

Planning to restore livelihoods sustainably

Challenges

- Livelihood restoration not being planned in a holistic manner can lead to missed opportunities to provide households with a combination of replacement assets, training for employment and a location close to employment and business opportunities.
- Companies failing to properly engage with women and youth can result in their priorities being ignored in the development of livelihood restoration plans. Women often lose access to land and natural resources essential for their livelihoods.
- A failure to properly integrate displaced livelihoods into host communities can result in jealousy, isolation and an ongoing dependency on the company.
- There is often conflict post-resettlement over resources where assumptions were made on shared use of natural resources such as forests and water resources without negotiating a firm agreement. Companies can be unable to monitor livelihoods because of a lack of effective pre-resettlement socioeconomic baseline data.

Lessons and recommendations

- Companies should focus on a number of areas simultaneously in order to achieve livelihood restoration early in the planning stage. These include training and employment, selection of appropriate resettlement sites to allow access to replacement land and livelihood opportunities, and community development initiatives focusing on integrating resettlement households into the wider community.
- Focus on land-based, wage-based and enterprise-based livelihood solutions, agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods. It should be noted that even in rural areas over 50% of income can often come from non-agricultural activities. These solutions should focus on the basic restoration of land, natural resources and business premises, and direct aid to re-establish production and sales.
- Invest more resources to understand the impacts of land access and resettlement on livelihoods, and put in place the required expertise and budgets to take this issue seriously.
- Benchmark livelihood restoration programmes on projects with similar impacts in similar contexts

to understand what will and will not work. This will enable reviewers to discern between initiatives that are intended to please communities, but which are unsustainable and not economically feasible, and initiatives that would contribute to lasting livelihoods and succeed without ongoing investment.

- Pilot livelihood restoration initiatives before scaling up activities to ensure that these are proven successful and can be sustainable without project support.
- Include both social development and resettlement experts in the livelihood restoration planning team. They need to work closely with the company's mine planning, human resource and procurement departments.
- Develop appropriate, disaggregated baseline data and monitoring indicators during the baseline data planning process, which requires collaboration between the social impact assessment and RAP planners. The monitoring indicators should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound (SMART), and a monitoring plan should be put in place to ensure that the project understands what success is in livelihood restoration and when this can be achieved.
- Include support for vulnerable households in the livelihood restoration process. However, to ensure that the programme does not result in dependency on the project, it is important to have good quality disaggregated baseline data on the pre-project socioeconomic situation of these households and to track their post-resettlement livelihoods.