



**Survey on the Impacts of Mining
Conducted January 15 to March 11, 2013
Summary February, 2014**

The Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) of the JPIC Commission of the USG and UISG Superiors General in Rome conducted a survey on the *Impacts of Mining: Establishing Relationships between Advocates, Persons at the Grassroots, Policy Makers and Mining Companies*. The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace also collaborated by encouraging their episcopal connections to participate in the survey. The survey was conducted from January 15th to March 11th of 2013.

The purpose of the survey was to find ways to promote the common good through a more equal distribution of the benefits of mining and the elimination or reduction of its harmful effects. The real costs of mining should take into account the interests of all stakeholders.

Sustainable development aimed at the common good should:

- ***benefit local residents and count on their participation;***
- ***contribute to the development of the peoples/countries in whose territory the natural resources are found;***
- ***promote legitimate interests of the mining companies and their shareholders;***
- ***respect the limitations of natural resources and conserve the environment;***
- ***protect the interests of future generations.***

The survey results have been compiled and will serve as an excellent resource to help achieve our goals. There were 401 respondents and a data base has been established of 257 congregations, church leadership and associated organizations. No mining companies participated in the completion of the survey. The information is detailed: 628 questions with over 16,200 coded responses. The survey was translated into English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

Content. The survey began with a request for confidential contact information; the rest of the survey was divided into four sections: 1) Type of activities/methods, 2) Networking and Coalition Building; 3) Focus of Work and Priority Concerns; and, 4) Assessment of Results to Date. The following are highlights from the survey.

Contact Information. Languages of the participants: English—153; Spanish—75; Portuguese—15; and, French 14. There was a wide range of roles including many JPIC Promoters, pastors, social pastoral agents, Catholic dioceses, national church leadership organizations, lawyers, politicians, UN representatives and NGOs.

Type of Activities/Methods. One hundred eight (108) of the participants mentioned United Nations representations. Many church organizations and non-governmental partners were also mentioned.

There was a rich response concerning the types of involvement: Congregations (46), Local Religious Entities (44), Advocacy (78), Grassroots (34), Public Service (2), Media (5) and Education (33). The countries involved in mining were from all the continents except Antarctica. **Congregations and local religious entities** listed both where they serve (190 countries) and where they are involved in mining (87 countries). Involvement included advocacy, pastoral work, presence at the grassroots and education. Their spirituality was expressed in prayer, information and action. Statements were issued to promote action and efforts were made to coordinate their policies with the grassroots activists. **Advocates** worked both with the government and with the corporations. They built relationships, provided information, promoted respectful dialogue, worked with local communities, engaged related organizations, participated in demonstrations, and used socially responsible policies to mobilize shareholders to influence policy. **Persons at the grassroots** worked with people who were displaced from their land, had contaminated water, and had their livelihoods affected. Still others organized ways to resolve issues, were included in local consultations, joined demonstrations and participated in legal action. **Persons involved in**

public service were at the regional and local level. They had a mandate to seek out best practices and participate in local consultations. **Persons in the media** documented the mining industry at the local level, researched the records of policy makers and corporations. Media was used to interact with the grassroots. **Educators** advocated resolutions to problems, participated in pastoral ministry and created training or educational materials.

Networking and Coalitions Building. Key methods to establish effective relationships included providing information about problems associated with mining and human rights, dialoguing with those directly affected and participating in pastoral work. Participation in grassroots networks and the development of joint advocacy strategies were important. Involvement motivated by JPIC also enriched the experience. Persons involved in establishing effective relationships included civil society, mining companies, government representatives and religious organizations. Other partners mentioned: environmental groups, human-rights organizations and international advocacy experts. These relationships were effective because they involved related organizations, coordination was constant and persons were knowledgeable about international standards for mining. Methods for effective partnerships focused on meetings, capacity building workshops, networks, media coverage, education and prayer.

Focus of Work and Priority Concerns. There are 149 places given with information regarding the areas of the mining, the mining company, the minerals mined and the company counterparts known. Major types of mining included surface mining, underground mining, fracking and mineral extraction. The higher ranking mineral resources included gold, coal, gas, silver, oil and nickel. Problems encountered in the mining situation were water contamination, health hazards, poverty, air pollution and displacement/resettlement. Sex work and slave labor were also concerns. Work was being done to address these negative impacts.

Assessment of Results to Date. The results of this work have been greater public awareness, improved local leadership, participation of women, community leaders trained to generate initiatives, greater legal protection for human rights and the legal protection of the environment. Some elements that contributed to success included key partnerships with other stakeholders, ongoing dialogue, use of the SEE, JUDGE, ACT methodology, the involvement of JPIC animators and the constant evaluation of work through the measurement of goals. Successful outcomes were sustained through regular contact with the people at the grassroots and with policy makers. For many, financial support was necessary. For a more equitable sharing of resources some mining sites addressed many important concerns: support was provided for community needs; there was no contamination of water and air as a result of the mining process; the mining workers were paid a just wage; the real costs were factored into tax obligations for companies; there was sufficient local employment; and, the residents were being trained for leadership positions. At other sites there were many threats made or acts of violence which included: persons killed, verbal attacks, residents and advocates beaten, property stolen and destroyed. Support was requested for capacity building around related issues, training materials, learning about similar experiences and identifying and obtaining international advocacy support. Fifty-four persons said they could submit a 2 page best practice to be shared.

Moving Forward. Our professional consultants analyze the data through cross-referencing in an effort to provide needed information for projects. A booklet is being written to provide a basic understanding of the involvement of everyone in the mining concerns. It is being developed with the SEE, JUDGE, ACT format. [A prayer service focusing on mining was developed for World Environment Day on June 5.](#) For more information on the mining project go to <http://jpicroma.wix.com/jpicroma>.

Submitted: February 4, 2014 Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG). This group is a member of the USG/UISGS JPIC Commission in Rome.