



The University of Reading

Formalizing Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

Challenges and Ways Forward

Dr Gavin Hilson

The University of Reading, UK





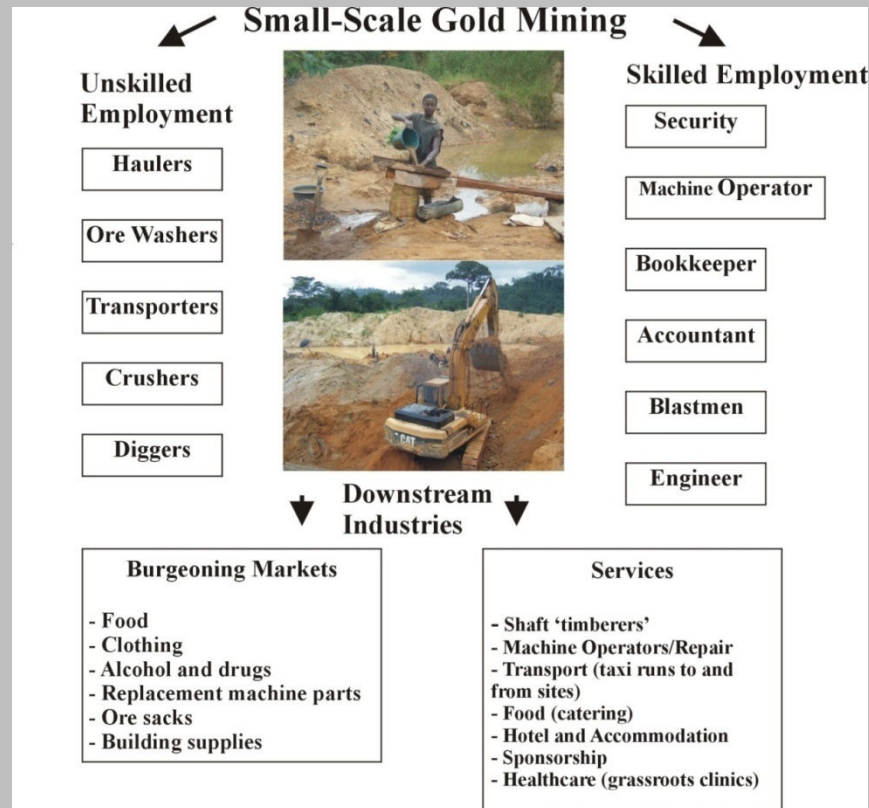
Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining



- Low-tech, labour intensive mineral extraction and processing
- Poverty-driven
- City workers/industry
- Farmers/rural families



Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining



‘Actions focusing on miners alone have been shown to have limited success in reducing the use of illegal inputs, breaking circles of indebtedness, reducing the monopoly power of buyers, or limiting parallel trade...’



Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining

GOOD

EMPLOYMENT



BAD

ENVIRONMENTAL

LOCAL ECONOMIES



SOCIAL

CHILD LABOUR



Child Labour and ASM

- 1973, ILO Convention No. 138
- Early-1990s, IPEC
- 1999, ILO Convention No. 182
- 2005, 'Year of the Child', *A Load Too Heavy*



Child Labour and ASM

Why are they there?

Poverty → ASM





Child Labour and ASM

Why are they there?

Poverty → ASM





Ways Forward?

‘Efforts to formalize the artisanal mining sector and integrate it into the formal economy should be based on lessons learned during the past decades’.

5) How can the international community support countries to support the livelihoods of communities engaged in small-scale mining?

6) What are priority areas for international training and capacity-building support to developing countries in this sector?

Ways Forward

Solution (Two-Part):

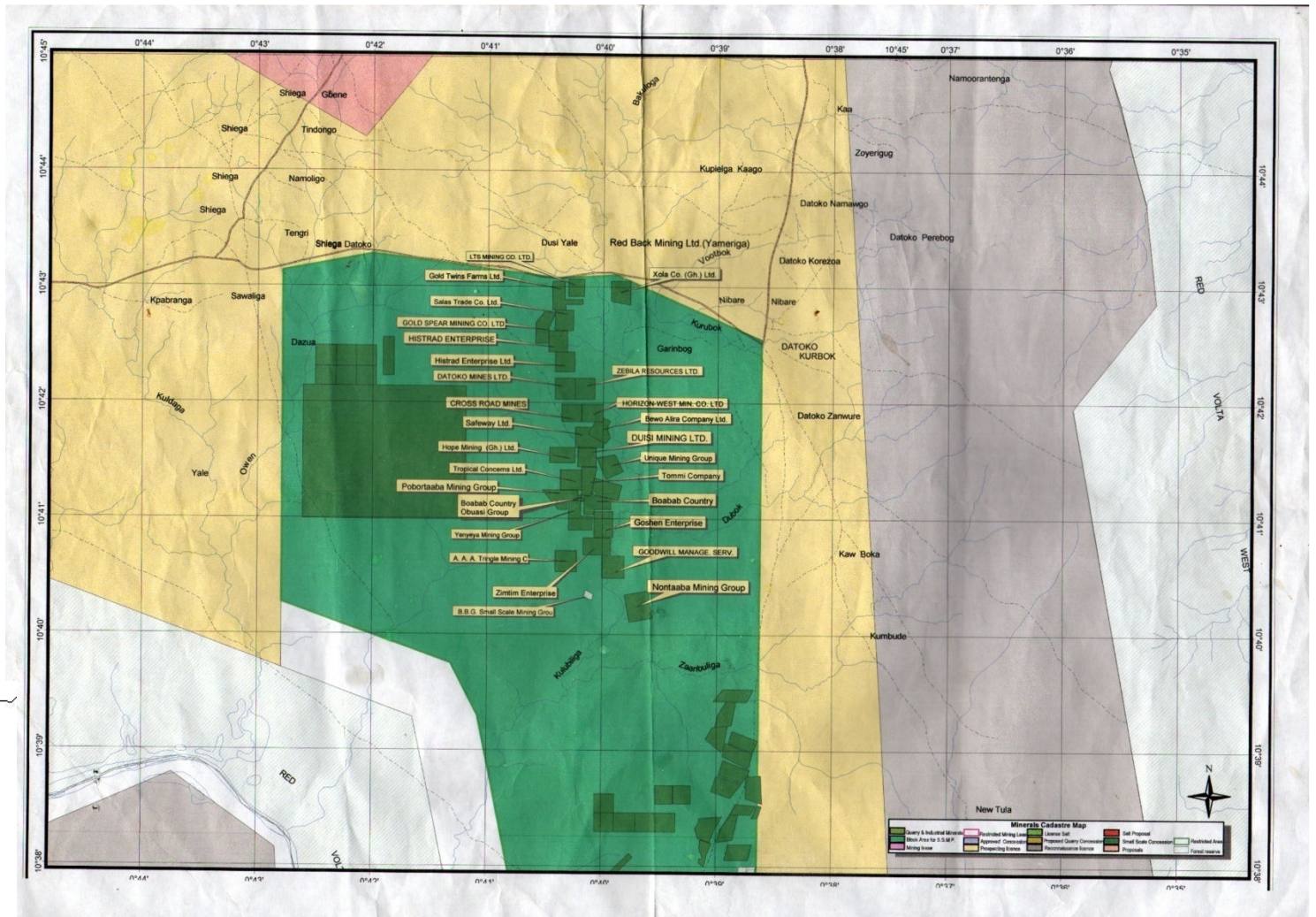
Prevent People From Engaging in Illegal ASM

Facilitate a Supported Legalized ASM Sector



Ways Forward?

- 1) Demarcate Areas for Licensed Small-Scale Mining (priority from the beginning)
 - DRC (recent)
 - Mozambique (began in 1998)
 - Ghana (ongoing)



Area demarcated for ASM in Northern Ghana (green)



Ways Forward?

2) Microcredit – Family Empowerment

- Reluctance?
 - Collateral?
 - Perception?
- Ghana (facilitated equipment acquisition)



Ways Forward?

3) Support for Coveted Cash Crops

- Citrus
- Cocoa
- Oil Palm
- Vulnerable Groups





Ways Forward?

4) Enhance Education

- Key to Eradicating Child Labour
- Ghana/Mali – resilience
- Paradoxical
- Supported (link to micro-credit)
- Better educational facilities





Thank you