Community-led Human Rights Impact Assessments:
Bottom-up due diligence prevents human rights abuses in large-scale development projects in Mexico

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Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)
@ProjectPODER
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The concept of “due diligence” becomes inverted and reappropriated by communities.
PODER + 4 partner organizations

- **PODER**: Latin American NGO as adapter + implementer
- **IMDEC-Puebla**: National NGO as community organizer + technical team
- **CESDER-PRODES**: Local educational institution as community organizer + technical team
- **Unión de Ejidos y Comunidades en Defensa de la Tierra, el Agua y la Vida, Atcolhua**: Community-based network as community organizer + technical team
- **Consejo Tiyat Tlali**: Local network of community-based organizations as accompaniment + inter-community articulation
72% (121,441 acres) of the land set aside for mining activity in the Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico, belongs to Almaden Minerals Ltd.
Adaptions to the “Getting It Right” Tool
Nov. 2013 – Apr. 2017

- Train communities about **bottom-up due diligence** and **materiality** from an investor’s perspective
- Conduct participatory **community cartography**
- **Know-your-rights trainings** and **collective decision-making** lead to prioritizing 3 rights: water, health, and health environment.
- Involve community members as **technical assistants for scientific studies** and as **surveyors for perception studies**
- Expand and deepen the **strategic corporate research** and **freedom of information** components
- Actively use the stakeholder outreach and consultation phases, particularly with regulators, to **begin training communities for advocacy** and to actually **begin the advocacy phase**
- Present the report and results in **numerous fora and venues**
- SEMARNAT rejects pre-EIA application on technical grounds
- PROFEPA opens investigation for 236 unauthorized drill holes
1 of 2 mining concessions temporarily suspended due to constitutional protection measure ("amparo")