Minera San Cristóbal employs 1050 indigenous locals and pays them well. At some stage in the future, mining operations will cease, and these people will be unemployed. Despite the mine’s extensive stakeholder engagement there were questions they could not answer. So we did.

“Given MSC’s regional socio-economic impact, what do people’s current spending, savings and investment patterns, and associated values imply about their preparedness for the future?”

**Insights**

- > 48% of mine workers own 2+ homes
- Only 11% believe MSC has a future role in regional development.
- 42% want business training
- 33% invest in Llamas
- 36% invest in Quinoa
- Local prices inflated by 30%
- Less than one third of people under 40 would stay in the region if offered more elsewhere.

**Lessons**

- For those who want to stay and for those that would happily leave, MSC is in an excellent position to prepare both groups for the future through education programs (99% would enroll).
- Excellent regional revenue opportunity through a coordinated agricultural tourism program (WWOOF style farm-stays with language immersion) to attract passing tourist traffic.
- Potential for combining investment program with social financing of micro-enterprises.
- Wholesale purchasing opportunities for local vendors would reduce regional inflation.

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