

Understanding how  
the mining sector  
can contribute to  
better health in low  
income countries



## Background

**Mining is an important global industry that supports 300 million employees and their families, as well as having broader economic, environmental, labour and social impacts. In Africa, annual sales for the top 40 mining companies range from \$350 million to \$80 billion.\***

Many mining operations are located in some of the world's poorest countries and communities.

People in these communities, often face significant barriers to accessing health services, particularly where the burden of diseases such as TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS is high.

Where public health services are constrained, private services can be prohibitively expensive, unevenly regulated and of variable quality. This can result in limited use of health services and health coverage that is neither adequate nor equitable.

There is, therefore, an increasing interest in the role that the mining industry can play in improving the delivery of quality, affordable health services, particularly for the poor.

## Understanding the current situation

**The mining industry has long recognised the links between health and productivity, and generally has well developed workplace programmes covering both the health and safety of their employees. In sub-Saharan Africa, these programmes have increasingly focused on addressing communicable diseases, notably TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS.**

Moreover, the mining industry has an impressive track record of extending workplace health programmes beyond staff to their families and communities.

Many mining companies have understood the relationship between unhealthy communities and unhealthy workers and have identified their role in addressing this link.

There is also a growing recognition that partnerships with government can provide a solution to extending health services in a cost effective manner.

Existing mining partner agreements in health are diverse. They range from loose collaboration to more structured partnerships with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Some services currently offered by mining companies range from basic first-aid to advanced clinical or even hospital facilities. Beneficiaries may be limited to current employees or they may also include contractors, dependents, former employees and even the wider community.

Some health services are provided free at the point of access while others must be paid for by the user in part or in full. Others are financed through compulsory or optional health insurance schemes. Some services might be offered directly by the company or through contracts with other providers.

The mining sector comprises approximately 300 million dependent employees and relatives.

\* Boston Consulting Group 2010 report 'The African Challengers'

The Initiative will identify best practice models for successful mining health programmes.

## What the Mining Health Initiative will do

**The Mining Health Initiative will analyse evidence of what works - existing structures and programmes already in place, as a basis for standards of good practice for future partnerships. This will be achieved through a series of in-depth case studies about mining companies as well as in-country stakeholder consultations in Africa.**

It will work with mining companies, as well as governments and non-government organisations to understand their policies and priorities and establish a common ground from which to develop effective and productive relationships.

The Initiative will work with all stakeholders to build consensus and to identify models and structures for successful mining health programming that

provide good value for money from both the company and public perspective.

Trade associations and umbrella groups such as the International Council for Mining and Metals (ICMM) will play a key role in representing the interests of the mining industry, as well as individual mining companies that participate in the case studies.

It will establish a Stakeholder Advisory Group (STAG) and representatives from interested parties including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) will be invited to join.

There is a growing recognition that partnerships with government can provide a solution.

## Outcomes

**The Mining Health Initiative will contribute to a greater understanding of existing mining health partnerships between the private and public sector. It will look at how they can go beyond improving the productivity of employees to strengthening community relations, enhancing corporate reputations and creating new standards of practice.**

Following the development of four country case studies and three in-country stakeholder consultations, the Initiative will culminate in a set of “good practice” standards and guidelines as well as proposals for consideration by development partners that make up the Harnessing Non State Actors for Better Health for the Poor (HANSHEP) Group and other stakeholders.

Emphasis will be placed on effective ways to deliver mining health programming, including how such programmes can contribute to overall health system strengthening.

A final consultation will be undertaken to examine and feed back on these proposals.

Ultimately, this project will demonstrate the ways in which joint investment and collaborative working can contribute to better health outcomes in low-income countries that have emerging and developed mining sectors.

### The Mining Health Initiative's workplan includes:

Literature Review	Nov-Jan 2012
Case Studies	Mar-May 2012
Stakeholder Consultation	May-Jul 2012
Produce good programming guidelines	Jul-Aug 2012
Stakeholder validation and endorsement of guidelines	Sept-Oct 2012

Engage with the Mining Health Initiative. Go to [www.mininghealth.org](http://www.mininghealth.org)



**The Mining Health Initiative is undertaken by Health Partners International and Montrose International, in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies and the International Business Leaders Forum.**

The Initiative is funded by DFID and the World Bank International Finance Corporation, under the aegis of HANSHEP, a group of development agencies and countries established by its members in 2010 with the aim of seeking to work with the non-state sector in delivering better healthcare to the poor. Current HANSHEP members include the Rockefeller Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, AusAID, DFID, IFC, KfW, USAID, the World Bank and the Government of Rwanda. For more, information go to: [www.hanshep.org](http://www.hanshep.org)

The Mining Health Initiative is keen to engage with industry, state actors, civil society and other stakeholders.

For additional information please go to: [www.mininghealth.org](http://www.mininghealth.org)

## Contact

**DR JEFFREY W. MECASKEY,  
CHAIR OF STEERING COMMITTEE  
MINING HEALTH INITIATIVE**

Health Partners International  
Waterside Centre, North Street,  
Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2PE,  
United Kingdom  
E: [info@healthpartners-int.co.uk](mailto:info@healthpartners-int.co.uk)  
T +44 (0) 1273 477474  
W: [www.healthpartners-int.co.uk](http://www.healthpartners-int.co.uk)

**DR GRAHAM ROOT,  
PROJECT DIRECTOR  
MINING HEALTH INITIATIVE**

Montrose International  
PO Box 11161, Plot 31B,  
Bukoto Crescent,  
Naguru, Kampala, Uganda  
E: [graham@montroseafrica.com](mailto:graham@montroseafrica.com)  
T: +256 (0) 772 765 680  
W: [www.montroseint.com](http://www.montroseint.com)

