

## “GLOBAL FORUM ON ARTISANAL & SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING”

7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Manila, Philippines

TAWOMA

**Supporting the Disadvantaged Ones in Tanzania Mining Community**

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## What is TAWOMA?

Tanzania Women Miners Association is a no profit making Non Governmental Organization, **serving the interest of women and children in the mining communities**

The Association:

- formed on 22nd August 1997
- Its headquarters are in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- 400 active members (*miners, mineral brokers & dealers, service providers and mine workers*).
- 17 regional office branches and,
- 15 local branch offices in all active mining areas.

## Why TAWOMA was formed?

- Presence of mineral occurrences in many parts of Tanzania usually favours certain groups in the society and exploit several groups especially women and children.
- None of the older mining associations, REMA'S and Chamber of Mines, could address effectively the interest and rights of women and children living in the mining areas.
- Most women were subjected to several unfair deals and worked long hours in dangerous and unhealthy conditions such as long exposure to dust & mercury fumes.



## Why TAWOMA was formed?

- Due to poverty many children are forced to live and work in mines – *who will care for them most?*
- Most women cannot cope well with few available hastily executed extension service interventions.
- Hence, TAWOMA is working to improve and protect the livelihoods of women and children in the mining communities



## SITUATION OF THE DISADVANTAGED GROUPS IN TANZANIA

- **Some of the obstacles** which are hindering economic and social well beings of women and children in mining communities are:

- Poverty,
- Ignorance, and
- Traditional norms



## SITUATION OF THE DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

Most members of the disadvantaged groups:

- Don't know **their rights**
- Are **ignorant of health hazards and safety issues** related with their endeavours (mining activities)
- **Working long hours** in harsh environments
- **Low productivity** hence **poor earnings**
- **Don't receive fair prices/ rates** for their mineral products or hired services they offer.
- Some times, especially in mine rush areas, are **subjected to threats and intimidations.**
- **Children don't enjoy their basic rights – this group is exploited easily as it has no voice**

# WHAT ARE THE EFFORTS OF TAWOMA

Past activities of TAWOMA to serve the disadvantage groups involved:

## 1. Conducting various awareness campaigns

- Women to understand their rights.
- To be aware of risks and health dangers of mining.
- To address HIV/AIDS related issues.
- Needs to care and protect the environment.
- Sensitize and abolish child labour.



## EFFORTS OF TAWOMA

### 2. Organize capacity building workshops/seminars for members to:

- Acquire license and operate legal mining and mineral processing activities.
- Attain mineral market skills.
- Form co-operatives groups and savings and credit societies (SACCOS).
- Improve leadership skills to TAWOMA branch leaders.



### 3. Advocacy and lobbying on behalf of women and children in local and international forums

- Access to productive resources e.g. Credit schemes and access to appropriate equipments.
- Requesting stakeholders to incorporate woman issues in their development programs.
- Recognition of Miners Day.



### SOME OF THE ARCHIVEMENTS

- Establishment of 16 regional and 15 local TAWOMA branch offices around the country.
- Number of active members supporting other women rouse from 22 in year 1997 to 400 in 2010
- Helped members to participate in exhibitions and trade fairs at DITF-Dar es Salaam, SADC – Women Mining Groups – Zambia, Dubai, Italy, Hongkong, China, Madagascar.



- Since, 2004 the Association organizes annual mineral exhibition during Miners Day celebrations.
- Defended Singida region members to secure mining plots.
- Conducted HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns in mining areas of Morogoro, Tanga regions.

## **ARCHIVEMENTS.....**

- Organized entrepreneurship training to Kilindi –Tanga region gold women miners and service providers.
- Support members to form savings and credit co-operative societies (SACCOS) in Handeni – Tanga and Mirerani-Tanzanite mining areas.
- Conducted campaigns to discourage child labour in Matombo – Morogoro region.
- Mobilize women groups to build low-cost houses in Kilindi – Tanga region
- Establishment of TAWOMA PROJECT ONE. This is a company which is responsible for collecting minerals from the members and sell them to the international market
- Members have acquired skills on value addition (cutting and polishing gemstones) and the organisation has one machine for cutting and polishing

## **Improving the Association's capacity**

- Better communication links with members and stakeholders – the use of internet facilities and website hosting.
- Reliable transport to reach members in remote mining areas.
- To create mining & value-addition models (piloting) which will convince others women to improve their mining, service provision and value-adding activities.
- More TAWOMA and exhibitions for networking and capacity building.

## 4.0 CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

4.1 In order to improve the Association's capacity to serve its members. TAWOMA Need to have:

- **Strong secretariat** at national and regional level. This will improve coordination and data collection.
- Well defined **strategic and business plans**.
- A small **association technical team** to work with other stakeholders to address issues such as, skill development (e.g. making beads). **Aim is to sustain extension services** to women groups.
- **Capacity building programs to TAWOMA leaders** through seminars and study tours.

## 4.2 Members' requirements to transform their livelihoods.

- Mine management and entrepreneurship skill training
- Credit schemes to address working capital.
- Availability of appropriate mining equipment.
- Better competitive mineral markets.
- Value-added skills and techniques to process locally low grade minerals eg. Tumbling, making beads, abrasives pottery etc.

### 4.3 Approach to address new challenges

- Transformation programs, which addresses the specific needs of each woman categories in the mining communities:

**woman mine owners**- access mining land & licence

- **mine workers**- better working environment
- **service providers** – capital & fair share
- **mineral brokers** – Capital, value addition & fair markets

The aim is to improve productivities and incomes



### Members commitments and contributions

- TAWOMA will continue to rely on contributions made by committed members.
- Capacity building support will be directed to individual and groups who are committed to contribute in kind to support TAWOMA's activities
- Contributions from this group will enable TAWOMA to implement various planned activities to its more disadvantaged members and reach for more members.





## ***Networking and Stakeholders support***

- To work with various stakeholders to seek their support to address some of the above constraints and challenges.

### **AMONG KEY PARTNERS ARE:**

- Government and Public Institutions such as: the Ministry of Energy and Minerals; Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Development; Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children; Ministry of Finance; STAMICO; etc.
- Donor and International Organizations: DFID, UNIFEM, UNDP, The World Bank, etc.
- Local and International NGO's.

We are requesting your support to our course.

