

# **Community perception of the Cooperation agreement and Community Development: a Case Study of Oyu Tolgoi Cu-Au mine in southern Mongolia**

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Mongolia, a mineral-rich developing country, has been experiencing a mining boom with large mining developments. Its economy has become increasingly reliant on the resource sector. Oyu Tolgoi, one of the world's largest Cu-Au projects located in southern Mongolia, has been operated since 2009. Under the Minerals Law (2006), Oyu Tolgoi LLC established a Cooperation Agreement with governments of local three communities in 2015. This study employed a phenomenological approach to understand the Cooperation Agreement from perspective of communities. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 19 participants including herders and residents of partner communities. Preliminary results from this study indicate that clear communications to all community members about the opportunities and expectations included in the Cooperation Agreement are essential for optimum engagement in and benefit from the mining project by affected communities. It remains to be seen whether short-term benefits such as employment can also generate sustainable communities in the longer-term (i.e., post-mining).