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PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ARTISANAL DIAMOND DEVELOPMENT (PRADD)-Liberia

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE BASELINE SURVEY



AUGUST 2011

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Cover Photo: Training of enumerators
Photo credit: Bocar Thiam

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INTRODUCTION

ARD is implementing a project, Property Right Artisanal Diamond Development in Liberia. The project is being funded by the United States Congress. It is being implemented as a pilot project in two diamond mining areas in the country. It is required that the project be evaluated after two years of implementation to measure impacts made by the project. ARD requested Subah-Belleh Associates (SBA) to implement baseline data collection for the evaluation. This assignment was undertaken in April of 2011. This Technical Report provides an account on the process of the implementation of the data collection undertaken by SBA.

SURVEY PREPARATION

The Survey Methodology

The survey was designed by a Lead Consultant provided by ARD. It was designed as a sample survey in which the sampling units were miners in the four communities. The sampling frame included the entire survey population consisting of miners involved in both formal and informal mining operations. Given the limitations with the frame presented by the Ministry of Lands, Mines, and Energy, the sampling frame had to be constructed on the field in pre-data collection exercises by SBA in collaboration with the ARD lead Consultant.

Constructing the Sampling Frame

In absence of a reliable list of miners from the Ministry of Lands, Mines, and Energy, and given the need to construct a frame, the selected mining zones were canvassed to develop a list of miners in each zone.

Constructing a complete list of miners was a very difficult venture in all of the mining areas covered by the survey. After making numerous attempts to develop the lists, the number of miners listed was far less than the determined sample size of 1000. The list contained 923 names. Given this limitation, instead of doing a sample, a census of all listed miners was undertaken.

The Questionnaire Development

The questionnaire development began with the formulating and vetting the questions. A team comprising the lead consultant, 2 staff from SBA and staff from the project implementing firm (ARD) took several trips to the project sites to gather views, test preliminary questions and

formulate additional ones. From this exercise, a set of questions was formulated to be revised and vetted in the survey training.

During a five days survey training workshop conducted with prospective data collectors, the questionnaire was reviewed and revised. The wording of each question was translated into simple Liberian English for the understanding of the miners. On the fourth day of the training, the questionnaire was pre-tested and later adjusted. Numerous changes in the instrument were made as informed by the field testing, especially in the sector dealing with diamonds.

Recruitment, Training and Selecting Data Collectors

The process of selecting the data collectors began by short listing 30 persons to attend the five day training workshop. All 30 nominees commenced the training, but later dropped out. From the remaining 27 participants, 20 data collectors were selected based on their performance in the training and field tests. Particularly, those selected were those who had: prior field data collection experience, understood the questions, and performed well in applying interview techniques. The training included field practices and field testing of the instrument and in-workshop mock interview sessions.

Pre-testing the Questionnaire

Due to the complexity of the questionnaire, the instrument was pre-tested in field twice. First, the instrument was pre-tested in one mining community and then later, in another mining community. After each pretest, the instrument was refined for the better. As mentioned earlier, pretesting was useful validating the relevance and sufficiency of the questions as well as in training and evaluating nominee enumerators.

Arrangement of Logistics

The main component of the logistical requirements for the survey was vehicle and fuel. For the preparatory activities, three vehicles were rented for two field trips. A jeep was hire to carry staff of the survey firm on the first trip. Another two jeeps were hired to canvass for the construction of the frame. During the main data collection, four jeeps were hired for eighteen days each. Each vehicle used twelve gallons of fuel per day while on the field. Another jeep was hired for ten days to undertake quality control supervisory visits. This jeep was allocated fifteen gallons of fuel per day for the ten days.

IMPLEMENTING DATA COLLECTION

The survey was implemented in four the selected zone. In each zone, a team was deployed. Each team comprised one Supervisor and four enumerators. In each selected area, a predetermined number of interviews was to be conducted. Given the frequent mobility of miners, it was difficult for the teams to meet the required number of interviews. Thus, for the eighteen days assigned for data collection, the number of completed interviews (questionnaires) is shown in the table below.

Mining Zone	No. to be interviewed	No. interviewed
Weasua	230	152
Gbarma	270	212
Varguaye/Lofa Bridge	270	248
Kumgbor	230	135
Totals	1000	747

The survey was to be undertaken in four areas: two Control Non-Project Areas and two Treatment Project Areas.

The number of miners reached in the Gbarma Mining Zone, the control area for the Varguaye/Lofa Bridge Mining Zone was less than the required sample size allocated for the area. Therefore, another mining zone was selected in Bomi County in order to interview additional miners to supplement the number of interviews done in the control area for Varguaye/Lofa Bridge mining zone.

Survey Mining Zone	No. to be interviewed	No. interviewed
Weasua	250	152
Gbarma	230	212
Varguaye/Lofa Bridge	270	258
Kumgbor	250	135
Bomi	60	63
Total	1060	820

CONCLUSIONS

There is no certainty that all miners in the survey areas were listed in the sampling frame. Accordingly, there was also no certainty that all miners had a chance of being selected in the sample. It is certain that more licensed miners were included in the survey than unlicensed miners because it was observed during both the canvassing and data collection that people engaged in informal mining operations had fear of being arrested if they expose themselves to the interview.

RECOMMENDATION

The methodology employed in this survey was difficult to apply in the mining sector. One of the factors that made it difficult is that the mining population is a floating population, constantly on the move looking for new mining opportunities. It may not be possible to find identical community-based cases after some period of time. We, therefore, suggest that, in the future, the sampling unit be changed to a more permanent unit.

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