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## **RETURN WORK PLAN PROGRESS REPORT ON ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY, HEALTH & SAFETY IN THE LOW VALUE MINERALS AND MATERIALS (LVMM) SECTOR**

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## **1. Introduction**

Artisanal Mining in Ethiopia has been the basic mineral and rocks production and processing sectors throughout the older civilianization of the country from pre-Axumite kingdom to present time. Currently there is more than 1 million people are engaged in ASM activities in Ethiopia. Indirect beneficiaries are estimated to be between 5 million and 7 million people, or about 5 percent to 7 percent of the country's total population. ASM activities are present in all regions of Ethiopia. ASM plays a significant role in the economy of the country.

Currently Artisanal and Small scale miners in Ethiopia are participated in two basic mineral categories. These are:-

### **A. High Value minerals (precious and semi- precious export mineral commodities), i.e.**

- Gold,
- Opal
- Gemstones,
- Tantalite,

### **B. Low Value minerals (Quarrying for industrial and Construction minerals/ rocks)**

- Salts
- Ignimbrite
- Sandstone
- Limestone
- Gypsum
- Clay
- Pumice
- Marble
- Black Ash
- Red Ash
- Coble Stone
- Basalt

However, these artisanal and small scale mining activities were accompanied by different environmental, health and socio-economic problems. Some of these problems were land degradation, air pollution, soil erosion, lack of community participation, Lack of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), health risks and accidents, lack of simple and transparent

value chain system. Thanks to ACP – EU development minerals program, who coordinate the regional training work shop which initiates us to focus on the area to overcome the related problems.

As a result this progress report contain the activities done according to our RWP.

## **2. Activities undertaken during the preparation of RWP**

There are three basic activities were done during the finalization of our RWP. These are :-

- I. Field observation and stakeholders consultation: During that time we presented at the field and identify the base line information. During this activities we re-observe the site, interview the workers and undertake consultation with Ada district mines bureau, East shewa zone mines bureau and oromia region environment and mining bureaus regarding the current status of ASM activities.
- II. Review the feedback of African participants post field visit group reports and use as an input: As we remember that during the LVMM regional training workshop held at AU-Addis Ababa (Nov, 9-12/2015) all the training participants visit three quarry sites of Bishoftu area and react on and present what they observed with recommendation.
- III. Finally we identify the main gap ( in all administrative structure From federal to district level) and prioritize the main problems of Artisanal and small scale mining.

## **3. Activities done after the submission of RWP**

During our RWP preparation we only focuses on the 3 east shewa zone mining sites, but after the discussion with our higher officials we expand our focus area from 3 to 6 mining sites. These are : the first three construction material mining sites (Bishoftu area), one marble artisanal mining site ( Benishangul gumuz regional state), two artisanal gold mining site ( one in Oromia and one other in Tigray).

- I. Awareness creation and capacity development trainings :The RWP training manual was prepared in English as well as local language and incorporates the following issues.
  - Artisanal mining in Ethiopia
  - Environmental problem of ASM in Ethiopia
  - Occupational health and Safety issues in ASM Community

- Institutional, policy and legal frameworks on ASM practices
- Contribution of ASM to the National Economy and Local Livelihoods
- Mineral market, support and Value chain development

This training was given for a number of people in three different parts of the country. This include Bishoftu & Shakiso of Oromia and Shire of Tigray. Training of Marble ASM communities of Benishangul gumuz is programmed to the Next December.

### Populations participated on the training

No.	Participants		From Bishoftu ASM site			From Shakiso ASM area			From Shire ASM site		
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Local community		36	5	41	85	46	131	39	16	55
2	Artisanal miners association	No. of association	4	-	4	11	7	18	9	3	12
		No. of workers	46	-	46	50	24	74	43	11	54
3	Small scale association		3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Local and zonal administration		12	4	16	17	4	21	16	6	22
	Total		101	9	110	163	81	244	107	36	143

After the capacity building training was provided the following success was achieved.

- The district was started to enforce the ASM to fulfill health and safety issues and the ASM by themselves shows an interest
- Small scale association owners were started to provide PPE for their workers. Eg. During the field visit and before training no artisanal and small scale miner provides PPE for its workers. But now Umar scoria (Black ash & Red ash) production was fully provided Helmet, Gown and Gum shoe for its workers.

Fig.1. Umar scoria production workers with their safety materials



- Around 3800 trees were planted around the Shakiso ASM sites
- All of the Bishoftu pumice quarry site ( which visited by African participants during the ACP-LVMM regional workshop) was closed till now starting from may, 2016. This is because of over doss dusts on the ground and air pollution which devastate the area.
- The coordination between upper to down government structure was improved from time to time and stated to avoid the unnecessary market system
- Experience sharing was taken between the ASM Communities on Environment, safety and value chain management



Fig.2. Umar scoria production when shares his experience to Gechi stone quarry artisanal miners association



Fig. 3. One of the Gechi stone quarry association (namely gudattuu Sirba association) when training their workers



Fig. 4 Trees planted by ASM communities around Shakkiso



## **II. Revision of Institutional and legal frameworks**

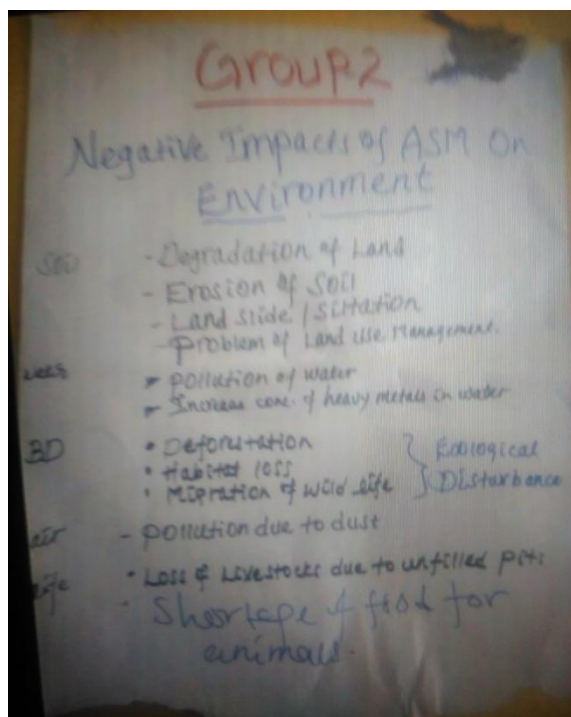
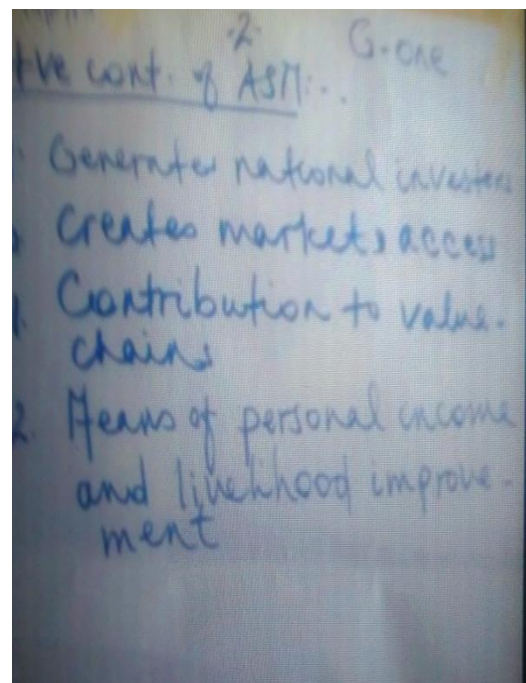
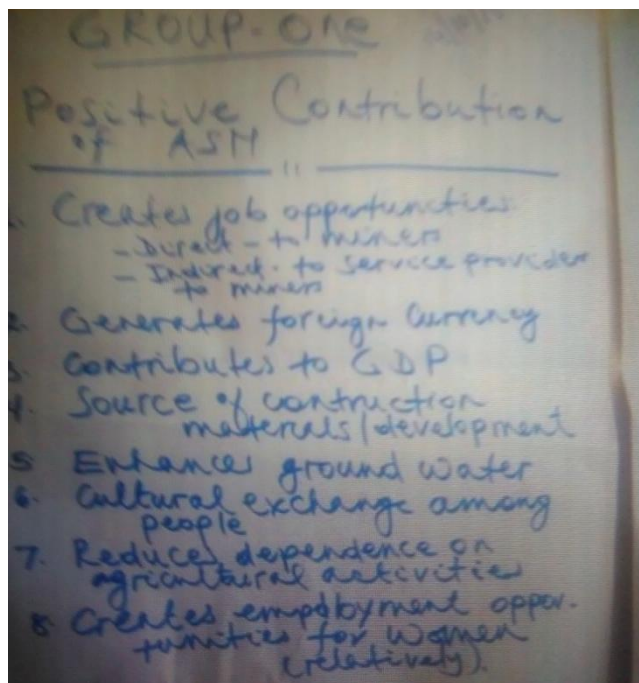
During the trainings with the above participants, a number of problems were identified and react on the way forward. Those identified issues include: Environmental issue, corporate social responsibility, Health risks, market accessibility and brokers issues, structural arrangements and cross check system ( Between Federal – Regional- zonal- District – kebele(PA) and association) and the like problems were addressed. In the past year our legal frameworks do not gave emphasis to ASM activities and those identified problems have a directly or indirectly relationship with our mining policy, proclamations and regulations.

For the reason that, it is better to make a conducive working environment for ASM communities and current active mining proclamation ( proc, 678/2010) was revised by ministry of mines, petroleum and natural gas and sent to council of ministers for approval and now waiting their response.

Additionally, in our regular work we decided to add the training and support of ASM in the ministry's Environment and community development department yearly plan. For example in 2009 e.c. or (2016/2017 GC) the department plan to train and support the ASM community, Local administration and experts in 6 regions.



Anex1. Some of group presentation samples during the trainings





## Benefits of ASM Community by protecting ENV't.

- 1) Maintain satellite
- 2) Reduce env'tal Risk
- 3) Allows sustainable livelihoods
- 4) Increase productivity of agriculture
- 5) Help them to adopt new technology

Linkage among schools and community

ben

- 6) Improve linkage of ASM Community with regulatory bodies
- 7) Maintain ecosystem
- 8) Improve community Health & Safety