

Establishing a Regional Voluntary Principles Working Group in Peru

Background

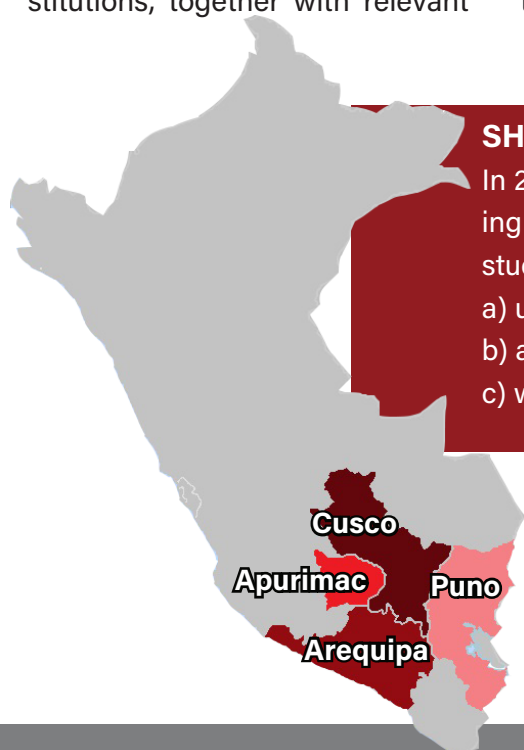
As a country with significant human rights challenges related to its extractives industry, Peru is a major focus for the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs). 12 of the 30 current VPs member companies have operations in Peru. Furthermore, ten member governments have embassies in the country. Other institutions, including official observers of the VPs and companies that are currently not members of the initiative, promote and implement the VPs in Peru. These institutions, together with relevant

state entities, formed a national VPs Working Group in Lima in 2010, coordinated by Socios Perú, a specialist NGO in this field that is a VPs member. One of the main achievements of the Group has been the creation of a trusted space for dialogue between different actors. This open dynamic allows members to discuss a variety of issues of common interest, and to work towards more effective implementation of the Voluntary Principles.¹

One key need identified through this dialogue was for security and

human rights working groups in regions in Peru with a strong mining presence, such as the “Macro Sur” regions of Apurímac, Arequipa, Cusco or Puno.

These regional working groups would follow the model of the national working group building on the lessons learned and political will generated at the national level in the pilot project. The purpose would be to improve VPs implementation in the Macro Sur region by promoting multi-stakeholder approaches to addressing security challenges.



SHRIM Support

In 2017, the SHRIM supported a pilot project to create a regional VPs Working Group in the Macro Sur region of Peru. Following an initial feasibility study, the project sought to build capacity of regional stakeholders to:

- understand good practices;
- apply good practices in their activities; and
- work in a multi-stakeholder way to address security challenges.



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¹Lessons learned from the experience of the national VPs Working Group in Lima have been systematized in the book “Promotion of Security and Human Rights in Peru” (www.sociosperu.org.pe), some of them have been captured in a tool (“10 steps to promote the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights: the Peruvian Working Group Model”) developed by Socios Perú, with the support of DCAF and ICRC. This tool is available in English and in Spanish on the Security and Human Rights Knowledge Hub (www.securityhumanrightshub.org/content/toolkit).

The Project:

The project was rolled out in two phases:

- From February to June 2017, Socios Peru undertook an extensive research process in the Macro Sur mining region of Peru to provide an overview of security and human rights issues in the region and to analyse the feasibility and relevance of creating an operational Voluntary Principles working group in a mining region. A total of 72 stakeholders representing government, extractive companies, private security companies and civil society organisations were interviewed for the purposes of this study. Additionally, workshops were organized in each of the regions to discuss initial findings with local stakeholders.
- Informed by this study, it was decided in August 2017 to set up a Regional VPs working group in Cusco. The initial core constituency group (Grupo Impulsor) consists of regional representatives of the Ministry of

Production (which will take on the role of group coordinator), the Peruvian National Police, three mining companies (MMG, Glencore and First Quantum), and two civil society organisations (Centro Guamán Poma and Socios Perú). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated as an observer. Prioritized work topics were social conflicts, dialogue, prevention, and training on security and human rights. Capacity building events were organised in September, November and December 2017. 115 regional stakeholders participated in the event, including 83 police officers. The event provided the opportunity to introduce the newly established Group to regional stakeholders, familiarise them with the VPs and the DCAF-ICRC Toolkit, and jointly discuss regional security challenges.

Results:

At the end of 2017, the Regional VPs working group adopted a workplan for 2018, and is carrying out outreach activities to engage additional extractive companies, government representatives and civil society organisations.

Since the group was established only in August 2017, additional support was required to ensure the sus-

tainability of this initiative. DCAF was able to secure funding from Switzerland to extend the project by a further four months in 2018 to enable the participation of additional stakeholders, allow the implementation of new activities, and encourage financial or in-kind contributions from Group members.

