



**TOOLS FOR  
SELF RELIANCE**

Practical help for practical people



## **IMPACT & LEARNING REPORT**

Preventing Illegal Gold Mining by Supporting Self Reliance  
Vocational Training in Upper East Region  
Talensi and Nabdam Districts, to develop trade skills and  
reduce illegal mining.  
TRAX, Ghana

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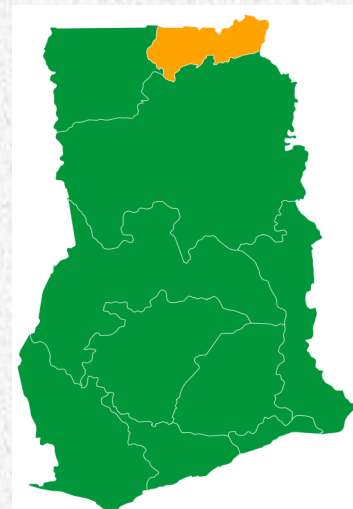


# **Preventing Illegal Gold Mining by Supporting Self Reliance Vocational Training in Upper East Region Talensi and Nabdam Districts, to develop trade skills and reduce illegal mining. Delivered by TRAX, Ghana**

This project aimed to reduce the number of young adults engaging in galamsey (illegal gold mining) by providing reliable and sustainable livelihood opportunities as an alternative way to earn an income.

The presence of gold deposits discovered in the targeted communities has attracted a high number of unemployed young people, particularly those with a low level of formal education, into illegal small-scale gold-mining, locally referred to as galamsey. Due to the lack of opportunities, many young people turn to galamsey as a source of income. It is a high risk activity which causes environmental degradation, and social disruption.

During this project, 22 young adults were trained in a trade skill and equipped and supported to establish a small business and/or enter in to formal, safer employment. Each participant was attached to a master craftsperson and are supported to in turn train an additional two people upon completion of their training course.



The project was located in Bolgatanga, Ghana



**Project duration December 2017—December 2018 • Project evaluation July 2019**

## **PARTICIPATION**

Beneficiaries received training in either bicycle repairs, motorbike repairs, shoe repairs, tailoring, masonry or welding and fabrication. Their twelve-month programme also included literacy and numeracy, and an intensive life skills and functional business management programme. Participants were provided with a tool kit of equipment during their graduation upon completion of the programme.

71% of the cohort of participants were early school leavers, largely due to the lack of affordability of their families to send them to school. 90% of graduates were previously unemployed or engaged in galamsey, and those 10% that were able to earn through alternative means, were doing so through shepherding and/or unreliable petty trading.

At the start of the programme, 87% of participants felt as though they were unable to meet household needs, and 93% felt they lacked employable skills.



Joseph Mort, Shoe repair

# OUTCOMES



**2 OUT OF 10** graduates are running their own business

**8 OUT OF 10** graduates are employed, working with someone else.



On average, graduates who are employed are

**EARNING**

**4.2 TIMES MORE**

compared to before the training



Before training none of the graduates were saving

Now **9 OUT OF 10** are saving

Two thirds using mobile banking and a third at home



40% of graduates were using some of their income to buy additional fertiliser to maximise their agricultural outputs for sustenance.

## STORIES OF CHANGE



***“Before the training I didn’t know my left from my right but now I am making headway and the future is bright”***

Nboom Sampar, Bicycle Repair graduate



***“I feel happy” that I have something to do now for my future.***  
Belinda Yenbogka, tailoring graduate



# LEARNING

## Community Engagement

For this project, TRAX-Ghana used a locally formed community committee to undertake the sensitisation and engage the project target group. TRAX have decided that moving forward, they will enter communities and undertake sensitisation and engage local communities



18% of the participants were over 25 years, and 22% participants had to be replaced within the first month of the programme. TRAX attributed this to the recruitment process implemented and felt as though participants perhaps were not entirely understanding of the commitment that was required of them.

## Complex challenges

Women face multiple and complex deprivations in northern Ghana. Gender stereotyping, including in the workplace, is prevalent. TRAX-Ghana identified that to support women with economic empowerment interventions there is a need to provide alternative trades to tailoring. Despite a desire to encourage women in to trades previously and currently dominated by men, it is acknowledged that to achieve this, long term community sensitisation is imperative. TRAX-Ghana will carry out needs analysis and market survey on alternative trade skills for women, to ensure that they are represented equally.

# CHALLENGES

## PPE

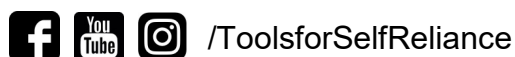
During the evaluation, it was noted that the personal protective equipment that is available locally is not of the quality that is required. For example, welding masks available do not provide protection to the entire face, and safety boots do not also have a steel toe cap.

TRAX-Ghana will explore alternative options for purchasing PPE and the costs associated, whilst we will work with donors to sensitise them on the importance of funding this component, offering a holistic needs-based package for participants.



The  
Marr-Munning  
Trust

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