



OH in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining - Huge Challenges and Great Opportunities

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Demographics

- In 2007 the ILO estimated that 13 million individuals are engaged directly in ASM
- In 2020 the World Bank estimated the number to be 44.5 million
- In Africa the number is estimated to be around 10 million – 50% women
- 143 million individuals work in support services related to ASM

Demographics

- ASM workers supply a wide variety of minerals in significant proportions to the world markets – critical to modern communications, clean energy & low carbon technology and luxury jewellery:
 - 25% of total global diamond supply
 - 20% of the world's gold supply
 - 80% of the world's sapphires
 - 18-30% of the world's cobalt

OH Issues in ASM

- Old and new occupational diseases:
 - Silica dust
 - TB
 - HIV
 - Mercury and other chemical hazards
- Fatal and non fatal accidents
- Access to Services – clean drinking water, food and healthcare
- Scarcity of data
 - Numbers
 - Research

Challenge to Improving OHS

- The informality of the sector
- The Legal Framework
- Access to Healthcare

Improving OHS in ASM: Formalization

- Formalization of the Sector:
 - The regulatory framework
 - Financing and technology support
 - Minimal labour standards and social organization

Improving OHS in ASM: Capacity Building

- Education and Training
 - Formal education for leadership in the sector – doctors, hygienists and safety professionals
 - Training of primary healthcare workers in OH
 - Provision of basic occupational health services

The Regulatory Framework

- The ILO : Labour Standards and Instruments Covering ASM:
 - Health and Safety in Mines Convention 1995 (No176):
 - Covers all forms of mining –surface and deep
 - Covers machinery t work in mining
 - Designation of competent authorities to monitor and regulate health and safety in mining
 - Health and Safety in Mines Recommendations 1995 (NO 183):
 - Provides practical guidance for implanting the convention
 - Safety and Health in Small-Scale Surface mines (ILO 2001)
 - Code of Practice on Health and safety in Underground Coal mines (ILO 2006)
 - Code Of Practice On Safety and Health in Opencast Mines (ILO 2018)

The Regulatory Framework- Where Africa is

- Inadequate and fragmented:
 - Sudan
 - Rwanda
- Lack of Competent Authorities
- Lack of OHS professionals
- Implementation issues
- The NEPAD Efforts

Enhancing Better Data in ASM

- Improving Information Technology
- More disaggregated economic data to showcase the contribution of ASM to local economies- GDP and national export
- Developing National recording and reporting systems
- Research projects through local academic institutions and/or in collaboration with interested partners
- Leveraging on the experience of more developed countries in Africa – Southern Africa

The opportunities

- To Improve Occupational Health and safety
- Stimulate Economic Growth
- Eliminate the Use of mercury
- Eradicate child labour
- Ensure Gender Equality

Africa Mining Vision

“a sustainable and well-governed mining sector that effectively garners and deploys resource rents and that is safe, healthy, gender & ethnically inclusive, environmentally friendly, socially responsible and appreciated by surrounding communities.”



COEHA Vision for ASM

- Investment in OHS is urgently needed – improving OHS in ASM is a collective responsibility which is both feasible and beneficial to all.
- Better Data on ASM is needed- its economic contribution, number of individuals involved in it and its health impact on individuals and communities.
- Targeted intervention areas can improve miners' lives, their pay, and health and wellbeing.
- Engaging the socioeconomic network of actors involved in ASM

