

NGOs undertook activities aligned to the Ethiopian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

The beneficiaries of the second phase of the Ethiopia-EU Civil Society fund II, the Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA) and Mejejegwo Loka Women Development Association (MLWDA) in collaboration with the regional government bureaus organised an orientation workshop on the role of CS on EITI on the 19th and 20th of October 2017 in Assosa.

Since February 2017, the UEWCA and Mejejegwo Loka a regional NGO in Benishangul Gumuz jointly implemented a low-value project titled "Promoting Environmental Friendly, Transparent and Accountable Gold Mining for the Socio-economic Benefit of Women in Artisanal mining". In an attempt to understand situation of women in the artisanal mining sector the grantees undertook an assessment covering two woredas of the region. In addition, to get a general picture of the overall system they conducted another assessment on the market-chain of gold from artisanal sources. The finding from the two assessments was discussed on a workshop organized on the 21st of Oct. 2017.



In general, the assessments pointed that women are active participants in the artisanal mining, but with limited negotiating capacity in the marketing of the final product. Moreover, the market chain assessment pointed that much of the production from artisanal miners goes to the informal market chain hence not directly reflected in the revenue plans of local administrations.

The Technical Assistance Unit of the Civil Society Fund II Programme is satisfied by the efforts exerted and results achieved by the grantees in piloting this innovative action. It is believed that, if not large scale auditing and disclosure tasks, such micro level CSO actions aligned to the EITI would improve the overall profile of the country in implementing the EITI and perhaps help to reverse the ongoing and eminent challenge because of delayed reporting.

This pilot initiative will serve as role model for future scale up and replication in other parts of the country.



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