

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF
COMMUNITIES' RELOCATIONS: A CASE OF THE NKURENKURU PERI-
URBAN AREA, KAVANGO WEST REGION, NAMIBIA

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT

OF

THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

BY

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APRIL 2025

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ABSTRACT

At a global level, the neglect of rural farming communities, spurred by insufficient support and accelerated by urban expansion and land reform policies, has led to a surge in significant community relocations. This phenomenon, trigger profound socioeconomic impacts that disrupt communities' access to essential resources, education, healthcare, housing, and employment opportunities. Amid this backdrop, the study critically investigates the socioeconomic effects of relocation, particularly focusing induced urban expansion on peri-urban communities in Nkurenkuru, Namibia. The study used a qualitative research design, and face-to-face interviews were carried out with 16 respondents who have experienced relocation in the area, and four key informants from the constituency. This provided a well-rounded perspective on the effects of relocation on households and the decision-making and implementation processes surrounding it. The Livelihoods Framework theory was used to interpret the findings, whereas thematic analysis was used to identify patterns and generate themes from the qualitative data, thus aiding in the explanation of the study's findings. The findings revealed that before relocation, the respective community members were involved in a lot of socio-economic activities for their livelihoods on the land such as crop and livestock farming. However, the relocation led to worsened living conditions and reduced access to vital services, with a significant drop in household income, financial stability, and food security being experienced. Based on these findings, the study advises future urban planning decisions to consider the potential socio-economic repercussions of relocation by underscoring the importance of including communities and stakeholders in the process. Recommendations are given for improved community engagement, wider access to essential services, and inclusive stakeholder communication to ensure the

welfare of the affected communities. This study substantially adds to the understanding of peri-urban relocation issues shedding light on the specific challenges faced by these communities, thereby contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted dynamics of community relocations worldwide. The study highlights a clear need for governments to recognise and address the numerous negative effects associated with displacement, ranging from diminished living conditions to a lack of access to essential services

Keywords: rural-urban migration; community relocation; livelihoods; urbanisation; Namibia

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

UN	United Nations
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NORED	Northern Namibia's Regional Electricity Distributor
NSA	Namibia Statistic Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
MRLGHRD	Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praise and worship go to Yahweh. I would like to pay heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the people who made this research a success and assisted me at every point to achieve my objectives. This study would not have been possible without the support of the Nkurenkuru Town Council and the Kavango West Regional Council officials, who made time for the interviews and all the follow-up questions. I am grateful to the Mayara Reception Area residents for showing kindness and eagerness to assist me during the whole process. I thank Mr Olavi Kapapero for showing me the Mayara Reception Area.

Utmost gratitude goes to my supervisor Dr Venditto Bruno whose comments provided insight into finalizing this study in a proper structure and whose advice and positive outlook provided guidance, Doc you are an inspiration.

I also thank the members of the Department of Social Science whose services created a great learning environment more notably Dr Kamanzi. I would further thank my classmates, who over the past years have shown excellent teamwork, one would not have asked for a better team.

My deepest gratitude goes to the Namibia Chambers of Environment (NCE) Bursary, which enabled me to do my studies. Thank you for creating these opportunities for Namibians like myself who are unable to fund their studies on their own. I would also like to thank my family and friends, especially my parents for their prayers, and Nya Nepemba and Mintu for their moral support during the whole process. I dearly appreciate you ladies. Lastly, I would like to thank my darling husband, Tate V. Sinalumbu, and my four precious gems, Vivy, Essau, Amirah, and Jamal, for their prayers, love, patience, and support. I appreciate you with all my heart.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to our ancestors: Their legacy is not just in our blood and appearance, but in their actions and virtues that guide our future. We rise today on the foundations they laid before us.

“For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11)

DECLARATION

I, Annastasia Iwara Sinalumbu, hereby declare that this study is my own work and is a true reflection of my research, and that

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April 2025

Name of Student

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Date

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The world's urban population began to boom at an extraordinary rate in the 1950s, and during the past three decades, it has closely quintupled. As of 2021, approximately 56.2% of the world's population lives in urban areas, while the remaining 43.8% lives in rural areas (United Nations, 2019). The proportion of people living in urban areas has steadily increased over the past few decades due to industrialisation, urbanisation, and internal and international migration. According to the United Nations, the world's urban population is projected to increase by 2.5 billion people between 2018 and 2050, with and nearly 90% of this increase occurring in Asia and Africa. By 2050, the United Nations (UN) population division projects that about 68% of the global population will live in urban areas (United Nations, 2019). Rapid rural-to-urban migration, as well as natural increase (i.e., more births than deaths) in urban areas, has been one of the key drivers of such urban sprawl worldwide. In South Asia, the urban population is projected to increase from 1.32 billion to 2.78 billion people over the same period. In sub-Saharan Africa, the urban population was expected to nearly triple between 2018 and 2050, from 548 million to 1.49 billion people (Egidi et al., 2020). As cities and towns expand to accommodate these newcomers, uncontrolled urban expansion, often known as urban sprawl, becomes a major concern. Egidi et al. (2020) state that urban sprawl refers to the unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of urban areas into surrounding rural areas, often resulting in low-density, automobile-dependent development and negative environmental impacts.

Urbanisation is a dynamic and varied phenomenon with both beneficial and adverse effects. On the one hand, it promotes economic growth by increasing the concentration of job options, which leads to higher income for people living in the urban areas (Glaeser, 2011), who can also get better access to services such as healthcare and education, hence improving people's overall quality of life (Bettencourt & West, 2010). Furthermore, the confluence of varied populations in metropolitan areas fosters innovation, creativity, and cultural interaction, ultimately propelling advancement across multiple industries (Florida, 2002). On the other hand, rapid urbanisation frequently contributes to environmental deterioration through overexploitation of natural resources, loss of green space, and rising pollution levels, all of which negatively affect the environment and public health (Seto et al., 2011). Urban sprawl can result in inefficient land use, increased traffic congestion, and agricultural land loss, thus providing substantial difficulties to the environment and residents (Egidi et al., 2020).

Furthermore, rapid urban population development can strain public services and infrastructure, create socio-economic inequities, and cause problems such as housing shortages, overcrowding, and increasing crime rates (UN-Habitat, 2016); and Namibia is no exception to this result. As of 2020, Namibia had an estimated population of 2.54 million people, with approximately 53.01% living in urban areas and 47% living in rural areas (World Bank, 2020). This means that Namibia has a relatively even population distribution between urban and rural areas compared to many other countries, where the urban population is often much larger than the rural population. It is, however, worth noting that the proportion of Namibia's population living in urban areas has been increasing steadily over time, rising from 33.3% in 1990 to 53.01% in 2020 (Karak et al., 2021). This trend will continue in the coming decades as more

people move to cities and towns, searching for employment and other opportunities (Karak et al., 2021).

The topic of land redistribution, relocation, and compensation is one of the challenges Namibia faces amidst growing urbanisation. As more people relocate to cities, the demand for land rises, resulting in the displacement of rural populations and the loss of their traditional lands (World Bank, 2020). The Namibian government has established laws to address this issue, such as the Communal Land Reform Act of 2002, which aims to grant communal land rights to rural communities and people. However, policy implementation has been delayed and hampered by issues such as the mismatch between supply and demand, corruption, and a lack of political will (John, 2007). Furthermore, compensating those displaced or relocated due to urbanisation and land redistribution is a big concern. The Namibian Constitution provides appropriate and equitable recompense for government-seized property for public use. Due to the lack of a clear and open compensation mechanism, extensive land grabbing and corruption have detrimental social and economic implications for affected communities (NAHCMD, 2018).

In the same vein, communal areas outside towns and cities are regarded as rural and they belong to the state (John, 2007). With such arrangements, traditional leaders are the critical custodians of such lands, as people derive their livelihoods from crop and livestock farming (Jones & Weaver, 2012). Communal lands/areas also play a vital role in maintaining the ecosystem and alleviating numerous urban problems, such as mitigating noise problems and infiltrating stormwater, among others (Meng et al., 2018). Gargallo (2020) concurs that communal areas in Namibia contribute to the national economy while conserving the fauna and flora for future generations. However, rapid urbanisation and

population growth have brought about significant socio-economic changes in many regions worldwide.

The case study is set in the Namibian region of Kavango West. Angel et al. (2020) note that communal lands play a vital role in the livelihoods of its inhabitants, who rely on crop production and husbandry cultivated and raised for subsistence and sale in local markets. The Nkurenkuru region was established in 2013 when the Kavango region was divided into East and West, with Nkurenkuru serving as its capital. According to Muronga (2022), the majority of the Kavango West region's residents live in communal areas, which account for around 90% of the territory. Between the year 2011 and 2023, the Kavango West Region saw a significant population increase of more over 40.4% (Namibian Statistics Agency, 2024). The Namibian Statistics Agency's Regional Statistician for the Kavango West Region, Olavi Kapapero, notes that the population of the Kavango West Region was 86,529 in 2011. Based on that figure, the preliminary report for 2023, as we speak, says that there are 123,266 persons. If we subtract from there, we get 36,737. That number contributed to a rise in population (Namibian Statistics Agency, 2024), that is 42.5%. This may suggest that 123,266 people in these communities are severely affected by the relocation of communities in Nkurenkuru. This is because they depend on communal land to sustain themselves. However, urbanisation and the emergence of a newly developing town may also bring about great socio-economic benefits and opportunities to the community.

1.2 Background of the study

Land redistribution, relocation and compensation are relevant concepts in this study because individuals living on communal land have been relocated from the land they once occupied, often without compensation, to make way for township development and

expansion. Namibia has experienced a complex history of land dispossession and inequality, particularly during the colonial and apartheid periods. Following independence in 1990, the government embarked on a series of land reform initiatives to address these historical injustices and promote more equitable access to land and resources (Adams, 2000). The first land conference was held in 1991; however, strategies for accomplishing a unified urban and rural spatial vision were not discussed and developed at the conference (Adams, 2000). However, the government developed an urban planning system based on expropriating farms belonging to communal farmers and yet that was not well received by most farmers, who had already invested large sums of money in developing those farms and would require compensation. The cabinet then developed and enacted a Compensation Policy in 2009 (Lenggenhager et al., 2021). Nevertheless, there was a growing recognition that policies did not succeed or fail on their own; instead, their progress was determined by the implementation process, and this was the case with the compensation policy, which was not effective as local authorities were not following the basic principle as stipulated in the policy such as giving the affected people the best options for relocation (Simasiku, 2019). The second National Land Conference held in 2018 focused on resolving the challenges facing both peri-urban and rural areas (Lühl & Delgado, 2018); and it also brought light to the declared urban areas and the government's actions to coordinate the relocation of communities affected by the expansion of urban areas (Melber, 2019), as well as the compensation for individuals who were being relocated from their place of origin. There are around 123,266 people in Kavango west region, most of whom rely on communal land for subsistence (Namibian Statistics Agency, 2024). Communal land, is in fact, vital to the livelihoods of rural people that rely on crop cultivation on them. When their lands are confiscated, people are regularly moved to places far from essential facilities like schools and clinics, thereby resulting in food insecurity and poverty

(Van Rooyen et al., 2018; Baker et al., 2018). The Kavango West region is one such place where communal lands play an essential part in the livelihoods of its inhabitants. This region was demarcated in 2013 when the Kavango region was divided into East and West, with Nkurenkuru as its capital (Muronga, 2022). Approximately 90% of the Kavango West region comprises communal areas, home to most of the inhabitants (Muronga, 2022). As a result, any interruption to this region's common lands would significantly impact the residents and their access to essential resources and services. The newly formed region ranked third in terms of people without access to essential social services and one of the poorest regions in the country, with a combined poverty headcount of 53.2% (Kathindi, 2015); and the region is ranked third in terms of people without access to essential social services (Mughongora, 2018). At the time of its creation, Kavango West did not have a centre that served as a market ground for the communities in the region where economic activities took place. Therefore, it was expected that the capital Nkurenkuru would have further expanded. The town has witnessed rapid urbanisation and expansion, driven by economic development, population growth, and rural-urban migration (Indongo, 2015). This growth has increased pressure on land and resources, thereby necessitating the relocation of communities residing at the town's boundary to accommodate the expanding urban area (Mwazi et al., 2021). Communities in the constituency were relocated to Mayara, a reception area situated at the peri-urban of Nkurenkuru (Mwazi et al., 2021). As a result, they lost their land, which had supported them for years through agricultural activities (Mwazi et al., 2021).

Noting the above background, the current study sought to investigate the socio-economic impacts of these relocations on affected communities by exploring various dimensions such as livelihoods, access to resources, social networks, and cultural practices. The background of the study highlighted the importance of understanding

the socio-economic consequences of relocation in the broader context of land reform, urban development, and social justice in Namibia.

Building on the background of the study, it is crucial to recognise the diverse socio-economic factors that influence the experiences of relocated communities in Nkurenkuru town. Factors such as the adequacy of compensation, the provision of alternative housing, access to public services, and opportunities for economic integration can significantly shape the well-being and resilience of these communities following relocation (Remmert & Ndhlovu, 2018). The study considered the complex interactions between relocated communities and the broader urban environment and the existing urban population to understand the factors contributing to successful relocation processes (Angel et al., 2020). Examining the integration of relocated groups into Nkurenkuru's social fabric can offer insights into the far-reaching ramifications for social cohesion, cultural exchange, and the creation of inclusive urban environments. Furthermore, it is critical to understand the role of urban design and policy in achieving equitable results for all people. Moreover, agriculture's function in providing income and employment for many communities on the outskirts of town is essential to the local context. This comprises subsistence farming, where families grow food primarily for their consumption, and small-scale commercial agriculture, where crops and livestock are grown and raised for sale in local markets (Angel et al., 2020). The main agricultural products grown in the area include a range of fruits and vegetables, along with staple crops including sorghum, millet, and maize. Researchers can develop a more sophisticated understanding of the relocation procedures and urban planning techniques that are suited to the region's particular agricultural setting by taking these particular agricultural dynamics into account in the study.

Focusing on Nkurenkuru as the study site offers several advantages that make it a compelling choice for researching the socio-economic impacts of relocated communities. This rapid growth has placed considerable pressure on land and resources, thereby necessitating the relocation of communities residing at the town's boundary (Satterthwaite, 2019).

The town's location along the Kavango River adds to the study's complexity because it provides options for agriculture, fishing, and other natural resource-based industries that may be influenced by relocation processes (World Bank, 2021). Furthermore, the proximity to Angola can influence cross-border economic and social processes, which, in turn, influence the experiences of relocated groups. Given its status as a developing town with development demands that compel expansion, choosing Nkurenkuru as the study location allowed for analysing varied experiences. This option is especially relevant given that many previous studies have primarily focused on larger urban areas. Furthermore, the study can provide valuable insights into the obstacles and opportunities experienced by smaller growing communities through migration processes by evaluating Nkurenkuru.

Moreover, it is worth noting that Nkurenkuru is an emerging town, thus further underscoring its significance as a study site for examining the socio-economic impacts of relocated communities. As an emerging town, Nkurenkuru is undergoing a crucial transition from a predominantly rural area to a more urbanised setting (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2020). This transformation presents unique challenges and opportunities for the town's development and for the communities affected by the relocation.

Studying the socio-economic impacts of relocation in an emerging town like Nkurenkuru allows researchers to observe and analyse the complex interactions

between urbanisation, land reform, and social dynamics at an earlier stage of development. This perspective can provide valuable insights into the factors contributing to successful urban growth and the potential pitfalls hindering equitable and sustainable development (Shao et al, 2021). These findings may be particularly relevant for other emerging towns in Namibia and beyond, thereby helping to inform urban planning and policy-making efforts in similar contexts. Researchers can also investigate the potential for innovation and adaptation as the town undergoes rapid urbanisation. Moreover, the process of urbanisation often necessitates the development of new solutions to address the diverse needs of the growing population, including those of relocated communities (Elmqvist et al, 2018). In this context, the study can explore how the town's emerging status influences the creation and adoption of innovative approaches to urban planning, resource management, and community engagement.

Another aspect to consider is the environmental impact of rapid urban expansion in Nkurenkuru, particularly regarding land use change and the potential for increased pressure on natural resources. Studying how relocated communities navigate the competing demands for land and resources in an emerging town can provide important lessons for sustainable urban development and environmental stewardship.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Weber and Mendelsohn (2017) highlight the considerable neglect of Namibia's community areas, which are mainly used for subsistence farming. Multiple reasons contribute to this neglect, including insufficient government support, insufficient investment by both local and international parties, and socio-economic inequities. The Namibian government's lack of prioritisation in developing and preserving communal farming areas has led to insufficient budget allocation and poor administration, as

evidenced by the Ministry of Trade and Industrialization (2019). This issue is further exacerbated by the fact that international donors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have predominantly focused on other areas of development, thus leaving communal farming with inadequate support (Weber & Mendelsohn, 2017). Socio-economic disparities also contribute to the problem, as wealthier and metropolitan communities receive greater attention and investment than rural communal farming regions (Muchapondwa, 2013). This neglect of communal areas has triggered significant rural-urban migration, thereby straining local governments as they grapple with expanding town boundaries to accommodate the influx of migrants seeking improved opportunities and living conditions (Adewunmi et al., 2023). Such expansion has consequently reduced communal areas, jeopardising the livelihoods of communities that rely on farming (Muyamba, 2017). While previous studies have concentrated on land tenure and informal settlements, recent years have witnessed an increase in multi-dimensional poverty in the Kavango West region, thus impacting access to education, healthcare, essential services, and employment opportunities. This region has one of the highest poverty rates in Namibia, with 49.4% of its population living below the poverty line (Namibia Statistics Agency, 2021).

Rapid urban expansion and land reform policies have resulted in relocating communities at the town boundary of Nkurenkuru. These relocation processes can disrupt the lives of affected communities, with significant implications for their socio-economic well-being, access to resources, and overall quality of life. However, the challenges and opportunities these relocated communities face and the broader implications of their experiences for urban development, social equity, and environmental sustainability in Nkurenkuru still need to be more adequately understood. Community relocation, which is the process of moving people from one

location to another, is a complex and often contentious issue, and it can occur due to various reasons such as natural disasters, urbanisation, industrialisation, or environmental degradation (Vanclay, 2017), and it has far-reaching socio-economic impacts (Berka & Creamer, 2018). Relocation can be a disruptive and traumatic event for a community, and it can have significant consequences for the social and economic fabric of the affected area. Displaced people often lose their homes, land, and access to community resources and they may suffer from emotional stress, cultural dislocation, and social isolation. The impacts of community relocation can be long-lasting, affecting generations of people (De Haan & Zoomers, 2005). The present study, therefore, focused on understanding the effects of relocation on access to education, healthcare, housing, and employment opportunities.

Additionally, the study explored relocation's social and cultural effects such as the loss of traditional ways of life and the erosion of community ties. This study is critical because it provides valuable insights into the long-term effects of community relocation on socio-economic outcomes.

1.4 Objective of the study

The study's main objective was to assess the socio-economic impacts on people residing in the communal peri-urban areas of Nkurenkuru as a result of their relocation due to town expansion. Research questions looked at the following:

- What were the socio-economic conditions of the communities before the relocation?
- How have the livelihoods of communities been transformed due to their relocation, and what are the various factors influencing these changes?
- What forms of support/obstacles did the communities receive/face from the local authorities during the relocation period?

1.5 Significance of the study

Studying the socio-economic impacts of relocated communities in the Namibian town of Nkurenkuru is crucial for addressing historical injustices regarding forced relocations in Namibia which can be traced back to the Apartheid era, a period marked by systematic racial segregation and discrimination (Mundia & Haimbili, 2023). The study considered the diverse factors that shape the experiences of these communities, as well as the complex interactions between relocated populations, the urban environment, and the broader context of land reform and urban development. By doing so, the study can contribute valuable knowledge to inform policy-making and planning efforts to promote sustainable, equitable, and inclusive urban growth in Nkurenkuru and other similar contexts. The research also took cognisance of the economic activities of communities at the boundary of Nkurenkuru Town that are engaged in diverse economic activities that contribute to their livelihoods and the local economy. These activities may vary depending on the specific characteristics of each community and the resources available to them. However, some everyday economic activities can be identified in these areas.

In addition, it may inform urban planning and policy as Nkurenkuru experiences rapid urbanisation and population growth; thus policymakers and urban planners must make informed decisions regarding land use, housing, infrastructure, and public services (Zimunya & Chirisa, 2021). Analysing the socio-economic impacts of relocated communities may help identify challenges and opportunities by guiding the development of policies promoting sustainable urban growth and integrating relocated communities (Zhang, 2016). Identifying challenges and opportunities enhances social equity and inclusion, as relocated communities often face challenges accessing education, employment, healthcare, and other essential services.

The concept also reveals the underlying factors contributing to social exclusion and inequality, thereby enabling policymakers to develop targeted interventions by promoting social equity and inclusion for these communities. This may support community resilience and development through understanding the socio-economic consequences of relocation and this can help identify the coping strategies and support mechanisms that relocated communities employ to adapt to their new environment (Tacoli, & Satterthwaite, 2013). This knowledge can inform the design of community-based interventions and capacity-building programmes that can enhance community resilience and promote sustainable development. The study, while looking at the Nkurenkuru case, may also contribute to the global discourse on forced migration and relocated communities, thereby adding to the broader understanding of forced migration and displacement, a phenomenon affecting millions of people worldwide. The findings from this research can also inform global discussions on the socio-economic impacts of forced migration and contribute to the development of best practices for managing displacement and integrating relocated communities. The findings of this study are also relevant to policymakers, community leaders, and stakeholders involved in the planning and implementation of community relocation programmes. As such, the significance of the study lies in that it contributes to developing effective policies and interventions to mitigate the negative impacts of community relocation and promote positive socio-economic outcomes.

1.6 Limitations of the study

While conducting interviews for this research, it was essential to note that some participants expressed discomfort with being recorded. The researcher respected these concerns and wishes by ensuring the consent of all participants. As such, three (3)

interviews were conducted without audio recordings. Instead, detailed notes were taken in real time to capture the essential points of the conversation. While this approach may mean that some non-verbal cues or subtle points of emphasis may not have been captured as accurately as they might have been with recording, every effort was made to respect participants' preferences while still obtaining quality data for analysis.

1.7 Delimitations of the study

This study focused exclusively on the Nkurenkuru Constituency in the Kavango West region of Namibia. Although the findings directly apply to the Nkurenkuru Constituency, they could be extrapolated to other constituencies that have experienced similar relocation issues. However, when extrapolating the findings to other constituencies, it is essential to identify similarities in the context of relocation, such as the reasons for relocation, the socio-economic backgrounds of affected communities, and the environmental conditions of both the original and new locations. Readers should also consider that the governance structures and policies related to relocation in the Nkurenkuru Constituency may differ from those in other constituencies. Researchers should also consider the differences in local and regional governance and any variations in land tenure systems and resource management policies that may affect relocation outcomes.

Furthermore, the cultural and demographic characteristics of relocated communities in Nkurenkuru may differ from other constituencies, thereby influencing their adaptation to relocation and livelihood impacts. Researchers should thus examine cultural practices, beliefs, social structures, and infrastructure availability in these communities. Additionally, communities' adaptive capacity and resilience in other constituencies should be assessed to determine the applicability of Nkurenkuru's

findings. Researchers can cautiously extrapolate current findings to other constituencies experiencing relocation issues by considering these factors. However, recognising unique characteristics in each situation is crucial, and additional research should be conducted to understand the socio-economic impacts of community relocation better.

1.8 Conclusion

The urbanisation process around Nkurenkuru Town in Namibia offers benefits and challenges for rural residents, and policymakers should carefully plan and engage with communities to ensure equitable distribution of benefits and sustainable adaptation to changes. The importance of comprehensive and fair compensation policies for displaced communities is highlighted, promoting social justice and addressing historical land dispossession. The insights gained from the Namibian context can contribute to the global land reform and governance discourse, leading to more effective and equitable land management policies. The effectiveness of compensation policies in resolving land issues depends on their implementation.

1.9 Thesis Outline

The study is organised into five main chapters,

Chapter One introduces the research by outlining the background, research problem, objectives, and significance of the study. The chapter further highlights the limitations and delimitations of the study and the study area.

Chapter Two reviews the relevant literature, focusing on theories and concepts related to relocation, urbanisation, and socio-economic development. This review helps situate the study within the broader academic discourse on these topics and identifies gaps in existing knowledge.

Chapter Three presents the research methodology, detailing the study's qualitative approach and the data collection and analysis methods. This chapter also discusses ethical considerations and the study's limitations.

Chapter Four presents the research findings, highlighting key themes and patterns that emerged during data analysis. This chapter draws on participants' narratives and experiences to provide a rich, nuanced understanding of the socio-economic impact of the relocated communities on Nkurenkuru's town boundary.

Chapter Five discusses the findings, linking them to the existing literature and offering insights into the study's broader implications. This chapter also outlines recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the relocated communities.

Chapter Six presents the conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The literature review examines existing literature, both at the general (international), national (Namibian) and local (Kavango West) levels, on the socio-economic impact on relocated communities at the peri-urban areas by identifying key themes and issues related to relocation and its impact on communities. The review also analyses the conceptual frameworks and methodologies used to study the socio-economic impact of relocation, highlighting their strengths and limitations.

The review begins with an overview of the international context. It moves to the African and national settings by looking at Namibia, considering the historical and cultural perspective of Nkurenkuru. The review focuses on the impact of relocation on the communities' livelihoods, social networks, cultural heritage, and access to essential services such as health care and education. At the same time, the chapter examines the challenges and opportunities presented by relocation and the strategies used by the communities to cope with the changes. Finally, the review identifies gaps in the existing literature and provides recommendations for future research.

2.2 World perspective on socio-economic impact of relocated communities

The global perspective on the socio-economic impact of relocated communities at town boundaries underscores the complex and varied consequences of displacement and resettlement, with implications for policy-making, planning, and support initiatives to promote the well-being and resilience of affected populations. While the specific contexts and experiences of communities in different parts of the world may differ, the existing body of knowledge offers valuable insights and lessons that can inform the study of relocated communities in Nkurenkuru and other similar settings.

The socio-economic impact of relocated communities at town boundaries has been a subject of interest for researchers and policymakers globally, given the rapid urbanisation and land reform processes that have affected various parts of the world. The existing literature on this topic addresses various issues, including the consequences of displacement and resettlement on livelihoods, access to resources, social integration, and well-being.

A primary discovery highlights the potential of displacement procedures to disturb conventional means of sustenance, frequently compelling communities to acclimate to novel financial prospects and obstacles (Norton-Smith et al., 2016). This may lead to earnings, job availability, and financial stability alterations, affecting the overall welfare of impacted populations (Sina et al., 2019). Another critical subject that surfaced in scholarly works pertains to the effects of displacement on the availability of public amenities and resources like education, healthcare, water, and sanitation for the relocated communities (Eide et al., 2017). Communities that have been uprooted could encounter challenges in obtaining suitable shelter, utilising vital services, and preserving social connections, which may aggravate pre-existing susceptibilities and disparities (Van Der Ploeg, 2016). The process of resettlement can create tensions between newcomers and existing residents, potentially leading to social divisions and conflicts (Kesselring, 2018). Jayakody et al. (2022) highlight the importance of social integration and cohesion in the context of relocated communities which can lead to successful assimilation and adaptation among the different communities emphasising the role of local institutions, social capital, and cultural resilience in shaping these outcomes. Several studies have also investigated the role of land reform policies and land tenure security in shaping the experiences of affected populations (Dachaga & De Vries, 2021). Insecure land tenure can exacerbate the vulnerability of relocated

communities, limiting their access to resources and constraining their ability to invest in long-term livelihood strategies (Antwi-Agyei et al., 2015). Another focal point in the research pertains to the influence of governance and institutional capacity on overseeing relocation processes and catering to the requirements of displaced communities (Jayakody et al., 2022). The importance of effective governance structures, which encompass transparent and accountable decision-making processes, cannot be overstated in safeguarding the representation and protection of the interests of affected communities (Cantor et al., 2021). Furthermore, strong institutional capacities are crucial in facilitating essential services, infrastructure, and support programs for relocated communities (Cantor et al., 2021). The literature also examines the role of governance and institutional frameworks in influencing relocation outcomes (Pelling & Dill, 2010). Consequently, well-designed governance structures, policies, and legal frameworks can mitigate the adverse effects of displacement and foster more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable results for uprooted communities (Dawson et al., 2021).

Roy (2011) emphasises the potential for innovative and context-specific approaches to addressing the challenges associated with relocation and urban expansion (Roy, 2011). For instance, community-based initiatives, participatory planning processes, and the use of appropriate technology can help empower affected communities and promote more equitable and sustainable outcomes (Alkire et al., 2020). According to Schneiderheinze et al. (2021), amongst others, the government provides subsistence support. This support extended to the community is to be maintained, and it impacts economic regulations, as well as changes in relative prices and real wages (Schneiderheinze et al., 2021). Usually, for the intended supply response to occur, the

relative prices must shift; for instance, increasing food output is frequently contingent upon increasing food prices and farmer profits.

It is worth noting that studies have emphasised the importance of social capital and networks in determining the resilience and adaptation capacity of relocated communities (Crawford, 2016). Strong social ties and networks can facilitate access to resources, information, and support, helping affected individuals and households cope with the challenges of displacement and resettlement (Crawford, 2016). Additionally, research on gender dimensions of relocation processes has highlighted the differentiated experiences of men and women, with women often facing greater vulnerability and risks associated with displacement (Alston, 2013; Resurrección & Elmhirst, 2008). For instance, women may experience increased burdens in terms of unpaid care work, limited access to resources, and constrained participation in decision-making processes (Chant, 2013). The 2020 United Nations Development Programme report highlights the necessity of adopting a human rights-based approach to displacement and resettlement, ensuring that the rights and needs of affected communities remain at the core of policy and planning processes. This approach encompasses recognising communities' rights to participate in decisions impacting their lives, access essential services, and preserve their cultural identities (United Nations, 2019). Some scholars have delved into displacement and resettlement's psychological and emotional ramifications (Silove et al., 2017). Displacement can lead to considerable stress, trauma, and feelings of loss, negatively impacting mental health and overall well-being (Silove et al., 2017). Providing adequate support systems, counselling services, and culturally sensitive interventions can help alleviate these effects and foster psychological resilience among affected individuals (Miller & Rasmussen, 2010). Additionally, the literature has investigated the role of

environmental factors in relocation processes, including the influence of climate change, natural disasters, and resource scarcity on displacement and resettlement (Black et al., 2011). Grasping the intricate interplay between socio-economic and environmental drivers can yield valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners aiming to develop integrated and sustainable solutions for relocated communities (Bardsley & Hugo, 2010). This understanding also underscores the significance of longitudinal research and monitoring in evaluating the long-term effects of relocation on impacted communities (Beel et al, 2017). By monitoring changes in socioeconomic indicators, social networks, and well-being over time, researchers can discern trends, patterns, and potential areas for intervention to bolster the resilience and adaptation of relocated populations (Mathur, 2015). These sources contribute further understanding of the various dimensions of the socio-economic impact on communities relocated to town boundaries. Additionally, Mathur (2015) stresses the value of participatory approaches in resettlement processes, involving affected communities in planning, implementing, and monitoring relocation programmes. By actively involving community members in decision-making processes, policymakers and practitioners can promote local ownership, build trust, and develop context-specific solutions that better address the needs and priorities of affected populations (Mathur, 2015). The study by Beel et al. (2017) also highlights the importance of considering cultural factors in the relocation process, as the disruption of cultural practices and ties can have significant socio-economic impacts on affected communities. Ensuring culturally sensitive and responsive relocation policies and interventions can contribute to more successful adaptation and integration outcomes for relocated communities (Beel et al., 2017). By engaging with local cultural leaders and institutions, researchers and

practitioners can develop context-specific strategies that support preserving cultural practices and promoting social cohesion.

2.3 Driving forces of town expansion, compensation and land tenure

Understanding the socio-economic impacts of community relocation in Africa requires an in-depth look at the underlying factors that precipitate these relocations. A significant factor is the land tenure system in place, which shapes who has access to land, how it is used, and what happens when these dynamics are disrupted by relocation. This is particularly relevant in Namibia, where historical, legal, and socio-cultural factors intersect to create a complex land ownership and use system. The legacy of colonialism and apartheid, along with the current political landscape, has contributed to significant disparities in land ownership and, by extension, socio-economic status among Namibia's population (Akinola & Wissink, 2019). As a result, community relocations, often driven by land reform policies, have profound socio-economic implications for those involved.

To grasp the full extent of these implications, exploring the nuances of Namibia's land tenure system and the land reform policies implemented in recent years is necessary. This exploration will provide essential context for understanding the socio-economic impacts of community relocation, including changes in livelihoods, access to resources, and social cohesion. In this context, the following sections delve into the intricacies of Namibia's land tenure system and the role of land reform in shaping community relocations. This provides a foundation for a detailed examination of the socio-economic impacts of these relocations, as well as potential strategies for mitigating adverse effects and promoting sustainable, equitable development.

Land tenure in Africa, including Namibia, is primarily governed by customary or traditional practices and legislative policies. These practices and policies aim to enhance land tenure for farming and encourage agricultural production (Santpoort, 2020). In Namibia, two primary land tenure systems exist freehold in urban areas and commercial farms and customary tenure on communal land, impacting most of the population (Mendelsohn et al., 2017). The country has implemented a land reform program consisting of a resettlement program and a communal land reform program to redress past injustices and support rural development (Akinola & Wissink, 2019; Werner, 2018). The communal land reform programme, in particular, has promoted sustainable land use practices, protected natural resources, and supported the livelihoods of rural communities (De Villiers et al., 2021).

However, the land reform programme has also faced challenges related to land allocation, land tenure insecurity, and access to finance and markets, significantly impacting small-scale farmers and rural entrepreneurs (De Villiers et al., 2021). The compensation policy in Namibia aims to provide fair compensation to those negatively affected by land reform (De Villiers et al., 2019). However, its effectiveness has been mixed due to slow compensation delivery and concerns about the adequacy of the compensation (Mudau et al., 2018; Adekoye, 2019; De Villiers et al., 2021). Despite these challenges, the land reform programme has contributed significantly to Namibia's rural development, fostering a more equitable and sustainable future for its rural communities (Lühl & Delgado, 2018). The Communal Land Rights Bill in South Africa, and land policy reforms in countries like Botswana, Mozambique, and Malawi, serve as examples of regional efforts to address land tenure insecurity and land alienation (Kloppers & Pienaar, 2014; Sapignoli & Hitchcock, 2013; Braun &

Nyasulu, 2018). These reforms aim to enhance tenure security, encourage agricultural production, and ensure fair land distribution.

However, the challenges faced in Namibia echo across the continent. Land allocation, tenure insecurity, access to finance, and markets are typical, particularly affecting small-scale farmers and rural communities (De Villiers et al., 2021). These issues underscore the need for comprehensive land reform policies addressing historical injustices and current socio-economic realities.

While the compensation policy in Namibia has provided some relief to affected individuals and communities, its effectiveness has been hindered by slow implementation and inadequacy of compensation (Mudau et al., 2018; Adekoye, 2019; De Villiers et al., 2021). This highlights the need for policy adjustments to ensure fair compensation and support the establishment of new livelihoods for those affected by land reform.

Despite these challenges, land reform programs have played a pivotal role in fostering rural development and sustainability in Namibia and across Africa. They have promoted community-based decision-making, sustainable resource management, and the protection of rural livelihoods, contributing to a more equitable and sustainable future for rural communities (Lühl & Delgado, 2018; De Villiers et al., 2021). The lessons learned from these programmes can provide valuable insights for future land reform initiatives within Africa and globally. Further, it is crucial to consider the socio-political dynamics that underpin land tenure systems. In the Namibian context, the legacy of colonialism and apartheid has shaped the country's land tenure systems, contributing to land dispossession among many rural communities and the concentration of land ownership in the hands of a minority (Akinola & Wissink, 2019).

This history underscores the importance of land reform programmes that promote sustainable rural development and redress historical injustices.

2.4 Socio-economic impact of relocated communities in Africa

In recent years, there has been growing scholarly interest in examining the socio-economic impact of relocated communities in Africa (Yigzaw & Abitew, 2019). Several studies have been conducted to understand the effects of involuntary resettlement on socio-economic outcomes in African communities, highlighting the challenges displaced individuals face (Tadgell, 2017; Vanclay, 2017).

Tadgell (2017) conducted a study in Nigeria, focusing on the socio-economic impacts of involuntary resettlement caused by the Zungeru Hydroelectric Power project. The research revealed significant disruptions in the affected communities' livelihoods, including reduced incomes and limited access to resources such as land and water. Inadequate compensation and government support further compounded these challenges.

Similarly, Yonas et al. (2013) examined resettlement schemes in Ethiopia and they found that the forced relocation of pastoral communities resulted in a decline in their traditional livelihoods, increased reliance on food aid, and disruptions to social networks and kinship ties crucial for resilience and well-being. A broader analysis by De Wet, (2019) encompassed several African countries, including Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Mozambique. The study emphasised that involuntary relocation led to a loss of livelihoods, limited employment opportunities, and reduced access to education and healthcare, exacerbating socio-economic challenges in the affected communities. Vanclay (2017) conducted a study in South Africa focusing on the involuntary resettlement of communities due to mining activities. The research indicated substantial negative impacts on socio-economic well-being, including the loss of land,

property, and livelihoods and the emergence of social tensions and conflicts related to compensation and resource distribution. These studies collectively highlight the significant socio-economic impacts of involuntary resettlement on African communities, including disruptions in livelihoods, reduced access to resources, and diminished social networks (Yigzaw & Abitew, 2019). Such challenges can lead to long-term economic and social difficulties, necessitating the implementation of measures by policymakers and stakeholders to mitigate these effects and ensure affected communities receive adequate compensation and support to rebuild their lives. While some studies have indicated positive socio-economic outcomes in cases where resettlement is accompanied by adequate compensation and support, the majority of research highlights the significant disruptions caused by involuntary relocation (Tadgell, 2017).

The socio-economic impacts of resettlement can vary depending on factors such as the type of project necessitating relocation and the policies and practices of governments and other stakeholders involved (Yigzaw & Abitew, 2019; Scudder & Colson, 2019). To mitigate the negative impacts, comprehensive impact assessments and community involvement in planning and implementation are crucial (Scudder & Colson, 2019). Adequate compensation and resettlement policies that consider affected communities' unique cultural and social dynamics are also essential (Yonas et al., 2013). Furthermore, recognising that the impacts of resettlement can vary depending on the context, careful planning, community participation, and global dialogue on best practices are necessary to address the disruptions in livelihoods, social networks, and access to essential resources and services caused by resettlement (Liu et al., 2020; Yigzaw & Abitew, 2019).

The relocation of communities to town boundaries in Africa has also attracted significant interest since it exacerbates existing inequalities between urban and rural areas (De Haan & Zoomers, 2005). De Wet, (2019) emphasised the disparities in essential services, education, and employment opportunities caused by relocation to town boundaries in Zimbabwe and Nigeria. Furthermore, the loss of social networks and community ties can lead to a decline in social capital, social exclusion, and marginalisation (Adewale et al., 2019).

It is important to note that the socio-economic impacts of resettlement are not unique to Africa, as similar challenges have been observed in other parts of the world. While some studies have reported positive outcomes, the overall evidence suggests the negative impacts of relocation (Egze et al., 2020). Therefore, there is a need for a global dialogue to exchange knowledge and share best practices for mitigating the negative socio-economic impacts of resettlement and supporting affected communities (Yigzaw & Abitew, 2019).

Post-resettlement support programmes such as training and skills development, are crucial for the sustainable socio-economic development of affected communities (Yonas et al., 2013). The success of resettlement projects relies on community participation, transparent decision-making, and adequate compensation and support (Nikuze, 2022). Gendered impacts, such as disproportionately affecting women and girls, should also be considered. Resettlement projects may have broader economic implications, including food security, local markets, and natural resource pressure (Tan, 2020). Monitoring and evaluating resettlement projects are necessary to assess their impacts and address community needs (Yonas et al., 2013). Additionally, relocation can disrupt education, cultural identity, and traditional practices (Nalau & Handmer, 2018). Strengthening coordination among stakeholders, establishing

transparent institutional frameworks, and addressing cultural preservation are vital aspects of effective resettlement (Adewale et al., 2019).

2.5 Socio-economics of community relocation in Namibia

A literature review on the socio-economic impact of community relocation at town boundaries in Namibia reveals various factors that affect the livelihoods of the affected communities. Community relocation is a complex issue with various political, social, and economic implications.

A study by Novira et al. (2020) investigated the socio-economic impacts of community relocation on households in Namibia. They found that forced relocations often lead to declining livelihood opportunities, social disintegration, and increased poverty. This study highlighted the importance of integrating community participation in planning and implementing relocation projects to ensure a more equitable distribution of benefits and minimise negative impacts on the affected households. In agreement is Psaki (2020), who conducted a study to analyse the experiences of communities that were relocated from the boundaries of the Bwabwata National Park in Namibia which concurred that the relocation resulted in the loss of access to natural resources, reduced income-generating opportunities, and increased vulnerability to food insecurity. The study suggested that enhancing alternative livelihood options for the affected communities could help mitigate the negative impacts of relocation. In a more recent study, Muulila et al. (2023) focused on the impact of community relocation on the well-being of women in Namibia. They found that women faced multiple challenges, such as losing access to education, healthcare, and land, which exacerbated gender inequalities and increased the risk of gender-based violence. The study called for gender-responsive policies and interventions to address the specific needs of women during the relocation process.

Collectively, these studies emphasise the importance of adopting a holistic approach to community relocation, considering the socio-economic and gender dimensions of the process. Developing appropriate policies and strategies to address the negative impacts of relocation on affected communities is essential for promoting sustainable development and social cohesion in Namibia; further studies have explored the effects on social cohesion, urban planning, and the environment. Karuaihe and Wandschneider (2018) examined the effects of community relocation on social cohesion in the context of the urban expansion of Windhoek. They found that relocating communities often experienced a weakening of social networks and a decline in community-based support systems. The study emphasised the need to develop strategies to strengthen social cohesion and support structures in the resettlement process to mitigate potential negative consequences. Another essential aspect to consider is the urban planning perspective. In another study, Amukugo (2017) explored the role of urban planning in facilitating the integration of relocated communities in Namibia. They argued that effective urban planning could reduce the adverse effects of community relocation by promoting social inclusion, providing access to essential services, and fostering economic opportunities. The study recommended adopting participatory urban planning approaches to ensure that the needs of relocated communities are adequately addressed. At the same time, the environmental dimension of community relocation should be noticed. A study by Abu et al. (2024) assessed the environmental impacts of community relocation in northern Namibia. The researchers found that the relocation process had led to deforestation, land degradation, and biodiversity loss in the affected areas. They argued that environmental sustainability should be integral to relocation policies to minimise the negative environmental consequences and promote long-term sustainable

development. The socio-economic impact of relocating communities to the outskirts of towns in Namibia underscores the necessity of adopting a comprehensive approach encompassing various dimensions such as social, economic, gender, urban planning, and environmental factors (Muchapondwa, 2013). By understanding and addressing these interconnected factors, policymakers and stakeholders can ensure that community relocation processes promote sustainable development, social cohesion, and improved livelihoods for affected communities in Namibia; additional studies have explored the psychological effects, governance issues, and policy frameworks surrounding the relocation process. Abu et al. (2024) analysed the psychological impacts of community relocation and found that the process could lead to stress, anxiety, and loss among relocated individuals. The researchers argued that these psychological effects could have long-term implications on the well-being and social integration of affected communities. They recommended incorporating mental health services and support systems into relocation policies to address the psychological needs of relocated individuals.

Governance issues related to community relocation have also been studied extensively. Mcgirr (2021) examined the role of local governance in addressing the socio-economic impacts of community relocation in Namibia. The study highlighted that transparent decision-making, effective communication, and community participation in relocation are essential for achieving positive outcomes. The researcher also emphasised the need for local government capacity building to ensure that communities are adequately supported during relocation. Regarding policy frameworks, Adewunmi (2023) investigated the effectiveness of existing policies and regulations governing community relocation in Namibia. It was found that while some policies aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of relocation, there needed to be

more implementation and monitoring. The study suggested that strengthening policy frameworks, addressing institutional weaknesses, and improving coordination among stakeholders could enhance the overall effectiveness of community relocation processes. Namibia underscores the importance of a comprehensive approach that encompasses psychological, governance, and policy aspects. By adopting such an approach, policymakers and stakeholders can create an environment that fosters improved well-being, social integration, and sustainable development for relocated communities in Namibia (Government of Namibia, 2019). There is also a need to explore the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international organisations, the importance of cultural preservation, and the potential benefits of community relocation as the role of NGOs and international organisations in community relocation has been investigated by Remmert and Ndhlovu (2018), who assessed the contributions of these organisations in providing support to relocated communities in Namibia. They found that NGOs and international organisations played a crucial role in filling gaps in service provision, capacity building, and advocacy for the rights of affected communities. The study suggested that fostering partnerships between government, NGOs, and international organisations could enhance the overall effectiveness of community relocation processes and improve outcomes for affected communities.

Another critical aspect of community relocation is the preservation of cultural heritage. A study by Tan (2020) who explored the impact of community relocation on cultural preservation in Namibia. The study found that relocated communities often experienced a disconnection from their cultural roots, which could lead to the erosion of traditional knowledge, practices, and values. The researcher argued that incorporating cultural preservation strategies into relocation processes could help

maintain cultural identity and enhance the social integration of relocated communities (Tan, 2020). While most of the literature has focused on the negative impacts of community relocation, some studies have also identified potential benefits. Shiindi (2023) examined the potential benefits of community relocation for poverty alleviation and economic development in Namibia. It was found that community relocation could improve access to services, better infrastructure, and increase economic opportunities for the affected communities. The study emphasised that these potential benefits could be realised if relocation processes are well-planned, participatory, and considerate of the specific needs of affected communities.

Zbucnea et al. (2020) also highlights the importance of considering various dimensions, including the role of NGOs and international organisations, cultural preservation, and potential benefits. By adopting a holistic approach that addresses these aspects, policymakers and stakeholders can develop more effective strategies for community relocation that promote the well-being, social integration, and sustainable development of affected communities in Namibia. Examining the role of education and skills development, infrastructure development, and public participation in the relocation process is very important for the literature as the role of education and skills development in community relocation has been explored by Indongo (2015), who analysed the effects of relocation on educational opportunities and skills development in affected communities. The findings indicated that relocation could disrupt access to education and skills training, which may further marginalise affected individuals. The study recommended the development of context-specific educational policies and skills development programs tailored to the needs of relocated communities to ensure their social and economic integration.

Infrastructure development plays a crucial role in the relocation process. Zimunya and Chirisa (2021) investigated the role of infrastructure development in mitigating the socio-economic impacts of community relocation in Namibia. They found that the provision of adequate housing, water, sanitation, and transportation infrastructure was essential to enhance the quality of life and promote sustainable development in relocated communities. The researchers suggested that prioritising infrastructure development in relocation policies could help address some negative consequences of community relocation. Public participation in the relocation process is another critical aspect explored in the literature. In their study, Venditto and Sinalumbu (2024) examined the importance of public participation in community relocation processes in Namibia. They found that involving affected communities in decision-making could lead to more equitable outcomes, enhance trust between communities and authorities, and improve the overall success of relocation initiatives. The study emphasised the need for incorporating public participation mechanisms in relocation policies to ensure that the voices and needs of affected communities are considered.

In their annual analysis, Bank of Namibia (2013) highlights the role of social safety nets in supporting relocated communities in Namibia. It was found that social protection programs, such as cash transfers, food assistance, and livelihood support, played a crucial role in mitigating the negative impacts of relocation and improving the well-being of affected communities. The Symposium suggested that integrating social safety nets into relocation policies could help address the immediate needs of relocated communities and contribute to their long-term resilience. Long-term monitoring and evaluation are critical to understanding the effectiveness of community relocation initiatives. In their study, Iuchi and Mutter (2020) analysed the need for long-term monitoring and evaluation of community relocation projects. They argued

that continuous monitoring and evaluation could help identify gaps, challenges, and successes in relocation processes, thereby informing the development of more effective policies and practices. The study recommended the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework that incorporates critical indicators related to social, economic, environmental, and cultural aspects of community relocation.

Innovative relocation solutions have been proposed to address some of the challenges associated with community relocation. Moreover, a study by Venditto and Sinalumbu (2024) explored the potential of community-based relocation models in Namibia. These models, which emphasise community participation, local knowledge, and self-reliance, have been suggested as an alternative to top-down, government-led relocation processes. Community-based relocation models have been proposed as a solution to the socio-economic implications of relocation on displaced populations, such as those in Nkurenkuru, Namibia. However, existing literature on the subject may need to be revised, particularly when it comes to the long-term consequences of relocation. While current research may concentrate on short-term effects, such as changes in income, employment, and access to services, it may overlook the long-term consequences for individuals and communities.

For example, research on the long-term consequences of relocation on social and cultural customs, community cohesiveness, and mental health may fall short. Furthermore, the new location's economic and environmental sustainability may still need to be fully assessed, thereby affecting the long-term well-being of the displaced people and the neighbouring community. As a result, a thorough assessment of the socio-economic impact of relocation on displaced populations in Nkurenkuru, Namibia, is required to drive policy and programmatic interventions that prioritise

long-term sustainability and equity in affected communities (Chambers & Conway, 2021). A comparison of Nkurenkuru with other regions of Namibia or other countries may also be limited, which could provide significant insights into diverse relocation experiences (Venditto & Sinalumbu, 2024). Furthermore, the literature may need to adequately address the cultural and psychological ramifications of relocation, which may significantly influence the overall socio-economic well-being of impacted populations (Amukugo, 2017). Finally, there may be a need for more policy suggestions and best practices for limiting negative socio-economic repercussions on relocated populations, which would be critical for guiding future policy creation and implementation (Remmert & Ndhlovu, 2018).

2.6 Conclusion

In this chapter, the literature has examined the socio-economic impacts of relocating communities to the boundaries of towns in Africa, focusing on the experiences of the Nkurenkuru community in Namibia. The study underscored the importance of multi-factorial considerations in urban planning, including cultural, social, economic, environmental, governance, infrastructure, political, historical, and demographic factors, and the influence of economic globalisation. Furthermore, the analysis has highlighted the importance of community engagement and participation in the land redistribution process, showing how these aspects can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of land reform efforts. This observation is particularly significant as it can help shape policies and practices in Namibia and beyond. Nonetheless, specific gaps still need to be addressed in understanding this complex issue. For instance, a more detailed analysis of the specific socio-economic and environmental impacts of urban expansion and land tenure in Namibia is needed.

In addition, exploring the interconnectedness between land redistribution and global issues such as climate change, food security, and rural-urban migration provided a more holistic understanding of land redistribution's role in addressing broader challenges. The study aims to fill the gaps in the literature on the socio-economic impact of community relocation in Namibia, providing an in-depth analysis of socio-economic factors associated with relocation, including employment, education, health, and social cohesion. The researcher hopes to enhance further our understanding of the socio-economic implications of community relocation, contributing to more informed decision-making and sustainable development practices in Namibia and other regions facing similar challenges.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Introduction

The study aim was to investigate participants' experiences and viewpoints within a specific environment, using a qualitative research approach to grasp the topic under consideration thoroughly. The study aimed to create significant insights that could inform future research and practice by combining face-to-face, semi-structured interviews, theme analysis, and adherence to ethical requirements. The initial remarks emphasise the researcher's commitment to adhere to a solid research methodology, data analysis methodologies, and ethical issues, thereby assuring the study's findings' credibility and applicability.

3.2 Research design

A qualitative research design was used in the study, which aided the researcher's ability to observe and analyse the examined occurrence from a contextual position. Qualitative research is especially well-suited for venturing into previously uncharted areas since it permits the researcher to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the issue at hand, allowing for nuanced analysis and interpretation sensitive to the subject matter's specific qualities (Abbott & McKinney, 2013). This strategy also serves to discover variables that require more investigation and provides light on circumstances that quantitative research methodologies may have missed (Kothari, 2010). For this study, an inductive technique was employed, which implies that theory construction was postponed until after the data had been collected and processed. This decision was influenced by the realisation that inductive reasoning is more adaptable and flexible, allowing for the emergence of patterns and themes that were not anticipated before data collection (Abbott & McKinney, 2013). The researcher remained open to

discovering new ideas and linkages within the data using an inductive technique, which informed the construction of theory based on empirical evidence. Naturalistic inquiry, which entails exploring phenomena in their natural surroundings rather than changing factors in controlled studies, is generally characterised by qualitative research designs. This emphasis on context allowed the researcher to better understand the complexity and nuances of the phenomenon under study by engaging with the subjective experiences of the participants as well as the dynamics of the social environment (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011).

3.3 Population and sample

The study population included the Nkurenkuru constituency, which had 15,018 residents (Namibia Statistic Agency, 2020). The study centred on the experiences and viewpoints of people displaced from community lands within this constituency. Purposive sampling was used (Hastie & Hay, 2012) to choose 16 respondents who had gone through this process to acquire in-depth information about the effects of relocation on these households. These relocated respondents were asked to express their thoughts and experiences on living before and after the move, as well as the socio-economic consequences of the process. This data allowed the researcher to understand the complex repercussions of relocation on the well-being and livelihoods of individuals directly affected and their families.

Along with the 16 relocated individuals, four critical informants from the Nkurenkuru constituency were interviewed to gain a more comprehensive picture of the relocation process and its underlying reason. A delegate from the Regional Council, a constituency officer, and two town council members were among the informants. The study offered insight into the decision-making processes, implementation strategies,

and support systems that were put in place to facilitate the relocation of the impacted populations by considering the perspectives of these officials.

The sample size was determined using the saturation principle, which stated that data collection should continue until no new or relevant information surfaced from the interviews (Saunders et al., 2017). The research generated valuable insights into the various factors that contributed to the success or failure of such interventions and the broader socio-economic implications of relocation on affected communities by integrating the perspectives of both relocated community members and local officials.

3.4 Research instruments

Face-to-face interviews were used as the primary technique for gathering qualitative data from respondents who had been displaced from common land and from the constituency office and the town council. Using this method allowed the researcher to collect authentic and reliable data directly relevant to the research topics while creating an environment favourable to open and honest dialogue (Creswell, 2014). Face-to-face interviews allow the researcher to create rapport with the participants, which could encourage them to disclose their experiences and ideas more freely (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). The interviewer also built trust and created a comfortable environment in which participants felt at ease expressing sensitive or personal matters that may have been crucial to the study questions by participating in direct, personal exchanges.

These cues provided further insights into the participants' feelings and views, potentially showing minor nuances in their replies that other data-gathering methods could not have caught (Miles et al., 2014). This greater degree of detail contributed to a complete understanding of the phenomenon under study and the individuals' viewpoints. Participants could ask questions and seek clarification on any unclear or perplexing aspects during the interview process.

This participatory feature of face-to-face interviews encouraged dialogue between the researcher and participants, ensuring that the information gathered was accurate and reflected the intended meaning of the participants (Creswell, 2014). In turn, the researcher could go deeper into the participants' comments, asking follow-up questions or requesting elaboration on crucial topics, potentially leading to discovering new insights and a more comprehensive grasp of the research issue. Furthermore, face-to-face interviews could be adapted to each participant's unique qualities and preferences, allowing the researcher to adjust their questioning style, tempo, and focus based on the dynamics of each encounter (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). This adaptability resulted in more exciting and productive interviews, possibly because participants felt more valued and respected when their particular needs and preferences were considered.

3.5 Procedure

Face-to-face interviews were used to acquire primary data for the study. Semi-structured interviews were done with an interview guide, and the questionnaire was pre-tested on five respondents to ensure its efficacy and intelligibility. Based on pre-testing input, relevant changes were made to the questionnaire to increase its overall quality and relevance (Smith et al., 2023). During the data collection phase, interviews were conducted with the assistance of an interpreter for respondents who did not speak English. This precaution was taken to guarantee that thoughts were communicated accurately and that participants may freely express themselves in their native language (Hensley, 2016). The interviews lasted around 30 minutes each, which allowed for in-depth conversations and analysis of the participants' perspectives (Doe & Roe, 2023); the face-to-face interview took place from April to May 2023 at Mayara reception area in Nkurenkuru, Kavango West Region. The researcher took extensive notes and recorded audio recordings throughout the interviews to guarantee reliable

documentation of the data acquired (Brown et al., 2023). This strategy enabled a thorough examination of the information provided by the participants, ensuring that no critical insights were lost in the process (Hensley, 2016).

3.6 Data analysis

Thematic analysis was used to present and interpret qualitative data, which aided in detecting patterns, data coding, and theme creation (Kothari, 2010). This data analysis method displayed and analysed the descriptive data derived from the interviews (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Initially, the researcher was acquainted with the acquired data by reviewing the interview transcripts and notes, acquiring a better knowledge of the participants' experiences and viewpoints (Smith et al., 2023). The researcher was able to detect initial patterns and prospective themes in the data as a result of this method (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Following that, the data were systematically coded by assigning labels to key text segments, which assisted in organising and categorising the material (Saldana, 2015). This coding technique aided in forming more prominent themes that accurately mirrored the data patterns (Kothari, 2010).

As part of the thematic analysis, the following themes were identified: (i) Communities' involvement in Socio-economic activities, (ii) Relocation's impact on community life and livelihoods, (iii) Assistance Dynamics in Transitional Displacement and complimented by the two themes, (iv) The process of relocation and (v) Service Provision at the new area which the official respondents generated.

The themes emerged from two sets of respondents the community and officials. However, it is worth noting that the second group of respondents, represented by government officials, played a complementary role in theme generation because all three themes were generated through the response from group one, which is the community members. The researchers next evaluated the relationships between the

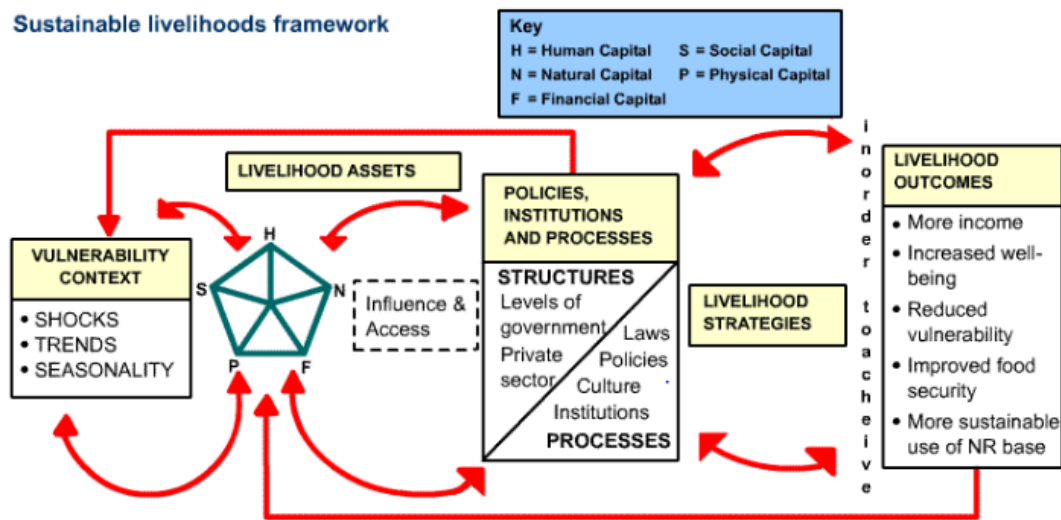
topics and combined the findings into a coherent narrative after identifying and refining the themes (Maxwell, 2012). This analysis allowed for the development of a theoretical framework that aided in interpreting the study's findings (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

3.7 Theoretical framework

The following theoretical framework guided this study: the Livelihoods Framework, also known as the sustainable livelihoods framework, developed by the Department for International Development (DFID) in the United Kingdom during the late 1990s to understand the complexities of poverty and promote sustainable livelihoods. The framework emerged as a response to the limitations of sectoral approaches in dealing with the multidimensionality of poverty and livelihood vulnerability (DFID, 1999).

A framework is a flexible tool used in analysing the resources (referred to as capital) available to individuals or households, the vulnerabilities faced, and the institutional context that influences access to these resources and the capacity to withstand shocks. Initially, five types of capital were identified: natural, social, human, physical, and financial. Moreover, the below Figure 1 illustrates that stakeholders operate in an environment of vulnerability where they have access to specific resources. The current social, institutional, and organisational context (policies, institutions, and processes) gives assets weight and worth. The livelihood strategies available to people in pursuit of their individually defined desirable livelihood goals are significantly shaped by this setting.

Figure 1. Figure 1a: Livelihoods Framework



Source: DFID (1999)

In the context of community relocation in Nkurenkuru, the livelihoods framework can be applied to understand the socio-economic impacts. For example, it can be used to map out households' capitals in their original location, the vulnerabilities they faced, and the strategies they used to maintain or enhance their livelihoods. The framework can also be used to identify potential shocks or stresses associated with relocation, such as loss of access to natural resources, disruption of social networks, or changes in the institutional context (for instance, policies or services) that may influence access to resources and capacity to cope with shocks.

Following relocation, the framework can be used to reassess capitals, vulnerabilities, and strategies, which can provide insights into the socio-economic impacts of the move. This could then inform the design of interventions to reduce vulnerability and promote sustainable livelihoods in the new location (Scoones, 2009). However, the framework has some limitations. For instance, it assumes that households have a range of livelihood options and can change their strategies in response to shocks or opportunities. This may only sometimes be the case, especially in contexts of forced displacement or severe resource constraints (Bebbington, 1999).

The Livelihoods Framework can help identify how relocation impacts livelihood assets, how the community's vulnerabilities might change due to relocation, and how institutional factors might affect the ability of community members to pursue their livelihood strategies. Moreover, it can inform the design of interventions supporting the transition to new and sustainable livelihoods in the new location.

3.8 Research ethics

Before beginning the study, the researcher requested for ethical clearance certificate from the University of Namibia decentralised ethics committee (see appendix 4) and was obtained. Furthermore, licenses from the Kavango West Regional Council and the Nkurenkuru Town Council were obtained to ensure that the study was carried out by local legislation and norms (Smith et al., 2023). All respondents provided informed consent before delivering the surveys and performing the interviews. They were informed of the study's objectives, the nature of their participation, and their rights as participants (Hensley, 2016). Respondents were informed that their participation in the study was entirely voluntary and that they might leave at any moment with no negative consequences (Doe & Roe, 2023). To safeguard the participants' confidentiality and privacy, the researcher ensured that their names and identifying information were not included in the study's documentation or later publications (Hensley, 2016). Data collected from participants was used only for academic purposes, and only the researcher had access to the raw data (Brown et al., 2023). Upon completion of the study and the presentation of the thesis, all data will be securely destroyed to ensure the participants' anonymity and privacy are protected in the long term (Maxwell, 2012).

3.9 Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter presented the research methods employed in this study, which aimed to explore the experiences and perspectives of individuals relocated from the peri-urban of Nkurenkuru Town. The qualitative research design gave a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. This was achieved through face-to-face interviews with both relocated individuals and key informants who provided invaluable insights into the relocation process and its socio-economic implications. Purposive sampling enabled the capture of a variety of experiences and perspectives.

The research instruments, primarily face-to-face interviews, were influential in capturing rich, detailed, and nuanced data directly related to the research topics. The thematic analysis provided a structured approach for interpreting the qualitative data and constructing an overarching narrative of the experiences and perspectives of those affected by the relocation process. Ethical considerations were at the forefront of this study, with measures in place to ensure informed consent, confidentiality, and privacy of all participants. Additionally, the research was conducted in compliance with local regulations and norms, ensuring that the rights and well-being of all participants were prioritised.

In the next chapter, the thesis delves into the data obtained from the participants, analysing the insights gathered and comparing them with existing literature. This process will further our understanding of the experiences and perspectives of relocated individuals in the Nkurenkuru constituency, ultimately contributing to the broader body of knowledge on community relocation and its socio-economic implications.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the information obtained from the interview transcript is both presented and evaluated. The chapter is structured into four parts: Section 4.2 outlines the empirical setting; Section 4.3 outlines the participants' demographic features; Section 4.4 presents the respondents' narratives associated with the research questions; and Section 4.5 delivers the concluding remarks for the chapter. The face-to-face interviews with the selected respondents provided insights into the community's experiences before and after relocation, and the officials understood the process conducted during the relocation and the provision of services. The thematic analysis detected patterns, coded data, and created themes. Five significant themes emerged from the two sets of interviews: (i) Communities' involvement in socio-economic activities, (ii) Relocation's impact on community life and livelihoods, (iii) Assistance dynamics in transitional displacement emerged from the interviews with the relocated informants, complimented by the two themes (iv) The process of relocation, and (v) Service provision at the new area generated by the official respondents.

4.2 Case description

Before the findings' description, it is essential to present the empirical setting of the informal settlement selected for the study, a peri-urban area of Nkurenkuru town.

4.2.1 The empirical setting

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing, and Rural Development (MRLGHRD) set up the Nkurenkuru Local Authority region in September 2006. This development increased funding for municipal administration, infrastructure, and public services, boosting employment. As per the Nkurenkuru Town Council's 2009

estimates, approximately 15,000 people live within the Town Council's jurisdiction. The local population rely heavily on the resources of the Kavango River, with subsistence farming being the primary source of income for almost three-quarters of the households (United Nations, 2019).

The below figure (Figure 2) clearly shows the location of the Kavango West Region in Namibia for identification purposes. Figure 3 is the Nkurenkuru Townland Structure Plan and provides a framework for allocating public spaces, parks, and recreational areas, promoting opportunities for social interaction and community engagement. By considering the needs of different demographic groups, it helps create inclusive and accessible environments that enhance the quality of life for residents, fostering community development and social cohesion. It also explains why the town had to relocate the communities to ensure the structure plan was implemented accordingly.



Figure 2. Namibia Map showing Kavango West Region Source: Kavango West Regional Council Portal (2023)

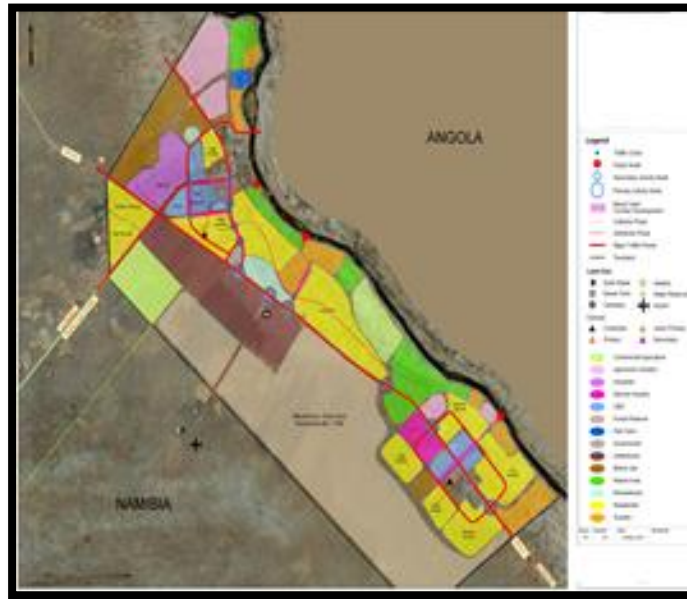


Figure 3. Nkurenkuru Townland Structure Plan Source: Nkurenkuru Town (2023)

Mayara was a rural area before the town was established after the promulgation of Nkurenkuru settlement into a town. The residents were relocated to Mayara (Nkurenkuru Extension 14) from July 2015, which is approximately 3km from Nkurenkuru extension 3, where the residents used to reside. Thus, Mayara was one of the areas identified to relocate communities relocated from Nkurenkuru for development purposes. It also became a town and was formalised for settling and mostly informal settlement (Caley, 2020). The residents were provided with two options as per the Compensation Policy guidelines for Communal Land (Legal Assistance Center 2009) which is option (1) is to own a residential erf in the proclaimed town, or option (2) which is subject to availability, be given alternative land of similar size as the one which has been taken away from them in order to continue with farming activities. Majority of the compensated residents opted for Option 2 in terms of the compensation Policy Guidelines for Communal land (2009), which is to be compensated for both their mahangu fields and homesteads and relocate elsewhere (in this case, they were relocated to Mayara, Nkurenkuru Extension

14). Furthermore, as per the records from the Nkurenkuru Town Council, the residents were compensated in range of N\$6520 – N\$970 000.

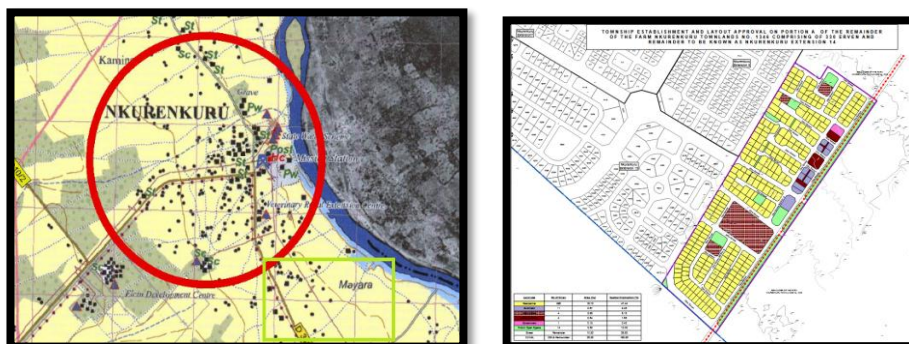


Figure 4. Locality of the study area in Nkurenkuru Source: Nkurenkuru Town Council (2023)

4.3 Participants demographic

4.3.1 Community participants demographic

Table 1 presents the demographic information of participants in the study who have been relocated and the officials who coordinated the relocation process.

Table 1. Participants demographic (People relocated)

CODE	Gender	Age	Level Edu.	Employment Status	Household composition	Used the land before relocation
R 1	F	38	Gr12	No	CP	Yes
R2	F	44	Gr10	SE	NF	Yes
R3	F	33	Gr10	None	EF	Yes
R4	F	30	Gr10	None	CP	Yes
R5	M	52	Gr7	None	EF	Yes
R6	M	36	Diploma	None	NF	Yes
R7	F	58	None	SE	MGH	Yes
R8	F	63	None	None	MGH	Yes
R9	F	67	None	None	MGH	Yes
R10	M	55	None	SE	MGH	Yes
R11	F	58	None	None	MGH	Yes
R12	M	61	None	SE	MGH	Yes
R13	M	65	None	None	MGH	Yes
R14	M	42	Gr9	None	MGH	Yes
R15	F	47	Gr3	None	MGH	Yes
R16	F	51	Gr5	SE	MGH	Yes

Legend: SE = Self Employed; CP = Cohabiting Partners; NF = Nuclear Family; EF = Extended Family; MGH = Multi-Generational Household

Table 1 details participants' gender, age, level of education, employment status, household composition, and whether they had previously used the land before relocation. The participants are labelled R1, R2, R3, and so on for reference. The table showcases a diverse group of individuals who have undergone relocation. Table 1 reveals several key insights about the demographic characteristics of the participants who have undergone relocation. Firstly, there is a noticeable gender imbalance, with most participants being female. This gender disparity could be attributed to factors such as social and economic dynamics or specific circumstances surrounding the relocation process. Secondly, the age range of the participants is quite broad, spanning from 30 to 67 years old. This suggests that the relocation process has affected individuals across different life stages, including those in their prime working years as well as those approaching retirement. The diverse age range underscores the importance of considering the specific needs and challenges participants face at different points during the relocation process.

The participants display a varied educational background, ranging from Grade 3 to Grade 12, with a few individuals having attained a diploma. The distribution suggests that the relocated population encompasses a range of educational attainment levels by the respondents. It is worth noting that the importance of participants specifying their educational level is indicative of how far exposed the respondents are to formal education and in this case, it indicates and explain their possible heightened sense of reasoning during data collection.

Moreover, the employment status of the participants is also diverse hence it shows how the study captured views from a wide range of respondents, and this makes the data to be rich instead of a situation whereby the views are from people with a narrow demographics. Some participants are self-employed, indicating entrepreneurial

activity or independent work, while others are unemployed. It is essential to consider the implications of the relocation on employment opportunities and the potential impact on individuals' livelihoods.

The household composition of the participants varies significantly, with different types of family arrangements present. These include nuclear families, cohabiting partnerships, extended families, and multi-generational households. The diverse household structures indicate the importance of considering the needs and dynamics of various family types during the relocation process. Understanding the composition of households can inform decision-making processes regarding housing, infrastructure, and support systems. Lastly, all participants had used the land before relocation, suggesting a prior connection or utilisation of the land. This commonality implies that the relocation process has involved individuals who were familiar with and had a history of engagement with the land. Considering the participants' previous land use can inform discussions on land rights, access, and potential impacts on livelihoods or cultural practices during the relocation process.

4.3.2 Officials' participants' demographics

Table 2 provides information on the demographic characteristics of the officials participating in the study and who were part of the relocation process. The table includes data on their gender, age, level of education, and the number of years they have been working in the specific department associated with relocation. The participants are identified by unique codes for reference (OP- Official Participant).

Table 2. Participant demographic (Officials)

Code	Gender	Age	Level of Education	RC/TC	Years working in the specific department associated with relocation
OP1	F	33	Masters in Urban Planning		7 Years
OP2	F	34	Degree in Economics		5 years
OP3	F	45	Honours in Local Government		15
OP4	M	28	Honours Degree in Business Administration		3

Legend: TC = Town Council; RC = Regional Council

Table 2 shows several key demographic characteristics of the officials participating in the relocation process. The table shows a gender imbalance within the group, with one male official involved in the relocation process. Regarding age, the officials range from 28 to 45 years old. The average age of the participants is around 36 years, with the youngest official being 28 (OP4) and the oldest being 45 (OP3). This age distribution indicates the participants' relatively diverse range of experiences and perspectives. When it comes to education, the officials have different levels of educational attainment; this diversity in educational backgrounds could bring a variety of expertise and knowledge to the relocation process, potentially enhancing the decision-making process. In terms of experience, the officials have varying years of service in the specific department associated with relocation. This range of experience levels suggests a mix of seasoned officials and relatively newer members within the group.

4.4 Findings of the study

Based on the findings from the interviews conducted, four distinct themes have emerged regarding the relocation of communities, (i) The process of relocation (ii) Impact of relocation on community life and livelihoods, (iii) Communities'

involvement in Socio-economic activities and (iv) Assistance Dynamics in Transitional Displacement and Service Provision at the new area emerged from both the official respondent narratives and the community. Overall these themes shed light on the various aspects related to the relocation process, its impact on community life and livelihoods, and the support provided during and after the relocation.

4.4.1 Community and official responses as per the themes

4.4.1.1 The process of relocation

The officials provided clear reasoning behind relocating communities, pointing to development purposes and economic advancement as the primary catalysts. One official (OP1) asserted that the communities were relocated to facilitate the development of the town; in particular, the official stated:

“The communities were relocated due to development purposes considering that Nkurenkuru is a new town there was a need, and there is still a need, to develop the town to create job opportunities and improve the livelihoods of the Nkurenkuru residents.”

This reasoning was further expanded by a second official who shed light on the difficult decision-making process faced by the residents.

“Residents were given two options: to be absorbed within the Nkurenkuru town to have permanent structures or be relocated and compensated for them to go and start fresh in the relocated areas.” (OP2).

The official explained that community members could either comply with the regulations for permanent structures, be incorporated in the expanding town, or move. However, the majority of residents chose the latter option, with OP2 stating:

“But the majority of them opted to be relocated because they could not afford to build permanent structures as per the Town Council regulations considering

that it became a town and they could not be able to afford the living standards of the town.”

The analysis reveals the significant economic differences that force populations to relocate. As also emerged from the relocated responses, demonstrates that for many, relocation was an economic necessity rather than a choice. With the introduction of Town Council regulations requiring the construction of permanent structures and the increasing expense of living due to the transition to a town, these communities found themselves in a challenging predicament. They considered relocation their only feasible alternative because they could not afford the construction or the rising living costs. This reality highlights the vital role that economic circumstances and policies play in transitional displacement, frequently driving individuals to make decisions that exacerbate their socio-economic struggles.

A large number of residents were displaced as a result of the Town development process. According to official estimates, nearly 240 residents from 40 homesteads were transferred, thus demonstrating the magnitude of this transformation. Despite the extensive displacement, around four homesteads elected not to evacuate, instead choosing to adapt to the changing conditions within the town. This number gives a clear picture of the overall impact of relocation on the community, emphasising the disruptive influence of such shifts on community life and the various responses to these changes.

Officials also provided insights on the legal ownership of land at the new location, which impacts access to resources, the ability to construct permanent structures, and the possibility for economic development, ultimately impacting the socio-economic situation of the resettled.

“Residents do not have title deeds, but the Town Council is working on ways for the residents to have legal ownership for them to start paying rates and taxes” (OP1)

“Residents have certificates but need to consult the Town Council for confirming sizes and obtaining title deeds” (OP2).

This underlines that residents have some documentation, but further steps are necessary to secure title deeds.

In terms of what role the regional/constituency office played in the relocation process, the interviewed officials indicated that they were not involved.

“We, the Constituency Council and Regional Council, were not involved; the Town Council was solely responsible.” (OP3);

“We were not involved in the process.” (OP4).

These statements suggest that the Town Council bore primary responsibility for the relocation process, and they are also tasked with addressing the current issues related to land ownership at the new site.

According to one official, the residents were provided with plots of land, referred to as 'ravens', and a certain amount of financial assistance.

“The Town Council provided them with ravens and financial compensation” (OP1).

However, another official provided a more refined explanation, stating:

“The Town Council only provided financial compensation and provision of ravens, with no logistical support that they had to cater for it themselves with compensation funds they received.” (OP2).

This reveals that while financial aid and land were provided, logistical support during the relocation process could have been more present, leaving residents to manage with

the funds they were given. These accounts demonstrate that the support extended was limited to financial compensation and the allocation of ravers, thus leaving residents to handle other aspects of the relocation on their own.

On what their opinion on the relocation decision is, the officials express the sentiment that they should have been a central part of the decision-making: *“We were supposed to be considered as key stakeholders in the whole process.”* (OP3)

In a more detailed account, the regional council officials also expressed frustration over the lack of involvement of the Regional Council and Constituency Council.

“We feel they were also supposed to involve the Regional Council and Constituency Council for better consultations and addressing sanitation concerns as we programme on sanitation provision, and if we are not involved, it will be difficult for us to plan for the people accordingly.” (OP4).

This statement underscores the need for more comprehensive engagement and cooperation among the different levels of governance to more effectively address the needs of the people, specifically sanitation, during relocation processes.

Not all officials were keen to express their opinion regarding the assistance provided to communities during relocation. However, it emerged that:

“Only financial compensation and provision of ravers, and also business events for low-income residents, promotion of local constructors, support for gardening, and donation for vendor stalls, and we have also made provision for residents to conduct fishing for their livelihoods.” (OP2).

This statement underlines various initiatives to sustain livelihoods and promote economic activity among the relocated residents. Regarding participation from the Constituency Office, the feedback that their office was not involved was straightforward: *“Our office was not involved in the whole process.”* (OP3). Similarly,

it was also emphasised that the Town Council handled the activity, “*It was a Town Council activity.*” (OP4). Both these statements indicate a need for more involvement from the Constituency Office in the process of relocation.

4.4.1.2 Impact on community life and livelihoods

The stories of displaced communities offer a sobering glimpse into relocation's enormous impact on community life and livelihoods. Participants constantly express profound sorrow and sadness, emphasising the poor economic situations and extreme poverty they now confront due to abandoning their homeland. Making a living in new places becomes an insurmountable challenge, thus resulting in terrible misery. These sentiments highlight the inextricable link between a community's livelihood and its attachment to its land and natural resources and the devastating socio-economic implications of forced migration.

In response to the inquiry about how relocation has affected their ways of life, the participants expressed strong sentiments of regret and despair; respondent 1 shared a poignant reflection on the aftermath of relocation:

“Oh, dear! I cannot believe the immense regret I feel for relinquishing my land. It is by far the worst decision I have made in my life. Our current circumstances are dire, and we find ourselves in extreme poverty. Making a living has become an overwhelming challenge”.

Respondent 3 echoed this sentiment by expressing regret and the hardships they face:

“Goodness, gracious! The decision to give up my land weighs heavily on my heart. I never anticipated the immense difficulties we would face. Our lives are consumed by extreme poverty, and our suffering knows no bounds. Making ends meet has become an arduous task”.

This refrain of regret was further reiterated by Respondent 4:

“I am filled with deep remorse for letting go of my land. It was an incredibly ill-fated choice. We are now burdened with extreme poverty and endure immeasurable suffering. Making a living has become an insurmountable struggle”.

Respondent 5 voiced similar sentiments as follows:

“Oh my goodness! The regret I feel for giving up my land is immeasurable. It is undoubtedly the worst decision I have ever made. Our lives have plummeted into extreme poverty, and our suffering is unbearable. Making ends meet seems like an impossible feat”.

The expressions of regret and hardship continue with Respondent 6:

“Oh gosh! The decision to relinquish my land haunts me constantly. I never anticipated the hardships that would follow. We are now trapped in a cycle of extreme poverty, and our suffering seems never-ending. Making a living has become an uphill battle”.

Respondent 9 painted a bleak picture of their current circumstances:

“Oh goodness me! The weight of regret for surrendering my land is unbearable. It is undoubtedly the worst decision I have ever made. We are now mired in extreme poverty, and our suffering knows no bounds. Making ends meet has become an agonising ordeal”.

Primarily, these accounts paint a harrowing picture of regret and hardship following the decision to relocate, highlighting the struggles with poverty and the difficulty of living in their new circumstances.

On the current livelihoods after the relocation, participants revealed that there is no other source of income, posing a challenge to continue with their livelihoods as everything they feel is at a standstill, and there is no progress.

“Now I am just at home doing nothing, waiting for my boyfriend to provide for our kids and me; I am unable even to afford to further my studies though I have a grade, and even to get a job it is not easy here because we are far from everything.” (R1)

Moreover, some respondents indicated that they had diversified their source of income considering that there is no more land for livestock and crop farming, and this is evident from the following responses:

“I have a cuca-shop¹ which I opened with the bit of money I got from my previous land.” (R2)

At the same time, some survive from financial support from family members who are sending them money from outside Nkurenkuru.

“I am unemployed, and only my uncle and brothers who live in Windhoek used to send our money to survive; sometimes I used to be called to go, and clean people's houses but the distance and taxi costs are a lot.” (R3)

This narrative concurs with Respondent 5's narrative:

“My and wife, we survive from the support money our kids in Rundu used to send us; we are both unemployed.”

While some respondents live off Government support through social grants:

“My family and I live off the N\$1400 social grant that I usually get each month; imagine N\$1400. It hardly lasts us the whole month, and I have to borrow from good Samaritans.” (R8)

Or:

¹ A Cuca store is a Southern African word for a "Shebeen", an unauthorised establishment that sells alcoholic beverages and some essential household groceries, mostly in informal locations (Palema, 2018).

"I am unemployed and survive from social grant; I have a small backyard garden for just tomatoes which we use as relish most of the time." (R9)

However, the social grant is not enough as it cannot cater for everyone, especially when the family is very big, as the tone of respondent 13:

"Me, I am unemployed and have grandchildren to look after; the only source of income is the social grants, and not even my children are working; just imagine the N\$1400 I receive on a monthly basis to cater for a family of 25 people, it is not easy, as I am talking to you, I am filled with so much pain".

Some respondents indicated that they were able to use the money received as compensation to start small business activities and cater for their livelihoods in the relocated area,

"I have a cuca-shop which I started with the compensation money just to keep living, in my cuca shop I sell small stuff, like maise meal, bread, cooking oil, sugar and so forth, mostly the basic stuff." (R10)

Concerning access to essential services like schools, clinics, and police, most participants voiced their dissatisfaction. They lamented the poor state of these services, highlighting their decline compared to the past:

"The quality of services like schools, clinics, and police has significantly declined compared to the past. Moreover, the absence of street lights has made crime rampant, becoming a daily occurrence. Even when crimes are reported, the police take considerable time to respond, possibly due to our lack of influence as impoverished members of society. Additionally, our children must endure long walks to reach their schools." (R1)

A prominent issue highlighted by the respondents was the complete absence of streetlights, which was said to have contributed significantly to the rise in the crime rate in the community:

“The state of essential services such as schools, clinics, and police is much worse than before. The absence of streetlights has paved the way for the prevalence of crime, which has become the norm.” (R2)

and:

“There is no clinic, police, or school here, but we hear rumours that there will be a mobile police station here because there is too much as there are no street lights and at night it is very dark.” (R11)

Regrettably, the police response was reportedly slow, which may stem from the fact that the police station is stationed way far from this village and it may take a while to travel to the village, as emerged from the respondent's three tales:

“Compared to the past, providing services like schools, clinics, and police has drastically deteriorated. It is disheartening that even when crimes are reported, the police exhibit delayed response times.” (R3)

Furthermore, children in the community were said to walk long distances to schools, posing significant safety risks, especially for girls, as highlighted by respondent 6:

“Our children are forced to embark on lengthy journeys to access education, which threaten the safety of our young girls.” (R6)

Other participants were more pointed in their critique, stating the complete nonexistence of these services in their locality:

“There is nothing here.” (R5)

supported by respondents 7, 8 and 16:

“When we assess the condition of services like schools, clinics, and police, it is not here, my child.” (R7)

“No services this side, only in town.” (R8)

And:

“We do not have any services here. Maybe they will still bring them.” (R16)

This total lack of basic facilities was also evidenced by Respondent 10:

“Here, there are no services; imagine considering that we do not even have toilets; what if a snake bites you, the response will take forever, and you can even lose your life? It is unfortunate!”.

A remark on the absence of toilets and the consequential hazard of snake bites emerges from another participant:

“There is no clinic, police, or school here, but we hear rumours that there will be a mobile police station here because there is too much as there are no street lights and at night it is very dark.” R11

However, the respondent hinted at a glimmer of hope, noting “*rumours*” of the future establishment of a mobile police station.

The financial impact of the relocation on participants was uniformly negative. Participants reported reduced incomes post-relocation, with the lack of cultivating areas mentioned as a significant factor:

“... imagine having just one person to work it is not easy, at least if we have had cultivating areas, I could be in the field to help out my boyfriend.” (R1),

and:

“Household income has reduced because we are not even allowed crop fields here.” (R14)

The burden of supporting families often fell on a single-income earner, exacerbating the financial strain:

“We are in poverty! I am the head of the house. My husband passed on many years back, and all my children, there is none who is working; this is sad.” (R9)

A notable point was the struggling business owner, who lamented poor profits due to decreased community spending, as noted by Participant 7:

“Things are not the same even me with a business. The profits are not good because people do not have money to spend”.

While some participants saw a slight benefit in receiving social grants, most deemed their current financial state a struggle, marked by high levels of poverty and uncertainty.

“Household income is not the same; it has reduced, and many people are not working in this area” (R6),

“Things are not the same as there is no money coming in as before”. (R3)

Concerning access to food and nutrition, participants voiced distress. Without farming, the ability to feed families became a significant challenge.

“Now we are suffering a lot with no income to sustain us the whole month”
(R12)

Or:

“Since we are not doing farming, there is no other income to say we are surviving because now we are unable to afford this life; I am even thinking of relocating somewhere else where I will be able to get crop field so I can make a living maybe it will help with bringing a bit of cash.” (R15)

Many households reportedly ate less frequently, with some families even eating just once a day:

“Access to a good meal is not the same, now we can even eat once a day considering the big family in the house, and for the kids, it is hazardous; we fear they might get sick.” (R3)

The study also revealed a stark disparity in food accessibility and the impact on health, particularly among the younger generation, within the community following a mass relocation. According to the participants, the transition has led to a significant decline in farming activities, resulting in a heavy reliance on buying food. Children were the most affected; besides the health implications of often going to school on empty stomachs, they also exhibited decreased performance in school.

One participant highlighted that:

“...there is no access to food which is affecting the health of our kids mostly” (R2),

while another participant stated:

“Children are the biggest victims in this situation because they go to school on an empty stomach, and when they come back, they just drink water, and their first meal is dinner; they are not even performing well at school.” (R5)

These narratives clearly emphasise that children are the primary victims of relocation. Not all participants expressed distress over the food situation, particularly those who found themselves in slightly better circumstances due to smaller family size and other means of income. However, they noted the challenges posed by the distance to the nearest town:

“My wife and I only have two children; food is not a problem, only the distance to town because there are costs involved.” (R6)

“I can afford to buy food for my family, though when we were farming, it was better because we could invest in other things.” (R7)

Nevertheless, the overall sentiment echoed throughout the responses was a sense of hardship and struggle in securing adequate nutrition for families after the relocation. Interestingly, when participants were asked about the impact of relocation on cultural practices, the responses showed a significantly different picture. While travel costs and difficulty have undoubtedly affected community members' ability to attend cultural events, relocation has not directly inhibited access to these practices or events. As Respondent 1 stated:

“Relocation did not affect access to cultural practices or events, but we hardly attend the events now because we are far and transport costs are very expensive.”.

Across the board, respondents acknowledged the impact of distance and transportation costs on their ability to attend cultural events. However, the consensus was that the relocation had maintained access to cultural practices or events.

4.4.1.3 Communities' involvement in socio-economic activities

The theme emerged from the respondent's narrative, *communities' involvement in socio-economic activities* represents the effective participation of communities in socio-economic activities before the relocation process using local resources such as land, livestock, and natural resources. What emerged from the findings is that participants mentioned their involvement, before relocation, in various agricultural activities such as crop farming, livestock husbandry, and gardening, as indicated by one of the respondents:

“Before the relocation, we had ownership of cultivating areas, livestock, and access to informal jobs in Town, because we could know when someone was looking for a cleaner or even garden boy, but now lord this suffering and poverty!” (R1)

This is echoed by respondent 7, who noted that:

“Once upon a time, we enjoyed the privilege of cultivating land; it was a different era. But now, oh my, the suffering and poverty we experience are agonising!” (R7)

Another important aspect that came from the findings was that the respondents, before the relocation, had access to information on other means of creating income. These opportunities played a critical role in sustaining their livelihoods, apart from crop and livestock farming, as it is well described by respondent 5:

“In the days when we owned cultivable land, livestock, and opportunities for informal jobs in town, life was different. We could easily find work as cleaners or garden boys. But now, oh lord, the suffering and poverty we endure!” (R5)

The respondents also stated that, since they were close to the river, fishing was similarly easy as this represented both an additional source of personal sustenance as well as an opportunity to generate additional revenues to keep up with other household expenses:

“I was still schooling at that time, but we were involved in crop farming, and my mother also had a vegetable garden, and we used to fish also, especially when I came back from school in the evening if that day, we were not going to the crop fields.” (R4)

“I had crop fields and used to sell fish by the roadside, especially for tourists; here we are even isolated by everything, this is sad!” (R15)

Furthermore, participants underlined the significance of property ownership in sustaining their livelihoods and ensuring that their children obtained a good education.

“I could do so much when I had my land, and also just the sense of owning a vital asset just brings so much joy to me, but I cannot say the same now because life is tough” (R9)

This feeling of fulfilment was also highlighted by Respondent 11:

“In the past, when we had the rights to cultivate the land, raise livestock, life had a different flavour” (R11)

Furthermore, respondent 16 added:

“There was a period when we enjoyed the rights to cultivate areas, raise livestock, and pursue informal jobs in town. Life seemed brighter then. But now, goodness me, the suffering and poverty are unrelenting!” (R16)

As part of the findings, the respondents also indicated that their current location is far from the town, which makes it very difficult for them to move around and look for other income opportunities compared to before, as the majority are now old and cannot do anything:

“I miss my cultivating areas, owning livestock, and having access to informal jobs in town. Not here, I cannot even practice my skills considering that I am old now because I was once a builder.” (R13)

Those narratives emphasise that these activities are essential in the respondents’ lives because they rely on farming for a living and revenue for their families.

The motives for relocation are frequently connected with community participation in socio-economic activity. Participants may claim reasons such as the desire for improved job possibilities, changes in environmental conditions, or policy decisions that necessitate migration. In this case, the respondents described the reasons for relocation during the interview, as promoted by the local authority, and the respondent's five narratives illustrate this:

"They told us that they are bringing much development to the region for our good to improve our lives" (R5)

This tale is further supported by Respondent 7:

"Town Council informed us that they want to make the town like other towns which will come with more opportunities" (R7)

4.4.1.4 Assistance dynamics in transitional displacement and service provision in the new area

This third theme explores the types and quality of assistance local authorities provide to communities during and after displacement. This frequently relates to the supply of essential services such as water, power, sanitation, and safety, among other requirements. During the interview, participants expressed strong displeasure with the help provided, particularly by the Town Council. While water and power were typically available at their new sites, there were specific issues—for example, water was only available through community taps that occasionally ran dry and were charged. A comprehensive sanitation system was conspicuously absent, leading to residents turning to filthy habits, which raised safety concerns, particularly for women and children. Poor road conditions and network connectivity were other issues. Despite obtaining financial assistance for the transfer,

Respondents 1 and 4 succinctly noted the availability of *"only water and electricity."*

A similar sentiment is echoed by other respondents, with Respondent 3 adding:

"Even the water, we do not have taps in our yards but from the communal one, and the communal one even used to finish at times."

Respondent 14 also brings up the point about water being chargeable, lamenting that:

"Water is provided, but we pay for it at the Town Council, and I am not even working."

Several respondents reported a complete lack of sanitation services, leading to them

resorting to using the bushes. Others have shown a proactive attitude, taken upon themselves to build their septic tanks,

“Water and electricity from NORED, sanitation we had to build our septic tank, people use bushes which not healthy and dangerous.” (R6)

The lack of proper sanitation services has raised concerns about safety, especially for women and children. Respondents 9 and 10 explicitly expressed fears of being attacked and bitten by snakes, particularly at night, while Respondent 10 further raised concerns about the safety of young girls, stating:

“There were attempts of them being attacked.”, (R10).

Poor road conditions and network connectivity were also additional challenges for the residents.

Regarding the support provided during relocation, all participants stated that they *“...only received the money [for the relocation]”* (R1 to R16).

On their opinions on accepting the relocation decision, participants expressed significant regret and disappointment. The overarching sentiment was profound dissatisfaction, with participants feeling that this was one of their worst decisions. Respondent 1 starkly notes:

“I feel it is the worst decision I have ever made.”

This sentiment is echoed by respondent 2, 3 and 4, who indicates that in their perspective, the relocation was the *“most damaging decision”*, the *“most ill-considered choice”*, and the *“most unfortunate judgement”*, respectively. The regret over the decision is even more pronounced in respondent 12's response, who perceives their relocation as the: *“most disastrous judgement”* they have ever made, adding: *‘I wish I knew what I was doing.’*

This trend of profound regret continues, with respondent 13 referring to the relocation as the “*most detrimental decision which has pushed my family and me backwards.*”

The theme exposes the stark reality of displaced communities grappling with limited and inadequate assistance, thus leading to severe consequences on their quality of life. In addition, they face poor road conditions and network connectivity, further compounding the hardships in their daily lives.

Moreover, in terms of services provision at a new location, the officials indicated that: “*We only provided them with water, with inadequate sanitation, but the ones who have money were able to construct septic tanks for themselves, and electricity supplied by NORED through their social responsibility.*” OP1.

This confirms the respondents' narrative that sanitation was lacking while water and electricity were provided, placing a burden on the inhabitants who could not afford to construct their septic tanks, presenting a health hazard.

On the other hand, it was highlighted that:

“*We provided them with water and electricity through NORED social responsibility, and the main road has a good gravel road for accessibility.*” OP2.

This statement confirms the provision of water and electricity. Also, it points to the accessibility improvement due to the presence of a well-maintained gravel road, though it contrasts with some of the views of the community respondents.² That there are difficulties in accessibility within the new location.

While water and electricity have been made available to the relocated residents, there are still critical challenges concerning sanitation and other essential services.

² See respondents 7 and 12 Anne 6. Page 129 - 130

4.5 Conclusion

This chapter provided the study's findings from interviews conducted with the communities, town council officials and constituency and regional council officials. The findings of the study were presented based on the generated themes. The findings show that relocation negatively influences the community's socio-economic conditions and livelihoods. The findings also emphasise the community's minimal help from local officials during relocation. Overall, the chapter proposes that local governments strengthen their support for communities during the relocation process and guarantee that necessary services are available in the new location before relocating communities.

Moreover, the tale of a community facing relocation as a result of development projects illustrates the interplay between socio-economic situations, livelihoods, well-being, local government support, and advice for future relocation processes. Residents in a close-knit community depending on agriculture for a living cherished their land for nutrition and supporting their children's education. However, the relocation drastically reduced their living conditions and access to essential services such as schools, clinics, and police. Relocated residents faced challenges such as limited access to cultivating areas, livestock farming, and informal jobs, resulting in lower household income, financial instability, and food insecurity.

The local Town Council was instrumental in this shift, giving cash compensation, land plots, and limited utilities such as water and electricity. Residents felt neglected and ignorant due to a lack of basic sanitation facilities and poor consultation during the relocation process.

On the other hand, Town Council and Regional Council workers stated that the primary reason for migration was development in the area, and some assistance was provided to the community to continue income-generating activities. However, legal land ownership was restricted, with title deeds only available after meeting specific requirements. Surprisingly, the Regional Council needed to be more engaged during the relocation process and believed that future consultations should include them.

Several recommendations have been made to ensure a more prosperous and equitable relocation process in the future. These include providing comprehensive information to communities about the process and their options, establishing essential services such as clinics, schools, and police in the relocation area, providing proper sanitation, streetlights, and roads on the land, and involving key stakeholders such as the Regional Council in future consultations.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses and analyses the findings reported in Chapter Four by specifically exploring the influence of the relocation on the community's socio-economic conditions and livelihoods, as well as the help offered by local authorities during the relocation process.

5.2 Discussion of results

The focus is on the four identified themes: the themes emerged from the respondents' and official narratives: (i) The process of relocation, (ii) Impact of relocation on community life and livelihoods, (iii) Communities' involvement in socio-economic activities, and (iv) Assistance dynamics in transitional displacement and service provision at the new area. By contextualising these findings within the most recent literature, the researcher hopes to understand the complex dynamics at work better, shed light on the implications of forced relocation for impacted communities, and identify potential policy and practice improvements.

5.2.1 The process of relocation

As part of the findings, the study has underscored that the complexities of community relocation, such as in the case of Nkurenkuru town, constitute a complicated balancing act of developmental progress, socio-economic adjustments, and sociocultural modifications. This scenario closely resembles the findings of Tadgell (2017) and Vanclay (2017), who discovered that such transitions frequently have significant socio-economic consequences, particularly in African countries. Residents of Nkurenkuru endured significant economic difficulty due to rising living costs and new town laws, which resulted in forced evacuation. This echoes De Haan and Zoomers

(2005) remarks that urban development programmes can damage communities' social fabric and livelihoods, underlining the importance of considering social and cultural issues alongside economic goals. The problem of land ownership exemplifies the difficulties connected with urban transformations. Despite having certificates, Nkurenkuru households need legal title paperwork, creating uncertainty about their ownership status and thus impeding resource access and economic advancement (appendix 6. Page 128 - 130). This is consistent with the findings of Yigzaw and Abitew (2019), who emphasise the necessity of complete legal issues, particularly regarding land ownership, in community relocation initiatives.

Surprisingly, regional and constituency councils were said to play no role in the relocation process. This element is shared by Scudder and Colson (2019), who suggest that a multi-stakeholder strategy is required to enable responsive and comprehensive planning in the face of urban transformations. Despite these obstacles, possible benefits such as enhanced access to services and increased economic prospects have been suggested by some of the relocated respondents in line with Shiindi's (2023) conclusions that community relocation can provide such benefits, but only if it is well-planned and participatory.

5.2.2 Impact of relocation on community life and livelihoods

The study's findings indicate that the relocation caused harm to the community's livelihoods, and they now live in abject poverty. The study further found that village members were no longer permitted to own cultivating land or raise cattle, making their way of life extremely difficult (see R14 page 124). The findings also align with the conclusions from a study by Pennington et al. (2018), indicating that forced migration can result in the loss of land and resources, reduced access to information, and limited career possibilities. Moreover, getting a job in a new location is difficult since they

need access to information, and by the time they do, it is often too late. Furthermore, the relocation has made it difficult to access essential services such as schools, clinics, and police, contributing to the area's crime. Literature from Hartman and Squires (2006) supports the finding that; relocation can lead to a lack of access to essential services such as schools, clinics, and police, which can contribute to increased crime rates and usually a new area's lack of basic sanitation exacerbates the community's vulnerability and sense of insecurity (UN-Habitat, 2021).

In addition, the study found that communities were only provided with water and electricity, meaning that there was no provision for proper sanitation, and they continued to use bushes for this purpose, making them feel unsafe. The finding is supported by literature, which indicates that communities relocated usually face challenges in obtaining suitable shelter, utilising vital services, and preserving social connections, which may aggravate pre-existing susceptibilities and disparities (Van Der Ploeg, 2016).

Contrary to the finding of Karuaihe and Wandschneider (2018), who found that relocated communities often experienced a weakening of social networks and a decline in community-based support systems, the present study found that the relocation had little impact on the community's social interactions and networks because most of their neighbours remained in the neighbourhood. This means that the loss of social networks and interactions among community members varies significantly from one community to another, which is the case within the communities of the Nkurenkuru Constituency. However, some relocated to a different area, requiring them to spend more money on transportation.

5.2.3 Communities' involvement in socio-economic activities

The study's findings reveal that before the relocation, the residents were engaged in crop and livestock farming and horticulture activities. Thus, crop and livestock farming were considered a source of livelihood for the community as it allowed them to generate an income and produce crops for subsistence use. The findings are supported by the literature on migration and relocation in Africa, indicating that in most cases, the community's primary source of income was agricultural and cattle production (De Haan & Zoomers, 2005). The findings are also in line with what Psaki (2020) who found in a study conducted to analyse the experiences of communities that were relocated from the boundaries of the Bwabwata National Park in Namibia which revealed that the relocation resulted in the loss of access to natural resources, reduced income-generating opportunities, and increased vulnerability to food insecurity. The findings are further supported by the conclusion of Yonas et al. (2013), who, in their study examining resettlement schemes in Ethiopia, found that the forced relocation of pastoral communities resulted in a decline in their traditional livelihoods, increased reliance on food aid, and disruptions to social networks and kinship ties crucial for resilience and well-being. Also, the land before the relocation was of great significance to the residents; this is the land given to them by their forefathers and where they were born and grew up. In addition, some of these communities were riverine and terrestrial communities that occupied fertile land that could sustain them and their families, such as (see R14, page 115), who were able to sell fish to cater for some household needs. Therefore, the loss of this land meant that they could no longer support their families. It also meant that they had to find adaptive mechanisms to support their families and survive in an urban area which entailed seeking jobs to pay for services such as water and electricity; this was evident (R12 and R16, pages 121).

The study's findings also revealed that communities were made aware of the reasons to be relocated by the town council officials, mainly for town development to enable the council to create employment and provide modern essential services. In the same vein, the findings reveal that the relocated communities were also compensated for their land so that they could start afresh. This finding is in line with what was found by Yonas et al. (2013) in their studies that adequate compensation is also essential.

5.2.4 Assistance dynamics in transitional displacement and service provision at the new area

The study findings indicate that the community needed adequate support from the local authorities during the relocation period. This was concurred by all resettled respondents (see R1-R16 answers in Appendix 6, page 131). The only help they got was money; they had to arrange their own transportation and clean up after themselves. The streets were also built by the community. As a result, the people felt misled when they saw houses built on their land instead of malls, as they had been informed (R8 answers in Appendix 6, page 116). It was frustrating that the community was not mentally and physically prepared for the relocation. The findings further reveal that the regional council and constituency office was not involved in the relocation, as indicated by respondents OP3 and OP4 (appendix 6, page 135). On the other hand, the town council should have ensured that all critical services, such as clinics, schools, and police, were available in the new location, as reported by the relocated respondents.

The community's insufficient assistance during the relocation process is consistent with findings from other studies that identify shortcomings in planning and implementing forced relocations (Mathbor, 2007; Oliver-Smith, 2009). The lack of effective engagement with the community, as well as the lack of involvement from

regional and constituency officials, are frequently mentioned in the literature (Muggah, 2008). These studies underline the importance of improved communication, transparency, and community engagement in relocation processes to promote a more positive conclusion (Ferris, 2012). The community members, in their responses, concurred with the above literature that during the relocation period, the community did not receive adequate support from the local authorities.

The study findings highlight the complex and varied consequences of displacement and resettlement, underscoring the implications for policymaking, planning, and support initiatives to promote the well-being and resilience of affected populations (De Haan & Zoomers, 2005; Dawson et al., 2021). These impacts are evident in the narratives of the officials and residents in the new area in Nkurenkuru. The consequences of displacement on livelihoods, access to resources and displacement procedures can disrupt conventional means of sustenance (Norton-Smith et al., 2016). This may result in earnings, job availability, and financial stability changes, potentially affecting the overall welfare of impacted populations (De Haan & Zoomers, 2005). This is evident in the respondents' responses. Moreover, considering the officials' narratives, the adequacy of public amenities such as water, electricity, sanitation, and road infrastructure also became a matter of concern (Eide et al., 2017). The narratives show a mixed review of the provision of such amenities, further supporting the literature on displacement's impact on the availability of such resources (Eide et al., 2017). The issue of land tenure security, too, becomes apparent as relocated communities might face increased vulnerabilities, including reduced access to resources and limitations in their ability to invest in long-term livelihood strategies (Antwi-Agyei et al., 2015). Furthermore, the influence of governance and institutional capacity in managing relocation processes can also play a significant role in the

experience of displaced communities (Jayakody et al., 2022; Cantor et al., 2021). Governance structures and institutions also play a crucial role in facilitating essential services and infrastructure for relocated communities (Pelling & Dill, 2010). Therefore, well-designed governance structures, policies, and legal frameworks can alleviate the adverse effects of displacement and foster more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable results for uprooted communities (Dawson et al., 2021). Some context-specific approaches can address relocation challenges (Roy, 2011; Alkire et al., 2020). Such approaches can involve community-based initiatives and participatory and planning processes. Further, the significance of social capital and networks in determining relocated communities' resilience and adaptation capacity must be recognised (Crawford, 2016; Resurrección & Elmhirst, 2008; Chant, 2013). Given the narratives the officials and the community respondent provided, further research would be necessary to identify whether these gender-specific vulnerabilities are prevalent in Nkurenkuru.

Adopting a human rights-based approach to displacement and resettlement is also recognised in the literature, ensuring that the rights and needs of affected communities remain at the core of policy and planning processes (United Nations, 2019).

5.3 Theoretical Framework

In light of the above findings, applying the Livelihoods Framework effectively elucidates the holistic impact of displacement on affected communities. It goes beyond physical relocation to unveil structural, economic, social, and cultural transformations. Furthermore, integrating it with the Stakeholder Theory and the Participatory Development Approach facilitates a clearer understanding of the role of various governance institutions and the importance of their involvement in decision-making processes. This is particularly critical, given the expressed dissatisfaction from the

Regional and Constituency Councils concerning their lack of participation. A well-coordinated, participatory decision-making process can ensure that all relevant parties are heard, thereby reducing potential conflicts and fostering social integration post-relocation.

The empirical literature such as those provided by De Haan and Zoomers (2005), Eide et al. (2017), and Jayakody et al. (2022), among others, further supports the proposed theoretical framework, reinforcing the identified links between relocation, resource accessibility, social dynamics, and well-being. Notably, land reform policies and land tenure security, which as per both sets of respondents, lack in the studied case, are central in shaping the experiences of relocated communities, as also emphasised by Antwi-Agyei et al. (2015) and Dachaga and De Vries (2021), who underline the importance of robust policy structures and governance mechanisms in managing relocation transitions.

5.4 Conclusion

This study aimed to investigate the impacts of relocation on a rural community, emphasising socio-economic conditions, livelihoods, and help provided by local authorities during the relocation process. The study's findings are consistent with previous research, revealing that forced relocation has significant negative implications for the impacted populations. The study discovered that forced relocation disturbed the community's participation in socio-economic activities, harmed their livelihoods, and demonstrated the poor support offered by local authorities during the relocation period.

These findings highlight the importance of better regulations and procedures regarding forced relocation. They advocate for increased community engagement, transparency, and better communication between local governments and affected populations to

mitigate the negative consequences on their well-being. Furthermore, the study emphasises the significance of giving enough assistance, resources, and services to communities during the relocation process in order to assist them in rebuilding their livelihoods and maintaining their quality of life. Finally, by addressing these challenges, policymakers and practitioners can develop more compassionate and effective solutions for controlling forced relocation and mitigating its adverse effects on rural communities.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Introduction

The study's main objective was to assess the socio-economic impacts on people residing in the communal peri-urban areas of Nkurenkuru as a result of their relocation due to town expansion. The chapter is structured into distinct parts: Section 6.2 and 6.3 presents the conclusion and recommendations for the study. The last section, 6.4, discusses the limitations of the findings, while Section 6.5 points out implications for future research.

6.2 Conclusion

This study aimed to evaluate the socio-economic effects of displacement in Nkurenkuru's communal peri-urban areas as a result of town expansion, using the Livelihoods Framework to analyse the intricacies of relocation and its implications for the well-being and livelihoods of impacted communities. The study identified three major themes regarding the effects of relocation: i) *Participation in socio-economic activities*, ii) *Impacts of the relocation on community lives and livelihoods*, and iii) *Assistance Dynamics in Transitional Displacement*. The findings revealed a significant deterioration in the relocated community's living conditions and access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and security, which was exacerbated by a drop in household income, financial stability, and food security due to the loss of agricultural land, livestock, and informal employment opportunities. The research acknowledged local governments' limited role in offering aid, pointing to deficiencies in water and energy distribution, sanitary facilities, and stakeholder consultation during relocation. Therefore, future relocation efforts should strengthen community awareness, provide essential services, improve sanitation, and incorporate important stakeholders in dialogues.

The study also noted the unique challenges and opportunities faced by relocated communities in emerging towns like Nkurenkuru, where the provision of basic infrastructure and public services such as water supply, sanitation, healthcare, and education are still in development. Understanding how relocated communities navigate these evolving circumstances and access necessary resources can provide valuable insights for improving the resilience and well-being of these populations. Considering the global context, our study has further underscored the role of land redistribution in addressing broader social, economic, and environmental challenges. The dynamics of land redistribution, often intertwined with climate change, food security, and rural-urban migration, offer a more nuanced understanding of its relevance in global sustainable development efforts.

This study is a stepping stone towards a more comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic implications of community relocation and land redistribution in the broader context of sustainable development. This analysis allowed us to understand relocation effects on affected communities comprehensively. By taking a broader perspective, we recognized the importance of land redistribution in a global context and the valuable insights gained from understanding land-related challenges in different regions. The experiences of relocated communities in Nkurenkuru can serve as a case study for understanding the complex socio-economic, political, and environmental factors shaping land redistribution outcomes worldwide. The research contributes to the discourse on the role of governance and institutional capacity in managing land reform initiatives. Lessons from this context can inform the design and implementation of land policies in other countries facing similar land-related challenges. The study also highlighted the importance of community engagement and

participation in the land redistribution process, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of land reform efforts.

The research has aimed to contribute significantly to the existing literature by addressing several identified gaps and providing an in-depth analysis of the diverse socio-economic impacts associated with community relocation. By examining the interplay between employment, education, health, and social cohesion, we have offered a comprehensive understanding of the effects of relocation on affected communities. Moreover, the experiences of relocated communities in emerging towns such as Nkurenkuru can serve as rich case studies for comparative urban studies. These experiences, when studied in depth, could offer valuable lessons for other emerging African towns and beyond. Notably, the strategies these communities adopt to adapt to new environments, the impact of relocation on social cohesion and networks, and the effectiveness of compensation and livelihood restoration measures can provide important insights to guide future urban development and resettlement projects.

From a policy perspective, the research underscores the need for a more inclusive and participatory approach to resettlement and urban development planning. Policymakers must engage with communities at all stages of the resettlement process, from planning and implementation to post-resettlement support. This approach ensures that the affected communities' concerns and needs are addressed, and their rights and well-being are safeguarded. The findings highlight the necessity for policymakers and stakeholders to carefully consider various factors when designing and implementing resettlement and urban development plans. The study has noted the potential negative impacts of resettlement on communities, including decreased access to services, reduced income levels, fewer employment opportunities, and disruption of social networks. The lessons learned from Nkurenkuru's experiences can inform the design

and implementation of land policies in other countries grappling with similar land-related challenges, such as land dispossession, insecure land tenure, and rapid urbanization. The study adds to the increasing literature on the socio-economic effects of peri-urban relocation, providing evidence-based insights for policymakers and practitioners to improve future relocation processes. Addressing the identified difficulties and implementing the suggested solutions will assure the affected individuals' well-being while promoting long-term development in Nkurenkuru's urbanising regions and beyond. Continuous assessment of the experiences of moved communities is critical for establishing equitable, resilient urban settings in peri-urban locations worldwide.

6.3 Recommendations

The study recommends that the broader implications of relocation on social cohesion, cultural identity, and community resilience must be considered. Investigating the role of community engagement and empowerment in reducing the negative consequences of relocation can aid in creating measures to promote community-led development in the face of urbanisation.

Finally, this study emphasises the importance of involving multiple stakeholders in the relocation process, such as local and regional governments, affected communities, and civil society organisations. Developing collaborative approaches to urban planning and decision-making can ensure that various stakeholders' diverse perspectives and needs are taken into account, resulting in more inclusive and equitable development outcomes. Addressing the complex relocation difficulties in peri-urban regions such as Nkurenkuru necessitates a comprehensive and inclusive approach that extends beyond essential service provision and includes various issues influencing the well-being and livelihoods of impacted communities.

Therefore, to address such challenges, the study made the following recommendations:

- a) *Livelihood restoration programmes*: Create and implement livelihood restoration programs to help affected communities resume income-generating activities. These initiatives can give skill development, access to capital, and resources for launching new firms or adjusting agricultural practices to the changing environment.
- b) *Social integration initiatives*: Encourage programs that promote social integration among moved people and new neighbours. Cultural events, sporting competitions, and neighbourhood meetings can all assist in rebuilding social capital and alleviate feelings of isolation.
- c) *Monitoring and evaluation*: Create a monitoring and assessment system to track the relocation process's progress and outcomes. Regular assessments aid in identifying gaps in service delivery, livelihood restoration, and community well-being, allowing for timely interventions and improvements.
- d) *Transparent communication*: Keep communication channels open and transparent between local governments, affected communities, and other stakeholders. This method can aid in the development of trust, the management of expectations, and the involvement of communities throughout the relocation process.
- e) *Environmental sustainability*: Ensure that relocation plans take environmental sustainability into account, such as the preservation of local ecosystems, the promotion of environmentally friendly construction practices, and the incorporation of green spaces into new residential areas.
- f) *Cultural preservation*: Respect and protect affected communities' cultural heritage by including them in the planning and designing of new residential developments.

Despite the relocation, this strategy can assist in maintaining a sense of cultural identity and continuity.

- g) *Fair compensation*: Ensure that compensation packages adequately reflect the value of lost land, property, and employment opportunities. Compensation should consider the monetary value of land and resources and the non-monetary value of cultural and emotional relationships.
- h) *Participatory planning*: Adopt participatory planning approaches for new residential areas involving affected communities in the design and decision-making process. This strategy may result in more contextually suitable solutions that address the relocated community's unique requirements and preferences.
- i) *Capacity building for local authorities*: Increase local governments' capacity to manage relocation processes, including stakeholder participation, communication, and service delivery. This can contribute to more successful and efficient relocation plans and better outcomes for affected communities.

6.4 Limitations of the study

This study focused on Nkurenkuru as a unique case, making the findings generalizable to other towns or local authorities. Moreover, the study needs help adequately documenting the socio-economic effects of relocation owing to town expansion, as these effects are still emerging and evolving in Nkurenkuru.

6.5 Implications of future research

Future research could look into the experiences of relocated communities in other peri-urban areas to gain a more complete picture of the socio-economic consequences of relocation. Longitudinal studies could also give a more in-depth assessment of the long-term consequences of relocation on impacted populations and uncover the factors that contribute to successful or failed adaptation to new living situations.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. UNAM Ethical Clearance



ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: DEC OSH 0034 **Date:** 06/12/ 2022

This Ethical Clearance Certificate is issued by the University of Namibia Ethics Committee (REC) in accordance with the University of Namibia's Research Ethics Policy and Guidelines. Ethical approval is given in respect of undertakings contained in the Research Project outlined below. This Certificate is issued on the recommendations of the ethical evaluation done by the ethics committee.

Title of Project: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ON COMMUNITY'S RELOCATION DUE TO TOWNLAND EXPANSION: THE CASE OF NKURENKURU PERI- URBAN AREA

Principal researcher: ANNASTASIA IWARA SINALUMBU

Staff Number/ Student number: 201112035


Remarks: Low Risk Approved with corrections

Centre for Research Services

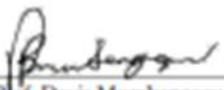
Take note of the following:

1. Any significant changes in the conditions or undertakings outlined in the approved Proposal must be communicated to the ethics committee. An application to make amendments may be necessary.
2. Any breaches of ethical undertakings or practices that have an impact on ethical conduct of the research must be reported to the ethics committee
3. The Principal Researcher must report issues of ethical compliance to the ethics committee (through the Chairperson) at the end of the Project or as may be requested by the ethics committee
4. The ethics committee retains the right to:
 - i) Withdraw or amend this Ethical Clearance if any unethical practices (as outlined in the Research Ethics Policy) have been detected or suspected,
 - ii) Request for an ethical compliance report at any point during the course of the research.

The ethics committee wishes you the best in your research.



Prof Hans J Amukugo (Obakati Campus Chairperson Decentralized Ethics Committee)



Prof. Davis Mumbengegwi (Head, Multidisciplinary Research)

Appendix 2. Consent Letter from Kavango West Regional Council

	
KAVANGO WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL	
Tel. No.: 066 – 264875/6 /0611417721	Private Bag 6294
Fax No.: 066-264853	Nkurenkuru
E-mail: Aloysia.Upithe@kavangowestrc.gov.na	Namibia
Enq. A. Upithe	
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICER	
Annastasia Sinalumbu P.O.Box 997098 Windhoek Namibia	
Dear Mrs. Sinalumbu	
RE: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN KAVANGO WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES	
Your letter dated 9 th April 2023 on the above captioned subject bears reference.	
Permission is herewith granted to conduct research at Kavango West Regional Council; Directorate of Planning and Development Services as well as Nkurenkuru Constituency on "Socio-economic impact associate with relocation of communities to pave way for development".	
Kindly take note that we are willing to assist you, however you have to take cognition of the Council's busy schedule.	
Should there be any question on the matter please do not hesitate to contact this office.	
Your sincerely,	
 MPASI HAINGURA CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICER	 DATE 18/04/2023
CC: Seijah Nairenga Control Administrative Officer, Nkurenkuru Constituency	
Egidius M. Nambara Director: Planning & Development Services	
Hon. Filippus N. Tenga Nkurenkuru Constituency Councillor	
<hr/> <small>All Official Correspondence must be addressed to the office of the Chief Regional Officer</small>	



KAVANGO WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Tel. No.:066 – 264875/6
Fax No.:066 – 264853
E-mail: upithe61@gmail.com
Enq. A. S. Upihe

Private Bag6294
NKURENKURU
Namibia

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICER

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. Joseph S. Sikongo
CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL

Cc: THE REGIONAL GOVERNOR
ALL REGIONAL COUNCILLORS
ALL STAFF MEMBERS

From: Mipasi Haingura
CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICER

Date: 14 April 2023




SUBJECT: LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. This memorandum serves to inform you that I will be away from office from Monday – Friday the 17th – 21st of April 2023.
2. As a result, Juliana Kandjimi, an Accountant will be the Acting CRO during my absence and perform all duly authorized functions of the position including all procurement matters as provided for under the Public Procurement Act, Act 15 of 2015 as amended.
3. Kindly note that, no prior decision(s) taken by the CRO are to be altered.
4. Please accord her the necessary assistance she deserves.
5. Your understanding and usual cooperation will be highly appreciated.

All official correspondences must be addressed to the office of the Chief Regional Officer

Appendix 3. Consent Letter from the Nkurenkuru Town Council



NKURENKURU TOWN COUNCIL
Tel: 066 258089/120121 Fax: 066 258090/091
info@nkurenkuru.com.na , P.O Box 6004, Nkurenkuru, Namibia

Eng. E.M. Nanyemba 06 March 2023

Annastasia Sinalumbu
P.O. Box 997098
Windhoek

Dear Mrs. Sinalumbu

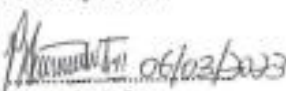
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO COLLECT DATA FROM RESIDENTS IN NKURENKURU LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES.

This letter serves to acknowledge receipt of your letter on the above matter and its content is noted.

Kindly take note that you are hereby authorized to come and collect data as requested and as per your title of the project "An assessment of the Socio-Economic Impact on Community's relocation due to Town land Expansion: The case of Nkurenkuru Peri-Urban Area".

Please accept the assurance for our highest consideration.

Sincerely Yours,


Sindimba P.S
Chief Executive Officer
Nkurenkuru Town Council

NKURENKURU TOWN COUNCIL
Office of the Chief Executive Officer

06 MAR 2023
Tel: 066-258089
Fax: 066-258091
PO Box 6004
Nkurenkuru, Namibia

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.

Appendix 4. Interview tool for communities

Key Informant Interview
<p>The main objective of the study is to assess the socio-economic impacts associated with the relocation of communities as result of townland expansion on communal livelihoods of the people residing in the peri-urban areas of Nkurenkuru in the Kavango West Region.</p>
<p>Proposed respondents: One (1) Employee from the Kavango West Regional Council, Two (2) Nkurenkuru Town Council Employees, Two (2) Constituency Office Employees and Twenty (20) Community Members.</p> <p>--Interview to be conducted by the student who is the researcher.</p> <p>--A brief introduction and exchange of pleasantries between the researcher and respondent.</p> <p>--A brief main objective of the study.</p> <p>--Privacy, confidentiality and assurance of ethical use of data and information collected will be emphasized (The researcher will go through the consent form with the respondent and let them sign it if they are in agreement).</p> <p>--Open questions and probes will be used to obtain information in a respectful manner</p> <p>(The researcher will inform participants about the recording of the interview).</p>

Demographic information

Gender: Male Female

Age Group

18 – 30 31 – 59 60 – 80
80+

Ethnic Group:

Vakwangali Other Kavango Others

Educational Qualification

Primary Level
Secondary Certificate Diploma
Degree Masters None

Employed:

Yes No

Interview questions (Community)

What were the socio-economic conditions of the communities before the relocation?

Probing:

1. What activities were you doing before the relocation on the land?
2. Explain how those activities sustained yourself and your family?
3. Please explain how important that land was to you and your family?

How did the communities' livelihoods change as result of the relocation?

Probing:

1. Explain how has the relocation changed your way of living?
2. Describe how was your living before the relocation?
3. What would you have wished done differently before and after the relocation?

What support did the communities receive from the local authorities during the relocation period?

Probing:

1. What assistance were you provided with by the Town Council during the relocation?
2. What were the Constituency office's contributions to you when you were relocating/ed?
3. What are your views on the relocation? Would you say that the relocation was a good/bad decision? And why?

Appendix 5. Interview tool for the Officials

Key Informant Interview
<p>The main objective of the study is to assess the socio-economic impacts associated with the relocation of communities as result of townland expansion on communal livelihoods of the people residing in the peri-urban areas of Nkurenkuru in the Kavango West Region.</p>
<p>Proposed respondents: One (1) Employee from the Kavango West Regional Council, Two (2) Nkurenkuru Town Council Employees, Two (2) Constituency Office Employees and Twenty (20) Community Members.</p> <p>--Interview to be conducted by the student who is the researcher.</p> <p>--A brief introduction and exchange of pleasantries between the researcher and respondent.</p> <p>--A brief main objective of the study.</p> <p>--Privacy, confidentiality and assurance of ethical use of data and information collected will be emphasized (The researcher will go through the consent form with the respondent and let them sign it if they are in agreement).</p> <p>--Open questions and probes will be used to obtain information in a respectful manner</p> <p>(The researcher will inform participants about the recording of the interview).</p>

Demographic information

Gender: Male Female

Age Group

18 – 30 31 – 59 60 – 80
80+

Ethnic Group:

Vakwangali Other Kavango Others

Educational Qualification

Primary Level
Secondary Certificate Diploma
Degree Masters None

Employed:

Yes No

Interview questions (For Town Council Employees)

1. Briefly, explain why were the communities relocated?
2. Can you please describe how you engaged the communities in preparation for the relocation?
3. What service provision is available to communities where they have been relocated?

4. What support did you provide to the community members during the relocation?
5. What strategies as a town council do you have in place for communities to continue engaging in income earning activities as before the relocation?

Interview questions (For Regional Council and Constituency Office Employees)

1. How were you consulted regarding the relocation of communities in your constituency?
2. What reasons were you provided with for the relocation of the communities in your constituency?
3. What role does the constituency office play in the relocation of communities?
4. In your opinion, explain whether the relocation of the communities was a good/bad decision?

Appendix 6. The Interview Narrative

Theme 1: Communities' involvement in socio-economic activities

Participants sayings on activities undertaken before the relocation:

R1	Before the relocation, we had ownership of cultivating areas, livestock, and access to informal jobs in Town, because we could know when there is someone looking for a cleaner or even garden boy but now lord this suffering and poverty!
R2	We used to do crop and livestock farming and I was also cleaning people's houses when I'm not working in the field
R3	I was actually still in in school but me and my parents we were doing crop farming and also fishing
R4	I was still schooling that time but we were involved in crop farming and my mother also had a vegetable garden and we used to fish also, especially when I come back from school in the evening if that day we are not going to the crop fields
R5	In the days when we had ownership of cultivable land, livestock, and opportunities for informal jobs in town, life was different. We could easily find work as cleaners or garden boys. But now, oh lord, the suffering and poverty we endure!
R6	Back when we had control over cultivated fields, livestock, and chances for informal employment in town, everything was different. My parents could readily find work as cleaners or garden boys. But now, the suffering and poverty are unbearable!

R7	Once upon a time, we enjoyed the privilege of cultivating land, it was a different era. But now, oh my, the suffering and poverty we experience is agonizing
R8	In the era when we held ownership of cultivatable land, livestock, and opportunities for informal jobs in town, life was so different. We could easily come across work at people's houses. Not now everything is just so difficult considering that this ervens are even small
R9	I could do so much when I had my land, and also just the sense of owning a very important asset just brings so much joy to me but I can't say the same now because life is really difficult
R10	Once, we had land for our crops, and chances for informal jobs in town. It was a different time. We could easily secure work anywhere as news was at the tip of of fingers. But now, poverty is my other name because what we endure is heart-wrenching!
R11	In the past, when we had the rights to cultivate land, raise livestock, life had a different flavor
R12	There was a time when we possessed cultivable land, livestock, and opportunities for informal jobs such as repairing people's cars because I have some background in town. Life was more hopeful back then!
R13	I miss my cultivating areas, owning livestock, and having access to informal jobs in town. Not here I can't even practice my skills considering that I'm old now because I was once a builder.
R14	In the earlier days, when we had ownership of cultivatable land, livestock, and fishing but now we live by the mercy of the day itself

R15	I had crop fields and used to sell fish by the road side especially for tourists, here we are even isolated by everything, this is sad!
R16	There was a period when we enjoyed the rights to cultivate areas, raise livestock, and pursue informal jobs in town. Life seemed brighter then. But now, goodness me, the suffering and poverty are unrelenting!

In terms of the reasons for relocation, participants reported as indicated below:

R1	We were informed that it was for development purposes
R2	They told us that the Town Council will build malls and with that we will get employment opportunities
R3	We were informed that they are building government offices to develop the town which will improve our lives
R4	The Town Council told us that the place is not for residential but the plan is they will build malls there to create jobs for the locals
R5	They told us that they are bringing a lot of development to the region for our own good to improve our lives
R6	We were informed it is for development of the town so it becomes like other towns considering that it is still new
R7	Town Council informed us that they want to make the town like other towns which will come with more opportunities
R8	They told us that there will not be houses but now I see there are still houses there and I am even wondering why I moved
R9	We were informed that there will be a lot shops and government offices to create jobs for the people

R10	They said they are bringing good development to the town which will benefit all of us
R11	They said it is for our own good to move now because a lot of good things are coming to the town and it is best to move now to avoid being relocated with no compensation.
R12	We were informed if we move now we will at least get something for our land because later there will be no compensation.
R13	We told that where we are being relocated they will also bring better and more services closer to us.
R14	They told us it is for the development of the town.
R15	We were told that it is for our own good to help the town to develop.
R16	They told us it is for development purposes.

Theme 2: Relocation's impact on community life and livelihoods

In terms of how the relocation have changed or not their ways of living, participants indicated as follows:

R1	Oh dear! I can't believe the immense regret I feel for relinquishing my land. It's by far the worst decision I've made in my life. Our current circumstances are dire, and we find ourselves in extreme poverty. Making a living has become an overwhelming challenge.
R2	It was not a good decision.
R3	Goodness gracious! The decision to give up my land weighs heavily on my heart. I never anticipated the immense difficulties we would face. Our lives are consumed by extreme poverty, and our suffering knows no bounds. Making ends meet has become an arduous task.

R4	I'm filled with deep remorse for letting go of my land. It was an incredibly ill-fated choice. We are now burdened with extreme poverty and endure immeasurable suffering. Making a living has become an insurmountable struggle.
R5	Oh my goodness! The regret I feel for giving up my land is immeasurable. It's undoubtedly the worst decision I've ever made. Our lives have plummeted into extreme poverty, and the suffering we endure is unbearable. Making ends meet seems like an impossible feat.
R6	Oh gosh! The decision to relinquish my land haunts me constantly. I never anticipated the hardships that would follow. We're now trapped in a cycle of extreme poverty, and our suffering seems never-ending. Making a living has become an uphill battle.
R7	I'm overwhelmed by the regret of parting with my land. It's truly the worst decision of my life. We find ourselves in the depths of extreme poverty, and our suffering is beyond comprehension. Making ends meet has become an incessant struggle.
R8	The consequences of giving up my land are far worse than I could have imagined. Life has become an uphill journey filled with extreme poverty and immeasurable suffering. Making a living feels like an unattainable dream.
R9	Oh goodness me! The weight of regret for surrendering my land is unbearable. It's undoubtedly the worst decision I've ever made. We're now mired in extreme poverty, and our suffering knows no bounds. Making ends meet has become an agonizing ordeal.

R10	<p>Oh my word! The decision to let go of my landfills me with profound regret. I never anticipated the extent of the difficulties we would face. We're now caught in the grip of extreme poverty, and our suffering is indescribable. Making a living feels like an impossible task.</p>
R11	<p>I can't fathom the depth of regret I feel for giving up my land. It's truly the worst decision I've made in my life. Our circumstances have plummeted into extreme poverty, and our suffering is beyond measure. Making ends meet is a constant struggle.</p>
R12	<p>Oh my child! I'm filled with deep remorse for the choice to surrender my land. It's the worst decision I've ever made, and the consequences are dire. Our lives are overshadowed by extreme poverty, and our suffering seems insurmountable. Making a living has become an arduous journey.</p>
R13	<p>The regret of giving up my land is overwhelming. It's by far the worst decision I've made. We now find ourselves immersed in extreme poverty, and our suffering is unbearable. Making ends meet has become an incessant challenge.</p>
R14	<p>I'm consumed by regret for the decision to part ways with my land. Life has become incredibly difficult, and extreme poverty has taken hold. The suffering we endure is unimaginable, and making a living feels like an uphill battle.</p>
R15	<p>Oh my god! This was the worse decision I have ever made in my life to give up my land because life is very difficult now, god knows our suffering! We are in extreme poverty now! We are unable to make a living for ourselves now!</p>

R16	<p>Oh dear me! The consequences of surrendering my land are more devastating than I could have imagined. It's a decision I deeply regret.</p> <p>We now find ourselves in the depths of extreme poverty, and the relentless suffering we endure is beyond words. Making ends meet has become an overwhelming challenge we grapple with constantly.</p>
-----	--

On the current livelihoods after the relocation, participants revealed that:

R1	<p>Now I am just at home doing nothing, waiting for my boyfriend to provide for me and our kids, I'm unable to even afford to further my studies though I have a grade, and even to get a job it is not easy here because we are actually far from everything.</p>
R2	<p>I have a cuca-shop which I opened with the little money I got from my previous land.</p>
R3	<p>I'm unemployed and only my uncle and brothers who live in Windhoek used to send for us money to be able to survive, sometimes I used to be called to go and clean people's houses but the distance and taxi costs are a lot.</p>
R4	<p>I live with my boyfriend who is a security guard in town, we survive from his small salary.</p>
R5	<p>Me and wife we survive from the support money which our kids in Rundu used to send us, we are both unemployed.</p>
R6	<p>Me I am unemployed, job hunting now but my wife is a teacher and she just got a job recently, so we survive from her salary.</p>
R7	<p>I own a shebeen which sells traditional alcohol that is how me and my family survive.</p>

R8	Me and my family we live off the N\$1400 social grant that I usually get each month, imagine N\$1400 it hardly last us the whole month and I have to borrow from good Samaritans.
R9	I'm unemployed and survive from social grant, I have a small back yard garden for just tomatoes which we use as relish most of the time.
R10	I have a cuca-shop which I started with the compensation money just to keep living, in my cuca shop I sell small stuff, like maize meal, bread, cooking oil, sugar and so forth, it is mostly the basic stuff.
R11	I'm unemployed but one of my grandchildren used to go and clean people's yards in town, that is how we survive.
R12	I have a cuca-shop as you can see, that is where I make a living from.
R13	Me I am unemployed and have grandchildren to look after, only source of income is the social grants, not even my children are working, just imagine the N\$1300 I receive on a monthly basis to cater for a family of 25 people, it is not easy, as I am talking to you I am filled with so much pain.
R14	I'm unemployed and just living by the grace of god, but my wife used to go and clean the church and people's houses in town it is how we survive.
R15	Me I'm unemployed but my uncle works as labourer at one of the government offices in town it is how we buy food every month.
R16	I have a shebeen as you can see this is my income, though it is a disturbance and not a good environment for my children I still need to do it in order to survive and pay for my grandchildren who are in the hostel far from here.

On whether participants have access to services, the following responses were obtained:

R1	The quality of services like schools, clinics, and police has significantly declined compared to the past. Moreover, the absence of street lights has made crime rampant, becoming a daily occurrence. Even when crimes are reported, the police take considerable time to respond, possibly due to our lack of influence as impoverished members of society. Additionally, our children have to endure long walks to reach their schools.
R2	The state of essential services such as schools, clinics, and police is much worse than before. The absence of street lights has paved the way for the prevalence of crime, which has become the norm.
R3	In comparison to the past, the provision of services like schools, clinics, and police has drastically deteriorated. It is disheartening that even when crimes are reported, the police exhibit delayed response times.
R4	The condition of services such as schools, clinics, and police is a far cry from what it used to be.
R5	There is nothing here.
R6	Our children are forced to embark on lengthy journeys to access education, which threaten the safety of our young girls.
R7	When we assess the condition of services like schools, clinics, and police, it is not here my child.
R8	No services this side only in town.
R9	Everything is very far here where we are, which makes accessing essential services very difficult.

R10	Here there are no services, imagine considering that we do not even have toilets, what if you are bitten by a snake, the response will take forever, and you can even lose your life, it very sad!
R11	There is no clinic, police, or school here but we hear rumours that there will be a mobile police station here because there is too much as there are no street lights and at night it is very dark.
R12	There is completely nothing even us for the social grants who have to walk long distance to go and collect our monies.
R13	There are no services here my dear child, we were just left here to suffer by the Town Council.
R14	When our children are sick we have to walk long distance to be assisted only when there is vaccination for the children then they create access points to take our children but apart from that there is nothing.
R15	We don't have police, clinics and school for our children here.
R16	We don't have any services here maybe they will still bring them.

Regarding the impact of the relocation on their income and financial stability, participants narrated the following:

R1	Imagine having just one person to work it is not easy, at least if we have had cultivating areas, I could be in the field to help out my boyfriend.
R2	Things are not the same, no other income.
R3	Things are not the same as there is no money coming in as before.
R4	Poverty is real now and feel sorry for my boyfriend to carry the burden in taking care of the family.

R5	Income has drastically reduced compared to before.
R6	Household income is not the same it has reduced, a lot of people are not working in this area.
R7	Things are not the same even me with a business the profits are not good because people don't have money to spend.
R8	Income is very low compared to before, because there is no there is no other source of income for me and my family now apart from the social grant which I receive.
R9	We are in poverty! I am the head of the house my husband passed on many years back and all my children there is non who is working, this is sad.
R10	For it is better but I feel sorry for the majority of people who are not even having any business, for me it is better but before is way better as I would have a small business and also work in my field and at the same time catch fish for selling.
R11	In the past, when we had the rights to cultivate land, raise livestock, life had a different flavor
R12	Now we are suffering a lot with no income to sustain us the whole month.
R13	Things are worse now, there is no other means of income which is very hard.
R14	Household income has reduced because we are not even allowed to have crop fields here.
R15	Since we are not doing farming there is no other income to really say we are surviving because now we are unable to afford this life, I'm even thinking of relocating somewhere else where I will be able to get crop field so I can make a living maybe it will help with bringing a bit of cash.

R16	This business is not even bringing in enough money in my house because some people take food on credit and they don't pay back which makes it very difficult for me to buy my next stock, things are not just the same as before, people are suffering and living in poverty.
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In terms of whether the participants have access to food and nutrition, the following information were revealed:

R1	Since we are not doing farming we are forced to buy food, with the money which we don't even have.
R2	There is no access to food which is affecting the health of our kids mostly.
R3	Before food was not a problem, my parents would be concerned about our school fees and other things like cosmetics but now, food is a challenge.
R4	Access to a good meal is not the same, now we can even eat once a day considering the big family in the house and for the kids it is really dangerous, we fear that they might get sick.
R5	Luckily for me and my boyfriend it is a small family but still buying food is a expensive, I cannot imagine what other families are going through.
R6	Children are the biggest victims in this situation because they go to school on an empty stomach and when they come back they just drink water and their first meal is dinner, they are not even performing well at school.
R7	Me and my wife only have two children, food is not a problem only the distance to town because there are costs involved.
R8	I am able to afford to buy food for my family though when we were farming it was better because we could invest in other things.
R9	Access to food is a big challenge for me and my family honestly.

R10	Access to food is a challenge considering that I am old now and not fit to walk long distance to town to long for a job to feed my grandchildren.
R11	For the majority it is very difficult, especially without areas for crops or access to fish, a lot of children even suffer from malnutrition in this area but for me it is better my wife just got a government job recently and we might have to move from this place because even the network is really bad for online classes more especially when it rains.
R12	Considering that we are not farming we are unable to feed our families and this affect the health of the children, though we are not health workers we know that children are hungry and not looking good.
R13	Access to food is not easy where we are because we are actually even far from shops and with no farming which pose as a big challenge.
R14	Getting food here is not a child's play you need to really be strong.
15	"I am unemployed and we are a lot in the house with less access to food which affects our nutrition" (R14)
16	"We are so many in the house and getting enough food to feed all of us is not easy, things are really difficult" (R15)

On whether the relocation have an impact on cultural practices, participants indicated:

R1	Relocation did not affect access to cultural practices or events but we hardly attend the events now because we are far and transport costs are very expensive, as taxis will not even drop me at the house because they complain that it is dark and the roads are very bad for their cars to get stuck.
----	---

R2	Despite our relocation, our access to cultural practices or events remains intact. However, attending these events has become a challenge as we reside far away, and the exorbitant transportation costs deter us.
R3	Our relocation hasn't impacted our ability to engage in cultural practices or attend events. Nevertheless, participation in these events has dwindled as we now reside at a considerable distance, making transportation costs prohibitively expensive. Furthermore, taxi drivers refuse to drop us off at our house, citing concerns about dark roads and potential damage to their vehicles caused by poor road conditions.
R4	In terms of cultural practices and events, our relocation hasn't caused any disruptions. However, attending these events has become increasingly challenging due to our remote location, coupled with the high cost of transportation.
R5	The relocation hasn't impeded our access to cultural practices or events.
R6	Our ability to participate in cultural practices or attend events remains unaffected by the relocation. However, our attendance has significantly declined due to the distance of our new residence.
R7	Despite our relocation, we continue to have access to cultural practices and events. However, the challenges arise when attending these events as our new location is far away, leading to considerable transportation expense.
R8	The relocation has not hindered our engagement with cultural practices or events. However, our attendance has significantly decreased due to the distance of our new residence, resulting in high transportation costs. Additionally, taxi drivers refuse to drop us off at our house, citing concerns about poorly lit roads and the risk of their vehicles getting stuck.

R9	In terms of cultural practices and events, our relocation hasn't had any negative impact. However, attending these events has become more challenging since we now live far away.
R10	Our relocation hasn't affected our access to cultural practices or events. Nonetheless, our participation has declined due to the considerable distance of our new residence, resulting in expensive transportation cost.
R11	Despite our relocation, we continue to have access to cultural practices and events without any significant changes. However, attending these events has become more challenging as our new location is far away.
R12	Nothing has really changed as not even everyone attends those cultural events.
R13	Things are still the same, no difference in my opinion or maybe because I hardly attend.
R14	Nothing changed much it is more or less the same.
R15	Cultural events are not so much affected because it is not a must to attend.
R16	“People still attend though it comes with costs because you feel part of a community, it reminds us of the good old days.

On the issues of sense of security and well-being, participants narrated that:

R1	Inadequate rights and ambiguity concerning potential moves can disturb peace and wellness, due to our unfamiliarity with the procedures involved in moving.
R2	Insufficient entitlements and doubts over impending resettlements can harm tranquillity and welfare.

R3	The absence of full rights and apprehensions related to potential future displacements can undermine stability.
R4	Translocations can negatively impact our security and overall well-being.
R5	This has created doubts about future migrations which can affect our sense of safety.
R6	The confusion surrounding the process of relocation is a concern. Moreover, there are unsubstantiated claims about a possible subsequent displacement from this location because we don't hold any official land ownership records.
R7	Our situation of limited rights and concerns about possible future shifts can compromise our feeling of safety and well-being. The relocation process seems nebulous due to our lack of familiarity.
R8	The dearth of proper rights and uncertainty related to potential future moves can destabilize our security and well-being. Our lack of expertise about the details of relocation adds to this insecurity.
R9	We feel like we are not valued at all, because even the compensation money which we received was nothing.
R10	The limited rights we possess and the uncertainty about possible future displacements can disrupt our peace.
R11	I even don't have a sense of belonging here where I am at the moment because I can be told to move again.
R12	Our limited understanding of relocation protocols exacerbates because I think that it is why we are in this situation.
R13	I feel I can be moved again because this land I'm not even having a letter of ownership because those certificates we were given is not ownership.

R14	Rumours has it that we will be relocated again, so how can I have a sense of security?!it is really not easy.
R15	The lack of rights and uncertainty about future relocations affect security and well-being because it is like we did not have the know-how of the relocation process, there are even rumours that we might be relocated again from here as we do not have ownership certificates of this ervens.
R16	We feel like we are not in our country because now we are hearing that they will come and move us further again, not sure what is really going on.

Theme 3: Assistance Dynamics in Transitional Displacement

In terms of services provision at a new location, participants had this to indicate:

R1	We only have water and electricity.
R2	We were provided with water and electricity, no sanitation we use the bushes which is very dangerous for us.
R3	Only electricity and water was provided, even the water we don't have taps in our yards but from the communal one, and the communal one even used to finish at times.
R4	Only water and electricity.
R5	Only water and electricity with no sanitation, we use the bushes.
R6	Water and electricity from NORED, sanitation we had to build our own septic tank, people use bushes which not healthy and dangerous.
R7	There is water and electricity, with bad roads and no sanitation.
R8	There is electricity and water but no sanitation we use bushes.
R9	Water and electricity was provided with no sanitation and fear of being attacked and bitten by snakes especially at night in the bushes.

R10	We have water and electricity but no sanitation, even fear for our young girls more especially at night, there were attempts of them being attacked.
R11	There is water and electricity, the network is even bad here, the electricity goes off especially when it is raining and there is no sanitation we are using the bushes.
R12	Water and electricity, no sanitation, bad roads.
R13	There is water and electricity only, no sanitation.
R14	Water is provided but we pay for it at the Town Council, and I am not even working.
R15	No sanitation but there is water and electricity and electricity is from NORED.
R16	There is water and electricity but no sanitation, we use bushes only few people who can afford have septic tanks, if you go un those bushes you will see how bad it looks.

Regarding the support provided during relocation, participants stated that:

R1	We only received the money
R2	We only received the money
R3	We only received the money
R4	We only received the money
R5	We only received the money
R6	We only received the money
R7	We only received the money
R8	We only received the money
R9	We only received the money

R10	We only received the money
R11	We only received the money
R12	We only received the money
R13	We only received the money
R14	We only received the money
R15	We only received the money
R16	We only received the money

On what their opinions on relocation decision are, participants indicated:

R1	I feel it is the worst decision I have ever made in life.
R2	To my thinking, it's the most damaging decision I have ever committed to.
R3	In my understanding, it's the most ill-considered choice I made.
R4	I assert it's the most unfortunate judgement I have ever pronounced.
R5	From my viewpoint, it's the most ill-fated decision have ever arrived at.
R6	I conclude it's the most harmful judgement I have ever made.
R7	I feel it's the most injudicious decision I have ever decided on.
R8	In my reasoning, it's the most detrimental choice ever committed by me.
R9	I opine it's the most unfavorable decision I made.
R10	I ascertain it's the most terrible judgement I have ever set in motion.
R11	I believe this is the most regrettable choice I have ever made.

R12	I perceive it as the most disastrous judgement I have ever taken, I wish I knew what I was doing.
R13	In my opinion, this is the most detrimental decision which has pushed me and my family backwards.
R14	I consider it the most grievous mistake of my existence.
R15	I view it as the poorest decision I have ever made.
R16	I regard it as the most unfortunate choice ever decided upon.

Theme four: The process of relocation

OP1	The communities were relocated due to development purposes considering that Nkurenkuru is a new town there was a need, and there is still a need, to develop the town in order to create job opportunities and improve the livelihoods of the Nkurenkuru residents.
OP2	Residents were given two options which are: to be absorbed within the Nkurenkuru town to have permanent structures or be relocated and compensated for them to go and start fresh in the relocated areas. And A big number of residents were displaced as a result of the Town development process, nearly 240 residents from 40 homesteads were relocated.

OP1	Majority of the residents opted to be relocated because they could not afford to build permanent structures as per the Town Council regulations considering that it became a town and they could not be able to afford the living standards of the town.
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OP2	But the majority of them opted to be relocated because they could not afford to build permanent structures as per the Town Council regulations considering that it became a town and they could not be able to afford the living standards of the town.
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Legal ownership of land at the new location

OP1	Residents do not have title deeds but the Town Council is working on ways for the residents to have legal ownership for them to start paying rates and taxis
OP2	Residents have certificates but need to consult the Town Council for confirming sizes and obtaining title deeds

The regional/constituency office role in the relocation process

OP3	We the Constituency Council and Regional Council were not involved; the Town Council was solely responsible.
OP4	We were not involved in the process.

Support from the Town Council

OP1	The Town Council provided them with ervens and financial compensation. And provision of ervens, and also business ervens for low-income residents, promotion of local constructors, support for gardening, and donation for vendor stalls and we have also made provision for residents to conduct fishing for their livelihoods.
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OP2	The Town Council only provided financial compensation and provision of ervens, with no logistical support that they had to cater for it themselves with compensation funds they received.
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Regional Council opinion on relocation decision

OP3	We were supposed to be considered as key stakeholders in the whole process
OP4	We feel we were to be considered as a key stakeholder more especially with the programme that we implement on sanitation.

In terms of participation from the Constituency Office,

OP3	Our office was not involved in the whole process.
OP4	It was a Town Council activity.

Theme five: Service provision at the new area

In terms of services provision at a new location:

OP1	We only provided them with water, with inadequate sanitation but the ones who have money were able to construct septic tanks for themselves, and electricity supplied by NORED through their social responsibility.
OP2	We provided them with water and electricity through NORED social responsibility, and the main road has a good gravel road for accessibility.