

Mining and local-level development: examining the gender dimensions of agreement making and benefit sharing: Update from CSRM

Here's an update of how we're tracking on the various parts of the project:

Literature Review

We have completed a comprehensive exploration of the existing literature. We are now incorporating this into the Stage 1 report.

Stage 1 (Practitioner interviews)

We drafted a list of approximately 25 potential interviewees for this project and have added more based on recommendations. Interviewees were selected based on their previous direct experience with the negotiation, implementation or monitoring of one or more company-community agreement. We tried to find interviewees from a range of sites, companies, locations, commodities and cultural contexts.

We've been able to interview 22 people from a variety of backgrounds. For example, some of our participants are professionals who have been engaged as negotiators in a wide range of agreements, and some are local or indigenous people who have been or are currently involved with agreements on their lands.

Stage 1 Report

As discussed above, we have drafted the background section of this report, and have completed the bulk of the analysis and write up of interview findings. We expect to have a draft of this report completed in the next couple of weeks for internal review. The draft will then be circulated to interviewees to obtain their comments, and their consent for us to list them as participants. Following this, we will review the document and finalise for publication.

Ethical Approval

The study methodology has been approved by the University of Queensland's Behavioural and Social Science Ethical Review Committee. As the research project involved research overseas and with potentially vulnerable groups, we were required to submit a full ethical review that covered a range of considerations including: participant recruitment, voluntary participation, informed consent, confidentiality, data recording and storage, risks to researchers and participants, conflicts of interest, etc.

For the ethical review application we also produced (draft) interview guides for telephone and field interviews with company personnel, local government or NGO personnel, and community members. We also produced information and consent sheets in line with University requirements.

We were asked to provide some additional clarification on a couple of points. Following this, we were successfully granted ethical approval for this project.

Case Study sites

We have invited sites in the four case study countries to participate in the research project (Australia, PNG, Ghana and Indonesia).

We are currently progressing conversations with the Australian and PNG operations that have expressed interest in participating in the project. We have scheduled times for fieldwork in late May and late June and are progressing discussions about logistical arrangements, including consultation about local researchers and other considerations for fieldwork. We have also started preparing the background reading and documentation for each of these sites.

The Ghana case study site has not been confirmed, but is being progressed by CSRM with support from the MCA and AusAID. Recently, CSRM was in Ghana for another project and met with AusAID representatives based in Accra. The High Commissioner made direct contact with Newmont on behalf of the project. Discussions are underway.

For Indonesia, we prepared a briefing note detailing a number of potential case study locations, and are currently in the process of making contact with them. Unfortunately, our top two choices are not available, so we will continue to work through other potential options with the assistance of the MCA and AusAID.

Case study protocol/guides

We assembled a guidance document for lead researchers at each of the case study sites. This guide provides detailed notes on the protocols to be followed for preparation, safety and risk assessments, ethical research (as detailed in the ethical review), data collection and production of the project deliverables.

We have circulated this document to the project reference group and also to the Foundation for Development Cooperation and have received useful comments which we are currently incorporating into the guide