and communities to take charge of their development (Arnstein, 2015).

Community satisfaction

Community satisfaction is a measure of how well people feel that their community is meeting their personal needs. It refers to people's subjective evaluation of their well-being. When community services and conditions are of high quality, residents' needs are more likely to be fulfilled, which increases their sense of belonging. Residents' satisfaction with their community life increases with a stronger sense of community (Chen et al., 2020). This satisfaction is essential for the stability and long-term success of a community. Content residents are less likely to

relocate, highlighting the importance of fostering a supportive and engaging community environment (Talhelm & Oishi, 2014). While numerous studies have investigated the direct effects of community satisfaction on individual well-being, few have explored the underlying mechanism linking these two variables as a sense of community (Du et al., 2023; Gamo & Park, 2024).

Socio-economic conditions, environment, and access to infrastructure and public services are the factors influencing community satisfaction (Baing et al., 2019; Bhuiyan & Islam, 2023). However, previous research indicates that many housing reconstruction projects have barely been successful due to insufficient attention to the needs of the relocated individuals. Relocation can lead to for example adverse outcomes such as loss of livelihood, disruption of daily routines, and conflict with host communities. As a result, because such factors continue to undermine housing reconstruction initiatives, beneficiaries tend to either modify or outright reject the housing projects provided to them (Wijayasinghe, 2010; GebreEgziabher, 2014). During resettlement, individuals may choose to sell or rent their new homes due to issues such as insufficient community involvement in the planning process, poor communication, an uncoordinated resettlement process, and a lack of cultural appropriateness in recovery measures (Nikuze et al., 2019). Addressing these challenges is crucial for the success of a reconstruction programme. Therefore, it is essential to carefully consider factors such as location, site selection, settlement planning, construction methods, materials, and design choices to ensure that the community is satisfied in the planning of new settlements as also noted by researchers (Manatunge & Abeysinghe, 2017; Varolgüneş, 2021).

Collaboration

Government plans and social consultations with the affected community are essential in guiding and informing the resettlement process respectively. Cooperation and participation of various stakeholders, including government entities, local communities, and the private sector are important in a collaborative approach to planning and decision-making (Lovan et al., 2017). The involvement of multiple stakeholders in the planning and decision-making process creates a more democratic and inclusive decision-making environment. The collaborative planning process aims at fostering deep interaction and dialogue among stakeholders, building their capacity, and cultivating a common understanding. The approach is aimed at developing a cohesive and unified framework through voluntary engagement (Johansson et al., 2018; MacDonald et al., 2022). A lot of time, effort, and resources are needed to effectively engage and coordinate with diverse groups in implementing a collaborative planning framework. Challenges such as conflicting interests, power imbalances, and varying levels of commitment from stakeholders can impede a collaborative approach from succeeding (Emerson et al., 2012; Koontz & Newig, 2024). Thus, while a collaborative approach to planning has prospects of becoming more inclusive and democratic in decision-making, its implementation necessitates careful consideration of specific contexts, stakeholders' characteristics, and effective facilitation. Addressing these factors is crucial for overcoming challenges, building trust and empathy, and maximizing the benefits of the approach (Lovan et al., 2017).

Spatial issues

In many rapidly urbanizing cities, slum dwellers often occupy land without legal authorisation, thus, complicating the resettlement process (Mohanty, 2019). Thus, legal land ownership is crucial for resettlement programmes to be effective and sustainable. Therefore, governments must ensure that resettled communities receive secure land tenure to support successful integration and stability (Smyth & Vanclay, 2024). Disasters and development-induced programmes increase the number of victims with a high demand for emergency and temporary shelters (Cernea, 2019). Inevitably, many people have to stay in the designated areas for lack of alternatives (Piyatadsannon et al., 2010). Furthermore, cases in which people move back to their original land are frequent where resettlement plans have been unsuccessful (Witter & Satterfield, 2014). Thus, when planning for a resettlement process, spatial issues

are worth considering. Special issues address issues related to land tenure and property rights, ensuring that land is acquired and distributed fairly among the resettled population. Such issues also help in resolving conflicts over land ownership and establishing clear legal frameworks for land use and management. Special issues also involve ensuring adequate transportation infrastructure and accessibility to essential services such as employment, education, healthcare, and the like (Nikuze et al., 2022). Therefore, spatial planning helps in the efficient allocation of resources such as land, water, and infrastructure. It ensures that new resettlement areas are equipped with the necessary facilities to support the resettled populations.

Social capital

Resettlement programmes can profoundly affect the communities involved, with a profound impact on various aspects including income levels, cultural norms, social values, and interpersonal bonds (Koral et al., 2019). Social capital, in this respect, plays a crucial role especially as it serves as an avital resource for those lacking other forms of capital. Social capital has proven essential in assessing how involuntarily displaced individuals adapt and integrate into their new surroundings (Azane, 2021). According to Woolcock and Narayan (2000) in Izmen (2018), social ties, networks, and the resources they provide play a significant role in the development process. Research has consistently linked social capital to various poverty indicators, including income, livelihood, health, education, employment, and food security. Social capital enables individuals to access and utilise information and resources through their social connections. For instance, borrowing a friend's car in an emergency or learning about a job opportunity from a former classmate are practical examples of leveraging social capital (Gallaher et al., 2013; Kironi, 2015). Therefore, social capital enables groups to collaborate effectively toward a common goal by fostering trust and a shared sense of identity, norms, values, and mutual relationships.

This cohesion allows societies and organizations, whether corporations or non-profitable, to operate harmoniously and support sustainable community livelihoods. This concept is further emphasized by other scholars (Aldrich & Meyer, 2015; Saz-Gil et al. 2021).

Community cohesion

Community cohesion refers to the way individuals within a geographical area coexist with mutual understanding and respect. A cohesive society is characterized not only by the availability of essential services and facilities but also by the promotion of economic equality, inclusion, democracy, and social solidarity. Such a community shares a common vision and fosters a sense of belonging among its members. Its diversity of values appreciates different backgrounds and ensures equitable opportunities for everyone (Atkinson et al., 2020). However, displaced communities often face challenges such as limited access to livelihoods, financial instability, and disrupted social and family networks. The competition for jobs can exacerbate social tensions between displaced individuals and the host population (Jayakody et al., 2022). To foster social cohesion in any community development programme, organizations and practitioners should undertake the following actions: a clear definition of project's goals and values, provision of training, promotion of team-building, enhancement of communication, building of trust, and celebrating achievements collectively. , Thus, effective strategies including ensuring adequate provision of basic services and facilities without overburdening the host community, offering support services that facilitate local integration, and promoting economic integration between displaced individuals and the host population are essential in strengthening social cohesion between displaced and host communities (ibid). These measures help improve residents' satisfaction with their living conditions, enhance their positive perceptions of others and the services they receive, and ultimately contribute to their overall happiness and well-being.

Figure 3 is a summary of the foregoing narration of variables and shows a close relationship/connectivity that the variables are interconnected in that, they work in a web supporting each other to build an effective community engagement.

Accordingly, development practitioners/project organisers should observe these variables in a web of management for effective community engagement for a meaningful resettlement programme. Most of the reviewed articles used one, two, or three and not all variables in the resettlement processes; thus, creating many problems for both clients as well as the affected communities in the implementation of the projects/programmes; hence, most of the projects end up with dissatisfaction, chaos, and poverty among the affected people. Similarly, some of the displaced people decide to return to other slum areas, causing densification and impoverishment (Magembe-Mushi & Lupala, 2015; Dupont & Gowda, 2020). From the 16 selected research articles, various factors/variables were reported as shown in Table 4. The subsequent sections discuss the review findings of the 16 research articles.

Many of the reviewed articles (14) emphasized the importance of involving stakeholders in development programmes, including those related to resettlement. The level of participation of the community and stakeholders can serve as an indicator of the success of the development project (Wamugu & Ogollah, 2017). However, in most of the reviewed articles, stakeholders' participation was limited to government officials and a few key individuals who represented the majority. In some cases, no representatives were reported from the beneficiaries. Therefore, inadequate representation of beneficiaries in the development processes highlights the failure of many of the reviewed projects in this study.

Furthermore, several reviewed research articles highlighted the importance of spatial consideration (11). thus, clients must consider critical issues on the spatial structures for the relocated individuals when planning for the displacement and resettlement of people due to development or disaster. This encompasses issues such as land tenure and property rights, land ownership, and the establishment of clear legal frameworks for land use and management. Additionally, critical issues also involve ensuring that adequate transportation infrastructure and accessibility to essential services, including employment, education, health care, and other critical resources are available (Vanclay, 2017; Nikuze et al., 2019). Therefore, ensuring the availability of appropriate spatial structure can make resettled individuals more easily adapt to their new environment. If these factors are not considered implementation of the programmes might fail, as noted in some of the reviewed articles of this study.

Similarly, other research articles have emphasized the importance of collaboration (9) in developing programmes that involve partnerships. For sustainable community livelihood after the development of the induced programmes, proper collaboration should involve more than two stakeholders, including the local community, civil societies, co-operative societies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the government, Community -Based Organisations (CBO), and other international agencies (Xu et al., 2022). However, from the reviewed 17 articles, collaboration appears not to have been given due importance in development programmes, especially with regard to local community engagement. Most of the discussed collaboration is between the government and international development agencies, which has resulted in minimal input from the local community, leading to projects failing to achieve their intended goals.

Moreover, findings from the 16 reviewed articles reveal that community satisfaction emerged as an important variable. About 6 research articles highlighted the significance of community satisfaction in development programmes such as resettlement. For a community to be satisfied with any development programme, it is essential that they participate fully throughout, from the initial planning, through the implementation and to the evaluation stages (Sulemana et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2022). This inclusive approach fosters a sense of ownership and belonging among community members, thus, ultimately aligning the project with community needs and aspirations, as also highlighted by Arkorful et al. (2023). However, most of the projects reviewed resulted in community dissatisfaction, leading to chaos, forcing some of the beneficiaries to sell their plots/buildings to well-to-do people and return to other slum areas. This implies that such projects have failed.

Consequently, from the 16 reviewed research articles, social capital, and community cohesion were found to have been slightly pronounced [(social capital (1) and community cohesion (2)]. In this respect, recent changes in social policy mandate that local authorities prioritize community cohesion (Dare et al., 2014). A cohesive community is characterized by a shared vision and a sense of belonging for all its members. Diversity is not only recognized but

actively valued, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background, has equal opportunities. In such communities, strong, positive relationships are nurtured among individuals from various backgrounds across workplaces, schools, and neighbourhoods (Demireva & McNeil, 2015).

Conclusively, Community cohesion is rooted in the concept of social capital, often described as the 'social glue' that binds people, organizations, and communities together, enabling them to collaborate towards common goals. This cohesion is defined by trust and reciprocity, creating social networks that link individuals, organizations, and communities, fostering collective efforts and shared objectives. Social capital and community cohesion are related and often overlapping concepts. Both are part of a process that involves people organising their relationships to achieve goals, engaging in legitimise actions, distributing resources, and structuring institutions (Burns et al., 2018). Therefore, Social capital is an asset, which comes from investments or goods and services produced. Social cohesion, in contrast, is the social bond that emerges from social capital. Analysis of 16 reviewed articles revealed that many development projects fail because they inadequately address social capital and community cohesion in community-based development programmes.

6. RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

Therefore, according to the reviewed literature, community-based development programmes must prioritize factors such as community participation, collaboration, community satisfaction, spatial, social capital, and community cohesion to have effective community engagement in development programmes such as resettlement (Chaskin, 2017; Geekiyana et al., 2020; Castro-Arce & Vanclay, 2020; An & Park, 2023; Sabet & Khaksar, 2024). This can help to create sustainable community livelihoods and enable the affected people to settle and cope with their new environment hence community development.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND FUTURE RESEARCH

The findings of the current study provide researchers with relevant research gaps for further investigation. As community engagement is gaining roots in development programmes including resettlement, researchers could focus on all aspects of sustainable livelihood and poverty reduction among the community members and propose determinants for a proper community liveable environment after the displacement. Additionally, the findings of the current study show that there are few researches on emerging economies including those in Sub-Saharan countries where community engagement is gaining importance worldwide. Future studies can concentrate on this potential and crucial area of community engagement in development programmes, particularly resettlement.

8. CONCLUSION

Resettlement can be a challenging process for both the individuals being resettled and those involved in the planning and execution of the process. However, if managed effectively, resettlement has the potential to yield significant long-term economic and social benefits for the affected communities. To achieve this, it is essential to invest time and resources in engaging with the affected people and finding solutions that address their demands. Community engagement is now a crucial component of development planning and has extensively been discussed in academic discourses. According to recent research (i.e., Geoffrey et al., 2021; Toriola-Coker et al., 2021; Magoola et al., 2023), community engagement at different levels of development projects plays a critical role in ensuring that projects are sustainable and community livelihood is promoted.

Planning and implementation can be challenging due to variations in circumstances existing in each project. While some projects have minor impacts, others may require relocation of the entire communities (Kerzner, 2017). Therefore, it is crucial to prioritise and focus on the needs of those affected by the project. This entails collaborating with the affected to identify their needs and wants and allowing them to decide on issues that matter to their well-being. So, establishing a co-production mechanism that creates a sense of community ownership, trust, knowledge sharing, and social cohesion (Vanleene & Verschuere, 2018).

Findings on the methodological analysis of the reviewed articles reveal that most researchers prefer to use one of the research methods (either qualitative or quantitative) rather than mixed methods for data collection. This creates a problem in capturing important information from the grassroots community, resulting in the failure of many development projects to attain their intended goals. This occurs when a project fails to meet the needs and wants of the grassroots beneficiaries owing to using only representatives in the quest for patient information that poses challenges to the local community. The reviewed literature suggests that using various methods and techniques for data collection can help researchers gather a wider range of data from different sources, leading to generalisability and reliability of the findings on community development programmes (Denscombe, 2017).

Thus, as suggested by literature (Topoti, 2022), effective community engagement is crucial for successful resettlement programmes. However, to ensure that the community is engaged properly, certain factors such as community participation, collaboration, spatial structures, community satisfaction, social capital, and community cohesion must be considered (Chaskin, 2017; Geekiyanage et al., 2020; Castro-Arce & Vanclay, 2020; An & Park, 2023; Sabet & Khaksar, 2024). These factors are interconnected in supporting sustainable community livelihoods. A thorough legal analysis can assist clients in both the public and private sectors in identifying effective methods of implementing resettlement programmes in a civilised and productive manner (Van Wicklin, 2018).

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