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Peru Collaboratory

COLLABORATING FOR TRANSFORMATION:

Collaborating for Transformation:
Desarrollando las Prioridades de la Mujer en Zonas Mineras

AREQUIPA, PERU | MARCH 18TH, 2016



Prepared by: Gretchen Ferguson

Simon Fraser University
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I. Introduction

Peru has set an aggressive agenda for converting the benefits from resource development into wellbeing for all. To achieve transformation and live up to this promise will require new ways of working – with more integration, coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders. This is particularly essential in light of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Desarrollando las Prioridades de la Mujer en Zonas Mineras was a meeting with women social leaders from mining communities in the regions of Arequipa, Cusco and Apurimac.



The purpose was to explore the ways in which a Change / Innovation Lab could support women in solving complex social problems in their communities – with a particular focus on generating sustainable employment and income-generation opportunities and increasing women’s participation in decision-making.

The meeting took place in Arequipa, Peru on March 18, 2016 as part of the Co-Laboratory Peru initiative.

Participants included seven social leaders from the National Network of Social Leaders (Red Nacional de Líderes Sociales), who have also been involved in Grupo Dialogo processes to construct a Women’s Agenda for the Mining Sector. These women had participated in the Co-Lab event the day before, contributing to discussions on how to design a Change/ Innovation Lab in the region.

Four female Canadian academics who are part of the Co-Lab team were also part of the meeting.

This document summarizes the key ideas that arose from this meeting of women.

II. Questions for the Meeting

The meeting was organized around key questions, with each participant having the opportunity to respond to the questions and comment on points made by other participants.

The women already knew each other and have worked together for some time, and they had all met with the Co-Lab team on previous occasions, so the atmosphere was comfortable and open.

The questions addressed in this meeting were as follows:

- 1) What questions or ideas do you have about the idea of a Change Lab / Innovation Lab, following from yesterday’s event?
- 2) What themes need to be added to the ones discussed the day before, to incorporate women-specific priorities and objectives?
- 3) What parts of the GDL Women’s Agenda could be addressed through a Change/ Innovation Lab?
- 4) What kinds of economic activities/ opportunities could be supported by the Change/ Innovation Lab?
- 5) How can the Co-Lab work with the women in this room (women leaders) specifically (mechanisms, modes)?

III. Key Insights and Opportunities Identified

Observations and insights

- The women leaders shared that 80% of them have mining concessions on their community lands (the other 20% live in urban areas).
- One opportunity for sustainable economic development may come from the community funds that are directly funded by the companies, if these can be directed toward initiatives that the women identify and participate in.
- They are all part of a national network of social leaders, which is not legally registered by which brings together several formal organizations under one umbrella. The network helps them mainly to share learning.
- Important to find a way to work with artisanal miners who gather the tailings from the mines. 20% of these are women, and they face discrimination in access to the best products as well as sexual harassment and violence. These women earn about 1500 soles per month (\$480 US). They used to earn more but prices have gone down.
- Digital literacy is an important area to work on with the women; they identified their need to be able to use communications technologies such as internet and smart phones.

Ideas & Opportunities

The women identified many ways that the Co-Lab program could work with them to enhance women's participation in decision-making and in economic opportunities:

- 1) Workshops / training to develop strategic plans for implementing their Women and Mining Agenda (i.e., improving women's participation in education, decision-making, and economic activities)
- 2) Support strategy for how to (continue) the work begun by the 'Partnerships for the prevention of Social Conflicts fund' – working on conflict resolution, peace-building; including technology support for radio programming.¹
- 3) Develop strategies for economic diversification in mining communities – for the present and for post-mining
- 4) Generate economic strategies that could benefit the women's network – i.e., support entrepreneurship, enterprise development for women as individuals and in agricultural associations.
- 5) Strategies for addressing domestic violence which has risen since mining started. Look at ways to “make men part of the plan” – e.g., White Ribbon campaign, or an NGO program focused specifically on boys
- 6) Need to bring together people both around topics and process (approach, where do we start? where to go for information? How do we asset the assets we have? Best way to deploy?) In other words, opportunity to link the women to information, resources, expertise for community / local economic development.

¹ Prevention of Conflicts Over the Use of Natural Resources is a six-year Global Affairs-funded project being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). “The goal of this project is to help the Peruvian government, state agencies, civil society, and the private sector prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts relating to natural resources and economic growth. The project aims to contribute to creating and maintaining a stable economic environment for equitable and sustainable economic growth in Peru by reducing the economic and social impact of these conflicts.” <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb%5Ccpo.nsf/projEn/A034585001>

Community Specific Opportunities

The group then explored the specific opportunities in the communities that the women are from:

ISLAY PROVINCE, AREQUIPA

This is where the controversial mine Tia Maria is located. Recent violence arising from social conflicts makes it very difficult to work in the area.² The departmental government began a participatory planning process for the area, but social conflicts in the area prevented constructive discussions or approval of any plans. The problems began when a road was put into the community by the mining company, bringing in prostitution, alcohol. Social violence and Domestic violence are big problems in the community.

SICUANI, CUSCO

The community is engaged in guinea pig farming as an income generator. There is an existing association of guinea pig farmers in the community. On average each farmer sells 20-30 guinea pigs per month for 25 soles each (gross income = 500-750 soles/ month). They sell for more as prepared/ cooked items at festivals and market days. Would like to expand production and markets. Students from the Change Lab could help them identify how to expand markets – regional strategy, branding as healthy food, etc. Also need help to identify opportunities for economic diversification in the area as a whole.

ABANCAY, APURIMAC

The priorities for this provincial capital are fostering entrepreneurship and independence, during the period that mining continues to operate and post-mining. Need help to identify markets for their locally produced agricultural products such as native potato varieties; textiles; home-made pasta; honey and pickled fruit. Have an association that does quality control on the pasta and fruit.

TAPAY, AREQUIPA

This is an area that is difficult to access. Can only reach the community by horse or foot. They have a lot of fruit. The government provided funding to build a processing plant, to make jam. However, they could not bring the product to market due to lack of good local business management and lack of infrastructure such as transportation routes.

Summary of Opportunities

- 1) Communication strategy (linked to technology/digital literacy) for peace culture, reducing social conflict
- 2) Promoting entrepreneurship activities in a couple of specific localities (associations, value-added agricultural products)
- 3) Training / Capacity-building in:
 - a. Strategic planning
 - b. Local economic development / community economic development
 - c. Business management and entrepreneurship
 - d. Leadership, self-esteem, etc.

² The Peruvian government announced a State of Emergency in this community in May 2015 after clashes between protesters and police. See: <https://actualidad.rt.com/actualidad/175525-peru-declaran-emergencia-mineria-tia-marina>

IV. Conclusion & Next Steps

The meeting resulted in identified priority themes for a Change/ Innovation Lab from a gendered perspective. Preliminary ideas also emerged about how to improve market access and sustainable employment for women from areas involved in extractive industry.

The next steps were identified as:

- Prepare a summary of the meeting to share with all participants
- Plan how to include some of the issues and themes identified into the pilot Change / Innovation Lab
- Identify potential ways to incorporate training / capacity building in governance and leadership topics for women in mining regions into the leadership program and/or other Co-Lab activities

V. Meeting Participants

CO-LAB TEAM

- Gretchen Ferguson (Hernandez), Meeting Facilitator
- June Francis, Co-Director
- Kristina Henriksson, Co-Director