



Gender and Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining: Connecting Research with Resource Governance

Policy dialogues and training on women's gold mining livelihoods held in
Tonkolili District and Freetown, Sierra Leone, October 20-26, 2018

Ensuring that Sierra Leone's mineral wealth is shared equally by women and men is essential to meeting Sierra Leone's commitments to gender equality, most recently outlined by President Bio in his statement to Parliament on October 24, 2018. The country's artisanal mining sector (AM) employs an estimated 300,000 – 400,000 people, of whom a significant percentage are women. Gold AM is growing in significance in the country and women are more commonly found in this sector than in diamond AM. Yet women's livelihoods across the gold AM value chain are still not well understood, as noted in the draft Artisanal Mining Policy 2017, which calls for more research.

Research on women's livelihoods in gold AM communities in Tonkolili was the focus of five workshops and three training sessions held over eight days in Tonkolili District (20-22 October), and Freetown (24-26 October) organized by Dr. Aisha Ibrahim of Fourah Bay College and one of the leading civil society organizations working on natural resources governance in Sierra Leone, Network Movement for Justice and Development, and Professors Buss and Rutherford of Carleton University. The workshops and training sessions drew from data collected by team members investigating the challenges and benefits facing women and men working in gold artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) in Masumbirie and Makamba, in Tonkolili District. Between 2015 -2018, Professor Blair Rutherford (Carleton University, Canada) and Dr. Aisha Ibrahim conducted research on women and men's livelihoods in gold artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). Professor Rutherford visited the mining villages annually for two – four weeks at a time from 2015-2018 while Dr. Ibrahim's research is still under way. Interviews with policy actors and civil society organizations on policy responses to gender dimensions of ASM were carried out in Freetown, in April 2017 and July 2018 by Dr. Ibrahim and Professor Doris Buss.

The objectives of the 2018 workshops were to:

- a. Report back to the two mining communities and validate the research results on women's gold ASM activities;
- b. Engage the mining communities in discussing the gender dimensions of women and men's ASM activities and the implications for the regulation of the sector;
- c. Foster policy dialogue between local government officials based in the Magburaka and Makeni areas, other authority figures like chiefs, civil society and community representatives, as well as

members from the mining communities, on the challenges and recommendations identified by the community members;

- d. Foster policy dialogue between government officials, civil society organizations and mining community representatives in Freetown on gender dimensions of gold AM and the implications for changes underway to the laws and policies governing the sector.
- e. Provide technical training to women and men miners on techniques to enhance their mining livelihoods; and
- f. Provide training to students and civil society organizations at Fourah Bay College on research methods for examining gender and gold AM, to begin encouraging more research and data gathering on this sector.

Methodologies

- a. Workshops with community members in Masumbirie and Makamba (40 participants each: 80 total)

Two workshops, one in each community, were held on the mornings of the 21 and 22 October and attended by 40 community members from each village. Participants included women and men, with the list of participants compiled in consultation with the village chief with input from the researchers. Dr. Ibrahim and Emmanuel Gbondo from NMJD each traveled to the communities in advance of the workshops to meet with chiefs and other stakeholders to ensure support for the



meetings. Dr. Ibrahim also conducted pre-meeting visits to government officials in Makeni and Magburaka.

Photo voice presentation, Masumbirie Village October 20, 2018

Both village workshops were organized around an adapted photovoice exercise in which the participants were divided into groups of 8 and given twelve photos of women and men doing

different mining-related activities, and engaged in an exercise of using the photos of their choosing to talk about the lives of women and men in mining. By the end of the workshop, each community collectively agreed on the key messages they wished to communicate about women and men's lives, the challenges they face and the participants' priorities for addressing those challenges. Representatives from the mining villages (10 from Masumbirie, 5 from Makamba) were then chosen to participate in a policy dialogue workshop in the nearby centre of Magburaka and to present their photo-exercise results. From there, four representatives (2 men, 2 women) from each community were chosen to attend the meetings in Freetown.

b. Trainings with community members in Masumbirie and Makamba on mining techniques

In the afternoons, members of the mining villages, but women in particular were invited to attend a session with renowned ASM and gender expert (and mining engineer) Dr. Jennifer Hinton (a Canadian who lives and works in Uganda). Dr Hinton worked with a local carpenter and suppliers to build four sluice boxes (known locally as “rockers”) and to modify two plastic basins (“rubbers”). She then worked with mining community members on sluicing technique and left them with the equipment (including a spade), to be shared between any groups of women interested in using this equipment, on a rotational basis overseen by the Chairlady of the community.

Technical training with women miners
Makamba, October 21, 2018



c. Policy Dialogue workshops in Magburaka and Freetown

Under the skilled moderation of Mr. Gbondo, three policy dialogue workshops were held: one in Magburaka attended by 51 people including local government representatives, civil society organizations, gold miners and buyers, and community representatives; and two in Freetown – one focused on civil society organizations, attended by 31 participants, and the other with national government representatives (attended by 38 people including representatives from the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources, the National Minerals Agency, the National Revenue Agency, the Ministry of Local Government, African Peer Review Mechanism, and the Anti-Corruption Commission), as well as civil society members and organizations. All workshops involved representatives from the two mining villages. The meetings were built around a presentation by these representatives of their photovoice results. Some of the key research findings from Professor Rutherford’s field research, and Professor Buss’s interviews with government officials, were also presented. At each workshop either Dr. Hinton or Professor Richard Amankwa from the University of Mines and Technology in Ghana provided comparative experiences of other African or Asian contexts concerning women and artisanal and small-scale mining.

The meetings produced robust discussion and exchange between these different stakeholders on the lives of women and men who do gold mining, the role of local government officials in assisting and regulating mining activities, the challenges in securing a mining license, and the need for key service provision in the areas of education, health and child care. In Magburaka, the discussion included focused debate on gender roles, and an impromptu training session by a National Minerals Agency representative on the requirements for artisanal mining licenses. In Freetown, civil society organizations engaged in a fruitful discussion of the significance of artisanal mining for women’s lives and ways to conceptualize women’s mining roles that go

beyond seeing women as needing to be rescued from mining. Finally, the meeting with government representatives in Freetown led to productive exchanges between civil society and government representatives on:

- the need for more discussion and exchange on engendering the final version of the artisanal mining policy;
- the capacity of NMA and the Mining Ministry for gender responsiveness; and
- the conditions that produce artisanal mining without a license and the overlapping duties to make the licensing experience easier for women and men miners.

d. Research Methodologies in Gender and ASM training: Fourah Bay College

A final training, led by Dr. Ibrahim, Professors Rutherford and Buss was held with students at Fourah Bay College, mostly drawn from the graduate program at the Institute of Gender Research and Documentation, and the Department of Geology, as well as some civil society members. The training canvassed a selection of different qualitative methodologies for examining the gender dimensions of gold ASM including its regulation through state law and policy, such as participant observation, life histories, focus groups and interviews.

Results

A series of recommendations were generated at the policy dialogue meetings, outlined below. At the two communities, the participants generated a list of their key challenges and recommendations that focused on both artisanal mining and broader themes of rural development that materially impact on their economic activities:

Masumbirie Village	
<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
1.Limited access to land 2.Lack of education 3.No access to finance (loans or micro-credit) 4.Lack of equipment 5.Exposure to health hazards such as cold, pains, tuberculosis, headaches 6.Lack of health facilities 7.Lack of licensing facilities 8. Low technical knowledge and skills for artisanal mining	1. Government to limit Chinese-owned mines, and reserve some land for communities 2. Provide access to finance for women such as loans and micro-credit 3. Health facilities 4. Provide education and capacity building i.e knowledge and skills transfer from other countries 5. Increase access to mining licenses 6. Provide access to equipment 7. Provide alternative livelihoods

Makamba Village	
<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of access to land 2. Lack of education of children 3. No access to finance (loans and microcredits) for alternative livelihoods 4. Lack of equipment such as sluice boxes, shovels, head-pans, hoes, excavators, bailing machines etc 5. Exposure to health hazards such as cold pains, injuries, head-aches. 6. Lack of health facilities 7. Lack of safe drinking water sources 8. Lack of good roads sometimes leading to maternal death 9. Lack of alternative livelihood sources 10. High cost of mining licenses; MMO chasing miners away; 11. Lack of technical mining skills to access more gold 12. Lack of community centres 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase women's access to finance (micro-credit schemes) 2. Provide health facilities 3. Provide education and capacity building i.e. knowledge and skills transfer from other countries 4. Lower the cost of getting a mining license 5. Provide equipment for miners 6. Provide safe drinking water sources 7. Provide good roads

In both the Magburaka and the civil society-focused meeting in Freetown, the engaging and vigorous discussion, ably facilitated by Ms. Edrian Trinity-Davis and Mr. Emmanuel Gbondo, led to this agreed list of next steps:

Magburaka Policy Dialogue Workshop Recommendations	Freetown Civil Society-focused Policy Dialogue Workshop – Recommendations
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community engagement on laws on artisanal mining. 2. Community sensitization and awareness-raising on the three gender acts (Domestic Violence Act, Registration of Customary Marriage Act and Devolution of Estate Act) and the Sexual Offences Act) 3. NMA to do radio discussions at least once every month on mining laws 4. Government to review the mining concession area in Masumbirie, Makamba and the other mining areas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish community advocacy groups 2. Review Artisanal Mining policy and identify (gender) gaps for stake holder engagement; Ensure Minister of Social Welfare is engaged in the process 3. Ensure there is a policy framework that recognizes women as miners; 4. Conduct community sensitization on the process of acquiring licenses; 5. Engage community authorities to challenge customary barriers to women's access to land

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Empower mining committees 6. Consult local authorities before granting of artisanal licenses 7. Do not engage in mining without license 8. Access to mining license in Magburaka, and Tonkolili district 9. Training for women to do ASM as well as empower them 10. Loans to secure mining license (in the form of micro-credit and grants) 11. Loans/grants for alternative sources of livelihood 12. Yearly capacity building/ training by government to recognise ASM compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Government to control inflow of foreign investors;
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A Partnered Knowledge Project on Gender and Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

These activities took place as part of a project aimed at mobilizing research on women and ASM to foster networks and dialogue on the gender dynamics of artisanal and small-scale mining in sub-Saharan Africa. With funding from Government of Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the project activities include knowledge exchange, multi-stakeholder dialogue, training, and open access materials, to connect policy makers, researchers, civil society actors and mining communities in Kenya, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone, to the emerging research on gender and ASM.

Partners of this project include: Professors Doris Buss and Blair Rutherford, Carleton University; Dr. Aisha Ibrahim University of Sierra Leone (Fourah Bay College); Network Movement for Justice and Development, Sierra Leone; Mr. João Colaço, University of Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique); Dr. Sarah Kinyanjui, University of Nairobi (Kenya); Forum Mulher, Mozambique; Government of Germany’s Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Sierra Leone; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and Ms. Eileen Alma, Coady Institute, St. Francis Xavier University.

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