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THE IMPLICATIONS OF TOKWE-MUKOSI DAM ON PEOPLE'S WELFARE; THE
CASE OF CHINGWIZI TRANSIT CAMP (2014-2016)

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APPROVAL FORM

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DECLARATION

I Edlight Sirivoyi R125749B do hereby declare that this is my own work submitted to the Department of History in the Faculty of Arts.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my mom and my entire family

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I would like to thank the Almighty for guiding me through the four entire years of my study, my family for the financial support they gave me. Thank you guys without you I would not be where I am today. Special thanks to my friends. my supervisor Dr Mashingaidze and Midlands State University at large for the support you gave me. God bless you.

ACRONYMS

CAC	Coalition against Corruption
CPU	Civil Protection Unit
DA	District Administration
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ISC	Italian Salini Costruttori
NAC	National Aids Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PTUZ	Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
ZBE	Zimbabwe Bio-Energy
ZADHR	Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Kuminda Shona term for farming lands

Pasitendi Small pieces of arable land within the home area

Nhimbe Collective doing of work/reciprocal labor exchange

Rume rimwe harikombi churu Shona proverb meaning one man cannot do by himself

ABSTRACT

The construction of Tokwe-Mukosi Dam in Chivi area resulted in the displacement of thousands of families from their home area to the Chingwizi Transit Camp in Mwenezi District. The idea of the dam construction started in 1998 but faced a lot of drawbacks due to financial strains the country had. In 2014 Chivi area received a lot of rainfall exceeding the average amount the area receives. This saw the area experiencing floods and thousands of families being displaced. The evacuation of the victims was however not done on time which saw many losing their belongings and the situation was worsened by the government's failure to compensate the victims on their loss. This created miserable lives for the displaced and made them rely on donations to make ends meet in the camp. In the camp there were a plethora of problems faced by the victims varying from shelter, food and clothing shortages to outbreak of diseases, poor educational standards and medical attention. The clinics and schools were far from the holding tents making it difficult for many to reach for them resulting in school dropouts and relying on traditional medication. There were also the problems of sanitation in the camp as there were few toilets which saw the majority opting for the bush. The few toilets were always dirty making it uncomfortable to use them. Donations on women sanitary towels have been hit by corruption and most women have resorted to tree leaves, rags and newspapers which are unhygienic and unhealthy. Traditional means have been applied by the victims to cater for problems and many parents have resorted to marrying their daughters to some well-to-do members in the nearby sugarcane communities. There is therefore need for the government to take consideration of the victims' way of living making sure that they are well supplied with basic need in the camps where they would have been temporarily kept.

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Introductory

Introduction

The construction of Tokwe-Mukosi Dam in Chivi area saw the evacuation of thousands of families due to floods. The floods were as a result of heavy rainfall exceeding the average amount received in the area. The situation was worsened by partial collapse of the dam wall which was under construction. Attempts to divert water from the dam were made but to no avail as the dam upstream Tokwe-Mukosi continued to pour water into the dam. The situation was pronounced state disaster and help was given to those who were affected. The victims were then relocated to Chingwizi Transit Camp in Nuanetsi ranch. The relocation to the camp impacted on people's welfare as there was a complete change of lifestyle. People lost their property, livestock and food and to make matters worse they were not compensated. The camp was squalid with few toilets and temporary, makeshift shelter as landownership is still controversial.

The study will mainly focus at Chingwizi Transit Camp in detail unveiling the living conditions, problems and coping strategies adopted by the flood victims. In the camp food portions were given to each family but it's not enough for them to survive as they used to do back in their homes. Other forms of aid in the camp from Non-Governmental Organization have been disrupted by corruption thus worsening the already shattered living conditions. Donations given to the victims were seen being sold in the markets. The study will unveil disruption of learning and subsistence farming due to the relocation of flood victims to the camp. Shelter has been a major problem in the camp which saw many pupils drop out of school to help their parents securing material to supplement the one tent given to them ¹. The schools were located far away from the tents making it difficult for the majority to commute on foot every school day to and

from school and the danger of wild animals aided to dropouts. The schools were poorly constructed with inadequate furniture and teaching staff.²

Disruption of subsistence farming also was as a result of the relocation since the land given to them was not enough to sustain the families and is not suitable for farming. This also aided to school dropouts as most parents relied on farm produce to raise school fees. The study will also focus on the problems affecting women and young girls in the camp. Women have been relying on donations and these had been sealed down leaving them in a pathetic situation. The situation got worse as each day passes in the camp for the women and young girls. Women have therefore been using unsafe and dirty ways to cater for their menstrual cycles and they always spoil their clothes and have become a laughing by their male counterparts in the camp³. Coalition against Corruption (CAC) has been urging to stop corruption and let donors give a hand to women in the camp. Prostitution has become rife due to a large percentage of school dropouts and lack of moral activities within the camp. This has led to outbreak of STIs in the camp like gonorrhoea and syphilis being rampant as unprotected sex is common among camp-dwellers. National Aids Council (N.A.C) provincial coordinator Ivos Makoni said that the flood victims have become victims of STIs as a result of engaging in nothing to pastime thus ending up in immoral acts⁴. Early marriages in the camp were a result of food shortages which saw parents giving those men with the better status in the sugarcane community their daughters' hand in marriage⁵.

The research will take note of the forced cultivation of sugarcane in the camp as another problem affecting people's welfare. The Civil Protection Unit (CPU) relocated thousands of families and these might fall as victims of sugarcane growing for the ethanol plant thus their they cannot sustain their lives from this project. The government has failed to compensate the victims as promised due to lack of resources and there are no permanent homes in the camp as land

ownership is still in dispute. To deal with these problems families have resorted to other means like relying on traditional medications, traditional purification of the dirty water in the camp, marrying daughters to the well- to- do members in the nearby communities. There needs to be well planned emergence strategies to deal with the victims who would have been displaced due to natural and man-made hazards.

Statement to the problem

The research intends to unveil the problems affecting the victims of the Tokwe-Mukosi Dam who have been relocated to the Chingwizi Transit Camp in the Nuanetsi ranch. The victims were not given a say over their choice of residents- a place they wanted to be moved to. The camp where the victims have been relocated is a ghost place where families are living miserable lives. The living conditions were poor and squalid with disease outbreak being rife whilst clinics were too far away from the holding camp. Educational facilities were poor and schools were below standard and far away risking lives of the pupils to the wild animals in the ranch. Many pupils have dropped out of school due to the distance between the schools and their tents and financial strains. Most parents have found it hard to raise school fees for their children since they were not employed and there were no other means of raising money in the camp. The piece of land allocated to the victims in the camp is too small to accommodate the families. That same small piece of land has to cater for farming and building of shelter which means the lives of the victims are full of misery. The area was arid and unsuitable for growing of crops at the same time the food portions given to the victims were not enough for survival and health is at stake as the victims have lost a balance diet meal.

Research Objectives

The research seeks to:

Assess the impacts of the floods and unplanned relocation to the Chingwizi Transit Camp on the welfare of the victims

Assess life in the camp, examining when and how they were settled and forms of help rendered to the displaced families

Examine every day challenges faced and the coping strategies adopted

Research Questions

What impact has the floods and unplanned relocation to the Chingwizi Transit Camp had on the victims' welfare?

When and how was the flood victims settled at the camp and what form of help was given?

What every day challenges are being faced and the coping strategies adopted in the camp?

Background history

Tokwe-Mukosi Dam is in Masvingo Province about 72 kilometers south of Masvingo. Masvingo lies in natural region four which receives low rainfall and the area is prone to droughts. Most of the crops grown in the region are drought resistance crops because of the unreliable and low rainfalls. The dam is built on the confluence of Tokwe and Mukosi rivers and is currently Zimbabwe's largest inland dam⁶. The first of its kind in the country, in that it is a concrete-faced rock fill dam, dam wall will sit at a height of 89.2 meters on completion. According to Engineer Dengu, "A thick impervious concrete face of about 40 centimeters was

put on the dam wall to prevent water from flowing through the rocks. There was no mortar used to support the rocks”⁷.

The dam serves as a source of hydro-electricity and water supply for communal farmers⁸, to supplement the low rainfall the area receives. The dam is going to serve as a tourist resort center and fishery will be done too. Construction started in 1998 June but was hindered by financial drawbacks, the fall of the Zimbabwean dollar. Construction resumed in April 2011 at an estimated cost of approximately US\$115 million⁹. This was also due to the adoption of the multi-currency which made the progress of the work possible. The Salini Impregilo Company (SIC) is constructing the dam under Zimbabwean Government’s contract. On the onset of dam construction nearly 6 500 families were to be evacuated from the Tokwe Mukosi area. It designated three relocation sites of Chisase in Masvingo, Masangula and Chingwizi in Mwenzezi¹⁰. Number of schools, clinics and boreholes in the three sites depended on the number of families to be situated in a particular site. Chisase is located 50 kilometers from the dam while Masangula and Chingwizi are 150 kilometers away.

People living in the up and downstream of Tokwe-Mukosi dam were to be evacuated to the three designated places. Thousands of families were to be compensated so that they were able to rebuild their lives in the new settlement. Compensation was mainly done according to the valuation of property each family had but however this was not done as the country was complaining of lack of funds to do so. Relocation was not done on time which saw some families immersed in water before the valuation of their property and relocation to the new settlement.

Literature review

Zimbabwe is one of the countries that are prone to natural disasters which includes floods, drought, cyclones and epidemics to mention a few. Burton, Kates and White define natural disasters as those components of the physical environment, destructive to man and brought on by powers superfluous to him/her¹¹. As indicated by Walker natural hazard is a part of nature's effect on human affairs¹². As indicated by Madamombe floods are created by substantial precipitation in the blustery season or by tropical typhoons from the Indian Ocean¹³. This explains the reasons behind the cause of floods in Chivi area. The partial collapse of the dam wall also aided to the floods. The vulnerability to floods in Zimbabwe is due to the location of homes in flood basins¹⁴, of the lower Zambezi valley like Guruve and Muzarabani. Madamombe asserts that the lower Zambezi is highly vulnerable to flooding and, in fact, the word Muzarabani means "flood plain" in the Shona language¹⁵. In the Chivi area the location of the homes was however not the case but the issue of excessive rainfall and collapse of the dam wall. The 2014 floods in Zimbabwe were as a result of climatic change which saw the Masvingo District receiving rainfall above average and led to thousands of families being displaced in the Chivi area to Mwenezi district. According to Chitiga and Chigora the country is vulnerable to climate change as a result of poor environmental management practices, variability in rainfall patterns and extreme events¹⁶. In most instances in the rural areas trees and bushes have been cut down without replaces leaving vast open spaces which make people easily washed away by floods. People in the rural areas are being located on strategic places which are not safe for human inhabitation like near rivers and dams. When heavy rains come rivers overflow and dams overspill resulting in dangers to those located nearer. Climatic change is another factor beyond human control which results in floods. The delayed consequences of characteristic perils which

incorporate relocation, change in environment and expanded vector reproducing locales, poor water and sanitation, stuffed and weakness offices and sustenance prompted the danger of irresistible ailments transmission and outbreaks¹⁷. The case of the floods in Chivi area led to displacement into unplanned and overcrowded shelters in the Chingwizi camp where people were lacking immunization and health care. Many patients lost their contact with hospitals and clinics resulting in them not having medication risking their lives. Humans and animals in the Chingwizi area lack immunization and vaccination accordingly as health activities in the camp are poor and face a number of challenges. According to WHO, crowdedness prompts various illnesses, for example, measles, intense respiratory contaminations from poor ventilation, poor nourishment and jammed safe house in the harsh elements¹⁸. The victims were exposed to diseases as they spent some nights in the open before pitching their tents. Howard, Brillman and Burkle noted on the outcomes of flooding to general wellbeing which incorporate illness flare-up coming about because of the relocation into overpopulated camps and cross sullyng of water sources with fecal material¹⁹. The Chingwizi camp is one of the overpopulated camps where living conditions are squalid with poor shelter and food nutrition. People have been on several occasions using dirty water from ditches and pits for domestic use since there are always long queues on the boreholes. The victims were also consuming contaminated food as the camp was characterised by big and small flies all over the places coming from the bush where the majority were relieving themselves. Aljunid cited, 'the drawn out wellbeing effect of characteristic perils on a group might be the result of the breakdown of wellbeing offices, and medicinal services frameworks, the disturbance of reconnaissance and wellbeing programs like vaccination, vector control programs, the restriction or devastation of cultivating exercises, shortage of nourishment,

sustenance instability or the intrusion of progressing treatment and the utilization of unprescribed medications²⁰.

Zimbabwe has been hit by a number of floods which took lives, destroyed property, crops and livestock. According to Gwimbi in 2000, Tropical Cyclone Eline brought on flooding in the Zambezi Basin, killing 700 individuals, rendering more than 500,000 destitute and annihilating framework worth \$1 billion²¹. Madamombe points out that in March 2003, Tropical Cyclone Japhet brought on flooding in Guruve and Muzarabani areas in the Zambezi basin²². The Cyclone was described by solid 110 km for each hour winds, with blasts coming to up to 140 km for every hour. The two incidents are signifies the case of Chivi area where thousands of families were displaced as a result of floods which swept away their homes and belongings forcing them to be sheltered in the Chingwizi camp. Floods damage property, infrastructure, livestock, injuring people and or taking away lives. Damages done by floods were sometimes too cost for the government to handle leading to displacement without compensation which shatters the future of the majority

Gwimbi offers some recommendations to make Zimbabwean communities more resilient to flooding. The provision of early warning signs, development of a disaster plan which guide to flood risk reduction and conservation strategies which can help reduce floods²³. Gwimbi and IFPRI noticed that on the readiness side, the Government of Zimbabwe ought to put resources into advances that can give groups early cautioning data that is essential in decreasing the effect of debacles like floods and famine²⁴. For instance, flood notifications can alert communities on impending floods and allow residents to evacuate ahead of the floods.

Floods have been and are still occurring in Zimbabwe as noted by many scholars. Works by other scholar initiated the research on how floods impacted on the lives of the victims of Tokwe Mukosi dam in the Chivi area. Floods impacted negatively on the welfare of the people, the after effects of the floods such as displacement is the worst impact of floods. As cited by earlier scholars floods disrupt the social order and result in displacement where victims are subjected to poor living conditions and deteriorating of health standards in the new homes.

Sources and Methodology

Data was collected through use of primary sources such as interviews, questionnaires, group discussions and reports. This help the researcher acquire first hand information and the triangulation of sources help in the check and balance of information gathered. Interviews were done with participants in the events who witnessed the incidents. Questionnaires were distributed at random and the researcher combined the gathered information from all dimensions to come up with reliable information. Questionnaires were attempted by persons from the age of 15 to 30 whilst group discussions were attended by the old aged and the illiterate who could not fill in the questionnaires. Some informants did not want to express themselves orally as fear been exposed thus questioners were useful in acquiring information. Undersigned questionnaires were used to acquire information which falls out of the designed questionnaires. Reports from different organizations were also used to gather information which the researcher could not attain as a university student as victims feared for their wellbeing. The use of multiple sources helps the researcher collect reliable information. First hand information was easy to collect as the majority were participants and eye-witnessed the events. Articles from newspapers, interviews published in newspapers, journals, internet and published report from the Parliament were also used in the

research. Interviews helped the researcher interact with the victims exposing their feelings and thoughts about their live experiences. All these primary sources of information were triangulated to come up with reliable information for the research. Secondary information was used but however to a lesser extent as the researcher relied much on primary sources.

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Dissertation layout /structure

Introductory chapter

This chapter comprises of the introduction which highlights the major issues the whole dissertation focuses on. It gives brief information about the implication of the dam construction on people's welfare, problems faced and solutions. In this chapter views by other scholars on how floods impacted people's lives in other places are unpacked. The sources and methods used to collect data are also presented

Chapter 1: Dam history and lives before floods

This chapter focuses on the history of the dam and lives before floods in the Chivi area. Tokwe – Mukosi dam situated in Chivi area in the Masvingo province on completion will be Zimbabwe's largest inland dam which will serve as a water reservoir for irrigation in the Lowveld, tourist resort centre, electricity generation, fishing and creation of employment. The idea of the dam construction started in 1998 but due to financial drawbacks it was not successful which stretches the period of construction into the second half of the 21st century. The dam is unique as it is a rock fill dam unlike others in the country. It was built using rock without mortar just like Great Zimbabwe. The lives of people in the Chivi area was quite good before the floods characterised by subsistence farming, gardening, community cooperative projects among others. These activities sustained lives of the majority in the Chivi area

Chapter 2: The floods and impacts on people's livelihoods

This chapter looks at the floods of February 2014 in the Masvingo province particularly Chivi area-Tokwe-Mukosi. The floods resulted due to heavy rains exceeding the average amount received in the area. The situation was worsened by continuous run in of water from a dam up

stream Tokwe-Mukosi. Families, property and livestock got immersed in the floods and aid was given by the government as this was announced a natural disaster. The floods impacted on lives of the people as the learning process was disrupted, farming activities, social life, loss of infrastructure like community centers, clinics, schools. All these losses were worsened by the victims not being compensated before leaving their homes.

Chapter 3: Relocation and survival strategies

The floods affected the lives of people in the Chivi area which saw them being relocated to the Chingwizi Transit Camp in Nuanetsi Ranch. The process was done randomly and not on time which saw the majority losing their property and livestock in the floods. To make matters worse the victims were not compensated before they were evacuated to the new area as the situation calls for emergency measures. The relocation to the camp impacted heavily on the lives of the survivors as there was a complete change of lifestyle. Late relocation saw the survivors lost all means of survival and starting to depend on aid from the government, well wishers and other organizations. Most of the survivors are finding it hard to recover from the impacts of the floods and have lost hope if they could live like they used to do in the past. To cater for the host of problems they are facing survivors have opted to depend on whatever resources available. Traditional means of survival have been adopted by the majority, traditional medication over hospitalization as clinics were too far away from the holding camp, boiling the water so that it can be used domestically and digging of rubbish pits to cater for the dirty. Most parents have resorted to marrying their daughters to some well-to-do members in the nearby sugarcane communities in order to earn a living

Chapter 4: Further relocation

The chapter focuses on the further relocation from Chingwizi camp to Chiumburu farm in Chiredzi. Relocation to Chiumburu came as a way of decongesting the Chingwizi camp which was meant to be a temporary holding camp for the victims. It is also behind the reason of paving way for the ethanol plant to be situated in the Nuanetsi ranch where the victims were temporarily kept. However, the relocation to Chiumburu is hindered by a number of factors which include what to be done with the already developed structures in the camp, moving the victims to another place requires compensation first and the victims have already built homes with few resources they had.

CHAPTER 1: Dam history and lives before floods

1.0 Introduction

This chapter will focus on the background history of Tokwe Mukosi dam that is when the idea of dam construction came into being, the constructing company, location of the dam, purposes that the dam will serve. Dams in Zimbabwe have been constructed since time immemorial and are still constructed in the present days but Tokwe Mukosi Dam proves to be a unique in its own. The disastrous effects the dam had on the lives of the local population made history across the country and calls for emergence aid from across the continent and world at large. The chapter is going to look at the lives of the people in the Chivi area that were affected by the February 2014 floods before the occurrence of the disaster. Chivi area lies in natural region 4 which receives low rainfall which can only be used for small scale farming and the people supplement their diets by engaging in community gardens where they grow a variety of vegetables and other crops using water from few perennial rivers and boreholes.

1.1 Dam History

Tokwe –Mukosi Dam is situated in Masvingo Province in Chivi District along the Masvingo – Beitbridge road. The dam is under the construction team known as the Italian Salini Construttori (ISC) from Italy. The dam is built on the confluence of Tokwe and Mukosi rivers and is currently Zimbabwe’s largest inland water body¹. The idea of construction started in 1955, the issue of agriculture in Zimbabwe facilitated the building of dams such as Mutirikwi and Chivero². The construction of Tokwe Mukosi muted when the Zimbabwean dollar lose value in 1997.

The Sunday Mail has it that the construction started in March 1998, stopped the following year, up to 2001 the project was suspended and when it resumed there were changes in the agreement.

Part of the tender was to be paid in local currency and the remainder (75%) in foreign currency³. Works on dam resumed in December 2001 until April 2004 when the government faced a plethora of challenges which stopped the programme. In July 2011 the project started once again, Engineer Dengu said this was mainly due the adoption of multi-currency regime⁴.

The first of its own kind in the country, in that it is a concrete- faced rock fill dam, dam wall will sit at a height of 89.2m from riverbed on completion. Engineer Dengu from Masvingo said that

The majority of the dams are earth filled dams (Chivero and Osbourne). Tokwe-Mukosi was implicit the same way with Great Zimbabwe however a thick impenetrable solid face around forty centimeters was put to hold water from streaming out of the dam. It is one and a half times greater than Lake Mutirikwi. Tokwe –Mukosi Dam will fill a considerable measure of needs and these incorporate horticulture, tourism and additionally a vitality focus. Engineer Dengu said that 15 megawatts of power can be created from the dam, fisheries and tourism. On finish the holding limit of the dam will be 1.8 billion cubic meters⁵.

1.2 Life before floods

Farming

Life before floods in Chivi area was much better characterised with a number of activities that the residents engaged in to sustain their livelihoods. Though Chivi area lies in natural region 4 which receives low rainfall the people in the area survived on subsistence farming and engaged

in community gardens. Some of the farmers in region 4 do the 'dry-planting' as the rains are not always reliable and low. Drought resistance crops like sorghum, millet and rapoko were widely grown in Chivi District since the area is prone to droughts. Maize and other varieties of crops like pumpkins, watermelons, cowpeas and others are also grown. Community gardens were done alongside rivers that survived for more than two seasons with water. In these gardens a variety of vegetables were grown and at time mealies when the growing season is over. These gardens help to provide the community with food during the dry season when the fields were not being tilled.

Before the floods of February 2014 life in Chivi District was pleasant as families had vast areas of arable land, grazing pastures and bigger stands where they had their homes. Their homes were quite organized in villages and chieftainships that were registered and documented in the District Administration (DA) offices. They paid taxes to the government since they were registered citizens and their livestock too. On the same piece of land they built their houses they also had a small area around the houses where they can grow crops too. Fields and houses were a distance from each other; fields were allocated some 2-3 kilometers from the homes. Mr Mugwagwa had this to narrate,

Our fields were located a distant from the homes and we usually call the place *Minda*. This is where all fields were and we had small pieces of land just by our homes, *Pasitendi* where we also cultivate some of our early crops. We usually had to wake a bit earlier so that we arrive at the fields before sunrise, do our work and return home before noon so that the cattle are taken to the grazing lands⁶.

The grazing lands were also separate from the farming lands to avoid livestock running into the fields but after the harvests livestock were left to roam freely. Dams, rivers and boreholes were a source of drinking water for the livestock. Boreholes were only used when the rivers and dams

were out of water. During the holidays when the young boys were not going to school they helped their parents with herding the livestock and they usually take turns to do so if they were more than one in a family. In the pastures boys engage in hunting, bird shooting and looking for honey. Young girls helped with the domestic chores at homes such as fetching firewood, cooking, washing and cleaning the home. Both boys and girls helped their parents in the fields during the growing season in the fields but parents usually extend the time they spend in the fields and release the young ones homes.

Reciprocal labor exchanges

Communities engage in collective farming, weeding and harvesting to make work easier in the fields. This was done when one needed help on the farm so they had to cook a lot of food, brew some beer and maheu for those who will help. Those willing to help brought their cattle and ploughs when it was time when the fields were being planted. If it was time when the crops were being weeded they brought hoes and during harvesting hoes and carts were needed. This collective doing of work helped so much they say '*rume rimwe harikombi churu*' in Shona meaning two are better than one when it comes to work. Mr Mugwagwa adds,

Nhimbe helped us a lot because almost all villagers come to help and this was done to any village member who feels like they cannot do the field work alone. This collective doing of work made us close to each other and become a family as neighbors. We had that kind of oneness back in our homelands before the coming of the floods. We helped each other so much in all aspects of life⁷

Community Gardening

Community gardens were done back in Chivi area before the floods hit the area. These were done alongside rivers or near boreholes which were donated for gardening purposes. Villagers would come together and have a common bigger garden where each will be allocated a number of beds to grow variety of crops that will be agreed to be grown. The number of beds each had was equal to each and every member of the garden. A committee will be elected that will be in charge of the activities in the garden. All members agreed on the variety of crops to be grown in the garden. Mostly tomatoes, different types of vegetables, carrots, sweet potatoes, pepper, butternuts, fruit trees and mealies were grown in these gardens. These were grown at the same time but on separate beds depending on the availability of space in the garden, but it was impossible to grow one variety of crops in the whole garden. The elected committee helps maintain order in the garden and make sure that the rules and regulation were kept well.

Community Burial Societies

These were societies that were done in the communities before the floods disrupted the livelihoods of the victims. Burial societies were done in different ways either as a group comprising the whole villagers or a group of members who would have agreed on basis of how they afford commonly, mutual relations based on family hood or political affiliations. Some village members opt not to join these groups if they had family funeral policies like Nyaradzo Funeral Policy, Doves Funeral Policy, Cellmed Funeral Policy and many others thus they saw it unnecessary to be part of these community societies. Others despite of having family policies would join community burial societies because they would help them either way. Community burial societies helped the bereaved family with the coffin, food, cooking utensils and all those tools that were needed for the burial service like picks and shovels. Many villagers were

members of these societies because they proved to be helpful in many ways to those who could not afford to be members of bigger funeral policies. In an interview one of the victims who did not want to have their name exposed they said,

We had these burial societies as a village back in Chivi and it was helpful because without the society many of us would find it difficult to cater for all the material that will be needed for the burial service especially food. In our burial society we pay one dollar a month and when one of our member want to borrow money we add ten percent interest. By doing so by the end of the year we would have enough to buy equipment we needed. If anyone from outside our group wanted to borrow money we added a twenty percent interest this made us have more money in our wallet and being able to purchase enough equipment that we needed⁸.

The burial society comprises of a committee that looks into matters arising within the group and implement the rules and regulations agreed upon by the society as a whole. The secretary do all the paperwork for the society, the treasurer keeps the money and the chairperson head the group. Though the committee looks into matters concerning the group the whole group had a say on decision making and contribute in all matters affecting the group.

Community money loaning projects

In the Chivi area people engage in money loaning projects which were meant to help members with financial support on critical conditions. These projects were done in many villages in the Chivi area. The project comprises of a committee which looks into matters arising within the group and a treasurer who keeps the money, a secretary who do all the paperwork, chairperson who heads the group, other committee members as well as all other group members. Money

loaning projects like Fushai have become prevalent in the Chivi area before floods came and disrupt the lifestyle of the population. These projects financially helped the members by lending money to cater for basic needs such as school fees, money for domestic purposes and other crucial needs that would have arose. Members agree on a certain amount each individual will bring forth at every month end to the project. If a member face challenges financially and feel like withdrawing from the group there were no reparations done unless the member has borrowed from the project that is when they have to pay back. A certain percentage was charged on any member who borrowed from the project and this was done to yield more for the project. Interest charged on borrowing from the project varies on membership; if someone outside the group wants to borrow the interest rate will be a bit higher than that charged on a group member. All these were ways and means of adding more to the group's wallet. The money was then used to cater for different purposes for the whole group at large. For instance when the members mutually agree to buy groceries for each member they withdraw from the wallet then buy same goods for each member. They might agree on buying kitchenware, hardware or anything else they deem necessary. Such projects were crucial for the sustaining of thousands of people in the Chivi area before the floods wiped away the sole backbone of survival for the majority.

Labor marketing

In the Chivi area people engaged in many activities in order to generate income to sustain their lives. Some of the activities might not bring cash at the end of the day but the employee was paid in kind. Those who employed those who do not have on their premises paid accordingly. Work was done in the farms, at home and elsewhere the employer needs a hand. Labor was provided/ acquired in various forms which included employer-employee relations. This is when the two agree by verbal terms or writing a contract as a form of agreement on issues of payment in cash

or in kind. Due to inflation most employees chose to be paid in kind but some resort to cash. Labor demands in the rural setup also influenced the household formation, when a person marries to extend labor supplies⁹. Labor marketing in the rural areas has been one of the major activities that the majority has engaged in to sustain their lives especially to those who were employment in good jobs. The poor members of the society or the unemployed majority in the rural areas were marketing their labor as a way of earning a meaning survival. Employment in big firms or government sector has been scarce in the rural areas which saw some migrating to urban areas and to those who left behind they got employed elsewhere in the rural setup where payments were either in cash or in kind.

Non-farming activities

A number of the people in the rural areas of Chivi were engaged in various forms of craftwork like carving, weaving and basketry, making of soap, brewing of beer, poultry projects among others to sustain their lives. All these activities were meant to earn financial support to the population to cater for different aspects of live. Carving was mainly done along the Masvingo-Beitbridge highway where those talented displayed their work in the highway. The road was a good place where they marketed their work to different people passing by the highway. The weaving of baskets and mats were also other means of sustaining livelihoods in the Chivi area before floods come and disrupted the social and economic lives of the displaced population. In an interview with Douglas who did carving he had this to say,

I was raised by my parents through my father's engagement in carving and selling the sculptors in the highway. When I finished my O' levels and could not find something better to do I inherited the works of my father and started carving and selling in the highway. My colleagues and I would take turns to sleep in the highway watching over

our sculptors from being stolen. We face a lot of challenges but that was the kind of living that earned us a living. I supported my family with the money that I generated from my work¹⁰.

Poultry projects were done individually or as groups. Individually means a family can engage in keeping poultry at their home and sell them when they reach maturity and continue doing that thus financially sustaining their lives. This was also done in groups, members would agree on keeping broilers for instance taking turns to feed and give water on daily basis to the chickens until they reach maturity. Poultry projects and other projects like breeding of rabbits and goats were mainly donations from certain organization though at certain instance the community on its own engaged in such activities to raise money for several needs.

Conclusion

The people of Chivi relied on subsistence farming, community gardening, reciprocal doing of labor to sustain their lives. In some cases labor was being marketed and the employee was paid in cash or in kind. This created a bond amongst communities and families. Craftwork, communal burial societies and money loaning projects were other activities the people engaged in before the floods disrupted their lifestyle. All these activities sustained communities, people would earn capital through labor marketing and engaging in projects. Farming was the backbone of most families' survival. In cases when families harvest enough and have surplus they could sell their grains to raise money for school fees and other basic needs. Families were intertwined because most of the activities were done mutually and communally cementing their relations. People helped each other in times of need and pain shown through community burial societies and *Nhimbe*.

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CHAPTER 2: THE FLOODS AND IMPACTS ON PEOPLES' LIVELIHOODS

2.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the floods and their impacts on the livelihoods of people. It highlights the causes of the flooding and the dangers/effects that were brought about by the floods that forced the people in Masvingo District be relocated to Mwenezi District in the Chingwizi Transit Camp. Floods were as a result of too much rainfall in the area which exceeded the average rainfall received in the area. Communities in the up and downstream immersed in water as a result of delayed relocation to the Chingwizi temporary camp. The floods caused families to lose their properties, homes, schools, clinics, community centers, livestock, farming and grazing lands and cultural disruption. The situation was worsened by the victims not being compensated so that they can rebuild their lives.

2.1 The floods

During the 2013-14 rain season the Runde catchment received rainfall above average. Heavy rainfall above 900 millimeters was recorded between October 2013 and February 2014 compared to normal rain approximately 300 millimeters¹¹. This resulted in floods in the Masvingo area. The floods disrupted the construction of Tokwe-Mukosi dam which was still underway causing the partial collapse of the dam wall. Engineers tried their best to divert water out of the dam. According to a report on Tokwe-Mukosi Flood Disaster by mid January 2014 engineers had diverted water to a level above 600 meters but Muzhwi dam continue spilling water into the dam¹². Water levels were raising calling for the displacement of families surrounding the dam flooding zone. Over 2 500 hectares of the dam flood basin was covered in water gulping homes before evacuation takes place¹³. Early February water inflow was more than outflows and efforts to divert water out of the dam were still in progress. Rocks began to fall off the dam wall and this

alarmed the Department of Civil Protection to issue a press statement¹⁴. The people were afraid that their lives were at risk following the folding of events on the dam. Some homesteads were affected by the floods before they were resettled at the camp thus there was need for emergence measures upon such victims. Helicopters were sent to the ferry victims from the already immersed homes with little or no property since the relocation programme was not timeous conducted before the floods disrupt the lives of the communities. According to Nyamafufu over 20 000 victims were forced to evacuate their places of residence due to Tokwe Mukosi floods¹⁵.



This is after the original structure burst

Picture adapted from <http://www.tokwe mukosi dam to undergo reconstruction.co.zw>

2.2 Impacts of floods on the people's livelihoods

Jayaratney views livelihoods as consisting of the basic needs and activities and these can be categorized into collective/group needs and personal needs¹⁶. Scoones asserts that occupations can be presented to different burden, dangers and stuns foe example dry season which can expand the powerlessness connections of jobs. It takes after that those occupations of inside

dislodged individuals moved to Chingwizi have been presented to stuns of surges which prompted their weakness¹⁷. Iwabukuna asserts that an inside dislodged individual (IDP) as indicated by Kampala Convention is a man compelled to escape or leave their homes or place of residence¹⁸.

The victims of the February 2014 floods in Masvingo District have been heavily affected with this natural disaster which left thousands of families homeless and hunger stricken. The floods washed away with them the basis that were going to sustain the victims that is their supply of food one of the basic needs to human survival, homes were washed away, lives were taken ,schools and clinics too. This left the victims with no place to inhabit thus a place was to be set aside for them in the Chingwizi Transit Camp in the Nuanetsi Ranch.

Loss of infrastructural assets

The displaced people lost their health centers. In the new area health centers were few and far away as compared to what they had used to do in the previous settlements. They now had to go for miles to get healthcare and activities on promotions were not often held as compared to their former locations. In the camp the victims had no option of choosing a health centre of preference but they had to go to the available clinics in the camp. The clinics lack adequate medical attention with few health practitioners and insufficient and unreliable medical supplies. The clinics were not well developed that pregnant women were facing challenges when delivering their infants. There were no houses to accommodate pregnant women who stay at clinics before giving birth. They were housed in squalid huts or tents which were poorly constructed and maintained. One woman who did not expose her name had this to say,

I am pregnant for the first time and I don't wish to give birth here anymore. We were six in a small pole and mud hut at the clinic with our belongings. The hut serves as a kitchen

and as our bedroom so we ended up cooking outside. It becomes problematic when it rains because we had no shed so we had to cook inside that small hut¹⁹.

Educational facilities were lost too leaving others with a bleak future as the schools were far away from the holding camp and were poorly resourced and structured. The schools were made of poles holding a tent or pupils are sheltered under a tree with a board supported by poles where the teacher writes, for instance Mulali Primary and secondary schools which were temporary schools. These makeshift structures which serve as schools were vulnerable to bad weathers. The tents become weary in the sun, rainy and were easily torn by wind exposing pupils to the bad weathers. The teachers were finding it difficult to protect school textbooks and furniture.

Transport facilities were lost, the settlement had poor roads which were prone to accidents and it will take ages for them to be upgraded to standard. There were no tarred roads that lead to the Chingwizi settlement and the transport is limited due to poor roads. Thus the displacement of the victims to the new area impacted heavily on people's welfare. There were no refreshment centers in the new settlement leaving the people spending most of their time doing nothing rather than getting themselves busy with immoral acts to pass time. There were no shops, beer halls, sports clubs and other refreshment areas in the camp and people had to go for more than 80 kilometers to reach for these facilities making it difficult for the majority. The camp was dull and boring for the majority who had used to roam around entertaining themselves in their leisure time back at their old settlements.

Exposure to health hazards

When communities were moved to the camp they used dirty water which they had not used to this was because there were no sources of clean water for them. This saw the outbreak of

diarrhea in the camp. Also the issue of poor sanitation while the area was overpopulated meant that the camp was prone to epidemics. There were few toilets in the camp and others opted to relieve themselves in the bush which made the place unpleasant to inhabit with odors. In an interview with Mrs. Midzi she said,

The toilets were dirty and few that we had to use the bush. We could not afford to use the toilets in our large numbers and the water we used for domestic uses was dirty that we ended up having diarrhea²⁰.

The issue of toilets in the camp has contributed much to diarrhea because at times the victims use water from pits and ditches when it rains and the water were unsafe. In addition to lack of adequate toilets, hygienic measures on the available toilets were scarce or none to talk about in the camp. No one pays attention to the dirty toilets which also contributes to the majority opting for the bush.

The toilets were too far from the tents that we live in which made it unsafe for some people, especially women and children. In any case, the toilets were so dirty they cannot be safely used,²¹ said an elderly woman.

The victims were offloaded off roads where they had to walk for long distances looking for their pegs with their belongings. There was no sympathy for infants and pregnant women; they all had to walk in the bush even in the darkest hour of the night. Families had to sleep outside the malaria infested area before they pitched their tents and this resulted in many people affected by malaria. Since the victims had lost most of their belongings in the floods they had no mosquito nets or any way of protecting themselves from mosquito bites. Outbreak of diseases became the order of the day in the camp; families got contaminated food stuffs which left them ill whilst the health facilities were poor. The victims cooked food with unprotected dirty water they collected

from pits and ditches and flies from the bush worsened the situation. The camp became a host of epidemics.

There were no recreational activities in the settlement which meant that the people were too idle ending up engaging in immoral acts. Activities that promote health were scarce in the Chingwizi area thus the community was struggling behind in terms of health. Young girls were getting pregnant as a result of lack of teachings on dangers having unprotected sex and early parenthood; this also explains why there were many cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STIs). The outbreak of diseases has not only affected humans but also livestock, there was lumpy skin which affected and decimated the livestock in the Chingwizi area. Thus there is need for the government to give a closer eye on the issue of the health in the case of the new settlement at Chingwizi and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should intervene and help the community out a mess it is in. According to Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR), the victims were denied their human rights at large ²²



Collecting run-off water in a pool.

Picture adapted from OXFAM report on Rapid Assessment Chingwizi Settlement

Since food is being donated to the population there is no balanced diet and people are starting to complain about their health especially those suffering from HIV who needs fruits and vegetables to keep their diets balanced. The meals comprises of sadza, beans and fish which has been dried. According to an interview by IRIN with one of the victims they said, “Vegetables and fruits are not available in the camp and victims do not complain to the government openly because they fear for their safety.”²³ According to Herald interview with one of the survivors she said that she found it hard to prepare a proper meal for her family especially relish because gardens are not allowed as a result of inadequate water supplies from the boreholes²⁴. Another victim complained saying that hunting wildlife in the ranch is prohibited and there is security in the camp which watched over the ranch making sure that anyone who go against the law is severely punished²⁵.

The area is inhabited by scorpions which were extremely poisonous and most parents fear for the safety of their children and even themselves. The camp has experience a number of scorpion bite incidents and to make matters worse the clinics were far away that some have got aid from the elders who know traditional ways to counter scorpion poison. Thembikhosi Muza (28) a mother of two and is pregnant narrates,

My husband did not make it here, he went to for work and I does not know where. I don't have a cell phone so that he can contact me even if he wants to come and see his family it is hard for him to find us here. We have been sleeping outside when one of my kids got bitten by a scorpion; the clinic is far away that in my condition I could not make it there. I cried for help and fortunately my next doors helped my kid out by inducing vomiting and

applying some herbs on the spot where he was bitten. The tents were not secure enough the scorpion always made it easy inside²⁶.

Social and cultural disruption

On displacement the leaders were not given time to carry out rituals telling their ancestors that there were leaving the place thus disrupting their relations with their ancestors. In an interview with Sekuru Chegovo he said,

Our ancestors had turned their backs on us because we did not consult them on leaving our former settlement. We were not given time to perform certain rituals especially when we left the graves of our ancestors. It is our culture that we let the ancestors know of our departure so that they look upon us wherever we are²⁷.

According to the UNDP report on “Livelihoods Recovery Assessment for Chingwizi Resettlement in Mwenezi, Masvingo Province”, the Karanga and Shangani are not coexisting well mainly because of issues of pastures²⁸. This explains how the dam had been causing tense situations for the displaced population. With the kind of relationship between the two groups meaningful development is hard to achieve since there is no mutual existence. There is need for the government to secure a place that won’t intertwine hostile groups but let each group be independent on its own social and cultural norms.

Disruption of learning

The floods disrupted learning for many pupils as their former schools were destroyed and them being relocated to the camp. Pupils had to help their parents pitching the tents which were a source of shelter for them in the camp and also making of makeshift structures. This impacted negatively on the pupils’ learning process and in an interview with Shepherd Goto he said,

I was in form four and on relocation to Chingwizi I could not continue with my studies since I had to help my family pitching the tent and gathering firewood and the new beginning at the camp was the worst experience in my life²⁹.

Some of the pupils could no longer afford going to school since their parents depended on subsistence farming, selling their grains in order to afford tuition fee for their children. Mr Mugwagwa had this say, “I can no longer afford for my children to go to school because of the disruption of the farming activities, I depended on subsistence farming to earn school fees”³⁰. The floods painted a bleak future for many pupils who were victims of the dam. What was theirs for the future has been negatively affected leaving them experiencing the untold torture; their dreams have been shattered and to others only time shall tell what the future has for them. The schools in the camp were sub-standard ones which were poorly resourced, made up of some poles holding a tent and a few desks and there were far away about 20 kilometers from the holding camp leaving life of pupils in danger of the wild animals. Because of the poor conditions in the camp it was also clear that learning there was below standard, this was also due to the issue of land ownership which still remains controversial in the camp. Thus permanent structures were difficult to construct on such piece of land, the schools were makeshift structures which were not meant to be permanent structures thus exposing the pupils to bad weathers. The tents were easily blown away by heavy wind and exposure to theft since there is no security on such structures, all kinds of weather conditions are bad when in a tent thus learning becomes horrific and unpleasant in the camp. Lack of adequate resources in the schools points out that pupils are experiencing the worst of their lives in the camp. Teachers were also shortfall in the camp schools making it difficult for them to cater for a large number that was enrolled at the schools. According to the Newsday, few teachers were to cater for a large enrollment at Nyuni Primary

and secondary and Tokwe-Mukosi Primary and Chingwizi Primary ³¹. Life for the pupils has been made unbearable leaving them figures to sympathize with, a lot of them have dropped out of school because their parents can no longer afford to pay the fees at the same time they were trying to make ends meet and bring food on the table since their source of food supplies has also been affected that is farming.

Following a large number of school dropouts the people in the camp were left with nowhere to get engaged in during the day thus they end up involved in unprotected sex. Prostitution has also become rife as people were trying to earn a living. The issue of food shortages and high number of school dropouts in the camp was part of the package which saw women engaging in immoral acts. Ivos Makoni said that the victims are doing nothing productive to pastime ending up in immoral acts³².

Conclusion

The February 2014 floods caused the victims to be pessimistic about their future. Following the swept away of thousands of homesteads in the Chivi Districts many people were internally displaced and resettled in the Chingwizi Transit Camp where life is bitter. The government has failed to compensate the victims due to lack of resources and delayed relocation of the population which led to difficulty in valuation of property since some were already immersed in water. Social life of the victims was also disrupted with the resettlement as it was randomly exercised people lost their neighbors; there was no time for elders to inform their ancestors about their departure from their ancestral homes thus disruption of a social norm. Community centers,

refreshment areas, schools, clinics, roads and livestock were lost too as a result of the floods. Pupils were now facing a bleak future as their learning process has been drawn back as they had to help their parents with settling at the new site. To worsen the situation the school were poorly resourced making learning a difficult process. Agricultural activities which were a backbone of many families were largely affected. Tokwe-Mukosi flood victims were living a miserable life due to them being displaced from their ancestral homes to a squalid camp where diseases were rampant with few health activities done.

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CHAPTER 3: RELOCATION AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

3.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the relocation done which led to social disruption of the lives of the displaced population. The government resorted to use force to evict the flood victims since most of them resisted leaving their homes. The eviction process was done when homes were already under water. Late relocation of the victims affected the lives of the majority and they are finding it hard to adjust to the new environment. The camp had become a ghost town for the displaced population with lots of problems. To cater for their lives the victims are finding solutions to everyday problems they are facing in the camp. For medication and purification of water they resorted to traditional ways

3.1 RELOCATION

The relocation process was to be done in three phases as follows: The first batch of families to be moved was during the 2013-14 rain season when water levels were expected to be above 600 meters above sea level. However this was not the case since water had exceeded this level and this resulted in an increase in the number of families to be moved³³. The second batch of families to be moved was to be done during the 2014-15 rain season when water was expected to double thus around 2 300 families were to be evacuated. These were hurriedly moved from their homes as water had reached them³⁴. The last phase of evacuation was to be done during the 2015-16 rain season where all remaining families in the flood zone were to be relocated³⁵.

The displaced population was ferried from the Tokwe –Mukosi area to the Chingwizi camp where they were left some distance away from the holding camp. “The victims were not taken to

their pegs where they were supposed to settle and pitch their tents. They were dropped some distance where they had to find their ways in the dark. The temporary shelter material was not even adequate and they had to look for poles to support the tents”³⁶. The area was malaria infested and prone to wild animals but families were seen sleeping outside as their tent were not yet ready and besides that life was at stake since tents were not protective enough for livelihoods of thousands displaced population. Tents were distributed without a closer look at the number of members in families thus there were no privacy within the tent thus disregard of human rights. There were no toilets constructed on arrival and people had to opt to the bush to relieve them which is a health hazard.

Late displacement

The displacement of people from the ancestral areas to the new camp of Chingwizi was not done on time thus the movement was unorganized and resulted in disruption of their social fabric. Unplanned settlement resulted social disorder for instance headmen lost their positions in the camp³⁷. In the case of Chingwizi, victims were not evacuated from their communities which were under threat of the construction of the dam on time to a designed place where they could rebuild their lives permanently. The process was however done randomly and emergently which saw victims moved to a temporary holding camp at Chingwizi. The Department of Civil Protection had to interfere when matters were getting worse before the flood victims were evacuated to the new site of Chingwizi. However ,for the unlucky one helicopters come to their rescue implying that they lost worthy of goods that even compensated cash is not enough worse when the government is at stake of resources. Status quo of most headmen, chiefs and all other forms of leadership was lost when the victims were relocated at Chingwizi. This was partially because of the random settlement at the camp; neighbors were no longer settled close to each

other thus social networks were disrupted too. Displacement which was done emergently disrupted the livelihoods of people heavily

Forced eviction

Robinson asserts that building of water bodies-dams resulted in forced evacuation and relocation of millions of people across the world³⁸. According to Nyamafufu approximately 20 000 people have been moved from their places as a result of Tokwe Mukosi floods³⁹. Communities up and downstream the dam was forced to leave their homes and be relocated in the Nuanetsi ranch. The ranch is claimed to belong to some ZANU PF giants in collaboration with Billy Rautenbach. Some flood victims believed that the government had engineers divert large amounts of water from the dam so that people would be moved without compensation and engage in sugarcane growing⁴⁰. The displaced population was promised each family a 17 hectare plot in the new settlement but this was not the case for those who fell in the Chingwizi camp. The adoption of the Master Plan shrunk the plots to each family receiving a 1 hectare both for building their homes and growing of crops under irrigation. This did not affect those relocated at Masangula and Chisase areas. The Chingwizi area was meant to be a temporary camp and should be decongested moving families to permanent areas of settlement but this was bitter for the displaced population as they had not been compensated due to lack of resources by the government. When the floods hit the Chivi area there was a call for emergence to evacuate the victims thus many lost the backbone of their survival.

Use of militia and police to force eviction

The displaced population was forced to evacuate their homes in Chivi district and resettle at Chingwizi, the government deployed militia and police to move the population as many of the

victims did not want to abandon their homes. In an interview with Mr Mhasvi former Gororo villager he said,

We did not want to leave our homes permanently but wanted the government to settle us somewhere close so that we will reoccupy our homes when the water levels decreases but soldiers were deployed and they started beating up those who resisted .They urged that we have to leave our homes and never dream of coming back. We were pushed into the trucks which were over packed with humans and property and livestock at times⁴¹ .

The police and militia used force on those who resisted despite their ages and this was a clear violation of human rights which the government gave a blind eye. Most of the victims did not want to leave their homes before they got compensated but when the police and soldiers approached they had to go despite being compensated. Victims complained that they wanted to be given the compensation so that they were able to rebuild their lives but the government also complained of having insufficient funds to carry on with the compensation process. Property, lives and livestock were lost and to some even compensation was to come their loss won't be catered by money. The government resorted to use force to evict the victims because without the militia and the police the victims would not have left their former residence. Most of the victims wanted to secure a place near their homes where they could temporarily settle waiting for the water that had immersed their homes to lower and resettle again. Thus the government had to forcefully evict the victims.

Relocation without compensation

The government had in many instances failed to compensate people it would have displaced from their home areas. According to a report by Parliament Portfolio Committee report on Mines and Energy on Diamond Mining, people in the Marange area had also unfulfilled promises when they were moved from their homes⁴². The same applies to the flood victims in Chingwizi camp. The flood victims were moved from their homes to the camp when the incident was declared a national disaster thus immediate action was taken. This saw many families being moved without being compensated as the government promise to pay them when they get settled at the camp. Victims resisted moving to the camp before they were compensated since they were complaining of not having enough funds to rebuild their shattered lives but the government could not hear them out and even used the militia to forcefully move them. This was a clear indication of human right from the beginning the government had not consulted the victims where they wanted to rebuild their lives at. The government is therefore being overprotected when it is violating laws concerning relocation of such victims.

3.3 Effects of late relocation

Delayed recovery from the disaster

The flood victims were experiencing a delayed recovery from the disaster this was mainly due to the disruption of their lifestyles. The resettlement area they have been allocated was not fertile as compared to their former lands thus it takes time for them to adjust to the new environment especially when most of them were subsistence farmers who relied on farming. Their livestock too have being affected by the floods resulting in many farmers lacking the draught power to till the piece of land they have been allocated in the camp. Some livestock died while being

transported to the new resettlement area due to being overcrowded on board and others on arrival as there was an outbreak of a pandemic that saw many dying. Loss of tools that facilitated in the farming process during the floods is a challenge to the victims, they are no longer able to recover them since they have no source of income. Many people who were relocated when water has already immersed their homes lost a lot of their belongings since the rescue team was concerned with human lives rather than property. In an interview with Mr Chikosi of Neruvanga village he said “when we were rescued by the helicopter we could no longer manage to grab some of our belongings which were already soaked in water and some of our clothes were already washed away the heavy floods”⁴³.

The floods painted a bleak future for most of the families in the Chingwizi camp. Most were finding it hard to get employment so that they recover their loss from the disaster. Opportunities to get employment were too low and to some they have no hope that will enjoy life as they used to do back in their former communities. The dam has been a blessing to others while to those in the Chingwizi camp it has tormented their lives. It is difficult for the victims to acquire loans since most of them were not employed thus those who lend loans cannot give them when they know they had no source of income. According to the UNDP report recovery is slow on infrastructural developments and varieties of crops⁴⁴. Crop varieties were not available partially because the grain from the previous season has been washed away by the floods leaving the victims with nothing. The roads in the camp were below standard and takes time to be upgraded to standard due to financial problems the government is currently experiencing.

Delayed valuation of proper

The valuation of property was held by the Valutors and Estates Management Department under the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing. The process became

difficult when emergence calls for the relocation of the victims to the new area of settlement. Some homes have already been under water and it was impossible to exercise the process. This was linked with the delayed process of relocating the victims to the Chingwizi camp. This implies that some families would not be compensated whenever the government has enough funds to exercise the process because their property was not valued. This created a tense situation for some families who had to start over again worse when employment is scarce and no means of income to sustain their livelihoods.

Forced growing of sugarcane

The flood victims located at Chingwizi were forced into growing sugarcane under irrigation. The plots allocated to them were too small for them to grow domestic crops to sustain their livelihoods worse they were to grow sugarcane for an ethanol programme. According to former Masvingo Provincial Affairs Minister K.Bhasikiti victims were subjected to the growing of cane⁴⁵. The growing of sugarcane in the Chingwizi camp has affected people's welfare and violated their human rights. The growing of sugarcane only meant that the families find it hard to sustain their lives since they cannot afford to buy or get another supply of food for their survival. This sugarcane project means the displaced population relies on donations and shelter since they cannot build their permanent homes in the Chingwizi camp because landownership is in dispute. They have been deprived of their right to decide what to grow since sugarcane only benefit the ethanol plant and neglecting the basics for the victims. They have lost their food which has been washed away by the floods and now they are forced to grow what will not sustain their livelihoods. There is lot of human rights negligence in the case of Chingwizi , from the onset of the dam construction the families affected were not given a room to negotiate where they wanted to stay and compensation which was promised to them was a never a success. The camp has

painted a bleak future for the flood victims and the government should take stain measure to make sure that the victims are securely resettled and can rebuild their shattered lives again. Life in the camp is becoming bitter as each day passes, there is no employment for most of the people there and they cannot afford a living out of sugarcane farming. They had never agreed to engage in such a project which does not profit them in any way but the government. The victims were concerned much about their welfare and the sugarcane project is something they do not want to hear of and are not interested in. They would rather hear of the government launching an irrigation scheme where they will grow a variety of crops for consumption.

Suitability of relocation site of the displaced population

The Chingwizi camp lies in region 4 which receive low rainfall. The area is suitable for irrigation to supplement the little rainfall that the area receives. The regions are prone to periodical droughts. There was need to consider that the displaced population had lost their grains which were going to sustain them thus finding a suitable place where they could grow a variety of crops to sustain themselves was the best for them. The large population needed a vast area where they could domesticate a variety of livestock, engage in domestic gardens and a large space to grow crops but this was not the case in the Chingwizi area

3.4 SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

Use of Traditional Methods to Purify Water

Since the water is muddy during rain seasons and contains the waste from the bush which is used by the people to relieve them, people have resorted to use traditional ways to purify the water. In an interview with Mrs. Chikore she had this to say,

Boreholes are too far away and long queues waiting for clean water every day we have resorted to boil the water and cover it up so that we use it for domestic purposes. There are no health promotion activities done here, we have been dumped in this ghost camp where life gets worse as each day passes⁴⁶.

There is need for drilling of more boreholes in the camp so that women and children had to get water supplies near their tents

Digging of rubbish pits

The camp comprising of thousands of families had no rubbish pits to dispose their waste this saw them digging the pits for themselves. On arrival the camp had no pits so that thousands of people inhabited in the camp had safer places to dispose rubbish in. The camp was seen with dirty lingering everywhere and health status were at risk. Peter Nembudziya said,

Papers and rags were flying all over the camp, plastic containers and old furniture was all over the place. We cooperated with other young boys and men to dig pits so that we have somewhere to dispose our litter rather than having it scattered all over. We even burnt down all that was no longer needed so that the camp becomes a better place to stay⁴⁷.

Use of tree leaves for sanitation

Women and young girls in the Chingwizi camp have resorted to use tree leaves for sanitation since the government had stopped the supply sanitary towels/pads. The leaves are however not comfortable to use and are not health wise thus women and girls' health is at risk. Mirirai Magomo said, "The conditions in the camp are getting harder and harder as each day passes as compared to their first days there"⁴⁸. When the donation was stopped women opted for rags, newspapers and leaves which were not hygienic making them spoil their dresses most of the

times and were being are a laughing stock when they mess and have lost their dignity as women. Coalition against Corruption (CAC) director Terry Mutsvangwa said that the intervention of government is crucial to do away with corruption so that donations are retained in the camp⁴⁹. However, Masvingo Provincial Affairs Minister Kudakwashe Bhasikiti said that aid given to women was sufficient but people misused it⁵⁰.

Marriages

Food shortages were the order of the day in the camp and food portions that were distributed were not enough for families to sustain their livelihoods. When the floods hit the homes of the victims some had their crops still in the fields thus they could not make it to the harvesting time. To those who had stocked their grains for the future it was unfortunate that they lost all of it in the floods. A few who manage to evacuate before their homes were gulped by water they had some to sustain but not for too long. Food shortages have therefore created a condition where desperate parents were now marrying their daughter to those who have so that they can sustain their livelihoods. According to PTUZ, men with better living standards are given a hand in marriage to daughters of the victims⁵¹. The situation in the camp is miserable and victims were finding it hard to make ends meet each day they spent in there. They cannot get employment and have lost their agricultural lands which were the backbone of their lives.

Use of traditional medicines

Clinics were far away from the holding camp, transport facilities were scarce and few can afford money for transport. These problems have culminated to the use of traditional medicines by the survivors in the camp. The distance between the holding camp and clinics was too far that pregnant women and children cannot make it especially when they were not feeling well.

Traditional ways of treating sicknesses were now used in the camp. One of the survivors narrates,

...clinics were far away that I could not make it when I was pregnant. My legs were swollen and sore most of the times that I could not walk for long distances for checkups. I decided to stay home and give birth home. On delivery the old women in the camp helped me safely deliver my baby and all the medication that was needed they used the traditional ones. My baby is alive, healthy and safe.....⁵².

The Chingwizi area has poisonous scorpion, malaria infested, diarrhea and typhoid cases are rife, STIs and many other illnesses but the survivors are trying by all means to deal with these traditionally. They are some among the population who know well about traditional medicines and these are helping others as much as they can. The victims feel neglected and abandoned in the camp that most of them had lost hope about the future. Their health is at stake without those individual who are aware of traditional medication. It has become a thing of the past that someone relies on hospitalization and neglects traditional ways.

Conclusion

The flood victims were relocated to Chingwizi camp which was a temporary holding camp. The floods saw the eviction of the population from their homes to the camp where they were housed in tents and food supplies were being donated to them. The worst of the situation came with the victims being relocated without compensation yet the relocation process was not on done on time. The victims lost their property and were finding it hard to start a new life without being compensated. The camp is being a host of problems and the survivors were finding ways to deal with them in order to make ends meet. The water they use was dirty and they had to purify it

traditionally so that they can use it for domestic purposes, digging of pits to cater for rubbish that has been messing the camp and use of traditional medicines since the clinics were too far away from the holding camp

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CHAPTER 4: FURTHER RELOCATION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the further relocation of the displaced population. It points out why the victims were being relocated and where they will settle, will they be able to rebuild their lives and live like they used to do in the past. The population that has been relocated at Chingwizi camp is further relocated to Chiumburu farm in Chiredzi as a way of decongesting the overcrowded temporary camp. Relocation to Chiumburu farm was also behind the reason of paving way for the ethanol plant to be built in the Nuanetsi ranch. However, the process was hindered by a number of factors which include what has to be done with the already developed structures in the camp and the impossibility of relocating the victims to another place without compensation yet some families had built homes using the available little resources

4.1 Reasons behinds relocation

The victims were being moved again from the overcrowded transit camp to Chiumburu Farm in Chiredzi. Most of the families did not want to be relocated on the one-hectare plot in Mwenezi and the government claimed to have found a new place for them in Chiredzi. The farm however might not be able to accommodate all the families who are in the camp. The relocation to the farm was believed to be Rautenbach idea since he wanted to pave way for the ethanol plant. The ethanol plant there had been proposed before the one in Chisumbanje. The Ministry of Land and Rural Settlement had identified bigger plots in the Chiumburu farm since the victims had been complaining that one hectare plot is too small for human habitation.⁵⁴ Rautenbach will fund the programme and families provided with running water at their new homes. The ZBE had

constructed some model houses to cater for the victims but the programme was not viable due to scarcity of water and could only proceed with the completion of the dam-Tokwe Mukosi⁵⁵

The Chingwizi camp was overcrowded and this saw the need to decongest it to prevent outbreak of diseases. The camp has no adequate water for sanitation and domestic use and that is why it (the camp) had become a host of diseases. The camp was overcrowded with idle people who are not working. Food and shelter conditions were poor that the victims must be moved to a better place. The tents were prone to bad weathers ending up leaving families on open spaces or making makeshift structures. The conditions in the Chingwizi camp were squalid making outbreak of diseases the order of the day. Toilets were not adequate and were often unclean leaving the camp with odors. Flies roam around the camp spreading diseases on foodstuffs making life in the camp even worse. The tents that were given to the families as shelter were torn exposing families to bad weathers. Tents were easily blown away by strong winds, quickly worn out in the sun and easily torn if exposed to harsh conditions thus shelter in the camp has been a major issue calling for relocation. Families have resorted to makeshift structure since the tents could not accommodate them. Privacy has been disrupted among family members as they were given one tent per family regardless of their number. This had culminated to the need of finding another place to relocate the victims once again where they could rebuild their lives permanently.

Food shortages in the camp saw the need to move the victims to Chiumburu farm where there were bigger plots suitable for growing of crops and building of houses. The Chingwizi camp was too small to accommodate thousands of families and have them grow crops to sustain their lives. The government has threatened to deprive food supplies those who refuse to move from the camp. Victims resisted another relocation saying that they need compensation first so that they do not fall in the Chingwizi situation again. Moving from the camp without being compensated

means the victims won't be able to rebuild their lives again even in the Chiumburu farm. Families built home using the available resources they had and schools and clinics have been built to accommodate the displaced population thus relocation means compensation first.

Paving way for ethanol plant

The victims had to be relocated to seven identified farms in Chiredzi and Mwenezi to pave way for the ethanol plant. The Zimbabwe-Bio Energy in collaboration with businessman Billy Rautenbach was intending to occupy the current place inhabited by the flood victims so that they build an ethanol plant. In March last year the government had started the pegging of new plots in the Chiumburu farm. The Nuanetsi Ranch was not suitable for farming and to worsen the situation the plots allocated were too small thus another relocation to Chiumburu farm and leaving the ranch for the ethanol plant. According to the former Masvingo Provincial Minister Bhasikiti he said that Rautenbach is intending to move the victims again for the need to establish an ethanol plant which is an unfair act. The President however objected this⁵⁶.

4.2 Challenges of further relocation

The relocation process to Chiumburu farm has challenges and these were associated with the developments that have been done in the Chingwizi camp and some already underway. The government and other organizations have been developing the camp building schools and clinics and drilling of boreholes to supply clean safe water for the displaced population. The camp consists of few schools but the government has been developing them and is still working on the developments. Some of the schools in the camps include Tokwe Mukosi Primary which has been developed to be a permanent school, Nyuni Primary which is also permanent and Mulali Primary which was still a temporary school. Secondary schools in the camp include Mulali Secondary

which was still a temporary school and Nyuni Secondary. All these schools have been built in the camp and further relocation was a bit challenging as the new place should have all these facilities and the problems lies with the already developed structures. Families in the camp have built homes using the few available resources and moving them again to other place was only possible after compensating the victims⁵⁷. In an adapted interview Dr Mombeshora had this to say,

Various variables became possibly the most important factor when the issue of further migrating the casualties from Chingwizi camp. These incorporate repaying the casualties and infrastructural advancements in the camp and where the casualties will be moved once more. There is in this way need to counsel authorization from the President⁵⁸.

The relocation process to Chiumburu farm is therefore hindered by a number of factors. Compensation of the victims had to be considered as the most leading factor that can block the movement to another place. The victims have not been compensated when they were evacuated from their homes to Chingwizi camp due to insufficient of resources the government has been facing and to the present compensation remains at stake. Moving the victims to another place is only possible when the government has compensated the flood victims so that they will be able to rebuild their lives. Infrastructural developments have been taking place and are still underway in the camp and the problem is what is going to be done with the structures. Thus second relocation is difficult to undertake.

Conclusion

The further relocation of Tokwe-Mukosi flood victims from the Chingwizi Transit Camp to Chiumburu farm in Chiredzi was behind the reasons of paving way for the ethanol plant to be built in the Nuanetsi Ranch. Relocation to the farm was also as a result of decongesting the camp and settling the victims to bigger plots where they could be provided with clean and safe running water. However, it should be noted that relocation to the farm faces challenges. The biggest question was what has to be done with the already developed structures in the camp and relocating the victims to another place is impossible without compensating them. The displaced population had built homes with the available resources in the camp and moving them further becomes problematic.

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CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The construction of Tokwe-Mukosi dam in Chivi area saw the displacement of thousands of families following climatic change which led to floods. In February 2014 Masvingo District received rainfall which exceeds the average range which causes the partial collapse of Tokwe-Mukosi dam wall which was still under construction. The incident was announced a national disaster and emergence action was taken upon the communities affected evacuating them to safer place. Families were caught unaware because the area used to receive average rainfall and the climatic change was not well predicted. The relocation of the population was not done on time which saw many families losing their property, livestock and food. Most homes got immersed in water before evacuation and when they got rescue they had already lost their valuable resources.

The victims were randomly relocated at Chingwizi Transit Camp in the Mwenezi District without being compensated. The victims were ferried with trucks and Lorries to the camp where they were offloaded some distant away from their tents and they had to walk for about 4kilometers looking for their pegs in the dark. In camp the displaced population spends nights outside in the mosquito infested area exposing them to malaria. They faced problem of shelter as they were given one tent per family despite the size of the family depriving the victims' privacy amongst family members. Some resorted to makeshift structures to cater for shelter shortages. Sanitation was poor with few toilets which were dirty and uncomfortable to use resulting in the majority opting for the bush. The camp became a ghost town full of problems and misery for the displaced population. Sources of clean and safe water were few which saw long queues all day on the boreholes thus some began using water they collected from open ditches, pits and wells

exposing them to health hazards. Many suffered from diarrhea due to a shift from using clean borehole water back in the communities to dirty and mud water in the camp.

Many pupils dropped out of schools as a result giving hand to their parents in securing places to stay in the camp, schools were far away from the holding tent and insufficient funds to pay fees. All these were results of the effects of the floods which saw the disruption of the farming activities which sustain a lot of families and earned money to cater for their needs. Food shortages hit the camp as the victims lost their stored grains in the floods. In the camp food portions were given to the victims but it is not enough and lacks balanced diet which has become a threat to health especially those infected with HIV and AIDS. To worsen the situation they were not allowed to hunt in the ranch to supplement their diets. Educational facilities were poor and lack resources worse the school were temporary structures which were prone to bad weathers. The schools were poorly equipped with few desks which cannot cater for all the pupils and reading and writing material were scarce. The conditions in the camp have painted a bleak future for most of the pupils. Health facilities just like educational ones were few, poorly equipped and far away. Health promotion activities were not done in the camp which saw an increase in the transmission of sexually transmitted infection in the camp and early pregnancies amongst young and old women. Women were facing sanitary problems as the donation given to them have been sealed down and resorted to unhygienic and unhealthy measures like using tree leaves, rags and newspapers. These were uncomfortable and made them spoil their clothes often and teased by their male counterparts.

To deal with the problems the victims were facing in the camp they have resorted to adopt traditional measures to some of the problems. For medication the victims opted for traditional medication than hospitalization since the clinics were too far from their tents and medical

supplies in the clinics were not reliable. For the pregnant women the old women were their midwives as the conditions at the clinics were not favorable. Pregnant women were housed in large numbers in small huts at the clinics waiting for delivery thus many opted to give birth at their places. The camp is infested with poisonous scorpions and the elders in the camp always give a hand when emergence calls. Clean and safe sources of water were few and the displaced population sometimes collected water from ditches and pits which was unsafe and muddy. Since the sources were few and many could not wait all day long on the queues for water they boil and cover the dirty water to make safe for domestic purposes. Dirty containers, rags, plastics and all other forms of dirty were taken care by digging of rubbish pits and burning all litter around the camp. Parents have been giving men with better living standards a hand in marriage to their daughters in the neighboring community in order to earn a living.

The victims in the Chingwizi camp were to be relocated to Chiumburu farm in Chiredzi to decongest the overcrowded camp and pave way for the ethanol plant to be built in the Nuanetsi ranch. The victims were to be moved also as a way of settling them on bigger plots where they could grow variety of crops of their choice and where they were to be provided clean and safe running water. However, the relocation faces a lot of challenges like what has to be done with the already developed structures in the camp and the impossibility of further relocating the victims without compensating them. Also the displaced population had already built homes using the available resources in the camp and moving them is problematic.

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