



IMPACT OF RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA. A CASE OF GASABO DISTRICT (2018-2024)

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Abstract: *Despite efforts by the Rwandan government to implement resettlement programs aimed at improving livelihoods, the impact of these programs on community development remains unclear. This study assesses the effects of resettlement programs in Gasabo District (2018–2024), focusing on program implementation, community development levels, and the relationship between the two. The study used a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from 129 resettled households through structured questionnaires and qualitative insights from a focus group discussion with local officials. Findings show that resettlement programs positively impacted community development, particularly in infrastructure, housing, and access to services. Social cohesion, economic empowerment, and access to education and healthcare were also significantly improved. A moderate positive relationship ($r = 0.274$, $p = 0.002$) was found between resettlement implementation and community development, with infrastructure being the most influential factor. The study concludes that infrastructure development and social integration are key drivers of community progress, while housing quality and compensation had a lesser effect. It recommends prioritizing infrastructure, fair compensation, and housing quality in future resettlement programs, alongside enhancing local economic opportunities and leadership development within resettled communities. Further research should focus on long-term impacts and comparative studies.*

Keywords: *Resettlement programs, Community Development, Implementation Effectiveness, Gasabo District, Rwanda.*

1. Introduction

Resettlement programs are globally implemented to address various issues including environmental disasters, economic needs, and urban expansion. While resettlement programs aim to foster development, their impact on communities can vary significantly depending on the socio-political and economic contexts in which they are executed. Notably, resettlement can bring both positive and negative outcomes for displaced communities, and its success depends on the adequacy of planning, community involvement, and implementation (Byishimo, 2023).

In Europe, resettlement initiatives have been influenced by both urban development and disaster management. In the United Kingdom, the relocation of communities due to the construction of large-scale infrastructure projects has led to significant social changes. For example, the construction of the Thames Barrier required the relocation of families, which faced mixed results (Gray, 2021). While the infrastructure offered flood protection, the resettled communities often struggled to adapt, facing challenges in maintaining their livelihoods and social ties. Similarly, in France, the resettlement of communities for urban development projects, such as in the banlieues of Paris, has been criticized for its insufficient integration measures, contributing to socio-economic inequality and exclusion (Dey, 2020).

In Asia, resettlement programs have often been tied to large infrastructure projects. In India, the Sardar Sarovar Dam displaced over 200,000 individuals, many of whom faced the loss of traditional livelihoods and poor integration into new communities (Schroeder, 2020). Despite government compensation, the social and cultural integration of these communities has been problematic, as they struggle to adapt to new environments and economies. Similarly, in China, millions of people were displaced by the Three Gorges Dam project. While the dam provided significant benefits in terms of electricity and flood control, the resettlement programs have faced criticism for insufficient planning, resulting in the erosion of social networks and livelihood insecurity for the displaced populations (Branco, 2020).

In the Americas, Brazil's history of resettlement is largely shaped by large-scale development projects, especially in the Amazon. The Belo Monte Dam project displaced indigenous communities and riverine populations, with critics highlighting the lack of transparency and inadequate consultation with affected groups. These resettlements led to loss of land, traditional practices, and economic resources, while the promised development benefits have not always materialized. In the United States, post-disaster resettlements, such as the response to Hurricane Katrina, aimed to rebuild communities but faced challenges in addressing the long-term needs of displaced individuals. Many residents struggled with adapting to new living conditions, and recovery efforts were often slow, highlighting the need for more sustainable approaches to post-disaster resettlement (Chakrabarti, 2020).

In Africa, countries have implemented resettlement programs to address both conflict-induced displacement and large-scale development projects. Kenya, for example, has seen urbanization-driven resettlements in Nairobi, where informal settlers were relocated to satellite towns (Mwangi, 2021). Although the goal was to improve urban planning and infrastructure, these efforts have faced criticism for neglecting the cultural and economic needs of resettled populations, leaving them in precarious economic conditions. Similarly, Tanzania's resettlement efforts around the Stiegler's Gorge Dam faced significant setbacks due to poor community engagement and inadequate preparation, resulting in adverse socio-economic consequences for the displaced people (Mwangi, 2021).

In Gasabo District, resettlement occurred primarily due to large-scale urban development projects such as the Vision City Housing Development program, the Kigali Urban Transport Infrastructure project, and the Electricity, Water, and Playground Access program. These programs were designed to modernize the city, address rapid urbanization, and improve living standards. For instance, the Vision City program aimed to provide affordable housing, while the transport project sought to improve infrastructure and reduce congestion. The Electricity, Water, and Playground Access program focused on providing basic services to underdeveloped areas. While these projects improved access to housing and essential services, they also led to the displacement of many households, requiring them to adapt to new urban environments, often with limited economic opportunities and social support (Ndayambaje, 2021).

Despite these improvements, resettled communities in Gasabo have faced challenges in fully integrating into their new environments. Socio-economic issues such as unemployment, lack of resources, and insufficient social integration have hindered long-term development. The rapid urbanization and strain on public services in the district have made it difficult to meet the needs of the growing population. While the resettlement programs successfully provided better infrastructure and services, they also highlighted the importance of addressing the socio-economic and cultural needs of displaced individuals to ensure sustainable community development. These challenges underscore the need for a more holistic approach to resettlement that goes beyond physical infrastructure to include support for economic empowerment and social cohesion (Kamanzi, 2020).

From 2018 to 2024, Rwanda has continued to prioritize urban transformation and inclusive development in Gasabo. The government has focused on enhancing access to services, improving housing, and fostering economic opportunities for resettled populations. However, to achieve sustainable development, the challenges of social integration, economic empowerment, and cultural preservation must be carefully addressed. The resettlement experience in Gasabo offers valuable lessons for other nations, particularly in terms of balancing infrastructure development with the human factors of resettlement, ensuring that displaced individuals are not only provided with physical infrastructure but also the opportunities and support they need to thrive (Kamanzi, 2020).

2. Statement of the problem

Despite the Rwandan government's efforts to modernize informal settlements through resettlement programs, communities in Gasabo District continue to face significant socio-economic and developmental challenges. Between 2018 and 2024, resettlement initiatives in the district aimed to provide improved housing, infrastructure, and access to basic services. However, the anticipated outcomes such as sustainable livelihoods, social cohesion, and improved living standards have not been fully realized (Munyaneza, 2022).

Resettled individuals frequently encounter persistent unemployment, limited economic opportunities, and inadequate integration into urban social and economic systems. Many lack the vocational skills and financial capital needed to thrive in their new environments, which hampers their ability to adapt and contribute to local development. Furthermore, the planning and implementation of resettlement programs often exclude meaningful community participation, resulting in a lack of ownership, weakened social networks, and increased feelings of alienation and marginalization (Mugisha, 2023).

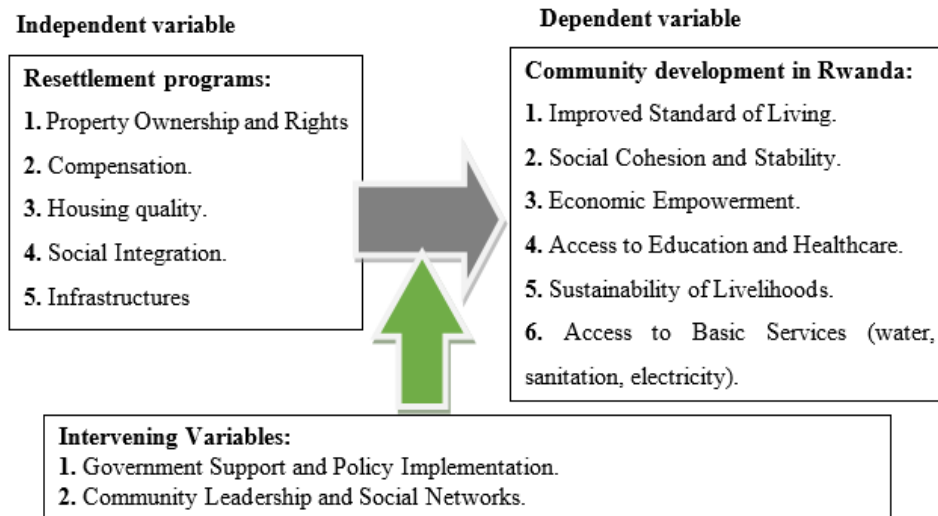
These challenges undermine the core goals of Rwanda's urbanization and resettlement policies, threatening not only the well-being of resettled populations but also the broader objectives of inclusive and sustainable community development. If left unaddressed, these issues risk entrenching poverty, exacerbating inequality, and weakening social stability in rapidly urbanizing districts like Gasabo (Hassan, 2022). This study seeks to assess the actual impact of resettlement programs in Gasabo District from 2018 to 2024, identify the gaps and obstacles encountered, and propose actionable recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, inclusiveness, and long-term sustainability of such initiatives.

3. Conceptual framework of the study

Resettlement programs, as the independent variable, play a crucial role in shaping community development outcomes in Rwanda (Munyaneza, 2022). Key aspects of resettlement, such as property ownership and rights, compensation, and infrastructure development, directly influence the living standards and access to basic services for resettled populations. For instance, providing adequate compensation and securing property rights can enhance economic empowerment and stability, fostering improved livelihoods (Kamanzi, 2020). Meanwhile, the development of infrastructure like roads, sanitation, and electricity facilitates access to essential services, contributing to better health, education, and overall living conditions. Social integration within resettled communities is essential for building social cohesion and stability, which in turn supports the long-term sustainability of these communities (Kamali,

2022). However, the effectiveness of these outcomes is often shaped by government support and policy implementation, alongside strong community leadership and social networks that help to ensure smooth adaptation and integration of displaced individuals. When these intervening variables are strong, the resettlement programs lead to more sustainable livelihoods, increased employment opportunities, and overall community development, helping to foster a more inclusive and resilient society (Hassan, 2022).

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of the Study



Source: Organized and assembled by the researcher, (2025)

Monitoring and evaluation play a pivotal role in maintaining project standards and timelines. Regular and thorough monitoring allows for early detection of issues, enabling timely interventions that prevent minor problems from escalating into major delays or cost overruns. Effective risk management procedures within contract management further bolster this by identifying potential risks early and implementing strategies to mitigate them. This proactive approach not only keeps the project on track but also ensures cost efficiency by avoiding unexpected expenses (Solar Energy Corporation of India, 2024).

Effective contract management practices are crucial for the successful completion of energy projects, such as the Gihira Hydropower Plant in Rubavu District. Timeliness in contract execution ensures that projects commence without unnecessary delays, directly impacting the overall project completion time. When contracts are signed and executed promptly, it sets a positive tone for the project timeline, reducing the risk of extended delays. Additionally, a robust contractor selection process ensures that only qualified and capable contractors are chosen, which enhances the quality of work and adherence to project specifications (REG, 2023).

Communication and coordination among stakeholders are essential for the smooth execution of energy projects. Clear and consistent communication helps in aligning the expectations and responsibilities of all parties involved, leading to higher stakeholder satisfaction. When stakeholders are well-informed and engaged, it fosters a collaborative environment that supports operational efficiency. This, in turn, ensures that the energy projects, once completed, operate reliably and meet the community's needs, thereby achieving the district's goals of enhancing energy access and sustainability (Shen, 2023).

4. Study objective and Hypotheses

The general objective of this study is to assess the impacts of resettlement programs on community development in the Gasabo District, Rwanda, between 2018 and 2024. Specifically, this study intends to evaluate the validity of the following objectives:

- To assess the resettlement programs implementation in Gasabo District, Rwanda.
- To examine the community development level in Gasabo District, Rwanda.
- To evaluate the relationship between resettlement program implementation and community development in Gasabo District, Rwanda.

The current study relay on the following hypotheses, such as:

H_0 : There is no significant impact of resettlement programs on community development in Gasabo District, Rwanda.

H_1 : There is a significant impact of resettlement programs on community development in Gasabo District, Rwanda.

5. Research Methodology

The research methodology for this study on the impact of resettlement programs in Gasabo District, Rwanda, adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative techniques to ensure comprehensive data collection and analysis. A descriptive survey design was used to examine the effects of resettlement on various community development indicators, such as housing quality, property ownership, access to services, and employment. The study was conducted between 2018 and 2024, with a focus on nine sectors in Gasabo. Data were collected from a sample of 150 respondents 129 resettled households and 21 district staff selected through stratified random sampling and purposive sampling, ensuring both representative and expert perspectives.

Primary data were gathered through structured questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions. Questionnaires were distributed to households and key informants both in-person and digitally, while interviews and Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)

provided deeper qualitative insights. Secondary data were obtained from district and national reports, particularly from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda. To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, the study applied test-retest methods and carefully designed instruments to reflect the key constructs being measured. Data were then processed through editing, coding, and tabulation before analysis.

For data analysis, quantitative methods included descriptive statistics (means, frequencies, standard deviations) and inferential statistics, notably multiple linear regression to explore relationships between resettlement factors and community development outcomes. Qualitative data from interviews and FGDs were analyzed thematically to identify recurring patterns and stakeholder perceptions. The research also addressed potential limitations such as accessibility issues and technological constraints by offering multiple modes of data collection. Ethical considerations were strictly observed, including informed consent, participant confidentiality, and official authorization from relevant authorities to ensure the research was conducted responsibly.

5. Findings

Data were presented as collected from the respondents per each objective:

5.1 Implementation of resettlement programs in Gasabo District, Rwanda.

Effective implementation of resettlement programs is a critical factor in determining the long-term success of urban planning and social development policies. In the context of the Gasabo District, various government-led initiatives, such as the Vision City Housing Development and infrastructure upgrading projects, have aimed to improve housing quality, access to essential services, and security of tenure for displaced and relocated residents. This section explores how beneficiaries of these programs perceive the implementation of resettlement, with a specific focus on property ownership and legal rights. Understanding these perceptions offers valuable insight into how secure tenure contributes to broader development outcomes such as economic empowerment, social cohesion, and sustainable living.

Table 1: Property Ownership and Rights for Resettlement affected households

1. Property Ownership and Rights	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. The legal documentation provided for property ownership has significantly improved my financial stability since resettlement.	7 (5.4%)	29 (22.5%)	56 (43.4%)	37 (28.7%)	3.67	1.257	Strong Heterogeneity
2. Having clear property rights has empowered me to make long-term investments in my new home.	3 (2.3%)	25 (19.4%)	84 (65.1%)	17 (13.2)	3.67	1.009	Strong Heterogeneity
3. Property ownership rights have led to an improvement in my social status within the community.	9 (7%)	35 (27.1%)	0 (0%)	85 (65.9%)	4.45	1.046	Strong Heterogeneity
4. Since receiving property ownership, I have had more confidence in maintaining and improving my living conditions.	3 (2.3%)	0 (0%)	32 (24.8%)	94 (72.9%)	4.66	.713	Strong Heterogeneity
5. My access to resources has improved as a result of having formal property rights in the resettlement program.	24 (18.6%)	20 (15.5%)	47 (36.4%)	38 (29.5%)	3.43	1.509	Strong Heterogeneity
6. The lack of secure property rights would significantly hinder my ability to build a sustainable future in the resettled community.	11 (8.5%)	20 (15.5%)	86 (66.7%)	28 (21.7%)	3.90	1.052	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Keys: SD: Strongly Disagree coded 1; D: Disagree coded 2; NS: Not Sure coded 3; A: Agree coded 4 and SA: Strongly Agree coded 5. Stdv.: Standard Deviation. The means would be taken in three categories: [1.00-2.49] Weak mean; [2.50-3.49] Moderate mean and [3.50-5.00] Strong mean. For Standard Deviation that ≤ 0.05 is homogeneity standard deviation and the > 0.05 is heterogeneity standard deviation.

Table 1 show that formal property ownership has generally had a positive impact on resettled households in Gasabo District, enhancing financial stability, social status, and confidence in maintaining housing. Most respondents felt empowered to invest in their homes and futures, linking legal ownership with long-term stability and community inclusion. However, the data also reveal disparities in access to resources, with some respondents reporting limited benefits, highlighting the need for better implementation and support systems. Overall, property rights are vital to successful resettlement but must be backed by strong institutions and equitable policies.

Table 2: Compensation for Resettlement affected households

2. Compensation	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
The compensation provided to affected households was adequate to cover the losses incurred during resettlement.	5 (3.9%)	14 (10.9%)	103 (78.8%)	7 (5.4%)	3.72	.875	Strong Heterogeneity
The compensation process was transparent and clearly communicated to all beneficiaries.	2 (1.6%)	9 (7%)	71 (55%)	47 (36.4%)	4.18	.870	Strong Heterogeneity
The compensation helped improve the financial stability of my household after resettlement.	3 (2.3%)	0 (0%)	56 (43.4%)	70 (54.3%)	4.47	.730	Strong Heterogeneity
I am satisfied with the method and amount of compensation I received for my property.	18 (14%)	17 (13.2%)	10 (7.8%)	84 (65.1%)	3.97	1.566	Strong Heterogeneity

2. Compensation	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
The compensation package took into account the long-term needs of resettled individuals.	14 (10.9%)	22 (17.1%)	30 (23.3%)	63 (48.8%)	3.82	1.460	Strong Heterogeneity
The government's compensation program addressed the specific challenges faced by resettled communities.	0 (0%)	17 (13.2%)	67(51.9%)	45 (34.9%)	4.09	.936	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 2 highlights that while most resettled households in Gasabo District perceived the compensation process as adequate, transparent, and financially stabilizing, significant variations in satisfaction particularly regarding fairness and long-term adequacy—suggest ongoing challenges in equity and implementation. Though many respondents acknowledged the government's responsiveness and the compensation's role in restoring livelihoods, polarized views and high standard deviations underscore the need for more participatory, tailored, and context-sensitive approaches to ensure both short-term recovery and sustainable development.

Table 3: Housing Quality for Resettlement Affected households

3. Housing Quality	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. The quality of my new house has made it easier for my family to live comfortably and safely.	8 (6.2%)	11 (8.5%)	82 (63.6%)	28 (21.7%)	3.86	1.051	Strong Heterogeneity
2. Better housing quality has directly contributed to improved health and well-being in my household.	3 (2.3%)	0 (0%)	119 (92.2%)	7 (5.4%)	3.98	.515	Strong Heterogeneity
3. Since resettlement, the housing provided has met the basic needs of my family, including privacy, space, and safety.	7 (5.4%)	0 (0%)	42 (32.6%)	80 (62%)	4.51	.762	Strong Heterogeneity
4. The quality of housing has contributed to stronger social ties within the community, reducing conflicts.	8 (6.2%)	0 (0%)	51 (39.5%)	70 (54.3%)	4.36	.991	Strong Heterogeneity
5. My quality of life has improved as a result of the availability of durable and well-constructed housing.	4 (3.1%)	7 (5.4%)	17 (13.2%)	101 (78.3%)	4.58	.974	Strong Heterogeneity
6. I believe that poor housing quality would negatively impact the development of the resettled community.	8 (6.2%)	1 (0.8%)	88 (68.2%)	32 (24.8%)	4.05	.917	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 3 shows that improved housing quality has significantly enhanced the well-being, safety, and social integration of resettled households in Gasabo District, with most respondents reporting better health, comfort, and life satisfaction. The strong consensus, particularly on health benefits, underscores housing as a key driver of positive resettlement outcomes. However, some dissatisfaction regarding comfort and long-term suitability points to inconsistencies in quality and highlights the need for more adaptive housing standards. These findings align with broader research emphasizing that quality housing is essential not just for physical shelter, but as a foundation for public health, dignity, and sustainable development.

Table 4: Social Integration for Resettlement Affected Households

4. Social Integration	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. Since my resettlement, I feel accepted and integrated within my new community.	4 (3.1%)	8 (6.2%)	112 (86.8%)	5 (3.9%)	3.82	.734	Strong Heterogeneity
2. Social integration in the resettlement program has helped me build new relationships and strengthen community bonds.	3 (2.3%)	8 (6.2%)	116 (89.9%)	2 (1.6%)	3.82	.667	Strong Heterogeneity
3. Social support from neighbors has played an essential role in my adjustment to the new environment.	2 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	119 (92.2%)	8 (6.2%)	4.02	.450	Strong Homogeneity
4. The integration programs have made it easier for me to access local resources and services.	7 (5.4%)	7 (5.4%)	77 (59.7%)	38 (29.5%)	4.02	1.004	Strong Heterogeneity
5. I feel that social integration is crucial for improving the overall well-being of resettled individuals.	8 (6.2%)	0 (0%)	69 (53.5%)	52 (40.3%)	4.22	.960	Strong Heterogeneity
6. Social integration has helped me in gaining employment opportunities within the resettled area.	13 (10.1%)	3 (2.3%)	26 (20.2%)	87 (67.4%)	4.33	1.257	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 4 shows that social integration has been a key strength of the resettlement process in Gasabo District, with most respondents reporting high levels of acceptance and community support (mean scores above 3.8). Neighborly support emerged as a major facilitator

of adaptation, reinforcing the importance of informal social networks. However, responses varied more around access to services and employment, indicating that while many benefited, others faced challenges highlighting gaps in equity. Overall, the data suggests strong social cohesion but calls for targeted efforts to ensure all households share in these benefits equally.

Table 5: Infrastructures for Resettlement affected households

5. Infrastructures	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
The resettlement area has adequate infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, and water supply.	8 (6.2%)	3 (2.3%)	28 (21.7%)	90 (69.8%)	4.47	1.068	Strong Heterogeneity
The quality of infrastructure in the resettled area has improved my standard of living.	31 (24%)	28 (21.7%)	37 (28.7%)	33 (25.6%)	3.10	1.580	Strong Heterogeneity
I have reliable access to essential services (such as sanitation, electricity, and water) in my resettlement area.	20 (15.5%)	6 (4.7%)	80 (62%)	23 (17.8%)	3.62	1.276	Strong Heterogeneity
The government has made sufficient efforts to ensure the development of infrastructure in resettled communities.	5 (3.9%)	3 (2.3%)	110 (85.3%)	11 (8.5%)	3.92	.725	Strong Heterogeneity
There are no significant challenges related to infrastructure that hinder my daily activities in the resettlement area.	11 (8.5%)	14 (10.9%)	61 (47.3%)	43 (33.3%)	3.86	1.236	Strong Heterogeneity
The available infrastructure in the resettlement area meets the needs of my household and community.	12 (9.3%)	6 (4.7%)	49 (38%)	62 (48.1%)	4.11	1.226	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 5 shows that infrastructure development has been a key part of the resettlement process in Gasabo District, with 69.8% of respondents strongly agreeing and 21.7% agreeing that the area has adequate infrastructure (Mean = 4.47, Stdv. = 1.068). Similarly, 93.8% acknowledged strong government efforts in this area. However, only 54.3% felt infrastructure had improved their standard of living, while 45.7% disagreed, reflected in a lower mean of 3.10 and high variation (Stdv. = 1.580). Despite overall satisfaction with access to services (79.8%) and minimal hindrance to daily life (80.6%), the results highlight ongoing disparities in infrastructure quality and impact, suggesting a need for more consistent and inclusive improvements.

5.2 Community development level in Gasabo District, Rwanda.

Section 5.2 evaluates the community development level in Gasabo District, Rwanda, highlighting the impact of resettlement programs from 2018 to 2024. It examines key indicators such as the improvement in the standard of living, social cohesion, and economic empowerment, as well as access to essential services like education, healthcare, water, sanitation, and electricity. The assessment also explores the sustainability of livelihoods and employment opportunities, providing a comprehensive view of the social, economic, and infrastructural outcomes of resettlement. This analysis not only measures the successes of these interventions but also identifies ongoing challenges, offering guidance for future policy improvements in Rwanda's resettlement programs.

Table 6: Improved Standard of Living for Affected Households

1. Improved Standard of Living	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. My standard of living has significantly improved since my resettlement in Gasabo District.	20 (15.5%)	3 (2.3%)	17 (13.2%)	89 (69%)	4.18	1.471	Strong Heterogeneity
2. I am now able to afford a better quality of life, including better housing and access to services.	12 (9.3%)	3 (2.3%)	39 (30.2%)	75 (58.1%)	4.26	1.207	Strong Heterogeneity
3. The resettlement program has led to an improvement in my family's overall living conditions.	19 (14.7%)	23 (17.8%)	55 (42.6%)	32 (24.8%)	3.45	1.414	Strong Heterogeneity
4. My children now have access to better educational opportunities, which has improved our standard of living.	10 (7.8%)	13 (10.1%)	90 (69.8%)	16 (12.4%)	3.69	1.067	Strong Heterogeneity
5. Improved access to healthcare and education has contributed to better living standards for my family.	12 (9.3%)	3 (2.3%)	104 (80.6%)	10 (7.8%)	3.75	.977	Strong Heterogeneity
6. I feel that my overall well-being has enhanced since being resettled in Gasabo District.	17 (13.2%)	14 (10.9%)	29 (22.5%)	69 (53.5%)	3.92	1.472	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 6 shows that most resettled households in Gasabo District experienced improved living standards, with 69% strongly agreeing their conditions had significantly improved (Mean = 4.18), though a high standard deviation of 1.471 indicates varied experiences. About 58.1% reported increased ability to afford better housing and services, and 69.8% noted improved educational access for their children. Additionally, 80.6% agreed that better access to healthcare and education enhanced their quality of life. However, only 42.6%

felt overall family living conditions had improved, while 32.8% disagreed, highlighting persistent disparities and the need for more tailored post-resettlement support.

Table 7: Social Cohesion and Stability for Affected Households

2. Social Cohesion and Stability	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. The resettlement program has promoted social harmony and reduced tensions within the community.	16 (12.4%)	3 (2.3%)	52 (40.3%)	58 (45%0)	4.03	1.293	Strong Heterogeneity
2. The sense of unity in the resettled area has strengthened community relationships and cohesion.	9 (7%)	10 (7.8%)	17 (13.2%)	93 (72.1%)	4.36	1.242	Strong Heterogeneity
3. Social stability in my community has improved due to strong cooperation among neighbors.	10 (7.8%)	3 (2.3%)	88 (68.2%)	28 (21.7%)	3.94	1.006	Strong Heterogeneity
4. The social integration efforts in the resettlement program have fostered a peaceful environment.	11 (8.5%)	10 (7.8%)	105 (81.4%)	3 (2.3%)	3.61	.979	Strong Heterogeneity
5. I feel safer and more secure within my resettled community due to the supportive social structure.	5 (3.9%0)	13 (10.1%)	111 (86%)	0 (0%)	3.68	.810	Strong Heterogeneity
6. Social cohesion is one of the most important outcomes of the resettlement process in my area.	6 (4.7%)	3 (2.3%)	113 (87.6%)	7 (5.4%)	3.87	.744	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 7 shows that social cohesion and stability have improved for most resettled households in Gasabo District, with 85.3% agreeing the program promoted harmony and 72.1% strongly agreeing that community unity had strengthened. Additionally, 68.2% reported enhanced stability due to stronger neighborly cooperation, and 93% identified social cohesion as a key resettlement outcome. However, perceptions of peace and security were more mixed, with no households strongly agreeing they felt safer, indicating cautious optimism. These findings highlight notable progress in social integration while underscoring the need for ongoing, inclusive efforts to address remaining concerns.

Table 8: Economic Empowerment for Affected Households

3. Economic Empowerment	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. The resettlement program has provided me with the necessary tools to increase my economic independence.	7 (5.4%)	11 (8.5%)	79 (61.2%)	32 (24.8%)	3.91	1.039	Strong Heterogeneity
2. My economic empowerment has increased through better access to employment and local resources.	7 (5.4%0)	3 (2.3%)	77 (59.7%)	42 (32.6%)	4.12	.949	Strong Heterogeneity
3. Access to education and training provided in the resettlement program has enabled me to earn a stable income.	5 (3.9%)	4 (3.1%)	23 (17.8%)	97 (75.2%)	4.57	.950	Strong Heterogeneity
4. The availability of resources like land and basic services has enhanced my ability to generate income.	4 (3.1%)	0 (0%)	35 (27.1%)	90 (69.8%)	4.60	.785	Strong Heterogeneity
5. Economic empowerment through local job creation has helped my family achieve financial stability.	15 (11.6%)	17 (13.2%)	56 (43.4%)	41 (31.8%)	3.71	1.349	Strong Heterogeneity
6. I believe that my economic opportunities are now significantly better than before the resettlement program.	9 (7%)	8 (6.2%)	78 (60.5%)	34 (26.4%)	3.93	1.069	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 8 shows that economic empowerment has improved for many resettled households in Gasabo District, with 61.2% agreeing and 24.8% strongly agreeing that the program increased their economic independence. Access to jobs and local resources was positively viewed by 92.3% of respondents, while 75.2% strongly agreed that education and training opportunities helped them earn a stable income. Additionally, 69.8% strongly agreed that access to land and services supported income generation. However, responses on job creation were more mixed, with only 43.4% agreeing and 31.8% strongly agreeing, pointing to ongoing challenges. Overall, the data reflects meaningful progress but highlights the need for more inclusive and sustainable economic support.

Table 9: Access to Education and Healthcare for Affected Households

4. Access to Education and Healthcare	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. Since my resettlement, my children have had greater access to quality education.	0 (0%)	1 (0.8%)	118 (91.5%)	10 (7.8%)	4.06	.325	Strong Homogeneity
2. The resettlement program has improved my access to healthcare services, leading to better family health.	8 (6.2%)	11 (8.5%)	56 (43.4%)	54 (41.9%)	4.06	1.151	Strong Heterogeneity
3. Education and healthcare access have played a major role in improving my overall standard of living.	10 (7.8%)	1 (0.8%)	52 (40.3%)	66 (51.2%)	4.26	1.086	Strong Heterogeneity
4. I now have better healthcare coverage and services than before the resettlement.	9 (7%)	5 (3.9%)	0 (0%)	115 (89.1%)	4.60	1.148	Strong Heterogeneity
5. Educational programs provided through the resettlement have positively impacted my personal and family development.	6 (4.7%)	3 (2.3%)	28 (21.7%)	92 (71.3%)	4.53	.977	Strong Heterogeneity
6. The availability of schools and health centers has made it easier for my family to meet their basic needs.	7 (5.4%)	19 (14.7%)	73 (56.6%)	30 (23.3%)	3.78	1.127	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 9 shows that the resettlement program in Gasabo District significantly improved access to education and healthcare, with 91.5% of households agreeing that educational opportunities had increased (Mean = 4.06) and 85.3% reporting better healthcare services. Additionally, 89.1% affirmed improved healthcare coverage, and 71.3% acknowledged the role of education in personal and family development. However, access to schools and health centers showed more variation, with a lower mean score of 3.78, indicating gaps in service availability. Overall, while progress is clear, further efforts are needed to ensure all households benefit equally from these essential services.

Table 10: Sustainability of Livelihoods for Affected Households

5. Sustainability of Livelihoods	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. The resettlement program has provided the foundation for me to build a sustainable livelihood.	10 (7.8%)	18 (14%)	81 (62.8%)	20 (15.5%)	3.64	1.137	Strong Heterogeneity
2. My livelihood is more stable now, thanks to better access to employment and resources.	4 (3.1%)	0 (0%)	114 (88.4%)	11 (8.5%)	3.99	.606	Strong Heterogeneity
3. I am confident in the sustainability of my income and living conditions due to support from the resettlement program.	10 (7.8%)	14 (10.9%)	14 (10.9%)	91 (70.5%)	4.26	1.336	Strong Heterogeneity
4. The long-term success of my livelihood is supported by the resources and skills acquired through the resettlement program.	7 (5.4%)	0 (0%)	64 (49.6%)	58 (45%)	4.29	.929	Strong Heterogeneity
5. The resettlement program has empowered me to create a long-term sustainable future for my family.	8 (6.2%)	3 (2.3%)	18 (14%)	100 (77.5%)	4.54	1.068	Strong Heterogeneity
6. I believe that my livelihood will continue to improve due to the opportunities provided by resettlement.	15 (11.6%)	0 (0%)	55 (42.6%)	59 (45.7%)	4.11	1.226	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 10 shows that the resettlement program in Gasabo District has positively impacted livelihood sustainability, with 62.8% of households agreeing it laid a solid foundation and 88.4% affirming improved access to employment and resources (Mean = 3.99). Additionally, 70.5% strongly agreed that resettlement ensured long-term financial stability, and 77.5% felt empowered to build a sustainable future. While the overall sentiment is optimistic 88.3% believe their livelihoods will continue to improve the mean score of 3.64 and 14% disagreement indicate that some households still face challenges in achieving lasting economic security.

Table 11: Access to Basic Services (water, sanitation, electricity) for Affected Households

6. Access to Basic Services (water, sanitation, electricity)	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. The availability of clean water in my new resettlement area has significantly improved my daily living standards.	28 (21.7%)	11 (8.5%)	83 (64.3%)	7 (5.4%)	3.23	1.332	Strong Heterogeneity
2. Access to electricity has made a major difference in the quality of life for me and my family.	14 (10.9%)	0 (0%)	10 (7.8%)	105 (81.4%)	3.52	1.032	Strong Heterogeneity

6. Access to Basic Services (water, sanitation, electricity)	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
3. The provision of sanitation services in the resettlement area has enhanced my health and hygiene practices.	14 (10.9%)	0 (0%)	101 (78.3%)	14 (10.9%)	3.78	1.023	Strong Heterogeneity
4. The consistent supply of water and electricity has allowed me to save time that was previously spent on basic chores.	11 (8.5%)	7 (5.4%)	84 (65.1%)	27 (20.9%)	3.84	1.086	Strong Heterogeneity
5. My economic productivity has increased due to the availability of basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity.	11 (8.5%)	1 (0.8%)	66 (51.2%)	51 (39.5%)	4.12	1.090	Strong Heterogeneity
6. Without access to these basic services, my living conditions and economic activities would be significantly affected.	14 (10.9%)	12 (9.3%)	78 (60.5%)	25 (19.4%)	3.68	1.205	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 11 shows that access to basic services has significantly improved living conditions for resettled households in Gasabo District, with 64.3% agreeing that clean water enhanced daily life, 81.4% affirming electricity improved quality of life, and 78.3% recognizing better sanitation for health and hygiene. Additionally, 51.2% reported increased economic productivity due to these services. While overall responses were positive, some variation especially in water and sanitation access highlights ongoing gaps. These findings emphasize the critical role of utilities in supporting both well-being and economic stability, though continued improvements are needed to ensure equitable benefits.

Table 12: Employment Opportunities for Affected Households

7. Employment Opportunities	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. The resettlement program has provided ample employment opportunities for me and my family.	26 (20.2%)	10 (7.8%)	49 (38%)	44 (34.1%)	3.58	1.519	Strong Heterogeneity
2. I believe that the creation of local job opportunities in the resettlement area is essential for long-term community development.	14 (10.9%)	21 (16.3%)	73 (56.6%)	21 (16.3%)	3.51	1.251	Strong Heterogeneity
3. Having access to stable employment has positively impacted my economic status and self-reliance.	29 (22.5%)	20 (15.5%)	70 (54.3%)	10 (7.8%)	3.09	1.383	Strong Heterogeneity
4. Lack of employment opportunities in the resettlement area would prevent me from achieving financial independence.	26 (20.2%)	11 (8.5%)	72 (55.8%)	20 (15.5%)	3.38	1.393	Strong Heterogeneity
5. The local economy has improved since resettlement due to the availability of jobs and income-generating activities.	29 (22.5%)	15 (11.6%)	19 (14.7%)	66 (51.2%)	3.60	1.693	Strong Heterogeneity
6. Employment opportunities have contributed to a sense of dignity and self-worth in the resettled community.	22 (17.1%)	11 (8.5%)	83 (64.3%)	13 (10.1%)	3.42	1.285	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 12 reveals a mixed but generally positive view of employment opportunities through the resettlement program in Gasabo District. While 38% of households agreed and 34.1% strongly agreed that ample job opportunities were provided, 20.2% strongly disagreed and 7.8% disagreed, reflecting concerns over access to employment. The mean score of 3.58 and high standard deviation (1.519) suggest variability in experiences, with not all households benefiting equally. Although 54.3% felt stable employment improved their financial situation, 37.5% expressed dissatisfaction. The data indicates that while employment opportunities were important for many, disparities in job access and stability remain, limiting financial independence for some households.

5.3 Role of Policies in balancing resettlement programs and Community development.

The success of resettlement programs depends on effective government policies and local leadership. Key factors like housing, social integration, and access to services are crucial for long-term success. Strong community leadership and social networks further support integration, complementing government efforts. This section explores the role of government policies and leadership in balancing resettlement with community development.

Table 13: Government Support and Policy Implementation

1. Government Support and Policy Implementation	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. The government's policies have had a direct positive impact on the success of the resettlement program.	4 (3.1%)	14 (10.9%)	61 (47.3%)	50 (38.8%)	4.08	1.050	Strong Heterogeneity

1. Government Support and Policy Implementation	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
2. Government initiatives, such as housing provision and access to services, have made resettlement easier for my family.	10 (7.8%)	27 (20.9%)	77 (59.7%)	15 (11.6%)	3.47	1.173	Strong Heterogeneity
3. I believe that the government's support is crucial in ensuring the success of resettlement programs.	23 (17.8%)	8 (6.2%)	94 (72.9%)	4 (3.1%)	3.37	1.225	Strong Heterogeneity
4. The implementation of clear policies regarding property rights and social integration has enhanced the effectiveness of resettlement programs.	16 (12.4%)	4 (3.1%)	89 (69%)	20 (15.5%)	3.72	1.152	Strong Heterogeneity
5. Government intervention has facilitated improved access to education, healthcare, and employment for resettled individuals.	23 (17.8%)	11 (8.5%)	24 (18.6%)	71 (55%)	3.84	1.578	Strong Heterogeneity
6. The success of the resettlement program can be attributed to the effective policies and support from the government.	18 (14%)	0 (0%)	31 (24%)	80 (82%)	4.20	1.360	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 13 highlights the importance of government policies in the success of the resettlement program in Gasabo District, with a large majority of households acknowledging their positive impact. A significant 61 (47.3%) of households agreed, and 50 (38.8%) strongly agreed that government policies directly contributed to the success of the program, although some households expressed doubts. Government initiatives such as housing provision and access to services were also seen as helpful, though with more mixed responses, as shown by the moderate mean score of 3.47. Many households recognized the necessity of government support for the success of the resettlement program, with 94 (72.9%) agreeing on its importance, but some still felt less dependent on it. Policies related to property rights and social integration were particularly valued, as were government efforts to improve access to education, healthcare, and employment, although variability in the responses indicates differing experiences. Overall, the data underscores the crucial role of government intervention in facilitating resettlement success.

Table 14: Community Leadership and Social Networks

2. Community Leadership and Social Networks	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	Stdv.	Comments
1. Local community leaders have played a key role in ensuring the smooth integration of resettled families.	15 (11.6%)	0 (0%)	28 (21.7%)	86 (66.7%)	4.32	1.275	Strong Heterogeneity
2. Strong leadership within the community has contributed to the success of the resettlement program.	18 (14%)	21 (16.3%)	44 (34.1%)	46 (35.7%)	3.61	1.459	Strong Heterogeneity
3. My involvement in local social networks has enhanced my ability to integrate and thrive in the resettled community.	20 (15.5%)	19 (14.7%)	62 (48.1%)	28 (21.7%)	3.46	1.386	Strong Heterogeneity
4. Community leaders have helped mediate conflicts and ensure that resources are equitably distributed.	6 (4.7%)	12 (9.3%)	104 (80.6%)	7 (5.4%)	3.73	.882	Strong Heterogeneity
5. Social networks within the resettled community have provided essential support for accessing jobs and services.	3 (2.3%)	7 (5.4%)	74 (57.4%)	45 (34.9%)	4.17	.867	Strong Heterogeneity
6. I feel that community leadership is crucial for maintaining stability and promoting positive change in the resettled community.	15 (11.6%)	6 (4.7%)	41 (31.8%)	67 (51.9%)	4.08	1.326	Strong Heterogeneity

Source: Author (2025)

Table 14 highlights the significant role of community leadership in the successful integration of resettled households in Gasabo District. A large majority, 66.7%, strongly agreed that local leaders were crucial to the integration process, with a high mean score of 4.32. However, perceptions of leadership effectiveness varied, with a lower mean of 3.61 suggesting differing views on leadership's role in the resettlement's success. Social networks were also recognized as essential in supporting integration, particularly in accessing jobs and services. While most agreed that leadership helped manage conflicts and ensure fairness, the data indicated that some households did not fully benefit from these systems. The findings underscore that while community leadership and social networks are central to stability, more efforts are needed to strengthen support systems to ensure equitable benefits for all resettled households.

5.4 Relationship between resettlement program implementation and community development.

Relationship were analyzed using bivariate correlation analysis and linear regression analysis. This was made by using the response on closed ended questions from different statements asked in the questionnaire under each indicator in the conceptual framework. The mean was averaged and used for the both correlation analysis. Note that, the responses used are from households affected by resettlement programs in Gasabo District (129) assessed.

The effectiveness of a resettlement program in fostering community development can be better understood through the analysis of correlations between key resettlement program variables and various community development indicators. This section delves into the relationship between resettlement program implementation and community development, as well as the specific indicators tested to evaluate how they interact with each other. The tables presented below highlight these correlations and provide insights into the broader impact of resettlement programs on community outcomes, such as improved living standards, social stability, and economic opportunities.

Table 15: Correlations between resettlement programs and community development

		Correlations	
		Resettlement programs	Community development
Resettlement programs	Pearson Correlation	1	.274**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.002
	N	129	129
Community development	Pearson Correlation	.274**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	
	N	129	129

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Author (2025)

Table 15 illustrates the correlation between the overall resettlement program and community development. The Pearson correlation value of 0.274 with a significance level of 0.002 (2-tailed) indicates a statistically significant positive relationship between the two variables. This means that as the implementation of the resettlement program improves, community development tends to show a positive increase as well. The relatively moderate correlation suggests that while there is a connection, it is not overwhelmingly strong, implying that other factors, aside from the resettlement program itself, also contribute significantly to community development. This finding underscores the importance of a holistic approach in resettlement initiatives that incorporates both programmatic and community-driven efforts.

Table 16: Table of Coefficients

		Coefficients ^a				
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
	(Constant)	3.676	.493		7.463	.000
1	1. Property Ownership and Rights	-.023	.058	-.031	-.402	.688
	2. Compensation.	-.060	.051	-.094	-1.168	.245
	3. Housing quality.	-.113	.062	-.144	-1.829	.070
	4. Social Integration.	.087	.069	.101	1.259	.210
	5. Infrastructures	.182	.033	.442	5.436	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Community development

Source: Author (2025)

The Coefficients table shows the impact of each individual predictor on community development, both in terms of their unstandardized coefficients (B), standardized coefficients (Beta), and their statistical significance (p-value).

Property Ownership and Rights: The unstandardized coefficient of -0.023 suggests a very small negative relationship with community development, but with a p-value of 0.688, it is not statistically significant. This implies that property ownership does not have a meaningful or significant impact on community development when other factors are accounted for.

Compensation: The unstandardized coefficient of -0.060 also indicates a small negative effect on community development. With a p-value of 0.245, this predictor is not statistically significant, meaning that compensation alone does not strongly influence community development outcomes. **Housing Quality:** The unstandardized coefficient of -0.113 suggests a slight negative relationship with community development, but the p-value of 0.070 indicates that it is marginally significant. Although housing quality may have a small effect on community development, this result is not robust enough to be considered highly influential within the model.

Social Integration: The unstandardized coefficient of 0.087 indicates a small positive effect on community development, but with a p-value of 0.210, it is not statistically significant. Social integration may contribute to community cohesion and development, but it does not appear to be a strong predictor in this model. **Infrastructures:** The unstandardized coefficient of 0.182 reveals a positive relationship with community development. The p-value of 0.000 indicates that infrastructure is the most statistically significant predictor in the model. This finding suggests that improved infrastructure such as access to basic services, transportation, and utilities has a considerable and positive impact on community development.

The linear function derived from the coefficients table can be expressed as:

$$\text{Community Development} = 3.676 - 0.023 (\text{Property Ownership and Rights}) - 0.060 (\text{Compensation}) - 0.113 (\text{Housing Quality}) + 0.087 (\text{Social Integration}) + 0.182 (\text{Infrastructures})$$

shows that infrastructure has the strongest positive impact on community development, while property ownership, compensation, and housing quality have negative but non-significant impacts. Social integration, although positive, does not significantly contribute to overall development when other factors are considered.

The findings in Table 16 align with existing research on resettlement programs and community development, particularly emphasizing the crucial role of infrastructure. Improvements in access to water, sanitation, and electricity are consistently recognized as key factors in enhancing the quality of life for resettled communities, a conclusion supported by this study's results. In contrast, property ownership and compensation showed weaker or mixed relationships with community development, consistent with other studies suggesting that while compensation addresses immediate needs, it does not guarantee long-term improvements in livelihoods. Social integration also positively impacted community development, although its effects appeared less direct and statistically significant compared to infrastructure. The analysis of the correlation and regression results further confirms that resettlement programs have a moderate but statistically significant positive impact on community development, with infrastructure emerging as the most significant predictor. This supports the rejection of the null hypothesis and highlights the importance of multifaceted approaches in resettlement programs, where infrastructure development plays a key role in shaping sustainable community outcomes.

The findings from the correlation analysis of resettlement programs in Gasabo District align with existing literature, particularly highlighting the significant role of infrastructure in fostering community development. Similar to studies by Haque et al. (2023) and Thapa et al. (2023), the availability of infrastructure such as water, sanitation, and electricity showed the strongest positive correlation with community development indicators, especially access to education and healthcare. However, like Cernea (2024) and Godoy et al. (2016), the study found that while property ownership and compensation were important, their impacts on long-term community development were weaker and often non-significant. Social integration, although positively correlated with social cohesion and economic empowerment, had a more nuanced impact, reflecting findings by Biermann et al. (2015) that integration is crucial but does not always translate directly into sustainable livelihoods or access to services. These correlation results confirm the broader trend in resettlement studies that infrastructure improvements, coupled with strong community integration, are key drivers of successful and sustainable development outcomes.

5.5 Focus group discussion results

The findings from the focus group discussion align closely with the study's conclusions on the impact of resettlement programs on community development, particularly emphasizing the importance of property ownership and improved housing. Many resettled individuals reported that property ownership significantly enhanced their sense of security and financial stability, which in turn positively influenced their socio-economic status. Similarly, better housing was linked to stronger community ties and social cohesion, with improved relationships between neighbors contributing to a greater sense of belonging. Access to basic services, such as water, sanitation, and electricity, was also highlighted as a key factor in improving daily life, facilitating work, and reducing household expenses, all of which are essential elements for improving livelihoods and overall living standards. Additionally, access to education and healthcare services was seen as a critical factor in raising the quality of life, with district staff noting that such services directly benefitted families after resettling.

Employment opportunities also emerged as a crucial aspect of resettlement success, with local job availability helping individuals achieve financial stability and reduce dependency on aid. This aligns with the study's findings that local job creation is vital for sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment. The government's role in providing support for infrastructure, housing, and access to services was seen as important, though opinions were mixed, reflecting the study's indication that government interventions are crucial for the smooth implementation of resettlement programs. Furthermore, community leadership and local social networks were recognized as essential for ensuring integration, mediating conflicts, and ensuring resource distribution, further supporting the study's conclusion that strong community leadership and robust social networks are central to the success of resettlement efforts. Overall, the focus group discussions reinforce the study's findings, highlighting that property ownership, housing quality, access to services, employment opportunities, and community leadership collectively contribute to the socio-economic development of resettled households.

6. Concluding remarks

Based on the research findings and hypothesis testing, the study concludes that the resettlement programs implemented in Gasabo District have had a statistically significant positive impact on community development, thereby supporting the alternative hypothesis (H1) and rejecting the null hypothesis (H0). Both correlation ($r = 0.274$, $p = 0.002$) and regression analysis ($R^2 = 0.265$, $p < 0.001$) demonstrated that well-implemented resettlement strategies particularly those emphasizing infrastructure and social integration have contributed to improvements in standard of living, access to services, and social cohesion among affected households. Although not all variables (e.g., housing quality or compensation) had strong predictive power individually, the overall evidence suggests that integrated, well-coordinated government efforts are key to ensuring the long-term success of resettlement initiatives and the sustainable development of host communities.

7. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, which assessed the implementation and outcomes of resettlement programs in Gasabo District, the following recommendations are made. The suggestions are informed by empirical evidence indicating both strengths and gaps in areas such as infrastructure development, social integration, housing quality, and access to services and employment.

7.1 To the Settlement Institutions in Charge

Resettlement institutions should strengthen policy frameworks that emphasize the integration of infrastructure, employment creation, and basic services as core components of resettlement. This recommendation is prompted by the finding that infrastructure had the most significant influence on community development, as confirmed by both quantitative (regression $R^2 = 0.265$) and qualitative data. Greater attention should also be paid to improving housing quality, securing property rights, and ensuring that compensation is fair and timely, as these were identified as weakly influential but critical to long-term sustainability.

7.2 To Local Authorities

Local government officials should take a more proactive role in facilitating community leadership and local employment initiatives. This stems from the study's finding that strong social networks and local leadership significantly contributed to social cohesion and improved access to services. Strengthening social integration programs and consistently monitoring access to education, healthcare, and utilities will help foster inclusive development. Coordination with civil society and local leaders is essential for equitable and sustainable progress.

7.3 To the Resettled Community

Members of the resettled communities are encouraged to participate actively in local governance and community-based initiatives. The study found that participation in local leadership structures positively influenced social integration and access to services. Community members should also utilize education and vocational training opportunities to enhance skills and improve their livelihood resilience, thereby reducing dependency on government or donor support.

8. Suggestions for Future Research

The suggestions below are proposed based on limitations encountered in this study and the need to build on its findings for broader and more inclusive understanding of resettlement impacts: Future studies should explore comparative analyses across multiple districts or regions to assess how contextual differences affect the outcomes of resettlement programs. This study focused solely on Gasabo District, which limits generalizability. Comparative research can help identify replicable best practices and contextual challenges.

Additionally, future research should incorporate environmental and gender-sensitive dimensions, as these are often underexplored in traditional assessments. Resettlement programs may have differing impacts on women, children, and vulnerable groups, and integrating intersectional approaches will provide a more comprehensive understanding of long-term development outcomes. Lastly, long-term longitudinal and qualitative studies are recommended to capture the evolving nature of resettlement impacts, especially in areas such as livelihood restoration, psychological well-being, and generational integration.

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