



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 small number of selected participants the opportunity to attend a 1-day symposium on **Industrialization Impact Assessment** and the **ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme showcase during the EU Raw Materials Week** in Brussels, Belgium (01-02 December). Please include the bio page of your passport with the submission of the progress report.

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:

GROUPING OF ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINERS IN ABIA STATE INTO CLUSTERS AND PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THEM

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

The Expected outcomes were: **OPTIMIZATION OF OUTPUT, HEALTHIER SAFER OPERATIONS, GREATER CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, MECHANISED OPERATIONS**

Outcomes achieved: **WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GROUP ARTISANAL MINERS IN ABIA STATE INTO CLUSTERS, WE HAVE GOTTEN THEM TO ADOPT MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY METHODS OF OPERATION, WE HAVE HELD PERIODIC SEMINARS FOR**

THEM THUS INCREASING THEIR CAPACITY FOR THE WORK THAT THEY DO, WE HAVE GOTTEN THEM TO ADOPT HEALTH AND SAFETY BASIC STANDARDS IN THEIR OPERATIONS.

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: MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES, IMPROVED DIGNITY OF LABOUR, MORE OUTPUT FOR LESS WORK

1. On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, we held a workshop with operators in the Solid Minerals Sector of Abia State to share with them what we learnt at the Ghana Workshop. The workshop was held at the Aguiyi Ironsi Conference Centre, Umuahia, Abia State. There were 86 Solid Miners in attendance and 12 of them were women.
2. On Thursday, June 16, 2016, we got the Abia State Government to inaugurate the Abia State Mineral Resources and Environmental Management Committee which is the vehicle through which we intend to carry out the implementation of the Return to Work Plan (RWP)
3. On Thursday, August 25, 2016, we held an outreach programme as an Artisanal Mining Cluster at Umunneochi Local Government Area in Abia State where we gathered the Artisanal Miners and explained to them the benefits of safer operations and coming together as a cluster so that we can reach them in a more organised way. There was only one woman in a group of 14 that were present at the site when we came.
4. Our activities have greatly improved dignity of artisanal mining in Abia State.

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

We have held a meeting with the Minister of Solid Minerals in Nigeria, Dr. Kayode Fayemi and in the course of the meeting, he asked that Abia State Mineral Committee be included in an assistance program being funded by the World Bank. We have also established a working relationship with the Ford Foundation for capacity building for miners in Abia State through periodic mobile clinics.

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)

1. We have gotten the Artisanal Miners in Abia State to come together in clusters which has enabled us reach them easier and disseminate information and training.
2. We have inaugurated a State Committee to serve as vehicle for the implementation of our RWP
3. We have disseminated information on current best-practices in safe mining to artisanal miners in Abia State
4. We have established linkages with the Federal Ministry in charge of Solid Minerals and we are now fully integrated in their activities.

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)

We have consolidated on our relationship with the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals and that has opened new vistas of support for Solid Mineral development in Abia State

We have strengthened our relationship with UNDP which has guided us in our activities leading to increased output and increased capacity.

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

I have been consulted by the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals with financial benefits on some of their activities where they have invited me to share our RWP which has been adjudged a workable solution to some of the challenges of relating with artisanal miners in Nigeria.

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 problem we encountered initially was resistance from the miners who felt we were coming to collect additional revenue from them. As soon as we were able to win their trust and get them to understand that we were bringing them solutions for improved productivity, they embraced us. We did not have to deviate from the plan, we only introduced additional advocacy visits to reassure the miners of our intentions.

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

The setting up of the Committee is an institutional framework. If we are not there tomorrow, new members are simply appointed and the committee continues its operations. We are also on the verge of registering a State Mining Company which will aggregate the artisanal clusters we have set up and work with them going forward to find markets for their products and aid them in their operations.

Please describe any future actions in the table below

ACTION PLAN

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7
Activities							
Activity 1: APPLY FOR GRANTS FOR THE CLUSTERS	Guide Clusters to Apply for Grants	Ensure Applications are duly submitted	Provide support for due-diligence checks	Final Grant Pre-qualification Stage	Support Disbursement of Grant to Clusters	Support Management of funds for stated purposes	Key follow-ups

Activity 2: EXTENSION SERVICES	Visit Artisanal Mining Clusters to ensure that they are observing agreed practices	Continue training and outreaches	Monitor their meetings to strengthen them	Visitations	Visitations	Visitations	Visitations
Activity 3: CAPACITY BUILDING	Hold Stakeholders Meeting	Invite experts for Extension Visitation	Visit Clusters Regularly for Needs Assessment	Attend Capacity Building Workshops	Visit Stakeholders	Monitor Capacity for adapting to new paradigms	Follow-ups
Activity 4: INCREASED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL MINISTRY	Visit the Ministry of Solid Minerals and engage with their officials	Attend more activities of the Federal Ministry	Ensure that One program of the Ministry is replicated in Abia State	Integrate Abia Solid Minerals Activities in the National Plan	Access available World Bank Grants for Solid Mineral Activities in Nigeria	Access available Ford Foundation Grants for capacity building in Solid Minerals Sector in Nigeria	Find out modalities for accessing other available incentives
Activity 5: MILESTONE REVIEW	Conduct comprehensive audit of milestones attained	Gauge impact of RWP interventions in Mining activities in Abia State	Measure jobs created	Measure Health, Safety and Environmental compliance advantages	Hold Retreat with Miners to discuss progress with them	Submit Milestone Report to relevant officials	Review areas requiring improvement & adjust accordingly

Some links to reported news on our activities.

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2016/06/20/abia-moves-to-set-up-mining-company/>

<http://www.abiastate.gov.ng/news/press-statement-2/>

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NB:

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

II. 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.

