



Empowering Local Communities in the Kyrgyz Mining Sector: *The Case of Talas*

Nazik Imanbekova,
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Societies Research Institute (MSRI),
University of Central Asia (UCA) in Kyrgyzstan
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"Life
Mountain



KAZAKHSTAN

Talas rayon

Talas

Kara Balta

Bishkek

Tokmak

Cholpon Ata

Karakol

Balykchy

Toktogul

KYRGYZSTAN

Naryn

At Bashy

Tash Komur

Jalal Abad

Kok Yangak

Osh

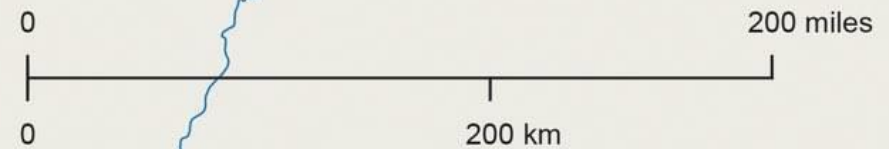
Tashkent

UZBEKISTAN

CHINA

TAJIKISTAN

Dushanbe



A story of conflicts (1994-2016)

Mines	Nearby village	Ownership Change	Present Licensee	Current status	Court cases	Peaceful demonstrations	Violent demonstrations
Jerui	23 km from Kara-Oi village	7	Russian investor Vostok Geolodobycha	Construction works started for further exploration	2	12	-
Andash	1.5 km from Kopuro-Bazar village	5	Australian investor Robust Resources	Suspended for an unspecified period	1	9	2
Taldy-Bulak	9 km from Aral village	2	Australian investor Robust Resources	Suspended for an unspecified period	0	5	2

A tripartite approach to the conflicts

- **Donor-funded NGOs**

- Capacity-building programs
- Mediation
- Technical assistance



- **Mining companies**

- Direct engagement with local people
- Social corporate responsibility
- Negotiation with the authorities



- **Local government**

- Direct engagement with mining companies
- Conduct information campaigns
- Ensure transparency of social spending



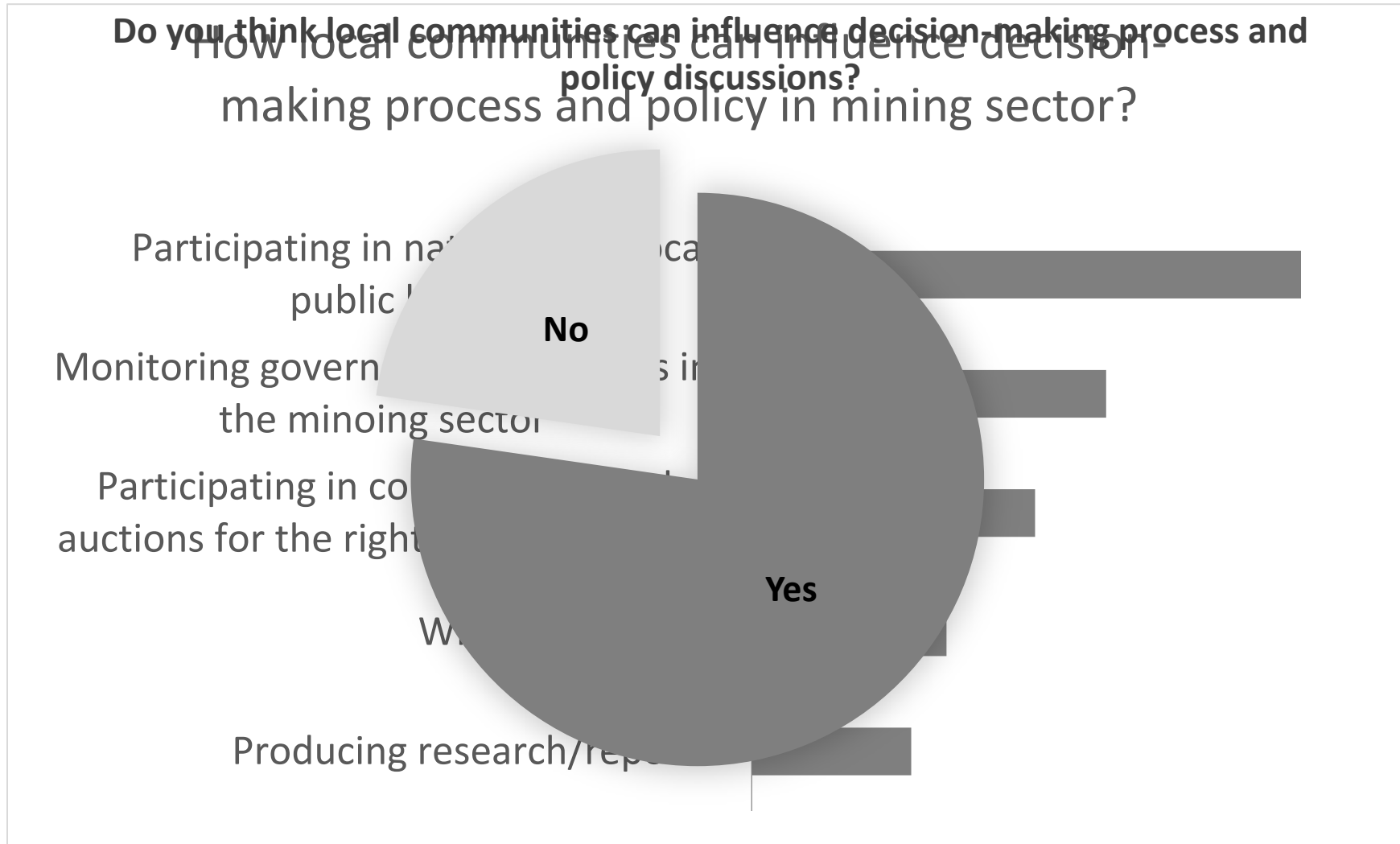
Key findings from interviews-1: different agendas



Key findings-2: Need to change the focus, format, and objective

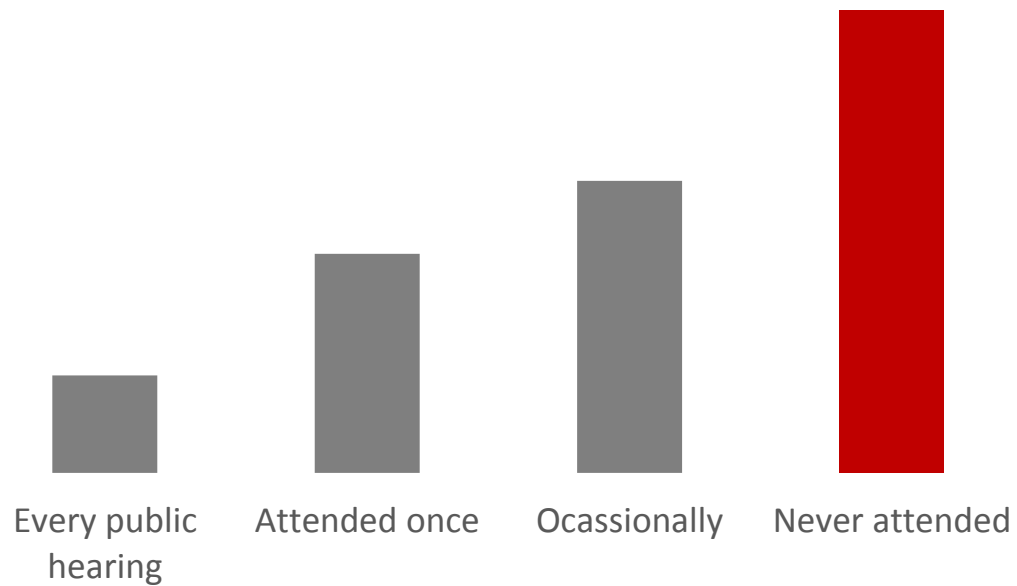


Key findings-3: They can, but they do not!

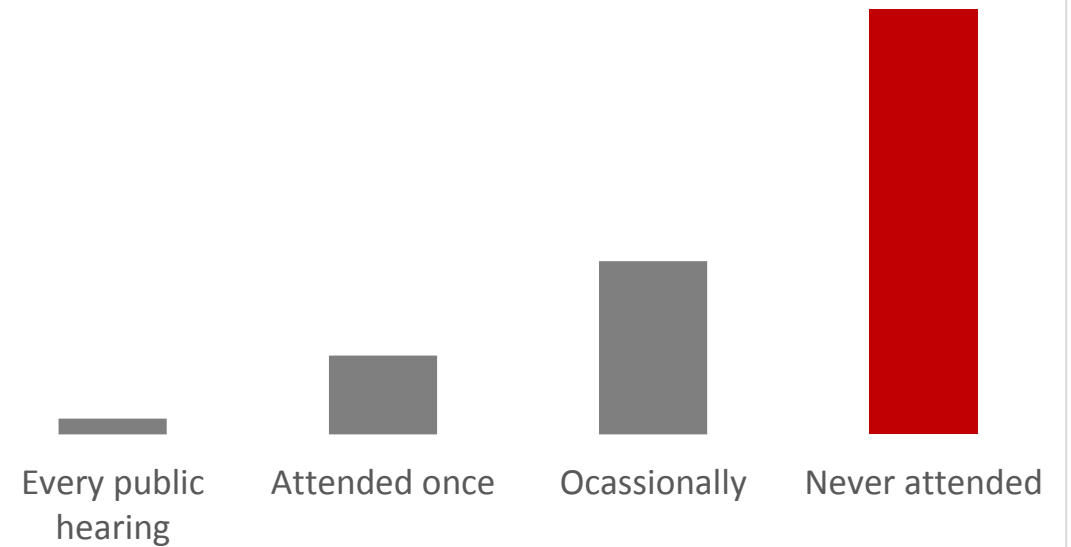


Key findings-4: More participation needed

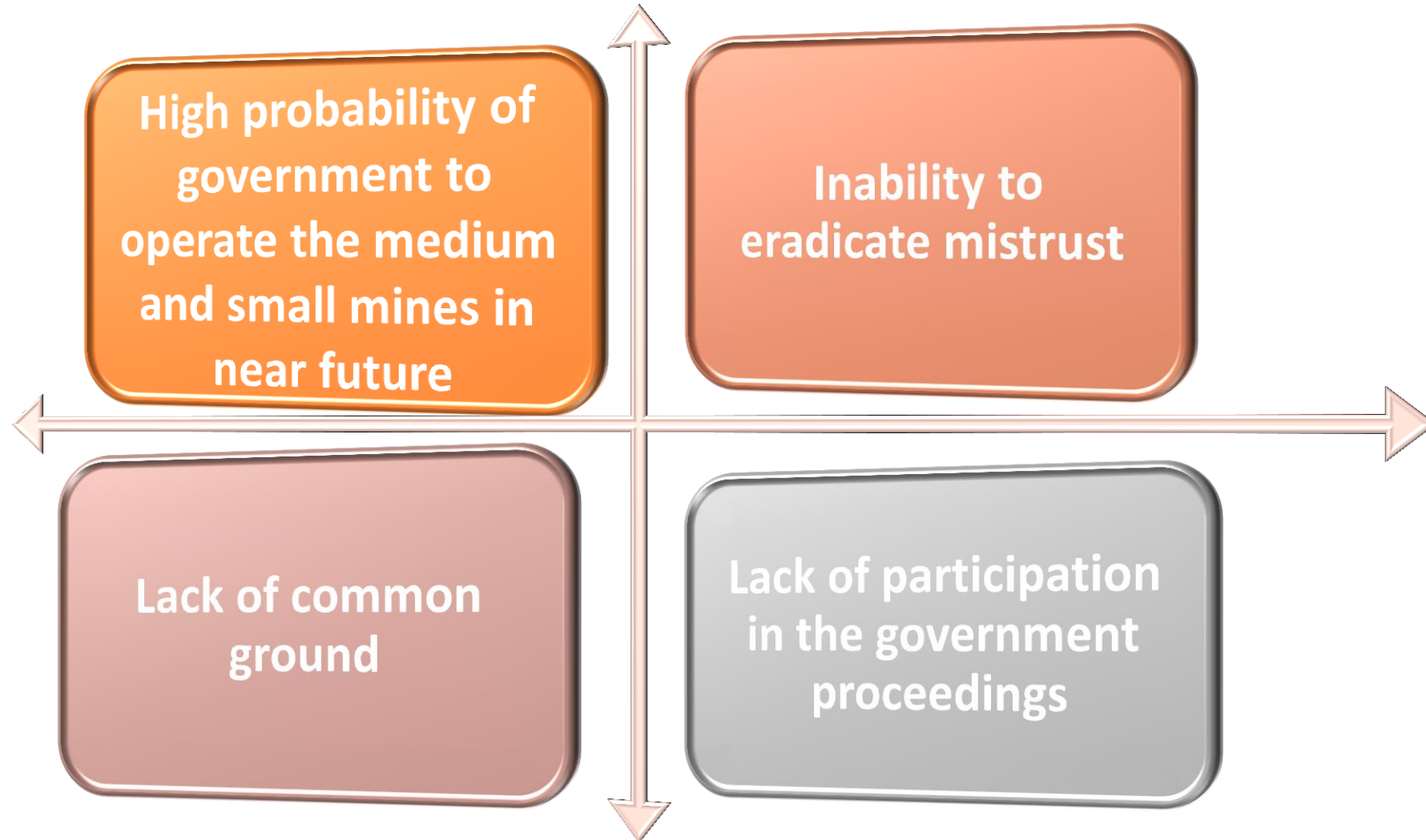
How often do you attend public hearings with regards to the mining sector?



How often do you attend competitions and auctions for the right of subsoil usage?



Conclusions



Recommendations

- **For Donor-Funded NGOs:**

- *learn from the experiences of community-based natural resources management (CBNRM);*
- *better assess community needs;*
- *do long-term programming.*

- **For Mining Companies:**

- *involve community representatives (Community Councils) in their activities*
- *comply with IFC Performance Standard 6*

- **For Think Tanks and Research Institutes:**

- *conduct Public Opinion Survey of mining communities;*
- *perform Basic Necessity Needs Assessment (BNNA) of the areas where the mining companies operate;*
- *Develop curriculum for government and civil society on communication, policy formation, and good governance*

Recommendations

- ***For National Government:***

- *devolve more power on mining-sector issues to local government;*
- *consider piloting small projects for some mine operations;*
- *establish Independent Monitoring Unit (IMU);*

- ***For Local Government:***

- *develop and identify activities that meet the demands of the local population;*
- *use international best practices such as EITI and PM&E for monitoring mine activities;*
- *should practice international mechanism such as EITI and PM&E.*