



## **Growth in West Africa: impacts of extractive industry on women economic empowerment in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana**

### ***Inception Workshop-Day 2***

***15<sup>th</sup> April, 2016***

This report summarizes the discussions that took place on the second day of the Inception Workshop of the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) project at Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CIRES), Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Day two of the inception workshop was devoted towards the plan of work and was only attended by the research teams of CIRES and International Institute for Advanced Studies (IIAS) with a representative from IDRC. Various themes of the discussion rather than the order of the interaction are resorted to in presenting a compilation of the meeting which was mainly centered on the methodology to be used in achieving the project's objectives.

### **Methodology**

Definition of what constitute women economic empowerment (WEE) was seen as key. Within the context of this study, WEE is considered from three perspectives, namely education, employment and earnings. In line with the objectives of the study, these perspectives are explained as follows:

#### *Women Economic Empowerment (WEE)*

Within the context of the study, what constitute women economic empowerment? The research being undertaken would consider women economic empowerment from three perspectives: education, employment and earnings. These perspectives were explained by participants as follows:

- (a) *Education:* With this perspective, answers will be obtained for these questions (i) Do differences exist in the educational attainment of women as against men engaged in extractive industries (EIs), (ii) What impedes women participation in mining and related industries? And (iii) Does the type of education acquired matter in accessing jobs in the EIs (using existing data)?
  
- (b) *Employment:* The main question from this angle of WEE is "What women's employment status are in the extractive industry?" Aside household surveys that will be used to find answers to this component of empowerment, administrative records and a primary data collected were seen to be providers of rich datasets in responding adequately to this question. To broaden

the analysis, Dr. Flaubert, quizzed whether the teams from both Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire had the expertise in incorporating the nature of operations of mining companies (labour versus capital intensiveness) and allied industries (the value chain) into this analysis. He advised that experts had to be consulted to assist in formulating the methodology in this direction. In responding to these concerns, Dr. Baah-Boateng mentioned that the major challenge would be data availability.

- (c) *Earnings*: The main question posed here is “are there differences between earnings of women against men in EIs?” Tentative definition of earnings for this study was given as wage plus any other benefits (both monetary and non-monetary). To find the differences between earnings of women and men, secondary (household surveys) and primary data were proposed. It was observed that the focus should be on the secondary data as problems with primary data acquisition are anticipated. These datasets will be used to generate descriptive and econometric estimations. Dr. Flaubert again cautioned and asked that a correction should be made for selectivity bias in the econometric estimation of these differences.

### **Secondary data available**

#### *Cote d'Ivoire*

- Labour Force Survey
- Labour Market Information System (LMIS) conducted once in every 5 years

#### *Ghana*

- Ghana Living Standards Surveys (GLSS)-All six rounds

### **Small-scale mining, Legal and Illegal mining**

A debate ensued on whether small-scale mining is legal or illegal with a call for a clear distinction to be made between them. Dr. Baah reiterated that small scale mining in Ghana is regulated by a legislation and could not be classified as an illegal activity. An agreement was reached that concise definitions should be given for formal or legal mining vis-à-vis illegal and small scale mining.

### **Research uptake strategy**

On the uptake of research strategy and keeping all stakeholders informed on the state of the project, a blog was proposed (with each containing about 1,000 words) to address issues pertaining to legal versus illegal mining, with women economic empowerment undertones.

**Alejandra** (IDRC) reechoed that that a lot of difference is expected to be made to improve communication at every stage of the project. To ensure this uptake, the following stakeholders (key audience) were identified:

1. Policy makers
2. Civil society organisations (CSOs)

3. Private sector (Institutions) related to gender, mining and employment
4. International Audience

For much progress to be made on the research uptake, policy briefs in these thematic areas were seen to be crucial:

- (i) Legal and illegal aspects of EI
- (ii) Job creation within EIs
- (iii) Labour intensiveness or otherwise of mining activities.

### **Which media/methods should be used to disseminate research findings to key audience identified above?**

The beneficial impacts of research depends on how effective its results inform policies as such the varied ways/methods that will be relied on in disseminating policy briefs, reports and findings are

- Engagement of policy makers to be made at the point of policy dialogues
- Seminars and workshops for Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) and academic/training institutions
- For CSOs, a seminar will be organized
- Catchy flyers and brochures will be made to generate public awareness
- Media engagement (discussion segments on radio stations)
- The minister in charge of gender or a member of parliament (MP) who has great interest or champions the course of gender will be invited to partake in the above programs
- Both IIAS and CIRES to do some blogs on their websites
- Frequent post of project-related activities on Facebook, twitter and Instagram

### **Useful literature and other areas of research**

It was recommended that an article sent by Dr. Flaubert could be assessed as it concentrates on an aspect of women economic empowerment necessitated by mining activities in some African countries. In addition, other dimensions that could form the basis for policy and presented in the form policy briefs are

- (i) Perception of employers about engaging women workers
- (ii) Quality of locally-trained personnel in EIs

A suggestion made was that in some of the above range of issues information could be sought from umbrella institutions in the two countries (Chamber of mines).

**Legal framework of mining**

A researcher on the team of IIAS, Dr. Raymond Atuguba will be tasked to give an overview of the legal framework of mining in Ghana.