

## **ADRA research theme: *Mining for Development***

Total funding available: Up to AUD 2 million over three years

In *Effective Aid* the Australian Government confirmed that “improving incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities for poor people in both rural and urban areas, *including the development of sustainable mining industries to boost overall economic development*” is critical in reducing poverty.

The objective of Australia’s assistance in mining is to support developing countries to translate their resource endowment into significant and sustainable development. Sustainable development has three dimensions—economic, social and environmental, all underpinned by good governance.

Developing countries are experiencing an unprecedented increase in resource exploration and development due to high commodity prices and the depletion of resource reserves in developed countries. AusAID does not advocate for or against mining, but recognises that it will be an important part of the development paths of many of our partner countries.

### **Eligibility criteria**

Applications for funding for up to three years will be considered. Applicants are eligible to receive between AUD 100,000 and AUD 300,000 in funding per year.

Applicants must address one of the sub-themes below. Applicants must clearly articulate the relevance of their proposal to the selected theme.

### **Sub-theme: Safeguards and gender**

Mining projects do not affect people equally. Women and girls tend to benefit less because the sector employs more men than women, and because those women who do obtain jobs are frequently paid less than their male counterparts. The creation of large male dominated mining settlements can also result in an increase in prostitution and the spread of sexually transmitted infections such HIV. Negative social impacts disproportionately affect women and the children and other family members that they care for. Mining can enforce existing power bases through unequal wealth distribution, which typically favours men. As women are more likely to re-invest income earned at the family and community level multiplying development outcomes, it is critical for women to access economic opportunities through mining.

Safeguards are a critical tool for managing the impacts of mining especially for vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, the poor, women and girls, and the disabled. These groups are often susceptible to hardship in situations where displacement and/or resettlement is necessary.

Research that includes Mongolia is encouraged.

*Some examples of issues within this sub-theme include but are not limited to:*

- Comparative studies of the effectiveness of social or environmental safeguards
- Quantifying gender based differences in the costs and benefits of mining

- Regulations that could effectively include women and girls in the benefits of mining
- Safeguarding land rights and access to resources
- Conflicts between traditional herding and large scale mining

### **Sub-theme: Illegal mining**

Illegal mining includes small scale artisanal mining as well as larger operations, both of which occur legally as well. Illegal mining is known to occur in many countries, especially Mongolia. It is an industry that attracts poor people with few alternative sources of employment and is associated with poor working conditions and conflict. Environmental aspects of illegal mining are difficult to manage and often unknown.

Research that includes Mongolia is encouraged.

*Some examples of issues within this sub-theme include but are not limited to:*

- Environmental impact of illegal mines
- Implications for other industries, e.g. agriculture and herding
- Incentives for bringing illegal operations into the formal sector
- Regulating and influencing the behaviour of illegal mines
- Protecting workers in illegal mines

### **Sub-theme: Seabed mining**

Rising mineral prices are pushing the boundaries of exploration to the seabed where sulphide deposits containing gold, silver and copper are being discovered near hydrothermal vents. Little is known about the impacts of seabed mining, with only one currently active development in the world (Solwara-1 in the PNG exclusive economic zone).

Research that includes the Pacific is encouraged.

*Some examples of issues within this sub-theme include but are not limited to:*

- The effectiveness of current international and domestic authorities in regulating seabed mining and exploration
- Environmental impacts of seabed mining and exploration
- The effect of seabed mining and exploration on alternative economic uses of marine resources such as fisheries.