Supporting Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Rural Africa

Amsha Africa Foundation (AAF) is actively working with communities in rural Africa practicing artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM).

Our objectives for these rural mining communities are as follows:

- Provide technical assistance and access to financing to increase productivity coupled with social protection and fair labor standards.
- The interplay of mining with other aspects of local economies to promote better integrated rural development strategies.
- Pilot efforts to model clean supply chains or fair trade minerals as a means to spread the principle of responsibility across the supply chain.
- Provide fair trade market linkages locally and overseas and ensure the local communities get the most out of their sold minerals.
Background

Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) occurs in approximately 80 countries worldwide including every country in Africa.

There are approximately 100 million artisanal miners globally according to the World Bank.

Artisanal and small-scale production supply accounts for 80% of global sapphire, 20% of gold mining, and up to 20% of diamond mining.

It is widespread in developing countries in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and Central and South America.

Though the informal nature and on the whole un-mechanized operation generally results in low productivity, the sector represents an important livelihood and income source for the poverty-affected local population.

It ensures the existence of millions of families in rural areas of developing countries.

About 100 million people – workers and their families - depend on artisanal mining compared to about 7 million people worldwide in industrial mining.

The Project Team

The project team is cross-disciplinary with academics from the social sciences, engineering, health, and humanities in the US, Kenya, and Tanzania. We draw on the local knowledge, skills, and technologies of miners and mining stakeholders (i.e. the national and local governments, mining associations, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, local communities, and religious organizations) to co-create context-driven bottom-up solutions that mitigate the impact of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) activities on the natural environment, occupational health and safety, and the social inclusion and well-being of miners and local communities.

Mining Locations

We are currently supporting communities in the Taita Taveta County in Kenya and the Manyara Region in Tanzania.
The mines are community-owned and contain mineral veins with rare gemstones.

**Governing Principles**

**Ethics**
Fair Trade means so much to us than just do-no-harm or simply following the law. It means going above and beyond to ensure a positive impact touches every person and environment that we work with. From community projects, environmental rebuilds, to fundraisers, we are always looking for ways to do more and offer opportunities for customers to be involved.

**Transparency**
Following the journey of a gem from Mine to Market, we can guarantee complete information about each gem is shared. There is no chance of undisclosed sources or illegally procured gemstones. We partner with certified gemologists and gem cutters and are working on a program to certify all the gemstones coming from our partner community mines.
Fairness
We help our partner communities get fair prices for their gemstones by purchasing directly from their mines and linking them to fair trade markets they would otherwise not have had access to. Our promise to our partner communities is to support them through the value and supply chain hurdles and always get them the best fair trade market available.

Key Results To Our Objectives

1. Identify 5 fair trade partners based in the U.S. who can import our community mined gemstones by August 2022
2. Expand our ASM partnership to 3 additional communities in East Africa by the end of 2022
3. Create an online marketplace where our ASM community can safely and legally trade their mined gemstones at fair trade prices
4. Sponsor 5 ASM community leaders to get certified as a gemologist in local colleges by the end of 2022
5. Provide 3 compressors to our ASM community organizations by the end of 2022