

Governance Strategies in Artisanal Gold Mining Communities: *Supporting Livelihoods and Enhancing Social Opportunities*

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Global Governance Challenges - ASM Population Growing

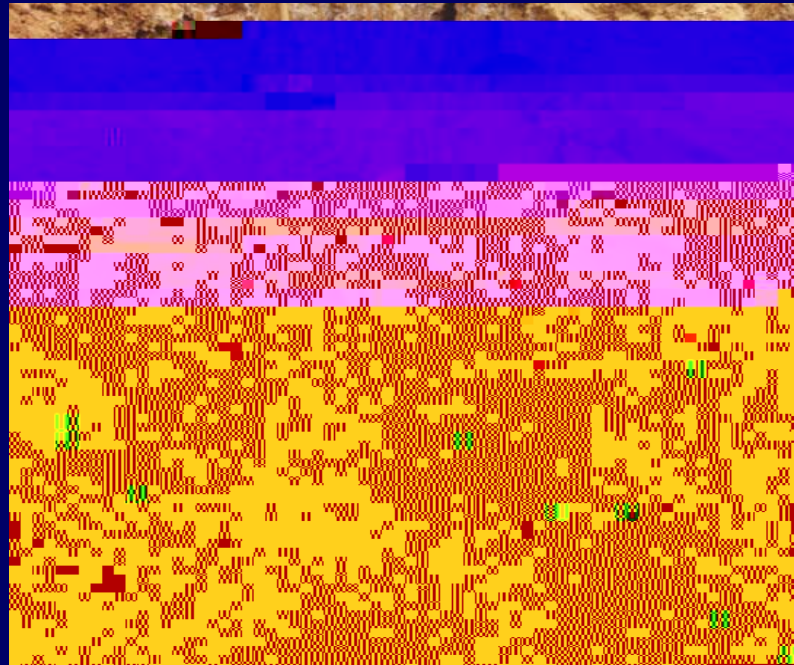
80-100 million people depend on artisanal and small-scale mining

ASM produces approximately 20% of global gold production

Populations are diverse – women, men, children; working on land (reef mining), in forests, in rivers (alluvial gold panning), etc.

Work as organizations, groups, associations, individuals, families

Usually working without official legal status – “informal sector” (many governments have not yet developed policies for artisanal mining)



In many countries, despite the existence of legislation/policies for small-scale mining, there is minimal benefit from those policies

In the majority of regions, there have not been any assistance programs. The only interaction with authorities comes when problems arise (reactive governance measures). Furthermore, studies show that using police and military crackdowns can lead to new problems

Many miners do not know how to apply for a mining license

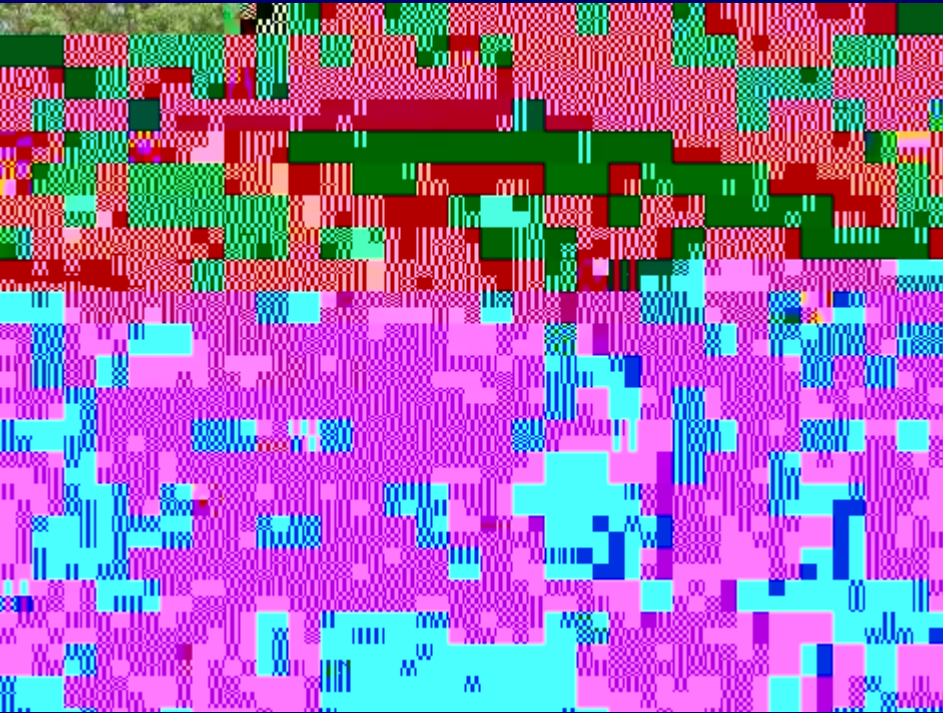
For many people, the laws seem bureaucratic, excessively complicated, and mining licenses can be expensive

Unclear environmental regulations/guidelines on mercury use/best practices

No assistance or training services available

-Are there "legal spaces" where artisanal

Tackling Rural Marginalization, Empowering Local Organizations



Training on Retorts (Reducing Mercury Risks) in Zimbabwe



Training on Sluice Designs in Indonesia

- Field experiences show that numerous benefits accrue when governments and other agencies form partnerships with local groups, to assist miners and improve technology
- Simplified environmental policies are more effective than complex ones
- Need for policies to be fair, easy to understand and designed in partnership with miners
- Increase funds for local district offices to provide outreach services in mining areas

Conclusion

Internationally and nationally, policy debates on large-scale mining have frequently overshadowed the opportunities afforded by artisanal mining as mechanism for rural development. The importance of the artisanal mining sector needs to be recognized.

It is recommended that governments re-examine policy and institutional approaches, ensure that benefits can accrue from legalization procedures and develop proactive programs of engagement with informal sector workers.

Collaboratively supporting livelihoods in mining communities can lead to vast benefits.