



Historic church, Maniitsoq

## What is the Social Baseline Study?

- A study to understand the current social and economic conditions in the Project area of influence
- The study area included Qeqqata municipality - Maniitsoq and Sisimiut and the six major settlements: Atammik, Napasoq, Itilleq, Kangerlussuaq, Sarfannguit, and Kangaamiut.

## Methods

The information for the social baseline study was gathered from:

- Desktop studies and reviews of published documents from Statistics Greenland, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, several Greenland government ministries, the Greenland-Danish Self-Government Commission, and the Stefansson Arctic Institute;
- Two social data gathering missions (June and September 2009) involved key stakeholder meetings and/or focus group discussions in Nuuk, Maniitsoq, Sisimiut, Atammik, Napasoq, Itilleq, Kangaamiut, and Sarfannguit; and
- A survey of 278 households in Maniitsoq, representing 813 people (~30 percent of the Maniitsoq population).

## What Was Studied?

### Natural Resource & Livelihoods

- Information was gathered on use of natural resources, livelihoods, socio-cultural institutions, religions, aesthetics, existing and potential conflicts, and migration of people.

### Socio-economics & Planning

- Information was gathered on existing socio-economic conditions, perceptions, state of infrastructure and services, and capacities of institutions.

## Baseline Study Results

- The population of Maniitsoq has been in long term, gradual decline due to the depressed economy.
- Although the employment rate in Greenland is difficult to quantify because reporting is not standardized and there is a large amount of informal employment, particularly in the settlements, it is estimated that 93% of the total available labor force is employed. In Maniitsoq, over 70% of the adult population is employed.
- The overall National employment rate has increased consistently since 2002 and employment rates among men and women are generally consistent, with a slightly higher rate for women. The Maniitsoq employment rate shows a similar trend.
- Tourism is a growing economic sector Nationally and in Qeqqata municipality. In Maniitsoq, the tourism sector is small relative to Sisimiut, but is considered a key growth area. In 2007, approximately 49% of visitors stayed in Greenland's mid-region.
- The percentage of the working population with specialized labor skills (i.e., mechanical or technical) is low, so those workers with specialized skills tend to migrate for jobs appropriate to their training.
- Potential migration associated with the Project and related development is expected to be high, sourcing from around the country and overseas.
- If skilled workers from other areas are drawn to the Project area for employment, other municipalities could lose their productive workforce, affecting the population and local budgets.



Meeting in Maniitsoq

## Baseline Study Results (Continued)

- Freedom to hunt and fish and time spent with family are integral parts of the Greenland culture and stakeholders in towns and settlements expressed concerns about potential Project-related effects on access to hunting and fishing areas, availability of personal time, and the ability to adjust to structured work environments and schedules.
- There is a lack of trained police officers in Greenland because of Danish language requirements and poor salary. As a result, Danish police officers often supplement the Greenland force on short-term contracts, despite the lack of Greenlandic language capabilities, further limiting security capacity.
- Crime rates in the Qeqqata municipality are currently low, but this could change with the influx of large numbers of workers. Such an influx would create a significant change for the population and an increased burden on existing security forces.
- The most common crimes in Qeqqata municipality and Greenland include domestic violence and sexual crimes, which have a long-term and widespread impact on affected families, affecting education, training, and employment prospects.
- State investment in housing has focused on incentives for purchase of private housing, resulting in problems with quality and availability of public housing and potential future strain on public housing stock.



View of Maniitsoq