

# KENYA



## Mine Safety Toolkit for ASM in Taita Taveta County

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Mine Water & Mine Waste Management



## THE CHANGE PROJECT

The **artisanal and small-scale** mining (ASM) sector in Kenya is estimated to employ around 140,000 miners, providing support and sustenance to over 800,000 households. Despite its significant contribution to the economic development of the country, the ASM sector's lack of adequate safety measures in their mining operations pose risks to the lives of miners, the environment, and the overall sustainability of the mining sector. In recognition of these concerns, the state department for mining assumes a crucial role in promoting and enforcing mine safety standards. The implementation of a mine safety toolkit for artisanal and small-scale miners would ensure promotion of safety, regulatory compliance, environmental protection, sustainable development, enhanced reputation and investor confidence, and the fulfilment of social responsibilities. A Safety toolkit would play a vital role in shaping a responsible and sustainable mining sector and contribute to the overall development and growth of the mining industry.

The primary objective was to create a standardized mine safety toolkit that caters specifically to the needs of artisanal and small-scale miners in Taita Taveta County.

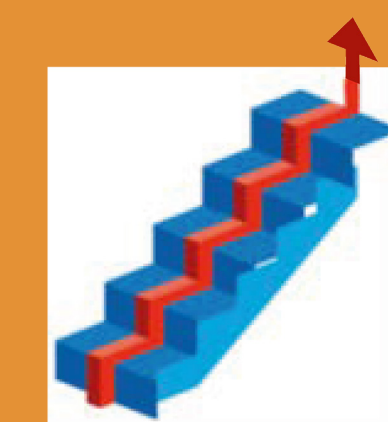


The toolkit has been developed with the intention of enhancing the working conditions and safety standards within the local mining sector. Once the pilot project in Taita Taveta County is successfully implemented, the aim is to expand the initiative to other counties across the country, thereby extending its positive impact on the mine working environment for artisanal and small-scale miners nationwide. The ultimate goal is to promote responsible mining practices, protect the well-being of miners, and contribute to the overall development and sustainability of the mining sector in Kenya.



## SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The **development of the standardized** mine safety toolkit involved a thorough assessment of the unique challenges and requirements faced by artisanal and small-scale miners in Taita Taveta County. The toolkit encompasses various key elements, including safety procedures, risk assessment methodologies, hazard identification frameworks, provision of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), equipment safety guidelines, environmental management practices, and regular auditing and improvement procedures. A standardized mine safety toolkit has several positive impacts on businesses in the mining sector, improving compliance, enhancing operational efficiency, boosting employee morale and retention, supporting sustainable operations, etc. With the effective implementation of the toolkit, the state department for Mining can safeguard the lives of miners, protect the environment, and contribute to the overall development and growth of the mining industry.



## RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The **outcome of this change** project was effectively communicated to the artisanal mining committee of the county, the heads of the various artisanal and small-scale mining groups, associations and cooperative societies in Taita Taveta County via telephone calls, emails and one on one meetings at the regional mines offices, Taita Taveta. We also utilized the regular mines inspections to pass across the information. The toolkit advises the miners on the importance of safety inspections, legislations applicable to the sector, and the duties of a mine operator with regards to safety at the mine site. We also highlighted potential hazards at the mine workings. The resultant mine safety toolkit is both for internal (Our organization) and external (Artisanal and small-scale miners in Taita Taveta County) use. It can be found at Madini House, Nairobi and at the Regional Mines Office in Taita Taveta.



The **toolkit will be piloted** within Taita Taveta County, ensuring close collaboration with miners, relevant stakeholders, and the State Department for Mining. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the toolkit and identify areas for improvement. Following the successful implementation and evaluation of the pilot project, the change project will be rolled out across other counties. The change project toolkit will need to be customized to specific sites i.e. issues faced in the gemstone sector are quite different from those in gold extraction sector in the western parts of Kenya.

**Recommendation to organization and colleagues:**  
We recommend that the organization and especially our colleagues should own the toolkit and suggest possible areas for refinement and enhancement. We would also wish that we join hands and develop checklists for each area of operation.



Artisanal small scale mining.