Water, women and extractive industries: Getting serious on Gender in the Highlands of Peru

Maija Peltola
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

October 17, 2012

Bhutan +10 Gender and Sustainable Development in a Changing World
• Peru is the world’s largest producer of silver, and the second largest of copper.

• Overlapping of major mineral deposits and operations with farming or grazing land.
In the past

- Mining companies as *quasi*-State, providing basic services in the most remote areas (no gender perspective)
- Scarce interest and limited resources for development
- A number of social conflicts around water, leading to escalating unrest
In the recent years

- Progressive legislative framework
- More active Peruvian State, importance of local governments
- Increase in resources for local development
- Interest and demand of shareholders
- Fear of escalating conflicts and subsequent loss of revenues
Role of women
Role of women

- Caretakers
- Small-holder farmers
- **Water**: Primary responsibility for domestic use
- Outmigration of men and youth (both men and women)
Proposal

- **Common interests** of all actors in the territory: small-holder farmers, local governments, extractive companies, etc.

- **Water** as a source of social peace: entry point to increase income and strengthen development processes

- **Role of women** in water management and development processes

- **Asset-based approach**, not “pockets of poverty”
First steps

- Agreement between IFAD project (MinAg) and Southern Copper Peru
- Scaling up of IFAD “CLAR” methodology for channeling resources through public competitions
- Identification, systematization and replication of best practices on joint water management (with gender perspective)
- Targeting in rural, indigenous women
Benefits for rural women

Increased and independent income from water-related activities:

- Better agricultural production
- Environmental services (reforestation)

Leadership and improved self-esteem

Alternative for outmigration