

IMPROVING SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT THROUGH STAKEHOLDERS INCLUSION: EVIDENCE FROM MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS

Stakeholders are individuals, groups, or organizations that have an interest or concern in a particular project, program, or organization. Stakeholders can be either individuals or organizations. They may include shareholders, employees, customers, suppliers, partners, government agencies, regulators, and the larger community. Stakeholders can have a significant influence on the success of a project or organization because they can either influence decision-making, contribute resources, or be affected by the results of the project or organization. Engaging with stakeholders to gain an understanding of their needs and concerns, working collaboratively to address those issues, and achieving shared goals are all components of effective stakeholder management. Stakeholders must be identified and prioritized before engaging with them.

Stakeholders in a supply chain are integral to the success of any organization, as they play a crucial role in the production, distribution, and delivery of goods or services. Stakeholders in a supply chain, including suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, customers, and regulatory bodies, are crucial to the success of any organization. They all have a specific role in the production, distribution, and delivery of goods or services.

Suppliers provide raw materials and services, manufacturers transform them into finished products, distributors deliver them, retailers sell them to customers, and regulatory bodies ensure that they are safe, sustainable, and ethical. The satisfaction of end customers is crucial to the success of the supply chain. Effective stakeholder management and collaboration are essential for ensuring the efficient and effective operation of the supply chain, delivering high-quality products or services to customers, and generating value for all stakeholders.

The supply network of mineral products is a critical component of the economy in many countries, including Tanzania. This supply network comprises several stakeholders that play a crucial role in ensuring that the intended value in terms of final products reaches the final customers. The success of the mineral products supply chain depends on effective coordination and collaboration among these stakeholders. Unlike agricultural food products, mineral products are non-renewable and are, therefore, a finite resource. They are also critical to the economy, as they contribute significantly to the country's gross domestic product and provide employment opportunities for many Tanzanians. Given their importance, the

stakeholders involved in the mineral products supply chain need to ensure that the products are extracted sustainably and responsibly and that the benefits of their extraction are shared equitably among all stakeholders.

In Tanzania, some of the important minerals include gold, diamonds, tanzanite, iron ore, and coal. The stakeholders involved in the supply chain of these minerals include the government, mining companies, miners, transporters, processing companies, local communities, equipment manufacturers, regulatory bodies, and customers. The government plays a critical role in regulating the mining sector and ensuring that mining activities are carried out responsibly and sustainably. Mining companies are responsible for extracting the minerals and transporting them to processing companies or customers. Miners are involved in the manual extraction of minerals from the mines. Transporters are responsible for transporting the minerals from the mines to the processing companies or customers. Processing companies refine the minerals into final products that can be sold to customers. Regulatory bodies oversee the operations of the mining companies and ensure that they adhere to the country's laws and regulations. The mineral supply chain in Tanzania faces several challenges that affect its efficiency and effectiveness.

One of the major challenges is artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), which is a prevalent activity in Tanzania's gold sector. ASM is often characterized by informal and unregulated practices that pose significant environmental, social, and economic risks. The ASM sector is often associated with child labor, poor working conditions, and unsafe practices, which can result in accidents and health problems. ASM also contributes to the loss of revenue for the government, as many of these activities are not formally registered, and the taxes and royalties due to the government are not paid. Additionally, ASM activities often occur in conflict-prone areas, leading to conflicts over resources and land rights.

Ensuring effective management of the mineral supply chain is critical to maximizing the benefits of the mineral resources for the country. In Tanzania, efforts should be made to address the challenges facing the mineral supply chain to ensure that it operates efficiently and effectively. One way to achieve this is through improved regulation of the sector. The government can enforce laws and regulations to ensure that all stakeholders involved in the supply chain adhere to ethical and sustainable practices. This would help to reduce the risks associated with ASM and ensure that the extraction and processing of minerals are carried out

safely and sustainably. Investment in infrastructure such as transportation networks and energy infrastructure can facilitate the transportation of minerals from mines to processing plants or customers and ensure a reliable supply of power to support mining operations.