



## **Report on the Survey: The IMPACTS of Mining; Establishing Relationships between Advocates, Persons at the Grassroots, Policy Makers and Mining Companies**

**Exploration of the Impacts of Mining.** Following the Promoter's meeting in December of 2011, the Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG) and some JPIC promoters decided on a project concerning the mining industry. The idea of a survey came about as a result of the pain-filled voices being heard by JPIC promoters from Congregational members suffering from the destructive impacts of mining. In February of 2012 a simple survey went out to congregations known to JPIC promoters requesting basic information. Initially, over 75 responses were received from all 6 continents. The need was for broader connections. The ICWG decided to develop a more extensive survey to identify more effective ways for advocates and persons at the grassroots to work together. The JPIC Commission expressed support of this effort. The UISG and USG were also engaged in sending out contact information.

**Survey.** 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 survey was prepared through a broad range of input with persons of various expertise. This included religious leaders, computer programmers, persons with professional knowledge of mining, persons at the grassroots, educators, advocates, religious, media, the grassroots and investors. No mining companies were consulted. There were many readings and rereading of the survey by ICWG and by others in targeted groups. The survey was translated into 4 major languages: English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. The technical aspects were specifically developed and tested for our use by a professional programmer who also monitored the survey on line. This survey went on line from January 15 to February 28, 2013 but once this became a collaborative effort with the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace the date was extended to March 11th so that the contacts from the Council could be notified and have the opportunity to participate in the survey.

**Countries Involved.** We have recorded contacts from Congregations and church leadership in 190 countries and of these 87 countries are involved in mining. There were 149 contacts for specific mining areas. The potential connections of Religious congregations are strong. The collaboration with church leadership in these areas is important.

**Results and analysis.** The survey results have been compiled and have served as an excellent resource to help achieve our goals to make vital connections. There were 401 respondents and a data base has been established of 257 congregations, church leadership and associated organizations. The information is detailed: 628 questions with over 16,200 coded responses. The results of the survey have been compiled with basic information regarding tabulations and percentages for all of the languages as well as a summary of the total results. The content of 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 information has been recorded in such a way that almost any question(s) can be asked and cross-referenced for results. We have involved professional persons who have knowledge of the mining industry and who have professional computer skills for data analysis. A PowerPoint presentation of the data has been developed and shown to the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, JPIC Promoters and the Franciscan Family Environmental Justice Working Group. It has also been shared with Caritas Internationalis, CRS in the United States, Pax Christi Internationalis and the NGO Mining Working Group at the United Nations.

The survey has provided substantive data as a basis for creating an international network that strengthens the relationships between advocates and persons at the grassroots working on mining issues. The following outcomes have already resulted from this survey:

1. A two-page summary of the results of the data has been written;
2. Contact information of Congregations working on the mining issues;
3. Effective working relationships between advocates and persons at the grassroots;
4. The involvement of contacts, advocates, government officials, educators, media and grassroots activists engaged in this work;
5. The reality and the activity related to mining in 149 locations has been identified;

6. The connections with mining corporations are listed;
7. The connections with partner organizations are stated;
8. Fifty-four persons are willing to submit more detailed descriptions of best practices;
9. Persons have been located who are involved in educational resources for the ICWG group that is working on a mining booklet to raise consciousness on these issues;
10. Information has been provided for a sister visiting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for an UN International Project on this country;
11. Information for contacts has been provided to help with a visit and a report on mining in the Philippines for an international project;
12. Survey information provided a message of hope for the Pontifical Council's Day of Reflection with the Leaders in Mining. Background information was presented on what is important to build relationships for the common good with the communities involved in mining.
13. The NGO Mining Working Group at the UN in New York received information relevant for their advocacy at the UN related to mining in Peru.
14. Information about the survey was shared with an organizing group of religious concerned with mining in Latin America who are aiming to organize a conference bringing together religious living and working in affected communities, to increase the dialogue on these subjects within the Church, and to connect communities to international efforts such as the UN.
15. ICWG has been invited by the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace to participate in a meeting with the "Walk Free" group which has a focus on modern day slavery and human trafficking. The mining survey has data on this area.

**Conclusions and recommendations.** There is an opportunity to do something about the impacts of mining with persons who are concerned and who are willing to work together. The survey provides information for ongoing discussions with advocates, persons at the grassroots, policymakers and willing mining companies. Wherever we succeed in our collaboration, the experiences can be utilized in other places.

We have been careful about the way the information has been distributed because of the confidential nature of the contact information. Advocating in this area can be dangerous. On the survey itself 44 persons stated that someone(s) had been killed as a result of the mining operation in their area.

It is important that we stay involved with the Pontifical Council. The ongoing support of Pope Francis encourages results in this area. As we work with religious congregations we would also encourage the Bishop(s) of the areas involved to address their concerns with the Council. For example, the group working in Latin America with the grassroots continues to need our support.

**Next Steps.** The project has received a grant that will support the processing of the information from the survey.

The ICWG is working on a simple booklet on the mining issue for consciousness raising. It will be based on the SEE, JUDGE and ACT process.

A meeting is being planned for members of the International Council of Mining and Metals and the ICWG and other JPIC Promoters to discuss the Church language of Catholic Social Teaching and the language of the mining industry.

We continue to provide information that is requested in a way that honors the confidentiality of those who completed the survey.

More interest is being generated with the survey and we are considering about putting the survey on line again. We would compile new data as well as integrate that data into the previous survey.

**Report submitted 4<sup>th</sup> of February, the Integrity of Creation Working Group (ICWG). This working group is a member of the USG/UISG JPIC Commission in Rome.**