



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

with the support of



## Capitalizing on experiences for future actions

### Contributions of development partners to sustainable artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM)

**Geneva, 4 July 2018**

**Conference Centre Varembe, 17 rue de Varembe  
CH - 1202 Geneva**

<https://cicg.ch/en/organiser/contact-access>

#### Background

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) engages an estimated 100 million people in over 70 developing countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Asia-Pacific Region. ASM in the gold sector alone occupies about 10 to 15 million artisanal and small-scale gold miners worldwide, including 4.5 million women and 600,000 children, and represents a production of about 380 to 450 tons of gold per year, or 17–20% of the gold produced globally. While it is an important livelihood activity, which could potentially contribute to sustainable and inclusive development, the sector is perhaps best known for its severely negative social and environmental impact, including child labour, human rights violations and the effects of uncontrolled toxic waste spills. Given the scale of its economic, social and environmental footprint, development partners and donor agencies engage in the sector, mostly with a view to improve the governance of ASM, foster local economic development and to mitigate its negative side-effects. In this respect, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) has been a very active actor, notably supporting better governance in ASM as well as in commodity trading, including in the fight against illegal financial flows, Switzerland being also one of the most important trading and refining venues for gold.

However, dealing with, and addressing ASM comes with a range of challenges, which partly derived from the complex nature of the extractive sector more broadly. **This event will:**

1. provide an opportunity to capitalise and share knowledge, challenges and lessons learnt on donor agencies' approaches and instruments to ASM; and
2. consider the role of domestic and international actors, including CSOs and private sector in ASM (e.g. mining companies, smelters, commodity traders), and the priorities and effectiveness of donor engagement regarding ASM.

**The event will be organised around four sessions**, with the aim to focus on ASM, while also considering it in the broader extractive sector and governance context, including at local, regional and international levels.

The workshop will seek to stimulate in-depth and interactive dialogue. It will all apply, to each of the sessions, the following format:

- i) proper introduction of the issue;
- ii) short practical presentation of experiences, ideas and lessons learnt;
- iii) constructive debate including Q&A; and
- iv) wrap up highlighting key recommendations for development partners looking forward.

**Each of the following four sessions will be guided by two or three guiding questions.**

1. The first session will look at ASM from a **(local) governance perspective**, and invite development partners to present some of the key approaches and concrete projects in this field, and their lessons learnt.
2. The second session will focus on how development partners engage in **multi-stakeholder partnerships** and collaborate with, and support, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), in addressing **ASM sustainability** (environmental, social - gender and transparency) issues and fostering **local development**, with practical examples and lessons learnt.
3. The third session will aim to connect the local with the regional and international frameworks affecting ASM development by taking a value chains approach, with a view to focus specifically on issues relating to **due diligence, transparency, (illicit) financial flows and commodity trading**.
4. The fourth session will then more specifically look at **the role of development partners** in stimulating sustainable and inclusive development, based on the discussions held in the previous sessions.

## AGENDA

- 8.30 – 9:00 **Welcome coffee**
- 9:00 – 9:15 **Opening remarks: Situating ASM in the Swiss development cooperation**  
*Evolution of the Swiss legislative framework for commodity trading and extractive industries. This brief introductory session will set the scene and illustrate the Swiss policy environment for ASM-related work, making the link between domestic private sector, Swiss development actors and the Swiss political arena.*
- Opening remarks by **Ambassador Thomas Gass**, Vice-Director and Head of the South Cooperation Department, SDC
  - Setting the frame: **Werner Thut**, Senior Policy Advisor Policy Coherence for Development, SDC
- 9:15 – 10:45 **Session 1: Local governance of the ASM - moving from principle to practice**  
*The governance framing ASM activities has - for a long time - been one of the key focuses of development partners, who wish to maximise the contribution of the sector to the sustainable development agenda (SDGs). These interventions have however encountered mixed success. This session will look at ASM from a (local) governance perspective, and invite development partners to present some of the key approaches and concrete projects in this field, and their lessons learnt.*
- Moderator: Jeske van Seters, ECDPM
  - Speaker: **Patience Singo**, Governance Advisor at IMPACT, Kampala, Uganda (10 min)
  - Discussants: (5 min each)
    - **Claude Kabemba**, Director, Southern Africa Resource Watch
    - **Stefan Bauchowitz**, Global task manager on resource governance at GIZ
    - **Risch Tratschin**, EBP
  - Discussion
- 10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:15 – 12:45 **Session 2: Multi-stakeholder partnerships, sustainable mining and local development**  
*ASM comes with significant social and environmental risks and impacts attached, which can hinder socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. Multi-stakeholder initiatives often play a key role in addressing these impacts by collaborating with and/or linking different actors on the ground. This session will focus on how development partners promote local development and sustainable ASM.*
- Moderator: San Bilal, ECDPM
  - Speaker: **Edward K. Brown**, Director of Country Engagements and Operations, African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET), Ghana (10 min)
  - Discussants: (5 min each)
    - **Denise Lüthi**, Co-Head of East Asia Division, South Cooperation Department, SDC
    - **Gavin Hilson**, Chair of Sustainability in Business, Surrey Business School, University of Surrey, UK
    - **Elisa Peter**, Executive Director of Publish What you Pay
  - Discussion
- 12:45 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 3: Connecting local ASM activities with multi-level regulatory frameworks**

*ASM is by nature a local activity, yet very much integrated in national, regional and global levels. Hence, it touches on a range of local-global dynamics. This session will consider the experience of development partners in connecting the local, regional and international frameworks affecting ASM development, including due diligence, transparency and responsible conduct, as well as issues relating to (illicit) financial flows and commodity trading.*

- Moderator: Jeske van Seters, ECDPM
- Speaker: **Louis Marechal**, Policy adviser, Extractives, Responsible Business Conduct Unit Company, OECD (10 min)
- Discussants: (5 min each)
  - **Marcena Hunter**, The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime
  - **Markus Nöthiger**, independent consultant, expert in CSR in the extractive sector
  - **Diana Culillas**, Secretary General, Swiss Better Gold Association
- Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 **Session 4: Roles of development partners**

*Foreign interventions in the extractive sector are not neutral and have long shaped the way resources are extracted in developing countries. This session will unpack the role of development partners in stimulating sustainable and inclusive development by better and more effective support for the extractive sector and ASM in particular.*

- Introduction of critical challenges: **Gavin Hilson**, Chair of Sustainability in Business, Surrey Business School, University of Surrey (5 min)
- **Two parallel working groups: (45 min)**

The objective of the working groups is to come up with 3-4 practical innovations that can be used in development partners' initiatives on ASM. The participants are asked to reflect on the following aspects of ASM:

**Group 1**

**The local governance and gender dimension:** How to improve local governance and strengthen the role of local authorities in a context of ASM? What program design choices can be made to ensure that the specific vulnerability of women and girls in ASM is reduced?

**Group 2**

**The multi-stakeholder dimension and international dimension:** How to bridge civil society, public authorities and private sector? What can be done at the global level to improve the governance and transparency of ASM operations and their related financial flows?

- Report back by each group in plenary and open discussion on key recommendations (30 min)
- **Conclusions**

17:30 – 17:45 **Closing remarks: Way forward**

- Denise Lüthi, Co-Head of East Asia Division, South Cooperation Department, SDC
- H.E. Mr. Lundeg Purevsuren, Ambassador of Mongolia to Switzerland

17:45 – 19:00 **Reception**