



International Labour Office



IPEC South America

Thematic Evaluation of Action on Child Labour in Artisanal Small Scale Mining

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Nature of child labor in ASM

10 key findings

WORK

1. Children work in all types and production phases of ASM, but more in some sectors than in others, e.g. gold (Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia), tin (Bolivia) and emeralds (Colombia). Certain jobs in the mines are primarily performed by children (and women),
2. Both boys and girls work in ASM but they tend to perform different tasks. Girls tend to do more marginal work in less productive areas. Later on, when they are mothers, introduce their children in these tasks.
3. Child labor is sometimes seasonal and fluctuating due to many factors e.g. school holidays, other household economic activities, new deposits, price trends.

Risk

4. Labor in ASM always exposes children to extreme risks and damage to their health.
THERE IS NO NON HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR IN MINING
5. ASM regions suffer from severe social and environmental problems and conflict situations. Therefore not only working children but the entire community live under high risk conditions – *and is used to it.*

Livelihoods

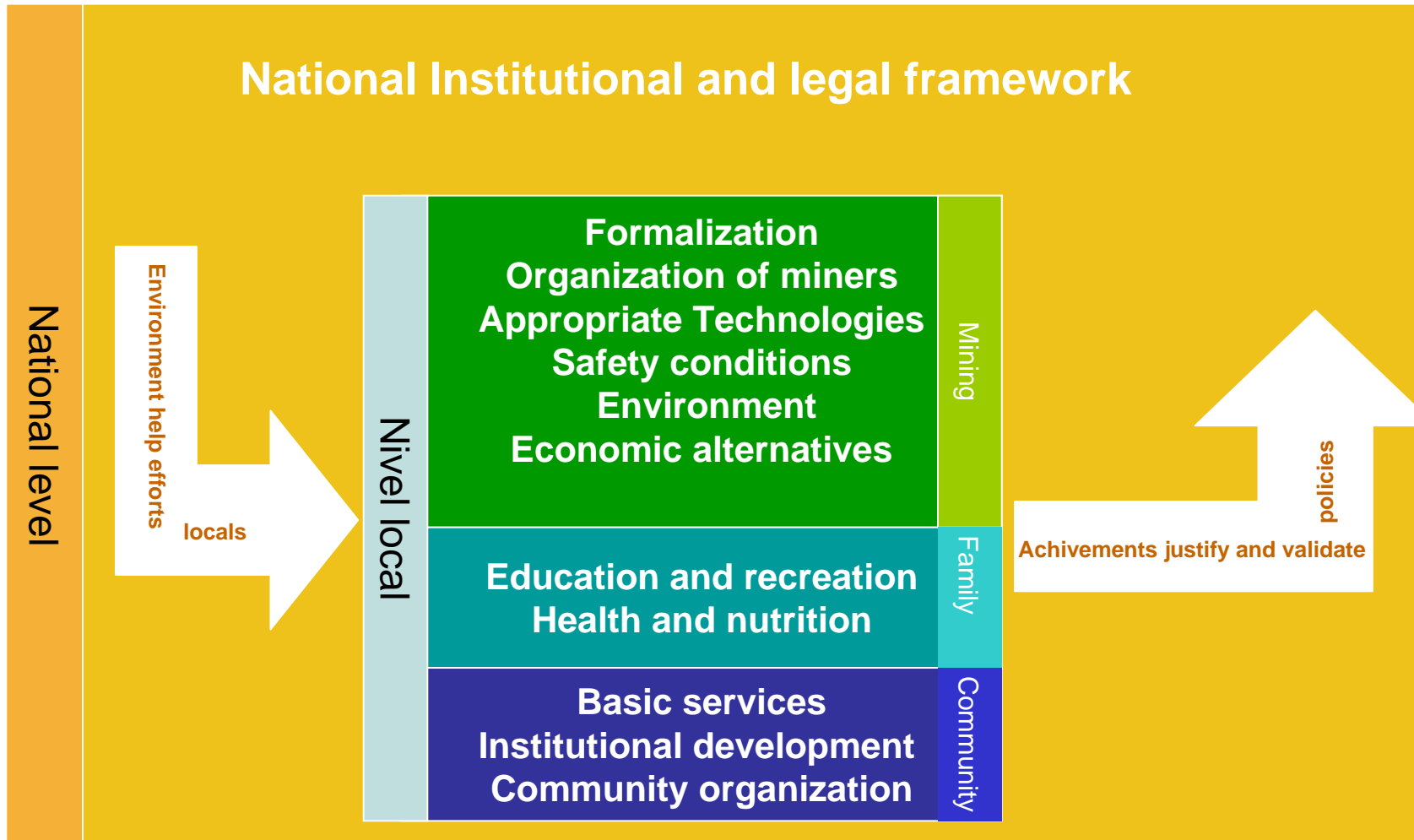
6. Child labor is part of the diversified livelihood strategies of ASM households
7. Young children often work in a family context rather than as paid laborers. After adolescence (age 13) the economic contribution of children is larger and more important to the household.
8. Children abandon their education to work in ASM, especially after age 13, because: (a) is more difficult to combine the labor with the education and (b) secondary education offers poor prospects.

Barriers

9. Even though parents are aware of the risks, they justify child labor not only for its economic contribution but also for its formative value (character development, skills training, learning to cope with risks).
10. Limited value and interest of the state for ASM, as well as the idea of temporality of the miners reinforce informality. Informality is a barrier for the elimination of child labor.

INTERVENTION APPROACH:

TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTISANAL SMALL/SCALE MINING



Emphasis of the integrated approach based on local sustainable development of ASM

- Actions at national and local level. Promote national policies and development models in ASM communities
- Integrated action of several public and private institutions and complementary skills. Strong work in networks.
- Community empowerment to lead their own sustainable development process. Creation of shared future vision and development of capacities.
- Intervention in a frame of a long-term vision and phases of local development process.
- Intervention more focused in community and their organizations than individual beneficiaries

KEY ELEMENTS OF AN STRATEGY OF ERADICATION OF CL BASED ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ASM

1. Development of national and local public policy
2. Community awareness-raising/mobilization
3. Economic development of the community.
4. Development of education and other services for children and adolescents
5. Use of free time in recreational, sports or cultural programs

Development of national and local public policy

- Ratification of ILO Conventions 138 and 182
- Definition of MCL as one of the WFCL and its incorporation into National Plans of PECL
- **Laws specific and appropriate to ASM**
- Incorporation of MCL into National Mining Plans
- Incorporation of MCL into National Development Plans
- **Incorporation of MCL into Municipal Development Plans for the development of regular municipal programs**
- Incorporation of MCL into agendas of inter-institutional coordination
- **Support the organization and institutional strengthening of artisanal and small-scale miners organizations**

Community awareness-raising/mobilization

- **Study the perceptions that key stakeholders have about CL**
- **Develop a process of change of cultural patterns and perceptions that favor CL**
- **Design methodologies and awareness creation tools differentiated by players on the basis of studies:**
 - Authorities
 - Media
 - Teachers
 - Parents
 - Children and adolescents
- **Messages should focus on positive aspects of the elimination of child labour and alternatives to it**

Economic development of the community.

- **Formalization**
- **Organizational strengthening of artisan and small-scale miners as enterprises**
- **Appropriate technological changes**
- **Improvement of mine safety and health conditions**
- **Generation of alternative and complementary family income**

Development of education and other services for children and adolescents

- **Campaigns to improve parents positive perceptions regarding formal education for children**
- Strengthening and mobilization of educational community to improve quality and coverage of education
- Promote secondary and vocational education for adolescents
- Awareness-raising and training of teachers in CL issues
- Proper educational materials for schools
- **Improvement of school libraries**
- **Reinforcement programs for students**
- Reinforce school programs in health and school meals
- **Creation of community child-care centers**

Use of free time in recreational, sports or cultural programs

- **Awareness-raising of parents regarding the formative value of play and recreation for children**
- **Design a pedagogic model that uses play to accompany the development process of working children and those in risk of becoming**
- **Promotion and support of youth and pre-youth clubs and the adoption of the pedagogic model based on play**
- **Train youth promoters from local communities**
- **Offer recreational, sport and cultural programs during school holidays**
- **Create open public spaces and mediums for play, art and sport linked to community schools**

ELEMENTS OF THE INTERVENTION STRATEGY	MINING AREAS								
	Bolivia			Colombia			Ecuador	Peru	
	Potosi	Llallagua	Tipuani	Muzo	Sogamozo	Nemocon	Bella Rica	Santa Filomena	La Rinconada
Development of national and local public policy		✓		✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Community awareness-raising/mobilization	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Appropriate technological changes as a substitute for child labor in small-scale traditional mining		✓	✓				✓	✓✓	
Improvement of mine safety and health conditions	✓✓	✓	✓✓				✓	✓	✓
Generation of complementary family income	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	
Development of education and other services for children and adolescents	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Use of free time in recreational, sports or cultural programs	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Characteristics of the community	Old/large	Consolidated / mid-size	Beginning/ small	Consolidated / mid-size	Consolidated/ large	Consolidated / mid-size	Beginning/ mid-size	Consolidated / small	Beginning / large
Intervention timeframe	2 to 3 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	1 to 2 yrs.	1 to 2 yrs.	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.
Size of investment	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	High	Moderate

Some Key Products

- National and local studies (not only on issues of CL and other social and labor issues, but also on the value and positive contribution of ASM)
- Tracking tool to monitor children and families committed to the withdrawal of children from labor
- Methodological guides and awareness building materials on CL
- Guidelines for institutional action (tailored to specific key stakeholders)
- Systematization of lessons learned and good practice in direct actions in various national contexts
- Policy impact through the incorporation of CL issues in laws and in National/municipal Development and Sector Development Plans
- Government and non-government institutions and their people trained in CL approaches in ASM and committed to continuing work in this area
- Increased networking with other cooperation agencies working in ASM in Latin America

Industry Involvement and Responsibility

- Social and environmental legacies of LSM: ASM sector absorbed the retrenchment of mine workers from large scale mine closure and privatization (E.g. Bolivia - Comibol) – environmental legacies and livelihoods
- Mining boom in the 90's focused government attention on LSM, invisibilizing the importance of ASM E.g. mining sector reforms in Peru eliminated ASM from the code, equal benchmarks were set for all....mentoring?
- LSM and local sustainable development = CSR can improve family livelihoods, local purchase of goods and services, education and training for locals focusing on youths, all promote an enabling environment for withdrawal of CL from ASM
- Reputation of mining in general

Challenge of building partnerships to ensure a territorially based integrated approach

- Global agendas to Frame CL in ASM
 - Millennium goals on poverty reduction
 - MMSD-LA and Africa identified the formalization of ASM as key areas...ICMM??
 - UNDP report “Unleashing entrepreneurship: making business work for the poor” focuses on the potential of formalization of domestic small and micro enterprise for local develop/
 - Extractive Industries Review of the WBG