

CASE STUDY



Name:
Sam Ryumugabe

Title:
Safety Standards and
Inspection Counterpart,
Ministry of Natural
Resources

Country:
Rwanda

IM4DC Program:

1. Community Aspects of
Resource
Developments
(CARD) 2014 Australia

Company-community engagement and partnership has always been a challenge in Rwanda, mainly because of the limited understanding of both parties. This results in prolonged disputes between mining companies/cooperatives and the local community.

Sam participated in the IM4DC Community Aspects of Resource Developments (CARD) course, which is designed to address community issues in the mining sector, inclusive participation, community engagement and local procurement. His Return to Work plan was strongly supported by his supervisors. Sam and his colleagues have been training companies, communities, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the private sector directly or indirectly connected to mining activities in company-community engagement.

Today, we have community representatives elected in some pilot companies that were selected and trained. Every activity to be done by a mining company involves the people nearby, to avoid conflicts. Some companies, due to increased awareness, also encouraged local people to supply them with local food and equipment. A typical example is the New Bugarama Concession that has even won the prize of investing in the community during the mining day December 2014. The money given to the people was used to start up small businesses and this increased the partnership.

Sam credits the Ministry of Natural Resources/Geology and Mines Department, the Rwanda Mining Association, the Federation of Mining Cooperatives, Private Sector Federation and CSOs for their involvement in the successful stories and hopes to continue with further training programs to enhance stakeholder partnerships.

The outstanding challenge here is limited capacity to disseminate skills to many; lack of financial means hinders small-scale mining operations from considering capacity building programs because the little cash they have is invested back into operations.