

Governance Strategies in Artisanal Gold Mining Communities: *Supporting Livelihoods and Enhancing Social Opportunities*

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Presentation Overview

- *1) Key governance challenges in the artisanal mining sector*
What does “shifting to a livelihoods approach” mean?
 - engaging artisanal miners as ‘informal sector’ workers instead of ‘illegal’
 - identifying concerns and priorities articulated by poorer mineworkers
 - promoting social and environmental equity in artisanal mining areas
- *2) Concrete lessons from recent development programs*
 - insights from UN pilot initiatives in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Indonesia
 - value of working proactively with unlicensed and licensed mineworkers
- *3) Recommend strategies for capacity-building, training and collaboration in gold mining communities*

Global Governance Challenges - ASM Population Growing

- 80-100 million people depend on artisanal and small-scale mining
- ASM produces approximately 20% of global gold production
- Populations are diverse – women, men, children; working on land (reef mining), in forests, in rivers (alluvial gold panning), etc.
- Work as organizations, groups, associations, individuals, families
- Usually working without official legal status – “informal sector” (many governments have not yet developed policies for artisanal mining)



Key Concerns Voiced By Mining Communities:

Big Gaps Between “Policy On Paper” and Reality on the Ground

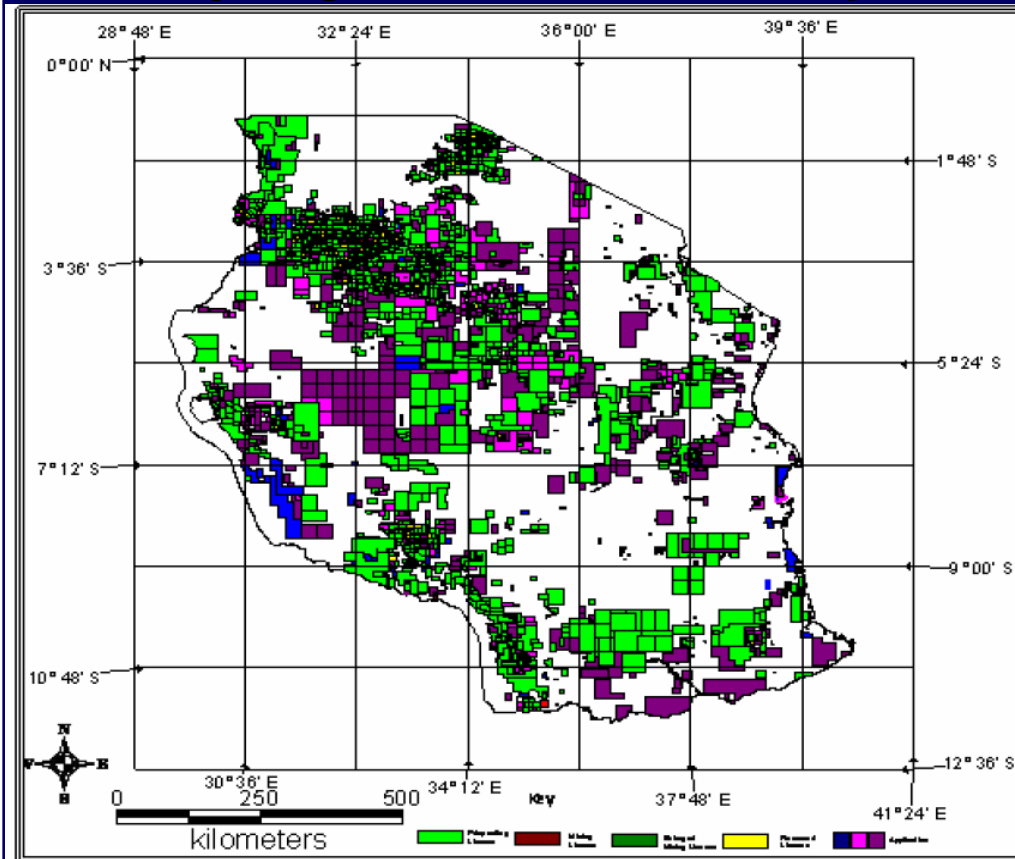
- In many countries, despite the existence of legislation/policies for small-scale mining, there is minimal benefit from those policies
- In the majority of regions, there have not been any assistance programs. The only interaction with authorities comes when problems arise (reactive governance measures). Furthermore, studies show that using police and military crackdowns can lead to new problems
- Many miners do not know how to apply for a mining license
- For many people, the laws seem bureaucratic, excessively complicated, and mining licenses can be expensive
- Unclear environmental regulations/guidelines on mercury use/best practices
- No assistance or training services available

Training Artisanal Miners in Tanzania



Examining Local Implications of Licensing System/Resource Access

Tanzania Mineral Rights Map (mostly large & medium size companies)



- Are there “legal spaces” where artisanal miners may work? Government has begun a process of designating special artisanal mining areas; and developed mercury management guidelines
- Need concrete actions and commitments from companies to support artisanal miners
- Major study findings: improving local access to micro-finance and technology assistance is key

Tackling Rural Marginalization, Empowering Local Organizations



Training on Retorts (Reducing Mercury Risks) in Zimbabwe



Training on Sluice Designs in Indonesia

- Field experiences show that numerous benefits accrue when governments and other agencies form partnerships with local groups, to assist miners and improve technology
- Simplified environmental policies are more effective than complex ones
- Need for policies to be fair, easy to understand and designed in partnership with miners
- Increase funds for local district offices to provide outreach services in mining areas

Conclusion

- Internationally and nationally, policy debates on large-scale mining have frequently overshadowed the opportunities afforded by artisanal mining as mechanism for rural development. The importance of the artisanal mining sector needs to be recognized.
- It is recommended that governments re-examine policy and institutional approaches, ensure that benefits can accrue from legalization procedures and develop proactive programs of engagement with informal sector workers.
- Collaboratively supporting livelihoods in mining communities can lead to vast benefits.