Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Report on Attendance at the Stakeholder Alignment Meeting and Launch of the ASM Skills Development Partnership

August 5, 2026

Introduction

This report covers UGEITI's participation in the Stakeholder Alignment Meeting and Launch of the ASM Skills Development Partnership organized by GIZ and Woodcross Resources. The Technical Assistant M&E-Minerals Unit, Ms. Nakimwero Gloria, represented the UGEITI Secretariat at the engagement.

The Partnership aims at developing competency based training to strengthen the occupational assessment and certification pathway for artisanal and small-scale mining practitioners, there by supporting their skilling, professionalization and formalization through adaptation of the TVET Act 2025. The meeting took place on 5th August 2026 at Protea Hotel Skyz Naguru.

The partnership stems from GIZ's Sustainable Development of the Mining Sector in Uganda (SDMU) Project which was launched on 13th March 2025 by Hon Ruth Nankabirwa, as highlighted in UGEITI's Annual Progress Report FY 2024/2025. The Sustainable Development of the Mining Sector in Uganda (SDMU) is an initiative funded by European Union and Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, implemented by GIZ Uganda alongside MEMD. As part of the implementation, Woodcross Resources in partnership with GIZ and MEMD embarked on a project called UJUAZI which converts practical experience into assessed and nationally recognized competence that was launched on 5th August 2026. This is a capacity building effort aimed at formalizing, skilling and securing the local mineral value chain for ASMs in Uganda.

The UJUAZI pilot program is a one year renewable project co-financed by Woodcross Resources 51% and GIZ Uganda 49%. It aims at training and assessing 100 artisanal miners, 35% of which are women and youth. It follows three phases of implementation:

i. The design and validation of occupational profiles, curriculum modules and assessment tools from August to September 2026.
ii. Pilot training at the Kikagati facility with competency-based assessments by November 2026.
iii. Evidence based refinement, securing MEMD ownership and scaling to the wider sector by 30th June 2027.

The curriculum focuses on five core modules, these include health and safety, mining methods, mineral processing, traceability, and policy and legal compliance. These will provide a structured pathway to nationally recognized certification and formal market access.

The engagement brought together ASM practitioners, CSOs, academia, sector experts and development partners to critically aligned and nominate stakeholders with knowledgeable expertise to guide the project's implementation.

Objectives of the meeting

The key objectives of the meeting were to:

- Launch the UJUAZI project and commence approval of the TVET process.
- Align key stakeholders on partnership objectives and partner roles.
- Develop an implementation roadmap on the proposed occupational, training and certification pathway for ASM practitioners.
- Launch the Woodcross - SDMU Development Partnership

Key observations and discussions

- Stakeholder Engagement, the meeting convened ASM practitioners, CSOs, academia, sector experts, and development partners to critically align their activities with project objectives.
- Capacity Building: Emphasis was placed on strengthening skills development and formalization of ASM through structured training and certification.
- Training Modules: Specialized modules will be developed covering occupational safety, environmental management, mineral processing, and business skills to enhance ASM professionalism.
- University Grants: Selected universities and vocational institutions will receive grants to design and deliver ASM-

focused curricula, ensuring academic involvement in skills development.

- Discussions focused on nomination processes for technical experts to present on the Skills Sector Expert Committee (SSEC) that will support curriculum development, guide in developing and approving TVET programs with the UVTAB Secretariat as the proposed occupational and certification pathway for ASM practitioners.
- Policy Alignment**:** Discussions highlighted harmonization of MEMD's ASM formalization agenda with skilling initiatives under the TVET framework.

Relevance to UGEITI

- Transparency in the Extractives Sector- by formalizing ASM practices through certification and training, the project strengthens accountability and reduces informality key pillars of UGEITI's mission.
- Capacity Building for Governance- the UJUAZI Project introduces structured training modules and university-supported curricula, which align with UGEITI's goal of building institutional and sector capacity for effective monitoring and reporting.
- Stakeholder Engagement- the meeting brought together government, private sector, academia, CSOs, and ASM practitioners. This multi-stakeholder approach mirrors UGEITI's own governance model and reinforces its role as a convener of diverse voices to encourage debate thus promoting extractives sector transparency.
- Policy Integration- the operationalization of the TVET Act 2025 and harmonization with MEMD's ASM formalization agenda directly contribute to Uganda's extractives governance reforms, which UGEITI tracks and reports on.
- Evidence for Reporting- outcomes from the pilot phase (100 ASM miners) will provide UGEITI with concrete data and case studies to enrich reports, MSG deliberations, and policy advocacy.

Recommendations

Based on the discussions, the following actions are recommended for UGEITI:

- Establish a dedicated UGEITI liaison team to facilitate quarterly coordination meetings to track progress and ensure transparency in implementation.
- Encourage joint research projects that document ASM formalization impacts for policy learning.
- Document lessons learned from the pilot phase (100 ASM miners) to inform national scale-up and UGEITI's reports
- Use UGEITI's platform to advocate for sustained government commitment to ASM formalization under the TVET Act 2025.
- Highlight the project's contribution to Uganda's mineral governance reforms in MSG meetings and stakeholder dialogues.

Conclusion

The launch of the ASM Skills Development Partnership through the UJUAZI project marks a pivotal step in formalizing and professionalizing Uganda's artisanal and small-scale mining sector. By embedding competency-based training, certification, and policy alignment within the TVET framework, the initiative strengthens transparency, accountability, and market access. For UGEITI, this partnership provides a strategic opportunity to integrate ASM formalization into reporting and advocacy, ensuring measurable impacts on governance reforms and advancing the broader mission of extractives transparency in Uganda.