

# ZAMBIA



## Safety, health and environmental management guidelines for small-scale and artisanal miners

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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING  
PROGRAMME 308**  
Mine Water & Mine Waste Management



## THE CHANGE PROJECT

The “Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Guidelines for Small-Scale and Artisanal Miners” project in Zambia aims to address the significant challenges associated with artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). This sector, which is crucial for poverty reduction, involves millions of people but often operates under hazardous conditions, leading to environmental degradation and health risks.

The project’s primary goal is to create guidelines that educate ASM operators about the environmental impacts of their activities and how to mitigate them, as well as how to prevent occupational injuries and diseases. The long-term objective is to lobby for these guidelines to become part of Zambia’s legislation, tailored specifically to ASM activities. The guidelines aim to bridge the gap in the current legal framework, which does not differentiate between large-scale mining operations and ASM, ensuring that ASM operators and the environment are protected.

The project also seeks to address the lack of resources, monitoring, and competence in managing health, safety, and environmental issues in the ASM sector. By formalizing the ASM sector and promoting safer practices, the project aims to foster sustainable development in Zambia. The involvement of stakeholders such as the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) and the Mines Safety Department (MSD) is crucial in ensuring the success of this initiative.



## SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

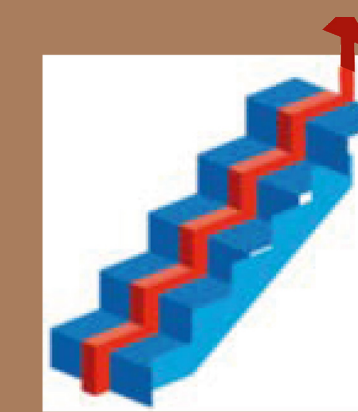
The guidelines developed through this project are vital for protecting both people and the environment. By educating ASM operators on safe practices and environmental management, the guidelines help reduce occupational hazards, prevent environmental degradation, and promote sustainable mining practices. This contributes to the well-being of miners and their communities, while also safeguarding Zambia’s natural resources and ecosystems from the adverse effects of mining activities.



Working ASM gold miners in Vubwi District – Eastern Province of Zambia



ASM operators mining Manganese in Serenje District – Central Zambia.



## RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The project has successfully developed comprehensive guidelines that address safety, health, and environmental management for ASM activities. These guidelines provide practical advice on mitigating risks such as unstable pit walls, exposure to hazardous substances, and environmental degradation.

Additionally, the project has facilitated the Zambian overarching goal of formalization of the ASM sector, promoting the formation of cooperatives and partnerships, and improving access to resources and training for ASM operators.



## THE WAY FORWARD

Moving forward, the focus will be on lobbying for the integration of these guidelines into Zambia’s legislative framework, ensuring they are tailored specifically to ASM activities. The project will continue to promote capacity development among ASM operators and support the formalization of the sector. Efforts will also be made to enhance monitoring and enforcement of the guidelines, ensuring that the environmental and safety standards are upheld. By doing so, the project aims to create a safer, more sustainable mining environment that contributes to Zambia’s socio-economic development.



Silt from extraction of gold by ASM miners deposited in a stream in Rufunsa District – Lusaka Province of Zambia.