SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE BUI DAM ON TWO RESETTLED COMMUNITIES

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Background of the project site

- The study was carried out in Lucene and Agbegikuro communities in the Bui dam area
- The morphometric characteristics of the Bui reservoir are: full supply level (FSL) of 183.0 m; reservoir area at FSL of 444 km²; storage volume at FSL of 12.57 x 10⁹ m³; minimum operating level of 168.0 m; and active storage of 7.72 x 10⁹ m³.
- Fishing is the major production activity in this area.

Black Volta River



Construction of Bui dam on the Black Volta



Resettled communities due to dam construction



Fishermen on the Bui reservoir



Fish mongers waiting for catch



Fish mongers rush for catch



Fish mongers processing fresh fish



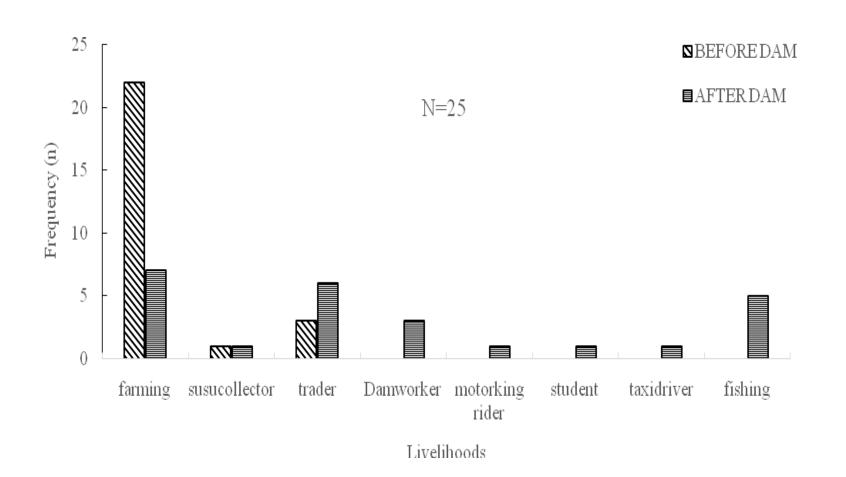
A fisherman with smoked fish



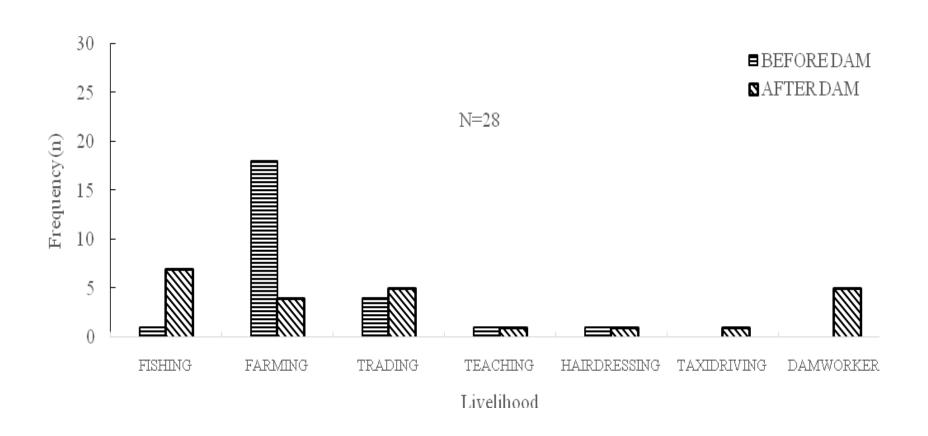
Smoked fish



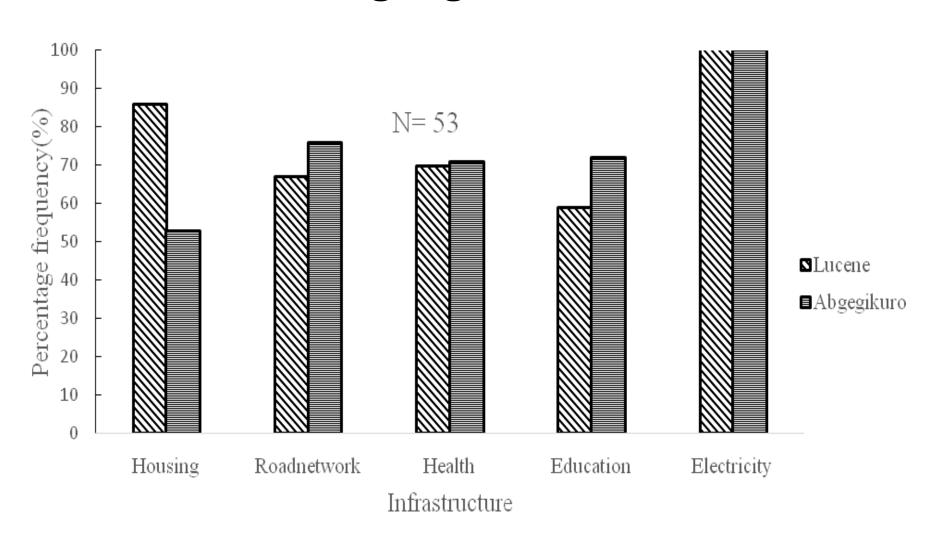
Livelihood distribution in Lucene community before and after dam creation



Livelihood distribution for Agbegikuro community before and after dam creation



Effect of the dam on infrastructure in Lucene and Agbegikuro communities



Effect of dam on various aspects of culture in Lucene and Agbegikuro communities

ASPECT OF CULTURE	LUCENE (%)	AGBEGHIKURO (%)
Sacred groves, totems/animals and places of worship lost	57	48
Yam festival - low yield	17	14
Communal dance - difficulty in organizing, no community centre	20	28
Loss of ancestral graves	6	10

Conclusions

- There was improvement in infrastructure like, the Building of block housing structures to previous mud Building, road network and school block unit.
- There was an increase in job diversity and opportunities, increase in the availability of fish as a source of food protein.
- However the communities lost farm lands, sacred grounds, animals and buried bodies. There was regression in community unity.

Policy Recommendations

- Although resettlement management plans were put in place by authorities, it has not placed the people in a perfect state of comfort as they were before the creation of the dam. There should therefore be a longer period of monitoring of resettlers adjustment to their new environment and economic development.
- The ability of resettlers to get stabilized to this change should be observed to reduce post resettlement conflicts.

THANK YOU

