

Mapping Study of Gender and Extractive Industries in Tanzania Mainland 2015-16



This mapping study aims to identify the key bottlenecks and barriers for women's engagement in extractive industries (EIs), and possible areas for support. Among the objectives is to inform policy dialogue and concrete interventions and capacity development initiatives. The government and other stakeholders could support these interventions to ensure that women as well as men, and girls as well as boys, can benefit economically from EI.

Client:
UN Women



Partner:
Ministry of Energy and Minerals

Services:
Research, analysis,
report writing,
presentation of findings

There are a wide variety of Extractive Industry (EI) sectors in Tanzania, ranging from gold and gemstones, to industrial minerals and gas. Mining of building materials including gravel, gypsum, and volcanic rocks is carried out in many parts of the country, as well as salt farming, mainly in coastal areas. This mapping study aimed at exploring different types of EIs in different parts of the country. After an extensive literature review, interviews and Focus Group discussions were conducted with women and men in EI, as well as key informant interviews.

A particular focus in this study was on challenges and opportunities for women's economic transformation. However, many of the barriers found were affecting not only women, but also men. They were also not sector specific. Women who are employed in the larger companies face difficulties combining family life with being on site for long stretches of time. For women who are self-employed, either directly engaged in EI, or as service providers to EI (such as food provision) the challenges presented were of a different nature. Lack of entrepreneurship and technical skills, and lack of capital, tools and equipment were identified as barriers, and support mechanisms were very limited. Few belong to support groups and there is limited access to grants, loans and skills development.

During this mapping study, different stakeholders responded positively to the idea of working together for improved inclusion of women, also put forward during a validation workshop. This is a promising path towards the transformation of women's roles in EIs through economic empowerment.