



**Strengthening Artisanal and small Scale Mining
(ASM) Communities in Rural Ethiopia**
(Draft Interim Report on ASM Community Organizations)

Submitted to:

**Ministry of Mine
ASM JSDF Coordinating Office**

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Acronyms:

ASM	Artisanal and small scale mining
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BMDA	Bench Maji Development Association
EFDA	Education for Development Association
FIDO	Feyya Integrated Development Association
IEC	Information Education Communication
IPs	Implementing Partners
HQ	Head Quarter
JSDF	Japan Social Development Fund
LSM	Large Scale Mining
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOM	Ministry of Mines
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PC	Project Coordinator
PMU	Project Management Unit
REST	Relief Society Tigray
RTG	Redeem the Generation
SGP	Small Grant Program
TF	Task Force
TOT	Trainer of Trainee
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WESG	Women Economic Strengthening Group

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1. Background and Introduction

Ethiopia is a country in the horn of Africa with a long history, diverse climate, landscape and geology. The geological diversity has benefited the nation with various mineral resources that are yet untapped to benefit its inhabitants enduring high future mine potentials. The exploration for the assessment of the mineral and petroleum resources has been carried out both by the Ethiopian Geological Survey and private companies. These geological studies have come up with significant discoveries of gold, tantalum, phosphorus, iron, salt, potash, soda ash, gemstones, coal, geothermal, natural gas, other industrial and construction minerals/ rocks in different parts of the country. The Ministry of Mines (MoM) is one of the Federal Ministries which is given the responsibility of the proper development of the mining sector¹.

Review of ancient history of mining in Ethiopia dates back to the biblical times by the natives in the locality. Nowadays, the Ethiopian minerals are being mined by state owned corporations, private companies and Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners (ASM). According to the World Bank Gender Dimensions of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Toolkit², ASM may be a traditional practice, with skills passed from one generation to another (in some cases, over centuries or millennia). Elsewhere, ASM may be an ad hoc, rapid response to a discovery, rising mineral prices, severe drought, or civil strife. ASM may refer to small or microenterprises employment of few people or it can involve highly organized labor chains with complex and well-established organizational structures. ASM typically involves rudimentary tools, but in some cases, it can include basic equipment such as water pumps or jackhammers or even heavy machinery.

According to proclamation No. 678/2010³, a proclamation issued by the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, to promote sustainable development of minerals in Ethiopia, 'Artisanal Mining' and 'Small Scale Mining' were defined separately. According to this proclamation, 'Artisanal Mining' means a mining operation carried out by individuals or cooperatives, which is mostly

¹ Posted on the website of the Ethiopian Ministry of Mines at www.mom.gov.et accessed in March 2014

² Adriana Eftimie, Katherine Heller and et al, *Gender Dimensions of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining*, World Bank Group's Oil, Gas, and Mining Unit 2012

³ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, A proclamation to Promote Sustainable Development of Minerals in Ethiopia, Proclamation No. 678/2010

of manual nature and does not involve the engagement of employed workers. On the other hand 'Small Scale Mining' was defined as 'any mining operation of which the annual run-off mine Ore does not exceed:

- a) Regarding gold, platinum, silver, and other precious and semi-precious minerals-(i) 100,000m³ or (ii) 75,000 tons for primary deposit.
- b) Regarding metallic minerals such as iron, lead, copper and nickel: - (i) 150,000 tons for open pit mining or (ii) 75,000 tons for underground mining operation.
- c) 120,000 tones for industrial minerals such as kaolin, bentonite, diatomite, dolomite, quartz and coal
- d) Regarding construction minerals- (i) 80, 000m³ for sand, gravel, pumice, ignimbrite, clay, (ii) 10, 000m³ for dimension stones such as marble and granite.
- e) Regarding geothermal deposit- (i) 2,000,000 m³ for bathing, recreation and medicinal purpose- (ii) 25 megawatt or geothermal steam capable of generating equivalent power for industrial and other purposes,
- f) 14,000 tons for salt extracted from brines.

Although the size and scope of ASM can vary widely, according to the World Bank (2012) some common characteristics of ASM includes the following:

- It ranges from informal to formal and can be disorganized or well-organized.
- It is strongly linked to rural poverty and a lack of alternatives that would provide better opportunities for income generation.
- Participation often fluctuates with commodity prices.
- It can include scavenging from and/or coexistence with LSM leases.
- It is sometimes seasonal, with mining alternated with farming, fishing, or another activity.
- It is typically labor intensive, yet may have complex labor structures, processes, and relations.
- It usually applies low levels of technology because of poor capital and a lack of knowledge and skills.
- It offers very low wages and insecure and unsafe jobs, and it may involve exploitative labor relations (for instance, regarding children and vulnerable persons).

- It frequently has negative environmental repercussions, often damaging the health of the local ecology, and may affect other rural livelihoods, such as farming and fishing.
- It often includes a series of intermediary buyers who are often operating illegally themselves.
- It involves the mining of precious stones and metals (such as diamonds, rubies, gold, and silver) as well as of industrial minerals (such as stone aggregate, sand, clay, and salt) and some base metals (such as tin, tungsten, or tantalum).

The Federal Government of Ethiopia has obtained a Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF) from the Government of Japan, administered by the World Bank, to support the economic, environmental and social sustainability of artisanal and small scale mining (ASM) communities in certain part of the country. The project has the development objective of significantly reducing the poverty levels of ASM communities in rural Ethiopia with an emphasis on increasing economic opportunities for ASM communities. As to the Operation Manual⁴, the project is categorized into four main Components:

- **Component I** will provide a Baseline Assessment as well as an Environmental Safeguard Management Framework; a strategy design for ASM cooperatives; and a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework
- **Component II** will focus on
 - (a) Capacity building of ASM communities with an emphasis on the socioeconomic position of women. It will provide economically and environmentally sustainable mining techniques, lapidary training, and basic geological assessments; and
 - (b) Strengthening of ASM communities through gender awareness, community organization, legal training, and business support trainings. A selected number of mining communities will receive small grants to allow them to substantially improve their work and living conditions, and facilitate the development of small enterprises.
- **Component 3** will address social infrastructure for improving health and safety including provision of access to potable water, sanitation facilities and health services.

⁴ The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Mines, Project Operation Manual (POM), Japanese Social Development Fund, 2013

- **Component 4** will strengthening the institutional capacity of Gender Mainstreaming Units, the ASM Units and the Regional Bureau of Mines of the MoM, in order to carry out the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the project, including the establishment and operation of a project management unit and the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation system that will be used to track project performance, outputs and outcomes throughout implementation.

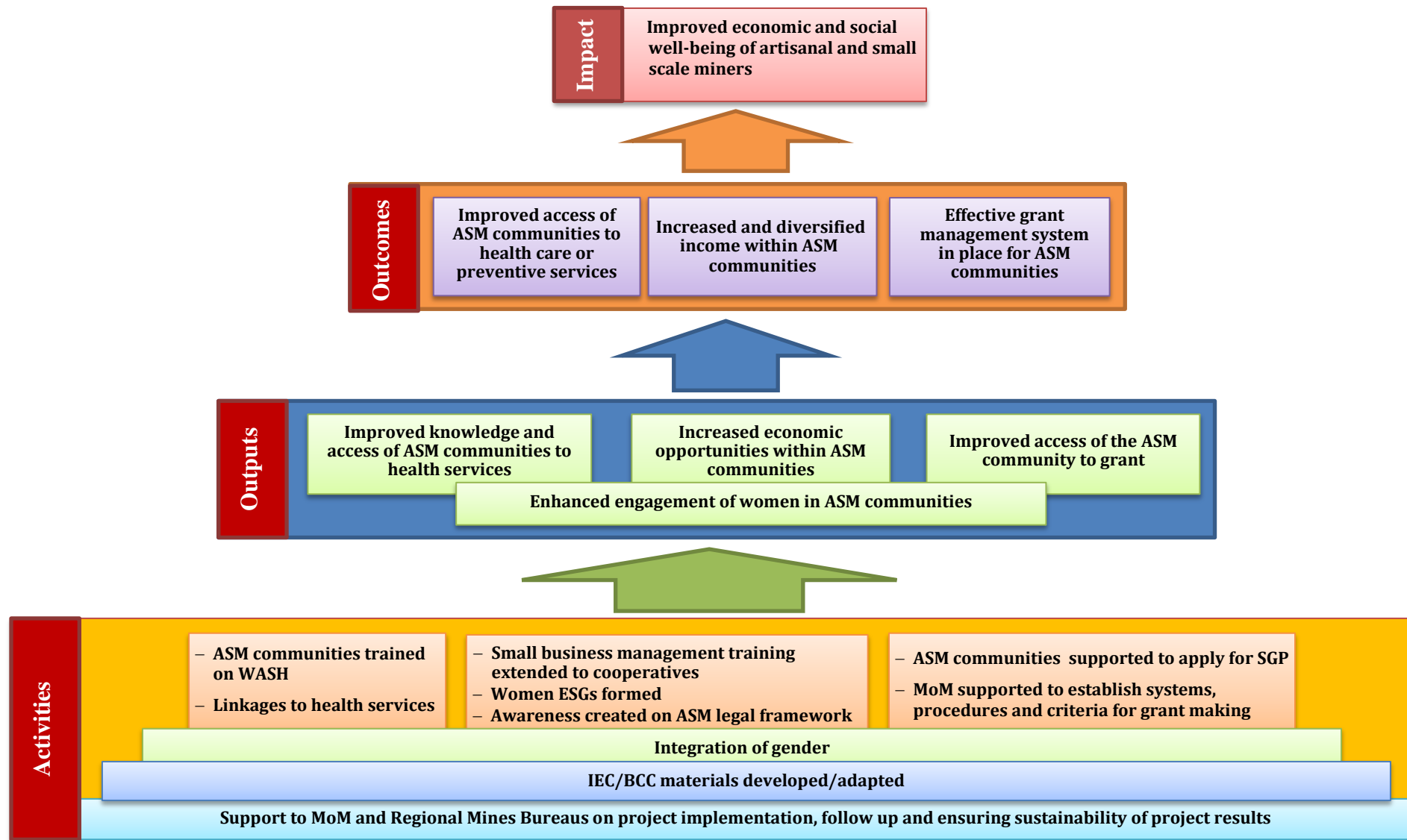
2. Scope and Objective of the Assignment:

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) is one of the most important livelihood activities in Africa and Ethiopia as well. According to SUDCA report⁵, in Ethiopia about 1,000,000 people are directly engaged in ASM and over 5 million people directly or indirectly depend on/ benefit from ASM. Artisanal mining has proved to be a primary source of employment for job seekers from various parts of the country who are relatively disadvantaged in the labor market. In order to ensure the economic, environmental and social sustainability of artisanal miners, the Ethiopian Government, with the support of the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF), through World Bank, will support 12 ASM communities in six Ethiopian regional states: Oromia, Tigray, SNNPRs, Benishangul-Gumuz, Amhara and Afar.

The overall purpose of the consultancy assignment is to respond specifically to Component II (b) focusing on providing (non-technical) training to communities and will also be engaged in supporting the MOM and regional mines and energy bureaus in the implementation of the small grant program through capacity building. The expected project results against project activities are summarized under the project framework below:

⁵ Inception Report, Socio Economic Baseline Survey of Artisan and Small Scale Mining (ASM) communities in Rural Ethiopia, SuDCA Development Consultants, 2012

3. Strengthening Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) Communities in Rural Ethiopia Conceptual Framework:



The project expected results that follow the successful implementation of the project interrelated activities of Component II (b) of the assignment (and hence this proposal) is to:

- Economic, social and environmental sustainability of Artisanal Miners in Ethiopia Improved
- ASM communities adopt healthier, hygienic and sanitation behavior
- Increased and diversified income within ASM communities
- Effective grant management system in place for ASM communities
- Improved knowledge and access of ASM communities to health services
- Increased economic opportunities within ASM communities
- Improved access of the ASM community to grant
- Enhanced engagement of women in ASM

Pact will assist the Regional Mining Bureaus/ PMU (PMU), as well as the Project Coordinator (PC) in the promotion and sustainability of the training activities, the SGP and the handling and maintenance of the basic social infrastructure to ensure successful implementation of the activities. Pact's local partners will provide training to strengthen ASM communities including business skills, ASM legal framework, gender sensitive as well as WASH and health trainings. IPs will be engaged in assisting identified ASM communities in the preparation of business plans/ proposals.

4. Approach Methods/Approaches to the Assignments:

Pact's mission is to help build strong communities globally that provide people with an opportunity to earn a dignified living, raise healthy families, and participate in civic life. Pact achieves this by strengthening the capacity of grassroots organizations, coalitions and networks and by forging linkages among government, business and citizen sectors to achieve social, economic and environmental justice. Pact works with both nascent and established NGOs, networks and intermediary organizations, as well as local and national governments strengthening organizational capacity through training, technical assistance, mentoring and direct financial support. Pact will follow the below mentioned approaches while undertaking this consultancy assignment:

4.1. Engaging with MOM/ JSDF Task Force:

Pact has a strong track record of working with Government and reinforcing government agencies in many sectors including health, education and mining. Throughout this project, Pact will work in close liaison with both the Addis-based JSDF Task Force (JSDF-TF), and the respective State-level Mining Bureau/PMU. In every step of the project implementation Pact Ethiopia will seek and work towards joint planning and guidance during the implementation of the activities under this project. A familiarization meeting that has been organized by the MOM at the start of the project has benefited the implementation of the project. This familiarization workshop has brought all the project stakeholders: MOM JSDF TF, Regional JSDF Focal Person, Woreda level JSDF TF, Pact Institute and its five implementing partners. The established task force will continue to serve as the technical working group that implementation related issues or challenges arising from implementation will be addressed to the team on regular bases and through formal reporting channels. Engaging with the task force will create a coordinated enabling environment to the successful implementation of the desired activities and attainment of set targets.

4.2. Socioeconomic Assessment:

Prior to the carrying out of any of the project activities Pact and its implementing partners will conduct a rapid assessment. This rapid assessment will focus on identifying the socioeconomic dynamics within each ASM community. Pact will develop a tool for the rapid Socioeconomic Assessment which will then be translated to the local language in the catchment areas. The assessment will be conducted by the implementing partners in collaboration with concerned government offices at local/ Woreda level. The Socioeconomic Assessment Tool will capture and reflect the dynamics within the ASM communities which includes the gender, age, economics, ethnicity, religion, division of labor which will identify the relationships between the various actors involved in ASM activities that are laborers, traders, brokers and also host communities where relevant.

4.3. Training of Trainers (TOT):

To ensure effective program results and sustainability, Training of Trainers (TOT) will be organized to project personnel with in the Implementing Partners (IPs). These TOTs will focus on legal frameworks, gender, business development skills, WASH and on health concerns of the ASM communities. Preparation of the training materials will be capitalized on existing materials developed and used by Pact for similar other projects and on the findings of the Socioeconomic Trend Analysis. Following the provision of the TOT by Pact,

IP will carry out similar trainings to selected ASM community members. Pact will support and monitor the quality of trainings provided in the target catchment areas on a regular basis. Through agreed monitoring and evaluation formats Pact and its IPs will track changes within the ASM communities resulting from project implementation.

4.4. Awareness Creation and Behavior Change:

Behavior change is the essential ‘software’ that makes the ‘hardware’ of infrastructure projects work. To bring the required change among the ASM communities in the target regions, Pact will be engaged in promoting behavior changes and actions in the livelihood of the target communities. As an approach to bring these behavioral changes in the communities, Pact collaboratively with MOM and its IPs will develop Information Education Communication (IEC) materials as deemed necessary. The messages incorporated in these IEC materials will promote gender participation, key legal ASM focused issues, adoption of environmental safe approaches and improved hygiene and sanitation practices, a systematic approach to enable people to take action to prevent and/or mitigate water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases and any relevant messages that need to be addressed based on the Socioeconomic Trend Analysis and through project implementation. As many of the ASM communities might be illiterate, the IEC materials to be produced will be illustrative than textual. The IPs, in addition to providing trainings to the selected ASM, will be engaged on rigorous and ongoing community awareness and community conversation sessions.

4.5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Pact will review and consider the M&E framework developed by the consultant for this project and introduce efficient data collection, coalition system for the project. Pact has a strong track record for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of its projects. A dedicated M&E Expert has been identified as key project personnel and on the basis of the rapid socio-economic Assessment of the ASM Communities and the process of selecting beneficiaries, the M&E expert will be responsible for leading the design, development, implementation, and maintenance of an effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting system that fits into the project’s overall M&E Framework. All Pact partners will be required to report against the agreed indicators as per the M&E Framework. Pact M&E team will develop a standard data collection and reporting format that will aid the purpose. Pact will design appropriate tools in accordance with the framework. Pact M&E Unit will also develop Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) that will guide the whole project monitoring and evaluation process and clearly depicting project major indicators and data flow map.

4.6. Promoting Woman Engagement:

Pact has a strong experience in implementing gender focused projects and in mainstreaming gender across different projects. Pact has developed gender sensitive training materials and gender checklist to ensure gender participation in projects. Based on the findings of the Socioeconomic Trend Analysis, Pact will tailor these materials to address the need of these ASM communities. The various IEC materials developed by this project will be made to address gender issues of these communities. The finding of the baseline survey asserts the minimal or limited participation of organized woman groups in ASM which demands for enhanced intervention to address the challenge. In all the trainings that will be provided to ASM communities, cooperatives, emphasis will be given to equal or more participation of woman ASM community members.

Complementary to the existing gender focused endeavor, Pact will provide Business Management Trainings to cooperative members, emphasizing on gender participation, and at the same time forming Woman Economic Strengthening Groups (WESG) that is solely constituted and led by women community members. Likewise these WESGs will be trained on Small Business Development Training that will enable them improve their role in the overall ASM activities at the same time enhancing economic opportunities of women in ASM communities. These WESG will not only be an environment for women in the ASM to discuss business but it will also be a forum to discuss and solve their own socio-economic challenges as women in the community.

4.7. Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA):

Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA) is an assessment carried out in different organizations to track baseline information needed to develop or strengthen service provision of an organization. The OCA tool may assess the governance, operations and management, human resources development, financial management, business services delivery, and external relations of the organization. Pact Ethiopia will develop OCA tool through a participatory approach with MOM experts. The assessment may focus on three thematic areas of the project: Gender, ASM Communities and Small Grant Program tailored to project objectives. The assessment will be carried out both at the MOM and at the respective Regional Mine Bureaus. Based on a discussion with MOM, priority capacity need (Intervention) areas will be identified. The final output of the OCA process will be shared to all stakeholders and donor agencies to engaging them through resource mapping to intervene based on agreed priority capacity gaps.

4.8. Small Grant Program (SGP):

Small Grant Program (SGP) is one of the major activities of the consultancy assignments. Pact will approach this assignment through a joint review of the developed Small Grant Programs: Implementation Strategy⁶ with the MOM. A task force organized for this particular activity will work with Pact Ethiopia towards successful implementation of the program. Pact Ethiopia's IPs will work with different segments of the ASM communities on developing feasible business proposal to enable them to access the grants. Pact will engage itself in building the capacity of the MOM to successfully establish system and related procedure for effective management and administration of the grant pool.

4.9. Engaging Stakeholders:

Pact Ethiopia will approach and engage differing stakeholders through the implementation of the project. These stakeholders include the target communities, IPs, woreda level mine office, woreda Environment Office, Woreda women youth and children, Woreda finance office and others. The engagement levels of all these stakeholders may vary but will be engaged in the endorsement of the project, site selection, joint monitoring of the activities, review meetings and so on. The key stakeholders throughout the project implementation process will be established regional and woreda level Task Force. Pact believes that the engagement of all these stakeholders will play a significant role en route for the success and sustainability of the project.

5. Accomplishments on ASM Community Organization:

Project accomplishments and challenges faced during the quarter have been categorized against target Regional states and selected ASM Woredas. Five of Pact institute regional Implementing Partners (IPs) have actively coordinated and led project implementations in the catchment. These five IPs include: Education for Development Association (EFDA)- Benishangul Gumuze Regional State, Feyaa Integrated Development Association (FIDO) - Southern Nations and Nationalities Regional States, Hundee Oromiya Grassroots Development Association - Oromiya Regional State, Redeem the Generation (RTG) - in Afara and Amhara Regional States and Relief Society Tigray (REST) - Tigray Regional State. The selection of the project regional and ASM target Woreda is done solely by the MOM and forwarded to Pact to identify ASM communities within the selected target woredas which created a delay in the overall project implementation as ASM

⁶ Jennifer Hinton, Small Grants Program: Implementation Strategy, JSDF Project: Support to Improve the Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability of Artisanal Miners in Ethiopia, 2011

community selection was the initial task in the project implementation. The quarter accomplishments have been summarized based on the implementation regions as below:

5.1. ASM Community Strengthening Activities in Afar Regional States:

The implementation of ASM Community Strengthening project in Afara Regional State focuses on the salt extraction site of the region that is Afdera Woreda. Project signing and commencement of activities has been relatively delayed from other implementation regions. The accomplishments of the project in the quarter are listed below:

- Recruitment of head office coordinator and field (Afdera woreda) level facilitator has been assigned for the successful implementation of the project
- A continuous visit and consultation has been undertaken with Afara Regional Mine and Energy Bureau in Semmera to create a harmonized relationship and to resolve the misunderstanding in site selection
- Agreement signing in the presence of key officials from Afar National Regional State Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, Afar National Regional State Mining and Energy Development Office; and Afar National Regional State Women, Children, and Youth Affairs Bureau
- The Afar National Regional State Mining and Energy Development Office has committed to provide important support and avail any important information for the success of the project
- Assigned project staff has attended a two days training on Socio-economic Assessment tools developed and on Project Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP)

5.2. ASM Community Strengthening Activities Amhara Regional States:

In Amhara Regional State ASM community strengthening project is being implemented within the selected communities of the Wadela and Delanta woredas of the regional state. The accomplishments attained are listed below:

- Project Focal Point has been assigned to coordinate the project implementation collaboratively with the Woreda Water Mine and Energy Resource Office
- A project focal person and an accountant that facilitate the implementation of the project within the region has been assigned
- Agreement signing with Delanta Woreda Finance and Economic Development Office; Water, Mining, Energy Office; and Women, Children, and Youth Office have been carried out

- Project launching and familiarization workshop has been carried-out in Delanta Woreda with the presence of 23 participants from South Wolo Zone Water, Mining, and Energy Office; Delanta Woreda Administration; Delanta Woreda Water, Mining, and Energy Office; Women, Children, and Youth Affairs Office; Education Office; Cooperatives Promotion Office; Health Office; Finance and Economic Development Office; Police Office; Youth League and religious institutions have attended.
- Project agreement has been signed with Delanta Woreda in the presences of 16 Participants from North Wolo Zone Water, Mining, and Energy Office; Wadla Woreda Administration; Wadla Woreda Water, Mining, and Energy Office; Women, Children, and Youth Affairs Office; Education Office; Cooperatives Promotion Office; Health Office; Trade and Transport Office; and Finance and Economic Development Office
- Participants of the workshop have acknowledged the timeliness of the projects as various social challenges are rising with in the mining communities in the Woreda during the launching of the workshop and suggested.
- Tsehai Mewechia ASM community was selected in Delanta Woreda following the launching workshop collaboratively with the Woreda mine office representatives.
- Washa Mikael ASM mining site has been selected in Wadela Woreda collaboratively with the Woreda level task force following the launching of the project
- A task force constituting the Woreda Water, Mine and Energy Office, Women Youth and Children Office, Woreda Education Office, Woreda Administration, Woreda Cooperative Office and Woreda Security Office has been formed
- A team constituting the project coordinator at head office level, Woreda facilitators have participated on a two days orientation from June 18-19, 2014 on ASM Socio-economic Assessment and project PMP introduction
- Warkaye Mining cooperative from Tsehai Mewechia with a total of 94 members (M:85;F:9) and WESG with 25 female mining communities has been selected in Delanta Woreda
- In Wadella Woreda no formalized cooperative has existed. Following the launch of this project, the Woreda task force has taken the initiation to establish a cooperative and have formed a grouping of 95 members (M:31;F:64). Finalizing the registration of the cooperative is progressing. To further enhance the participation of women in the area the implementing partner has established WESG with 25 members all women.

5.3. ASM Community Strengthening Activities in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional States:

In Benishangul Gumuz Regional State the project implementation targets two gold mining woredas named Mengie and Oda Woredas. Below are the project achievements on ASM communities in the two selected woredas:

- Project coordinator at Head Office and Woreda level coordinators has been assigned for both Mengie and Oda Bildigulu woredas.
- Agreement signing has been finalized for both Woredas collaboratively with the Regional Water Mine and Energy Resource Bureau, Regional Women Children Youth Bureau and Bureau of Finance and Economy
- Launching workshop has been carried out in the target Woreda (Mengie and Oda) in the presence of Woreda Administration Offices, Woreda Water, Mining and Energy Offices, Health Offices, Woreda Cooperative Promotion Offices, Police Office, Land Administration and Environmental Protection Office, and Women, Youth and Children's Affairs Office. a total of 40 participants (5 female) from both Woredas (20 person each) have attended the launching and orientation session.
- The Woreda representatives have promised to do their level best to the successful execution of the project.
- A Task Force has been formed at the end of each launching workshop to enhance the successful implementation of the project and the Deputy Woreda Administrators were elected as a chairperson of the Task Force while other members were given other responsibilities.
- Gold mining communities in the target Woreda named Beni Shagol and Godare gold mining communities have been approved to be target communities for both Menge and Oda Bildigulu Woredas respectively.
- Economic Strengthening Groups (ESG) in each Woreda has been established and orientation on its purpose has been done. The ESG members in Menge are 36 women gold miners while in Oda Bildigulu are 30 women gold miners.
- Two Cooperatives for the purpose of the project has been selected in consultation with the Woreda Task Force. Beni Shagol Gold Miners Cooperatives with 34 members (no female members in the cooperatives) and Godare Gold Miners Cooperatives with 93 members (M:63;W:30) have been selected for Mengie and Oda Bildigulu respectively.
- Socio-economic Assessment and project Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) on data collection and reporting has been attended by project coordinator and Woreda level focal person.

- Socio-economic assessment has been carried out for gold miners in Mengie Woreda and in addition FGD and KII have also been done to substantiate the quantitative data collected.

5.4. ASM Community Strengthening Activities in Oromiya Regional States:

Shakiso and Seba-Boru woredas are the selected target woredas for the JSDF, Strengthening ASM communities in Rural Ethiopia Project with in Oromiya Regional State. The quarter project accomplishments in the regional states are:

- Staffing of the project staff has been done at the Woreda and Addis level and the required facilities for effective execution of the project has been done.
- Project agreement signing has been done with Shakisso and Seba-Boru Woreda Bureau of Finance and Economy
- Project launching has been undertaken in the presence of both Shakiso and Seba Boru Woreda government stakeholders including Woreda Water Mine and Energy Office, Woreda Women Children and Youth Office, Woreda Administration Office, Woreda Health Office and Woreda Education Office
- A Task Force that will serve as project advisory has been established and have expressed their commitment and interest for the successful implementation of the project
- Two target cooperatives, each in Odo Shakiso and Sebu Buru have been identified collaboratively with relevant stakeholders considering the higher number of women members in each cooperatives
- Mechara Gere Gold Producer and Seller Cooperative has been selected in Shakisso has been selected. This cooperative has a total of 43 members (M:29;F:14). A Women Economic Strengthening Group (WESG) with a member of 28 women has been established.
- Oliyati Gold Producer and Seller Cooperative have been selected from Seb Boru Woreda. Oliyati Cooperative has a total of 54 members (M:36;W:18). A Women Economic Strengthening Group with members of 23 women is established.
- Project staff have undertaken a two days training on ASM Socio-economic Assessment Tools and on the project Performance Monitoring Plan that discusses on data collection and reporting
- Socio-economic Assessment has been carried out with the miners and with key government stakeholders

5.5. ASM Community Strengthening Activities in SNNP Regional States:

In the SNNP regional state the project has targeted two ASM communities in two woredas Berro and Bensa. The main quarter accomplishments of the project are summarized below:

- Project agreement has been signed with SNNP Regional Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, Water Mine and Energy Bureau, Regional Bureau of Health, Bureau of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs for the period from April 2014 to June, 2015.
- Documentation of the project key agreement documents has been done within the IP and concerned zonal and government offices
- Two full time Community Development Workers are recruited, oriented and assigned at Bensa and Bero woredas. In addition two existing Economic Strengthening Officers are delegated to support the project with limited level of effort.
- For better collaboration and successful implementation the recruited project team are stationed with in the Woreda water mines and energy offices
- A one day program launching workshops has been undertaken in both target woredas where Woreda Administration, Woreda Water, Mine and Energy Office, Health Office, Women Children and Youth Affairs office, Cooperatives, MFI, Kebele, Mining Association representatives have participated.
- Woreda level Task Force has been established for both woredas comprising of experts from Water, Mining and Energy Office- chairpersons, Health Office head, WCYA, Cooperative Office, MFI, Justice, Custom, ASM cooperative, Kebele and police.
- In consultation with the Woreda Water Mining and Energy Osole and Gabissa kebeles are targeted at Bensa and Bero woredas respectively. The ASM communities are selected based the number of ASM community size and number of female miners.
- Four staffs from FIDO office have participated in organized ASM Socio-economic Assessment and project Performance Monitoring Plan that discusses on data collection and project reporting scheme
- Quantitative data collection for the socio-economic assessment has been carried out for both woredas and FGD and KII has been carried out to supplement the quantitative data collected

- In Bensa Woreda Okoto Cooperative has been selected. This cooperative has 20 members (M:19;F:1). In addition, three WESGs has been established with each a member of 15 female, 25 female and 20 females.
- Gessene Gold mining and Selling Cooperative with 20 members (all male members) has been selected. Two WESG has been established in the Woreda with 15 and 10 women members.

5.6. ASM Community Strengthening Activities in Tigray Regional States:

The ASM community strengthening project will be implemented within the selected community in Asegede Tsimbella Woreda. The major activities carried out during the past three months of the project period are:

- Project coordinator at the regional and community facilitator at the Woreda level is recruited for a well-organized project management Woreda level
- Continuous preliminary reviews and discussion has been carried out with the regional mine office to enhance collaboration, joint planning and successful implementation
- Project agreement signing has been accomplished with bureau of finance and economics following the project review and endorsement
- To ensure better support within the organization the IP has done an internal project launching in Mekele office in the presence of key relevant departments like health, livelihood, planning and finance participated
- Project launching workshop has been conducted collaboratively with the Regional Mine office at Shire Endasilassie town where 24 participants from key government offices have attended
- Woreda level Task Force that will enhance the implementation of the project has been formed at the end of the launching workshop
- Gold mining ASM community that is Adi-Mohamedai (Enda Tseitani) has been selected from Asgeda Tsimbella Woreda collaboratively with the established Task Force
- Program Personnel has been trained on socio-economic assessment tools and project Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) that narrates data collection and reporting template of the project has been carried out
- Socio-economic Assessment has been carried out with the ASM miners and FGD and KII has been done to collect data to supplement the quantitative information

- A cooperative with a total of 21 members (M:9;W:12) operating in the target ASM site Enda Tseitan has been selected. Within this communities two WESGs has been established formed with each 25 members and a total of 50 women gold miners.

6. Challenges in the Quarter (May-July, 2014):

Accomplishments of the project have been tested by various challenges rising from project implementation at different levels. Below are the major challenges that caused delay in the implementation:

- The selected distance between the selected Woredas has been a challenge for the effective implementation of the project (Benishangul Gumuze, Amhara and Oromiya)
- A higher expectation of the project (this particular component) by government offices at various level and the expectation of the community has been a challenge during agreement signing and during launching of the workshop (SNNPRS, Oromiya, Afar and Benishangul Gumuze)
- Selected sites are hard to reach sites with limited public transportation to the mine sites (all regions)
- Getting skilled Woreda level facilitators has been a challenge especially in Seba-Boru (Oromiya)
- Delay in agreement signing with the Regional Mine Agency (Afar and SNNPRS)
- Absence of Woreda level task force that coordinate the activities at Woreda level (Afar)
- Due to the Muslim fasting season and the higher temperature (43 °C and above) project launching socio economic assessment couldn't be carried out (Afar)
- The established Task Force is not functional as it has been communicated by the MOM (all regions)
- In SNNP Bero Woreda due to high security challenge organizing women miners has been very much challenging. Women after mining for a limited period of time in the area they leave the mining site creating a challenge to organize them in groups
- Non-availability of women miners in the selected Afdera site to organize them as a women group to benefit from the project.

6.1. Actions Taken:

- Exhaustive negotiation and awareness raising on the project scope including its budget, activities and geographic coverage and its limitation to the government personnel at different level

- Delay in the implementation of the project activities till the harsh weather condition and the Muslim fasting season ends
- Collaboration with the concerned government offices and using any available public transport to reach to all the remote areas (Seba-Boru, Odda)
- Splitting and squeezing the allocated project budget to selected Woreda to accommodate coverage of specific areas
- The challenges in the implementation of the project in Afar Regional State on the non-existence of female miners has been discussed and guidance is being waited from the MOM

7. Lessons learned:

Through the first quarter implementation a number of lessons have been gained that will benefit future interventions:

- The importance of implementing projects especially at local level through recruiting a staff from the locality helps to build trust of the community
- The importance of joint planning at all levels and the establishment and engagement of the Task Force at the Woreda level creates enabling environment for the quick project start up
- The socio-economic challenges in the ASM communities are complex that interventions to solve such challenges needs a holistic approach to bring meaningful changes in the community

8. Planned Next Quarter Activities (Aug. - Oct., 2014):

Major activities planned for the next quarter include:

- Finalize the Socio-economic Assessment Report and share with stakeholders
- Carryout TOT for project staffs from partners on Health/ WASH and BCC
- Organize TOT for implementing partners staff on business development/ skill and legal issues tailored to the needs of the ASM communities.
- Carry-out review meetings with Implementing Partners to learn from the implementation experiences and create forum for sharing of best practices.
- Finalize the establishment of ESG and identification of target Cooperatives for training.
- Finalize the SGP manual and organize skill development sessions on the management of the SGP.
- Engage with SGP beneficiaries at the community level on proposal development to access the Small Grant allocated for the communities as per the criteria