

Social Impacts of Mine Closure

Lessons from the South African Platinum Belt

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Mining Dialogues 360°

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MINING DIALOGUES 360°

Mining Dialogues 360°?

- Focused on the socio-economic issues arising from the mining sector
- Using collaborative multi-stakeholder engagement
- Neutral, non-partisan, safe space for dialogue
- And evidence-based research



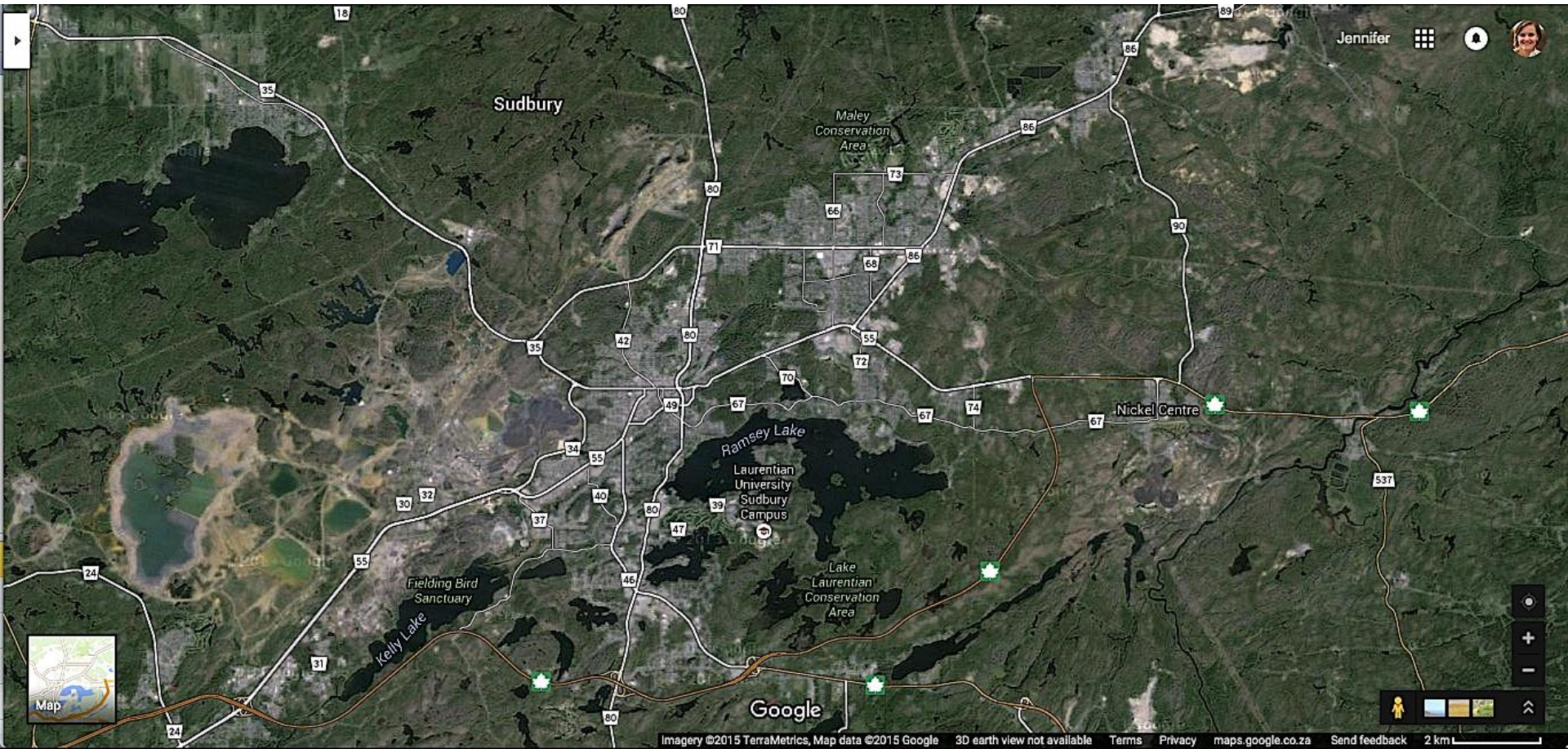


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Sudbury - Ontario, Canada



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The Platinum Belt – South Africa



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City of Rustenburg



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Social Surveys Africa



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Social Surveys Africa

Existing social programs around mine closure assume that:

- Economic alternatives exist
- The State provides an effective safety net and functioning over-sight mechanism
- There is an existing level of social resilience



Current reality

Economic alternatives don't exist

Mine closes - community collapses

- Dependence on mine worker wages for income in local and labour sending areas
- Local economy not diversified
- Hard to diversify economy after mines leave: skills follow mines, loss of market



The Effect is much larger than the local economy



Every 1000 mineworkers = support 27 000 dependents



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Current Reality

No effective public safety net

- Local municipalities are dependent on mine-based taxes / income – no public sector cushion
- Impoverished municipalities unable to provide basic infrastructure and services
- Lack of capacity in the private sector





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Current reality

No existing level of social resilience

- Low levels of education
- High levels of long-term health problems
- Low levels of social cohesion
- Gender and family dynamics impacted by the shift system and migrant labour



Reality after mine closure

- Huge environmental impacts: sterile land
- No clean up: no funding and not enforced
- Health impacts: reduced services
- Break-down of family dynamics
- Ghost towns and abandoned children





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Reality after mine closure

The experience of women



Present men doesn't necessarily mean coherent family structure

- Unemployed men at home hinder women's capacity to earn side income – piece work
- Increased levels of domestic violence
- Increased risk of HIV, sexually transmitted disease
- Decreased access to medication
- Increased child neglect



Why is Action Urgent?

- **Millions of people** live in mining communities and multi-millions are dependent on them
- Near-mining communities have almost **no voice** in labour debates, government and corporate plans
- Highly **vulnerable** to shocks - strikes, sectoral downturn, retrenchments
- Fuel for **unrest**: labour, political, social



Instruments usually available to intervene aren't there

- Economic alternatives don't currently exist
- The State does not provide an effective safety net
- There is not an existing level of social resilience

Existing paradigms need to be broken



What can we do in Africa?

- Build up strategic strengths in each sector:
 - ❑ In communities find specific ways of building resilience
 - ❑ Within the state find specific interventions for capacity building
 - ❑ Within the private sector, find different ways of creating collaboration for impact
- Pull together the 3 sectors in a *detailed* manner to function effectively



THANK YOU



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