

# Child labour in “tanzanite” mining, Tanzania

- **Background**

- A rare precious gemstone of *zoisite* type discovered in the Merelani hills, simanjiro district in northern Tanzania in the 1960s and named “*tanzanite*” after the country’s name.
- Subsequent development of the area from a bush land to a modern thriving township. “*Tanzanite – rush*” marked by a very rapid growth, with influx of all sorts of people – including children from every corner of the country.
- Mining area is divided into “blocks” owned by big investors (mechanized mining) and neighbouring areas occupied by small scale artisinal miners



# Situation of child labour in small scale mining

- Migrant child labourers mostly
- Children involved in both surface and pit work
- Boys account for 60% of child labour , girls (40%) involved mostly as domestic and commercial sex workers
- Boys engaged in hazardous and tedious work, both on surface and underground – up to 200 m deep. (carrying heavy loads up and down pits, setting explosives, sieving sand and crawling through narrow tunnels
- Age range of children: 08 – 16 years



# Previous interventions



- Community awareness raising and sensitization IPEC –supported activities on child labour, 1995/96
- IPEC-supported baseline survey (DFID funding) on child labour in small scale mining in Mirerani, 1999
- Establishment of MGHP as a community response to child labour problem
- Follow-up DFID support through IPEC for institutional capacity building, and withdrawal and rehabilitation of 125 children and the prevention of 350 children from child labour in mining (2002)
- IPEC supported rapid Assessment confirming worst forms of child labour in small scale mining (2001)
- Mining (Simanjiro) prioritized for interventions under the TBP (2001)

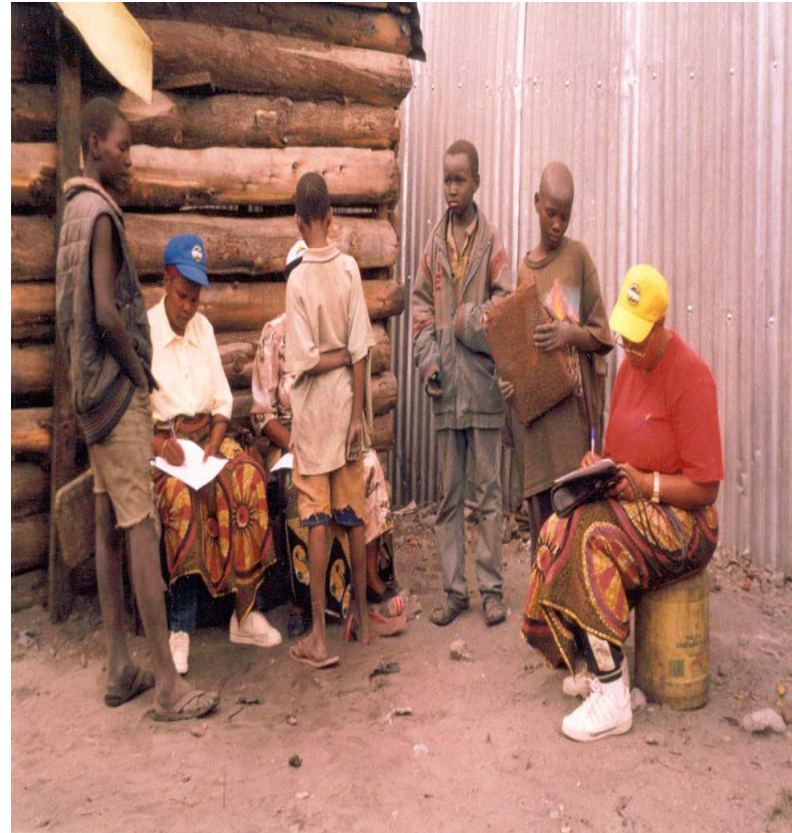
# Current interventions under TBP

## Joint TBP Action programme with World Vision (Tanzania) to:

- Prevent 1,500 children at risk from getting into child labour
- Withdrawal and rehabilitation of 1,000 children in mining
- Economic empowerment of 300 poor, vulnerable families of the targeted children.

## Elements of the overall project strategy include:

- Awareness raising and community mobilization
- Media advocacy and community capacity building
- Networking and alliance building
- Repatriation and family link, counselling and psychosocial support
- Training and educational alternatives for targeted children



# Status of implementation/achievements

- 600 children at risk prevented from becoming child labourers in mining.
- 470 children withdrawn from child labour in mining
- 120 poor, vulnerable families at risk identified for economic empowerment
- Awareness raising and sensitization through community seminars carried out in 23 villages, reaching about 1,200 people



# Emerging lessons



- High level commitment and support of local government and communities to project activities
- Number of children at risk, girls and boys is far bigger than previously estimated due to continued influx
- Increasing demand of the services of the project by desperate children keen to escape from work in the mines.
- Increasing evidence of the impact of HIV/Aids on the child labour situation in mining

# Further Needs and requirements



- More resources/financial and technical support to reach more children especially the younger and more vulnerable
- Capacity building to strengthen local community structures for prevention and monitoring
- More systematic integration of child labour in district plans and budgets
- Increased networking and alliance building with organizations working on related programme areas

# Constraint & Challenges

- Limited post primary education – opportunities for most children under 18yrs
- Worsening poverty in general and in rural villages in particular, prompting more influx.
- Limited enrolment and high drop-out rate in primary schools in the target communities.
- Logistical problems/poor accessibility of project target areas
- Weak enforcement of by-laws on education and child labour

