



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

Name(s): Javier Silas Omagor

Position: Group Leader, Step FM/TV Ag. Program Director

Email: javieromagor@gmail.com

Phone no (office + mob): +256 77 888 50 63

Brief description of the project: MIHAMD Initiative: The Project is majoring in public general awareness orchestrated by main stream media in regard to the relationship between environment and mining activities for this case; we focus on Eastern Uganda being our catchment area in this program. Community media trainings, barazas, Radio and TV Documentaries and related Media Practitioners and community Trainings are our core pilots of the project:

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

1. People empowering people: Community Barrazas' participants (from the mining societies of Tira-Busia, Sukulu-Tororo, Akwarikwari Stone Quarry –Bukedea and Vermiculite Factory-Manafwa among others who will attend the community barrasa) would have now got a clear understanding on environment, community, health and safety in the development minerals sector.
2. The project would have also developed a framework that attempts to bring the policy, legal, economic, social and environmental aspects together, emphasizing the links between them, resulting to an enlightened audience (participants or agent of change)

3. Continued strong and robust media coverage, programming and profiling of related data by the local media practitioners.
 4. Enabled mineral sector atmosphere that aims at attracting unemployed youths into the sector for the greater good.
 5. A mining community with improved understanding of full mining lifecycle: from exploration, mining, processing, decommissioning but also equipped with the great environmental protection responsibility.
 6. Improved hygienic and sensitization standards in and around the mining sites within our sub regions of Bukedi, Bugisu and Teso sub regions.
 7. The project also expects to see a big number of unemployed youths in Uganda but Eastern Uganda to be exact be tapped into the mining sector which boasts of a high degree of economic linkage and utilization, thanks to aggressive basic trainings of local communities into civic journalism, publication and broadcast played by the media.
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Key Achievements In This Second Reporting Template

We have trained two sections of trainees' which include 25 community reporters who will be attached to four partner radios stations within Eastern Uganda, the members were recommended by the team that was trained earlier on (Check our first Reporting template) by the group of local journalists, program managers and news editors who thereafter recommended their committed agents and reporters to us; we have so far managed to train only 25 of the targeted 150. These community reporters are a group of community members who are keen on what transpires in their communities so we thought that if given basic reporting skills they can perhaps form a strong and robustly committed Civic media or citizen journalists who will keep reporting through their preferred local media houses on issues to do with mining sector; safety, Health, environmental aspects, local market updates including other social matters that affect them as citizens. This is one tool we fancy a lot in our Return To Work Plan implementation, because apart from attracting constructive social debates I communities, it enlightens the population especially those in mining areas on their roles and rights. It also empowers them to express themselves hence keeping the government informed and working around the clock to provide solutions.

Secondly: An investigative story filed by one of us has on TV and Online has compelled the ministry of Minerals and Energy to recall and start evicting illegal miners across the country especially in Mid Eastern and Mubende, see the link please [Eviction of Illegal Miners Underway in Mubende District](#)

Last but not least: We have also achieved outcome number one (1), (2) and (3) but if empowered financially we are hopeful that our project will sweep clean all its anticipated outcomes.

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.

Stakeholders Workshop: On 30th-July to 04th of August.2017, we managed to mobilize, sensitize and engage a carefully selected group of community members 25 in number and encouraged them to embrace the media literacy for community development this through reporting on social issues that affect them on their preferred local radio stations so that the leaders are held accountable. They also got enlighten on poor or dangerous mining methods its impact on the environment and how to formalize their groups for lobbying purposes and eased management. Out of 150 targeted community reporters, 25 have been trained and 11 of them were female with the youth generally being the majority of the team so far this also gives us hope that in a near future our approach will help reduce them number of 83% of unemployed youth by getting them interested in the mining sector.

Talk Show: On 5th, August.2017 Melanie Aanyu a member of this team and Busia District Production Officer along with the Agriculture Officer appeared on the local TV Step in Mbale discussing mechanisms of striking a balance between food production and gold mining activities in the area, the team also discussed the increasing levels of School drop outs in mining communities across Eastern Uganda.

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

State Partnership: Given that our team deals direct with communities and local government leadership in Eastern Uganda, through it's operatives government has picked interest in our initiative and our team leader Javier Silas Omagor and Michael Muwanguzi were on Wednesday 2ND.08.2017 invited to the Office Of the President- Nakasero- Kampala to a luncheon meeting which saw the officials applause our project and asked promise to support us when necessary because they see the initiative as the eye of the leaders to help see and report from the darkest corners where they cannot reach and finding timely solutions for issues raised by the community media

TEMA MEDIA AWARDS: The Eastern Media Awards-TEMA is a reputable entity in the media fraternity here in Eastern Uganda as they annually host media ceremonies to award the outstanding and excellent journalists of the region, now on 14th.July.2017 during the 2017 entry launch our group pledged to sponsor a Mining and Agriculture category; that seeks to specifically appreciate the best journalists in the area of reporting on mining and agricultural issues. These awards are slated for late November.

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)

Progressive Debates: Since we started off with our implementation, especially with media work, during their social gatherings the communities are now bring forth the debate of issues related to mining, safety, market, implications of poor methods and so on.

Media Programming: It's also evident that local media outlets in the region have since started to create programs or segments which are biased towards the sector, in their daily operations, such radio include Step, Open gate and Time Fm so far. In the same development, journalists are rushing to pick the Mining and Agriculture Category nomination forms for this year 2017.

Authorities' Interventions: Local Leaders in most areas we have been so far have actually embraced the idea and are interested in ensuring that the mining sector is handled well in their areas of species. Some of such leaders are Peter Ayo, Mbale district Agriculture Officer, Mose Olemukan, Bukedea LC V Chairman, Pamela Watuwa Mbale RDC among others. Most of them have promised to protect miners from dubious middlemen who economically exploit the locals.

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)

Media: We have found it very easy to mobilize and sensitize our masses within the jurisdiction through the media and all these because just like me most of the members in our group are media practitioners even holding influential positions at our work stations so creating programs that set the agendas, debates and awareness has been highly eased. The other related strategic opportunity we have had as a group is that our journalistic profession freely allows us to interact, interface and investigate most of these community issues in question without necessarily going through the leadership structural protocol (Which oftentimes than not takes time hence delaying missions)

Our occupational network: Has also helped us reach out to most of the mining communities in mid east region and encourage miners who are not yet formalized to do so, the local leaders have been essential in this area because they are too close and friendly with us as the media.

Geographical Merit: Mid Eastern and Kyoga East sub regions in Eastern Uganda have been fertile for us in the way that no local based government agency, development partner or Individual initiatives towards mining communities ever existed here yet our introduction into the least traveled road has seen a lot of excitement and relief with our communities. We have used this as one of our main drivers for the project and so far so good.

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

Broad Understanding of Our Scoop: Personally as a programming officers at one of the leading radios and TV station in the region, I have gotten the opportunity to understand more about the community that I serve especially in the area of mining and Agriculture, therefore, my programming content is going to be enriched with what I feel that is affecting the community within our coverage.

Entrepreneurship Skills: This might look farfetched but just like me as a team leader the fact is that most of the members in our group have started interesting themselves in the idea of getting involved in the mining business since we now have some basic technical knowhow thanks to ACP program.

MIHAMD: Initially, I and some group members belonged to the Initiative of journalists across the country with the spirited devout to major our contribution towards Agriculture and health sectors but now ever since we got the training and started with work as ACP program alumni we have under advisement decided to include Development minerals into our piece of interest hence creation of Media Initiative On Agriculture, Health, And Minerals Development-MIHAMD: This initiatives has helped form the umbrella for journalists across the country who are determined to see that sufficient and proper reporting in all this targeted sectors.

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)

Despite registering enormous achievements within the short time we have worked so far thanks to our media approach, oneness and devotion, we have also encountered few but major hurdles some internally others externally;

Hard To Reach Areas: Geographically Eastern Uganda is majorly flat save for areas such as Sebie and Bugisu which are extremely hilly and during rainy seasons like it's the case (June-July-August) it has been very hard to approach our targeted communities in such areas of Wanale-Granite, Bukwo-Granite, Kapchorwa-marble, Mooni and Kakungulu-Hill in Mbale-Stone Quarry just to mention but a few.

Action Taken: We never stopped hoping or trying just because we could not reach out to some of these areas timely; most of the time we had to abandon our cars and foot or use motorcycle taxi operators (boda bodas). While on the other hand the media still reached here and did the great work that is then conveyed to us by focal persons.

Financial Implication: Owing to the societal urgency of this message we tapped from the ACP workshop, we decided to commit our personal finances to run the show at least for the distance covered this far but for obvious reasons these funds have not been enough to enable us reach far and wide with a credible approach to inspire the societies understand and believe our message effectively. **Action Taken;** With the ray of hope sunk deep in our hearts we strongly believe that when the project is eventually ready to allocate funds as promised we shall settle this and continue to preach this gospel.

Last but not least, Poverty: Like in the lectures during our training with ACP we were told that most times than not our communities have remained poor irrespective of the availability of these minerals and resources within their geographical locations, hence encouraging them to observe mitigation methods such as refilling open pits, replant trees that demands for purchase and so on it became a frequent question in most of areas we reached out to such as Kidongole and Mukongoro in Bukedea District where there is stone sand and stone quarry respectively, Amonikakinei, Tiira and Aperus in Buia district where there is gold mining, Bugobero in Manafwa where there is Vermiculite etc. Miners do not have enough capital to run their businesses while the majority still has no idea of the market analysis for the products leaving them exposed to the merciless middlemen who are so exploitative in the trade. So the communities now see us as a rescue mission and recently when ACP promised SMEs grants and loans we challenged them to formalize and benefit from this and now in itself has placed more pressure on our shoulders. **Action Taken;** With partners such as Step Radio, Step TV, Time FM, Elgon FM and soon on Rock Mambo FM and Jogo FM we have created programs that specifically target miners so we have asked them to follow the shows for any relevant updates and projects and so far so good.

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

- Formulation of Operational plans
- Geographical mapping and zoning
- Championing of Media as a vehicle of the project
- Partnerships both at communities and regional levels
- Creation of community reporting clubs for locally based journalists
- We have also kept a close up with the chief mentors such as Madam Hope Kyarisiima for guidance

Please describe any future actions in the table below

ACTION PLAN: This strategy below will be extensively implemented when the Project avails us with the little financial facilitation that we have asked for in our budget attached to RWP.

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7
Activities							
Activity 1: Pre-feasibility Study and Mobilization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature Review National/Regional Feasibility Study, data compilation and Mapping of Crucial Zones and issues Identification of participant 							
Activity 2: Training / Sensitization; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainers/Implementers (TOTs Session) On How and Why the Project is key: 							
Activity 3: Supervision							
Activity 4: Evaluation							
Activity 5: Awards Gala							
Activity 6: Report Writing							
Activity 7:							

Re-Planning									
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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.