

**ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme**

**Implemented in partnership with UNDP**

RETURN TO WORK (RTW) PLAN

**PROGRESS REPORT**

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

1. **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.

1. **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.

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| GENERAL INFORMATION |
| Name(s): Uchenna Rowland OnyeizuPosition: Member – Abia State Mineral Resources and Environmental Management Committee/Senior Special Assistant to Abia State Governor on Environment. Email: uchennaonyeizu@yahoo.com, ur.onyeizu@mouau.edu.ng Phone no (office + mob): +2348065189734 |
| Brief description of the project:This return to work project aims to create a platform that will revamp, build capacity and empower the Artisanal and Small Scale Miners in Abia State, Nigeria; with the following as objectives;1. Set up a mechanism for the documentation, registration and institutionalization of Solid Minerals Mining Cooperatives and Associations in Abia State; especially for Artisanal miners.2. Explore the concept of clustering those Cooperatives inline with the philosophy for the strategic economic development of Abia State;3. Advise Government on the potential for the setting up of a profitable State Mining Company.4. Explore the possibility of partnering with the Federal Government, other National and International Agencies engaged in Solid Minerals Development;5. Suggest ways of eliminating illegal mining by documenting and registering illegal miners in Abia State;6. Report periodically to the state government and other development partners/stakeholders. |
| What were the expected outcomes and what outcomes did you achieve?Expected Outcomes1. Set up a mechanism for the documentation, registration and institutionalization of Solid Minerals Mining Cooperatives and Associations in Abia State; especially for Artisanal miners.2. Explore the concept of clustering those Cooperatives inline with the philosophy for the strategic economic development of Abia State;3. Advise Government on the potential for the setting up of a profitable State Mining Company.4. Explore the possibility of partnering with the Federal Government, other National and International Agencies engaged in Solid Minerals Development;5. Suggest ways of eliminating illegal mining by documenting and registering illegal miners in Abia State;6. Report periodically to the state government and other development partners/stakeholders.Outcomes Achieved* Bio data capture, registration and documentation process on the Artisanal miners have started.
* Reached an understanding with a technical company to support the process of clustering the artisanal miners into cooperatives to secure loans and common facilities. etc.
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| 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.* On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, a meeting was held with operators in the Solid Minerals Sector of Abia State to share with them what I 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.
* On Thursday, June 16, 2016, I was part of the team as Abia state Governor’s Senior Special Assistant on Environment that convinced the Governor to inaugurate the Abia State Mineral Resources and Environmental Management Committee which is the vehicle through which most of the activities of this Return to Work Plan (RWP) is carried out.
* On Tuesday, 14th March 2017, I held an extensive meeting with the illegal adviser of the company that will undertake the Bio data capturing and documentation.
* Registration of the cooperatives will take place immediately after the Bio data capturing.
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| Please describe the key partnerships and collaborations that you established in your country as well as any joint collaboration with other countries* I have met with the Minister of Solid Minerals in Nigeria, Dr. Kayode Fayemi and shared the Work plan with him and built positive relationship for supports.
* I have also built a good relationship with the Commissioner of Environment and Solid Minerals, Abia State and the Permanent Secretary of the Abia state Ministry of Environment and Solid Minerals, shared the RWP with them and secured their supports in implementing the plan.
* I am about to sign a legal Memorandum of Understanding with a technical company that will support the plan of organizing the artisanal miners, support them apply for loans and common facilities of improving mining practices.
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| 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. The Artisanal Miners’ Bio data being captured.
2. Facilitated the inauguration of a State Committee to serve as vehicle for the implementation of most of the RWP.
3. Secured a technical support in bio data capturing and in securing needed loans and funds.
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| 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) What opportunities opened up for you personally as a result of your RWP?* Increased my relationship with my Boss in helping to deliver some of his political goals as Chief Executive Governor of the state.
* Strengthened my relationship and contacts at the federal Ministry of Solid Minerals.
* Built my skills and knowledge on the solid mineral operations in my state.
* Gained my knowledge on solid mineral exploration especially in handling my students at the university, where I teach Environmental Management & Toxicology.
* Exposed me to the global network on solid mineral exploration and investment.
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| 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)* Being able to implement the joint plans and getting some of the key stakeholders, buy in to the plan.
* Resistance by Artisanal miners coming in for bio data capture.
* Securing funds to implement some of the activities.

Some deviations* I have decided and also through in legally engaging a technical company to help do the bio data capture and other information gathering activities.
* I have involved more stakeholders to enable smoother implementation.
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| What specific actions have you undertaken to ensure sustainability of your project?* Securing commitment from government agency that registers the cooperatives.
* Formation of cooperatives and linkages to funding opportunities.
* Funds management trainings and capacity building.
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| Please describe any future actions in the table below |
| ACTION PLAN |
|  Period Activities  | Month 1 | Month 2 | Month 3 | Month 4 | Month 5 | Month 6 | Month 7 |
| Activity 1:  | Setting up a mechanism for the documentation, registration and Institutionalization of Solid Minerals exploration in Abia State. | Organize a stakeholder’s meeting | Capacity building of Artisanal and medium scale miners | Set-up cooperatives | Visit states and Abuja to gain experiences on best practices | Support the disbursement, monitoring and management of the loans as procured | Register a profitable state mining company with CAC |
| Activity 2:  | Develop database and register for players in the mining industry in Abia |  |  |  | Apply for loans and other incentives for members of the clustered co-operatives – such as CBN, |  | 2-day Team visits Abuja and other agencies of government and non-governmental organizations on possible engagements |
| Activity 3:  |  |  |  |  | Set up a legal registering database for registration |  | Establish database of partners and maintenance of communication linkages |
| Activity 4:  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Submission of articulate reports to state government |
| Activity 5:  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**NB:**

1. Please attach any evidence of commendation/award/certificate received as a result of implementing your return-to-work plan
2. **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.