

CALL TO ACTION

Towards the Elimination of Child Labour in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)

In Commemoration of World Day Against Child Labour (WDAKL)
2019

Preamble

Recognizing that child labour in all its forms is an affront to the constitutional rights and wellbeing of children in Ghana;

Supporting implementation of measures outlined in the National Plan of Action (NPA) on the elimination of Worst Forms of Child labour;

Reinforcing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth including Target 8.7 on the elimination of all forms of child labour by 2025;

Inspired by recommendations from the ILO Inter-Regional Knowledge Sharing Meeting on Child Labour and Working Conditions in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining held in Manila;

We, the leaders (and our representatives) of the Child Labour and Responsible Mining Network (CLaRM-Net), the Ghana National Association of Small-Scale Miners (GNASSM), and other well meaning stakeholders, in our commitment to lead the way in the fight against child labour and improve working conditions in ASGM;

Hereby agree to:

1. Facilitate the formalization of ASGM operations, appreciating that:

- i. Formalization is a process, not an event
- ii. Requires government leadership and legal framework
- iii. Requires investment
- iv. Simplification of permitting procedures, promoting behavioral change and establishing innovative incentive systems and mechanisms like “the compassionate gold branding”, sustains and promote realistic SSM formalization and compliance;
- v. Establishing knowledge and capacity building platforms and systems could help improve technical capacity on formalization and mining governance;

- vi. Organization of miners can facilitate access to social services and other important aspects such as regulatory framework and market information and finance the sector more, visible, identifiable and empowered;
- vii. Decentralization, organization and engaging miners to dialogues results to efficient and innovative solutions to various mining issues and can result in a stronger voice to represent their needs and interests in relation to traders and society at large.
- viii. The use of technology like development of web, software's and computer programs have now become a trend and a key development in the collection, monitoring and analysis to have a clear idea on the real situation of ASGM. It has become a major tool in the development of research and science based plans and policies and in harmonizing various efforts thru inter-agency actions towards addressing the issues of child labour;

2. Create and sustain synergies to enhance Data and plug knowledge gaps:

- i. Strengthen capacities of Government and institutions to analyse and translate data into concrete actions , plans and programs
- ii. Lack of data because of lack on consensus on definition of CL in ASGM
- iii. Efforts should not be too heavy on data, emphasis should be on immediate action, led by government and implemented by multi-stakeholders
- iv. CL monitoring is an immediate and continual source of vital data for action. It is not a comprehensive survey mechanism and thus should not be sophisticated and expensive otherwise it will be unsustainable and ineffective for remediation.
- v. Data is fundamental and needed for governance, policy formulation and industry planning and decision-making.
- vi. Small-scale miners should be supported to develop data systems to enhance self-regulation
- vii. Governments should be supported to build online data portals for ASGM
- viii. ASGM data should be available and accessible to the public.

3. Support the legal and policy framework on ASGM to address the following:

- i. Minimal or total absence of collective bargaining and freedom of association
- ii. Need to improve transparency in governance
- iii. promote policies and legislations to prevent conflicts in mining and agriculture

4. Support enforcement and monitoring, knowing that:

- i. Enforcement is important, it must be coordinated and conducted with a systemic approach that engages ASGM communities and miners and reinforces legal provisions Ad hocdrastic and overbearing punitive measures are neither effective nor sustainable.
- ii. Decentralised law enforcement works: Some countries have clear decentralised enforcement regimeson child labour in the informal sector (e.g. Ghana: Children's Act and Child Rights Regulations) that is yielding results. They must be supported with capacity to scale-up the operationalization these provisions

- iii. Monitoring should be integrated; with strong collaboration between labour and mine inspection:
- iv. Child labour monitoring should be effective at the community level but not replaced or confused but rather complimented by project beneficiary monitoring
- v. Child labour monitoring is a multi-stakeholder effort.
- vi. CLM it is driven by Action to prevent or withdraw children from CL/WFCL
- vii. CLM could be well structured and comprehensive in design but difficult to implement in a sustainable way. It requires emphasis on simplifying tools, engaging communities and strong linkage with schools and other referral systems

We commit to do so through the following broad framework:

Key strategic approach

- ◆ Strengthen the leading role of government to guide national policy and initiatives on ASGM
- ◆ A supply chain approach to ASGM is effective provided that it is not exclusive.
- ◆ Monitoring, remediation and enforcement tools (presented) should be shared for learning adaptation and implementation
- ◆ Providing skills for complementary and sustainable livelihood to improve family income.
- ◆ Mainstream child labour into action plans at the local and national level.
- ◆ Strengthen the engagement of social partners in the mining sector.
- ◆ Community ownership is very important in sustaining child labour programs, as they are the first point on contact.
- ◆ Improve and encourage child participation

Partnership:

- ◆ The long term effect of the strategic approach depends on multi-level multifaceted stakeholders
- ◆ Create a multi-stakeholder platforms learning space
- ◆ Promote Cross-mineral and multi-sectoral round tables
- ◆ Integrate data on Child Labour in the Global data on ASGM by OECD and WB
- ◆ ASGM stakeholders should join Alliance 8.7 and, in particular, the Actin Group on Supply Chain
- ◆ Establish a sustainable partnership with the private sector

Advocacy and sustainability:

- ◆ Success of future intervention depends on knowledge integration and experience from previous (integrated) approaches

- Data is needed to support pilot and case management programs that will inform scaling up of such pilots
- Enhance the formalisation of access to finance for ASM
- Reinforce the establishment of network for joint action

This Call to Action is endorsed on 6th June, 2019 during the Media Launch of the World Day Against Child Labour, 2019.

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Signature: 

Date: 06-06-2019

2. Ghana National Association of Small-Scale Miners (GNASSM)

Name: Emmanuel Tsonley Antwi

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3. Others (Specify)

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END