

IM4DC

Action Research Report

SUMMARY

Researcher:

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School/Centre:

*Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre

**International Water Centre

***Accelerated Learning Laboratory

University/Institutions:

*Sustainable Minerals Institute,

The University of Queensland

***The University of Western Australia

Key themes:

Governance and regulation

Community and environmental sustainability

Operational effectiveness

Key countries:

Ghana

The Philippines

Completion:

August 2014

Research aims:

This research sought to bring together multiple research partners working in water-related health, safety and sanitation of artisanal miners with a view to facilitating future collaboration and development of IM4DC course content, through:

- two case studies
- two workshops
- a global market analysis of the need and costs of establishing a short course in this area

For further information on this action research:

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Water-Related Safety, Health and Sanitation of Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners and the Affected Communities

The objective of this project was to establish a collegiate working dialogue between multiple research partners working in the field of health, safety and sanitation for artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), using water as a focal point for collaboration. The project comprised two concurrent phases: two action research projects, undertaken for defined case study locations to support post-graduate student work; and a global market analysis, to determine demand, supply and financial constraints for establishing an IM4DC short course on water-related health, safety and sanitation issues at case study and/or global scales.

Key project findings included:

- Two collaboratively run workshops, held in Brisbane and Perth, identified the potential for future collaboration to develop custom designed courses for IM4DC, targeting key stakeholders of ASM and associated communities. However, it was universally acknowledged that the real costs associated with design, content development and grass roots capacity building are expensive and it will likely require considerable external funding to see this potential realised.
- Two case studies, one in the Benguet region of the Philippines and the other in the Tarkwa region of Ghana, formed the basis of ongoing post-graduate student work. Based on the case study findings, water related health, safety and sanitation issues are driven by poor governance, the perceptions of the ASM sector by government and donor groups, as well as increasing poverty levels. The asset-based approach to interviews helped identify where existing capacity within artisanal mining communities might be strengthened through IM4DC adult education and leadership development initiatives.
- A desktop global market analysis indicated a lack of publicly accessible information on adult learning initiatives relating to ASM and, more specifically, water-related health, safety and sanitation. However, growing interest in this space suggests opportunities for cross-institutional education and professional development programs.

Recommendations from the project are made in the Report's Executive Summary and further details on the Ghana case study are in Ms Evelyn Kamanga's Master's project report (Kamanga E, 2014), available from the authors or IM4DC.