

Socio-economic Impact of Large -scale Mining on Local Community
A Cases pf Buzwagi Gold Mine in Kahama, Tanzania
By
Anthony Gukuri
Master of Arts in Co-operative and Community Development
Sokoine University of Agriculture, 2013

The study specifically focused on identifying households' socio-economic characteristics; determining benefits and negative consequences emanating from large-scale mining as well as assessing the community's perception of mine operations on its general livelihoods. Semi-structured interviews coupled with open and closed ended questions and focus group discussion methods were used in gathering data. In this study 86 respondents, two mine officials, four village leaders and a district government treasurer were interviewed. Generally, the results showed that about a half of the respondents were still earning their living through traditional farming and its related activities even after the establishment of the mine. Education and health services were among the few social services that were observed to have slightly improved. However, it was learnt that the mine had led to displacement and relocation of 220 households thus disrupting traditional economic systems. It was also observed that a large proportion of the respondents had a negative perception towards the mine's operations on their general livelihoods. This study recommends the following interventions for mitigating negative effects and improving the local socio-economic livelihoods. Firstly, the company should willingly focus on building the local capacities in order to foster agricultural production and open up the local economy to the market, Secondly, the mine should consider community equal partner in the mining processes and learn to listen to and work on priorities of the people. Lastly, the government must ensure that part of the revenues generated from large mines is allocated for support of the communities by presence and operations of the mine.