

SOCIAL SUPPORT FOUNDATION



Together we Build

KASA (AD-SUM) ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABLE MINING.

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JULY- SEPT. 2010

4th QUARTER 2010

DISTRICT: OBUASI

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Date:	10th SEPT. 2010
Signature:	SIGNED

1.0 Introduction/Background

- **Overall goal and objectives:**

To contribute towards enhancing equitable access, accountability and transparency in natural resource and environmental governance

- **Focus & Scope**

Mining & Environment

- **Operational areas / coverage:**

The operational areas cover 20 communities in five Municipal and District Assemblies and a Small Scale Mining Gang at Obuasi in the Obuasi Municipal area.

Municipal/District Assembly	Communities under Municipal/District Assemblies			
Obuasi Municipal	Obuasi	Binsere	Ahasunyewodea	Apitikoko
Adansi North	Fomena	Brofoyedru	Old Ayaase	Dompoase
Bekwai Municipal	Bekwai	Amoamo	Akrofuom	Amponya
Amansie Central	Jacobu	Homase 1 & 2	Aketekyieso/Anyakyire	Edubriem
Amansie West	Manso Nkwanta	Manso Yawkrom	Manso Atwere	Manso Asamang
Obuasi Municipal	Small Scale Mining Gang			

- **Executive summary**

This report covers activities in the four quarter of the Project period that was between the months of May – July 2010 under the four thematic areas namely: Advocacy, Research, Campaigns/Lobbying and Monitoring and Evaluation.

During the quarter under review, the Social Support Foundation Project Team create the platform for community discussions and dialogue on development issues through 10 community durbars and 5 Radio panel discussion to increase public knowledge and support. Engage in dialogue with five District and Municipal Assemble, mining companies and mining environment sector agencies for community and civil society participation in NRE governance and Strengthening linkages and rights based network for increasing support based and enhancing exchange of ideas through the participating in coalitions and networks. Presentation of community action plans for 20 communities and the Small Scale Mining Gang based on participatory appraisal and lessons learned for

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strengthening local NRE management and implementation within the 5 selected Municipal/District Assemblies of the Ashanti Region was held. Follow up visits were conducted by the Project team on CAP validation was done to inspect and confirmation through community discussion.

The team of Social Support Foundation continue their routing follow ups during the fourth quarter which three visits were made into the operational communities to have discussion and dialogue development issues with the communities as to look at the impact of activities held with them in respect of the Accelerating Development through Sustainable Mining (AD-SUM) Project. Ten community durbars were held for public discussion and sensitisation and awareness creation. To increase the support base for NREG and other issues being addressed, the SSF Team facilitated a Seminar on Natural Resources and the Environment in collaboration with Rights And Development Network (RADNET), Ashanti region Chapter and a Communiqué issued at the end of the Seminar. The SSF team also participated in three (3) Coalition and Network meetings as well as facilitated and took part in dialogue meetings between the AGA and the Small Scale Mining Gang for concessions. There was stakeholders' review meeting, radio programmes and a press conference to update the public on the progress of engagements made under the project.

Awareness creation, radio programmes, community durbars within the selected communities were undertaken. SSF team made a follow-up to facilitate dialogue with farmer-based groups for engagement with AGA to have come to consensus and discussed other activities by visits to galamsey sites by the SSF Team to observe their mode of operation and interact with their members. Previous work done within the third quarters includes community facilitated dialogue to ensure efficient understanding between the groups. Copies of the narrative reports for every quarter up to date were also submitted to key stakeholders like the NCCE, CHRAJ, DOVVSU, Co-coordinating Director and Social Welfare Departments of the Obuasi Municipal Assembly.

The leadership of communities and their members showed a great commitment of involvement as they owned the project through support for the Project by attending meetings within and outside their communities. End of project evaluation also was conducted during the reporting period to assess the progress of the project

2.0 Details of Major activities implemented as per activity plan

Activity 1: To create the platform for community discussions and dialogue on development issues through 10 community durbars and 5 radio panel discussions to increase public knowledge and support

i. Activity description:

Community durbars: Durbars were organized in the selected communities and the Small Scale mining group. It was attended by a cross-section of community members and was used to talk about community development and issues confronting them and to devise means of approaching duty bearers for support to provide social amenities and means of livelihoods. SSF used the occasion to concise community members on the development made so far under the AD-SUM project. Public communications was organized to increase knowledge with Adansi Communication Network (Shaft Radio) and community radio discussions were held by the SSF Team in Obuasi and some of the target communities in that order to explain to the public and members of the community on the objectives of the project and the progress made so far. The public patronized in the programmes by calling onto the programmes to contribute to the issues being discussed.

ii. Objectives:

- To reduce social conflict in mining communities through the promotion of efficient corporate social responsibilities and constructive engagement with decision makers.
- Promoting accountable and transparency in the use of mining revenue (benefits and royalties) from Gold mining.
- To contribute toward enhancing equitable access, accountability and transparency in natural resource and environmental governance
- To inform and educate the communities and all stakeholders to halt illegal actions and improve environmental policies and implementation.

iii. Methodologies:

- The meetings were interactive and participatory, and the SSF ADSUM Project team facilitated while the people keenly discussed the issues raised.

iv. Participants' views and reactions:

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- Some of the participants asked of when they were going to see any direct benefit from the project.
- Participants were prepared to take on the duty bearers and decision-makers to address their needs.
- Others view of the participants was social amenities were to provide by the government through local government and Assembly.

v. Output

- The objectives set were achieved. Participants now identify with the Project's objectives and the benefits. They were very pleased with lessons taught.
- Action Plans validation were made ready for presentation
- Community registers were also completed for presentation

vi. Remarks

- The communities were thankful to SSF and KASA for the AD-SUM project by enable them aware and more mindful of their natural resources
- Upon several postponements of meeting days by some communities, action plans have successfully completed and presented.

Activity 2. : Engage in dialogue with five District and Municipal Assemblies, mining companies and mining and environment sector agencies for community and Civil Society participation in NRE governance

i. Activity description:

The SSF project team expanded the engagement in dialogue with Municipal and District Assemblies to premeditate on issues rising from the implementation of the AD-SUM project within the five assemblies. The team organised for separately to meet with the section heads who are previously engaged in the implementation of the projects. In the Obuasi Municipal Assembly, engagement meetings were held separately with the CHRAJ, Departments of Social Welfare, Coordinating Director, NCCE, Waste Management, Sanitation and DOVVSU. The meetings were held after the project quarterly reports were submitted to the various departments and the engagements were to deliberate on the contents of the reports and to request their continuous support for the project and its outcomes. The project team stressed on the need for the engagement of the communities and CSOs in the governance of natural resources and environment.

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Activity: 3 Hold Press Conferences to keep the public informed and updated on progress of engagements

i. Activity description

During the reporting period a press conference was held to concise the media and the public informed on the activities undertaken and the development made as well as to interpret the communiqué issued at the closing stages of a Seminar on Natural Resource and Environment organized by SSF in teamwork with Rights And Development Network (RADNET-Ashanti Chapter). The conference was attended by cross-section of five media organizations made up of three persons from radio and two from the print media.

Representatives of the ten CSOs and other stakeholders which participated in the NRE Seminar were present and was facilitated by the SSF team and the Chairman of RADNET. Presentations were made from various organisations to address current issues as take.

ii. Objectives:

- To keep the public informed and updated on progress of project engagements
- To ensure that issues recognized through the implementation of the project are brought to the notice of the relevant authorities and decision-makers.

iii. Methodologies:

- Interactive and question and answer methods

iv. Participants' views and reactions:

- Attendance encouraging
- Environmental governance rules are over looked by multi—national companies and Project objectives must be given frequent publicity
- Duty-bearers must be regularly reminded of their task towards efficient and sustainable natural resource management

v. Output

vi. Remarks:

- There is a need for frequent press conferences to keep duty-bearers active always
- The Media should be empowered to engage in the project activities to ensure better coverage for public education.

Activities: 4. To strengthen linkages and rights based networks for increasing support base and enhancing exchange of ideas through the participation in coalitions and networks

i. Activity description

During the reporting period, SSF delegated to participate in 4 meetings with CSOs in the region as to mobilize and support in relation to unhelpful impacts of mining, strengthen linkages and enhance exchange of ideas and contribute to information and report dissemination. The SSF also facilitated the organisation of a Seminar on Natural Resources and Environment by the Rights And Development Network (RADNET) Ashanti Region Chapter in Obuasi.

During these meetings the SSF Team was able to highlight issues from the mining sector with respect to social and economic livelihoods of the people in Obuasi and received comments and contributions from members present. A communiqué was issued at the end of the Seminar on Natural Resources and Environment highlighting the impacts of natural resource exploitations and recommendations to duty bearers to address the negative impacts. SSF participated in other meetings which were organized in the region on Patient Charter among other to strengthen and support networking.

ii. Objectives:

- To build linkages, partnerships and collaboration with all CSOs on NREG to increase the right to be heard towards effective engagement with duty bearers for sustainable mining in Obuasi and Ghana as a whole.
- To strengthen up linkage with CSO networks and coalitions to organize support in relation to the effective management of the negative impacts of mining, strengthen linkages and enhance exchange of ideas and share information and report dissemination.
- To merge in consensus with all CSOs duty –bearers on NREG for Sustainable mining areas.

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iii. Methodologies:

All the meetings were held through participatory and interactive, group discussions also were used to enable different views on the subject matter to be highlighted.

During questions and answers the SSF Team was able to highlight the objectives of the AD-SUM project and the achievements made.

The Project Team participated and contributed effectively to all networks and coalition meetings in the region relating to development, mining and environment.

iv. Participants' views and reactions:

- Participants emphasised that alliance would transmit greater influence and an effective way to address issues on harmful impacts of mining and the environment and the participants were of a good mood utilised the opportunity to talk about issues related to mining and development during meetings.
- Related stakeholders at present was Waste Management and Sanitation Department of Obuasi Municipal Assembly were grateful of the opportunity granted them during the Seminar to educate the public on the Municipal Assembly's sanitation programme and the valuable contributions from the Seminar participants

v. Output

- The Project Team participated in four network / coalition meetings with CSOs within the Ashanti region
- SSF project Team granted an opportunity to bring to light issues and cases of sustainable gold mining from Obuasi
- Coalition / Network meetings in Ashanti region discussed sustainable mining and NREG related issues
- A communiqué from NRE Seminar attended by 12 CSOs in Ashanti region issued at the end of Seminar

vi. Remarks:

- Demand of most CSOs in Ashanti to partner and implement the AD - SUM Project, shows their interest and ability to work in support of the NRG programme strategy.
- SSF organized a forum for CSOs on Sustainable Gold Mining during reporting period operations and issue a statement or communiqué as part of our networking and coalition building as well as media strategy.

Activity 5. To undertake monitoring and follow-up to communities and duty bearers

i. Activity description:

SSF Project team continued its follow-up visitation on the selected communities check on the improvement and impact made on completion of the CAP, CAP validation and registers with any observation in relation to the importance of the project. The number of visits per community ranged between 2 and 3 and mostly targeted community leaders and duty bearers. Visits were also made to few galamsey sites to interact with members of the various ‘Gangs’ and asked them to cooperate with their executives in carrying out the project’s activities towards achieving the objectives.

ii. Objectives

- To ensure that action plans and registers are being drawn and compiled
- To ensure that action plans are being implemented by the communities
- To support the processes of compiling registers and drawing up of action plans
- To ensure continuous sensitization of the communities on the AD-SUM project objectives

iii. Methodology

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- Interactive and questions and answers methods

iv. Participants' views and reactions:

- Participants showed to the SSF team the progress made and verified for any corrections and guidance
- Some participants expressed concern on the uncooperative attitude of some residents in the compilation of the Community registers

v. Output

- Compilation of Community registers ongoing
- Draft action plans made
- Enhanced understanding of impacts of mining on the environment
- SSF recognised by galamseys as service providers and serving their interest

vi. Remarks:

- Participants showed more interest in the project by asking series of questions
- SSF need to pay more regular visits to sustain the continuous interests of the communities

Activity 6: Hold Quarterly stakeholder review meetings

i. Activity description

During the reporting period one-day stakeholders' review meeting was held in the Obuasi Municipal. The programme organised was attended by 3 representatives from each 20 selected communities under the AD-SUM project including the small scale mining groups. Stakeholders from the five Municipal and District Assemblies under the project including the M/DCEs, Social Welfare Departments, Coordinating Directors, NCCE, CHRAJ, DOVVSU and Community Development Departments were also invited. The SSF project Team took the participants through the activities undertaken since the commencement of the project. Participants were later invited to share their experience of participating in the project and the way forward to make sure that the project is able to attain some outputs, outcomes and impacts that would help the participating communities as well as persuade

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government policies on natural resource governance. The participants who were presents was seventy (70) people and comprised Traditional leaders, Assembly members, Unit committee members, Community AD-SUM volunteers, representatives of CSOs/LNGOs and officials from the Municipal and District Assemblies as well as the SSF Project Team led by the Executive Director.

ii. Objectives

- To ensure that project activities are on track
- To ensure that project deadlines are met and targets achieved
- To ensure that stakeholders are well enlightened on the progress of the project

iii. Methodology

- Participatory appraisal, interactive and questions and answers methods

iv. Participants' views and reactions:

- The programme was very essential and basically to maintain the interests of the target communities and stakeholders in the project
- Participants well enlightened on issues of royalty payment by mining companies
- Need to educate small scale miners operating with disregard to environmental rules and regulations in some of the communities

v. Output

- The participants enlightened on period of project implementation
- Solutions were found for challenges identified in carrying out the project implementation
- Adequate preparation of the project team, activities towards ending the quarter was well executed
- Stakeholders well briefed on the achievements of project so far.

vi. Remarks:

- The stakeholders meeting were well patronized by participants.
- All the communities and identified stakeholders were represented
- Communities ready and more poised to continue with the project.
- SSF project team tasked to increase efforts in helping small scale miners acquire concessions.

Activity 7: End of project Evaluation

The project reporting on ended at July 2010. But the project evaluation involving all the twenty (20) targeted communities is ongoing for the activities implemented during the project period. A consultant has being identified and evaluation activity earmark was in progress

3.0 Extraordinary Activities:

i. Visit by U.W.G

The SSF facilitated

4 .0 Specific challenges:

Some Challenges were encountered in delivery of project activities during the reporting period and how these challenges were handled.

- The major challenge experienced was the consistent postponement of community activities like durbars and action plans at the very last minutes due to unexpected funerals and other incidents that led to the cancellation of planned programmes. However, through persistent follow-ups and communication with community leaders, the activities were rescheduled and successfully undertaken.
- Other challenges had to do with the consistent postponement of the communities' action plan presentation to the- Municipal and District Assemblies. The SSF in persistent dialogue and follow-ups the activities were rescheduled and successfully undertaken.
- The final document on the Research work was not ready at the time of compiling this report due to the inability of the Research consultant to submit his work on time. The Research consultant is being given all the necessary materials and supports to enable him complete the work.

5.0 Lessons learned

- Stakeholders maintain to support and exhibited willingness for the project.
- The project's implementation got impacts through the participatory of communities.
- Engaging and dialoguing with mining related groups brought confidence and thoughtful between small scale miners, communities, mining companies and helps avoid social conflicts.
- Communities expressed concerned of owning the project.

6.0. Conclusion & Recommendations

- The process of granting of concession to Small Scale Miners (SSM) must be hastened to help save the environment from their unregulated activities.
- SSM should be encouraged to regularise and register their activities.
- Enforcement of environmental Laws and Regulations must be the concern of all stakeholders.

7.0 Planned activities for the next period

Advocacy

- Facilitating and empowering farmer-based groups for engagement with mining companies (AGA) to provide adequate compensation and alternative livelihood support for communities and farmers affected by their operations
- Facilitating dialogue between Small Scale Miners and Anglo Gold Ashanti for concession and livelihood empowerment
- Create the platform for community discussions and dialogue on development issues through 10 community durbars and 5 Radio Panel discussions to increase public knowledge
- Engage in dialogue with five District and Municipal Assemblies, mining companies and mining and environment sector agencies for community and Civil Society participation in NRE governance
- Press Conferences to keep the public informed and updated on progress of engagements
- Facilitating implementation of community action plans in the target communities

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Campaign/Lobbying

- Joint statements and mobilisation of support in relation to negative impact of mining.
- Strengthening linkages and right based networks for increasing support base and enhancing exchange of ideas through the participating in coalitions and networks.
- Information and report dissemination through our website, www.ssfafrica.org

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring and follow up to communities and duty bearers.
- Monthly project team review meeting
- Quarterly stakeholders review meetings.
- Documentation reporting of process and most significant stories for learning and sharing of best practices.
- General project Administration and Management.

ATTACHMENTS /APPENDICES

- Events Reports
- Participant sign in form
- Most Significant Change Stories
- Performance Indicator Tracking Tables

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