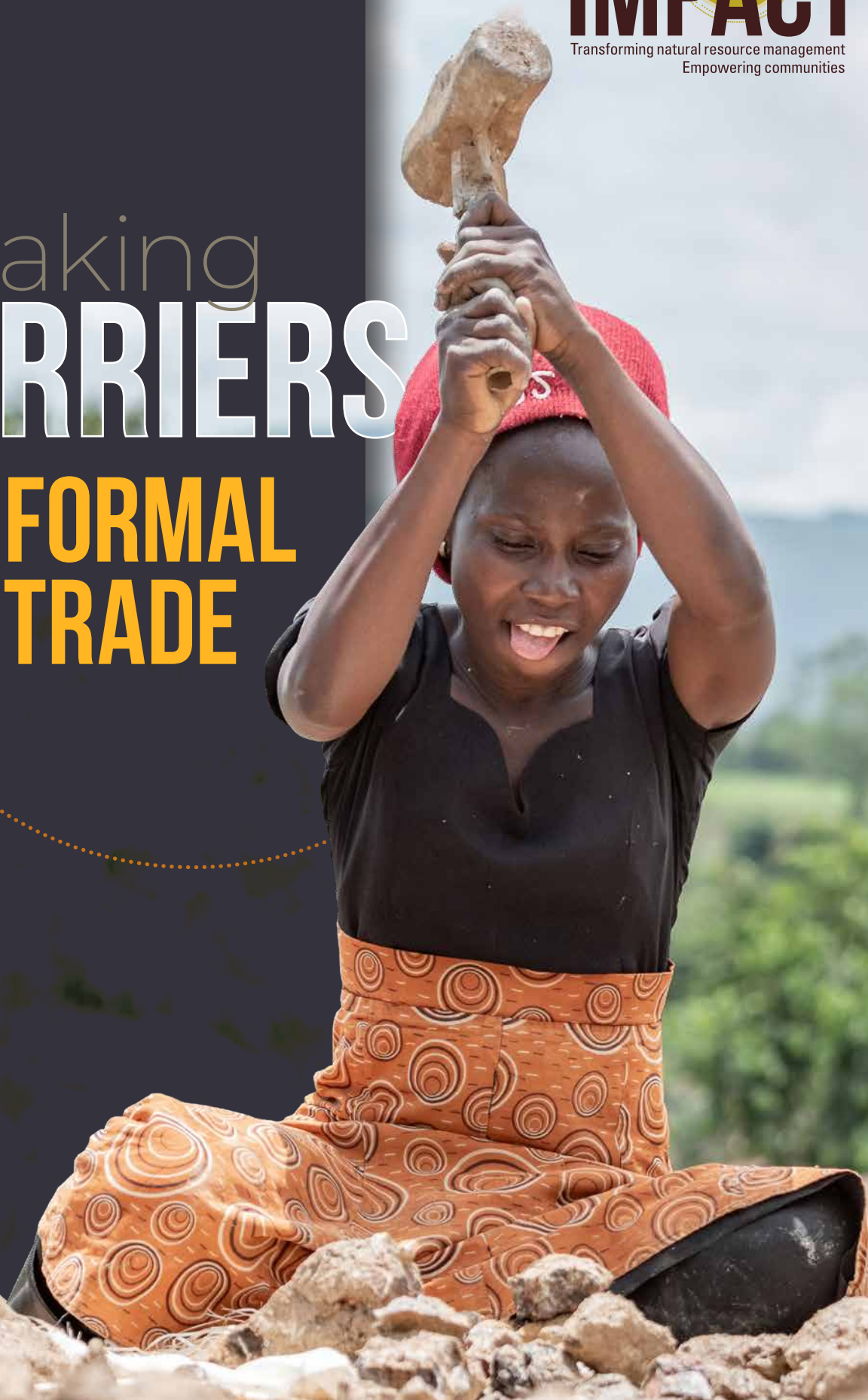


ANNUAL REPORT 2022 | 2023

**IMPACT**  
Transforming natural resource management  
Empowering communities

Breaking  
**BARRIERS**  
to **FORMAL**  
**TRADE**







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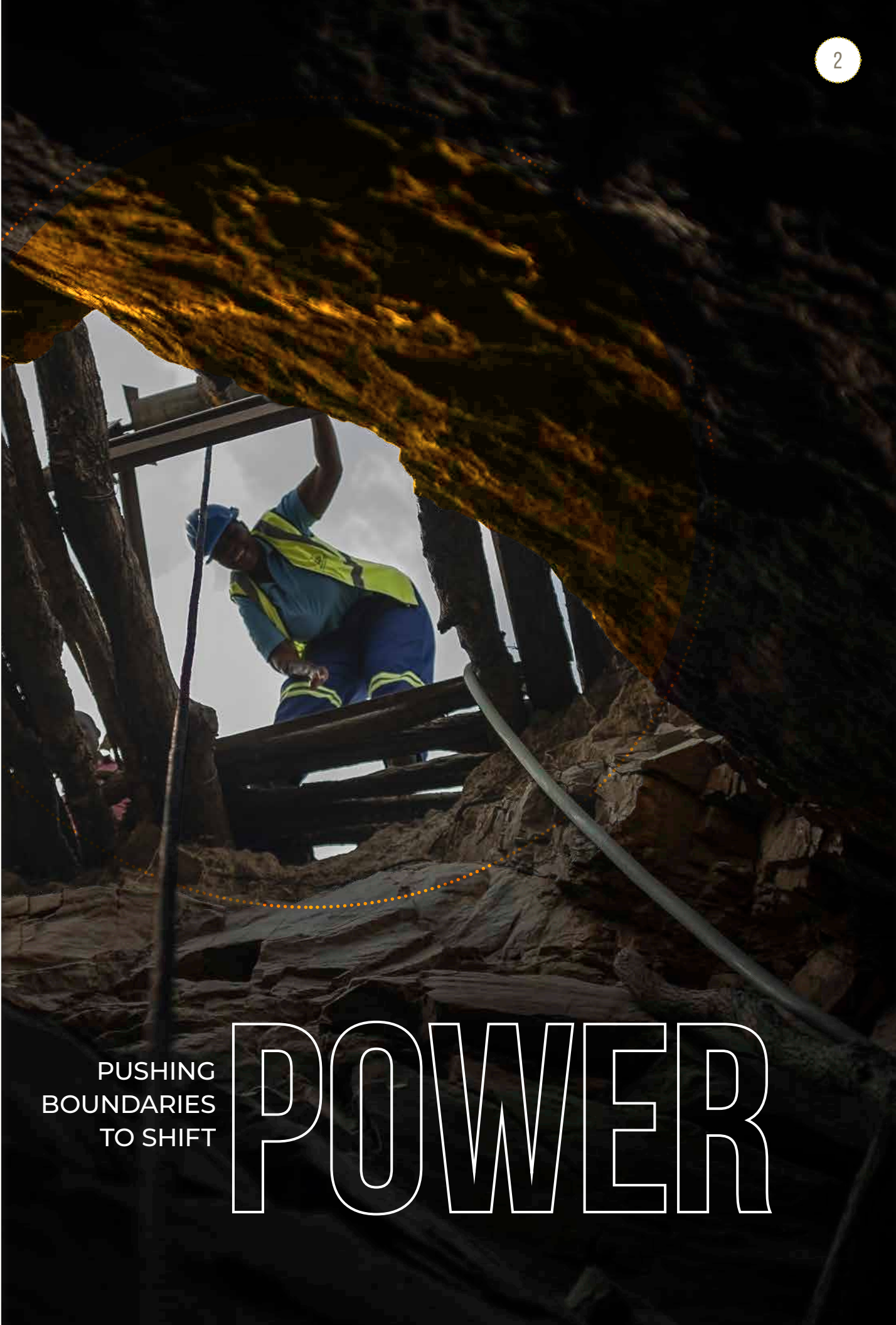
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PUSHING  
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# POWER





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## DEAR FRIENDS,

Just like the contexts in which we work, the international development sector is shifting. Organizations like ours are constantly required to adapt to local realities and needs, changing funding priorities, and increasing administrative burdens. Importantly, for many of us, the COVID-19 pandemic spurred introspection around power imbalances and inequity within our organizational structures, advancing conversations around localization and decolonization.

These critical conversations are ongoing. As we chart a path forward to shift power, within our team and with our partners at IMPACT, we look forward to sharing more in the coming months and years. But what is clear now, is that we need to learn from each other and share capacity. This takes time and investment.

Based on a foundation of partnership with local communities, this knowledge transfer is already a mainstay of our work. However, for true locally led ownership and implementation, we need to also build skills in donor engagement, administration, and financial management. Otherwise, access to resources will remain limited and continue to be held by a select few.

This mirrors how responsible supply chains, without a development approach, can inadvertently entrench power in the hands of a small group.

In 2022-2023, we've strengthened our efforts for a holistic approach to equitable community development in artisanal mining communities. We're addressing the barriers preventing artisanal miners in high-risk contexts from entering their formal economies, while advocating for the international market to take more proactive measures and invest in creating an environment where they can source these minerals.

This year we've deepened our work around financial inclusion in the artisanal gold sector—understanding its links to peacebuilding, formalization, and ending illicit trade. Our report, *Financing the Unbanked: How Community Savings Groups Can Create Pathways for Legal Artisanal Gold in Burkina Faso*, highlights how any responsible sourcing projects must be accompanied by an access to financing component.

Our own community savings model—highlighted later in this report—has been developed for the unique artisanal gold sector context. Members within Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burkina Faso have jointly saved an impressive \$176,000 USD over their initial one-year financial cycles, with community savings groups now starting in Mali.

In 2022, our work kicked off with government agencies in Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda to reduce mercury within their artisanal gold mining sectors. As part of their commitment under the Minamata Convention, the two countries will work to reduce a collective 19.5 tonnes of mercury over the next five years.

We look forward to building on the results we achieved together this year. We thank all our funders, partners—and most of all, the communities we work with—for their continued support.



**Joanne Lebert**  
Executive Director



**Nicole Piggott**  
Board President

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We transform natural resources in areas where security and human rights are at risk.

# Our Work is **CRITICAL**

## **TO AVOID UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, WE NEED TO LISTEN TO COMMUNITIES.**

Stories of DRC's artisanal miners digging up their living rooms in search of cobalt or young men being buried alive under mountains of rock are making waves, but they certainly aren't new. In fact, they echo past media cycles around diamonds, gold, and 3Ts.

As cobalt makes the news, it is a wakeup call for many consumers. Meanwhile tech and automotive giants are scrambling to—yet again—demonstrate that tainted minerals aren't in their supply chains. There is a clear call: something must be done.

We've been down this road before. Moved by international outrage, governments and companies act—throwing words and money at the issue. But knee-jerk reactions lead to unintended consequences, often harming the people we so desperately want to support.



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When Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act was passed in the U.S. in 2010 as a response to conflict minerals in DRC, the solution for many companies was to stop sourcing from the country. The millions of Congolese who depended on artisanal mining for their livelihoods—they were now out of work. Instead of breaking the link between mining and armed conflict, research has since shown it increased violence in some communities.

Spurred by promises of ethical jewellery, we've seen shoppers turn to lab-grown diamonds or recycled gold. Not only does this divert important income away from producing communities, but we've also witnessed how weak governance of some of these supply sources has made them convenient alternatives for high-risk artisanal materials.

Responsible sourcing on its own will not create the conditions for development within communities. In places that IMPACT works such as DRC, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, there are many barriers for miners before they can reach the legal international market. Barriers such as financing, restrictive taxes, heavy administrative burdens, use of chemicals like mercury, or inequality within mine sites.

By turning to local expertise and community voices we can address these barriers and carve a path forward. Working together, communities can have sustainable, equitable development—**AND TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS LEGAL TRADE THAT BENEFITS THEM.**

**15**  
**MILLION**  
**PEOPLE**  
WORK IN ARTISANAL  
GOLD MINING

**400**  
**1,149**  
**2%**  
**\$ 835**

TONNES ARTISANAL GOLD  
PRODUCED ANNUALLY GLOBALLY

TONNES RECYCLED GOLD  
PRODUCED IN 2021

ARTISANAL GOLD EXPORTED LEGALLY  
FROM DRC AND BURKINA FASO

MILLION USD ARTISANAL GOLD  
SMUGGLED ANNUALLY FROM DRC TO UAE



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We are rooted in evidence.

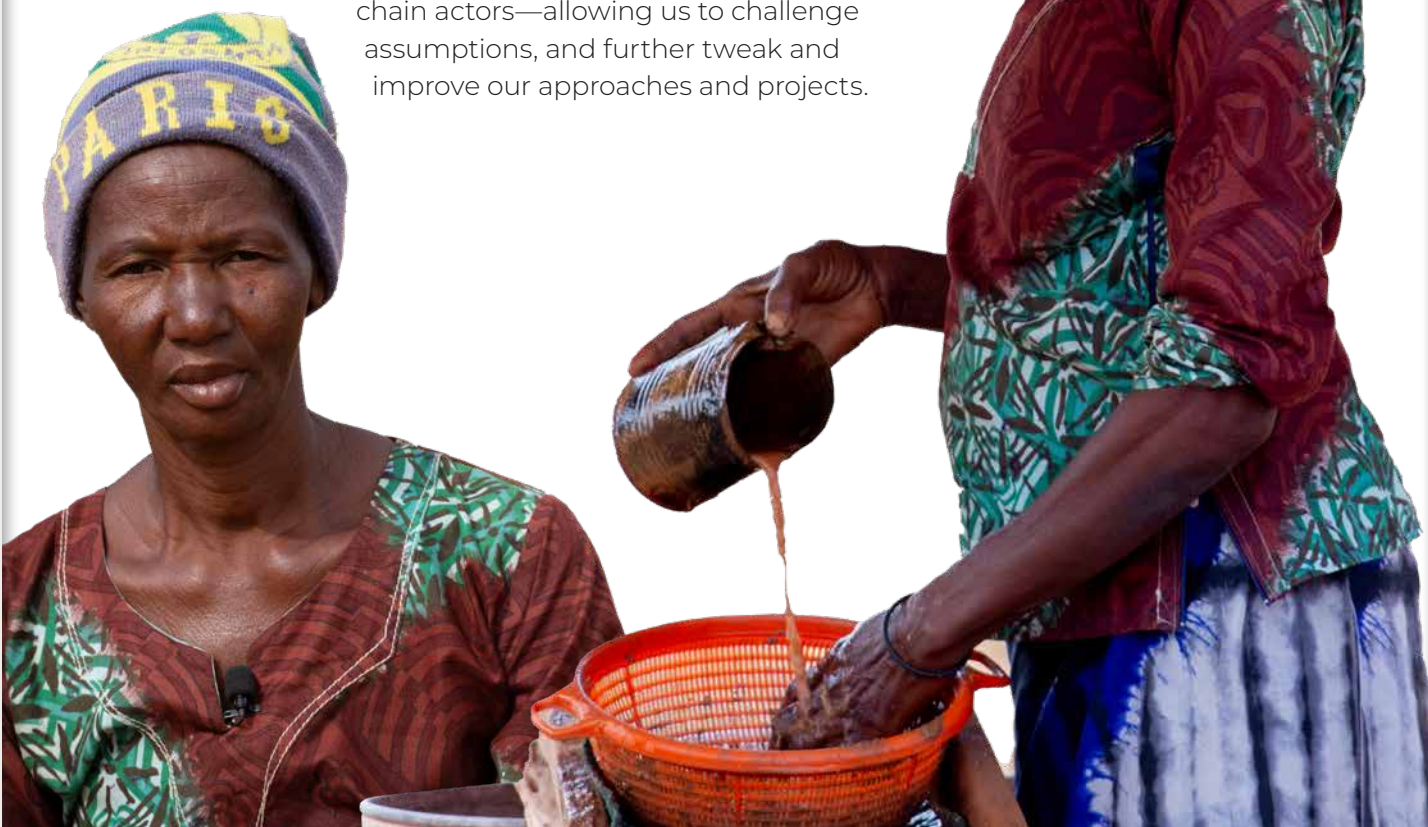
# How We Drive CHANGE

## IMPACT IS A GLOBAL LEADER WITH OVER 30 YEARS

of experience in research and developing new approaches to transform natural resource management. All of our work is guided by research—whether through investigations, data dives, participatory action research in communities, or monitoring and evaluation.

What we hear, see, and learn allows us to develop our projects, provide recommendations, and engage with stakeholders.

We push boundaries and gather evidence through our work with communities and supply chain actors—allowing us to challenge assumptions, and further tweak and improve our approaches and projects.





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# Our MISSION

**We transform how natural resources are managed in areas where security and human rights are at risk. We investigate and develop approaches for natural resources to improve security, development, and equality. We are an independent non-profit, collaborating with local partners for lasting change.**



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# REVEAL

We investigate, monitor, and analyze how natural resources are managed and how these systems can be improved.

# INNOVATE

We develop, test, and deliver improved systems for the management of natural resources through technical assistance, information sharing, and capacity building.

# ENGAGE

We advance constructive dialogue with stakeholders including civil society, policy-makers, industry, and communities to improve how natural resources are managed.





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# 2022-2023 in NUMBERS



## In Burkina Faso:

1,300  
MEMBERS

JOINED A COMMUNITY  
SAVINGS GROUP

80%

OF THE  
MEMBERS  
WERE WOMEN

+\$131,000

USD SAVED IN  
ONE YEAR

19

NEW GROUPS  
WERE FORMED  
AND JOINED  
54 EXISTING  
GROUPS FOR A  
SECOND YEAR

## In DRC, Uganda, Zimbabwe:

WOMEN'S MINING

INCOME  
INCREASED

BY 60%

OVER 3 YEARS\*

3

COUNTRIES SAW  
GENDER INCOME  
GAP DECREASE  
AT MINE SITES\*

55%+

WOMEN EARNED  
HALF OF MEN'S  
INCOME AT MINE  
SITES IN ZIMBABWE

104%+

AFTER 3 YEARS,  
THANKS TO  
SKILL-BUILDING,  
TRAINING, AND  
LEADERSHIP SUPPORT,  
WOMEN EARNED  
MORE THAN MEN AT  
THE SAME MINE SITES



\*At IMPACT project sites. +Represents how much women earn versus men.

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# IMPACT'S WORK

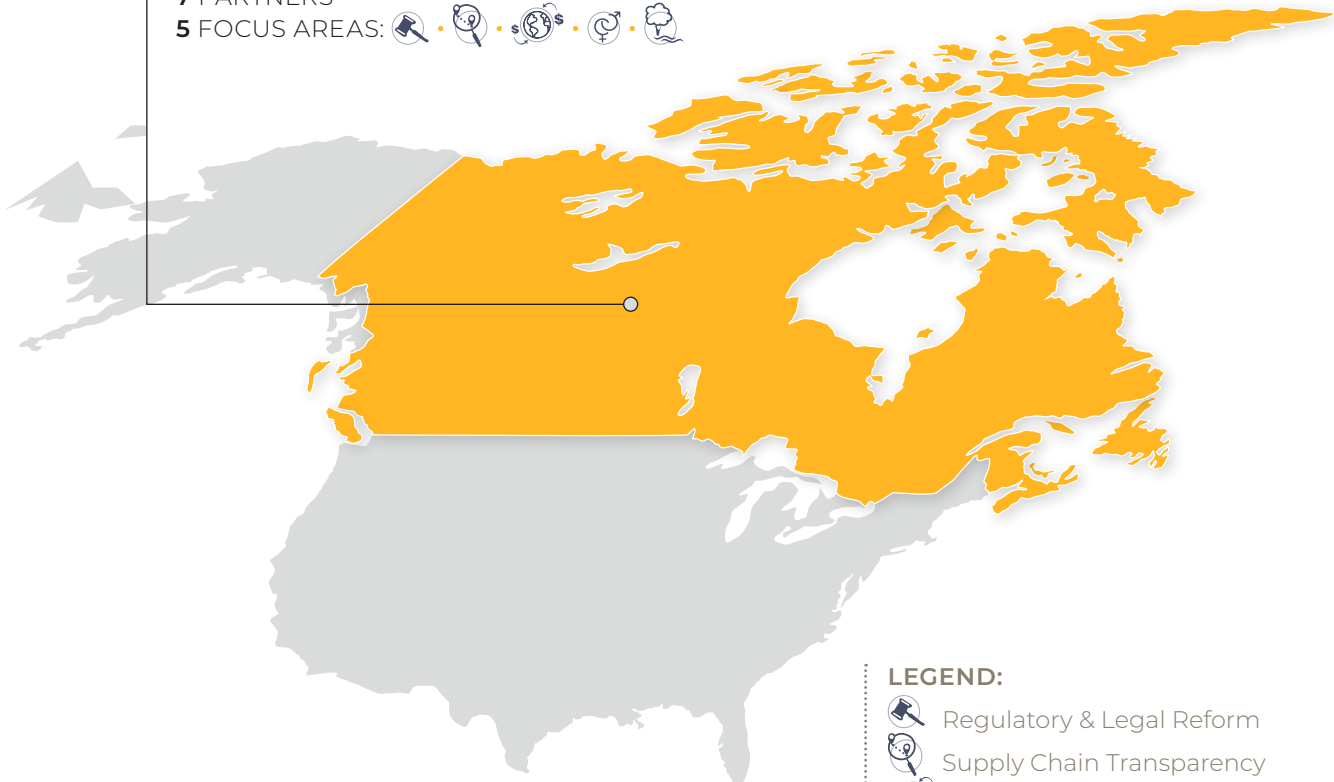
## in 2022-2023

### CANADA

**8 PROJECTS** \*based in Canada, not necessarily with a Canada-focus

**7 PARTNERS**

**5 FOCUS AREAS:**     



**LEGEND:**

-  Regulatory & Legal Reform
-  Supply Chain Transparency
-  Illicit Trade & Financing
-  Gender Equality
-  Environmental Stewardship

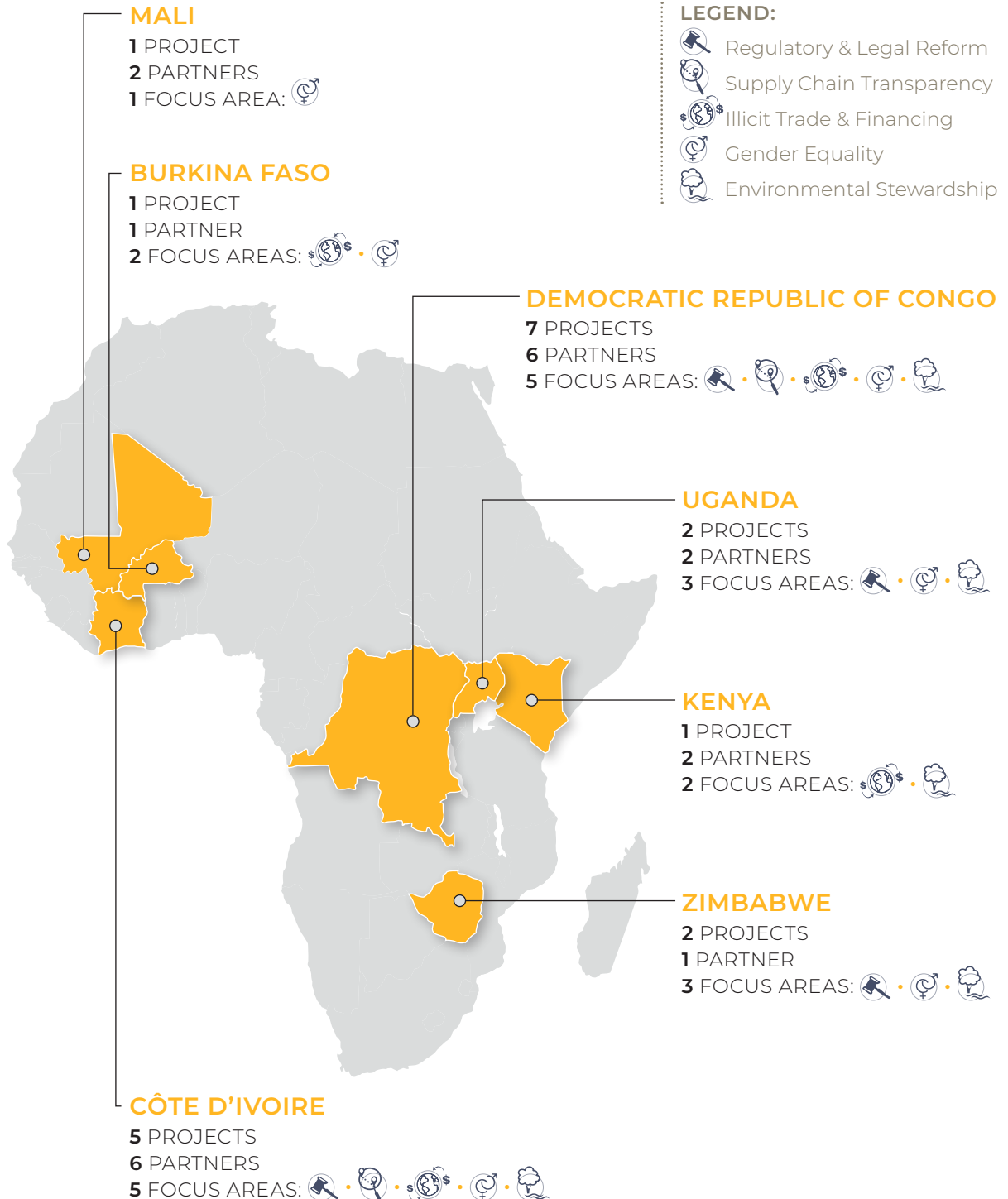
## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

- Alliance 8.7 Member
- Environmental Peacebuilding Association Founding Member
- European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) Member
- OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group Civil Society Co-Chair
- Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA) Governance Committee Member
- Publish What You Pay Canada (PWYP-Canada) Steering Committee Member and Host
- Responsible Minerals Initiative Steering Group Member
- UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Member
- Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Civil Society Pillar Member
- Women's Rights and Mining Member



# IMPACT'S WORK

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# Highlight from ZIMBABWE

## Zimbabwe's Women Take on "Mining as a Business"

**NAMATIRAI IS AN ARTISANAL GOLD AND CHROME MINER IN ZVISHAVANE, IN ZIMBABWE'S MIDLANDS PROVINCE.**

At the mine site, she leads a team of 10 miners—six men and four women.

Before participating in IMPACT's Digging for Equality project, Namatirai had limited knowledge about mining operations and wasn't concerned about her health or savings. She'd never worn Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as helmets or gloves, thinking it was useless. Any money Namatirai earned would be spent immediately, with none put away into savings. And along with other women, she relied on men when selling gold—not knowing that it was something she had a right to do on her own.



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The Digging for Equality project supported women artisanal miners like Namatirai, to increase gender equality. In Zimbabwe, IMPACT collaborated with the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) to support Mberengwa Miners Association (MBEMA) founded in 2015 with more than 500 members, and Zvishavane Women's Mining Association (ZWMA), an exclusively female mining association with 100 members.

Through the project, women miners and their associations increased their technical skills, as well mining organizations were able to increase their capacity to improve economic benefits for their members. Trainings on health and safety, mercury reduction, environmental management, financial literacy, and more have helped women artisanal miners increase their incomes from the sector.

With the training she's receiving, Namatirai is comfortable making agreements with investors. For the first-time, she has invested in her own machinery including excavators and front-end loaders.



Training tools on topics like health, safety, and gender equality support miners like Namatirai to improve their skills. Access IMPACT's library of multilingual resources featuring videos, posters, and brochures online.

**READ MORE:**  
<https://bit.ly/IMPACTTrainingResources>



Now Namatirai can calculate her profit and loss each day—creating a strategy for the future. With the skills she's learned, she's branched out to other minerals and is mining copper and manganese to diversify her income streams. She's also opened a vehicle spare parts shop to ensure a steady income outside of mining.

Namatirai says that thanks to the project, she's upgraded from being a novice, to “a real miner who knows how to do mining as a business.”

### DIGGING FOR EQUALITY

Funded by Global Affairs Canada

IMPACT's Digging for Equality project aims to improve security, gender equality, and women's empowerment in the artisanal mining sectors

across three countries—Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. The project supports women working in the ASM sector to

reduce the barriers that they face and support their efforts towards gender equality.

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# Highlight from BURKINA FASO

## Community Savings Builds Resilience in Burkina Faso's Gold Mining Communities

**ELÉLÉ AND JULIETTE ARE FROM AN ARTISANAL GOLD MINING COMMUNITY** in Burkina Faso's Centre-Ouest region. Throughout 2022, they've been meeting with their neighbours each week to put a small amount of money into savings.

They're part of IMPACT's AFECCOR project which supports local artisanal gold miners and community members to establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). Members meet regularly over one year to invest their money into their VSLA and loan their growing funds to group members. The interest paid on the loans goes back into the communal pot, so group members see their savings increase over time.

In Burkina Faso, AFECCOR is implemented as part of the Foundations for Peace project, in partnership with the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM).



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54 VSLA's across five mine sites in the Centre-Ouest and Centre-Nord region had their first year of savings in 2022. More than 1,300 members joined the groups—and over 80 percent of members were women. Focused on five artisanal mining communities across the two regions, the VSLAs mostly included artisanal miners, but also tradespeople, farmers, and others.

With her savings, Elélé—an artisanal gold miner who has eight children—was able to pay for her children's school fees and books.

In the first year, members saved more than \$131,000 USD across all 54 groups. Each member saved approximately \$8 USD per month. This is a significant amount when compared to the local income. Based on IMPACT's research across the two regions, men earn an average of \$98 USD per month and women—only \$28 USD.

Most members took loans from their groups—94 percent of women and 87 percent of men. Some members took out loans to invest into their businesses, such as Juliette.

Juliette purchased a donkey and cart with her loan. She makes and sells dolo, a traditional beer. With the donkey and cart, Juliette has been able to expand her business, becoming profitable.

In addition to the weekly savings, members contribute a small amount each week to a Solidarity Fund which covers unexpected expenses like medication or funerals. The fund operates like an insurance which is often non-existent in rural communities or high-risk contexts.

Elélé says the group has made her community stronger and more resilient. They've been able to support each other in times of need.

Introducing access to savings and credit builds economic security and resilience in artisanal mining communities. VSLAs serve as an important entry point to local conflict resolution by supporting community solidarity, while at the same time promoting women's empowerment and gender equality.

Access to financing, such as through VSLAs, helps break the link to predatory financing and illicit trade, and ultimately sets the scene for responsible artisanal gold supply chains.

Meet Elélé and Juliette, who live in an artisanal gold mining community in Burkina Faso. They share how through access to savings and loans, they've been able to invest in their futures for more economic stability and better solidarity within their communities.

**WATCH NOW:**  
<https://bit.ly/AFECORMeetElele>



## FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE IN THE ARTISANAL GOLD MINING SECTOR IN BURKINA FASO

### Funded by Global Affairs Canada

IMPACT's Foundations for Peace project supports a more responsible artisanal gold sector in Burkina Faso while increasing security in mining communities.

The project builds peace by promoting women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion in artisanal gold mining communities. At the same

time, it builds the capacity of local stakeholders to challenge illicit trade and incentivize the legal trade of artisanal gold.

**MARCH 2021- FEBRUARY 2023**

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# Highlight on MERCURY

## Paving the Way Towards Mercury-Free Gold Mining

**AT A MINE SITE IN CENTRAL UGANDA, A MINER HOLDS A LITTLE WHITE BOTTLE WITH A TWIST OFF CAP.** He squeezes a silver droplet into a basin filled with sand and water. His steady movements move the basin back and forth. Slowly, gold dust appears.

### THE SILVER DROPLET? MERCURY.

When the miner is finished, he swiftly slips the mercury into his hand and back into the bottle. He has heard that he needs to be safe when using mercury but knows that without it, his gold yield would be much smaller. And that means less money in his pocket.

Artisanal gold mining is the world's largest source of anthropogenic emissions of mercury pollution. Mercury contaminates the soil, water, air, and the equipment that is used. It is highly toxic to miners and others who come in direct contact with it—particularly when vaporized or among children and pregnant women. Mercury emitted to the air can also circulate around the world and contaminate water, fish, and wildlife far from the mine from which it was released.

In Uganda, an estimated 90 percent of the country's gold production is mined artisanally, with over 31,000 miners in the artisanal gold sector.



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While the quantities that miners are extracting and processing are very small, the use of mercury is very common. 73 percent of Uganda's artisanal gold is produced using mercury—resulting in more than 15 tonnes of mercury being released annually.

The planetGOLD program, supported by the Global Environment Facility and led by the UN Environment Programme, aims to reduce the use of mercury by supporting formalization of the artisanal gold mining sector and increase access to finance. This will lead to adoption of mercury-free technologies and allow access to more responsible and traceable gold supply chains. Within countries, local projects work together with local communities to reduce the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining while improving the health and lives of local mining communities.

The five-year planetGOLD Uganda project kicked-off in 2022 to support 4,500 men and women at 11 mine sites in the country, reducing mercury use by 15 tonnes over five years. The planetGOLD Uganda project is executed by IMPACT, in partnership with Uganda's National

Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the country's Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines (DGSM).

Across the continent in Côte d'Ivoire, the government is taking decisive action to tackle mercury in the artisanal gold sector. Over 17 tonnes of artisanal gold is produced annually—with miners using more than 557 kg of mercury each year. The planetGOLD Côte d'Ivoire project is executed by IMPACT and the *Centre Africaine pour la Santé et l'Environnement* (CASE).

The planetGOLD projects in Uganda and Côte d'Ivoire support the government agencies to fulfill their international commitments to reduce and eliminate mercury, as part of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Together, they'll work with miners to adopt sustainable mercury-free technologies, leading to traceable gold supply chains.

IMPACT's training resources for artisanal miners on mercury include safer handling techniques and how to use a retort. Watch the video and read the brochure.

READ MORE:  
<https://bit.ly/MercuryHandling>



## planetGOLD UGANDA AND planetGOLD CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**Supported by the Global Environment Facility,  
Led by the UN Environment Programme**

The planetGOLD projects in Uganda and Côte d'Ivoire are part of a global programme similarly implemented in 23 countries. By working to close the financing gap,

supporting formalization, raising awareness, and connecting mining communities with mercury-free technology and formal markets, the planetGOLD programme

aims to demonstrate a pathway to cleaner and more efficient small-scale gold mining practices that benefit everyone, from mine to market.

2022 - 2027

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# Highlight from **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

## “No One Has the Right to Judge”: Women’s Voices on Working in DRC’s Cobalt Sector

**COBALT FUELS OUR SMARTPHONES, LAPTOPS, ELECTRIC VEHICLES.** Over 70 percent of the world’s cobalt comes from DRC, and it’s estimated that almost a quarter of DRC’s cobalt is extracted by artisanal miners.

Not officially considered a “conflict mineral,” it faces many similar risks as gold and 3Ts (tin, tungsten, and tantalum), or even diamonds. International media have often spotlighted the poor working conditions in DRC’s artisanal cobalt mines including child labour or environmental and health impacts.

In 2022, IMPACT launched the Her Security project to investigate how enhancing women’s security in artisanal cobalt and copper mining communities in DRC can improve livelihoods and decrease child labour. In seven focus groups with women working in the sector, we listened to their views on their work and income, their safety, and perceptions of child labour.





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## WHAT WE HEARD WAS CLEAR.

Women are choosing to work in the artisanal cobalt mining sector because it provides higher incomes than any other role in the community. With the income they receive from mining, they can support their families, households, and educate their children.

One woman we spoke to had a law degree. She's working as a mineral trader after being unable to find any job in her field. She told us she's happy where she is, earning more than her former fellow students.

These findings mirror our previous research from the gold and 3T sector. Women economically and socially benefit from working in artisanal mining, with the income contributing to household needs and providing women with increased status in the community.

Yet with rising costs, many families are still struggling to make ends meet. As a result, many households begin to rely on income from their children.

While the women we spoke with condemned child labour at the mine sites, they admitted it occurs—attributing it to families needing to support each other to survive. Many told us that mothers don't choose to put their children in harms way on purpose.

One woman told us, "[That mother] is the only person who knows why she must work with her child. No one has the right to judge her."

Child labour has been identified as a major risk in DRC's cobalt supply chain. Unfortunately, it's not as simple as banning children from mine sites, as it doesn't address the root cause of why they are there in the first place, nor does it guarantee their safety and wellbeing. They'll either find a different mine to work at—or a different sector, one that may make them even more vulnerable.

Only by listening to DRC's artisanal cobalt miners—and especially its women—will we be able to respond to their needs and get to a place where consumers can truly be assured of a responsible cobalt supply chain.

Gloria is an artisanal cobalt miner in DRC. Cobalt mining has always been a part of her life. But never did she imagine her young children would be working alongside her. This was not the life she dreamed of for them.

**WATCH NOW:**  
[meetgloria.impacttransform.org](https://meetgloria.impacttransform.org)



## HER SECURITY

Funded by a member of the Responsible Business Alliance Foundation

IMPACT's Her Security project investigates how enhancing women's security in artisanal cobalt and copper mining

communities in DRC can improve livelihoods and decrease child labour. The project examines various aspects of

women's security to lay a foundation for future evidence-based programs and policy interventions.

APRIL 2022 - JULY 2023

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# Highlight from **UGANDA**

## Ugandan Women Build Brighter Futures with Increased Income from Artisanal Gold Mining

**NALUMANSI IS AN ARTISANAL GOLD MINER IN UGANDA'S MUBENDE DISTRICT IN CENTRAL REGION.**

Despite working for years in the sector, she never earned enough money to move beyond living day-by-day.

Together with her five children, they had a house made of mud and wattle with a grass roof—a common structure in her impoverished community.

In 2017, Nalumansi and her team were evicted from the mine site they worked in. On orders from Uganda's president, an estimated 60,000 artisanal miners were evicted from the mine sites for illegal gold mining and destruction of the environment.

Her house was demolished. Nalumansi and her family became homeless.



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The National Population and Housing Census conducted in 2014 by the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics found that housing is one of the most basic human needs affecting health, welfare, social attitudes, and economic productivity of Ugandans across the country. The report explained how the type of materials in home construction is a measure for economic well-being of households.

Artisanal mining is a poverty-driven sector and a crucial source of revenue for women and their families. Women are disadvantaged as they often lack the skills or technical knowledge to access high-paying roles at mine sites.

Through its Digging for Equality project, IMPACT supported artisanal gold miners in Uganda to reduce the barriers they face at the mine site. It directly worked with the Mubende Women Gold Miners Association (MUWOGOMA), founded in 2014 by 30 women artisanal miners and which has grown to more than 410 members, as well as the newly formed Bukuya Kassanda Women Miners Cooperative Society (BUWOMICO)—founded by 30 women miners in 2022.

Women miners received technical skills training to perform more remunerated and status enhancing tasks at the mine sites. IMPACT also built capacity of the mining organizations to improve economic benefits for their members.

Today, thanks to the Digging for Equality project, Nalumansi and other women artisanal gold miners have been able to improve their skills and capacity to increase their incomes from mining. With their profits, they're able to invest back into their households—and families.

With her profits, Nalumansi is building a new—permanent—family home from wood and metal. And Nalumansi isn't the only one. More than 10 other local women artisanal miners are using new profits to invest in their future by buying land and building homes.



**WITH HER PROFITS, NALUMANSI  
IS BUILDING A NEW—PERMANENT—  
FAMILY HOME FROM WOOD AND METAL.**

## DIGGING FOR EQUALITY

**Funded by Global Affairs Canada**

IMPACT's Digging for Equality project aims to improve security, gender equality, and women's empowerment in the artisanal mining sectors

across three countries—Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. The project supports women working in the ASM sector to

reduce the barriers that they face and support their efforts towards gender equality.

**DECEMBER 2019 – DECEMBER 2022**

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## A Successful Approach to Community Savings

There is an urgent need for financial services in artisanal gold mining communities.

# Inside the INNOVATION LAB

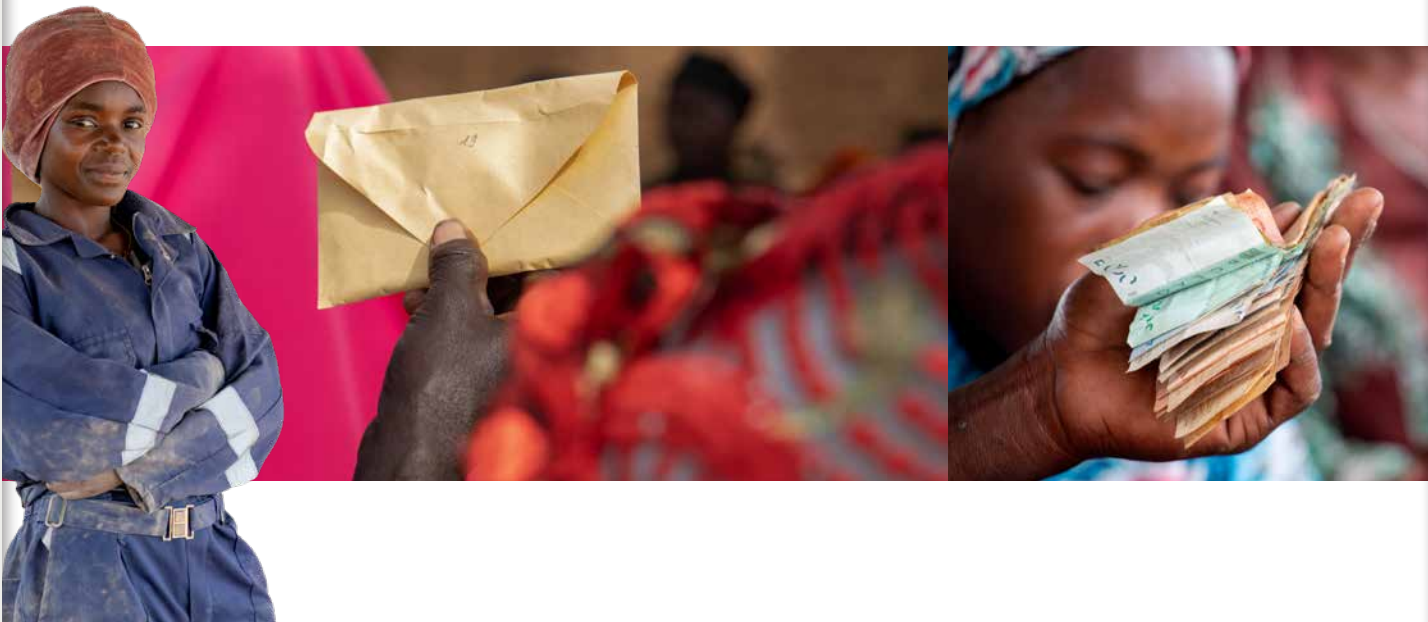
**FORMAL FINANCING** hasn't reached most remote communities and they often avoid lending to actors in the artisanal gold sector. Many don't have access to bank accounts or loans.

This is where community savings groups, like Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) come in.

VSLAs offer an alternate solution to informal financing, providing entry-level financial services to populations who

have little-to-no experience with savings and loans. By having access to savings and credit, miners can invest in alternative livelihoods, save for emergencies, and decrease their reliance on informal credit networks.

IMPACT first launched the AFECOR project in 2017 in DRC with the support of EPRM, expanding to Burkina Faso in 2021, and the following year to Mali.





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While VLSAs can be found in rural regions around the world, their implementation in artisanal mining communities hasn't been previously documented.

IMPACT's approach is based off best practices from international non-profit organizations implementing VSLAs, mostly within the agricultural space. In developing AFEECOR, IMPACT assessed several assumptions about artisanal mining communities that may prevent a successful VSLA model, including irregular income, high migrant population, and the precarious nature of mining. We've adapted the VSLA approach to the local communities based on our experience working in these contexts.

Importantly, IMPACT centers a gender-transformative approach integrating aspects of gender equality. AFEECOR is adapted to allow for staff to accompany one financial cycle—at which point groups are self-sufficient.

An overwhelming majority of VSLA groups have continued a second year of savings in both DRC and Burkina Faso—with more than 50 groups still operating in DRC seven years later.

IMPACT dives into its AFEECOR model including what makes it unique for artisanal mining, lessons learned, and recommendations for other organizations who want to implement community savings projects in the sector.

**READ MORE:**  
<https://bit.ly/ImplementingAFEECOR>



Financial inclusion can be a barrier to market access for many, even those who are trying to enter the legal market. By adapting to the local context, programs like AFEECOR can help those communities thrive.

Gold miners and traders are stuck in a cycle of illegality, without access to formal financial institutions, leaving them dependent on informal and predatory lenders. *Financing the Unbanked: How Community Savings Groups Can Create Pathways for Legal Artisanal Gold in Burkina Faso* explores the role of financing to support formalization and end the illicit gold trade.

**READ MORE:**  
<https://bit.ly/FinancingTheUnbanked>



## FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE IN THE ARTISANAL GOLD MINING SECTOR IN BURKINA FASO

Funded by Global Affairs Canada

IMPACT's Foundations for Peace project supports a more responsible artisanal gold sector in Burkina Faso while increasing security in mining communities. The project builds peace by promoting women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion in artisanal gold mining communities. At the same time, it builds the capacity of local stakeholders to challenge illicit trade and incentivize the legal trade of artisanal gold.

**MARCH 2021- FEBRUARY 2023**



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# SPOTLIGHTED PROJECTS in 2022-2023

**LEGEND:**


-  Description
-  Location
-  Donor

## ASM COBALT FRAMEWORK

 Facilitating restitution workshops with stakeholders in DRC on the updated criteria and supporting efforts towards its publication and piloting.


-  Democratic Republic of Congo
-  Responsible Minerals Initiative

## BLOOM BY IMPACT MINIMUM VIABLE PRODUCT (MVP)

 An out-of-the box monitoring and evaluation tool empowers users to understand how supply chains affect communities. Generate customized monitoring & evaluation frameworks.


-  Global
-  Technology partners



## CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE THROUGH PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

 Establishment of participatory and inclusive management mechanisms for natural resources in border areas where there is a heightened risk of conflict linked to the cohabitation of migrant and local populations.


-  Côte d'Ivoire
-  United Nations Environment Program



## DIGGING FOR EQUALITY

 Supporting women working in the ASM sector to reduce the barriers that they face and support their efforts towards gender equality.


-  Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Zimbabwe
-  Global Affairs Canada



## FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE IN THE ARTISANAL GOLD MINING SECTOR IN BURKINA FASO

 Builds peace by promoting financial inclusion in artisanal gold mining communities supports the capacity of local stakeholders to challenge illicit trade and incentivize the legal trade of artisanal gold.

-  Burkina Faso
-  Global Affairs Canada

## HER SECURITY

 Investigating how enhancing women's security in artisanal cobalt and copper mining communities in DRC can improve livelihoods and decrease child labour.

-  Democratic Republic of Congo
-  Responsible Business Alliance Foundation



SPOTLIGHTED PROJECTS IN 2022-2023 CONT'D.

MADINI PROJECT

Supporting the implementation of due diligence in sites that are designated as "blue" by the DRC Ministry of Mines in alignment with ICGLR Regional Certification Mechanism. In collaboration with International Alert.

- Democratic Republic of Congo
Dutch Ministry of Mines

MAPPING PAYMENTS

Bringing together stakeholders to agree on the legally required taxes, fees, and administrative steps in the cobalt supply chain, as well as creating proposals on how to increase transparency and legal trade.

- Democratic Republic of Congo
European Union

planetGOLD CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Decreasing the use of mercury in Côte d'Ivoire's mining sector, support formalisation, access to traceable gold supply chains and finance for the adoption of sustainable mercury-free technologies. Led by UNEP.

- Côte d'Ivoire
Global Environmental Facility

planetGOLD UGANDA

Reducing the use of mercury by supporting formalization of the artisanal gold mining sector and increasing access to finance. This will lead to adoption of mercury-free technologies and allow access to more responsible and traceable gold supply chains. Led by UNEP.

- Uganda
Global Environmental Facility

planetGOLD ZIMBABWE PREPARATORY PHASE

Collaboration with the Zimbabwean Ministry of Environment to support the project preparation phase for implementing the planetGOLD Zimbabwe project. Led by UNEP.

- Zimbabwe
Global Environmental Facility

SCALING UP

Working directly with traders as a pathway for scaling responsible practices in the ASM gold sector and testing an open-pipe ASM gold supply chain model.

- Côte d'Ivoire
European Partnership for Responsible Minerals

UNDERSTANDING AND DISRUPTING KEY CONVERGENCE NODES OF THE ILLICIT GOLD AND MERCURY SUPPLY CHAINS IN LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA

Examination and comparison of key convergence nodes in the global supply chains for illicit gold and mercury in Latin America and Africa, with a focus on Peru and Kenya. In collaboration with Colorado School of Mines and I.R. Consilium.

- Kenya, Global
National Science Foundation

WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF ARTISANAL MINING COMMUNITIES (FEMA)

Tackles the root causes of poor livelihoods for women, child labour and the general informality of the sector with the objective to achieve sustainable improvements. In collaboration with Cowater and Right to Play.

- Mali
Global Affairs Canada

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Year ending March 31, 2023 with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Global Affairs Canada	1,174,630	1,292,946
UN Environment Programme	836,416	214,984
Responsible Business Alliance Foundation	225,604	-
Cowater	282,200	-
International Alert	208,853	-
European Union	103,052	595,073
Responsible Business Alliance Foundation (Google)	97,808	-
Microsoft	41,545	57,365
Other	36,860	44,437
EPRM Netherlands Enterprise Agency	32,534	-
Resolve	22,926	11,798
Colorado School of Mines	22,215	55,216
Interest	16,576	-
Solidaridad (USA)	15,712	-
Stratos	6,342	29,777
German Agency for International Co-operation (GIZ)	1,768	172,179
Google	-	7,443
Responsible Business Alliance - Global Battery Alliance	-	93,824
Apple	-	54,228
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy – Government of Canada	-	195,455
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	-	18,871
Contributions to PWYP	123,284	196,566
Share of loss from investment in Knowledge for Impact Inc.	(13,025)	(8,015)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,234,300</b>	<b>\$3,032,147</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Direct Project Costs	1,573,392	1,495,212
Salaries and Benefits - Canada	986,510	949,865
Salaries and Benefits - International	392,884	401,991
Project Development	30,497	940
Communication (Public Awareness)	25,118	14,085
Administration and Project Support	152,028	287,576
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,160,429</b>	<b>\$3,149,669</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>73,871</b>	<b>(117,522)</b>

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**We are deeply grateful to the following for support in 2022-2023:**

Apple

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs/International Alert

European Partnership for Responsible Minerals

European Union

GIZ (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*)

Global Affairs Canada

Global Affairs Canada/Cowater

Global Environment Facility/UN Environment Programme

Google

Intel/Solidaridad

Microsoft

Natalie Marie Jewellery

National Science Foundation/Colorado School of Mines

Resolve

Responsible Business Alliance Foundation

UN Environment Programme

Voluntary Principles Initiative/Stratos

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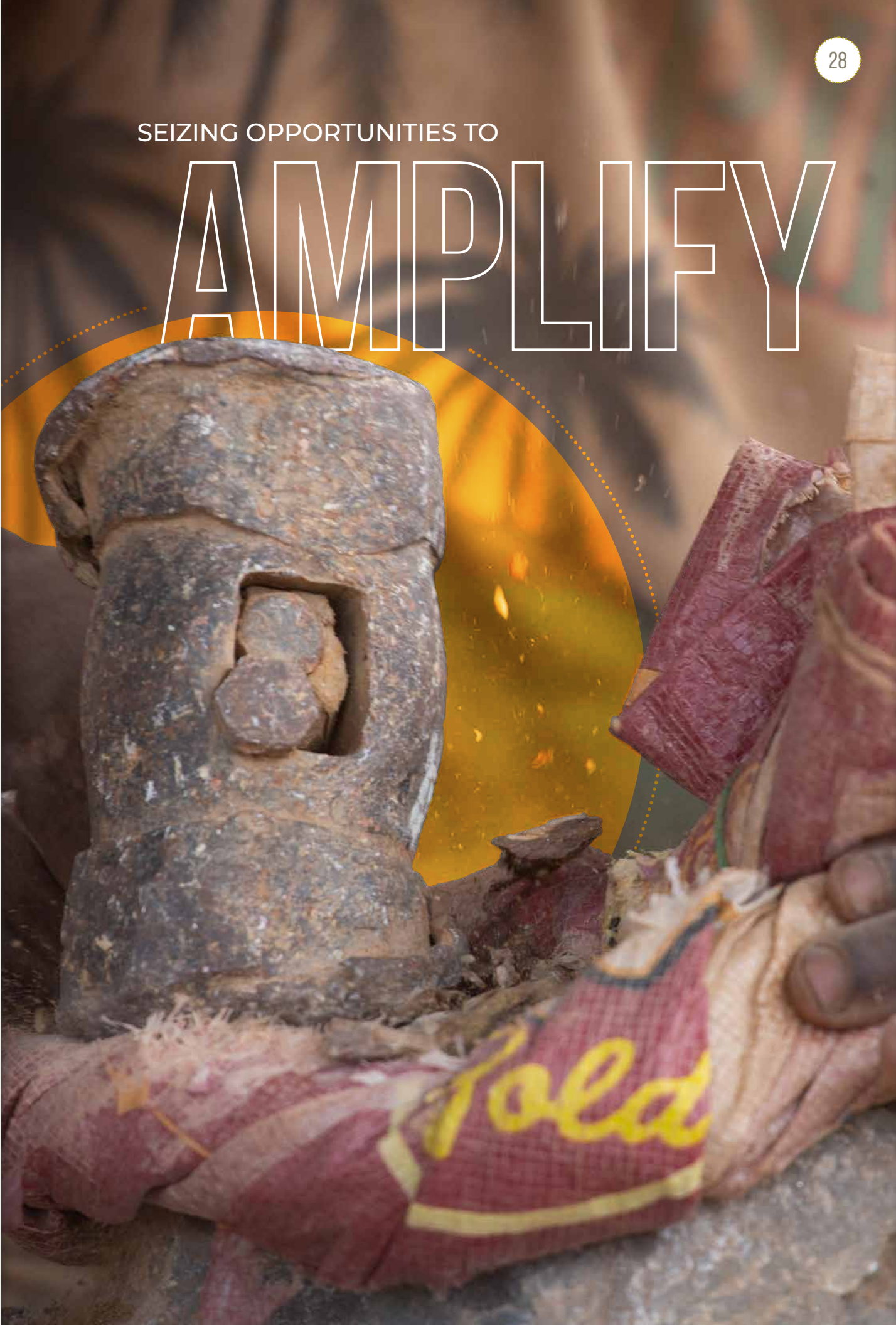
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# Looking AHEAD



## Corruption

**IN THE PAST YEARS,** we've been exploring how taxes can become a key barrier to legal and formal trade in DRC. The country's fiscal regime for the artisanal mining sector is burdensome, complex, and ambiguous. High taxes and complex administrative burdens disincentivize legal trade and in the case of artisanal gold, lead to smuggling.

But in the cobalt sector, as ore is processed within DRC, the fiscal regime isn't contributing to transnational smuggling. Instead, informal taxes and fees are being imposed onto artisanal cobalt actors such as miners, cooperatives, and warehouse managers, contributing to corruption and concentrating wealth amongst a few.

As international attention turns to addressing and preventing corruption in international supply chains—especially those powering the green energy transition, it will become important to understand how this everyday corruption appears in DRC's artisanal cobalt mining sector. Importantly, how transparency and other anti-corruption tools can be used to change behaviour and create long-term change.

## Shifting Power

**PARTNERSHIP** has been a key pillar for IMPACT since our roots as Partnership Africa Canada. Our mission centers around accompanying local actors—providing them with capacity, investment, and spotlight. Through our bottom-up approach, we strive to work with local partners in tandem, taking their lead, while communities have a voice and safe space within our activities.

Over the years, as conversations around localization progress, we've understood that our work must go beyond partnership—towards shifting power to underrepresented and marginalized groups who historically have held less power.

As part of this process, we're reflecting on the power within our own organization and work. We're developing concrete strategies to center the experiences and knowledge of our local team members, partners, and communities we serve. Importantly, we acknowledge the capacity and expertise our colleagues and partners bring—and look forward to continuing to **CHAMPION LOCAL SOLUTIONS.**



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# What You CAN DO

## Recycled Gold—How Responsible Is It? (MYTH or FACT)

Using recycled gold in jewellery has become a way for many companies to emphasize how they are reducing their environmental footprint and ensuring responsible sourcing. While well-intentioned, using recycled gold may not be as beneficial as consumers think.

### ✘ MYTH: RECYCLED GOLD IS ALWAYS GREENER

This assumes that recycled gold decreases the negative environmental impacts of mining by reducing the demand for newly mined gold. But demand for mined gold is unlikely to change.

Gold's role in finance and economic security ensures it remains an attractive mining commodity. Meanwhile, as the artisanal mining sector is informal and poverty-driven, artisanal gold will continue to find its way onto the market.

### ✘ MYTH: RECYCLED GOLD IS ALWAYS CONFLICT-FREE

Many companies don't know what their recycled gold is made out of or where it's from. It often includes scraps, overstock,

previous jewellery or electronics, and even dental fillings. Traceability and due diligence is almost non-existent.

Reports found refiners in trading centres mixing artisanal gold from high-risk areas with recycled sources. This gold is then sent on into the legal international market, marked as recycled.

### ✔ FACT: CHOOSING RECYCLING IGNORES ARTISANAL MINERS

Artisanal miners are being held to a much higher standard than recycled sources. These standards are keeping most miners out of reach of formal markets. A simple reliance on recycled gold—with no questions asked—is far from responsible. It only continues to enable an opaque and high-risk segment of the gold trade under the guise of a "green" option.

Ask for evidence of where your gold comes from—including any recycled sources. Push for traceability and due diligence on any recycled materials. Source directly from artisanal miners and invest in projects to help them reach the international market.





IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH LOCAL  
ACTORS  
TO BREAK

# BARRIERS



# IMPACT

Transforming natural resource management  
Empowering communities



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