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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.



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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
Name(s): Richard Mbom
Position: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Social Enterprise for Environmental Development (SEED)
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Brief description of the project: Title: Valorising Clay Products in Bamessing Village, Ngoketunja Sub-Division North West Region of Cameroon. Description: Bamessing is blessed with one of the largest clay deposit in the country resulting from its geographical location. The village is found at the foot of the Sabga hills in the North West region of Cameroon and it is one of the 13 villages that constitute the Ndop Plain. Artisanal clay mining is one of the main economic activity in this village and this involves women, youths and men providing them with self-employment. The clay that is mined is used in producing several products such as crafts; beads/necklace, flower jars, status, clay pots, water jars, tiles, bricks, stoves etc.

Clay mining is one of the main economic activity in this village after farming. Primitive methods are used for the exploitation and the production of these clay products. Also the marketing of the finished products are often not coordinated thus resulting to low quality products, poor sales, environmental degradation, low production and exposure to health risk. The aim of this project therefore is to enhance the valorisation of clay products in Bamessing Village by formularizing the Clay Producers' groups.

Pictures



Fig 1. Exhibition of assorted clay products on sale



Fig 2. Baked clay bricks



Fig 3. Clay pots for stoves production



Fig 4. Clay stoves for the market



Fig 5. Some of the group members



Fig 6. Degraded mine site with stagnant water



Fig 7. Clay stove in use



Fig 8. Use of rudimentary tools for brick production



Fig 9: Traditional Kiln for the drying of clay products



Fig 10. Clay miner using a rudimentary tool for stove production

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

So far two artisanal clay mine Common Initiatives groups (CIGs) have been formed, reconnaissance field visits and sensitisation meetings in the community. The project is ongoing and with the implementation of this project, the following results will be achieved;

- ✓ Minimized environment degradation and water pollution caused by clay exploitation ,
- ✓ Improvement on the livelihood of artisanal clay miners and clay products producers,
- ✓ Artisanal Clay miners and producers equipped with knowledge and skills on sustainable production,
- ✓ Artisanal miners and producers equipped with equipment/machines which will help them to promote fast and efficient production
- ✓ Artisanal clay miners organised into Common Initiative Groups/ Cooperatives and
- ✓ Awareness on sound working environmental conditions which avoids and reduces hazards and injuries at the work place by using personal protective equipment (PPEs).

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.

Two sensitization meetings have been held in the groups and one field visit to the exploitation site. Prior to the EU-ACP Training workshop, I had started working with one group in Bamesing Village helping the group to be legalized and to become a cooperative. Ten (10) persons were present in one of the meeting with three (3) women and seven (7) men, all youths. In another meeting 15 persons were present, 5 women and 10 men all still youths.

At this meeting I shared opportunities in the developing mineral sector and I need for sustainable production.

The pictures below show the meetings and field visits.



Fig 11: Sensitization meeting with clay producers



Fig 12. Field visit to clay exploitation site



Fig 13. Field visit production site



Fig 14. Clay miner on site

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

With the implementation of the first leg of the return to work plan (RWP), there is an indicator of a success stories considering that two groups are already legalized. The return to work plan is ongoing and it is expected that the following indicators shall be used to measure the performance of the project;

- ✓ Artisanal miners' awareness/knowledge on best environmental practices,
- ✓ Increased in the number of jobs created by the project,
- ✓ Increased in the quantity/sales of clay products sold per month,
- ✓ Increased in household income of artisanal clay miners and clay producers, hence improving on their livelihood and an opportunity for them to cater for their children school needs and health care,
- ✓ Fast and efficient production of clay products by using improved machinery and
- ✓ Decreased in the number of injuries and accidents recorded at the job site.

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 belong to the Australia Award Alumni Network and also a member of the Association of Managing Mine Closure Ambassador in Africa. As an active member in these groups, it gives me the opportunity for continuous experience sharing which has a vital role in contributing to the successes of my return to work plan. I also recently completed a training in artisanal mining in South Africa and an online training on Natural Resources for Sustainable Development which furthermore empowers me in the mining sector and developing minerals in particular.

I have also identify the potential of linking specifically the production of stoves in Bamessing with climate change. The use of improved clay stoves is another way in reducing deforestation which is a contributing factor to climate change. Presently in Cameroon it is estimated that about 83% of households rely mostly on the use of the three stone open fire space shown below for cooking.



Which the effect of climate change, there is an urgent need to switch to the use of improved cook stoves.

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

The return to work plan (RWP) gives me the opportunity of incorporate clay mining and specifically clay stoves into our Energy Efficient /Renewable Energy Projects in SEED as a means to fight climate change. Also, an opportunity to source for solar oven for the drying of the clay products which at the moment consumes a lot of firewood for the drying process thus resulting in the destruction of the forest.



Wood used on the kiln for the drying/baking of clay products

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)

Problem encounter

- ✓ Difficulties in getting the miners to get registered and to work as a group.

Solution

- ✓ Encouraging the miners and producers groups to work in groups and educating them on the benefits in working as a group.

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

Sustainability of this projects shall be ensured by sourcing for funding opportunities to implement the project, legalization of the artisanal groups which has been done with 2 groups already, building the capacity of miners on sustainable exploitation and production, Entrepreneurship, Health and Safety.

Please describe any future actions in the table below (SEE Attachment)

ACTION PLAN (Please move below for a modified ACTION PLAN)

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7
Activities							
Activity 1:							
Activity 2:							
Activity 3:							
Activity 4:							
Activity 5:							

NB:

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

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

The progress update of the Return to Work plan is due **by Monday 20th March 2017** and should be sent to: development.minerals@undp.org.



ACTION PLAN												
Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12
Activity 1	Reconnaissance/ Baseline information gathering.											
Activity 2			Data analysis									
Activity 3			Field visit to complement data collected.									
Activity 4			Report on Field visits.									
Activity 5				Legalisation/ formalisation of clay miners and producer groups								
Activity 6					Training of artisanal clay miners and producers groups on best practices on exploration, exploitation, Environmental protection, Health and safety, Mine Closure and Rehabilitation.							
Activity 7							Training of artisanal groups on sustainable production and use of machines.					
Activity 8									Training of clay producers groups on the marketing of			



									their products, Book keeping and Financial Management.		
Activity 9											Monitoring and Evaluation, and Reporting.

