

Navigating Misinformation and Distrust in a Long-Standing Mining Project



NANA KESEWA AKESSEH

GHANA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nana-akesseh>

Background of the Project Area

- Predominantly rural communities in North-Western Ghana
- Livelihoods:
 - Subsistence farming
 - Seasonal migration for employment
 - Small-scale trading
 - Artisanal and small-scale mining
- Socio-economic conditions:
 - High poverty
 - Low literacy (rural areas)
 - High unemployment rates
- Limited exposure to large-scale mining → high uncertainty and fear

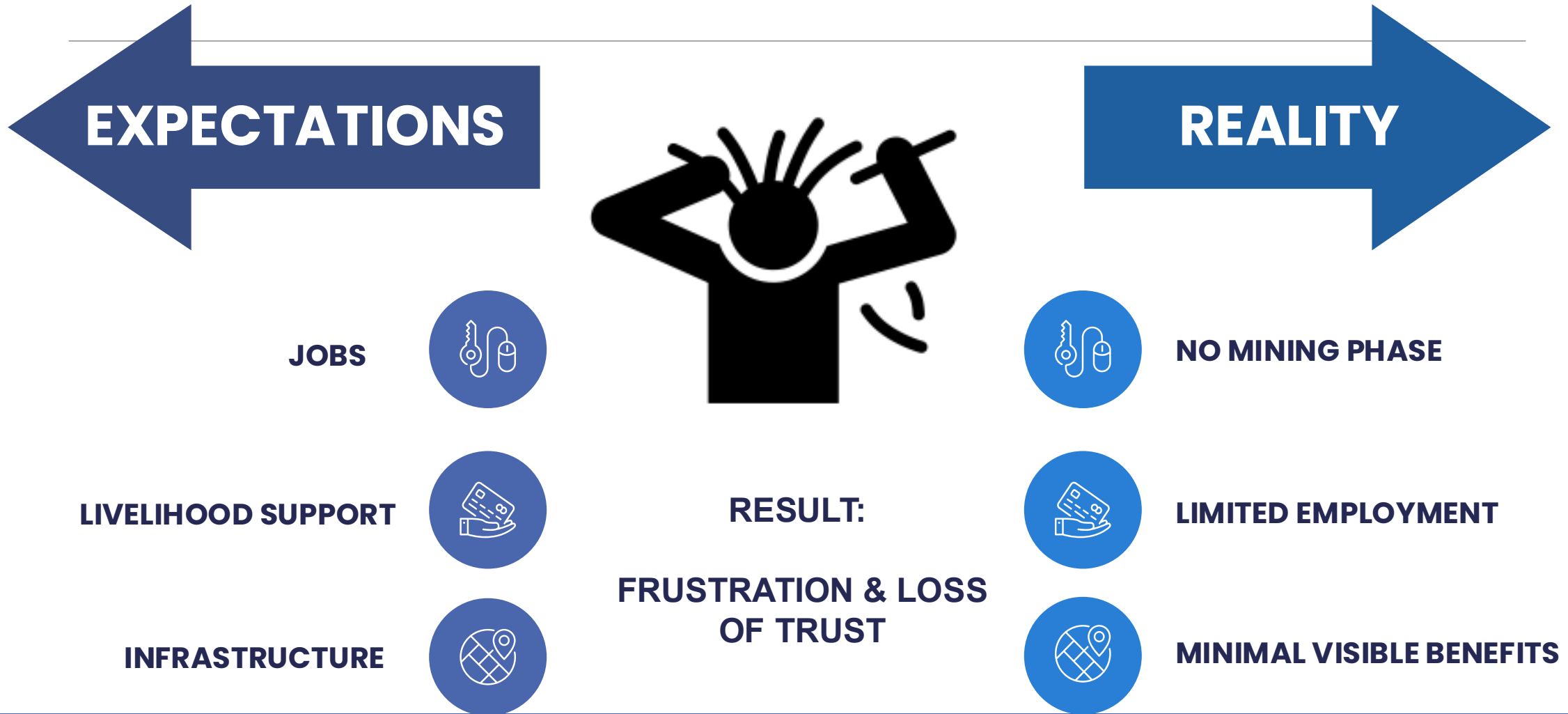




Contributing Factors to Project Delays

- Volatility in global gold prices, affecting investment decisions
- COVID-19 pandemic disruptions
- Regional political instability in neighboring countries affecting investor confidence
- Global financial pressures and economic uncertainty

Expectations vs Reality



Misinformation & Distrust

➤ Common rumours/concerns:

- Company already mining secretly
- Land will be taken
- Livelihoods will be destroyed
- Locals may not benefit directly from the project

➤ Sources:

- Community members (local & diaspora)
- Social media
- Some CSOs/NGOs

Outcome: Reduced trust & community resistance



Stakeholder Engagement Challenges

- Poor communication & coordination (earlier years)
- Stakeholder fatigue due to prolonged project delays
- Repeated consultations without visible project implementation
- Limited CSR (exploration phase constraints)

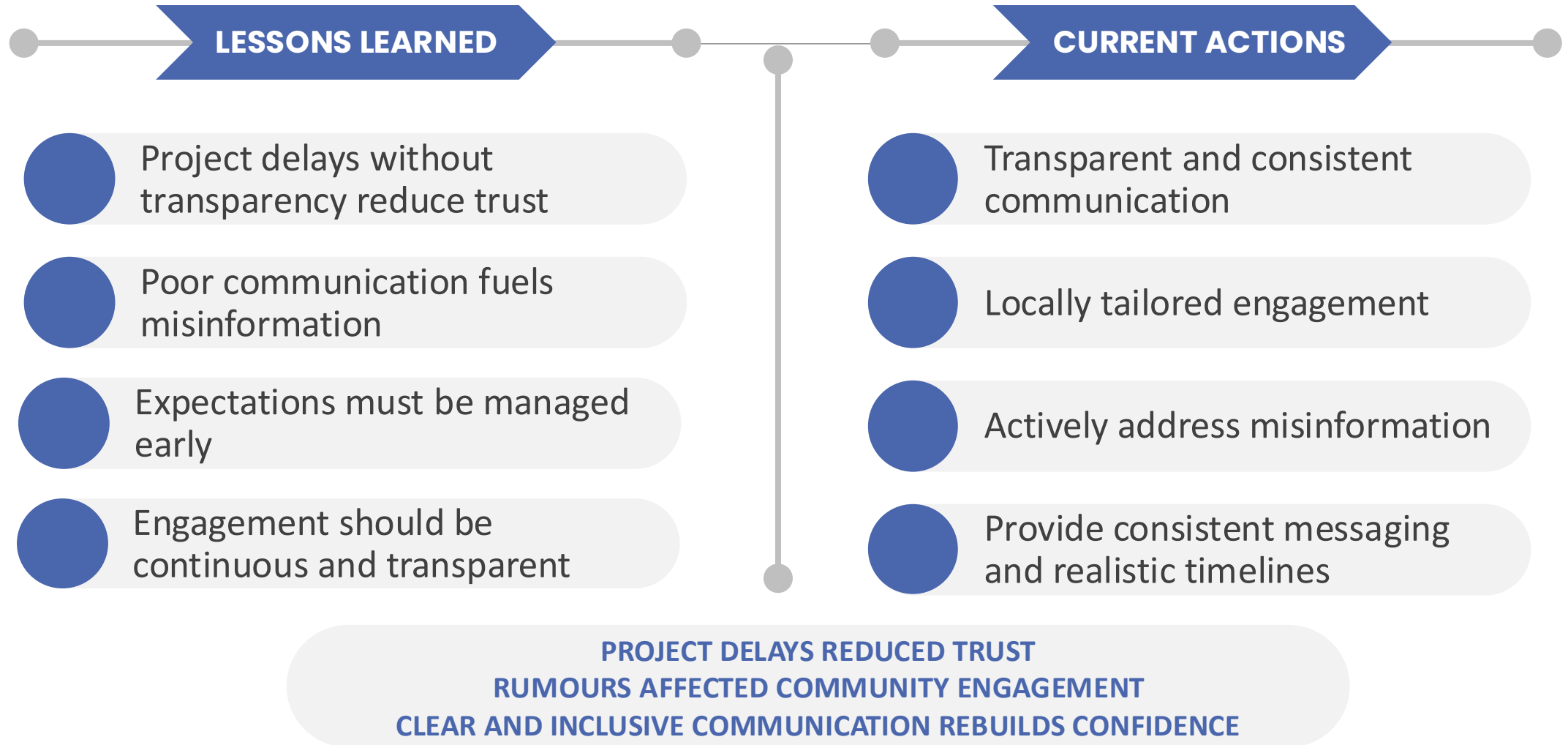


Implications for IA & Social License

- Declining trust and social license to operate
- Reduced confidence in the IA process
- Risk to long-term project sustainability
- Increased risk of:
 - Community opposition
 - Informal/illegal mining activities



Key Lessons & Current Actions





Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA26 app.

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