Corporate Responsibility in Peace building, Conflict Prevention and Development: The Role of the Mining Sector in Ghana

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Corporate Responsibility in Peace building, Conflict Prevention and Development: The Role of the Mining Sector in Ghana

Cover Page Footnote
First, I am most grateful to Kenneth S. Aikins (Ph.D.), Institute for Development, University of Cape Coast for grooming me, especially in the skill of writing. Secondly, I thank Mr. Samuel Ahadjigah of Accra Teacher Training College and Miss Mandy Forson for proofreading this article for me.

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Abstract

This article seeks to explore the role of the mining sector in peace building, conflict prevention and community development in Ghana. After thoroughly reviewing secondary data, including articles, books, journals, newspapers, etc., via critical document review and qualitative research approaches the research found that, there is no legal document on CSR in Ghana, yet mining companies in a free will, have executed CSR programs laying down for peace, security and development in the country. More so, this article provides a theoretical support for the Integrative theory of CSR on the basis that, the socio-economic, political, cultural and environmental needs of communities should be integrated into a corporate business objective for peace and security. Therefore, the article provides information on the need for a holistic and collaborative approach between civil society groups and government agencies in Ghana to work out for a comprehensive CSR policy backed by law.

Keywords

Corporate Social Responsibility, Conflict Prevention, Mining, Peace building, Ghana
Introduction

Corporate Social Responsibly (CSR) Programs are being used in recent times by a number of multinational corporations, especially, large-scale mining companies to respond to some of the negative effects expiring from their activities. Some of these effects include water and air pollution, livelihood destruction, land degradation, community displacement, etc., (Micklethwait & Wooldridge, 2005). According to McBarnet (2009), large companies, including mines have moved beyond the era of acting voluntarily to the regime of responding to the effects of their activities through social service provisions. In the past, companies only supported communities as it deems fit and on a free will without any legal obligation or expectation. However, in contemporary times, some countries have documented legal frameworks expecting corporations to be socially responsible. Developed countries for instance, have well-established legal documents and standard policies which specify the roles corporate bodies have to play for the welfare of society. In Ghana however, not even a single official document for CSR is available (Afrane & Adjei-Poku, 2013). In similar vein, Anku-Tsede and Deffor (2014) add that even though at the global level there is a proliferation of initiatives to promote CSR, there is no single comprehensive or readily available document on CSR in Ghana. Notwithstanding this challenge, the large-scale companies in Ghana specifically, the mining companies have not taken the advantage of the absence of legal frameworks on CSR. Instead, they have undertaken numerous CSR initiatives that have enhanced peace building, ensured conflict prevention and promoted community development in the country. According to the Ghana Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (GEITI) (2015), mining companies committed US$26 million to sustainable community development projects in various communities in Ghana in the year 2012 only.
Specifically, Chirano Gold Mine at Bibiani provided US$ 5.5 million for a four-year malaria control Program to help curb the disease in its operational area. The company also transmitted electricity to the Tarkwa-Benso community and again, renovated feeder roads for the people of Akyempim community (GEITI, 2015). In addition, the Ghana Manganese Companies Limited contributed US$200,000 in educational development at the University of Mines in Tarkwa, (UmaT). Apart from that, Sandvic Mining Company spent US$590,000 for the training of technicians at the University of Mines and spent over US$62,000 between 2009 and 2011 to renovate the dormitory block of the Tarkwa Midwifery Training School (GEITI, 2015). Similarly, Newmont Gold Mining Company in the first quarter of 2013 distributed 1,250 solar lamps at the cost of US$ 25,000 to basic school children living around their water storage facility and resettlement communities in the Asutifi north district of the Brong Ahafo Region. Gold Fields Ghana also constructed boreholes in communities that fall in its catchment area so they can access potable water as well as good health. To date, Gold Fields Ghana has invested US$20 million in various developmental projects in its host communities (GEITI, 2015).

In the area of peace building and conflict prevention, mining companies in Ghana have provided infrastructural development, including building police stations, erecting military and police checkpoints and providing security logistics, such as police/military patrol vehicles, fuel and other security gadgets in conflict prone areas with the aim of helping to build peace and promote community development (Graphic Online, 2013). Specifically, when the violent conflict erupted in 1996 between illegal miners and the local security forces in Obuasi, resulting in US$1 million damage, it took the intervention of Ashanti Goldfields Company (AGC) to ensure that the conflict did not escalate to other communities. Thus, AGC provided vehicles and gallons of fuel for the police and the military task force to keep peace in other sensitive communities that could
have been involved in the conflict (Hilson, 2002). In addition, Hilson (2002) reiterates that AGC has built a police station in Obuasi and made a concerted effort to improve security in some conflict prone communities, including Bibiani located slightly west of Obuasi, thereby supporting the police force from Kumasi to patrol the area at night. More so, Abosso Goldfields Limited (AGL) as part of its commitments to peace building and conflict prevention via CSR organised aggrieved illegal community miners and awarded parts of its unused concessions to them to mine (Hilson, 2002). This effort created a peaceful atmosphere in the community, especially between the illegal and the large-scale miners. This is why it is argued that in attempts to improve community resistance and prevent resource-based conflicts, companies are increasingly adopting CSR and sustainable community development as the cornerstone of peace building and community development (Schaefer, 2004). Therefore, companies will experience lower levels of community conflict (Jenkins, 2004) and increase peace building and reputation as a ‘good’ corporate citizen if CSR is persistently executed in a country mostly in the mining areas (Anderson and Bieniaszewska, 2005).

Despite these efforts by the mining companies, very little information is available on the role of corporations in peace building and conflict prevention. Although little research had been conducted on CSR in Ghana, [e.g. Atuguba and Dowuona-Hammond (2006); Ofori and Hinson, (2007); Afrane and Adjei-Poku, (2013); Anku-Tsede and Deffor, (2014)], none looked at the role of companies in conflict prevention and peace building, hence making this study a pioneering one. This article therefore seeks to explore further the role companies, particularly the mining sector in peace building, conflict prevention and community development in Ghana. It is subsequently divided into five sections. Section one reviews literature related to the subject matter; section two
focuses on the theoretical framework; section three examines the mining sector in Ghana; section four looks at CSR in Ghana; and the final part recesses on the conclusion and recommendations.

**Literature Review**

**Conceptualizing Corporate Social Responsibility**

The term ‘corporate social responsibility’ is used interchangeably with other terminologies, including corporate responsibility, corporate citizenship, social enterprise, sustainable development, corporate ethnics, triple-bottom line, and corporate governance. Wang (2015) adds corporate philanthropy, responsible business, and corporate social opportunity in the terminologies. The terms corporations, businesses, firms, enterprises and companies are used interchangeably in this article. In recent past, CSR has become an important concept in the study by researchers, scholars and industrialists. In spite of the global attention, there is still no agreed definition of CSR. This raises the question as to what exactly can be considered corporate social responsibility (Carroll, 1999; Van Marrewijk, 2003; Growther & Aras, 2009). Following this question, several scholars and agencies have attempted to define it in diverse ways. The first definition of CSR is by Bowen. He defined it as the social obligation of corporations (Bowen, 1953). Ismail (2009) also defines CSR as strategies corporations or firms put in place in conducting their business in a way that is ethical and society friendly. Ismail (2009) reiterates that, these strategies involve a range of activities such as working in partnership with local communities, providing socially sensitive investments, developing relationships with employees, customers and their families as well as involvement in activities that promote environmental conservation and sustainable livelihood development. Another school of thought defines it as a strategic decision of an organization to voluntarily act upon the social factors that have the potential of militating
against the fulfilment of corporate goals (Amponsah-Tawiah & Dartey-Baah, 2012). In addition, Kotler and Lee defined “Corporate social responsibility as a commitment to improve community well-being through discretionary business and contributions of corporate resources” (Kotler & Lee, 2005:3). The focus in this definition lays in the fact that, discretion and voluntariness of corporations should be directed towards community development. The Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) on the other hand defined CSR as a process where corporations operate in a manner that meets or exceeds ethical, legal, commercial and public expectations that society has of business (Zadek, 2001).

In a similar vein, CSR is defined to mean holding corporations accountable for any of its actions that affect people, their communities and their environment (Post, Lawrence & Weber, 2002). Mac and Calis (2011) also add to the argument that CSR is a practice of focusing on the environment, education, culture art, donations and sponsorship by companies. The World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD) in their effort has defined CSR as “The continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large” (WBCSD, 2000:8). The WBCSD understanding of quality of life as captured in its CSR definition entails peaceful coexistence, social order, security and development. This is because without peace there cannot be quality of life. The reason why there are numerous definitions and yet there is still no universally accepted one on CSR is that, the concept is an evolving one, which continues to develop over time (Hamann, 2003). However, the definition of CSR by the European Union (EU) has received the greatest attention. Thus, the EU defined CSR as a concept where companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders (EU Commission, 2001). The underlying
assumption in this definition is that, the social concerns include conflict prevention, peace building and security enhancement. Therefore, the EU’s definition of CSR is the basis for this article.

**Concept of Conflict**

Conflict is inevitable in human existence and a necessary part of human life (Bukari, 2011). Conflict is also a characteristic of human endeavor that cannot be prevented completely, but can be managed or transformed. According to Kendie (2010), conflict cannot be avoided in social life, but it can only be contained. Conflict might be at the class level, local government level, state or even international level. Conflict usually occurs primarily because of a clash of interest in the relationship between parties, groups or states, either because they are pursuing opposing or incompatible goals (Oyeniyi, 2011). Usually, conflict is assumed to be present when two or more parties, perceiving their interest as incompatible, express hostile attitudes or pursue their interest through actions that damage the other party’s. Conflict is presumed to have occurred when individuals fail to live according to their values, or when their values are threatened (Kendie, 2010). In addition, Bujra (2002) notes that, any attempt to conceptualise conflict should place emphasis on disagreement between a wider aggregate of society as well as the incidence of violence and injury. Awedoba (2009:5) adds that conflict is “A relationship between two or more parties that centre on difference, disagreements, incompatibilities and clash of wills”. Avruch (1998) also adds that conflict between two or more parties are not static, time-bound events rather, it is an ongoing process that varies in intensity, scope, and duration. With this definition, Avruch explicitly bridges the gap between the two approaches to understanding conflict: one based on the idea of scarcity (Coser, 1956), and the other related to perception or belief (Pruitt & Rubin 1985), and seeing conflict from such a perspective reveals the process nature of the conflict (Rice, 2000).
Additionally, Coser (1956) defines conflict as a struggle over values or claims to status, power and scarce resources in which the aims of the conflicting parties are not only to gain the desired values, but also to neutralize injury or eliminate their rivals. Therefore, one of the major causative agents of conflict is natural resources. According to Kendie and Tuffour (2014), natural resource based conflicts are the misunderstanding in the utilization and ownership of resources which could be state, private, or communal owned or even an open access. Thus, the availability, utilization, and management of natural resource have the potency of triggering or prolonging conflicts. As Ross (2004) rightly puts, natural resource wealth is associated with longer wars. In addition, Fearon (2004) argues that countries that are rich in resources such as opium, diamonds, or cocoa tend to experience longer civil wars. Ballantine (2003) also notes that civil wars are prolonged in a selection of resource rich developing countries. A typical example is the oil and gas conflict in the Niger Delta state of Nigeria. More so, the Sierra Leone war had a part to blame on the diamond. The same can be said of Angola, Chad, Niger, Republic of Congo and Liberia, where natural resource based conflicts killed millions of people and several properties destroyed (Humphreys, 2005). It is against these backdrops that multinational companies in recent times have intensified their CSR dedication towards peace building, conflict prevention and development in resource-endowed countries.

**Peace Building**

The term ‘Peace building’ first emerged in the 1970s through the work of Johan Galtung who called for the creation of peace building structures to promote sustainable peace by addressing the ‘root causes’ of violent conflict, and supporting indigenous capacities for peace management and conflict resolution (Galtung, 1996). Since then, peace building has covered a multidimensional exercise and tasks ranging from the disarming of warring factions to the rebuilding of political,
economic, judicial and civil society institutions. Peace building became a familiar concept within the United Nations following the Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali’s 1992 report, *An Agenda for Peace*, which defined peace building as an action to solidify peace and avoid relapse into conflict (Boutros-Ghali, 1992). Over time, scholars and institutions have elaborated on the definition of peace building provided by Boutros-Ghali and have attempted to come out with diverse opinions on peace building. Therefore, the concept of peace building has different definitions by several departments, institutions, schools, agencies and scholars (Issifu, 2015). For example, Call and Cousens (2007), have defined peace building as those actions undertaken by international or national actors to institutionalise peace, understood as the absence of armed conflict (negative peace) and a modicum of participatory politics (as a component of positive peace) that can be sustained in the absence of an international peace operation. Similarly, Porter (2007) defined peace building to involve all processes that build positive relationships, heal wounds, reconcile antagonistic differences, restore esteem, respect rights, meet basic needs, enhance equality, instil feelings of security, empower moral agency and are democratic, inclusive and just. As a follow up, peace psychologists have described peace building in terms of resolution, being proactive, problem solving, meeting human needs, and ending oppression and inequality (Christie, 1997; Wessells, 1992; Abu-Saba, 1999). However, in the context of this article, I define peace building as the holistic process of ensuring sustainable peace, involving both formal and informal mechanisms in addressing the structural causes of violence during a peace making process without undermining the role of the business environment.

In contemporary times, multinational corporations, including large-scale mining companies are increasingly playing diverse roles in peace building. According to Banfield, Gündüz and Killick (2003), companies play a significant role in promoting peace and preventing conflicts
through the implementation of CSR. A research conducted on corporations and conflict revealed that a variety of factors explain why in recent times companies engage communities in their CSR. Among the reasons include the fact that CSR helps to ensure good corporate governance capable of enhancing peace and development (Wolf & Schwindenhammer, 2011). Additionally, society’s expectation of companies has moved beyond just the provision of infrastructure to include environmental protection, peace building and security (Rieper, 2013). Contributions of companies in peace building and security are numerous. Firstly, companies contribute to peace building and conflict prevention in the dimension of political order. That is, in promoting peace building via political order, companies support the rule of law, human rights and transparency initiatives in societies recovering from war (Rieth & Zimmer, 2004). For instance, Christian Aid (2004) has acknowledged the fact that industries, organizations, trade unions, Non-governmental Organisation (NGOs) and multinational companies, including large-scale mining companies use CSR as a focal point to protest for the protection of human rights and peace. Secondly, companies contribute to peace building in the dimension of socio-economic development. According to Deitelhoff and Wolf (2010), companies contribute to peace building and security through the transformation of the economies of war-shattered countries by fighting against poverty and social division through social interventions.

Thirdly, companies contribute to peace building and security in the area of socio-cultural dimension. Thus, companies address the socio-psychological grievances of parties to conflicts or promote a culture of peace through an independent media, reconciliation or peace education. In addition, companies promote the culture of peace and harmony, thereby executing sensitization and awareness creation Programs on peace, security and development (Feel, 2012). It is also evident that companies have engaged communities in the peace making process in terms of
sustainable peace policy dialogue and peace advocacies in countries emerging from war (International Alert, 2005). More so, conflict prevention has been possible in some conflict prone areas, through active participation in peace dialogue initiatives instigated by companies across conflict divides (Banfield et al, 2003). For instance, in South Africa large companies through CSR engaged warring parties in relationship-building Programs, thereby providing technical, logistical and administrative supports in the peace process during the apartheid (International Alert, 2005).

It is against these efforts that the International Alert (2005) reiterates that, designing and implementing CSR is not only about providing physical development, but also about contributing to peace building, conflict resolution and security through anti-corruption measures, peace campaigns and ethical supply chains. In sum, companies that deal in natural resource business, such as mining companies play significant roles that lead to the success of peace building and conflict prevention initiatives (Doyle & Sambanis, 2000).

**The Role of CSR in Community Development: Global Perspective**

Community Development (CD) is an important mechanism for tackling social needs and hardship that people in urban slums and specifically people in rural communities face. More importantly, CD cannot be achieved without the active participation or involvement of the people concerned; taking into consideration their beliefs, norms and indigenous knowledge. In achieving CD, the beliefs and practices of the local people themselves play an important role in overcoming poverty (Bonye, Aasoglenang & Owusu-Sekyere, 2013). According to Camfens CD is “Viewed as a means for mobilizing communities to join states or institutional initiatives that are aimed at alleviating poverty, solving social problems, strengthening families, fostering democracy and achieving modernization and socio-economic development” (Camfens, 1997: 25). Swanepoel and De Beer (2006) affirms that CD is primarily directed at alleviating poverty. People living in
poverty have basic needs that have to be met, and one important sector whose activities have come
to promote CD includes multinational companies, particularly mining companies (Camfens, 1997). Their contributions include ensuring peace and development, promoting capacity building and improving resource flows. For instance, a foundation set up by Newmont Mining Company, provides community development projects in the towns surrounding the company’s mines in Peru and Bolivia (Gutierrez & Jones, 2005). In addition, Minera Yanacocha, a mining company in South America, jointly owned by Newmont has set up two departments to promote community development. These departments have helped to execute the installation of potable water systems in eleven communities; installed sanitary latrines for 485 families, installed a sewer system in the community, constructed twenty-seven classrooms in fourteen schools, and provided electric energy supply service to over 800 families in South Africa (Yanacocha, 2004).

**Theoretical Framework**

**Shareholder Theory**

According to the Shareholder theory, CSR should be voluntary on the part of corporations. Simply, the aim of a business is only to make profit and to promote interest of its stakeholders. These theorists believe that, the concept of CSR is a total distraction toward profit maximization. Key among these theorists includes Milton Friedman. Friedman (1970) thinks that the sole responsibility of companies is to maximize profit. Friedman reiterates that apart from corporations maximizing profits and promoting the interests of few internal shareholders, the external welfare of the larger society is less important. Hence, the performance indicator of a company is solely based on higher profit maximization. Apart from Friedman, several other scholars have also opposed the practice of CSR. Some add that, the practice is not just an additional cost of a
company’s growth, but also a waste of resources (Jensen, 2002; Idemudia, 2007). For instance, Idemudia (2007) has argued that some critics of CSR are of the view that the practice is simply a total cost and have the potency of negatively affecting a company’s profit maximization.

In similar vein, Garriga and Mele (2004) have argued that critics of CSR, including the Instrumentalists suggest that, companies should be viewed as the instrument for wealth creation and not for social protection. Therefore, companies should not invest in things that do not bring back profit to the company. Unfortunately, such critics look at one side of the issue; what will bring benefits to the company alone without considering the environmental and social challenges created by the company (Mensah, 2009).

**Integrative Theory**

Contrary to the criticisms of the shareholder theory, the Integrative theory and some scholars have opposed the shareholder theory (Simon, Powers & Gunneman, 1972; Swanson, 1995; Mitchell, Agle & Wood, 1997; Wood & Lodgson, 2002; Secchi, 2007). Ismail (2009) for instance, has explained further on the Garriga and Mele (2004) Integrative theory to counter the shareholder theory. Ismail (2009) emphasizes that unlike the Shareholder theory, the Integrative theory recognizes the fact that, sometimes the activities of corporations have a negative impact on the environment and thus, on the social lives of the people in that environment. Therefore, integrating the socio-economic, cultural and political needs of these affected communities into a company’s objective is a way of responding to the needs of the society (Garriga & Mele, 2004). Significantly, the Integrative theory believes that, CSR should be integrated into corporate policies, aimed at fulfilling the social and political needs of the society.
Hence, social responsibility according to the Integrative theory is that companies recognize and appreciate the needs of society and thus, taking measures to improve their social wellbeing (Ismail, 2009). In addition, the Integrative theory has based its arguments on the fact that, businesses have responsibilities towards societal wellbeing, including responding to the social concerns of the broader society in which they operate (Utting, 2005). The social concerns should include conflict prevention, peace building and human and food security. Hence, integrating the needs of affected communities into the policies of businesses is essential for peace, security and community development. This is among the several reasons why in recent times, companies are providing CSR to communities (Afrane & Adjei-Poku, 2013).

**Research Methodology**

The methodology I used to conduct the research in this article was a qualitative research approach. The approach helped me to understand quality issues, including the role of CSR in peace building, conflict prevention and the effort of CSR in community development. In addition, the approach aided me to analyse relevant theories of CSR, including the Shareholder and the Integrative theories. More so, data for this article was drawn from secondary sources, that is, textbooks, journals, articles, reviewed theses, magazines, and reports from mining companies as well as news articles. Essentially, the researcher relied largely on internet publications that have become the easiest way of gathering data in recent times. However, shortcomings of relying heavily on the internet include crafting searches and questions that will return the most relevant information. Therefore, the relevant data obtained were thoroughly examined via critical document reviews. In addition, the document review approach helped the researcher to examine key issues related to the study, including mining in Ghana. Finally, data for this article was collected from 24th April to 20th October 2015.
Gold Mining in Ghana

Ghana has a long history of gold mining. Gold was thus, mined and traded by Ghanaians long before the advent of Colonialism or encounter with the first Europeans in 1471. The gold mining sector in Ghana dates back to at least, the 15th century when the Europeans, beginning with the Portuguese and followed by the Dutch and the English was first drawn to the territory they called the “Gold Coast” (Armstrong, 2008). The industry at the time was on a small-scale. However, the gold mining industry became more vibrant and very lucrative after the British had relegated Ghanaian gold investors during the pre-independence periods. The interference by the British and other foreign gold investors enabled Ghana account for 35% of the total world gold output between the years 1493 and 1600. Nevertheless, the post-independence era saw a few Ghanaian gold investors once again given the opportunity to participate in the gold mining business with the state owning the largest shares (Osei-Bagyina, 2012). However, the Ghanaian government involvement in the mining sector was not the best in terms of revenue generation and foreign direct investment. This was due to mismanagement, corruption and inadequate skilled labour in the industry. Thus, the period up to 1986 was generally characterised by severe revenue stagnation in the mining industry in Ghana emanating from mismanagement and the lack of skilled labour (Akabzaa & Darimani, 2001).

Notwithstanding these challenges, privatization of the gold mining sector, influence from World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) thru the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) played a key role in the growth of Ghana’s mining sector. There was a paradigm shift from an interventionist stance, where the state was allowed to micro-manage the economy, towards a neo-liberal position which allowed the market to allocate resources and the private sector dominating the economy (Aubynn, 2003). Other developments included the fact that there was an
upsurge in the number of new mines and exploration companies in the sector (Akabzaa & Darimani, 2001). In addition, the industry attracted a significant number of sector support companies such as catering and transport companies, explosive manufacturers, mineral assay laboratories, etc. Aside that, the reform reflected positively, especially in the mineral output and gross value of minerals won; with gold output increasing more than four times between the years 1990 and 2002 (Akabzaa, Seyire & Afriyie, 2007). In sum, the Minerals and Mining Law Act 703, 2006 is the current mineral law in Ghana.

**Corporate Social Responsibility in Ghana**

Corporations are important drivers in the political, economic, social and cultural development of every country. Aside the key aim of maximising profits by way of providing goods and services, they are also a source of livelihood for many people. They pay taxes to government, create an enabling environment for the government to operate, and ensure physical, social and environmental development (Atuguba & Dowuona-Hammond, 2006). In Ghana, manufacturing and financial companies (Valco, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, Tobinco Pharmaceuticals, Tecno Mobile, Agricultural Development Bank, Barclays Bank, etc.); Telecommunication and media companies (MTN, Tigo, Vodaphone, Airtel, Multimedia, Despite Group of Companies, etc.); and mining companies (Newmont Ghana, Goldfields, Golden Star, AngloGold, etc.) have been instrumental in the socio-political and cultural development of the country (Amponsah-Tawiah & Dartey-Baah, 2013). However, this article limits its scope to the role of the mining sector thru CSR in peace building, conflict prevention and community development in Ghana.
Role of the Mining Sector in Peace Building, Conflict Prevention and Community Development in Ghana

The mining industry in Ghana has had a positive impact in community development through the provision of support for the protection of the cultural heritage and the provision of education, employment and other livelihood Programs (Amponsah-Tawiah & Dartey-Baah, 2013). Essentially, large-scale companies are using CSR as a tool for enacting global processes at the micro level. Some of the global actions at the local level by the large companies include creating, sustaining and re-enforcing the local-international linkages critical for ongoing globalisation effort (Garvin et al, 2009). For instance, CSR activities at the micro level create global processes by providing infrastructure (electricity, roads, schools, hospitals) vital for linking communities with the outside world. For example, Newmont gold mining company has undertaken community development initiatives, thereby enhancing the capabilities of 2000 households in health, nutrition and education in its Ahafo mine in Ghana (Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd, 2005). In addition, in the area of rural educational development, Newmont has supported 1508 students from the Ahafo area through its scholarship scheme in various senior high schools and tertiary institutions across the country and overseas with the aim of strengthening the peaceful relationship between the company and the community (Adam, 2012). Additionally, Newmont Ahafo Development Foundation (NADeF) has supported communities where it operates, especially, it has spent GH¢1.2 million in the construction of schools and other development projects at Kenyasi Number one (Baah, 2014).

In similar vein, the Golden Star Bogoso-Prestea Mining Company is being commended for adopting community-centred policies and establishing friendly relationships between staff of the company, chiefs and local people within its catchment area. The company, through CSR initiatives has completed a fence wall around the Prestea Scott Stadium, offered scholarship to 55 brilliant
but needy students within a year, offered alternative livelihood Programs, and trained about 50 people (Ghana News Agency, 2010). Nevertheless, mining companies in Ghana do not only focus on development at the local level, but also play a key role at the macro level. For instance, Goldfield Ghana Limited continues to be a major sponsor of Ghana’s senior national team, the Black Stars. Besides, a consortium of mining companies in Ghana, including Newmont, Goldfields, Golden Star Resource and AngloGold Ashanti offered to build a plant at Tema at a cost of 40 million dollars to supply 80 megawatts of power to supplement the country’s energy generation efforts (Ghana Chamber of Mines, 2006).

Generally, large-scale companies have played and continues to play pivotal roles in peace building, conflict prevention and security in Ghana. For instance, Zoomlion Ghana Limited and the Jospong Group of Companies provided an elevator worth of $60,000 for the five-storey administration block of the Ghana Police Service Headquarters in Accra. According to the director of administration of Zoomlion Ghana, the provision of the elevator formed part of the company’s corporate social responsibility in security development. He stated that his company was committed to collaborating with the security services to enhance peace and security in areas where most security interventions are needed (Graphic Online, 2013). Specifically, a number of mining companies in Ghana have also embarked on numerous social interventions aimed at maintaining peace, preventing conflict and promoting both human and food security. For example, four mining companies in the Prestea Huni/Valley district, namely the Golden Star Resources (GSR), AEL Mining Services, Rockshure International, Erdmac Mining Services and Karibiana Pools have constructed a GHS 40,000 police checkpoint, constituting a charge office, two rest rooms, washrooms, electricity and mechanized borehole at Tintimhwe. The aim of the facility is to
enhance peace and security in the surrounding conflict prone areas, and to curb the increasing armed robbery cases in the Tarkwa-Bogoso road (All Ghana News, 2014).

Additionally, Newmont Ahafo mine continues to support the Ghana Police Service in the Asutifi district with logistics to maintain peace and enhance security in the area. For example, Newmont handed over a 140,000-dollar transit quarters to the district police command at Kenyasi number one. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ofosu Mensah-Gyeabour, commended Newmont for their support in crime prevention, conflict prevention and security development. The Commander said that the government of Ghana could not achieve its development goals in an atmosphere of chaos and lawlessness, and investors will not commit their huge capital resources in a country plagued with violence and other forms of criminality and so therefore, Newmont’s support was essential (Asutifi District Assembly, 2009). In addition, Newmont provided 60 litres of fuel each to the Kenyasi and Duayaw Nkwanta police stations per week, following the donation of Toyota Hilux pick-ups as well as the provision of accommodation to the some police and military personnel to enhance effective policing in the area (Asutifi District Assembly, 2009).

Furthermore, apart from the human security development, mining companies support food security and agricultural production. For instance, Newmont Akyem Mine continues to support in a major food security initiative. A typical example is the Agricultural Improvement and Land Access Program (AILAP) that has supported 1900 farmers (News Ghana, 2014). From the above assertions, it is an undeniable fact that mining companies in the face of no legal framework, on CSR have contributed to peace building, conflict prevention, security and community development in Ghana. Garvin et al (2009) concludes that CSR in Ghana has thus, been boasted as an effective way to ameliorate company-community disagreements, which without it could lead to violent conflict.
Conclusion and Recommendations

In contemporary times, corporate social responsibility has shifted from the era of volunteering assistance to an obligatory regime influenced by standardized policies and law. This means that large companies, including mining companies are legally required to provide social services in response to their negative impacts on the environment and on the people who live around their mine. Despite this new era of companies legally expected to improve the welfare of the society, Ghana is still not having a well-informed legal document and policy framework regarding CSR. In a bid to ensure that all mining companies in Ghana become socially responsible, advocacy groups, NGOs, individuals and other civil society groups have focused their actions on companies who do not embark on CSR initiatives. However, these groups usually encounter difficulties in their campaigns because of the absence of readily available source documents on CSR for reference and claims.

This article concludes that even though there is no policy framework or law guiding CSR in Ghana, a few mining companies, including Newmont, AngloGold, Goldfields, Golden Star Resources, etc., in their own way have provided infrastructure and enhanced human development in mining areas in which in the absence of these could have led to violent conflicts. Essentially, development in mining areas could be more imperative if legal documents existed on CSR. Therefore, there is the need for holistic and collaborative efforts between all civil society groups and government agencies, including the Ghana Chamber of Mines, Trade Union Congress, Labour Commission and Minerals Commission, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, etc., to work out for a comprehensive CSR policy backed by law. Education of stakeholders, as well as the public on the responsibilities of both government and corporate organizations on CSR initiatives is recommended. With that, the law will serve as a tool to influence and compel
compliance with CSR actions in Ghana. Since this article is a pioneering one that generally looked at issues pertaining to CSR and its role in peace and development, it suggests for a further research on the role of businesses in food security, to bring to light the impact of corporate bodies in positive peace.
References


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