

LET'S CREATE *Sustainable Economic Futures*

An increase in society's awareness of environmental and social issues has added a new dimension to the way business in the mineral extraction realm is conducted. Not only has it prompted mining and other resource companies to incorporate social and environmental considerations into every step of planning and operation, but it has also added an entirely new dimension to competitiveness. A dimension that sees those operations conducted in an ethical and responsible manner more likely to succeed, while mounting opposition from the communities they operate in continually plagues those that neglect these issues.

The SEF Entrepreneurial Development program provides resource companies a solution for actively seeking opportunities to engage local communities and build sustainable relationships in places where they operate.

From conflict in construction phases to mine closure, the SEF program can provide positive outcomes. The program building the communities capacity to become independent of the mine and economically strong. We have been successfully using this program in over 300 communities in 5 continents in some of the most challenging communities.

The Entrepreneurial Development (ED) program complements and enhances the strategic methods to obtain social licensing and community engagement; providing you sustainable solutions to promote self-reliance emphasis on economic results, and profitability. ED is also a replicable model that can be applied in different communities worldwide and so could become an integral piece of CSR planning in mining companies with global operations.

Companies such as Newcrest, New Gold and Rio Tinto, Lundin Mining are striving to make their CSR initiatives more effective and have begun incorporating Entrepreneurial Development as a tool to create stronger, more resilient communities, through local economic development.

"The Entrepreneurial Development (ED) Program was a game changer for the local communities around the Cerro San Pedro Mine in San Luis Potosi (Mexico). When the company started planning for mine closure, the Cerro de San Pedro town was a sleepy community, often described as a ghost mining town. I like to describe the ED Program as a grass-roots program that helps develop self-sufficiency and social capital within the community by creating a mechanism and a support system for local entrepreneurs. The community of Cerro San Pedro is now a vibrant really community housing several small businesses – shops, restaurants, all kinds of services and goods are available now. It's so rewarding to see."

— Silvana Costa, PhD, Senior Advisor
of Environment and Social Responsibility

Contact Us

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