

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

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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)

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_14503

