

Many women are directly or indirectly engaged in Artisanal mining activities in Sierra Leone despite the flood of challenges facing them in the sector.

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ARTISANAL MINING ON WOMEN IN SIERRA LEONE

AUGUST, 2021

A Study done by Women on Mining and Extractives (WoME)

With Funding From OXFAM

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Acronyms

ARA: **Action Result Approach**

ASM: **Artisanal Small-scale Mining**

CGG: **Campaign for Good Governance**

CDF: **Community Development Fund**

EITI: **Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative**

GDO: **Government Diamond Office**

LAPO: **Lift Above Poverty Organization**

N

NPSE: **National Primary School Examination**

NMA: **National Minerals Agency**

NDMC: **National Diamond Mining Company**

NRA: **National Revenue Authority**

PRA: **Participatory Rural Approach**

SLLO: **Sierra Leone Labor Organization**

SLST: **Sierra Leone Selection Trust**

WoME: **Women in Mining Extractives**

Acknowledgements

Our profound gratitude goes to the women in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in Sierra Leone, the local authorities -the chiefs, women leaders and the miners themselves for taking time from their busy schedule to take part in the focus group discussions and to respond to the questionnaires set out.

Our appreciation goes to staff of the local councils, National Minerals Agency (NMA), Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO), National Revenue Authority (NRA) all of whom contributed in no small way to giving the required information.

We also acknowledge Madam Esther Kandeh, National Director of WoME and the staff of Women in Mining Extractives (WoME), Mr. Nuru Deen of Oxfam for his guidance and necessary support. To the lead researcher Haja Isatu Kamara, co-researcher Mr. Mohamed Lamin Kamara for the assistance given and the additional enumerators that helped to get this report done on time. Finally, to the driver for driving us safely through the rugged terrain.

Thank you

Introduction

Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) around the world continues to grow. There are currently an estimated 40.5 million people directly involved in the activity—and around150 million people indirectly dependent on it[1]and women make up a significant number of sector participants. Although there is a critical lack of data, women are believed to account for up to 30 percent of the global ASM workforce [2], and up to 50 percent in Africa [3]: In some cases (such as Guinea) the proportion reaches as high as 75 percent [4]. Despite the significant number of women involved in Artisanal Mining in various capacities, there is a serious lack of recognition in almost all spheres, including development programs, public and private sectors, mining communities, or even academia.

Artisanal mining and its supply chain continue to provide livelihood support to an estimated 300,000 people[5] in Sierra Leone. The current artisanal mining sector employs over 80,000 miners (ca. over 3% of the working age population in the rural areas) who produce gold worth over 125,000,000 USD by export value of annual basis[6] when using the a post gold price of 42.7USDG the export value of mined gold is approximately 125 million USD[7]. These findings indicate the scale and importance of the artisanal mining sector for Sierra Leone. It places the national artisanal mining sector amongst the most extractive sector in Sierra Leone by its export value, right next to well acknowledged rutile and diamond production. It can be stated that in average, 950 hectares of land is occupied by roughly the said 80,000 artisanal miners producing 2.9 tons of gold annually. Based on the estimate given, it can be concluded that women make almost

[1]**The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF** (IGF, 2017), https://unctad.org/meeting/2017-agm-igf-mining-minerals-metals-and-sustainable-development

[2](Hinton, Veiga, & Beinh off, 2003) publication https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253936931_Women_and_Artisanal_Mining_Gender_Roles_and_the_Road_Ahead

[3]UNECA, 2002): https://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/5049(Hentschel, Hruschka, & Priester, 2002). https://www.scirp.org/(S(czeh2tfqyw2orz553k1w0r45))/reference/ReferencesPapers.aspx?ReferenceID=1914899

[4]

[5] The Sierra Leone Minerals Policy, November 2018 pg. 36

[6] The ASGM Overview of Sierra Leone.pg.6

[7] Spot gold price on 11 February 2018

47%of the entire artisanal mining operations in Sierra Leone[8].

Background of the Study

Mining started in Sierra Leone in the 1920s and artisanal mining was key due to its low-cost nature and lack of advanced technology at the time. This made a lot of young people including foreigners to be attracted to the mining sites like Tongo and Kono and this resulted in the proliferation of illicit miners as they made quick gains to the detriment of government.

In the 50s, the government granted mineral rights to the Sierra Leone Selection Trust (SLST) to curb the rise of illicit artisanal mining. This did not yield much dividend and so in the 70s the government established the Government Gold and Diamond Office (GGDO) to improve on the returns in the mining sector. Still grappling to get hold of this sector and to curb migration, the government was faced with numerous challenges – influx of illicit miners, corruption coupled with the facts that the war which broke out in 1991 making the situation worse and it is reported that mining even fueled the war for 11 years. More recently, the National Diamond Mining Company (NDMC) and the National Minerals Agency (NMA) were all set up in a bid to sanitize the mining industry. The Mines and Minerals Act2009 and the Artisanal Mining Policy2018 were introduced to regularize mining activities.

This Policy effectively harnesses the potential, financial, livelihood and other gains of artisanal mining in Sierra Leone and also to complement the Artisanal Mining (AM) governance issues which addresses policies and principles dictated, by the economic and social contributions of AM to economic growth and development of Sierra Leone.

The study looked at these documents to draw a nexus with what currently obtains on the ground in a bid to come up with recommendations that are women friendly.

Sierra Leone Women represent 53.53% of women in the workforce compared to the world average of 51.96 [Global economy 2019]. Women in the artisanal mining sector are yet to derive benefits that can be compared to men who play a more visible role. Although women play very important roles in the mining sector of Sierra Leone, yet their standard of living and the space created for them leaves much to be desired, so they continue to be in the class of the vulnerable. It behooves

[8] The Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Over view of Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency, Sierra Leone, 2019, pg. 71

Government and well-meaning organizations to critically look at the group, their contribution which should be commensurate to what they derive from the national cake. Therefore, we have institutions like, Ministry of Social Welfare, 50/50 group and other CSOs like, C.G.G, WoME and plenty others to advocate for them. It's sad to say those women are often overlooked by initiative and development programs directed at transforming the artisanal mining sector.

Cultural and historical aspects have relegated women's participation to the periphery; women have always been part of the mining workforce. They have primarily been involved in crashing, sluicing, washing, panning, sieving, sorting, mercury-gold amalgamation, and, in rare occasions, actual mining. They are also active in the provision of goods (e.g. food and drink vending, sales of Artisanal equipment such as sieves, and credit for mobile phones) and services (e.g., transporting dirt, ores, ore particles and water; cleaning; laundry; and trading). However, the cultural and institutional constraints women face has ensured their involvement in the most value-bearing places such as pits and fair markets is practically non-existent. The various challenges women face within this sector has been sporadically heightened during the later period. With some research limitations, this paper takes a focused approach to understanding the key bottlenecks to women's full participation with the aim of informing highly sought interventions to address those challenges.

Theoretical Framework

The Curse of the Natural Resources"

Several studies have been conducted since the 1950s analyzing the contradiction of many natural resource-abundant countries having difficulties developing economically and socially. While it remains a theory, the resource curse argues that natural resources – such as oil, iron ore and diamonds – serve more as a deterrent to development than as a vehicle for it, as countries seem to be unable to leverage on the created wealth to foster growth [9]. What is more, the concept maintains that it is exactly those new riches that are the source of burden, thus serving as restraints to development. Arguments supporting this idea include the following. - The local currency appreciation brought by the resource exports makes imports of other goods and services cheaper,

[9]Ross, M. L. (1999). The Political Economy of the Resource Curse. World Politics

thus damaging other national sectors' competitiveness in the local and export markets. This leads to an increased focus on the resource exploitation at the expense of other industries. However, problems arise in the local economy when changes arise in the international demand and supply of that resource, as the country is left off with other weaker industries, possible causing a recession like the 2014 drop in price of iron ore. This issue is often called Dutch disease, alluding to a similar problem faced by the Netherlands in 1959[10]. When a state's source of revenue highly dependent on that resource, and no adequate hedging mechanisms are in place, a sudden fall in prices can have overwhelming consequences in the government's budget. This issue can cause negative economic, social, and political effects, such as increased debt, cutting of social programs, weakening of the rule of law, and even revolts[11].

Deterrence to investments in infrastructure or in vehicles to foster other business developments, as the resource extraction is significantly more competitive and lucrative for major players unlike women who are involved in the lower chain of the operation. - Lowered incentives to invest in education, for the same previous reason. Additionally, the resource extraction will drain the most talented human capital, in-line with the idea of making quick riches.

While many studies have addressed this topic concluding the existence of a resource curse, it's worth noting that there have been recent researches arguing that the correlation between natural-resource abundance and weakened development does not necessary imply causation in the previously thought way. In other words, they state that weak governance and inadequate policies are the source of the economic reliance on the resource, and not the other way around[12].

Finally, even though there is not a general agreement on the veracity of the so-called resource curse, it will be important for the following sections of this research to understand the socioeconomic implications of women in the small mining industries

[10] O'Neil, 2004, The Economist, 1977. The Dutch Disease.

[11]Venables, A. J. (2016). Using Natural Resources for Development: Why Has It Proven So Difficult? Journal of Economic Perspectives

[12] Brunnschweiler, C. N., & Bulte, E. H. (2008). Linking Natural Resources to Slow Growth and More Conflict. Science

Methodology

Scope of Study

This study covered Kono, Kenema, Tonkolili and Koinadugu districts targeting mainly artisanal female miners, traditional Authorities and Government workers. The study was analyzed through a Gender lens, which brought out the differences in their positions and the distribution of resources, Opportunities, constraints, and power in each context.

Although there are no official figures to determine the poverty levels of the people in the districts, about 63% of the respondents thought mining have had a positive impact on poverty whilst the other 37% thought otherwise.

Poverty is endemic in the mining communities including kono,Tonkolili and koinadugubut with emergence of mining in the communities the incidence of poverty has relatively declined over the years. Although there are no official figures to determine the poverty levels of the people in the districts, about 63% of the respondents thought mining have had a positive impact on poverty whilst the other 37% thought otherwise. Majority of the respondents claimed small scale mining has provided employment for many people in the area and hence enhancing their livelihoods. The overall effect of Small-Scale mining on the poverty situation of the communities has been largely positive. This is corroborated by a wide range of literature that asserts that the SSM sector is poverty-driven sector and has a potential of alleviating people from poverty[13].

[13]Hilson and Banchirigah, 2009).
https://pubs.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/migrate/16617IIED.pdf

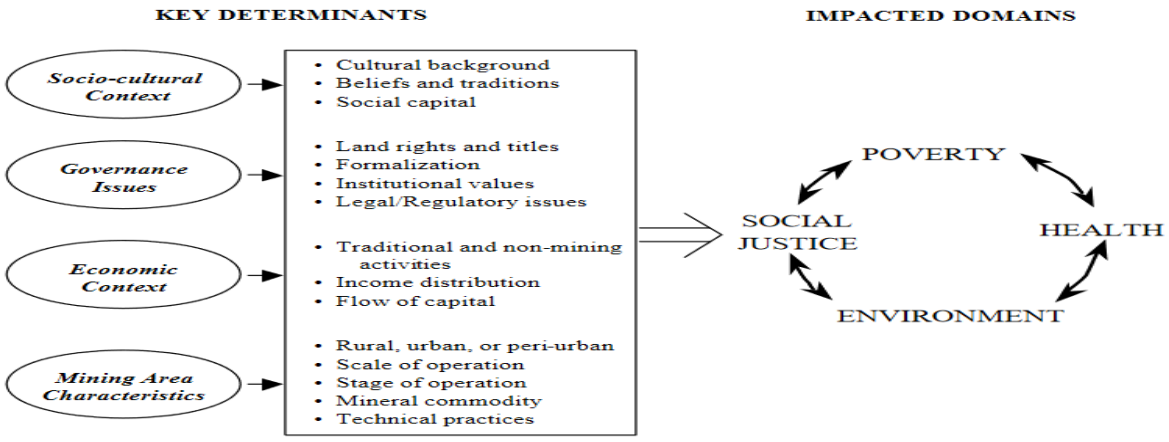


Figure 1; Factors shaping Women's Realities in Artisanal Mining Communities

Data Collection

The mixed method (qualitative and quantitative) was adopted for this study. It provided tools for the researcher to study complex phenomena within their context using a variety of data sources. This ensured that the issue is explored through one lens, which allows us to expose the major issue of the phenomena which will be revealed and understood. A total of 100 questionnaires, 25 for each community, focus group discussions and interviews of those involved was conducted (including officials of the institutions such as; Local authorities [Chief, Speaker, Town Heads] NMA, NRA, EPA, etc.) from the targeted communities. We used a combination of both Participatory Research Approach [PRA] and Action Result Approach [ARA] which is an ideal research process to elicit the much-needed information to societal challenges.

Focus Group Discussions [FGD]

We employed this type of data gathering technique which involves gathering people from similar backgrounds or experiences together to discuss about the socio-economic aspect of artisanal mining in their respective communities. FGD is a form of qualitative research, questions were asked about their perception's attitudes, beliefs, opinion or ideas. In our focus group discussion participants were free to talk among each other to form a consensus.

Literature Gap

This section will be used to outline the limits and restrictions faced during administering our questionnaire. Particularly, it will discuss issues with the data collection, analyses of previous

reviews, policies, and outcomes. It's vital to mention these issues, as limitations might have some impact on results. Therefore, the limitations will be examined in relevance to our encounter, possible impact, and approaches how they can be tackled in the future. The first significant issue was availability and reliability of data. Some contextual and policy data were easily available online, but when comparing the outcomes of different policies, much of the information was not available, and in some instances trustworthy.

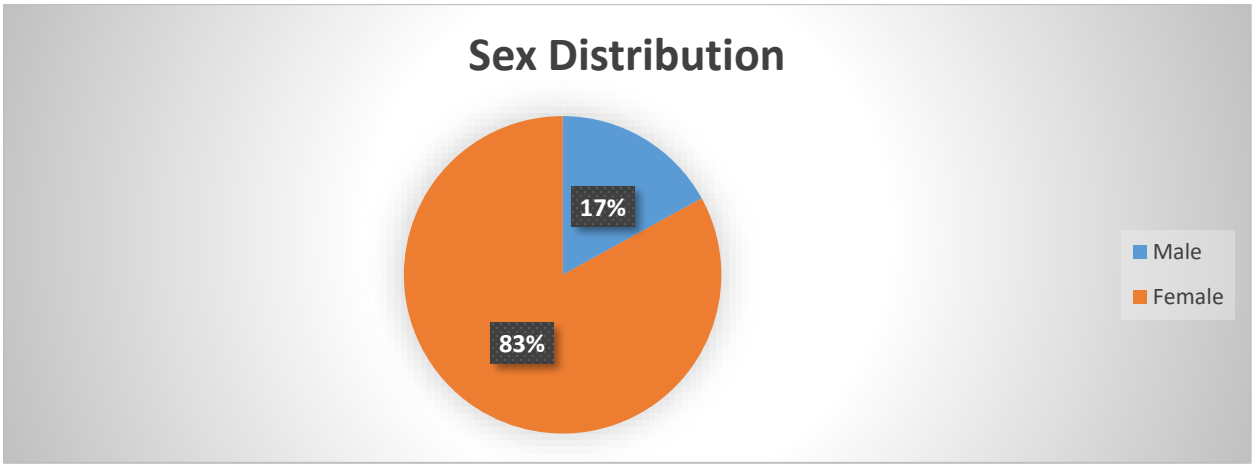
Research Findings

a) Sex Distribution

The sex distribution in the artisanal mining favors women greatly because of the low income required. In our research 83 respondent with 83% were women

The sex distribution in the artisanal mining favors women greatly because of the low income required. In our research 83 respondents with 83% were women (Pie Chart Below). Most of the country's working-age population is in the labor force, and women participate almost as much as men. Over 65% of Sierra Leone's working-age population, which represents nearly 2 million people, participate the labor market. Of those people unemloyed the differences between men and women are small (65.7 % participation among men:64.7% participation among women). Young women are much more likely than young men to be in the labor market (39.4 percent versus 29.5 percent, using the definition of the International Labor Organization [14].

[14]International Labour Organization [ILO]).
https://www.ilo.org/africa/countries-covered/sierra-leone/lang--en/index.htm



Chat 1; Sex Distribution

b) Education

Education is a key to the socioeconomic development of every people and for this reason the study sought to unravel the effect of artisanal and small-scale mining on this all-important socioeconomic indicator. Educational attainment and literacy rates among the working-age population are low, and there are large differences by gender and location. People within the ages of 18-65 are considered as working-age population cannot read or write this is shown in our research; 82 (82%) with no formal education and 18 (18%) dropped out of secondary school.

More than half the working-age population (56.7%) cannot read or write this is shown in our research; 82 (82%) with no formal education and 18 (18%) dropped out of secondary school.

Through focused group discussions in the four communities, respondents were somewhat unanimous in describing the effect of mining on the education of their wards. They said the mining activities have made many children of school-going age to drop-out of school. In our rounds during the field survey, few minors were present in the mines field instead of being in school.



Picture 1: Children and women at Artisanal mines sites

Some of the respondents claimed they could not finance the education of their wards because of poverty and this has caused the children to drop-out of school. With 28% of girls aged 15-19 years pregnant or already having had at least one birth (UNFPA, 2016)[15]

Some of the minors interviewed in the mining camps claimed they did not have any parental support and hence must mine in order to make money to pay their school fees although this affects their studies adversely.

One of the respondents who is now in Senior High School had this to say.

"I started this mining when I completed my National Primary School Examination (NPSE) without any support to enter the Junior High School, so I decided to go into mining to finance my education. Some of my mates who could not pay their fees went elsewhere to work to make money to pay their fees also".

Paramount Chief Torto of Kono stated that "there are high challenges for children who want to attend school, and the monies I receive on behalf of the chiefdom cannot sponsor all the kids, on that note I have created a sponsorship program for final year students"

[15] UNFPA2016 Report https://securelivelihoods.org/wp-content/uploads/BP18_How-to-reduce-teenage-pregnancy-in-Sierra-Leone.pdf

c) Employment (Socio Economic)

Gender gaps in educational attainment prevalent among the youth but are smaller than the corresponding gaps among older generations. Young women have an average of around 7 months less education than young men. Girls tend to leave school at slightly earlier ages than boys, and high rates of teenage pregnancy are likely reinforcing these gender gaps. However, the necessity to start working also plays a role because young girls also begin working in almost equal proportion after they exit school. Small Scale Mining sector is said to provide employment to several people in developing countries. According to our survey, all the respondents said that their main source of income was mining, 7 and 10 out of the 100 respondents are involved in agriculture and business respectively. (Chart below)

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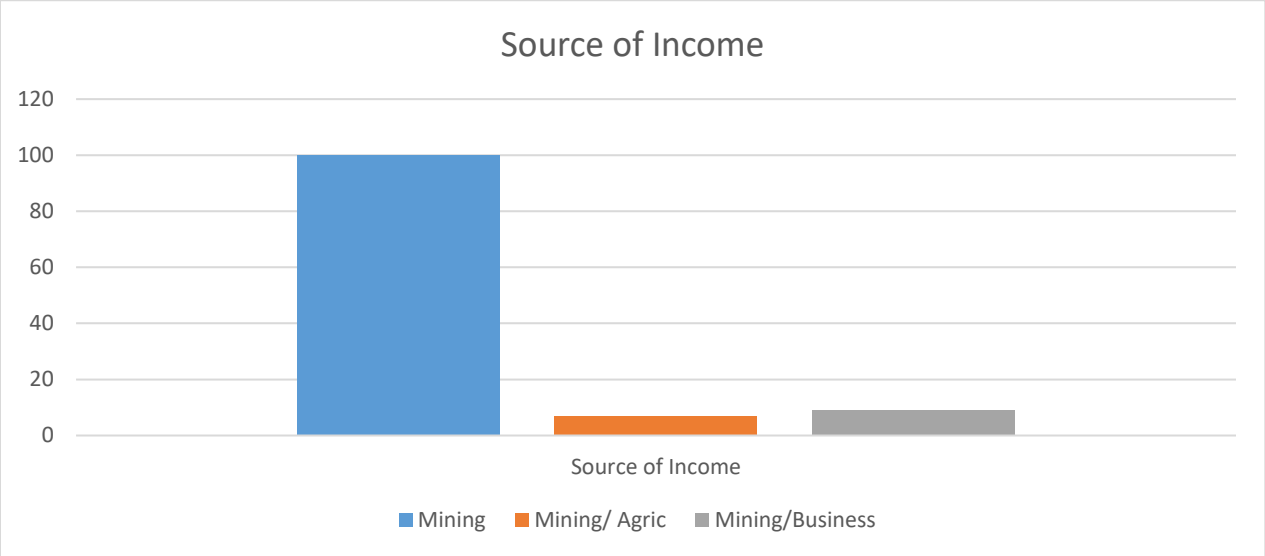


Chart 2: Sources of Income

d) Environment and Health

ASM relies on a mostly unskilled workforce using rudimentary tools and techniques. Unsurprisingly, its environmental and health and safety practices tend to be very poor. For example, dust and fine particles resulting from blasting and drilling cause respiratory illnesses. It also degrades crops and farmlands. Streams and rivers often become polluted near ASM sites,

which make water unsafe for drinking and can also affect fish stocks. Artisanal and small-scale mining could be a source of soil particle release, although in Sierra Leone most gold miners use gravity methods instead (Cartier and Burge 2011)[16]. Land rehabilitation is a major issue in the ASM. Whilst the law clearly attributes the responsibility of land rehabilitation to artisanal miners, it is generally not carried out.

As a result, the mining areas are completely degraded with great loss of forestry and wildlife. Usually, after a few months of operations, the miners abandon the site. As the rains come, the mining pits become ponds, allowing mosquitoes to thrive, and spread diseases. Moreover, as most people cannot swim, it is not unheard-of for people accidentally drowning even though most of the respondent said; 'Accident rarely occurs. An observation of the Camps was indeed

[16]Laurent E. Cartier, Michael Bürge Cartier and Burge 2011
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jid.1833

an eye sore as seen in the picture below.



Picture 2: Enumerators with one of the female miners at a mine field.



Picture 3: Mined out area.

Mining is often associated with adverse health implications,[17]on both miners and people living in and within mining communities. Although Environmental Protection Officers said "drilled pits in these communities have made surface and underground waters contaminated posing serious health threats to the inhabitants. Through the Focus Group Discussions across the four communities 85% of the respondents said mining poses health challenges and will trade it with any stable source of income.

The displaced fertile topsoil is eroded or transported away, leaving the area unfit for growing any trees. It is this disturbance of soil which makes it difficult to grow trees. According to Massachusetts Institute of Technology [18] the effects of land degradation and erosion from mining activities can linger long after the mining has ended. Large swathes of land are impacted, beyond the immediate surroundings of the mine site. Pollutants buried in soil are released. There are many heavy metals and toxic chemicals that are buried in the soil that get released during mining and end up polluting air, water and land.

e) Poverty Alleviation

Poverty is endemic in the area but with emergence of mining in the communities the incidence of poverty has relatively intensified over the years. According to Statics Sierra Leone and World Bank Report 2019[19], poverty is concentrated in the rural areas in Sierra Leone. Poverty rates in rural areas are more than twice as high as in urban areas, 73.9% compared to 34.8%. Separating out Greater Freetown (all urban areas in Western Area), we find that Freetown has a significantly

[17]Structural Adjustment and Subsistence Industry: Artisanal Gold Mining in Ghana (Hilson and Potter, 2005)

[18]Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
http://web.mit.edu/12.000/www/m2016/finalwebsite/problems/mining.html

Intergovernmental Forum on Mining (IGF). (2017).

Intergovernmental Forum on Mining (IGF). (2017).

[19] Statistics Sierra Leone and World Bank 2019 https://www.aym-inc.org/data-analysis-shows-poverty-trends-in-sierra-leone/

lower poverty rate (22.8%) than other urban areas (49.3%). Extreme poverty rates show an even greater disparity: the rate is 19.9% in rural areas and 3.8% in urban areas. Food poverty rates show less variation and the rate for rural areas is quite close to the rate for other urban areas, showing that although those in rural areas are much poorer overall, they are no worse than urban dwellers (outside of Freetown) in terms of having sufficient food. With our research we can identify the amount of savings made, other sources of income, educational levels. These variables can help us to determine whether poverty has been on the increase through gender lens, and weather the natural mineral is a curse or a blessing to the women and children in these communities. Majority of the respondents claimed small scale mining has provided employment for many people in the area and, hence enhancing their livelihoods in the short run but with alternate source of income they will gladly leave this industry. The overall effect of Small-Scale mining on the poverty situation of the communities has been largely negatively. High dependency on natural resources has huge consequences on women and children as they are exposed to exploitation. Women normally have the sole responsibility to take care of their children after the death of their husbands with little or no support from family members. Although they complain that, of recent times, the land has been depleted and not much is realized. In the chart below shows how many respondents that are involve in any form of savings.

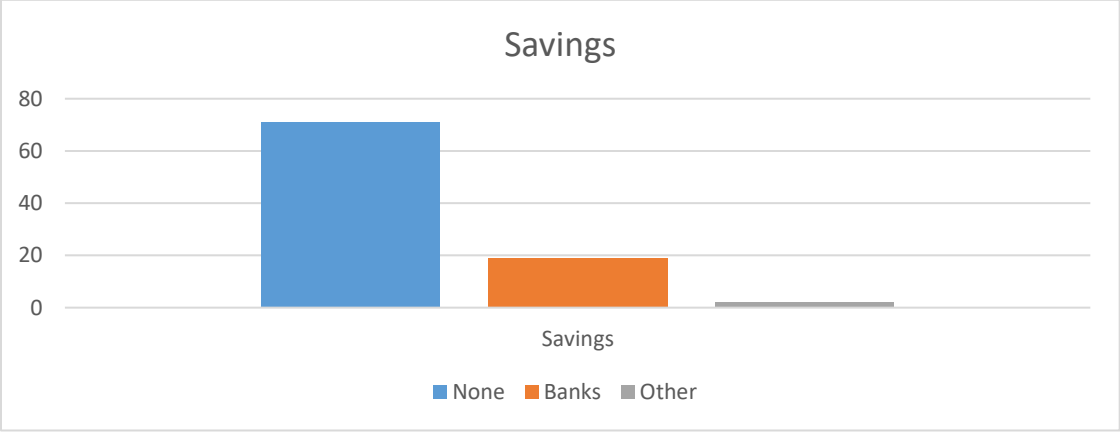


Chart 3: Savings

From the above chart, 71(71%) of the respondents are involved in no form of savings. They live solely on "hand to mouth". Whatever the source for the day is being used for feeding and to

fulfill other responsibilities. 19 (19%) of the respondent and 10 (10%) are involved in some form of savings in banks and "OSUSU" respectively.

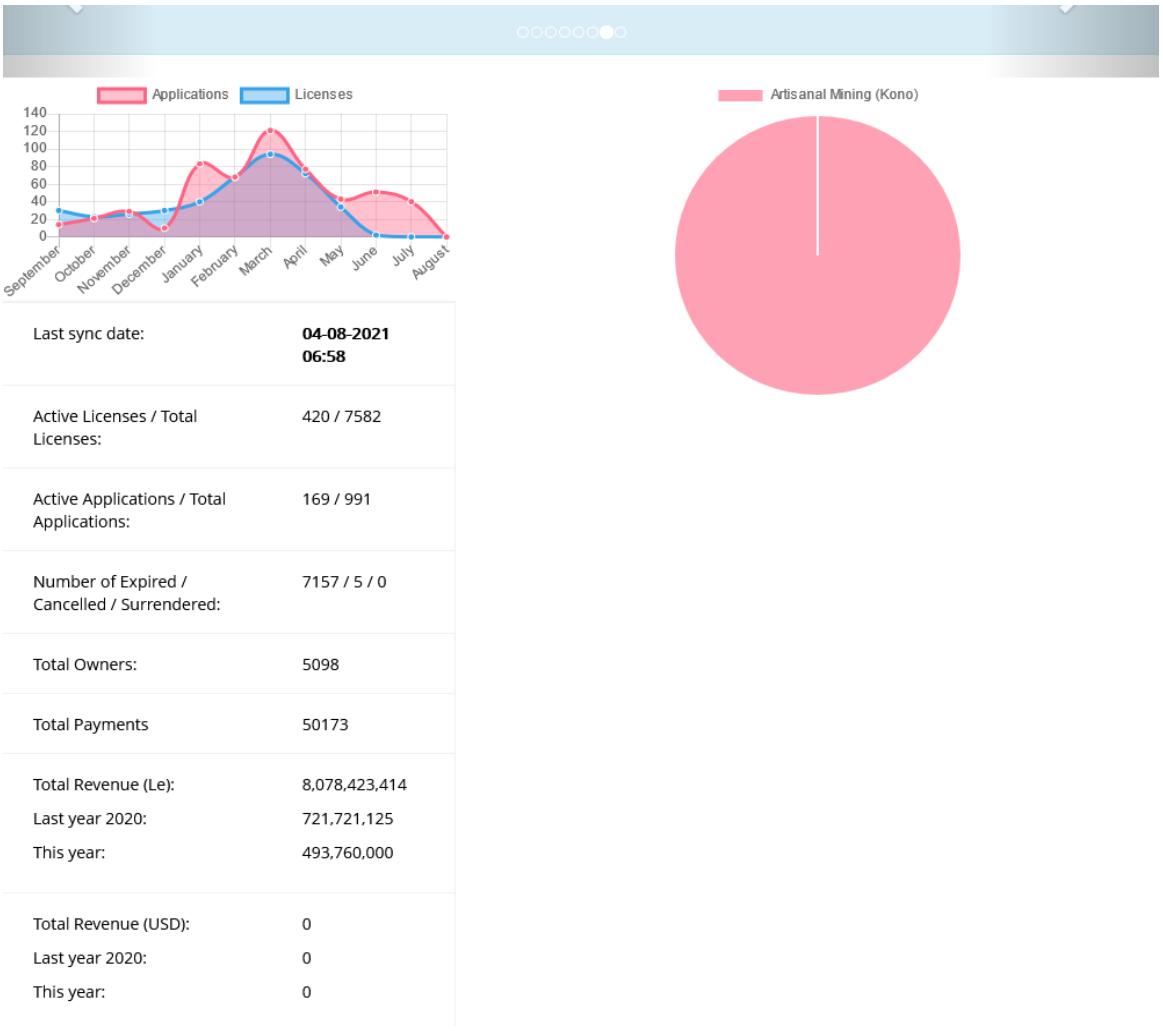
f) Local Economy

The mining industry of Sierra Leone accounted for 4.5 percent of the country's GDP in 2007 and minerals accounted for up to 79 percent of total export revenue with diamonds accounting for 46 percent of export revenue in 2008[20]. The local economy of the study area is predominantly mining/agrarian[21], the existence of both forward and backward linkages in the gold mining sector has caused a lot of businesses to spring up. Most of the respondents in the study area attested to the fact that mining is seasonal and small-scale farming serves as backup income source while others are involved in petty trading activities. One common feature among respondents is that the income derived from mining is usually not enough to support them, hence the need to find alternate sources of income.

Lack of financial institutions and the increase of taxes in their region have led most of them into illicit mining. In an interview with the NMA Regional Manager in Kono, he stated that 'there has been a significant increase in the license registration, and the slightest of increase [17 %] in women taking license. [According to NMA Regional Manager in KONO]

[20] Wikipedia Sierra Leone https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mining_in_Sierra_Leone

[21] Bloch, R., & Owusu, G., (2012). "Linkages in Ghana's gold mining industry": challenging the enclave thesis. Resour



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Active Licenses / Total Licenses:	420 / 7582
Active Applications / Total Applications:	169 / 991
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Total Owners:	5098
Total Payments	50173
Total Revenue (Le): Last year 2020: This year:	8,078,423,414 721,721,125 493,760,000
Total Revenue (USD): Last year 2020: This year:	0 0 0

Chart 4; MMA Online Repository[22]

Small scale mining consists of 1/3 of ongoing mining activities but shown in the other chart of the number of licenses holders are not commensurate to those involve in the process. This tells us that there are a lot of illegal mining going on and the ease of doing business is a long process. The NMA Manager also mentioned that all payments are made through the bank and receipt verified by NRA. These receipts from NRA are then sent to Freetown for confirmation which

[22]GoSL Online Repository. MMA statistic. https://sierraleone.revenuedev.org/dashboard

takes a lot of time that the licenses holders don't have because mining is a seasonal thing. Even though there has been an increase in license registration but there is room for improvement.

Challenges in the ASM Sector

- High illiteracy rate in these areas mostly among women and children. Because of this the respondent were reluctant to divulge important information
- Lack of financial institutions in these regions has made the ease of doing business difficult. In areas where there is institution, it is difficult to loan women in the lower echelons of the community because of collateral or trust compared to the other gender. Access to finance is a major issue as the women complain of high administrative costs before loans are accessed
- The lack of community funds or surface rent which is normally shared among community heads does suppress women in terms of financial backing. Some women who have lost their husbands and have become head of the family with many children are marginalized from these funds. Despite their involvement in mining for quite a long time you can easily see poverty staring at their faces
- Because women are involved in the lower rungs of the mining process, they receive next to nothing in terms of financial gains compared to their male counterparts who dominate the middle and upper echelons of the business.
- Women sometimes have no voice in the community, during our focus group discussion, we found out that most of them opt to settle dispute locally [among themselves or family heads] except when there is no other option then they tend to turn to community heads.
- Most women claim to be in the dark with regards to funds coming to their community
- Also, accessing regions where majority of the respondents were located was a major challenge In some areas in Kabala, we had to onboard a bike for miles from the main town because of the poor road network and the women involved in these activities were mostly illiterate which made administering the questionnaires even more challenging. This led us to believe that their impact would not drastically change the conclusion reached in this report.

Conclusion

In recognition of the permanent and growing nature of the ASM sector and the vital role it plays in the journey to self-reliance for millions of men and women. ASM is likely to increase given climate change impacts on other rural livelihoods, employment challenges, and ongoing demand for minerals. A coordinated, process-driven, and multidisciplinary approach is needed to ensure

ASM's challenges are minimized and opportunities for long-term growth are captured. It can be said to some extent that the Resource curse is very much alive and it affects women greatly because of the socioeconomic inequalities present in these communities. In the context of self-reliance, ASM is a tremendous opportunity if given the right conditions and support.

Recommendations

The Government:

- Review the policy of artisanal mining to make it more favorable towards women
- Support women to embark on alternative means of livelihood like agriculture trading etc.
- Ensure proper coordination between the local council and the chiefdom authorities
- Ensure increase transparency and accountability in the utilization of the surface rent and Chiefdom Development Fund
- To encourage and support women to form cooperatives so that they would be compliant with the mining laws and be able to march up with their male counterparts
- The Mineral Resources Ministry (MMA) to incorporate\ capture artisanal miners favorably in the Act
- The National Revenue Authority (NRA) should decentralize the issuance of receipt of payments to shorten the Doing Business period
- Surface Rent or DARC funds should accommodate Women Empowerment or widows with more children through financial schemes with minimal interest rate.
- A friendly business/ agricultural environment should be a must.

Civil Society Organizations:

- Raise more awareness and sensitize communities to take care of the environment e.g. Reforestation upon completion of mining and agricultural activities
- Ensure continuous awareness raising on gender-based violence activities and the punitive measures that go with them
- There is need for greater participation of women in every sphere of decision making in the community if the lot of women is to be improved

Mining Companies/Miners:

- Social responsibilities should be in line with developing indigenes of the community especially Women and Children who stand at greater disadvantage in the society.
- They should endeavor to be more compliant in licensing their business
- They should organize themselves into cooperate and seek funds with favorable interest rates.
- Foreign companies should be involved in community development plan.

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Annex 1

Interview Guide for Research on the Socio-economic Impact of Artisanal Mining on Women in selected chiefdoms within Kono, Kenema, Tonkolili and Koinadugu Districts Commissioned by Women in Mining (WoME) Sierra Leone- July 2021

1) Name: 2) Age 3) Sex:

4) Marital Status: 5) Do you have Dependents? YES/ NO; If Yes How many? [ ]

6) Educational level (please circle as appropriate)

a) Primary b) Secondary c) Tertiary d) others (please specify)
……..

7) District: 8) Chiefdom

9) Address: 10) Contact number:

11) What is your main occupation / means of livelihood? (Please circle as appropriate)

a) Farming b) Trading c) Mining d) Teaching) e) Others (please specify)
……

12) a] How long have you been involved in this activity? [ ]
b] Are you still engaged in this? YES or NO

13) If NO why and what are you presently engaged in?
.....

14) Do you have any other alternate means of earning an income or livelihood? For example:

a) Support from family members b) rental of sale of property c) Support from Civil Society

Organizations (CSOs) d) Support from Government etc. (Please specify)
…….

15) Do you practice any form of savings (Please specify)
……

16) Do you have access to credit / loans / grants? YES / NO If YES (please specify……...

17) Are there any mining activities going on within this community? YES / NO
If YES what type of mining is going on within this community?
[……
……]
18) Do you have companies undertaking such mining? If YES please specify
……
…….
19) Are you aware of any agreements between such mining companies and key stakeholders within your community? YES / NO If yes please
specify……
…..
If YES were you involved in the process? YES / NO If YES please specify
how……
…..]
20) Are you aware of any community development funds or projects within this community targeting women? YES / NO If YES please specify and what are such funds being used for and Who controls such funds?
.……
……
……
21) Have such mining operations impacted on you in any way both positively and negatively?
(eg health, education, socio economically, Economically, Culturally etc YES / NO explain
……
……
…….
22) Kindly specify if you have ever received any form of assistance/support in addressing any of the negative impact of the mining operations from any of the following stakeholders? eg the mining companies / Chiefdom Authority / Local/district / city council / CSOs etc YES / NO
If YES kindly specify
……
……
……

23) How many women in your community have been/likely to be affected by the mining operations? […….]

24) In your view what should be done by the related stakeholders to address such a situation?

……
……
……

25) Have you or any other woman, women's group benefitted from any of the following Payments a) Surface rent b) Agricultural Fund c) Community Development Fund (CDF) d) Any other……..

26) Do you experience any of the following emergency or natural disasters in this area? a) Disease outbreak b) Wild Fire c) Flooding d) Others please specify……..

27) Did it affect your economic or livelihood activities? YES / NO

If YES please explain how were you able to address it?

……
……
……

28) Do you have any incidences of sexual and gender based violence within these communities YES / NO.

If YES, kindly specify how you normally address it?.....

29) Do you have access to land? YES/ NO If YES how did you acquire such land? a) Free b) Lease c) Family Lands d) group project land e) community land

30) What do you normally use land for within this community?.

1. Mining 2. Trading 3.Agriculture 4. Any other

31) Do you work alone or in a group? If in a group what type of group and how many of you are in the group?

…….

32) Do you have children or men working with you? .....

33) Do you have a leadership structure / management committee/ executive? YES /NO

34) Do you have bye laws, meetings and or reports? YES / NO

35) How do you resolve conflict when they occur? (Please explain)……..……

36) Do you have easy access to current mining related information? YES / NO

37) Do you know about the environment policy? YES / NO

38) How frequently do accidents occur within this community? Please specify the type of accidents that normally occur? …….

39) Do you have access to clean drinking water? YES / NO

40) Are there schools with your community? YES / NO

41) If YES Do your children attend these schools or do they support you to fend income for the family (Please explain) ……..

42) What would you recommend as priorities for women's socio economic empowerment? e.g. Health, education, agriculture etc. within this community and why.

……
……
……

43) How should these priority concerns be addressed?

44) What would you recommend should be the role of local /district / city councils and chiefdom authorities in addressing issues of women that have been affected by the mining operations and in making related stakeholders to support the priorities you have mentioned?.....
.....

45) What would you recommend should be done to ensure the following?

a) Participation of Women in the disbursement of the surface rents and Agricultural funds etc

b) The commitment of the local council, Chiefdom authorities and mining companies in incorporating women's socio-economic activities, education, health, and agriculture as priority concerns in all their plans and programs.

46) DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?.....
.....
.....
.....

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS RESEARCH

Figures

Figure 1; Factors shaping Women's Realities in Artisanal Mining Communities

Charts

Chat 1; Sex Distribution

Chart 2: Sources of Income

Chart 3: Savings

Chart 4; MMA Online Repository

Pictures

Picture 1: Children and women at Artisanal mines sites

Picture 2: Enumerators with one of the female miners at a mine field.

Picture 3: Mined out area.