



FORDFOUNDATION

PROGRESS ON COMMITMENTS

Artisanal and Small-scale Mining Women's Dialogue
Accra, February 2021

1.0 Introduction

This is progress of commitments drawn from National Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) Women's Dialogue convened by Friends of the Nation in collaboration with Oxfam convened on February 25, 2021, in Accra. The event forms part of the Extractive Governance work in West Africa and Core support for Institutional Strengthening project supported by Ford Foundation. The Dialogue was participated by 26 people (12 males and 14 females) representing women miners, government institutions, chamber of mines, local government authorities, traditional leaders, civil society organisations and the media. The government institutions were Minerals Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and Water Resources Commission. The meeting contributed to deepening the engagement between women miners and policy makers in addressing issues faced by them in the Asm sector. The meeting discussed the following issues:

- Women's participation in the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining Sector highlighting the current number of licenses and permits issued to women concession owners.
- Procedures for acquiring a small-scale mining license and environmental permit for precious and development minerals.
- Challenges in the license and permit acquisition process.
- Recommendations for addressing the challenges in the license and permit acquisition process.
- Best practices in Environmental Management for artisanal and small-scale mining operations

2.0 Summary of discussion and conclusion

- Female concessionaires in the ASM sector are estimated to be about 10% with a majority being passive (i.e. fronting for male counterparts for licences, non-active involvement in the day-to-day running of the mine).
- The barriers to women's participation in the ASM sector are mainly Cultural Factors (Beliefs, Taboos, Myths, Superstition) Financial factors (no or inadequate set up capital, low operating capital, no collaterals and Social factors (Gender stereotyping, Patriarchal systems).
- Challenges in the licensing and permit acquisition process include incorrect site plans, concessions too close to waterbodies, incomplete documentations, photo identity inconsistent with incorporation documents and inactive contact numbers and wrong postal addresses.
- Based on the identified challenges, the Minerals Commission and EPA are implementing measures to address these. Details are listed in Table 1 on the next page.

Table 1: Challenges of women in the ASM sector and how they are being addressed

Challenges	Actions being taken to address them
<p>Cultural and traditional perspectives about women especially in the areas of property acquisition, financing and education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals Commission has set up Gender, Child Labour and International Relation Desk • Minerals Commission facilitated the inclusion of gender provisions in the draft amendment of the Minerals and Mining Act and the newly drafted Minerals and Mining (Local Content and Local Participation) Regulations • Minerals Commission to promote the availability of gender disaggregated data to improve gender equality policies.
<p>Limited knowledge on the environmental assessment (EA) process for ASM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA is developing educational materials on the EA process relating to the ASM
<p>Partial decentralization of regulatory agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA is increasing scope and presence (17 EPA Regional Offices & some Area Offices (e.g. Obuasi, Ellembele, Dunkwa- on- Offin, Konongo, Akim Oda, Mpraeso, Sefwi Wiawso etc in mining hotspots) • EPA is Creating of Client Services Unit (for tracking of grievances)
<p>Lack of a clear policy on facilitating the EA process for women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA is developing educational materials on the EA process relating to the ASM • Minerals Commission to increase collaboration with Ghana National Association of Small-scale Miners • Minerals Commission to ensure allocation of at least 20% block out areas for women miners

<p>Delays in permit acquisition (staffing challenges, incomplete applications & inconsistency in documentation)</p> <p>Low awareness on processing and permit fees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New EPA recruits to boost staff strength • EPA to develop educational materials on the EA process relating to the ASM • EPA to develop a draft checklist for ASM • EPA to provide technical advice to proponents
<p>Inadequate set up capital, low operating capital, no collaterals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals Commission has developed and submitted a concept Paper on Training women in ASM & Mining Communities on Adding Value to Development Minerals • Minerals Commission to exploit and add value to development minerals through jewellery production by women in ASM and mining communities • Minerals Commission to institute measures that will guarantee easy access to technical and financial assistance such as establishing a special purpose vehicle Fund to support women in mining