International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)
Volume: 08 Issue: 01 | January - 2024 SJIF Rating: 8.176 ISSN: 2582-3930

IMPORTANCE OF LIVELIHOOD IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS

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ABSTRACT

During the environmental and social impact assessment, planning for resettling people is often needed for large infrastructure projects that involve buying land. Resettlement planning, on the other hand, necessitates greater attention to detail than is often provided by a social impact assessment (SIA). The optimal time to begin preparing for a new home is after a SIA has been completed as part of the environmental permit process. The success of livelihood restoration is also influenced by timing and length, particularly in-kind support for social resilience. A one-time payout of cash compensation does not help restore a person's long-term financial well-being. Resettlement planning and SIA are intertwined in international infrastructure projects, and this article examines the consequences for timing of livelihood restoration measures in relation to the project cycle.

KEYWORDS: Impact Assessment, Livelihood, Resettlement, Urban Planning, Rural

INTRODUCTION

People's sense of belonging and well-being are influenced by both the relocation planning as well as social impact assessment (SIA) procedures (Vanclay et al. 2015). Some of the most significant, controversial, and delicate consequences that a SIA examines, analyzes, and regulates are those of relocation and displacement (Vanclay 2017). Resettlement planning can benefit from SIA data and analysis on local conditions, possibilities, and preferences (Mathur 2011). Project approval and environmental licensing have inherent time constraints, as does resettlement planning, which limits this potential. SIAs and resettlement action plans (RAPs) cannot be developed concurrently, as is commonly believed. A realistic example of an international infrastructure project can be used to illustrate the goals and timing of the SIA as well as resettlement planning processes, which can then be used to identify obstacles and risks associated with the overall project schedule. Resettlement sensitivity have been shown to be a major cause of project delays, for example (Reddy et al. 2015). Planning for a project's exact location, limits, and amount of land necessitates clarity. These details are essential for determining who owns and uses the land. As part of a project's approval or environmental permit, a SIA often lacks the necessary data for an implementation-ready RAP. Resettlement planning and SIA have several synergies, for example, because both processes require socioeconomic data and include the same stakeholders. Resettlement planning could benefit from some SIA data gathering improvements. The efficiency of livelihood restoration is also affected by time. Despite the fact that the timeliness of support is critical to the implementation's success, livelihood restoration initiatives are frequently left out of RAPs.

An overview of the SIA as well as resettlement planning processes is presented at the outset of this presentation. It examines how the SIA process hinders and helps relocation planning, as well as some of

the primary problems provided by the project cycle. The next step is to provide strategies for restoring livelihoods in order to combat the long-term effects of community severance while also fostering social resilience. We're looking into options like staggered cash payments and delivering in-kind help at just the right point in the project's timeline and for just the right amount of time. The author's considerable expertise as an advisor in Africa, Asia, and South America's energy, water, and road sectors informs this study.

METHODS

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESMENT AND RESETTLMENT PROJECTS

Analysis, monitoring, and control (SIA) of the positive and negative social implications of planned actions and the resulting social change processes are a part of SIA (Vanclay 2003). The results of a SIA are often given in a separate specialized chapter as part of a social and environmental impact evaluation (ESIA) for environmental permitting purposes. The ESIA is frequently scheduled in conjunction with or as a component of the technical feasibility study for a project, depending on the circumstances. SIAs must address land acquisition and relocation, whether voluntary or involuntary. The term "involuntary resettlement" refers to both physical and economic displacement as a result of proposal land acquisition or limits on land usage, which can result in a loss of revenue sources or other means of living (IFC 2012). Involuntary resettlement is mostly addressed by the granting of rights, particularly financial or in-kind compensation. As Cernea (2008) pointed out, restitution rather than compensation is the true goal of the money given to those who have been uprooted. Direct investment, not compensation, is essential to enhance people's lives, he claimed.

Those who are displaced physically and economically, as well as those who are impacted by other aspects of the project, are the focus of this study (i.e. project-affected people). "Relocation-affected households" (RAHs) refers to those who have been physically relocated, whereas "displaced individuals" (DPs) refers to those who have been displaced merely due to economic reasons. Gouws (2015) examined the social interactions between family and non-family members of a household or compound in his article on recognizing households and household heads in rural African environments. Re-establishing a RAH when numerous families dwell in a compound or in an one building structure can be difficult, he explained.

Land use as well as tenure are described in detail in SIA reports, along with the potential effects of land acquisition as well as resettlement on the environment. As part of the SIA process, affected groups such as RAHs and DPs must be consulted with and actively involved. It is the responsibility of SIAs and resettlement plans to explain how the effects will be mitigated. Regardless of when the actual resettlement planning is scheduled, projects with severe or major displacement consequences begin addressing displacement concerns at the beginning of the SIA process, regardless of when the actual resettlement is scheduled. The components that could have resettlement effects are recognized at a broad level during SIA scoping. Resettlement impacts are documented after scoping and during the evaluation phase of a SIA, sometimes alluded to as a thorough ESIA. There are mitigation and enhancement methods identified, and the significance of these impacts is determined using a sound technique like magnitude as well as significance criteria (Rowan, 2009). New positive impacts or advantages are created, their reach is expanded, or they are distributed in a more equitable manner through enhancement techniques (Rowan &

Streather 2011). By explaining how the mitigation as well as enhancement strategies will be applied and monitored, a RAP gives more information than a SIA on the measures.

Policies for lender protection necessitate stakeholder involvement and public consultation during scoping and when draft findings are present during an ESIA in order to disclose and discuss impacts with those who will be affected (ADB 2009; IFC 2012; EBRD 2014). RAHs and DPs are often the most impacted. Many of the questions and concerns that arise in public forums when there are communities affected by involuntary resettlement are concerning spatial planning as well as resettlement.

In terms of how resettlement planning fits in with SIA, project managers as well as resettlement practitioners have varying ideas, based on their experience and background in land acquisition. A project within such a project is how Reddy et al. (2015) view land access as well as resettlement in the mining sector, where ESIA and resettlement are separate. The permitting procedure during feasibility generally includes relocation planning along with an ESIA, in contrast to my professional experience in the transport and energy industries. SIA workers are frequently expected to generate both the ESIA documents and RAP at the very same time while doing resettlement planning. Resettlement effect summaries in SIA reports may lead to the belief that a RAP may be developed simultaneously with a SIA. My field experience, on the other hand, indicates that the in-depth surveys required for the creation of a RAP be carried out following the completion of the SIA as well as feasibility study, during the project's detailed design phase. I More specific engineering information enables for better identification of who will be directly impacted and how they will be influenced; (ii) foreign financing institutions demand current data. (iii) RAPs are produced at the detailed design stage for the following reasons: Below, we'll take a closer look at each of these factors.

Prior to making investment decisions, the majority of international financial institutions (IFIs) demand that resettlement planning be performed using current data. "Financial close" refers to the timing of the loan decision. It is critical for lenders to know the number of individuals who will be affected by the project, how much money would be needed to deal with the relocation implications, and the dangers that resettlement poses. Resettlement planning is required by IFIs as part of their safeguard policies. Civil works cannot begin in areas impacted by displacement until compensation is made available and resettlement sites and moving allowances are made available to those affected (IFC 2012). To keep up with changing economic conditions, such as inflation and speculation, new data must be collected if previous surveys are out-of-date.

There are two kinds of resettlement action plans (RAPs): preliminary and implementation-ready. In the context of a resettlement policy framework, preliminary RAPs contain information that is typically included in the general treatment of land acquisition impacts based on the information that is available. In the early stages of the RAP process, eligibility criteria, the entitlement matrix, and implementation tasks, budgets, and timeframes are often outlined. Resettlement survey results reporting is the key difference between an early RAP and one that is ready for deployment. It is possible for a preliminary RAP to include RAH surveys, however these surveys may not reflect the final design, or they may be based on extrapolated data or satellite imagery, which estimates RAHs. Field surveys with RAHs and DPs have been done in the recent past in the case of an implementation-ready RAP (either a new RAP or an upgraded RAP). It is possible to calculate the whole cost of a loss of assets and identify those who are affected by it. The early steps of execution, such as discussions and land agreements, are intimately linked to these specifics.

Project approval and budgetary deadlines are two of the primary reasons for putting together early RAP's. Many IFIs and other project sponsors will accept a preliminary RAP for their boards and decision-makers as acceptable evidence. It is possible that sponsors, resettlement consultants, and IFI officials already realize that the preliminary RAP data is outdated or unavailable. However, lenders, environmental regulators, and other decision-makers must have access to the RAPs concurrently with the ESIA in order to approve it. Acceptance of the preliminary RAPs is contingent on the detailed design progressing to a RAP ready for implementation. During the due diligence phase of an Asian hydropower project, it was discovered that the RAP needed to be revised. The total project timetable was affected by the adjustment, but the damage was minimized significantly. Technical improvements to the implementation-ready RAP reduced the number of RAHs from 100 to three, according to resettlement specialists. Rates and expenses may be out of date because of delays, which necessitates the need for RAPs to be updated.

FIXING THE TIME FOR RESETTLEMENT BEFORE THE CONSTRUCTION

The scheduling of a project is complicated, and trade-offs need to be made. Over-optimism and a lack of coordination are two of the most common scheduling issues for relocation planning, according to Reddy et al. (2015). Contract bidders generally submit the first schedules for ESIA as well as RAP completion based on limited project information during the tender development/submission process. Competent bidders will include cautionary notes, such as those pertaining to the timing of the RAP and ESIA. Since the bid preparation and resettlement surveys might take months or even years, it's very uncommon for them to be postponed. Resettlement surveys and package discussions often take longer than expected or intended, even if resettlement planning timetables are adjusted prior to conducting primary data gathering depending on the actual situation. A number of factors contribute to longer response times, including the household heads being absent or busy (requiring multiple return visits), the negotiations becoming more negative, many layers of approval for negotiation results (often with geographic distances) adding to the response time, and land tenure situations being more complex than anticipated.

When it comes to delays caused by surveying discrepancies, lengthy negotiations, and other factors, a transportation project including land acquisition is a good case study. Midway through the year, the RAP was completed and made public just in time for year-end financial close. The work on the project got underway right away. During the following months, project workers conducted further in-depth surveys before contacting the appropriate government agency for relocation. The government agency advised that a consulting firm be hired to finish the land deals after four months of unsuccessful negotiations. The project designs were altered to avoid some of the most expensively valued plots while the consultancy was being hired. Despite this, the consultancy's personnel found more RAHs in the same geographic region. The consultancy had contacted most of the RAHs a year after financial close and project start, but no land agreements had been made. Projects frequently run into difficulties locating sufficient RAHs and DPs, as well as difficulties in concluding agreements.

Overconfidence in the speed of RAP implementation is common among sponsors with limited resettlement experience, as the two projects above indicate. When it comes to ESIA as well as resettlement planning activities, they typically underestimate or overlook the time needed to implement the RAP since they don't understand how timing influences the quality of the RAP. They see RAP implementation as an additional project delay because they don't see this as an essential component of their construction or operations work. Some examples: A hydropower project in Asia employed an ESIA consultant to design

and publish a RAP, as well as an ESIA firm to handle the land negotiations, as an example. Prior to the completion of all land deals, the ESIA and RAP contract were signed. Despite the completion of the ESIA and RAP contracts, the contract for land negotiations was extended. As a result, the RAP was labeled as 'preliminary.' Later, an addendum to the RAP was proposed to document the land agreements so that the project could be submitted to a board for approval by lenders. Only when the additional information is provided can RAPs be judged implementable.

I've seen project schedules for huge infrastructure projects that include ESIA submission, contracting, and construction all commencing within six months of each other during my work as a due diligence auditor for lenders. In order to complete property agreements, secure and prepare host relocation sites, or provide employment training, no additional time was allocated. Prior to construction, DPs benefit most from vocational skill training as a means of reestablishing their financial security. The timing of an adequate skills development program should be better handled if it is a target from the beginning or is determined during the SIA. Relocation and civil construction may get in the way of RAHs attending training programs if they are identified at the conclusion of resettlement planning. It's also possible that the time it takes to learn will be too long for the project builders to put their newfound expertise to use. For a DP to be ready and available for a project, he or she should undergo training several months in advance of the commencement of construction. The Chronic Poverty Advisory Committee addresses training for sustainable livelihoods. CPAN's (2013) employment policy guide, which explores policies and programs to increase the amount and quality of work for chronically disadvantaged individuals. According to SIAs and management plans, there has been an increased focus on "local content" in recent years (Esteves & Vanclay 2009; Esteves et al. 2012; Vanclay et al. 2015). The term "local content" refers to the construction or maintenance of an asset or service using local resources and expertise. Local content includes local employment, skills development, local procurement of goods and services, and strengthening the capacity of local suppliers and contractors. Wells and Hawkins (2008), IFC (2011), Warner (2011), and IPIECA (2011) have all offered helpful suggestions on how to best support and build local content (2016).

Assuming that a comprehensive design or a RAP indicates that construction can commence, project sponsors often neglect the actual land acquisition and relocation process. Lenders permit project sponsors to commence civil development in regions that will not be impacted by the resettlement process in advance. Preliminary civil works can be done by a contractor, however in some cases this might lead to a number of unexpected and unreported resettlement implications. If the resettlement implications aren't addressed, it could cause delays in the project. It's possible that the resources necessary to appropriately manage resettlement consequences won't be available if the affects themselves aren't properly documented. A hydropower project in Pakistan required the addition of international ESIA and RAP addendums to the national documents, and I was responsible for drafting those. An access road was already under construction on site, and the RAP needed to account for the land acquisition for it. Contract provisions for the construction contractor did not include ESMP or RAP standards. As a result, the community's leaders and lenders were misled about how the access road's effects would be controlled. The land acquisition process is more difficult to stay on schedule and under budget when there is community dissatisfaction and distrust. Management plans such as ESMPs and RAPs are needed to ensure compliance with social performance obligations in contracts.

There is also evidence that there is a time lag between the RAP's production and implementation. When it comes to large, nationally significant projects, environmental authorities may take far longer than the required deadlines to approve the ESIA and RAP. It is possible that government personnel in charge of

government-led relocation will wait to begin negotiations until licenses have been granted. A fresh team of people (e.g., project sponsors, land department officials, or RAP implementation organizations) is typically given the RAP and the field research information to finish land agreement discussions, as well as the RAP itself. Re-establishing contact with RAHs after a transfer takes time. Reddy et al. (2015) believe that having a consistent staff is a key factor in ensuring that talks run smoothly.

An implementation-ready RAP and SIA must be completed at the same time by a practitioner, who encounters difficulties and downsides. With that said, the SIA process has a number of useful overlaps and ways in which its use might improve RAPs. Resettlement planning data can be gathered in the following sections of a SIA.

IMPORTANCE OF RESETTLEMENT SCOPING

In the ESIA process, the next step is scoping, which comes after screening but before the in-depth study stage. ESIA and SIA scoping approaches are widely described (see for instance Lawrence 2013; Vanclay et al. 2015). Resettlement scoping, on the other hand, is rarely referred to as a point of reference when it comes to resettlement planning. Resettlement scoping is an important first step in the planning process, even though it is often overlooked. Resettlement planning focuses on identifying the possible implications and hazards. This is similar to SIA. The goal of resettlement safeguard measures is to avoid and minimize the resettlement impacts (ADB 2009; IFC 2012; EBRD 2014, and the World Bank's Operational Policy 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement). The Inspection Panel (2016) Inspection Panel examination of involuntary resettlement has taught us that successful resettlement programs are built on a clear understanding of the dangers involved. Resettlement scoping evaluates the full spectrum of resettlement hazards and whether there are design solutions to eliminate or minimize resettlement before a decision is made on the preferable technical option for in-depth ESIA research. There are three main areas in which risk identification is lacking: I accurately determining the project's impact areas, both in physical and economic terms; (ii) understanding the existence of longstanding legacy issues; and (iv) conducting thorough baseline studies for the affected population.

RESULTS

It is important for sponsors, lenders and key stakeholder decision-makers to know if the known possible resettlement risks and implications are acceptable before progressing with more research or actions. According to 2012 guidance notes for hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, and biofuels, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) categorically prohibits investment in projects that displace or resettle large numbers of inhabitants (5,000 persons or more). Ideally, prefeasibility should include a discussion of possible resettlement options. Technical, economic, social, and environmental factors must all be taken into account when deciding where to relocate people. My field experience has shown that often, after the technical and economic viability has been established, social (especially resettlement) and environmental constraints are not taken into account.

There is a resettlement scoping process that examines available data on the scope, severity, and financial impact of the resettlement process in an attempt to reduce or avoid it. When deciding between several technological options (such as project locations), these three factors (size, severity, and cost) should be

considered. They can also be used to mitigate the negative effects of the selected option (e.g. the dam height and reservoir water levels). It's important to think about how many people will be moved and how much land will be affected by the resettlement process, as well as how many homes will be moved and how much farmland will be affected. For example, physical relocation of households is seen as more severe than other land acquisition impacts. Severity refers to the type and severity of impacts. The degree to which a resource's economic viability, tenure type, total landholding, and revenue diversification are all taken into account can be seen in its severity (World Bank 2004). Expenditures associated with resettlement include lost asset compensation, new housing, and re-establishment of income, as well the administrative costs associated with the RAP's development and implementation. When the scope and kind of resettlement impacts and rights are altered through iterative design and resettlement scoping, the costs rise.

For the most part, methods of secondary and non-invasive data collection are used in resettlement scoping. Resettlement scoping may benefit from the input of local leaders and institutional stakeholders. As the goal is to minimize the number of RAHs and DPs, resettlement scoping does not typically include direct involvement with DPs. Resettlement scoping makes use of data from geographic information systems. Drones are another technology that has the potential to be useful, but they also have the potential to cause concern among some groups. Use the most recent satellite imagery to compare the potential impact of various technical alternatives. It is possible to overlay boundaries of recognized forest reserves or other sensitive areas. Images that are more than two years old aren't really useful in most places. By utilizing high-quality photography, it is possible to count the impacted structures, roads, and power poles, as well as assess the land area. Images that clearly show different forms of land use, such as cultivated and fallow agricultural regions, are very useful. If a structure is only being used briefly (as is the case in certain nomadic or subsistence cultures), it can't be identified as inhabited. As a result, for analytic reasons, structures are generally considered to be residential because of the lack of specificity in images. It may not be possible to distinguish between mosques, schools, health centers, and other community resources. Imagery may obscure small constructions erected beneath trees or other buildings. They are usually few in number and may be dealt with through the use of caveats and contingencies most of the time.

DISCUSSION

UTILIZING SIA PRIMARY DATA ACCUMILATION TOWARDS RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS

By conducting resettlement socioeconomic surveys (SES) at the same time as the SIA baseline data collection, you can get the most benefit from SIA operations for resettlement planning. Resettlement surveys mandated by IFIs typically include the SES as one of its components. Other resettlement survey data include the RAH and DP household profile, asset census, and comprehensive asset measures. As a starting point for monitoring the overall project region, not only the resettlement-affected area, the SES provides baseline conditions and livelihoods. Issues like as distance and access to social services are addressed by the SES in its entirety. Since RAH locations are not always known, a SES can be put together to cover a larger area. The SES contributes to the RAP and the SIA baseline when it is scheduled during the SIA. When the location of RAHs and DPs are determined, other surveys need to be done during the planning phase to assure full coverage. But the SES has a second effect, which is that it contributes to increased efficacy.

SIA's primary function is to gather baseline information about current situations. Land use (habitat mapping if practicable and available), land tenure, identification of a land market from which valuation can be built, existing skills in the community, vocational and higher education institutions and courses are all included in the SIA baseline details pertinent to the RAP. It is normal practice for SIA researchers to conduct focus groups as part of their research. Resettlement planning can benefit from SIA focus groups, which can cover a variety of subjects, including the development of job skills specific to a project. When I was working on a dam project in West Africa, I used images of African women doing various forms of construction work to conduct focus groups. In a survey, participants were asked which jobs would be appropriate for women to perform and what circumstances would be necessary for females to be employed. The SIA's livelihood and gender analysis, as well as the RAP's proposed choices for livelihood restoration, were directly influenced by the data. Workshops on spatial planning conducted as part of the SIA can also serve as useful data gathering tools, since they can help with influx management and the selection of RAH host locations. Organizing workshops of this type helps local government officials who will be responsible for managing any new community infrastructure built as part of the RAP identify characteristics that increase the likelihood of a successful relocation.

Resettlement planning and SIAs were examined in detail in the preceding paragraphs. Next, we'll look at how the time of reestablishing a household's source of income affects its success. It is difficult to implement income restoration programs because of delays in land purchase, compensation payments, and identifying a host site (Gamaathige 2014). The time it takes to develop and implement restoration plans in the RAP, as well as the time it takes to perform the activities, are two of the problems of livelihood restoration.

A lot of RAPs don't include strategies for restoring livelihoods as an afterthought. A study by Smyth et al. (2015) indicated that livelihood restoration is not well planned or executed. These findings may be due to the fact that during resettlement planning, field surveys take precedence over the identification of ways to help people get back to work. Resettlement surveys are real and easy to focus on because they demand human and logistical resources. When it comes to restoring livelihoods, a development approach is needed, as well as inventiveness and dialogue with DPs on preferences. Using focus groups to address issues related to livelihood restoration is a good idea. There is still room for improvement throughout the feasibility and SIA studies. Attempts were made to address livelihood restoration during the SIA of a large hydropower project in Pakistan that received IFI money, which is a less frequent method. Thoughts on the restoration of livelihoods were explored and summarized in a "restoration concept paper" based on the socioeconomic baseline data. Some specifics (such as probable costs and agencies with expertise in delivering) were provided for each measure to help determine whether or not it should be included in the RAP. Several of the measures are commonplace in the field of job recovery (see the section on in-kind compensation for examples). The SIA and resettlement team thought it was a good idea to provide this information up front. It is important to note that, according to the project sponsor, such aspects are best left for final decision-making after implementation, not during the RAP or during discussions with DPs about entitlement packages. If measures are not included in the entitlement matrix of a resettlement plan, there may not be the resources to include them afterwards. This has been my experience thus far. Lenders also advocated for monetizing in-kind assistance and transferring the monetary value in exchange. As a result, the RAP's focus shifted back to monetary compensation and away from livelihood rehabilitation. There are some lenders and businesses who respond in this way, and it is common. It is hoped that more

RAP evaluations would be made available to the public so that more stakeholders can benefit from the lessons learned regarding livelihood restoration.

CONCLUSION

Using case studies from the field, this paper found that timing is a critical component of successful relocation planning and execution. It is difficult to produce implementation-ready RAPs in the same period as SIAs because of the lack of project detail during feasibility. The best synergies between RAPs and SIAs occur during resettlement scoping, socioeconomic baseline studies required for resettlement planning, and the identification of preliminary livelihood restoration methods from SIA findings. Resettlement risks can be better understood by key decision-makers with the use of a preliminary RAP that is based on the SIA. An implementation-ready RAP is needed to commence civil works in resettlement-impacted communities. In large infrastructure projects, overestimation of the time required for resettlement planning and RAP implementation can lead to significant delays in the overall timetable. The timing of compensation and the restoration of livelihoods is equally important. A person's ability to cope, their resilience, and their overall well-being are all affected by the timing of financial and in-kind support for their livelihood. Aside from economic compensation, in-kind support can help mitigate social capital loss and community severance, as well as help build social resilience in the aftermath of a natural disaster. For in-kind aid to be useful, it must be given at the right time. The physical act of moving necessitates the most coping capacity. The relocation process will be more effective if livelihood restoration is approached over a sufficient period of time that takes into account both coping and development.

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