

ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINING
World Bank Improvement Project
Burkina Faso

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PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Institutional Study and strengthening of public and private structures
- Site studies:
 - Geology & technology(ground assessment, mining & processing)
 - Socio-economic study
 - Health, hygiene & safety
 - Environment
- Financing mechanisms survey
- Sensitisation & education
- ASM equipment survey & promotion of local fabrication & testing

INSTITUTIONAL STUDY

- Detailed and critical examination of ASM policy and institution mandates
- Conduct of a workshop to report findings and highlight policy inconsistencies and gaps, duplication etc.
- Questions on monopoly position of mineral commodity trading, local gold pricing (relative to World market) and the need for a fair pricing mechanism to benefit all parties and minimise fraud.
- Proposal of new institutional arrangement will be presented to a stakeholders workshop in November 2002

SITE STUDIES

- Studies have been conducted on 12 sites with 5 in detail
- State-of-the-art study of selected ASM sites covering geology and technology use, environmental mgmt. & awareness, management, health, worker safety and hygiene as well as socio-economic conditions.
- Wide gap between the institutions tasked with promoting ASM and field operations (governments are chasing ...)
- Strategies of creating a more positive working relationship where government action is proactive and helpful.

Financing mechanisms survey

- Detailed survey of local and external sources of funds to the ASM sector with the conduct of a multi-stakeholder workshop to report findings and sensitize actors
- The availability of financial resources influences the extent of ASM activities and their performance. Stable and fair pricing and good socio-economic conditions promote better working environments and less haphazard mining.
- Several financial institutions are interested in assisting the sector and are in contact with the Ministry and the consultant on how to proceed.
- The CDE identified 12 projects for possible financial assistance and is currently completing a needs study

SENSITISATION AND EDUCATION

- The findings of the evaluation studies conducted were translated into pertinent lessons/messages for use in sensitization and education campaigns which are being transmitted across Burkina Faso through:
 - Local theatrical groups acting out sketches in local languages and in French
 - Films on worker safety and HIV/AIDS; and local TV programs
- The aim of these sensitizations is to create better working and living conditions for ASM operators and their communities and open avenues for them to seek and solve problems locally.

EQUIPMENT SURVEY AND LOCAL FABRICATION

- Conduct of a survey of all equipment used by ASM operators and how they are used
- Promotion of local fabricators:
 - Crushers for 1-2 tph
 - Hammer mills for 1-4 tph with direct sluicing
 - Small trommel washing units
- Site demonstrations of equipment and training underway

OTHER IMPROVEMENT AREAS

- Alternative and other economic activities:
 - Agriculture - vegetable farming, animal husbandry, etc..
 - Agro-processing/industry (shea butter, for example)
 - Other income generating activities
- Women's roles - training to man some equipment and compounds
- Children at sites:
 - Baby sitting activities outside of compounds manned by community and women's associations

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH

- A multidisciplinary team is needed to work on such a project: geology, mining engineering, processing, sociology, environmental specialists, community health, communication, micro-finance, legal, agriculture, etc..
- Use of local knowledge of the ASM operators and their communities should be a significant input to the solutions of local problems
- Small and incremental results/improvements are appreciated and last long and involve **LISTENING** to the ASM operators and their communities