Development & Implementation of an Equity-Focused HIA Methodology for the Mongolian Mining Sector

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HIA 2010 Conference
Dunedin, New Zealand
1. Project Background & Mongolian Context: Mining & EIA/HIA
2. Goal, Objectives & Methodology
3. An HIA Tool for Mongolia: Challenges with applying the IFC framework
4. Next Steps
Project Background

- May 2009 – International Conference on Mining and Health held in UB, Mongolia

- Two main conclusions of conference:
  - Government lacks capacity to insist that SIA and HIA be completed
  - No formal way for affected communities to participate in EIA and mine licensure processes

- Policy-level initiatives to broaden impact assessments in Mongolia → Evidence is needed.
Mongolian Context: Mining & EIA/HIA

- Explosion of mining exploration and development in the past decade
  - >70% of industrial output
  - 78% of export revenues
  - Employs >42,000 people (formal sector)

- 2006 Mining and Minerals Law
  - No provisions for SIA, HIA, community IA

- 1998 EIA Law
  - Currently under revision: > Community participation; + health impacts; MOH and MOE working group

- Oyu Tolgoi – HIA for major gold/copper mine
Population & Health Indicators

- Population: **3 million** population (60% Urban); Density: **1.75 pop/km²** – Least densely populated country in the world
- GNI per capita: **$1630 US** (Lower middle income)
- Life expectancy: **67 years**
- Large health and socio-economic disparities exist between urban and rural populations
- Mining presents both a promise and a risk in regards to economic growth and social equity
Goal

- To support public, private, and CSO interests in and commitment to the development of a **HIA methodology** for Mongolia’s mining sector that applies a **social determinants** and **health equity framework**.
Objectives:

1. To form an international partnership of Canadian and Mongolian health systems researchers dedicated to applying health equity frameworks to mining impact assessments

2. Develop consensus on a methodology and tools for implementing a social determinants of health and equity-focused HIA that is relevant to Mongolian communities, the international policy-making environment, and the international mining sector

3. To develop and test these tools in the Mongolian context

4. To provide evidence-based support for and encourage ongoing efforts to broaden the 2006 Mongolia Minerals Law and the 1998 EIA Law
“Integrated Knowledge Translation”

PHASE 1 – In Progress: Develop an Equity-Focused HIA Methodology for Mongolia

- Participatory process
- Inter-sectoral Expert Working Group
- ~4 full-day workshops and discussions between June and November 2010
- Draft HIA tool for use in Mongolian context based on international best practice guidelines (IFC, ICMM, Winkler et al)
Methodology

PHASE 2: Demonstration of HIA Tool in Mongolian Mining Sector
- Focusing on a current mining development in Mongolia; model or demonstration “desk” HIA using existing data for analysis

PHASE 3: Wider Consultation Activities as Needed
- Targeting knowledge users
- Consider, discuss, debate developed HIA strategy

PHASE 4: Dissemination and Evaluation
Technical Expert Working Group

- Multi-Sectoral
  - MOH & MOEnvironment
  - State Inspection Agency
  - Department of Health
  - Public Health Institute
  - Mongolian Employers Federation
  - Mineral Resources Authority Mongolia
  - Mongolian National Mining Association
  - Health Sciences University of Mongolia
  - Energy Resources, LLC & Oyu Tolgoi, LLC
  - Pact International & VSO
  - Etc...

- Community Participation
HIA Tool for Mongolia’s Mining Sector

- EWG very enthusiastic & supportive of initiative
- Adaptation of IFC (2009) and ICMM (2010) guidelines
- Building in equity and social determinants concepts
- Issues of language, translation and terminology
  - Equity, health determinants/impacts/outcomes
- Distinction between health outcomes and determinants of health
- Proposed tool being revised based on EWG input & practical experience
Other Issues & Next Steps

- Issues to address at policy level:
  - Capacity to conduct HIA: Who is going to do it?
  - Transparency and corruption issues
  - Health Promotion Training Centre??
  - Inclusion of occupational health impacts??

- Small inter-sectoral working group to translate IFC guidelines into Mongolian (reference doc)

- Expert Working Group members to contribute to future funding proposals
  - CIHR Knowledge Translation Grant – Due February 2011
  - ???
Project Team & Funding

- **Primary Investigators**: Dr. C. Janes (SFU) & Dr. Ts. Sodnompil (DOH Mongolia)

- **Research Team**: Dr. L. Oyun & Dr. D. Boldmaa (DOH Mongolia); Dr. J. Snyder & Meghan Wagler (SFU); Dr. L. Laing (University of Alberta); Dr. C. Davison (University of Ottawa)

- **Funding**: Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Catalyst Grant
  - Seed money, on a short-term basis (1 year)
  - Supports research activities representing a first step towards the pursuit of more comprehensive funding opportunities
THANK YOU!

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