

# IM4DC

## Action Research Report

### SUMMARY

**Researchers:**

Daniela Andrei, Laura Fruhen, Jelena Opacic,  
Sharon Parker, Mark Griffin

**School/Centre:**

Accelerated Learning Laboratory

**University/Institutions:**

The University of Western Australia

**Key themes:**

Governance and Regulation  
Community and Environmental Sustainability  
Operational Effectiveness

**Key countries:**

General application

**Completion:**

May 2015

**Research aims:**

This evaluation traced six of the IM4DCs programs in order to understand:

- the longer term benefits to participants
- the longer term outputs and outcomes
- the characteristics critical in generating outcomes; including facilitators, hindrances and overarching themes

**For further information on this action research:**

Contact person: Daniela Andrei  
[Daniela.andrei@uwa.edu.au](mailto:Daniela.andrei@uwa.edu.au)

## Tracer Studies: Evaluating the Longer Term Impact of IM4DC Programs

The International Mining for Development Centre's (IM4DC's) activities have been designed and implemented to generate significant changes and outcomes in developing countries over the last three years. This report presents the results of an evaluation project which had the aim of tracing some of IM4DC's most successful programs in order to understand the benefits to participants as well as the longer term outputs and outcomes generated. This work was also designed to uncover some of the characteristics that were critical in generating outcomes from IM4DC activities. The information gathered complements other evaluation initiatives that IM4DC has been engaged in, so that these investigations collectively provide a broader picture of the impact of IM4DC activities.

IM4DC personnel, program facilitators, program participants and collaborators were interviewed to provide a holistic overview of the outcomes of six selected activities for individuals, organisations and communities. Initial contact was made with 26 individuals and 21 interviews were conducted.

To provide a comprehensive understanding of the outcomes that these cases have achieved, the interview responses were analysed using the IM4DC Theory of Change framework. This framework had been developed to capture a causal process and associated progression through which IM4DC activities are intended to generate impact. The framework was employed to identify 1) Outputs (e.g. improved knowledge, active engagement and discourse on change, tailored interventions addressing development needs); 2) Intermediate Outcomes (e.g. developing leaders, coalitions, organisational capacity and empowering change agents, change, generating advocacy for policy change, efforts to build knowledge basis); 3) Outcomes (e.g. themes around institutional arrangements); 4) High level outcomes – equivalent to social impact (e.g. evidence, traces or expected impact). In addition to these outcome-related themes, the evaluation sought to identify facilitators and hindrances of impact.

Outputs, outcomes, facilitators and hindrances are discussed for individual activities and common themes articulated across all activities, along with recommendations for enhancing future programs and addressing the IM4DC's overarching aims.