



COVID AND ARTISANAL MINING SHORT FORM SURVEY

REPORT (3) – JULY 05, 2020

Mandalay and Sagaing Regions, Myanmar

Consultant – Saw Benjamin Thulayphaw

(this report contains brief explanation about current economic impact, Covid updates, Narrative analysis for both regions and respondents list)

Current Economic Impact

Mandalay region has a lot of traditional miners who live on mining as their livelihood. Covid 19 has some impact on the livelihood of the people, but not issuing licenses for the medium or small scale mining companies make the local lives harder. Some sites are right in the middle of their villages and they do artisanal gold mining by their family unit. Although, it is illegal, due to less work opportunity everyone is doing it. For better employment and management, local would like proper licensing prioritizing the local, rather than not native people coming to work and disregarding the local participation. As Covid 19 coincide with non-licensing operation of gold mine, people are getting impatient.

Sagaing region has a nature of outlaw having both ethnic armed forces of Naga and Shan Ni. As a legal administration, a regiment from central government is assigned. This makes the situation more complicated on the ground. As it is far flung, gold miners need to act according to the situation on the ground. Licensing is not a bit issue, as inspection is not conducted. Government offices on the ground are also not very strong. Although central government urged more control of the concessions, there is a gray area on the ground. Migrant workers at the gold mines are more than the local people. Mine owners would like more people to come and work. After some relaxation of travel restrictions, only a few people came back up and operation is slow and economy is slow. This makes people suffer from after mass or post Covid 19 impact on the people economy. Everyone is hopeful to come back to normal after two or three weeks. Thus, the subsequent interviews will find the answers what happens to the people on the ground.

Gold trade in Mandalay region is stable as per normal without having any differences even in the beginning of Covid 19. However, in Homalin, Sagaing region, due to lack of financial facility, there was a temporary market stop for about a week. It got back normal as soon as the mining operation restarts again.

Covid 19 Control in Myanmar

Myanmar government officials announced that they have successfully overcome the first wave of Covid 19. But they are worried about the second wave. Total tests are 81,977. 313 cases were found and 240 people recovered and 6 deaths remain the same. Although, a few cases are found every other day, most of them are returnees from Bangladesh, India and Thailand. They are found from the quarantine centre not from the community. Official lockdown period with some restriction was extended to July 15, but people back to normal routine with some care. People from Mandalay and Sagaing region do not follow Covid 19 restriction seriously, this maybe due to the country not having serious cases.



NARRATIVE ANALYSIS – 2ND REPORT

Description: Reporting summary that provides analysis of qualitative and quantitative data captured during the collection period. Data collection partners are expected to provide summary of key points and if applicable: quotes, photos and research limitations for biweekly reporting period.

Reporting Frequency: Biweekly (July 5)

Reporting Method: A reporting survey will be created in Kobo toolbox to be completed by research partners.

Date of Reporting:	July 5, 2020
Data Collection Partner (Organization):	Saw Benjamin Thulayphaw
Individual Completing Report (Full Name, Title):	Respondents from Sagaing Region
Geographic Context (Country, Subnational)	Homalin Township, Khamti District, Sagaing Region
How many key informants are you synthesizing information from? [Integer]	0
What were their roles? Select all that apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owner of tunnel/pit/hill (license holder) - State agent (government-affiliate) - Buyer (purchaser of mineral) - Exporter (sale of goods out of country) - Customary authority - Civil Society - Non-governmental organization - Private Business - Other, specify 	Gold Smith and Gold Shop, Mines owner (sub contractor, Pump Man /mine site sub contractor (digger), Transportation Service provider, Sellers of goods (in the mine), Shopkeeper and Gold dealer
Relevant minerals in key informant interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colored Gemstone (if yes, specify) - Diamond - Gold - Sand - Stone Aggregate (Gravel) - Tin (Cassiterite) - Tantalum (Coltan) - Tungsten (Wolframite) - Other, specify 	Gold

Synthesis of Key Informant Response

Of all key informants interviewed during this period, provide a summary of key insights for each research category based on key informant questions.

Health & Safety	
<i>Note any prevalence of COVID-19 in mining communities ASM operators compliance with government restrictions & practices to limit spread. Any key gaps, needs and risks in COVID health response</i>	In the third round of interview, there is no Covid Case in this area. Although, government continues to notify the restriction and warning to protect themselves. Most people don't follow self-protection restriction.
Gender	
<i>Note any changes to men & women's roles in ASM sector and any emerging vulnerabilities</i>	There is no big impact on women and there is no change of roles because women continue to do their work as per normal such as house hold chores and panning work.
Human Security	
<i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to human security</i>	Mine sites in Homalin are not very secure. There are some ethnic armed forces around. Currently, there is tension between central army and local EAOs since last round of interview.
Food Security	
<i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to food security</i>	There is no problem with regard to food. Due to slight scarcity, price is a little high. It may be due to transportation charges as the places are far away.
Service Delivery & Government Engagement	
<i>Note any government & non-government responses to COVID and existing gaps and needs related to services</i>	Government is main body to disseminate information and services. The government is still doing it. People are aware of government' information.
Markets & Supply Chains	
<i>Note any changes in mine site activity and supply chains and how COVID is directly or indirectly linked</i>	Gold market is back normal operation. Miners come and sell as per normal. However, there is slight low price for semi-purified gold. Price ranges from 12 lakhs and 12.5 lakhs per tical.

Summary

Note three key insights that stood out or were important from this data collection period.

1. Mine operation is back to normal with some struggle in terms of workforce and financial shortage.
2. People are out and about, it is not normal yet.

3. Economy is slow and people can't buy thing like before.

Quotes

Note any key quotes from any of the interviews conducted. Quotes help to bring the date to life and help the participant's voice and story be captured and heard in their own words.

1. "The situation is the same. It will take some time." said mine owner.
 2. "Spacing on the car gives us less income. Although we are operating, it is quite painful not having the same income as before" said transportation service provider.
 3. "Now, it is a stage of removing overburden. We can't produce any gold. We have to stand strong for sometimes." Said one mine owner.
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Photos & Other Media

Not any photos or other media that you would like to be included in the reporting update. Include photo caption and credit below and attached photo when sharing report. Photos will be reviewed and published to Delve with permission.

Photo File Name	Caption	Photo Credit

Research Limitations

Note any issues encountered in gathering information and recommendations for filling any additional information gaps.

As the interview was designed for conducting through phone call, it was hard to get to the people and hard to connect with the people on the ground. As they don't see the interviewer, there is a hesitation. The interview times is also a challenge as they go to work and come back in the evening, they are tired and can't focus to answer the interview. Therefore, remote interviews have limitation and recruitment is also an issue. On top of that, people are not in the good mood as their works are not in normal operation.



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Individual Completing Report (Full Name, Title):	Respondents from Mandalay Region
Geographic Context (Country, Subnational)	Singu and Thabeikkyin Townships, Pyin Oo Lwin District, Mandalay Region
How many key informants are you synthesizing information from? [Integer]	0
What were their roles? Select all that apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owner of tunnel/pit/hill (license holder) - State agent (government-affiliate) - Buyer (purchaser of mineral) - Exporter (sale of goods out of country) - Customary authority - Civil Society - Non-governmental organization - Private Business - Other, specify 	Digger, Gold Shop/Refiner/Purifier, Seller of Goods, Crusher, Mine owner/sub-contractor
Relevant minerals in key informant interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colored Gemstone (if yes, specify) - Diamond - Gold - Sand - Stone Aggregate (Gravel) - Tin (Cassiterite) - Tantalum (Coltan) - Tungsten (Wolframite) - Other, specify 	Gold

Synthesis of Key Informant Response

Of all key informants interviewed during this period, provide a summary of key insights for each research category based on key informant questions.

Health & Safety	
<i>Note any prevalence of COVID-19 in mining communities ASM operators compliance with government restrictions & practices to limit spread. Any key gaps, needs and risks in COVID health response</i>	There is no case in this area. Quarantine exercises have been done successfully. No likelihood to have transmission in their area.
Gender	
<i>Note any changes to men & women's roles in ASM sector and any emerging vulnerabilities</i>	There is no change of roles for both men and women. Most people work in a group and in a community. Both men and women take the workload equally although men do harder job such as bringing out the ore. Now most people are jobless, they can't go to other place to work as there is Covid 19 restriction.
Human Security	
<i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to human security</i>	This community is quite close to Mandalay city and security is not an issue. Although there are few police station, security is not an issue.
Food Security	
<i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to food security</i>	Food is not an issue. Vegetables are grown and sold around their area. Meat and other food are also sold as per normal. Price is the same. There was no issue about food.
Service Delivery & Government Engagement	
<i>Note any government & non-government responses to COVID and existing gaps and needs related to services</i>	Government is main body to disseminate information and services. This practice is still going on, and people are aware of the progress and changes in the Covid 19 updates.
Markets & Supply Chains	
<i>Note any changes in mine site activity and supply chains and how COVID is directly or indirectly linked</i>	Market remains the same. The proximity to Mandalay is a perfect advantage. They get better price. But they don't produce gold like before. License is a big barrier and it has been four years that they operate without license and constantly worried about being captured. Covid did not affect their mining, but not having license is making their lives hard.

Summary

Note three key insights that stood out or were important from this data collection period.

1. People's lives are getting harder as the licenses have not been issued. They are finding other ways to mine illegally.

2. It also affects employment in the region. They rely on companies who have license and allow them to mine with the profit sharing of 2/3 to miners and 1/3 to the companies with gold.
3. It is a high time for the Government to issue license for the local companies with the intention of local miners.

Quotes

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1. "The situation is still the same." Said one miner.
2. "Covid control is good and people are back to their normal whereabouts." Said one gold dealer.
3. "If government understands what sort of people are working in this field, they would consider giving license." said one mine owner.

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