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Sincerely, Lidewij
Business and Human Rights
Addressing the challenges of respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of project-affected peoples

The construction of large-scale projects is characterized by significant human rights risks. This study analyses company actions in addressing human rights impacts in relation to displacement and resettlement. The researcher was based in two mining companies in Mozambique, where she analysed the implementation of compensation, resettlement and livelihood restoration procedures. Chapter 2 discusses the results from observations and in-depth interviews with staff members. Many impacts occurred because of a lack of early-on awareness of the human rights risks of the project. The implementation of process rights, i.e. adequate access to information and meaningful participation was inadequate. Community relations staff were under high pressure from construction departments to quickly compensate and relocate project-affected peoples. Chapter 3 considers the restoration of access to public services. Despite provision of improved replacement housing and access to public services, communities experienced increased food and water insecurity and lost economic opportunities. Chapter 4 proposes a Human Rights Based Approach to Resettlement. This tool outlines the relevant human rights principles in resettlement situations that companies should integrate in their procedures. Chapter 5 presents the Human Rights Sphere, a framework that shows how respect for human rights should become integrated into impact identification and management of project sites. To achieve more socially sustainable communities, the management of social and human rights impacts of economic developments need to be improved early on. Much more time and resources will need to be invested in early planning and implementation of full access to information and meaningful participation.

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