Mapping Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining to the Sustainable Development Goals

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Access the full report here

Recommended citation: Jorden de Haan, Kirsten Dales & James McQuilken. “Mapping Artisanal and Small-scale Mining to the Sustainable Development Goals.” Mining & the SDGs: ASM and LSM perspectives. Presentation for online webinar by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Responsible Mining Foundation, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, Pact, and University of Delaware. 15 October 2020.
Findings

Positive contributions to nearly all SDGs, but also negative impacts.

Formalization mitigates negative impacts and amplifies positive impacts on the SDGs.
Comprehensive formalization process

Engage local stakeholders throughout the formalization process

- Geoprospect & allocate land for ASM
- Facilitate miners’ organization
- License & regulate ASM
- Organize the supply chain
- Facilitate access to finance, assistance & markets
- Monitor & enforce ASM regulations

Provide continuous support to ASM actors

McQuilken & Hilson (2016) ASM in Ghana. Evidence to Inform Action Dialogue. IIED.
Economic development

**+ POSITIVE**
- Job creation in poor areas
- Linkages to local economy
- Youth employment
- Development minerals

**× NEGATIVE**
- Possible ‘poverty trap’
- Poor OHS
- Limited labor rights
- Poor access to govt. services
- Inefficient processing
- Chemical pollution

Global: 41,489,796 (Delve data as of June 2020)
FORMALIZATION IMPACT

- Facilitates equal rights to land, mineral resources, technology, training, finance
- Increases govt. revenues
- Unlocks contribution to GDP
- Reduces informal labor & child labor
- Facilitates responsible & sustainable mining practices
- Circularity: waste & tailings

But...

X Can prioritize better-connected small-scale miners over artisans, leaving the poorest left behind
Social development

+ POSITIVE

- Revenues for education
- On-the-job learning
- Resilience
- Empower women & marginalized
- Increased incomes for bottom 40%

X NEGATIVE

- School dropouts
- Women confined to secondary roles
- Unequal power relations
- Exploitation & exclusion
Social development

FORMALIZATION IMPACT

+ Reduces child labor
+ Supports TVET, apprenticeships, scholarships in ASM and related skills
+ Enhances women’s access to resources, productive assets and participation
+ Social, economic, & political inclusion

But…
× Exclude women & perpetuate inequalities
× Top-down approaches increase exclusion
Environmental stewardship

+ POSITIVE

- Critical raw materials for renewable energy
- Resilience & adaption to climate shocks
- Construction materials

X NEGATIVE

- Deforestation
- Environmental degradation
- Biodiversity loss
- Degrades marine & coastal areas
- Can occur in protected areas
- ‘Dirty’ energy for production
Environmental stewardship

FORMALIZATION IMPACT

- Climate mitigation strategies
- Transition to low-carbon economy
- Facilitates monitoring & enforcement
- Incentivizes rehabilitation
- Optimizes multisectoral land use planning
- Enhances long-term investment in land

Multifunctional Mining Landscapes
Nutrition & healthy lives

+ POSITIVE

- Interlocks with subsistence agriculture
- Supports local markets
- Increases resilience to shocks

X NEGATIVE

- Destruction of farmland & water bodies
- Distorts local food markets
- Occupational health and safety
- HIV/AIDS & infectious diseases
Nutrition & healthy lives

FORMALIZATION IMPACT

+ Incentivizes investments in agriculture
+ Enhance positive synergies: ASM & agriculture
+ Addresses land use related conflicts
+ Reclamation
+ Reduces health & safety risks
+ Improves long-term health outcomes
+ Resilience to emerging health threats
+ WASH infrastructure
Clean energy, infrastructure, sustainable cities

+ POSITIVE

• Less energy intensive
• Energy infrastructure
• Diversification
• Innovation
• Construction materials
• Invest in housing
• Reduce urbanization & migration

X NEGATIVE

• Uses ‘dirty’ energy forms
• Poor infrastructure & housing in rush scenarios
Clean energy, infrastructure, sustainable cities

- Fees, tax & royalties to fund investment in infrastructure
- Attractive to long-term investment & development
- Source of raw & value add material for energy & infrastructure projects
- Innovation of more sustainable processing & industrialization
- Security of tenure increases investment in housing
Peace, justice and governance

+ POSITIVE

- Transitions youth & ex-combatants out of armed groups & criminality
- Instills a culture of peace
- Social safety net
- Supports institutions in crises

X NEGATIVE

- Links to organized crime, financing of conflict & terrorism
- Human rights abuses, corruption, bribery, illicit financial flows
- Poor governance
Peace, justice and governance

FORMALIZATION IMPACT

+ Delinks ASM from insecurity
+ Facilitates land tenure, labour rights, protection of human rights
+ Can address the root causes of conflict
+ Supports long-term peacebuilding and state-building processes

But...

× Top-down approaches perpetuate inequalities & cause grievances, possibly leading to conflict
Partnerships

+ POSITIVE

+ Brings together stakeholders from civil society, public & private sector
+ Diversifies development assistance through private sector engagement
+ Knowledge & technology transfer

FORMALIZATION IMPACT

+ Helps to ‘de-risk’ ASM
→ ASM formalization can revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development
Conclusion

ASM formalization needs to be **planned** and **implemented** in an **inclusive** and **comprehensive** manner with all 17 SDGs in mind.

**IMPACTS**

- **POSITIVE**
- **NEGATIVE**
- **POSITIVE & NEGATIVE**
Recommendations

National policymakers:
➢ Develop SDG-sensitive formalization strategies
➢ Integrate ASM in national & regional frameworks

Private partners:
➢ Engage constructively with ASM
➢ Use ASM-SDG linkages to inform ASM engagement strategies

Multilateral institutions, donors and civil society:
➢ Integrate ASM in regional & global development frameworks
➢ Support holistic ASM formalization, incl. education & finance