

Narrative Analysis 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: June 12

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

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| Date of Reporting: | 06/14/2020 |
| Data Collection Partner (Organization): | Pact |
| Individual Completing Report (Full Name, Title): | Peter Mugai Munyi, Mr |
| Geographic Context (Country, Subnational) | Kenya (Kakamega County and Taita Taveta County) |
| How many key informants are you synthesizing information from? [Integer] | 30 mine site level respondents 4 secondary respondents |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 local community leaders (from Kakamega county and Taita Taveta County). • 1 leader of community based organization in Taita Taveta County • 1 gemstone buyer from Taita Taveta |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold • Gemstones (tourmaline, green garnet, blue sapphire, ruby) |

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 | |
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| <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</i></p> | <p>No reported cases of COVID-19 .</p> <p>The ASM operators complying to their level best with local administration strictly monitoring activities to ensure compliance.</p> <p>Lack/shortage of water noted in Taita Taveta</p> |

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| <i>response</i> | County. The operators also in need of soaps, masks and sanitizers. |
| Gender | |
| <i>Note any changes to men & women's roles in ASM sector and any emerging vulnerabilities</i> | <p>Effects on men: Men from both areas are working for few hours/days per week. This is because mining sites cannot accommodate more than 15 people hence some operators to work in shifts. The 9pm – 4am curfew means operators who used to work for 24 hours can only work during the day. Those who are not working on mine site are engaging in household and other less paying jobs. Overall, this is leading to reduced production and reduced income levels.</p> <p>Effects on women: Women have an extra responsibility of taking care of children who are out of school (which is affecting their ability to work in the mines). Women who provide services (like food vending) around the mining sites have lost their work due to low number of workers and reduced income among the available mine site operators. Women gemstone miners who majorly work mine tourmaline have been affected by fall in prices due to lack of market. Women in gold ASM are finding it difficult to purchase ore from the diggers due to low production and are forced to venture into other less paying jobs or recover gold from tailings/soil which produces less gold.</p> |
| Human Security | |
| <i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to human security</i> | <p>The security levels slightly reduced especially when mining activities were stopped. However, with resumption of mining activities, human security has improved.</p> <p>However, there is fear of increased insecurity in the future as low mineral prices makes mining unprofitable especially in Taita Taveta</p> |
| Food Security | |
| <i>Note any changes and emerging risks in ASM mining communities related to food security</i> | <p>Lack of employment and low income levels have made households lose their buying power for food needs.</p> <p>Those doing farming in Taita Taveta are unable to access market to sell their produce, hence end up</p> |

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| | <p>selling at throw away prices. Slight food price inflation also reported especially in Kakamega County. It is also worth noting that Kakamega County has experienced severe rainfall, causing floods that have destroyed most of the crops that the ASM operators depend on. It is a different scenario in Taita Taveta, where lack of rain has resulted to low crop yield, which could expose the ASM operators and the entire community to food shortage in the near future. These factors together with low income levels, could cause food shortage to escalate if no interventions are taken.</p> |
| <p>Service Delivery & Government Engagement</p> | |
| <p><i>Note any government & non-government responses to COVID and existing gaps and needs related to services</i></p> | <p>The national government and local administration are doing enough to sensitize the ASM communities on COVID-19 and the best practices for prevention. Few people within the communities have benefited from facemask and some relief food. Communities are in dire need for food relief. In Taita Taveta, the Mwachambo Location which has a high population of ASM operators does not have a health facility (which is a concern to the locals). Helping the ASM operators access better mineral markets would increase their earnings and boost their food buying power.</p> |
| <p>Markets & Supply Chains</p> | |
| <p><i>Note any changes in mine site activity and supply chains and how COVID is directly or indirectly linked</i></p> | <p>Mineral prices have been greatly affected. In Kakamega County, gold prices fell from Ksh. 4000/gram to an average of Ksh. 2800/gram. The situation is slowly changing, with some buyers now buying between Ksh. 3500-3800. Buyers claim that the international markets are closed and are just stockpiling. In Taita Taveta County, all gemstone prices have been affected with tourmaline which is the most commonly mined gemstone by the ASM operators being the most affected. According to the local buyer, tourmaline from Taita Taveta is exported in bulk to markets in Thailand and Bangkok, however the two countries have adversely been affected by COVID-19 and the markets are no longer accessible. Local buyers are buying at very low prices and stockpiling it but they are quickly losing their purchasing</p> |

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| | <p>power. The prices of medium grade tourmaline fell from Ksh. 15,000-30,000 per kilogram to Ksh. 2,000-7,000 per kilogram.</p> |
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Summary

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

1. The ASM operators are well educated about COVID-19 and are following the health guidelines, with the local administration monitoring compliance. Shortage of water at mining sites in Taita Taveta was noted as a major challenge to compliance (however, they are willing to comply). There is also a general fear that if the locked down (especially in Nairobi) is lifted, people who are eagerly waiting to visit their upcountry sides will end up wide-spreading the virus to the ASM communities.
2. Mineral prices have greatly been affected, which has been blamed on closure or lack of access to the international markets. Buyers are taking advantage of the moment to buy minerals at very low prices. Most respondents especially the gemstone miners indicated access to better markets as one of the suggestions towards improving their operations during and after the pandemic .
3. The communities are in urgent need of relief food. Low levels of income by the ASM operators has lowered their ability to buy food and the situation has been worsened by floods in Kakamega County and low rains in Taita Taveta County which has decreased yields from subsistence farming within the ASM communities. A few respondents reported to have skipped meals or unsure of their next meals.

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. "We are losing interest to work because we have nowhere to take the stones. Buyers are saying they cannot buy anymore because they are unable to sell to the markets because of corona. Our morale has gone down, life is hard, I hope corona will go away soon" gemstone miner and buyer in Taita Taveta County.
2. "I wish the government, a co-operative or any other organization can buy the gemstones at standard prices from the miners and sell to international markets when normal operations resume" Community Based Organization leader in Taita Taveta County
3. "All the money I am getting is going to buy food, because of high food prices. In the evening I have to work as a bodaboda (motor bike) operator to get extra income" gold miner from Kakamega County.

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 |
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Research Limitations

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

Poor network connection was the major challenge during data collection. Some areas especially in Taita Taveta had poor phone signals, the calls were constantly breaking hence taking a lot of time to carry out the interviews.

Emotional responses from miners especially regarding food security. Some respondents reported cases where they had skipped meals or unsure about their next meals and this was always emotional. Frustrations with poor mineral prices were also emotional in most cases and I had to calm them down before proceeding.