

# Gender and Artisanal Mining: Connecting Research with Extractive Sector Governance

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As policy makers at varying scales endeavor to translate policy commitments on gender equality into concrete interventions, focus is turning to artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), a rudimentary form of mining directly involving an estimated 10 million people in Africa, of which 40-50% are women. Policy makers are increasingly pointing to ASM as one area where interventions aimed at women could be introduced, even while there is limited knowledge and understanding of women's ASM livelihoods.

This project builds on previous research carried out by some partners, which indicate that there is a need for training and information-sharing on the connections between gender and ASM in the context of imminent policy and regulatory developments across sub-Saharan Africa. This is a 'partnership development project' funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

## Aims of the Project

- Mobilize prior research on women and ASM to foster networks and dialogue on the gender dynamics of artisanal and small-scale mining in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Provide policymakers with access to research and tools needed to generate policies and programs that better accommodate the lived realities of women in ASM
- Build capacity of local civil society organizations (CSOs) and university researchers to advocate for and monitor this process and
- To support the development of a network on gender and ASM within and beyond sub-Saharan Africa for knowledge and skills exchange by working with academic and civil society researchers within the four countries where activities will take place.

## Project Activities

The objective of these activities is to help forge the conditions in which new research is conducted, and laws and policies developed to better reflect the lived realities of women in ASM. The activities will be adapted to the particular timing and circumstances of each country, with input from all partners and particularly the country teams.

Project activities will 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.

Outline of project activities include:

- Policy dialogue meetings (1 day + .5 day of technical training) with artisanal and small-scale mining communities in the respective countries.
- Policy Dialogue meetings with national government, donor and civil society in the capital cities.
- Workshops with national civil society organizations in the capital cities.
- Training workshop for researchers (academic + civil society), graduate students on research methodologies for studying gender and ASM;
- Workshop evaluations;
- Development of advanced modules on gender and ASM/resource governance.

## Inception Workshop

Inception workshop for this project took place from 27-29 August 2018, at the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In attendance were United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) - Thokozile Ruzvidso, Selsah Pasali [African Centre for Gender (ACG)], Mkhululi Ncube [African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC)] and Tham Lu; Carleton University, Canada - Blair Rutherford, Doris Buss and Ekpedeme Edem; Forum Mulher, Mozambique - Nzira Razão de Deus; University of Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique - João Colaço; UN Women - Tikikel Alemu; The University of Mines and Technology, Ghana - Richard Amankwah; Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), Sierra Leone - Emmanuel Gbondo; University of Sierra Leone - Aisha Ibrahim; University of Nairobi, Kenya - Sarah Kinyanjui; and Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association- Mukasiri Sibanda. Apologies for absence: Eileen Alma - St. Francis Xavier University, Canada.

Reviews of previous research carried out by various partners on women and ASM established the context for the meeting. Best practices across countries were also shared in a bid to craft a feasible roadmap for the project. Discussions at the workshop focused on the best way to structure planned workshops, training and policy dialogue meetings to achieve maximal impact of stated goals of the project. For example, we explored how photo voice as a methodology could be adapted to provide a mechanism for engaging artisanal mining communities in a discussion of the different roles and challenges facing women and men working in mining and related activities. The workshop discussions explored providing a selection of photos taken over the years of field research to small discussion groups from the mining communities, with each group then selecting the photos they identify as most powerfully crystallizing the issues and challenges facing women and men in ASM.

Team discussions also explored different ways in which communication and outreach to communities about gender and ASM issues could be developed. Some communication tools identified for reaching out to the mining areas include drama, community radio, print materials, use of cartoons, jingles in the local language, short video clips and WhatsApp video clips for the district and national level communication.

The project will leverage existing networks of NGOs that focus on gender in the districts where research had been done, to show how progress for women in mining translates into progress for the community and district.

At the national level, recommendations from documents such as the Africa Mining Vision will be utilised. Stakeholders who could be invited to the capital city meetings and workshops include the mining ministries, minerals agencies, gender ministries, ministries of finance and development planning agency to mention a few. Civil society organisations will also play a key role in the meetings at this level. Openings will be created at these meetings for community representatives to talk about local development in mining, to foster more direct participation by communities in conversations about mining law, policy and their gendered implications.