

Best Practices



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Lao PDR, 2003

Definitions



The term artisanal & small-scale miners (ASM) encompasses all small, medium, informal, legal and illegal miners who use rudimentary processes to extract gold and other minerals from secondary and primary ores



Zimbabwe, 2003

Numbers



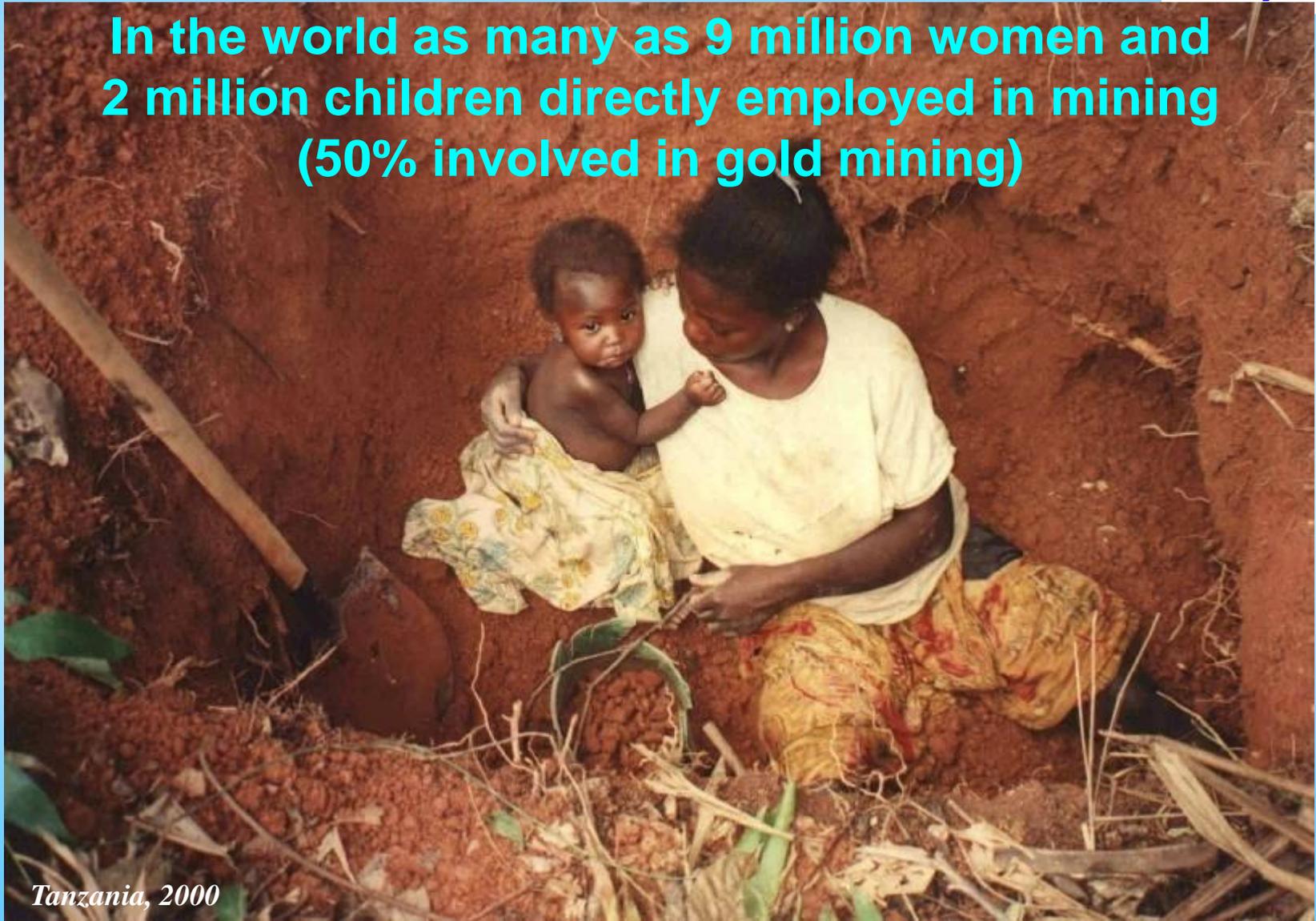
About 30 million artisanal and small-scale miners (ASM) extracting more than 30 minerals from secondary and primary ores in virtually all developing countries



Numbers



In the world as many as 9 million women and 2 million children directly employed in mining (50% involved in gold mining)



Tanzania, 2000

Definitions



This is the biggest gold rush the world has ever seen

- **15 million artisanal miners producing 300-400 tonnes Au/a in 70 countries**
- **About 50 million people directly and indirectly involved in artisanal gold mining**



Guinea, 2006

Causes of poor practices



- Disorganisation & Transience
- No technical assistance
- Lack of education
- Inadequate Regulations
- Financial Barriers
- Lack of Support from Mainstreams of Society
- **POVERTY**

Tanzania, 2000



Environmental Problems Caused by Artisanal Gold Mining



- **Water siltation**
- **Landscape degradation**
- **Destruction of habitats**
- **Loss of organic soil**
- **Deforestation**
- **Mercury pollution**



Why Mercury in ASM is a Problem?



- Worldwide $>1,000$ t/a Hg is used and lost by artisanal miners or 1/3 of the global Hg consumption for all uses (total Hg use for chlorine, batteries, catalyst, dental, lightning, etc. = 3,290 tonnes/a)

- Miners who use mercury



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_14413

