The Role of Communication in Large Infrastructure: The Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone

(Abstract)

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The past decade has witnessed a major shift in the development paradigm, where the increased democratization of the development process is reflected in higher public expectations for participation, transparency, and accountability. In this changing context, the role of communication planning in development projects has significantly broadened. While ensuring that key messages about project design and impacts are widely disseminated and clearly understood remains an important aim, other factors such as building trust, facilitating dialog among all stakeholders, and assessing social and political risks and benefits have come to the forefront in communication processes for development projects. This shift in emphasis is important in today's context to promote more inclusive and informed decisionmaking on the development and management of large infrastructure projects, such as dams. These projects are inherently sensitive and require special attention to the political, social, environmental, and wider development challenges that are linked to successful planning and implementation.

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