Child Labour in ASM

► Introduction by Susan Gunn
► ILO Report by Michael Priester

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Children age 5-14 years…..
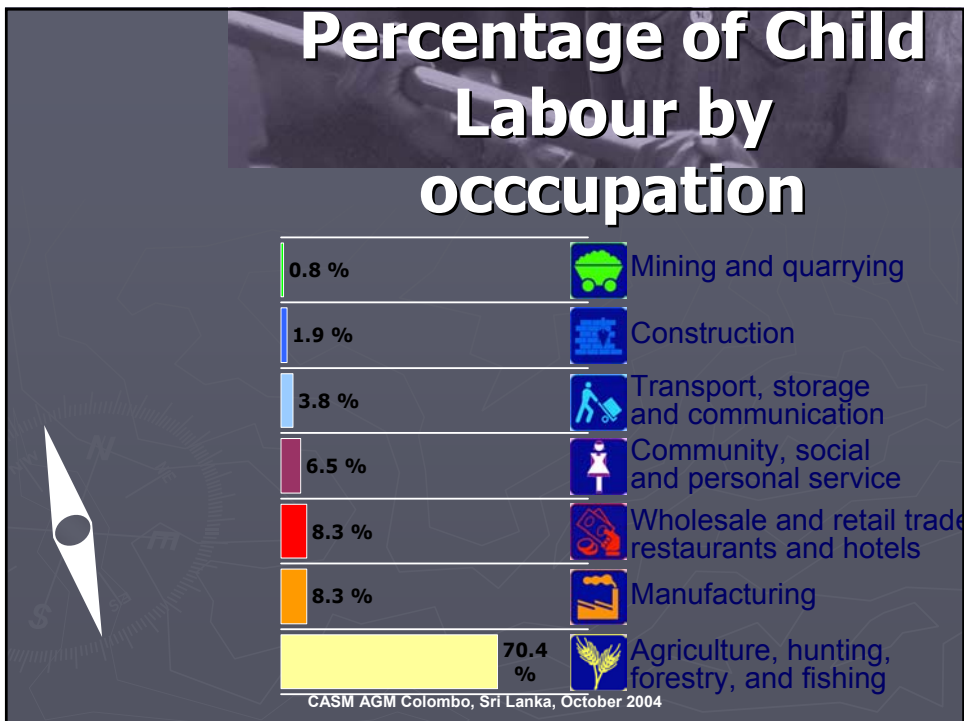

211,000,000
are working,

111,300,000
are in <u>hazardous</u> wo

Youth ages 15-17….

352,000,000
are working

59,200,000
Are in <u>hazardous</u> work

Percentage of Child Labour by occcupation

0.8 %	Mining and quarrying
1.9 %	Construction
3.8 %	Transport, storage and communication
6.5 %	Community, social and personal service
8.3 %	Wholesale and retail trade restaurants and hotels
8.3 %	Manufacturing
70.4 %	Agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing

Child labour in mining

Review of the experiences
Based on the thematic evaluation of ILO-projects

Michael Priester

Key questions

► Where is the problem?

► Why is it a problem?

► Which experiences are there to analyse?

► What has worked well?

► What can we learn for future projects?

Where is the problem?

ASM and child labour: the dimension

► Approximately 13 million people worldwide engage in this activity with another 80-100 million people depending on this sector

► An estimated 1-2 million children are working in the sector

► Child labour is a typical problem of ASM

► Child labour in mining is strongly poverty related

Mine work of children

► Mine work of children starts at the age of 3-5 years

► Both boys and girls are working in mining:

- Boys are more dedicated to exploitation and transport
- Girls are working in mineral concentration and mining related services

Different child labour patterns

child labor pattern	specific features
Bonded child labor	► contracting children as cheap workforce ► giving away children as guarantee for loans etc.
Child labor within family context	► ASM as family occupation (everybody takes part); ► children working to contribute to the family income ► perception of child labor as "educational skill training" ► children replacing adult family members at work
"Self-employed" child labor	► Situation of orphans (esp. AIDS/HIV orphans) ► "Out to survive" Maltreatment, malnutrition ► "The challenge of gold and money"

Why is it a problem?

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work done by children in mining

► In underground mining operations they work i.e. in:
  - ore extraction (by hammer and chisel, with picks and shovel etc.),
  - hauling ore on their backs,
  - pushing carts,
  - cleaning galleries,
  - piling up of ore

► in open cast mines in:
  - digging pits,
  - removal of overburden,
  - pushing carts,

► in alluvial (river) mining in:
  - digging for sediments,
  - assisting in diving for sediments,
  - sieving ore and sediments,
  - washing and drying of product,
  - pushing carts and transporting the sediment,

► in mineral concentration and stone crushing

► in brick making

► in services and households

what makes mining different to other sectors?

► it is invariably dangerous and very hard work

► it is perceived as dangerous and hard work by the miners themselves

► it occurs in rural areas with little social infrastructure and under harsh living conditions

► it is unseen by the public eye (especially the child labour aspect)

► it mostly operates illegally and is related to problems of civil security

► the marketing conditions are mostly unfair

Consequences of mine work for children

► Severe danger of accidents and occupational health hazards for the children working in mining (from slight bruises to fatal accidents, from pain to skeletal disorders)

► Neglect of education

► Exposure to extreme and harsh living conditions, degraded value systems etc.

► Refusal of recreation

Conclusion

► This means that mine work of children is a **material breach of children's rights**

► **Given both the perceived and objective risks, it is recommended that children should not be allowed to work in the mining industry under any circumstances !!**

Which experiences are there to analyse?

ILO child labour projects in mining

Partner Countries:
- **Philippines (coal, gold)**
- **Mongolia (coal)**
- **Nepal (clay brick)**
- **Pakistan**
- *Colombia (emerald, gold, coal, clay brick)*
- *Ecuador (gold)*
- *Peru (gold)*

- *Bolivia (gold, tin)*
- *Guatemala (stone)*
- **Uganda and Zambia (gold)**
- **Niger (gold)**
- **Tanzania (gold, gemstones, diamonds)**
- **Madagascar (gemstones, stones)**
- **Kenya**

Different types of mining operations and consequences for children

operation	examples	consequences for children
Professional resident ASM	Tin miners in Bolivia Coal miners in China	stable family environment but deficient social infrastructure and unhealthy climatic conditions
Seasonal resident (farmers)	Gemstone miners in pegmatites in Madagascar	stable family environment but deficient social infrastructure
Seasonal migratory miners	Gold miners in Madagascar, Zimbabwe and Peru	unstable social network and in the mining camps very little social infrastructure for children
Rush situations	Gemstones in alluvial deposits in Madagascar	extremely unstable, unsafe and unsettled social situation with nearly no social infrastructure for children

What has worked well?

Key approaches encountered

- ► law and policy advice
- ► research
- ► national awareness-raising
- ► capacity-building
- ► selection of partners
- ► mobilisation of communities
- ► planning

- ► good governance
- ► education and training
- ► health and nutrition
- ► income generation
- ► monitoring and evaluation
- ► networking and partnerships

Pattern of education & recreation

	3 – 6 years	6 – 13 years	13 – 18 years
recreation	**child care centre/ creche**	**recreation, cultural and sports activities, children's clubs, vacation camps**	**recreation, cultural and sports activities, children's clubs, vacation camps**
education and training		**primary education; educational drop-in centres school library**	**non-formal education, secondary education, vocational training, public library, preparation for work job placement "peer coaching"**
nutrition & health	**health care** provision of hot meals during education		
other services	**income generation,** compensation of lost income to parents		
tasks to be prevented	**3 – 6 years child care by working parents at work**	**6 – 13 years family-related child labour; mostly unpaid**	**13 – 18 years child labour with more prominent contribution to family income; salaried or self-employed child labour**

age →

Positive achievements

IPEC country	Highlights
Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador	•effective lobbying for CL during the legislative process •income generation by mechanisation of mining operations •establishment of school and public libraries •coordination with and co-funding from other projects
Colombia	•integration of ASM and child labour issues in the regional development plans
Mongolia	•flexible reaction on gold rush
Nepal	•auto-financing of services by the target group •peer coaching of vulnerable adolescents
Tanzania	•elimination of children from mining sites even without notable commitment of the national government

Where do we still face problems?
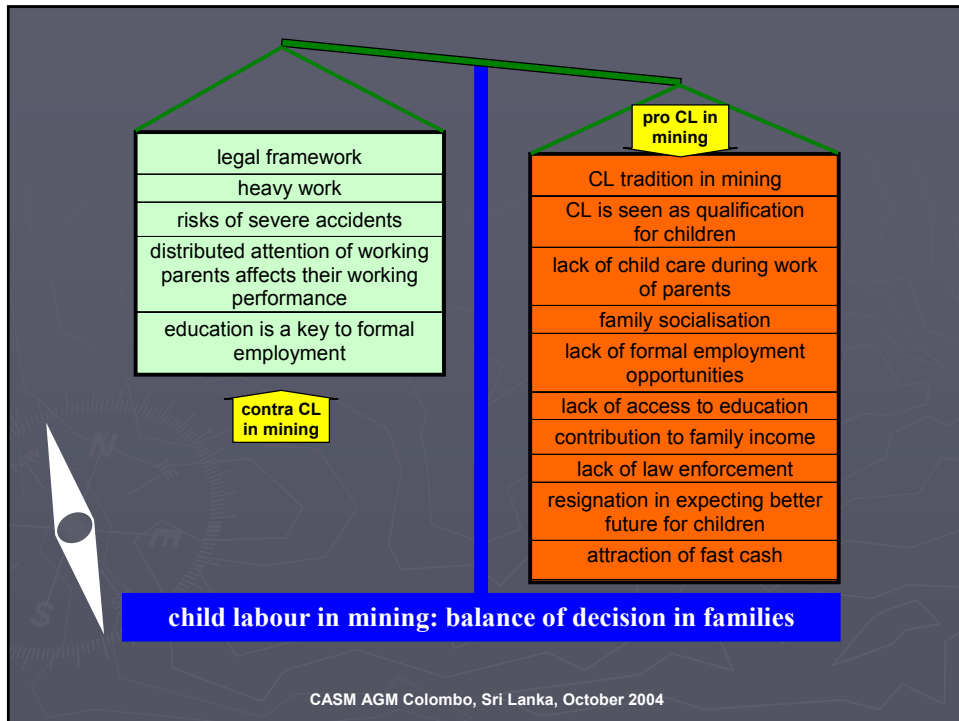
► The lack of methodology for baseline studies

► The need for more skills in child labour

► Involving stakeholders in developing appropriate tools and measures, especially for M&E

► Raising awareness and creating ownership

► Community empowerment

► Sustaining the positive impacts of projects and

► High demand for income generation in families

What can we learn for future projects?

legal framework
heavy work
risks of severe accidents
distributed attention of working parents affects their working performance
education is a key to formal employment

contra CL in mining

pro CL in mining

CL tradition in mining
CL is seen as qualification for children
lack of child care during work of parents
family socialisation
lack of formal employment opportunities
lack of access to education
contribution to family income
lack of law enforcement
resignation in expecting better future for children
attraction of fast cash

child labour in mining: balance of decision in families

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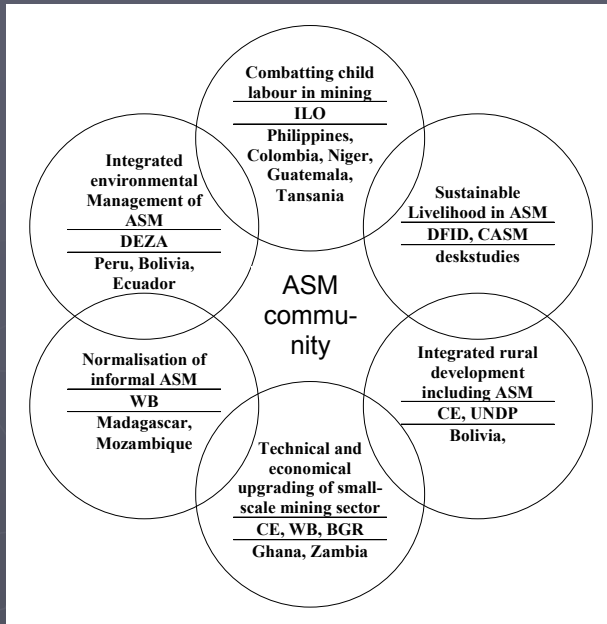# core elements of any further project should be:

- awareness-raising on local level,
- community empowerment and mobilisation with intensive networking and
- education for children and other family members.

These project components should be accomplished by activities to attract partnership from national key stakeholders.

Income generation components should be integrated in partnership with experienced strongly business oriented projects.

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Donor programs related to ASM

Core elements and country examples

Combatting child labour in mining
ILO
Philippines, Colombia, Niger, Guatemala, Tansania

Integrated environmental Management of ASM
DEZA
Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador

Sustainable Livelihood in ASM
DFID, CASM deskstudies

ASM community

Normalisation of informal ASM
WB
Madagascar, Mozambique

Integrated rural development including ASM
CE, UNDP
Bolivia,

Technical and economical upgrading of small-scale mining sector
CE, WB, BGR
Ghana, Zambia

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Options for CL in mining programs

► Integrate child labour issues in mining and rural development projects in regions with ASM operations

► Integrate child labour prevention vertically and horizontally in the development framework

thank you!

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