



COVID AND ARTISANAL MINING SHORT FORM SURVEY

REPORT (4) – JULY 22, 2020

Mandalay and Sagaing Regions, Myanmar

Consultant – Saw Benjamin Thulayphaw



NARRATIVE ANALYSIS – 4th 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 22)

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

Date of Reporting:	July 22, 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	
<p><i>Note any prevalence of COVID-19 in mining communities</i></p> <p><i>ASM operators compliance with government restrictions & practices to limit spread.</i></p> <p><i>Any key gaps, needs and risks in COVID health response</i></p>	<p>In the fourth round of interview, there is no Covid Case in this area. Government message to prevent to wear mask and washing hand is still announced on daily basis, but most people don't follow it because people feel it is unlikely that this disease will come to them by the fact it is far away from central part of Myanmar and transportation wise, it is hard to access. In the early restriction, it worked well and country quarantine system worked well.</p>
Gender	
<p><i>Note any changes to men & women's roles in ASM sector and any emerging vulnerabilities</i></p>	<p>Nan Taw in particular has different case with men and women role. Most men do pumping and carrying ore and women do panning. There is no difference between men and women, they are required by their roles. When a site operates women take the roles of panning and cooking whereas men work in pumping and sluicing. This has been the same all throughout interview period.</p> <p>As most women work indoor and look after kids and households, they are as busy as usual, but in relation to mining, women still have less work as men are still in the process of preparing the sites and setting up sluicing. When they have things to sluice, women will have work. Usually, the panning ponds are besides the camps or the house so women can do both household chores and gold panning. Cooking work for men at sites is as usual despite the Covid 19.</p>
Human Security	
<p><i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to human security</i></p>	<p>Mine sites in Homalin are not very secure. There are some ethnic armed forces around. Homalin or upper Sagaing region the territory of Shan Ni tribe, they are very nationalistic and there is often some tension with government army or other smaller tribal EAOs such as Naga or Chin. Since the last interviews, some places especially in Nant Nan and Pink Ma Kaw have tension between ethnic groups. That makes</p>

	miners hard to do mining; people have to be always on the lookout. But Wai Phar Lar and Nan Taw, although they don't mention, there is a level of tension. They have to be very careful doing mining in those places and miners have to follow what they are asked to do - for example – paying tax to Ethnic Armed Groups.
Food Security	
<i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to food security</i>	Everything is back to normal with regarding to selling foods. Now the logistic is flowing back and forth as per normal with same price. There is slight higher price food getting to villages farther from Homalin Town. However, for mine sites, they buy food for two weeks or a month in Homalin.
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. During Covid 19, all information is from government and there is no other non-governmental group who interfere with this.
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 to normal operation. Miners come and sell as per normal. There is no price distortion in the mine. Now, price is higher compared to last week as Mandalay price is higher.

Summary

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

1. People move around as per normal. There is no more barrier on the road and at coffee shops, partition with clear plastic on the table is removed.
2. Mine sites operation is getting back to normal with a slow economic recovery.
3. Transportation restriction especially, passengers' car still have seat spacing restriction which a person needs to pay for two.

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. "No one is wearing mask, they are just moving as per normal." said mine owner.

2. “Gold price is higher than last week now because Mandalay price is high.” Said one gold dealer.

3. “Movement at mine sites is back to normal. But they can’t spend like before as they have to pay back money for advanced money they have taken during the lockdown.” Said seller of goods.

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. As they are repeated asked, there is respondents’ fatigue.



NARRATIVE ANALYSIS 4th 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 22)

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

Date of Reporting:	July 22, 2020
Data Collection Partner (Organization):	Saw Benjamin Thulayphaw
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	
<p><i>Note any prevalence of COVID-19 in mining communities</i></p> <p><i>ASM operators compliance with government restrictions & practices to limit spread.</i></p> <p><i>Any key gaps, needs and risks in COVID health response</i></p>	<p>There is no case in this area. No one in the quarantine centre. They all believe there is no likelihood to have transmission in their area. People strictly followed the restriction in the early stage of Covid 19, but now people do not follow it anymore.</p>
Gender	
<p><i>Note any changes to men & women's roles in ASM sector and any emerging vulnerabilities</i></p>	<p>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. Both men and women do not change their roles although no license to mine makes them harder to survive because they still hope that they will get the license. They are currently mining little by little in their compound, but the production is decreasing. People especially go to work in the nearby mine where there is operation.</p> <p>As men started to move to other places for gold mining opportunity nearby places, women remain in the same place. Gold mining community in Mandalay is a family business, both men and women work together. They don't want to change their role as they can do mining only. Covid did not affect women life in terms of mining, but factor such as less work give them more burden to look after household chores.</p>
Human Security	
<p><i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to human security</i></p>	<p>This community is quite close to Mandalay city and security is not an issue. Although there are few police stations, secure is not an issue.</p>
Food Security	
<p><i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to food security</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
Service Delivery & Government Engagement	
<p><i>Note any government & non-government</i></p>	<p>Government is main body to disseminate</p>

<i>responses to COVID and existing gaps and needs related to services</i>	information and services. This practice is still going on, and people are aware of the progress and changes in the Covid 19 updates. Government is still announcing the restriction everyday through TV.
Markets & Supply Chains	
<i>Note any changes in mine site activity and supply chains and how COVID is directly or indirectly linked</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>Production drops as they can't mine deeper, and it is thought to be resource is coming to some of sort depletion. Other thought that without license they can't do very freely, there is double risks – danger at mines and capture by government official. Due to those risks and barriers, miners move down back to their villages, therefore, business move down also.</p>

Summary

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

1. Rain brings water to their pit and it is hard to pump it out because it is too much and expensive. They wait for the bigger concession to suck the water so that they can do at the same time.
2. It has the nature of subcontracting from the company license holder and share 1/3 of the production with the company owner. But some companies do not allow subcontracting, that makes it harder for the people to get rights to mine.
3. They need assistance to lobby their difficulties to the government.

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. "I am moving my shop down to residential area, as there are less people at the mine site." said one seller of goods.
2. "Although, people move around as per normal, gold is not produced more." said one gold dealer.
3. "Covid 19 does not affect mining activities that much, no licensing is making harder for the people." said one mine owner.

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 time 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. Phone lines are cut off on the mountain area.
