

## CHALLENGES FACING SMALL SCALE MINING IN A TANZANIA

### Background

Tanzania is among the countries having abundant mineral resources. The data base indicates that the minerals found in Tanzania are grouped into the following major categories: **Metallic Minerals**, which include gold, iron ore, nickel, copper, cobalt and silver. **Gemstones**, which include diamonds, tanzanite, ruby, garnets, pearl etc. **Industrial Minerals**, which include limestone, soda ash, gypsum, salt and phosphates; **Energy source Minerals**, such as coal and uranium; and **Construction minerals**, such as aggregates, gravel, sand and dimension stones

However, these resources have not been transformed into wealth to satisfactory manner. The contribution of the mining sector to the national economy and social development does not meet the expectations of the people

### **ISSUES: Focus on Artisanal/small scale miners**

There are several challenges faced by small-scale miners, **evacuation of their mining places be one of them**. This has become a big problem to the small miners due to lack of license security, most of the time big investors with big mining license are given first priority than small scale miners who own small primary mining licenses.

**Access to credit and finance to small scale miners has also become a big challenge to them**. In Tanzania small scale miners are unable to secure loans from banks and other financial institutions for their starting capital and this is especially the case for female miners and for miners who operate without licenses. This is also due to lack of collateral and the possible inability and unwillingness of the miners to pay back their loans.

**Lack of equipment and machinery**; One of the reasons why small scale miners are classified as small-scale miners is because of the kind of equipment and machinery they use. In most mining sectors in Tanzania, small-scale miners use traditional techniques and low level equipment in excavation or digging while as in South America, miners use rudimentary tools, manual devices or simple portable machines These tools are often not sufficient to carry out their activities and thus, they often do not perform to their maximum capabilities. This lack of equipment is worsened by the fact that miners do not have starting capital in order to acquire the tools they require. More so, miners have no access to credit from formal financial institutions for them to finance their operational requirements.

**Poor technologies used by small scale miners also pose a danger to the miners themselves who are constantly harmed and even killed due to poor occupational safety standards**. The absence of machinery means work has to be done manually, thus resulting in fatalities. Also, many mines are not carefully planned due to the fact that they are illegal and therefore, structures are made in such a way that they are easily concealed. In many countries across the

world, including Tanzania, measures for prevention of mining accidents and other fatalities either do not exist or are not properly enforced.

**Lack of skills on the mining sectors**, has also been seen as a big challenge to small scale miners. Most miners lack the technical know-how to improve their capacity in this specialized economic area. As a matter of fact most activities to support mining sectors have focused on large scale mining operations, mainly to improve their productivity, legal status or environmental performance. As a result the small scale miners earn very little raw materials.

**Lack of market information and access to it is another challenge facing small scale miners in different mining regions in Tanzania.** Most miners lack education hence have inadequate knowledge of pricing their products, this can be clearly manifest itself in how the miners sell their stones and the prices they sell it for, in comparison to the real value of the stones.

Apart from '**obtaining finance**' as the number one issue affecting small scale miners. Environment, safety, technical assistance, obtaining equipment, need for training, obtaining permits and occupational health. Their also some other challenges facing SSM like transport, tax regime, job security, child labour, working conditions and selling arrangement

## **CONCLUSION**

The isolation of SSM in Government policy and actions from development planning, and from wider social and environmental policies such as health care and natural resource management is quite significant. The Government and its development collaborators (particularly the civil society) needs to facilitate a change in attitudes and perceptions and thus a change in Government practice towards SSM.

Also, ensuring that AS miners access training and efficient working tools including equipment by increasing site-based demonstration centres (a process that has already been initiated by Government), to cover most AS mining areas. Related to this is supporting the Vocational Education Training Agency (VETA) in its plans to establish a training programme aimed at training artisans that can service the ASM sub-sector and small-scale miners.

Also, encourage miners to establish "Miners Associations" that they can easily associate with rather than the current regional organizations that hardly cater for their needs. Smaller organizations whose members have similar interests can organize training through interaction with various institutions.