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SMALL SCALE MINING AND HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOODS. A CASE STUDY OF MPHOENGs, MANGWE DISTRICT ZIMBABWE.

BY

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ABSTRACT
Introduction of economic structural adjustment programs (ESAP) in Zimbabwe stimulated the increase of small scale mining. This was further worsened by recurrent droughts, rural poverty and unemployment. This study examines the impact of small scale mining and household livelihoods in Mphoengs – Mangwe district. The purpose of the study is to assess small scale mining and household income, household food production and security, household asset accumulation and also it is important for the study to focus at the negative part of small scale mining and it looks at its social impact. The research approach used is of qualitative nature where data collection was mainly through in-depth interviews and focus group discussion. In-depth interviews were conducted with all the miners. Focus group discussions were used to gather information from large population within community. This study discloses how small scale mining has impacted on the household livelihoods. This study reveals that miners have improved their household status through increased access income, food security and have accumulated household asses. Social impacts like violence and prostitution do exist like elsewhere. However, the study exposes that these benefits of small scale farming are not universal to all miners, some expressed that they were not happy and satisfied with the outcomes. These miners continue to live in poverty experiencing food insecurity and get low incomes. This study recommends that miners be trained in tested and advanced methods of mineral extraction. Funds and loans will be very important to miners so that they can purchase mining equipment which will increase their efficiency and enable them to get more mineral quantities. Most importantly, farming needs to be revitalized as their traditional livelihood because small scale mining is not sustainable either.

KEYWORDS: Small scale mining, household, livelihoods