



Chereponi-Wenchiki Conflict: Policies, Mediating Roles of Ghana and Togo Governments

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to analyze the Cheriponi-Wenchiki conflict in terms of the origins, the actors involved and their motivations in the conflict. It examines the roles of Ghana and Togo's governments in the conflict, their efforts in resolving the conflict and the myriad of problems/issues. In doing so, the study adopted quantitative methods, in which data was obtained from the field (many communities in Ghana and Togo), in assessing the impact of the conflict on the people, properties, and the associated factors in both countries. The study found that several people died because of the conflict, many properties were destroyed, and thousands of people were displaced in Ghana and Togo. The conflict was found to have drained the coffers of the two countries much more in Ghana in terms of the deployment of troops -military and police personnel to the conflict zone at the expense of development projects. Despite these efforts of the governments of Ghana and Togo, it was found in the study that the main inhibiting factor towards effective resolution of the protracted conflict was the issue of conflict of interest of leaders. It thereby recommends politicians and Chiefs should strive to do away with bias and factionalism.

Keywords: Cheriponi-Wenchiki, Chiefdom, Collaboration, Conflict Resolution, Mediation

I. INTRODUCTION

Eneyew and Ayalew (2023) posit that conflict is akin to a fundamental aspect of human society, a notion that proves challenging to dispute despite his expansive conceptualization of conflict. Even within the most advanced and cultured human communities, conflicts inevitably emerge, with their nature varying based on the parties involved (Ziselberger, 2007). In the 21st century, the haunting memories of past wars and ongoing conflicts, span from World War (WW) I and II to the Cold War, Russian-Ukrainian tensions, and Israeli-Palestinian disputes, Rwanda, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), among others all happened and conflicts persist. While conflict is commonplace in every society, it is imperative to acknowledge that its regularity should not lead to the loss of human lives or the destruction of property (Yaro & Tseer 2019). But most conflicts in all forms in which they manifest often result in loss of lives and properties. When conflicts unfold in this manner, the necessity arises to actively pursue authentic solutions to interrupt their course. Yaro and Tseer (2019) highlight a historical agent for peacekeeping (United Nations, League of Nations among others) were established to work hand in hand to eradicate conflicts and explore enhanced approaches to human coexistence. This underscores the inherent, widespread human yearning for peace and underscores the idea that during conflict true peace is always absent.

Also, Adewoba (2007) stated that conflict is the struggle for resources in a society when two or more actors engage in social interactions. Building on this, Justino (2009) argues that the intrinsic social nature of humans and the reliance of human civilizations on social interactions make conflict an inevitable element in human societies, aligning with Aristotle's perspective of human desires for power which include resources (Justino, 2009). While delving into how the fear of death might constrain social interactions and potentially give rise to conflict is a promising area for exploration, the fundamental truth persists: social interactions are an inherent and unavoidable aspect of human societies (Woods, 2003). Furthermore, as Bircan et al. (2016) point out, the widespread occurrence of conflicts globally cannot be solely explained by conflict theorists as social and economic inequalities as bases, although notable groups such as



the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda, Hamas, etc., seem to be primarily motivated by religious factors rather than economic and social disparities.

In contrast to conflicts during the Cold War that were delineated by geographical state boundaries, contemporary conflicts tend to have a more internal focus rather than being predominantly international, as emphasized by Wallerstein (2010). Across Africa, DR Congo confronted a war with rebel groups, Egypt engaged in conflict against Islamic militants associated with the Islamic State, Libya underwent a civil war, Mali experienced clashes between rebel groups and the army, Nigeria faced a war against Islamic militants, Somalia grappled with a conflict against al-Shabaab Islamic militants, and Sudan dealt with a war against rebel groups in Darfur. Also, South Sudan witnessed clashes with rebels and the Ethiopian government war with the Tigray region group and presently, Sudan is experiencing clashes between government forces and Rapid Response Forces (RSF). In most cases, women and children often find themselves vulnerable and bear the brunt of these crises or conflicts be it internal (national), or external (international) (Wallerstein, 2019). Conflicts are costly to governments in any country it manifest. Every government makes conscious efforts to resolve conflicts when it occurs. It is in few cases that governments support or fund conflicts. Where such occurred, the same governments still pay the price in terms of loss of lives and properties. This makes conflict resolution essential in both national and international conflicts.

1.1 Conflicts in Ghana

The engagement of Ghana in conflicts has taken the form of coup d'états, along with intra and inter-ethnic conflicts over governmental power, land, mineral resources, and chieftaincies, as described by Yaro et al. (2018). Also, Tonah (2012) reports that Ghana has witnessed four successful coup d'états and numerous attempted coups since independence in 1957.

Within the Northern region of Ghana, various ethnic groups coexist, and the associated existence of challenges related to ethnic identity, acknowledgement, and competition for scarce resources, coupled with inadequate state institutional control, fosters a vulnerability to violent conflicts (Adewoba, 2007). In the recently created North East region, Chereponi District has emerged as a focal point for diverse conflicts. Tensions have arisen among the Bimobas and the Mamprusis, the Mamprusis and the Konkombas, as well as the Bimobas and the Konkombas within this district. Moreover, there are some tensions between the Anufors and the Konkombas and tensions within the Anufors (Chokosis) particularly in terms of the chieftaincy succession crisis in the Chereponi-Wenchiki areas of the Chereponi District of the North-East Region of Ghana. The crisis has led to casualties, the displacement of individuals, property destruction, disruption of social life and plunging the affected areas into a state of paralysis (Sulemana, 2012; Yaro et al., 2018). As per Yaro et al. (2019), the aftermath of conflicts, consistently leaves individuals traumatized, lacking a means of livelihood, without social connections, and frequently orphaned or widowed leading to complete disconnection from their relatives. In Chereponi, the major ethnic groups—Chokosis, Bimobas, Konkombas and Mamprusis share a history marked by prolonged inter-ethnic conflicts. In 2017, tensions escalated between the Chokosis and Bimobas, revolving around a dispute over the right to fish in the Kpembu River (Yaro et al., 2019).

District Police Commander in 2018 indicated two lives were lost, more than five hundred houses were destroyed, and numerous people were displaced. The conflicts involved the Chokosis and the Konkombas. The involvement of the Konkombas, as an ethnic community, in a series of ethnic conflicts within the Region is noteworthy. This shows how complex and sophisticated the Chereponi conflict is, it has multiple actors and varied interests. Thus, the frequent tensions and conflicts over land, chieftaincy, and access to water for fishing among others. In 2018, Konkombas clashed with the Chokosis, a scenario not surprising given their history, as the Konkombas had previously been engaged in conflicts with almost all their neighbours in the Northern Region. This resulted in over twenty-eight fatalities in a single day, with more than half a million individuals displaced and five hundred houses set ablaze (Mahama, 2011).

In 2022 and 2023, the Chokosis were involved in internal conflicts in Wenchiki over chieftaincy, and this issue remains unresolved. These incidents constituted communal clashes within the Chereponi-Wenchiki District. Wenchiki is a border town which lies very close to the Togo border. So, the chieftaincy conflict in Wenchiki had a spillover effect on the governments of Ghana and Togo as both citizens of Ghana and Togo suffered the negative effects of the Wenchiki conflict.

Conflicts in Northern Ghana commonly encompass the incineration of dwellings, devastation of crops, and plundering of livestock (Adewoba, 2007; Sulemana, 2012; Yaro et al., 2018). The severity of destruction has become particularly pronounced in recent conflicts among ethnic groups such as the Chokosis, Konkombas, and the Mamprusis. A notable characteristic of many of these conflicts is their alignment along ethnic lines, indicating an inherent animosity among ethnic groups (Marfo & Halidu, 2018). These conflicts are commonly classified as both intra and inter-ethnic



conflicts, a recurring pattern observed throughout human history (Mudi, 2017) Nevertheless, modern ethnic conflict theories like instrumentalism and relative deprivation theories have taken precedence over this theory. Researchers have directed their attention to numerous ethnic conflicts in Northern Ghana, to comprehend their causes and consequences. Some studies have delved into the broader landscape of conflicts in Northern Ghana, while others have examined the relationship between ethnic conflicts in Ghana and the policies enacted during the era of British colonial rule. Furthermore, specific conflicts, such as the Dagbon Chieftaincy succession conflict resulting in the assassination of Yaa-Naa Andani II in 2002, have been explored by researchers (Sulemana, 2012; Mahama, 2011; Talton, 2003).

Despite the abundance of studies on conflicts in Ghana, there is a notable gap in research focusing on the specific role of the governments of Ghana and Togo in general and specifically the roles both national governments of Ghana and Togo played in the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy Succession Conflicts within the Chereponi district. This study aims to fill this gap by investigating the roles and the impact of the governments of Ghana and Togo on conflict resolution, examining their collaboration in conflict resolution, and identifying factors that impede the effectiveness of government involvement in conflict resolution. This study's findings will contribute to establishing a framework for discussing policies designed to prevent and manage conflicts in the Chereponi District, North East region, and the two countries (Ghana and Togo) as a whole.

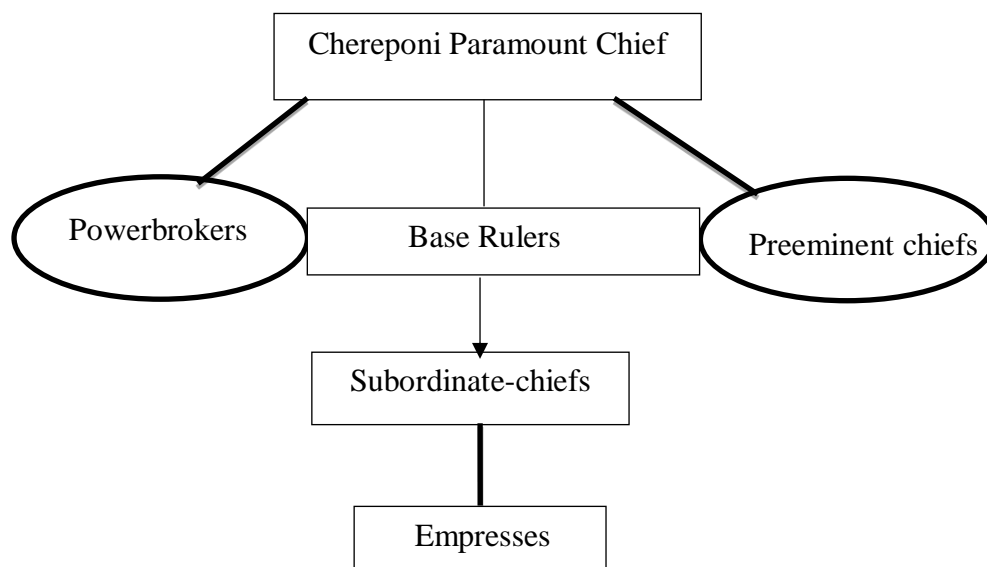


Figure 1
Composition of chieftaincy establishment in Cheriponi-Wencheki Chieftdom

Source: Authors’ Construct

1.2 Theorising the Conflicts in Chereponi-Wenchiki

In determining the Chereponi-Wenchiki conflict occurrence, numerous theories come into play. Predominantly, the power or competition theory states that conflicts can be resolved through the exertion of power, position, or strength. When one faction holds superior power, it can dominate the weaker opponent, leading to a victory. This dynamic is particularly relevant when power is tied to a recognised position of authority within society (Weeks, 2014). Mostly in such situations, the losers may lack alternative possibilities for looking for redress, rendering them powerless to express their concerns. This shows that conflict resolution occurs automatically when one group holds power and authority over the other (Wallenstein, 2019). This viewpoint is in line with the power-elite theory proposed by Wright Mills (1956), which asserts that the ruling class dominates society, acting in its interests rather than those of the larger population. This influential group often includes the military, large businesses, and the government. When applied to the Chereponi-Wenchiki conflicts, documented instances reveal faction members being attacked and killed (Tonah, 2005; Olaniyan et al., 2015).

The theories of power or competition in conflict resolution may not be conducive to resolving Chieftaincy conflicts, especially when the protagonists are intricately connected with various gates or parties to the conflict. On the other hand, collaboration entails mutual respect and a shared commitment to working together to address lingering



differences, ensuring satisfaction for each party involved. This necessitates the availability of time, allowing parties to dedicate themselves to collaborative efforts, framing the conflict as 'we versus our problem' rather than 'we against them.' While collaboration could be an ideal approach to resolving the Chereponi-Wenchiki conflict, the assurance of adequate time, commitment, and capability may not always be guaranteed to ensure effective collaboration.

In summary, the theory of Compromise or Negotiation emerges as relevant for addressing the conflicting issues in the Chereponi-Wenchiki region. Compromise entails each party conceding something to reach a middle ground, often resulting in both parties being somewhat dissatisfied, fostering a scenario of 'we are both sort of okay (Zartman, 2007).' Considering the significance of issues like land and chieftaincy to human well-being, it would be prudent for the involved parties to embrace compromise, softening their stances to accommodate each other. Opting for compromise proves more beneficial for both parties than adopting a 'win-lose' approach. However, the challenge inherent in this theory lies in the potential dilution of solutions, raising doubts about the commitment of both parties/factions in the conflict.

II. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Design

In conducting the research, a descriptive survey design was employed, incorporating quantitative instruments for data collection by Creswell (2008). The study specifically targeted residents of Chereponi and neighbouring communities in the study area, leveraging their practical familiarity with the conflict to obtain first-hand information on the crises in Chereponi. The selection of participants involved the use of simple random sampling techniques, and the sample size of 100 was determined through the application of the Miller and Brewer formula, considering a population of 87,176 respondents.

2.2 Study Area

Chereponi and Wenchiki are in the North-East Region of Ghana. Chereponi district is one of the districts that were carved out of the Northern Region. The district has a population of 87,176, males constituting 49% and females 51% of the population (GSS, 2021). Notably, the youth is half of the entire population. A good number of persons are working in the formal sector of the economy, and the formal sector workers include administrators, teachers, nurses, and development practitioners, although they constitute a smaller number than those involved in the informal sector within the district. A larger number of the inhabitants are engaged in areas such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, and trading (GSS, 2021). The study involved numerous communities around both Togo and Ghana. The study covered these communities Chereponi and Wenchiki (Togo), Ango (Ghana), Chereponi and Wenchiki (Ghana) Daabu, Akobila, and Ango (Togo).

2.3 Target population and sample size

The total population of the Chereponi and around the Togo border area is 87176 (Ghana Statistical Service, 2021). The study employed Miller and Brewer's (2003) formula to determination of the sample size to avoid bias in the selection of the number of people for the study.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(\alpha)^2}$$

n is the sample size, l is the constant, N is the total population under investigation, and α is the significance or margin of error. The sample size is set at a 90% confidence level to have a fair and representative sample size (at a 0.1 significance level). Therefore, the study population of 87176 was used to calculate the sample of 100 participants below.

$$n = \frac{87176}{1+87176(0.1)^2}$$

$$n = 99.885$$

$$n = 100$$

2.4 Data Collection

To explore the factors influencing the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy succession conflicts in Ghana, an in-depth review of critical literature on conflict processes was undertaken. The collection of data on the Chereponi-Wenchiki conflict involved the use of questionnaires, with a focus on capturing respondents' experiences at the household level. The questionnaires specifically delved into the role played by the governments of Ghana and Togo in



the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy Succession conflicts at the community level. Throughout the research, strict adherence to ethical standards in Ghana was maintained, including obtaining research approval from relevant institutions and ensuring the consent, confidentiality, and anonymity of respondents. The data was collected between July and September 2023.

2.5 Data Analysis

Utilizing the Statistical Package for Social Science Services (SPSS) version 26.0, the analysis of quantitative data gathered from the field involved the application of fundamental statistical tools. Metrics including means, standard deviation, percentages, frequencies, and Mean Item Scores (MIS) were employed in this analysis. A validation process was executed before the final interpretation and discussion of results to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the quantitative data gathered from the field.

III. RESULTS

3.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

3.1.1 Sex of Respondents

On the issue of sex, data from the analysis revealed that 60.9 per cent of the respondents were males, while 39.1 per cent of them were female as shown in Figure 2 below.

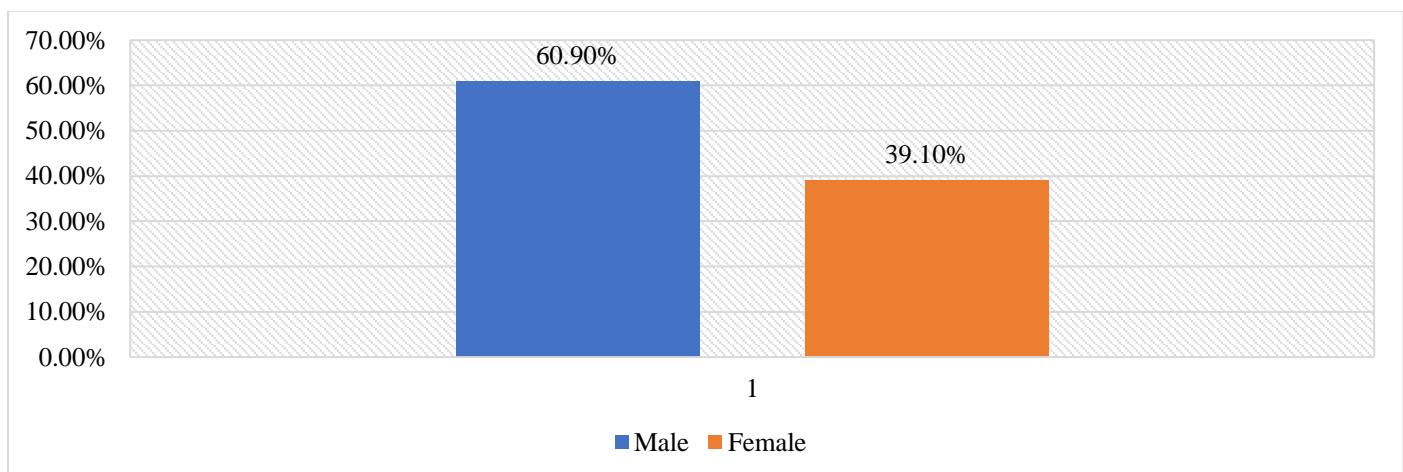


Figure 2
Sex of Respondents

3.1.2 The Educational Level of Respondents

The educational level of respondents was also looked at and the analysis shows that 42.6 per cent of the respondents had no formal education. It further revealed that 26.5 per cent of the respondents had secondary education, 22.1 per cent of the respondents had Basic education, and 8.8 per cent of the respondents had their education up to the tertiary level as shown in Figure 3.

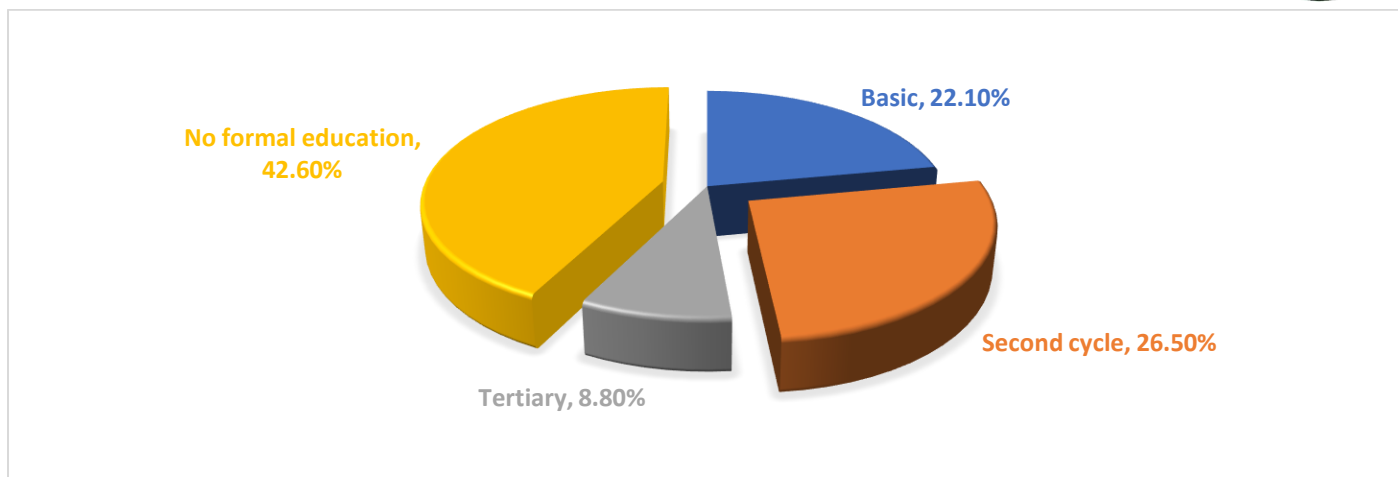


Figure 3
Educational Level of Respondents

3.1.3 The Chieftaincy Gate of Respondents

On the issue of the chieftaincy gate to which the respondent belongs, data from the field shows that 43.5 per cent of the respondents selected both Fambol and Jaabu as their gates, while 13.0 per cent of the respondents were neutral indicating that they don't belong to either Fambol or Jaabu gates as depicted in Figure 4 below.

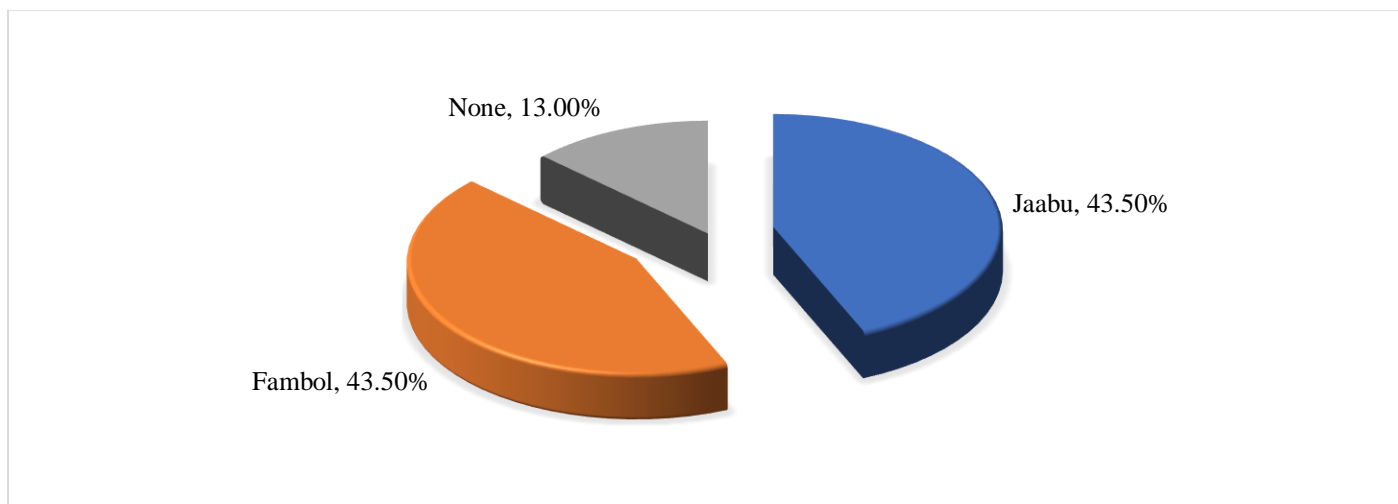


Figure 4
Chieftaincy Gate of Respondents

3.2 Impact of the Role of the Government of Ghana and Togo on the Conflict Resolution

3.2.1 Descriptive Statistics for the Role Played by the Government of Ghana and Togo on the Conflict Resolution

Table 1 shows the results of the role played by the Ghana and Togo governments in conflict resolution. The study revealed that Ghana and Togo governments play a very significant impact (mean = 4.54) on the resolution of the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy succession conflict. Further analysis shows that Ghana and Togo governments play a moderate impact (mean = 4.07) in the mediation of the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy succession conflict. Also, the study revealed that Ghana and Togo governments play a moderate impact (mean = 3.97) when it comes to impartiality in granting judgments for the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy succession conflict. The study revealed that Ghana and Togo governments play a moderate impact (mean = 4.44) when it comes to implementing resolutions for peace talks in the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy succession conflict. The study again shows that Ghana and Togo governments play a moderate impact (mean = 3.59) when it comes to housing and feeding internally displaced persons in the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy succession conflict.

**Table 1***Impact of the Role of the Government of Ghana and Togo on Conflict Resolution*

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Organisation of people for peace talk	100	1	5	4.54	0.739
Mediation	100	1	5	4.07	0.982
Heading Negotiations	100	1	5	3.78	1.131
Initiating Reconciliation	100	1	5	3.74	1.244
Settling Minor Disputes	100	1	5	3.84	1.158
Impartiality in granting Judgments	100	1	5	3.97	1.349
Meeting punishment to conflicting parties as a measure of deterrence	100	1	5	4.18	1.239
Implementing Resolutions from Peace Talks	100	1	5	4.44	0.699
Housing and Feeding Internally Displaced Persons	100	1	5	3.59	1.448

1 – Not an Impact, 2 – Minor Impact, 3 – Somewhat of an Impact, 4 – Moderate Impact, 5– Very Significant Impact

3.2.2 Regression Analysis of the Impact of the Government of Ghana and Togo on Conflict Resolution

This section analyzed the regression results of the impact of the government of Ghana and Togo on Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy Conflict Resolution (IGGTCR). The independent variables are Mediation (MDA), Initiating Reconciliation (INR), Settling Minor Disputes (SMD), Impartiality in granting Judgments (IGJ), Meting punishment to conflicting parties (MPCP), Implementing Resolutions from peace talks (IRPT) and Housing and Feeding Internally Displaced Persons (HFID). The findings were presented in Table 2.

Table 2*Regression Results*

Variables	Coefficient	t-Statistic	Prob.
Constant	1.877	8.836	0.000
MDA	0.406	4.411	0.000
INR	0.038	0.521	0.604
SMD	0.192	2.398	0.019
IGJ	-0.101	-1.325	0.189
MPCP	-0.024	-0.288	0.774
IRPT	0.278	2.255	0.027
HFID	-0.341	-4.053	0.000
R	0.627		
R-squared	0.393		
Adjusted R-squared	0.325		
S.E. of Estimate	0.580		
F-statistic	5.752		
Prob (F-statistic)	0.000		

The analysis revealed some variation in the impact of the government of Ghana and Togo on Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy Conflict Resolution. The data revealed R-square value of 0.393 indicates that Mediation (MDA), Initiating Reconciliation (INR), Settling Minor Disputes (SMD), Impartiality in granting Judgments (IGJ), Meting punishment to conflicting parties (MPCP), Implementing Resolutions from peace talks (IRPT) and Housing and Feeding Internally Displaced Persons (HFID) accounted for more than 39.3% of difference in government of Ghana and Togo on Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy Conflict Resolution with a standard error of estimate of 0.580. The adjusted coefficient of determination (R²) shows that 32.5% of the impact of the government of Ghana and Togo on Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy Conflict Resolution was explained by variations in Mediation (MDA), Initiating Reconciliation (INR), Settling Minor Disputes (SMD), Impartiality in granting Judgments (IGJ), Meting punishment to conflicting parties (MPCP), Implementing Resolutions from peace talks (IRPT) and Housing and Feeding Internally Displaced Persons (HFID). This explains how the variation in the impact of the government of Ghana and Togo on the Chereponi-



Wenchiki Chieftaincy Conflict Resolution was accounted for statistically by the regression equation. Hence, R-squared was significant statistically, with $F = 5.752$ and $p < 0.000$ as shown in Table 2.

For the impact of the government of Ghana and Togo Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy Conflict Resolution. The results show that impartiality in granting judgments (IGJ) ($-0.101, p = 0.189$), and meting punishment to conflicting parties (MPCP) ($-0.024, p = 0.774$) do not contribute significantly to the effort of the government of Ghana and Togo Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy Conflict Resolution because their Sig values are greater than 0.05. However, implementing and housing and feeding internally displaced persons (HFID) ($-0.341, p = 0.000$) contribution is significant but had no impact on the government of Ghana and Togo Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy Conflict Resolution. This is shown by the fitted model below:

$$IGGTCR = 1.877 + 0.406X1 + 0.038X2 + 0.192X3 - 0.101X4 - 0.024X5 + 0.278X6 - 0.341X7 + e \dots\dots\dots 1$$

3.3 Collaboration of Ghana and Togo Government in Conflict Resolution

The study examines how chiefs and the central government of Ghana and Togo collaborate in the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy conflict management. The results show that Chiefs are involved moderately (mean = 3.96) in the Ghana government resolution of the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy conflict management. It further revealed that the government of Ghana/Togo played a moderate (mean = 3.90) role alongside formal mechanisms for conflict resolution such as the police and military, courts, and commissions of enquiry in the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy conflict management. Also, the study revealed that the institution of governance is very much respected by the chieftaincy institution moderately (mean = 3.49) by the government of Ghana and Togo in the Chereponi-Wenchiki Chieftaincy conflict management as shown in Table 3.

Table 3
Collaboration of Ghana and Togo Government in Conflict Resolution

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Chiefs are involved in conflict resolution by the Government of Ghana	100	1	5	3.96	1.277
There is a constitutional provision that spells out the role of the Government in conflict resolution	100	1	5	3.94	1.083
Government of Ghana/Togo Played a role alongside formal mechanisms for conflict resolution such as the Police and Military, Courts and Commissions of enquiry	100	1	5	3.90	1.031
Conflict resolution begins with the chiefs before it goes to the Government	100	1	5	3.52	1.471
The focus of conflict resolution is on reconciliation, not punishment	100	1	5	3.88	1.103
Judgements made by Traditional Leaders are set aside by a formal court	100	1	5	3.87	1.254
Aggrieved parties can go to court straight to seek redress without first going to the government	100	1	5	4.25	1.117
The institution of Governance is very much respected by the institution of chieftaincy	100	1	5	3.49	1.677

1 – Not done, 2 – mildly done, 3 – Somehow done, 4 – Moderately done, 5– very much done

3.4 Factors that Work Against the Role of Governments of Ghana and Togo in the Conflict Resolution

The further examines the various factors that work against Ghana and the Togo government’s role in conflict resolution in the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict. The data analysis revealed that interventions from foreign mediators are a minor factor (mean = 2.20) that work against the role of the government of Ghana and Togo in the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict resolution. Furthermore, the study revealed that corruption on the part of leadership is a moderate factor (mean = 4.39) that works against the role of the government of Ghana and Togo in the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict resolution. Again, the study revealed that Conflict of interest on the part of leaders in Ghana and Togo is a very important factor (mean = 4.62) that works against the role of government in the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict resolution. Also, a mean of 3.97, which is approximately 4, indicates that inadequate resources are a moderate factor that works against the role of the government of Ghana and Togo in the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict resolution. Additionally, the study revealed that the Leadership Style of leaders



of both Ghana and Togo is a moderate factor (mean = 4.10) that works against the role of government in the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict resolution as in Table 4.

Table 4

Factors that Work Against the Role of Government in Conflict Resolution

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Foreign Interventions from foreign mediators	100	1	5	2.20	1.451
Corruption on the part of leadership	100	1	5	4.39	0.927
Conflict of interest on the part of leaders	100	1	5	4.62	0.769
Inadequate Resources	100	1	5	3.97	1.294
Leadership Style of leaders	100	1	5	4.10	1.238

1–Not a factor, 2–Minor factor, 3–Somewhat of a factor 4–Moderate factor, 5–very important factor

3.5 Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

The study examines some conflict resolution mechanisms adopted by Ghana and Togo to resolve the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict. From Table 6, the analysis shows that police and military were very much used (mean = 4.77) by both Ghana and Togo governments as mechanisms to resolve the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict. Additionally, the study revealed that traditional council was occasionally used (mean = 3.09) by both Ghana and Togo governments as a mechanism to resolve the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict. Moreover, the study revealed a mean of 3.87, which is approximately 4 meaning respondents are of the view that the House of Chiefs is moderately used by both Ghana and Togo governments as a mechanism to resolve the Chereponi-Wenchiki chieftaincy conflict as in Table 5.

Table 5

Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Police and Military	100	1	5	4.77	0.667
Traditional Council	100	1	5	3.22	1.293
Formal Courts	100	1	5	3.85	1.136
Commissions of Enquiry	100	1	5	3.09	1.358
Houses of Chiefs	100	1	5	3.87	2.612

1 – Not used 2 – rarely used, 3 – occasionally used, 4 – Moderately used, 5– Very much used

IV. DISCUSSIONS

The study found that both the governments of Ghana and Togo are making efforts towards the resolution of the Chereponi-Wenchiki conflict. Both governments worked through the active roles of their military and police. The next visible state engagement is the use of the Regional House of Chiefs and the various traditional Councils. The two governments see the conflict as regarding development and to avoid the state of paralysis in the areas. These empirical observations concur with other studies (Sulemana, 2012; Yaro et al., 2018).

Also, the study found that the conflict is multifactorial, and the best resolution is to adopt a multi-actors and multi-sectoral approach towards an effective resolution of the conflict. Thus, the active roles of the governments of Ghana and Togo, civil society groups, and non-governmental actors. These findings are consistent with previous studies in Ghana (Tonah, 2012; Yaro et al., 2018; Konlan, 2018).

Theoretically, the study findings are inclined towards the theoretical arguments of competition for power and where power is vested in one position, the occupier of such a privileged position and the people around the position tend to dominate over other people who are far from the source or position of power. Thus, the theoretical relevance of the theory of competition puts one ethnic group or faction in a better position acting in the interest of that ethnic group against other groups or acting in favour of the chieftaincy or land dispute faction or party against the other faction. The Chereponi conflict fits into the theory of competition among the main ethnic groups namely the Chokosis (Anufors), the Bimobas, the Konkomas and the Mamprusis which is the conflict complex. The results in the study agree with other studies' results or theorizations (Wright, 1956; Weeks, 2014; Wallenstein, 2019). These arguments are closely linked to



the Chereponi-Wenchiki conflicts, in which several documents and interview results suggest instances of faction members being attacked and killed (Tonah, 2005; Olaniyan et al., 2015).

Several factors were revealed as the causes of the protracted Cheriponi-Wenchiki conflict which has killed tens of people and several properties including houses, cars, motor bicycles, and animals among others being killed or destroyed and several thousands of people in Ghana and Togo being internally displaced. Some key factors identified include land, resources, chieftaincy, and struggle over power. This seems to be consistent with these works (Adewoba, 2007; Sulemana, 2012; Yaro et al., 2018). However, the study findings are inconsistent with these studies (Tonah, 2012; Yaro et al., 2018) which connect the conflicts to externalities including coup d'états and their associated decisions on regions, leaders, or some communities in terms of conferment of chieftaincy titles to some groups or factions and the other groups opposing such political decision.

Despite the efforts of the governments of Ghana and Togo towards the effective resolution of the protracted conflict in Cheriponi-Wenchiki. The study found that the main factor that impeded the efforts or the roles of the two states was a conflict of interest on the part of leaders in Ghana and Togo. These leaders included the political and traditional leaders-the Chiefs.

V. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The study concludes that political leaders and traditional leaders are the key actors and their positive attitude towards the resolution of the Cheriponi-Wenchiki conflict is of paramount importance.

5.1.2 Recommendations

The study recommends that both the political leaders-politicians and the traditional leaders-Chiefs should demonstrate strong commitment for peace in devoid of deception and camouflage. Also, politicians and Chiefs should strive to do away with issues of bias and conflict of interest in the conflict. There is the need for law enforcement agencies or officials-military, police to operate and pick up early warning signs and act swiftly without fear or favour to any factions in the conflict in the Cheriponi-Wenchiki areas. Lastly, joint operations and cooperation of the two states are key.

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