



ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme Implemented in partnership with UNDP

RETURN TO WORK (RTW) PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT

An initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, financed by the European Union and United Nations Development Programme, and implemented by UNDP.



I. RETURN-TO-WORK PLANS

Return to Work projects are a valuable mechanism for workshop participants' personal and professional development. As part of your sponsorship, you were required to develop a return-to-work plan on a project you would undertake on your return, applying the knowledge and skills gained from workshop to influence change.

This follow-up on the progress of implementation of the return-to-work plan will be used to determine the most successful projects; and subsequently offer a number of selected participants the opportunity to attend future training events.

II. REPORTING STRUCTURE FOR RETURN-TO-WORK PLANS

To facilitate ease of reporting on the progress of your return to work project, the structure below outlines the key project elements that need to be covered. **Please submit the progress update on the Return to Work Project (RWP)** using the structure provided below.

GENERAL INFORMATION
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Brief Description of the project: ASM mining in Malawi has been practiced for several decades and it is a sole source of income for some people. Many of them are involved in development Minerals extraction. Despite the mining activities offering a livelihood to many, still there are so many challenges that negatively affects the environment, community, health and safety due to knowledge gaps. Many ASM and the community have struggled to acquire the appropriate knowledge and skills concerning the environment, community, gender, health and safety in regard to development minerals sector. This has led to environmental damage, health and safety hazards that affects both the ASM and the community. The knowledge gap has contributed to stunted growth of the sector characterized by low household incomes and joblessness making people to migrate either to the cites or South Africa in search of greener pastures. In view of this, the project seeks to reverse the current trend.

There is need to do things differently to achieve sustainable development, therefore creating a well-managed and efficient development minerals sector that can transform the natural resources into lasting wealth for the local communities is the right solution. Skills and knowledge are two of the major drivers for growth in development minerals. Given the ASM potential, there is great need to create a conducive environment, that fosters its development and encourages the application of best mining practices, occupational health and safety.

It is because of these reasons, the project seeks to equip the ASM and the community with relevant basic knowledge about development minerals. Therefore, the project will conduct sensitization meetings and training workshops to improving their knowledge and skills in environment, community, gender, health and safety in the development minerals and other related areas like market linkages. Efforts have been made to ensure that the trainings are in line with the African Mining Vision (AMV) to develop skills at local level in the mineral industry.

In all, development minerals create and offers alternative economic streamline that can increase the socio economic activity at local level which leads to poverty alleviation and reduce unemployment especially in the youth and women.

Project Objective

The primary objective of the project is to equip participants with the basic knowledge of the environment, community, gender, health and safety and related skills required in the development minerals sector with the aim of linking the relationship between low value minerals to local and national development.

Project Design

The project has been designed to be more participatory in approach and shall engage participants by using presentations, group discussion and field visits. The project will be implemented in Mzimba District in the northern part of Malawi.

What were the expected outcomes and what outcomes did you achieve?

Expected outcomes;

- 100 people (ASM, associations, cooperatives and local leaders) sensitized on environment, community, gender, health and safety
- 80 Mine owner and workers trained
- Economic linkages from development minerals increase
- Environment protected, health and safety standards adhered to
- Conflicts between miners and the community reduced
- Illegal mining, child labour and gender inequality discouraged
- Pits refilled after mining
- The community's livelihoods and benefits from the mining activities improves.
- Increased awareness on environmental, health and safety issues
- Reduced health and safety hazards in mining sites
- Improved mining Practices
- Increased coverage of extension services
- An increase in productivity in mines
- Increase in household income – will ensure positive impact on poverty alleviation, and venture into value addition through mineral processing.
- Increase in knowledge and skills development – all miners will gain increased knowledge on to sustain their mining business.
- Benefits to community – the formation of co-operatives and associations will lower costs and increase knowledge amongst miners
- Improvements to infrastructure – improvements to physical infrastructure (like houses, communications and transport) leading to greater access to markets

Outcomes achieved;

- 140 people reached and educated (quarry miners, ceramic makers, members of Gemstone Association of Malawi and Malawi women in mining)
- Increased awareness on environment, health, safety and value addition
- Increase in extension services
- Improvement in mining systems
- Women are starting to take an active role in ASM activities

What were the expected outputs and what outputs did you achieve? Please be specific. For example, if you held a workshop or presentation to share the knowledge you gained during the training workshop: Where was the workshop held? When? How many people attended? What was the gender balance? Please also attach as an appendix any photos or other media.

Expected Outputs:

Output 1

100 Selected participants sensitized and empowered with relevant information

Output 2

50 Mine owners and workers gains knowledge about development minerals and adhere to good mining practices in regards to the environment, health and safety.

Output 3

Extension services in mining sites to give advice on site

Output 4

The community in the mining areas empowered, Local mining committee established and addressing environmental, gender, community, health and safety issues

Output 5

Relevant stakeholders engaged about the adoption of the draft ASM policy

Outputs achieved

Output 1: 140 people sensitized, educated and empowered about development minerals of which 71 were women and 69 men. These people were engaged through meetings and mine visits.

Output 2: achieved, 95 miners sensitized and educated about development minerals. Some miners adhering to good mining practices.

Output 3: 13 mines visited as part of extension services on site.

Output 4: 2 mining committees established for quarry and ceramics (Kaulira quarry mining committee and Baba Johan village mining committee this is for both quarry and cooking stove ceramics

Please describe the key partnerships and collaborations that you established in your country as well as any joint collaboration with other countries

The key partnerships I have established are with the Gemstone association of Malawi (northern Malawi Chapter), Malawi Women in mining (northern Malawi Chapter) and individual miners who don't belong to any association. I also partnered with a local NGO called Better Life for All (BELIFA) which works mainly with women in a value addition training where I educated 40 women about value addition in relation to development minerals. Currently my cooperative is working with the ministry of health, ministry of Labour and mines department on the Tuberculosis (TB) in mining project. This project is targeting large, medium and artisanal miners.

I am a board secretary and also a founding member of the Mzuzu Artisanal Mining Training Center where we train the ASM about mining and now we have introduced topics to do with development mineral. Some of the topics which were taught in our previous were; occupational health and safety and environmental management.

I have a good working collaboration with Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho guys I met at the workshop in Maputo. The collaboration is to do with market linkages. I have been linking the buyers to my Namibia counterparts who are interested in gemstone from that country. I have also been in contact with the Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana guys about buyers interested to procure development minerals in those countries.

What indicators of success have you achieved since the start of implementation? (Describe the indicators of success in relation to the expected outputs and outcomes)

The following indicators have been achieved:

- 140 people sensitized and educated (group discussions used)
- 13 mining sites visited
- 2 committees formed which are organizing themselves to be registered as cooperatives
- Increased knowledge and awareness on environmental, gender, health and safety issues in regards to development minerals
- extension services to mining sites
- women are taking an active role in development minerals extraction.

What strategic opportunities have you acted upon that have contributed to the continued success of your project? (include linkages to sub-regional and regional agendas)

- I took some international buyers to some mines which really motivated the miners to work hard to produce more due to the market availability
- The Mzuzu Artisanal Mining Training Center is a good platform for educating and disseminating information to the ASM and the board of the training center has been very supportive.
- Gemstone association of Malawi and Malawi Women in Mining meetings have been very helpful in sensitizing and educating miners about development minerals

What opportunities opened up for you personally as a result of your RWP?

- I have been posting pictures of women working in mines on my Cooperatives LinkedIn and Facebook pages and because of this some people have promised to help these women with PPE.
- Some people in USA have also promised to train women in jewelry making in my area

Please explain any problems encountered during implementation of your project, highlighting any deviations from the project plans (Describe the solutions sought for the problems and corrective actions undertaken for the deviations)

The major challenge to my project is that when I call people for a meeting they ask if I am going to give them an allowances. This makes it very difficult to conduct meetings and trainings because the project is running without funds. I also fail to reach long distances places due to lack financing and most of the time I use my personal resources since my Cooperative has no funds.

I have failed to meet local leaders because they demand allowances hence only 3 local leaders of Baba Johan, Mkosana Nqumayo and Daniel Gausi villages showed interest and I met them. This has made me to deviate from my plans.

The solution I have come up with for the ASM, is by meeting and sensitizing them in their mines to avoid the allowance issue. This solution is costly but its viable for my project.

What specific actions have you undertaken to ensure sustainability of your project?

My specific action for sustainability is to encourage the ASM to form collective bodies such as cooperatives and associations that will empower them to control prices and create sanity in their business. So far the quarry guys have fallen in love with the idea of forming a cooperative. Now am just trying to organize them so that they can be trained by the Ministry of Industry and Trade for them to be awarded a cooperative registration certificate.

The other thing is that I want to link them to big construction projects taking place around Mzimba district for them to be supplying quarry.

I believe that a cooperative is a good tool for sustainability and profitability of their business.

Please describe any future actions in the table below

ACTION PLAN							
Period	May	June	July	August	Sep	Oct	Nov
Activities							
Activity 1: Sensitization meetings and training workshops on environment, community, gender, health and safety in Development minerals				x	x	X	x
Activity 2: Organize quarry miners and ceramic makers to form cooperatives.				x			
Activity 3: Link the miners to potential buyers especially gemstone miners				x	x	x	x
Activity 4: Advocate for the adoption of a National Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) Policy				X	X	X	x
Activity 5: Project Progress reports				X	X	x	x

NB:

1. Please attach any evidence of commendation/award/certificate received as a result of implementing your return-to-work plan

III. SUBMISSION OF THE PROGRESS UPDATE OF THE RETURN-TO-WORK PLAN

The progress update of the Return to Work plan should be sent to: development.minerals@undp.org.