

IM4DC

Action Research Report

SUMMARY

Researchers:

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School/Centre:

Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining
Gender Center for Sustainable Development
Mongolia
National Committee on Gender Equality Mongolia

University/ Institutions:

The University of Queensland

Key themes:

Community and Environmental Sustainability

Key Countries:

Mongolia

Completion:

May 2014

Research aims:

This research sought to improve our understanding of gender based violence experienced in mining communities in Mongolia by examining:

- The scale of impacts
- Their link to the mining industry
- How governments and companies can provide policies to prevent and mitigate these impacts

For further information on this action research:

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Mapping Gender Based Violence and Mining Infrastructure in Mongolian Mining Communities

This report details findings on the prevalence and nature of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in mining communities in South Gobi, Mongolia. Mongolia is undergoing a widespread and rapid minerals boom that is changing the social and cultural landscape of the nation. This is most obvious in communities that reside in close proximity to large-scale mine operations. Evidence suggests that women often withstand the worst of the negative social impacts from mining. The increase in Gender Based Violence (GBV) is an example of this.

The purpose of this research was to improve understanding of the extent to which GBV is experienced in mining communities in Mongolia. Drawing on qualitative and quantitative research, this report examines whether the proximity of mine camp locations (and other associated infrastructure) to population centres increases the likelihood of GBV being experienced in the community. The project was undertaken in three stages to:

1. Maximise access to often-sensitive information
2. Increase the uptake of recommendations
3. Promote understanding of GBV issues more broadly

The first stage focused on engaging with the Mongolian partners to exchange mutual expertise on the mining industry and the Mongolian gendered cultural context. This assisted the team to understand the organisational culture of the minerals industry and to appropriately access sensitive data and personnel in the affected communities. During this stage, the team consulted a number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and mining companies, and undertook fieldwork in the affected communities.

The second stage involved compiling the collected information and presenting the findings at a roundtable discussion hosted by the Mongolian government's National Committee on Gender Equality. This approach brought together NGOs, mining companies and a diverse range of government officials and multilateral agencies, and provided a platform to discuss views and opinions on GBV and the recommendations presented in this report.

The third and final stage involved the preparation and release of this report and recommendations, free to access on the internet, in both English and Mongolian.

The research findings suggested that the rate of GBV has increased since the onset of mining in the communities. Specifically, victims and informants reported that domestic violence, prostitution and alcohol-fuelled violence have increased and caused personal trauma, family break-ups, health related issues and broad community insecurity. The scale and type of GBV differed between the research sites and may be attributed to different types of infrastructure developments (transport corridors, stockpiles, etc.) present in the area and proximity of mines to townships. A set of recommendations was produced and agreed upon at the roundtable discussion to assist policy makers in reducing violence against women, men and children in the communities surrounding mining operations.