

Digging Deeper: Seeking Solutions for Mining Sector Challenges
Valencia/ Sangre Grande Public Discussion Forum

June 25, 2018

Evaluation Report



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Table of Contents

Public Discussion Description	2
Overview of Participants.....	3
Data Analysis.....	3
Participants' understanding of EITI.....	4
Willingness to share information and to partner with the TTEITI	4
Participants' perspectives of the event.	5
Effectiveness of advertising	6
Successes & lessons learned	6
Sustainability: What are the next steps	7
Appendix I	8
Appendix II	9
Appendix III	11

Public Discussion Description

The Valencia Sangre Grande Public Discussion was held on Monday 25th June, 2018 at the at the Duranta Gardens Community Centre in Sangre Grande under the theme “Digging Deeper-Seeking Solutions for Mining Sector Challenges”.

This outreach event was the first Community based outreach for the year and the purpose of the event was to encourage a public discussion focused on key mining sector issues. the Mining Community and the issues these communities are faced with regard to the Mining Sector. The TTEITI brought mining companies, state regulators and community residents together to encourage conversation and provide diverse recommendations to solve mining sector problems. Adding to this, the TTEITI is mandated to undertake effective outreach activities with its constituents and disseminate information from the EITI Report. This document serves as the TTEITI Secretariat’s Evaluation Report for the Valencia/ Sangre Grande Public Discussion Session.

Overview of Participants

A total of 38 persons attended the Forum including representatives of Civil Society representatives, Government and Companies. In attendance were representatives of the Ministry of Energy, the Green Fund, the Valencia Village Council, Member of Parliament for Toco/Sangre Grande Glenda Jennings-Smith, the First People's Development, the Oilfield Worker's Trade Union, Fishermen and Friends of the Sea, Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women, Sustrust NGO and IWECO, IAMovement, University of Trinidad and Tobago and importantly community residents.

Data Analysis

Feedback forms were distributed to participants and this was used as an evaluation tool. Of forms distributed 25 were received, 16 (64%) of respondents answered all the questions, while 36% included non responses. Most participants did not indicate the relevance of the forum nor did they indicate how they can become a part of the change process (Questions 4 and 5).

Participants' understanding of EITI.

Most of the participants (92%) stated they better understood the purpose and role of the EITI having attended the Public Discussion, while (4%) were unsure about any change in their level of understanding and (4%) did not answer the question. See Table 1.

Table 1

Q1: I now have a better understanding of the purpose and role of the EITI				Total # of respondents
Yes	No	Unsure	Blank	
23	0	1	1	25

Willingness to share information and to partner with the TTEITI

All 25 participants agreed that they intend to share the knowledge gained with their colleagues. Also, (88%) of participants showed interest in partnering with the TTEITI. See Table 2.

Q3: I am interested in partnering with the TTEITI				Total # of respondents
Yes	No	N/A	Blank	
22	0	2	1	25

The EITI is mandated to share information on the EITI Report and process with members of the public. In keeping with that mandate, one of the goals of the TTEITI is to make the EITI a household name. In a recent fenceline community based study it was noted that the number of persons with knowledge of the acronym EITI or TTEITI was significantly low. These surveys are done on a regular basis to judge the effectiveness of the TTEITI Steering Committee and Secretariat in spreading the news of the EITI. Using the statistics shown above and the number of individuals present at the event it can be noted that an understanding of the EITI and the function of the EITI was grasped. It can also be noted from participants' willingness to share the information learnt with their colleagues that the knowledge of the TTEITI would be disseminated amongst a larger audience.

Participants' perspectives of the event.

The majority of the participants shared their views on the information disseminated and they were pleased to be provided with a setting where all parties that play a role in the environment were present. Participants expressed the need for collective efforts to combat the issues discussed/ faced and were able to direct their questions to representatives from the Government and companies. Participants' engagement was observed from their note taking to them voicing their grievances/ concerns.

Participants were especially attentive during the contributions shared by the Green Fund representative, Ms. Leslie-Ann Dillion which led to questions on how can one access the Green Fund.

Some notable responses to questions 4 & 5 on the Evaluation Form are illustrated in box 1.

BOX 1

Some of the notable responses to question 4 "Which part of the Public Discussion was most useful/relevant to you? Include:

- ❖ "The illegal quarrying and the amount of licenses that are issued compared to the quarries that operate." (Eastern Division Police)
- ❖ "Issues raised by various stakeholders." (Green Fund Representative)
- ❖ "The discussion aspect where it was very clear that the TTEITI has no real purpose and that 'reporting' is not 'action'. Can the suggestion that TTEITI be included on advisory committees to policy makers?" (UTT representative)
- ❖ "How destructive mining sector is to our lands and how important it is to enact laws." (Labour Relations Officer)

Some of the notable responses to question 5 "What do you think community members can do to influence change in the Extractive (oil, gas, and mining) Sector? If none, please state why.

- ❖ "Be educated of the law, organize into community groups, monitor their communities for illegal activities, be empowered to be able to act to address the problems/ issues affecting community, environment and livelihood." (FFOS)
- ❖ "Form a lobby with the community to drive for the changes to the governance of the industry." Issues raised by various stakeholders." (National Quarries Company Limited)
- ❖ "Develop Green Fund projects for quarry rehabilitation, ecotourism, environmental monitoring and wildlife preservation." (Green Fund)

Effectiveness of advertising

Participants were asked to identify how they heard about the Public Discussion. Advertising for this event was done through: Social Media, Email Blasts, Town Criers, the TTEITI website, through Referrals and Other. Some participants learned of the Public Discussion through more than one channel. The data shows that Email Blasts was the most effective form of advertising the event. See Table 1 below.

Table 1

Q8: How did you hear about the Public Discussion?	
Social Media	3
Email Blasts	17
Town Crier	5
TTEITI Website	1
Referral	2
Specially Invited	4
Other	4
Total	36

This information is instructive to the TTEITI Secretariat and suggests that greater thought should be placed into future advertising strategies. The Secretariat set a target of 60 attendees however only 38 persons attended. Feedback from the attendees indicated that the use of flyers in strategic areas would have generated more publicity for the forum. Specifically, the ‘town crier’ was the most expensive medium of advertising but yielded the least result. As Table 1 indicates, most attendees heard of the event because of the TTEITI Secretariat’s telemarketing and online marketing strategies.

Successes & lessons learned

Successes	Lessons Learned
There was a diverse representation of CSO, government and company representative. This turnout encouraged networking and provided individuals with access to decision makers to address their concerns.	Improve marketing strategy: The use of flyers should be placed in strategic places in the community.
The information shared was well-received and format of the event encouraged discussions on the real issues faced.	The EITI Report should be used as the focal point in the presentation.
The majority of participants completed the evaluation form.	A list of possible locations should be considered before choosing a venue.
The Secretariat was able to register 98% of attendees.	Persons making contributions should be given a time limit beforehand.

	For Town Hall events, lapel mics will not be needed.
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Sustainability: What are the next steps

Following the event, the TTEITI Secretariat reached out to the participants via email thanking them for their contributions and sharing the contact information of all organizations and agencies present at the outreach. The Secretariat also added participants who expressed interest to our mailing list with the intention of updating them on the activities of the TTEITI and how they can become involved.

Appendix II

Name	Organization
David Shim	SUSTRUST
Judy Delpêche	Valencia Community Council
Roger Waldron	Valencia Community Council
Enou Melville	Valencia Community Council
Leslie- Ann Dillion	Green Fund
Sasha Norbert	UTT
Vishal Persad	Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs
Roger Belix	Partners For First Peoples' Development
Bernard Ofienne	Police Officer
Anthony Orosco	Member of Public
Lisa Premchand	FFOS
Gary Aboud	FFOS
Bobby Rajkumar	Accountant
Erica Hemleet	UWI
Ibrahim Abdullah	GFAEU
Corey Connelly	Newsday
Lakshman Lochan	Student
Bhisham	Member of the public

Dale Cozier	
Enrique Assoon	Newsday
Brian Andell	Ansa Mcal Group
Stephen Ambrose	OWTU
Shirley Singh	Member of the public
Brian Murphy	LRO
Darion James	
Samuel Wilson	
Carlton Roberts	SUSTRUST
Cara Ruthman	NQCL
Mushtaq Mohammed	NCQL (CEO)
Raymond Hackett	NQCL (COO)
Susan Walters	
Leslie Henry	
Cassandra Samuel	Member of the Public
Monica Andall	
Devon Mahabir	
Mrs. Glenda Jennings- Smith	MP Sangre Grande/ Toco
Elizabeth Wharton	Sangre Grande Regional Corporation

Appendix III

