

Contributing to Sustainable Development in Rural Mauritania

Kinross commissions periodic socio-economic surveys in the areas around its operations; for Tasiast, these were done in 2011, 2013 and in late 2017. While from 2011-2013 improvements were limited to villages within a 30 km radius of Tasiast, by 2017 these had extended further out with positive changes in household expenditure, percent of the population living on <\$1/day, and self-perceptions of poverty. Declines in the percentage of people living on less than \$1/day are particularly dramatic, from 25-28% in 2011 to 6-7% in 2017, as are the drops in perception of being in poverty from levels of 50-60% to 20-30%.

A broader range of metrics reflecting quality of life also shows significant positive change between 2013 and 2017 in the study area, with declines in unemployment and illiteracy, improvements in housing and related facilities, a significant increase in residents with post-secondary education, and a remarkable increase in income-generating activity/micro-business.

The increase in the number of small businesses relates to the natural growth of Chami, the Tasiast mine, and also the artisanal and small-scale mining which grew in the area since 2016.

INDICATOR	2013	2017
Residents who have attended university	66	112
Attending secondary school	20%	24%
Illiteracy rate	19%	10%
Literate in both French and Arabic	13%	16%
Unemployment	35%	29%
Living in ordinary houses (as opposed to tents / huts)	52%	63%
Access to pipe-borne water	46%	64%
Access to electricity	51%	67%
Own refrigerators	21%	45%
Own TV	48%	62%
Own mobile phone	96%	99%
Own camels	34%	24%
Own goats	63%	58%
Income generating activities (IGA)	164	502

Beyond Zero Harm INDICATOR	STUDY AREA (%)	REST OF COUNTRY (%)
Immunization coverage rate	85	75
Adult literacy	89	69
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) – Primary	105	77
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) – Secondary	54	44
Distribution of households with toilet facility	72	48
Proportion of population using improved drinking water source	96	65
Distribution of households by main source of energy		
Electricity	67	39
Solar	17	0
Proportion of population using telecommunications network	99	80

The 2017 study also measured indicators from the Beyond Zero Harm framework (<http://devonshireinitiative.org/beyond-zero-harm/>), for which data were available. Comparison of the study area with the country as a whole shows that, on many metrics, the area around Tasiast is advancing at a faster rate than the country, especially in education and basic services.

Results of these studies demonstrate the often underreported positive impact of responsible mining

on development, the social determinants of health and overall human well-being.

These measured outcomes reflect contributions to a broad range of the SDG, principally to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Community Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).