

# Partnering for ASM Community Resilience

Maintaining resilience during a pandemic through institutional and structural partnerships

*COVID – ASM Working Group*



# Partnering for ASM Community Resilience

Maintaining resilience during a pandemic through institutional and structural partnerships



June 8th, 8:00 – 9:00am EST  
Register in advance on Zoom

**DELVE**

*Afghanistan*



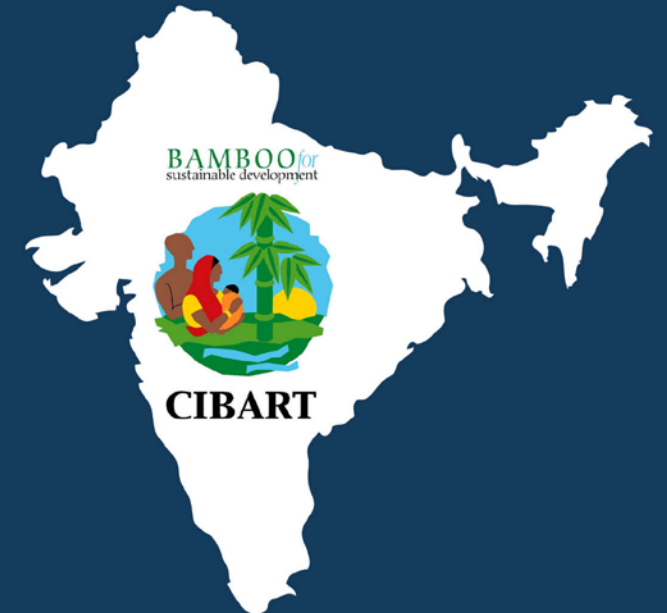
Hatam & Nouri LLC  
& Smart Mining

*Nigeria*



Women's Right to  
Education Programme

*India*



Centre for Indian Bamboo  
Resource and Technology

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

HATAM & NOURI LLC / SMART MINING  
AFGHANISTAN

*Establishing Women In Mining (WIM) Association Afghanistan  
To Promote Women's Participation in the Mining Sector  
and Strengthen their Resilience to Negative Shocks such as Covid-19*



# CONTEXT & BACKGROUND: AFGHANISTAN

- *Afghanistan hard hit by the first wave but relatively low death toll in the region because of young population*
  - *Consequences for mining sector : funds diverted towards health sector*
  - *Interruption of trade in mining commodities causing loss in business and income*



# RESPONSE EFFORTS ACTIVITIES

- **Hatam & Nouri LLC** joined forces with **Smart Mining** to establish **WIM Afghanistan**
- *Identifying women active in Afghan mining sector and forming an association (WIM) with objective to jointly find solutions for hurdles caused by Covid-19 through trainings and partnerships.*
  - For example:
    - **Trainings** in taxation, labour laws, access to finance etc..
    - During each training **sensitization on Covid-19** through Shariah Law
- **E-commerce** as solution for hurdles caused by Covid-19



# ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

- *Isolated **women** were **brought together to form one voice** and to advocate for their rights and jointly find solution for the hurdles caused by Covid-19*
- *WIM Afghanistan is now **linked with all other similar organizations around the globe** through Women in Mining International and International WIM Alliance*
- ***Trainings conducted** - saved businesses from closing and made them compliant*
- *Introduction to other venues for business (**e-commerce**) to surpass future shocks of Covid-19 - looking into partnerships with renowned jewelry designers and universities (**scholarship programs**).*

# CHALLENGES

- Gatekeepers preventing from identifying the women in the sector - help through personal network;
- Rather rough registration process also due to partial **Covid -19 lockdowns** and **Ramadan** - therefore multiple personal visits to government entities until process completed;
- **Disbelief** of women in the risks and **threats of Covid-19** referring to being Afghan/Muslim and therefore being resistant or “God decides” - awareness raising through Shariah Law

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

- *Plan to improve production through first acquiring **trainings by industry experts** (famous jewelry designers) and then **selling** the products **through e-commerce platform** and putting aside a percentage of the proceeds from the sales to sustain the association.*



# COVID -19 RESPONSE

*WOMEN'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION PROGRAMME-WREP  
NIGERIA*

**MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN IN ARTISANAL  
AND SMALL-SCALE MINING IN NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA**



# CONTEXT & BACKGROUND: NIGERIA

- COVID-19 pandemic changed the lives and realities of people in Nigeria
  - Disruption of trade
  - Production of minor minerals
  - Impacted employment and well-being of local communities especially women
- **Women ASM lost livelihoods**, which **increases vulnerability** to forms of **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)**
- Benue and Nasarawa (Project States)
  - Mining activities halted at the peak of the lockdown
  - Statistic shows over 100 cases and 2,000 deaths in each project State



# RESPONSE EFFORTS ACTIVITIES

- **Women's Right to Education Programme (WREP)** is an NGO with special consultative status of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations with over 17 years work experience across Nigeria.
- Our strategy is driven by the relationships and experiences developed with Partners and Communities over the years.
- Partnered with 3 ASM communities each in 2 States to conducting:
  - **Community engagement** and action activities on the EGPS project and COVID-19
  - **Service mapping of GBV referral pathways** in project locations.
  - **Capacity building** of 24 personnel on ConstantSee App used for tracking GBV cases.
  - **Training** of 90 women on **Menstrual Hygiene**.
  - **Training on livelihood skills** for 90 women.



**These activities resulted in the maintenance of the project communities through structural partnership thereby building their resilience during the pandemic.**

# TRAINING ON LIQUID SOAP PRODUCTION





# ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

## Key Achievements:

- **Awareness creation** on COVID-19 and GBV
- **Economic empowerment** of women in ASM from skills learnt through livelihood training.
- **Improved Menstrual hygiene management** and income generation through the production of reusable sanitary pads.
- **Easy GBV tracking** through the ConstantSee app.
- **Identification of service centers** to be used in the GBV service referral pathway.

## Mining Communities:

- Impacted positively through **raising other forms of income generation** ideas
  - Major impact of the pandemic was the reduction in mining and poor demand for their products turn affected their income.
- **ASM women engaged were excited and had more confidence** in carrying out their daily activities while adhering to COVID-19 protocols of staying safe.

*These achievements played a strong role in strengthening the selected women in the ASM communities socially and economically through the pandemic.*

# CHALLENGES

- **Insecurity issue** in some of the selected ASM communities.
  - This led to the swap of some locations for relatively safe ASM communities in Nasarawa State. WREP also got insider information on the best hours to travel and the team took advantage of those hours.
- The innovative approach used was:
  - A male facilitator for the session on menstrual hygiene.
  - The use of the ConstantSee app and its inherent benefit to the victims, witnesses, trained vanguards, private sector, duty bearers and other stakeholders.

*The identified challenges did not hamper our plan in building the resilience of women in the ASM communities as a result of the pandemic.*

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

- WREP identified and **worked with existing women miners' associations** already linked and registered with the States Ministry of Mines and Steel Development.
- Arrangements were made for the **provision of data for the trained youths on the ConstantSee App** for a period of 2 months' post EGPS funding. The inherent ability to boost local vigilance against GBV as trainees will be our pilot vanguards.
- WREP **engaged the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development (ASM department)** in the design of the project and its implementation.
- The **beneficiaries were part of the monitoring** of the project to ensure they understand how they can ensure sustainability of the project even after EGPS funding.

# KEY LEARNINGS: REFLECTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

## ■ Lessons Learnt:

- **Advocacy is key to the success of any project:** For any project to be successful, advocacy to the relevant stakeholders is very crucial if the project is to have the impact it desires. The advocacy to the ASM Director played a key role in enlightening WREP team on the dangers of kidnapping and banditry that would have been experienced in Tsaunen Sarki or Jobe in Azara due to the increase in the two locations.
- **Education:** Most of the women at Alizaga community are not educated, they did not want the same fate for their children; they therefore contributed money amongst themselves to build one block of two classroom school and employed teachers to help give their children the needed education so they can become prominent in life.

## ■ Recommendations

- Women who started and sustained alternate livelihood initiatives should be considered for funding support.
- EGPS/ World Bank should also consider the community when there is an education project so they can benefit.



## KEY LEARNINGS: REFLECTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS CONT'D

- The **Nigerian Mining Act should be reviewed** to incorporate gender concerns including child miners
- The child rights act 2007 requiring **legislation dealing with child labour** in hazardous activities should be reviewed.
  - Thus, law enforcement needs to be reinforced through the training of law enforcement personnel, including labour inspectors and traditional or community leaders. Where legislation is weak, laws on the subject should be adopted and implemented
- **Withdrawal from mining work by women** should be **accompanied by** a whole range of **supportive measures** such as the EGPS support.
  - Especially important if the women and their children have been stunted in their development for a greater period. In addition to education, training, health services and nutrition, vocational training, recreational activities and intensive counselling are needed

## TRAINING ON ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD





# TRAINING ON CONSTANTSEE APP



# COVID -19 RESPONSE

*CENTRE FOR INDIAN BAMBOO RESOURCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CIBART)*  
*INDIA*



***BUILDING RESILIENCE OF ASM PERSONS  
TO IMPACTS OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC  
THROUGH ALTERNATE BAMBOO BASED LIVELIHOODS***



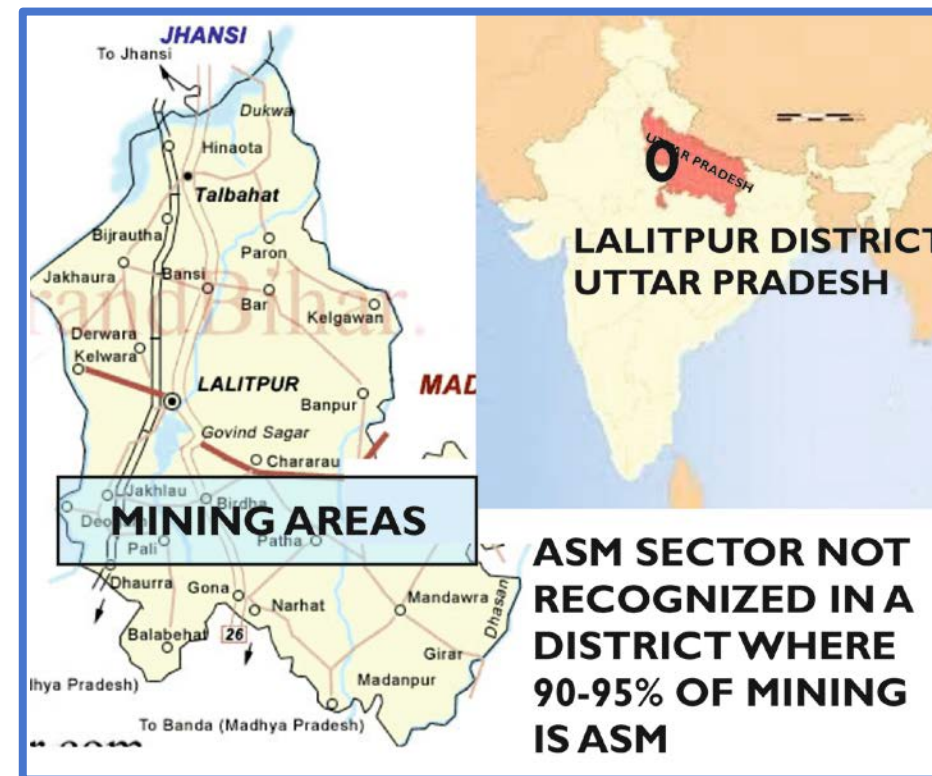
# CONTEXT & BACKGROUND: INDIA

## ■ CORONA VIRUS: THE SECOND WAVE IN INDIA

28.3 million infections 0.3 million deaths

## ■ PROJECT AREA: LALITPUR

MAR-DEC 2020 (FIRST WAVE)	JAN-MAY 2021 (SECOND WAVE)
4,000 cases      47 deaths	13,000 cases      117 deaths
<b>IMPACTS</b>	
Unemployment	Health and unemployment
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	
Govt. prepared	Govt. unprepared
Safety precautions ignored	Rapid increase in infections
<b>RESPONSE</b>	
Awareness, food & cash support	Delayed food & cash support
Used existing infrastructure	Additions to infrastructure took time



# RESPONSE EFFORTS ACTIVITIES: PARTNERSHIPS IN PROJECT AREA

- **CIBART DEVELOPS RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN INDIA USING BAMBOO THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH CBOs; SETS UP DAUGHTER NGOs USING TECHNOLOGY & ADVOCACY**

- **PARTNERSHIPS IN LALITPUR**

*SAI JYOTI for diversification of ASM livelihoods with bamboo*

*Community Radio Lalit Lokvani Kendra to create awareness and institutionalize an ASM sector in the district*

*Village Volunteers helps develops a rural WORK FROM HOME bamboo cluster*

- **PARTNER STRENGTHS**

*Working in ASM areas for 10-20 years*

*High credibility in the community and stakeholders*

*Worked in health/development initiatives for 10 years*

*Recognized by government and development sector*

# RESPONSE EFFORTS ACTIVITIES: PANDEMIC SAFE WORK SYSTEM

## RURAL WORK FROM HOME SYSTEM

- *Beneficiaries can make bamboo products at home*
- *Raw bamboo/consumables delivered for 3 months*
- *Sale in local markets facilitated for 3 months*
- *SHGs manage logistics for production and marketing after 3 months*

## PANDEMIC SAFE SYSTEM

- *Bamboo and consumables are sanitized*
- *Social distancing with masks during delivery and marketing*
- *Deliveries possible in shutdowns, no marketing*
- *Institutional and internet marketing continues from Delhi*

## OUTCOMES

- 150 persons trained
- 7 newspaper reports on training and livelihoods
- 30 household selected
- 3 SHGs 10 members each
- Support for 3 months in place
- Marketing infrastructure in place

## IMPACTS

- Enables child education, eliminates exploitation
- Agricultural and household work possible



# RESPONSE EFFORTS ACTIVITIES: RADIO TALK SHOW

## **EXISTING PARTNERSHIP: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE**

- COMMUNITY RADIO REACHES ASM WORKERS
- INTERVIEWS ON ALL ASPECTS OF SECOND WAVE
- INTERVIEWS WITH PEOPLE , COMMUNITY KNOWS
- PEER TO PEER COMMUNICATIONS ADD CREDIBILITY
- AWARENESS REDUCES INFECTIONS & SHUTDOWNS
- QUIZ ON SECOND WAVE WITH CASH PRIZES

## **IMPACTS**

- **INTERVIEWS HELP FIELD WORKERS**  
Clears misconceptions and rumours
- **FIELD WORKERS PROVIDE DATA THAT NEEDS TO BE AIRED**
- **COVID SURVIVORS INFORM ON**  
Treatment, precautions, testing, vaccination
- **8 NEWSPAPER REPORTS SAY**  
The ASM sector is not recognized  
Vulnerable to external impacts, especially health



# CHALLENGES

## WORK FROM HOME SYSTEM ADDRESSED

- HOME SUPPLY OF BAMBOO/CONSUMABLES
- INTEGRATION INTO LOCAL MARKETS
- PARTICIPATION IN TRADE FAIRS
- COORDINATING PRODUCTION
- COORDINATING MARKETING

## RADIO TALK SHOW ADDRESSED

- **IGNORING PRECAUTIONS**  
*Refusal to wear masks*  
*No social distancing*  
*Normal sanitary practices*
- **MISCONCEPTIONS**
- **RESISTANCE TO VACCINATION**
- **PERCIEVED STIGMA OF INFECTION**

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

## ■ **PARTNERSHIP WITH VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS**

*Three months handholding of SHGs*

*Bamboo Bank gives raw bamboo/consumables*

*Integrates producers into local markets*

*Coordinates production and marketing*

## ■ **TWO SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS)**

*Work in progress*

## ■ **SHGs TO BE TRAINED FOR THREE MONTHS**

## ■ **SHGs TO MANAGE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**

## ■ **ONLINE/PHYSICAL MARKETING AT DELHI**

## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### ■ **BASELINE SURVEY REPORT**

### ■ **THE ASM SECTOR IN LALITPUR**

### ■ **COMPILATION OF PRESS REPORTS**

a) Livelihoods for displaced ASM workers

b) Community radio for pandemic awareness

### ■ **PRICE TAGS FOR BAMBOO PRODUCTS**

### ■ **RECORDED TALK SHOW (10 EPISODES)**

Strategy & content in English can be adapted for any pandemic in any language **FAST**

# KEY LEARNINGS: REFLECTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

## KEY LEARNINGS

- 90% of mines by number belong to the ASM sector
- Policy makers acknowledged ASM sector 30 years ago and ignored it
- ASM sector unknown even in mining districts by government
- ASM not acknowledged by District Mineral Foundations
- TISCO acknowledges ASM, has programmes for ASM workers
- Traditional natural resource based production and plantations in mining areas address livelihood and climate change issues

**REFLECTIONS:** Can ASM be organized into a sector, recognized, and acknowledged so that LSMs and the social sector work towards more resilient ASM communities in India?

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **VIDEOS ON PANDEMIC SAFE BEHAVIOUR**  
in Indian languages/dialects for mining areas
- **DEVELOP AN ASM SECTOR REPORT FOR INDIA**
- **DEVELOP ROBUST DATA ON ASM IN INDIA**  
through partnerships with CBOs and village councils
- **DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH ASM COMPANIES**  
to raise species-specific plantations in mining areas and set up plant based home production clusters for women

# OPEN DISCUSSION

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