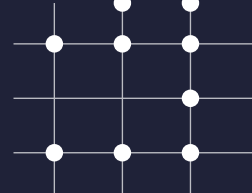




CENTRE FOR SOCIAL IMPACT STUDIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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**CENTER FOR SOCIAL IMPACT STUDIES
(CESIS)**



CESISGHANA

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1.0

Introduction

Ghana is well endowed with substantial mineral resources, the major ones being gold, diamond, manganese and bauxite. Gold is the predominant mineral produced in the country accounting for about 90 percent of all mineral exports and mineral revenues. In 2022 for instance, revenue from gold exports amounted to 6.61 billion USD, according to figures from the Bank of Ghana (year?). This figure represents a 30 percent increase in the revenues the country received from her gold exports in 2021. Additionally, the sector is a major source of revenue for local District Assemblies and has multiple effects on the local economy in terms of employment and infrastructural development.

While mining has contributed significantly to national economic development, the same cannot be said about the fate of communities that host these mining operations. These communities have had to endure negative effects of mining including loss of income due to loss of farmlands, displacement of communities from their ancestral lands, pollution of air, land and water resources, high cost of living, and so on (*Amponsah-Tawiah and Dartey-Baah, 2011; Appiah-Kubi and Doku, 2014*)

In the past thirteen years, the Centre for Social Impact Studies (CeSIS) has worked hard, as part of the organization's mission, to influence policy change in favour of communities impacted by the operations of extractive companies. This mission has been well executed as CeSIS has become one of the significant mouthpieces of mining-affected communities in Obuasi, adjoining districts and regions especially on compensation, environmental and human rights issues. Officials of CeSIS have also traveled around the world sharing the organization's experiences with students, researchers, civil society actors, government officials, and the business community. CeSIS has specialized in evidence-based advocacy with a focus on the social impacts of the extractive industry.

1.1

Organization History and Profile



The Centre for Social Impact Studies (CeSIS) is a non-governmental organization that seeks to influence policy change in favour of communities impacted by the operations of extractive companies. Established in January 2011 as an independent, not-for-profit, research and advocacy organization, CeSIS primarily focuses on providing research backbone to civil society in Ghana's extractive space. CeSIS is headquartered in Obuasi in the Ashanti Region.

1.1.1 VISION

CeSIS seeks to become a world-class research institution providing cutting-edge science-based research results that support advocacy for the development of residents living in resource-rich areas in Ghana and Africa.

1.1.2 MISSION

CeSIS's mission is to influence policy change in favour of communities impacted by the operations of extractive companies.

1.1.3 Objectives

CeSIS seeks to empower communities impacted by extractive companies' operations for sustainable development of the extractive industry through advocacy, training, and research.

THE KEY OBJECTIVES OF CESIS ARE TO:

- ◆ Conduct research into the impact of extractive activities on communities impacted by the operations of extractive companies;
- ◆ Conduct research into specific issues as and when they are referred to the organisation by corporate bodies and other CSOs;
- ◆ Carry out advocacy for communities impacted by the operations of extractive companies using science-based research results;
- ◆ Push for policy change in the extractive industry in favour of poor and marginalised communities;
- ◆ Promote the participation of communities in the co-management of Ghana's extractive industry at all levels of governance;
- ◆ Educate residents of communities impacted by the operations of extractive companies on extractive industry-related issues that affect their development, climate change, food security, and socioeconomic well-being issues; and
- ◆ Build the capacities of residents of communities impacted by the operations of extractive companies in entrepreneurial skills development to promote sustainable livelihood and food security

1.2

Activities for the Year 2025

In the year 2025, CeSIS undertook the following activities::

1	Engagement with MCE	2	Capacity Building on Fundraising
3	Capacity Building Training on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	4	Training workshop for some selected communities within the Mankessim District
5	Understanding Gender Based Budgetting	6	Training Workshop for Binsere community
7	Board Meeting	8	Petition to Environmental Protection Authority (Public Engagement)
9	Webinar Trainings		

1.2.1 Capacity Building Workshop on Gender Based Budgeting

CeSIS together with SRAN and with support from OXFAM NOVIB organized two (2) capacity building workshops on Gender Based Budgeting under the Mutual Capacity Strengthening (MCS) project. The first workshop held at Bolgatanga equipped both organizations with practical approach to addressing inequality in mining affected areas. Participants were taken through the steps for implementing Gender Based Budgeting starting from conducting community needs assessment, Identifying Gaps and Barriers, Stakeholder Mapping and then setting Gender Responsive Objectives.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Gender Analysis assesses how gender roles and inequalities affect individual's experiences, opportunities and access to resources
- In conducting stakeholder mapping, one must analyse the various stakeholder groups, their interest and influence before developing an engagement plan
- In Gender Based Budgeting, you must create a gender sensitive budget to ensure resources are allocated equitably to address the specific needs

1.2.2 Training Workshop on Fundraising

CeSIS together with SRAN and a funding support from OXFAM Novib organized a training workshop on fundraising to enable organization to identify and explore various funding opportunities from donors. The training again introduced participant organizations to how to turn issues and ideas into a strong concept note to identify interested donors and also diversifying funding sources. The training created an opportunity to learn each organization's strategies in raising funds to support its vision and mission

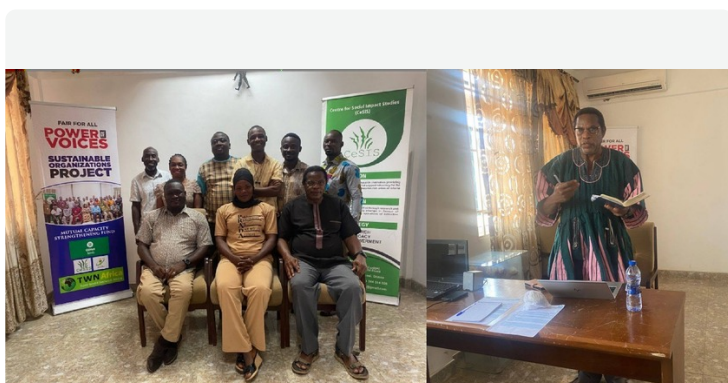
KEY DISCUSSIONS:

- Fundraising remains an important tool for CSOs because it provides resources to implement projects
- In applying for funds, we must check if donors priority match our work to enable to be strategic
- A good proposal must state problems clearly, provide credible and reliable solutions and outcome



1.2.3 Training Workshop on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

Under the Mutual Capacity Strengthening project by OXFAM NOVIB, CeSIS organized a capacity building training on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) to enable participating organizations develop appropriate indicators and targets in all programmes. The workshop participants highlighted the difference between monitoring and Evaluation and the reason for these two. The training enabled participating organizations design a common M&E Framework to be used.



KEY DISCUSSIONS:

- One importance of MEL is to help track progress and measure indicators
- Monitoring focuses more on progress while evaluation looks at the project's relevance, sustainability, impact, effectiveness and many more
- The relationship and the differences between outputs and outcomes

1.2.4 Training Workshop on Mining Laws for Community Members in the Ewoyaa Lithium Enclave

CeSIS with funding support from NRGi organized a training workshop for community members of Ewoyaa, Krofu and Krampakrom on various mining laws with regards to the upcoming lithium project. Participants were introduced to the socio environmental impacts of mining transition minerals, key social and environmental laws and regulations in the sector and the role of stakeholders specifically community members in ensuring responsible mining. CeSIS engaged the communities through radio discussion and face to face capacity building training workshop to enhance citizens understanding



KEY CONCERNS RAISED BY THE COMMUNITY:

- Some residents wanted to find out if there were procedures for citizens living outside the impacted communities to seek for redress if they experience negative impacts from the projects
- Several concerns on resettlement and compensation were raised and they were addressed accordingly
- Employment concerns were also raised by the residents



1.2.5 Training Workshop for Binsere Community on Mining Regulation

CeSIS with support from Third World Network built the capacity of Binsere community (Community marked for resettlement by AGA) on relevant mining laws to be able to assert their rights in relation to the resettlement and compensation process. A documentary produced by cesis on resettlement and compensation was screened as a prelude to the training. Again, participants were introduced to a discussion on Environmental and Social Impact of Mining in Obuasi, Minerals and Mining Act (Act 703) and Compensation and Resettlement Regulation LI 2175. There was also a session on experience sharing from members of some resettled communities in Obuasi. Residents of Binsere gained critical insights and practical strategies to engage constructively.

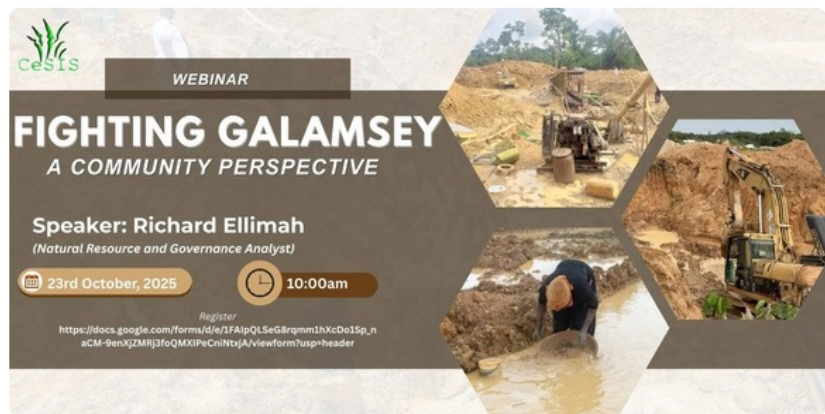


KEY RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMUNITY:

- All engagements with the mining company and other stakeholders must be recorded, signed and copies be given to all parties
- Construction of houses should be more participatory to enhance transparency and quality

1.2.6 Webinar Trainings

In the year 2025, CeSIS held 2 webinar sessions aimed at building citizen's knowledge and capacity on issues relating to natural resource governance. The first webinar titled **"Examining 14 Years of Oil Production: Did We Go or Did We Come?"** focused on assessing Ghana's experience with oil production over the past 14 years. The second webinar titled **"Fighting Galamsey: A Community Perspective"** examined the challenges of illegal mining from the perspective of the affected communities. Both sessions strengthened citizens awareness of the challenges and opportunities associated with Ghana's extractive sector



1.2.7 Petition to EPA and other Relevant stakeholders



The people of Binsere presented a petition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other relevant stakeholders regarding the tailings dam being constructed by AngloGold Ashanti (AGA). The petition highlighted concerns about the potential effects of the tailings dam on the lives, livelihoods, health, and general well-being of community members.

The engagement provided an opportunity for residents to formally present their concerns and call for the relevant authorities and stakeholders to take appropriate measures to safeguard the interests and well-being of the affected community.

1.2.8 Engagement with Obuasi East MCE

The Centre for Social Impact Studies (CeSIS) paid a courtesy visit to the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) of Obuasi East. The meeting was held to brief the MCE on CeSIS's ongoing work in Anwiam and related mining and resettlement issues.



KEY DELIBERATION:

We shared findings from our 2023 research on mining-induced resettlement and compensation, and emphasized the need for AngloGold Ashanti (AGA) to fulfill its promise to properly resettle the Anwiam community.

The MCE assured us of his support, revealing that he personally intervened to halt questionable construction activities in Anwiam. He also encouraged CeSIS to work closely with the Assembly and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to push for the right solutions.

1.2.9 Board Meeting

During the reporting period, the organisation held a Board meeting to review its programmes, organisational performance, and strategic priorities. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Board and management to assess progress made, discuss emerging issues, and provide guidance on key areas requiring attention.

Key areas discussed included programme implementation, financial and administrative matters, organisational sustainability, stakeholder engagement, and strategic opportunities for strengthening the organisation's impact. The Board also reviewed ongoing activities and provided recommendations to support effective delivery and alignment with the organisation's objectives.

The meeting concluded with agreed actions and guidance for management to strengthen programme implementation, improve internal coordination, and sustain the organisation's engagement with relevant stakeholders

1.4.0

Capacity Building and Networking events by Staff

As part of CeSIS commitment to capacity building and networking, staff of CeSIS participated in a number of workshops, seminars and networking events. Some staff were also supported to attend some training programmes, both in-person and virtually. The topics they built capacity in ranged from gender, climate change, and natural resource governance. These training programmes built the capacity of staff to be able to execute their work goals and support the organisation to achieve its goals.

