

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 | 2025



Enabling **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**





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DEAR FRIENDS,

2024-2025 challenged many of us, but it also revealed the quiet strength, resolve, and resilience of the communities we work with. In the face of pressure, they have led with courage, creativity, and deep knowledge. They continue to show us that real progress starts with listening, standing alongside one another, and staying grounded in the lived realities of those most affected.

In many resource-rich regions around the world, communities face growing instability and exclusion. Conflict and political fragility limit access to basic services, undermine rights, and prevent meaningful participation in decisions over natural resources. As a result, many remain vulnerable to exploitation, violence, and cut off from the benefits of the natural resources they help extract.

At the same time, global demand for critical minerals is rising, driven by their use in technology needed for the clean energy transition. Global actors are positioning themselves to control markets and supply chains, often with little regard for the equitable sharing of value with local communities. This coincides with a decline in funding for peacebuilding, the rule of law, good governance, and sustainability. Long-standing commitments to responsible sourcing, as well as environmental and social protections are being weakened, threatening hard-won progress.

Communities at the forefront of mineral extraction are being overlooked, despite their role in powering global supply chains. In Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for instance, the minerals produced are essential to the world's clean energy transition, yet fewer than one percent of rural households have access to electricity.

This kind of structural inequality reinforces mistrust, deepens marginalization, and makes it harder to build systems that are fair, inclusive, and accountable.

Despite ongoing challenges, this past year has shown us that resilience is not built in conference rooms or capitals. It is built in forests being restored in DRC, in the hands of women stepping into leadership roles in Uganda's gold mines, in the voices of artisanal traders in Côte d'Ivoire demanding inclusion in formal markets, and communities across Zimbabwe embracing safer, mercury-free mining.

2024-2025 has reinforced that real progress depends on local communities. It is not only about withstanding crises but also creating opportunities for communities to lead, innovate, and shape their futures. This year's Annual Report spotlights those communities. We hope you will be inspired by their lived experiences and motivated by the progress achieved.

A deep thanks to Nicole Piggott, who dedicated seven years as IMPACT's Board President. Her guidance, wisdom, and humor will be missed, and her leadership leaves IMPACT strengthened. We extend our gratitude to all our partners, staff, funders, and the communities we work with. Your strength and determination continue to inspire and guide our mission every day. Together, we enable change.



Joanne Lebert
Executive Director



Shivani Kannabhiran
Board President

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Putting Communities FIRST

As we have worked to strengthen resilience, shift paradigms, and break barriers, it has never been clearer that to improve natural resource management, the communities at the heart of our work must be our guiding star.

Communities are our **GUIDING STAR**

LOCAL COMMUNITIES KNOW THEIR CONTEXTS BEST.

Our goal is to enable them to challenge, change, and ultimately, lead how their natural resources are being managed and used. IMPACT provides communities with support to access capital, appropriate technologies and tools, and the skills they need to lead effectively.

We are guided by the core belief and principle that lasting and transformative change in the natural resource sector will come by providing capacity, investment, and spotlight to local actors. Our work focuses on supporting those who suffer the effects and injustice of weak systems, to mobilize and challenge how their resources are being managed.



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Addressing Root Causes, Not Symptoms

IN THE ARTISANAL MINING SECTOR, the economic development of surrounding communities is closely tied to mine sites. Interventions that focus too narrowly on technical solutions or supply chain requirements risk failure if they ignore the underlying inequalities, conflict, and power imbalances that shape these challenges.

BY FOCUSING ON community-wide and community-built approaches, ones that promote inclusion, challenge gender

discrimination, and are fit-for-purpose to the local context, IMPACT aims to promote progressive behaviour change and empower artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) communities to address the challenges they face through sustainable solutions. At the same time, we support communities to capitalize on the opportunities that mineral production can create, **PRIORITIZING THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.**

Building Responsible Supply Chains from the Ground Up

IMPACT'S INTEGRATED STRATEGIES are designed to create the conditions for responsible artisanal supply chains. By addressing the socio-economic needs and long-term resilience of artisanal mining communities, these efforts lay the foundation for supply chains that are inclusive, transparent, and aligned with international responsible sourcing standards.

Strengthening community cohesion, promoting gender equality, and prioritizing environmental stewardship are not merely development goals. They are essential building blocks for equitable resource management and

fair distribution of benefits. They are also essential to supply chain resilience in the face of ongoing geopolitical tensions, economic instability, and changes in energy systems.

IMPACT collaborates with miners, cooperatives, traders, and local partners to formalize activities, track production transparently, and implement environmental and social safeguards.

THESE STRATEGIES REFLECT COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND DELIVER MEANINGFUL LOCAL BENEFITS, while meeting global responsible sourcing expectations.

This integrated approach links local resilience directly to responsible mineral governance. By addressing underlying challenges and investing in community capacity, IMPACT contributes to supply chains that are fair, sustainable, and responsive to the communities at their core.



Using consciousness-raising strategies, IMPACT supports communities to critically reflect on the root causes of social and economic injustice, and to define collective action for lasting, transformative change. Together, we're enabling change in supply chains by putting communities first.

READ NOW:
<https://bit.ly/PuttingCommunitiesFirst>



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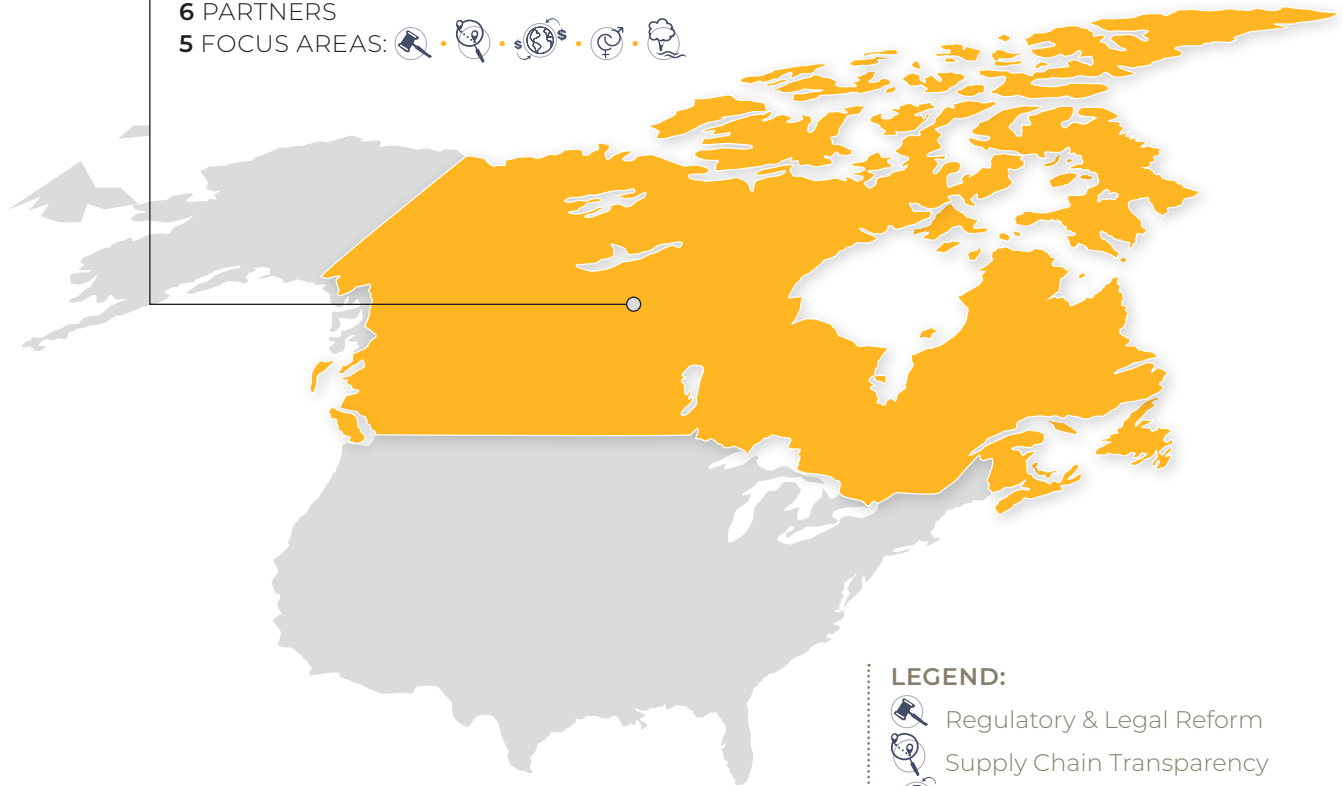
in 2024-2025

CANADA *based in Canada, not necessarily with a Canada-focus

4 PROJECTS

6 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 and Founding Member
- Publish What You Pay Coalition Member
- Responsible Minerals Initiative Steering Group Member
- UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Member
- Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Member
- Women's Rights and Mining Member

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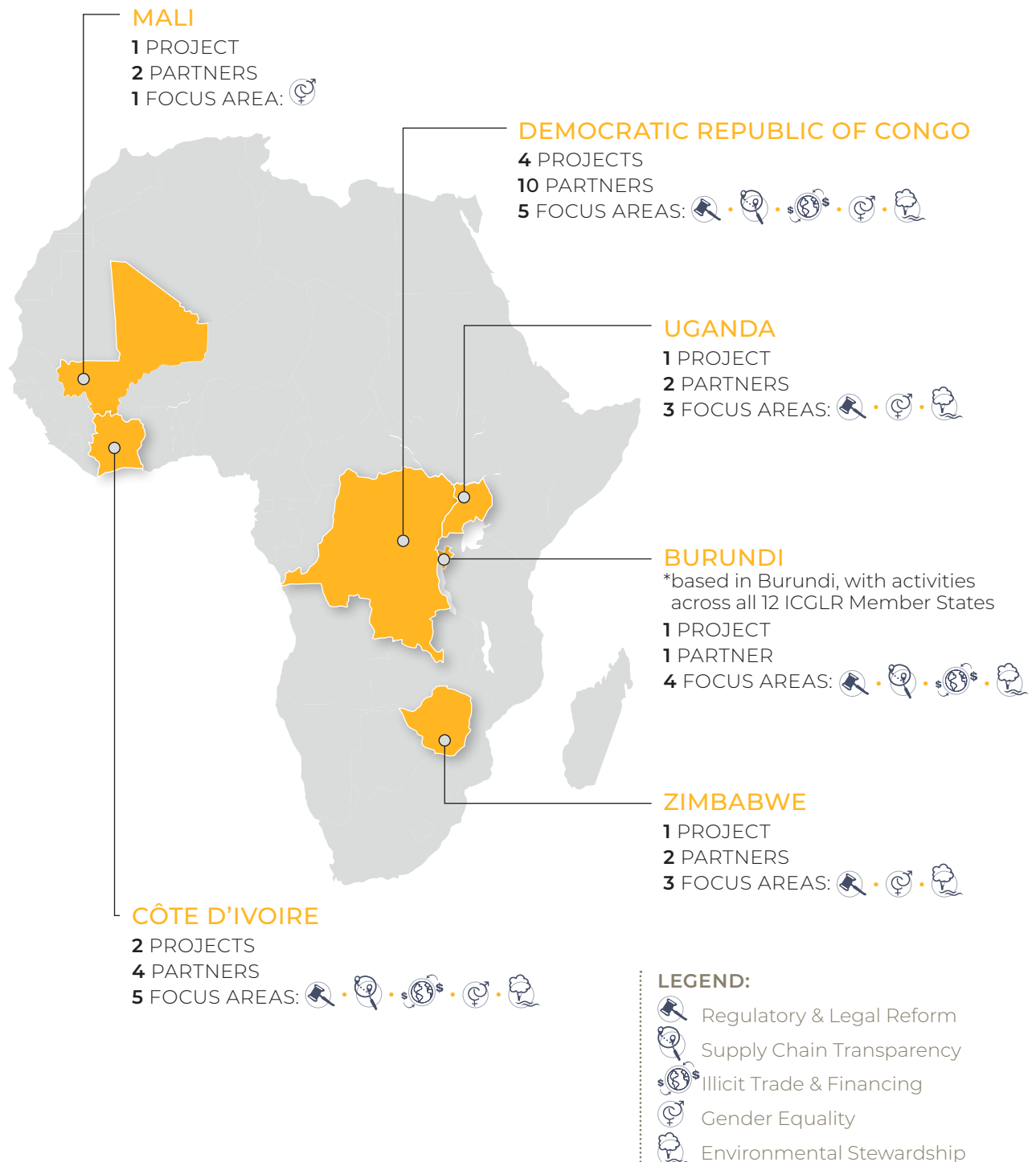
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Highlight on **UGANDA**

Advancing Safer and Formalized Artisanal Mining

IN THE HEART OF BUSIA DISTRICT'S GOLD MINING COMMUNITY OF TIIRA, A QUIET TRANSFORMATION IS TAKING PLACE.

For generations, mining in Uganda has been shaped by deep-rooted gender inequalities, where women were often seen as outsiders in a sector dominated by men. But today, women like Josephine Aguttu are leading the way toward a more inclusive and responsible future for artisanal gold mining.

Josephine's story begins much like many others in her community. Born and raised in Tiira, she stepped onto a mine site for the first time at the age of 12, joining her mother to help support their family. Growing up, Josephine watched her mother work tirelessly to provide for the family while men in the community largely avoided their responsibilities.

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FOR JOSEPHINE, it seemed normal as women were the backbone of the family, quietly carrying the burden of both home and livelihood.

As she grew older, Josephine began to see the deeper injustices beneath this “normal.” Women in mining faced barriers to land ownership, leadership, and financial decision-making. Even when women contributed to household incomes, they had little say over how money was spent. These unspoken rules left women marginalized not just at home, but at the mine sites where they worked side by side with men.

THAT NARRATIVE IS STARTING TO SHIFT. Through trainings led by the planetGOLD Uganda project, Josephine and her community have been exposed to new ways of thinking about gender, leadership, and responsible mining. The sessions encourage both women and men to challenge old assumptions and promote shared leadership within mining operations. The project has also introduced the importance of formalization and responsible practices like mercury-free mining.

Inspired by this knowledge, Josephine and others in Tiira decided to act. They formed a cooperative, creating space for women to step into

leadership roles previously considered off-limits. Josephine herself became vice chairperson of her mining site, something she once believed was impossible for a woman.

The change is now rippling through the community. Women are being invited to general meetings, joining decision-making spaces, and holding leadership positions in local associations. In groups like the Tiira Landlords and Artisanal Miners Association, **WOMEN NOW HOLD THE MAJORITY OF BOARD SEATS**, setting a new standard for inclusion.

For Josephine, empowering women is about more than leadership. It is about transforming the entire community. She dreams of a future where girls receive the same opportunities as boys, where women play equal roles in family, business, and governance, and where mining is not only safer but more sustainable **FOR EVERYONE.**

In gold-mining communities across Uganda, miners are making mercury history, gaining legal recognition, and building livelihoods that strengthen their communities.

READ NOW:

<https://bit.ly/planetGoldUgandaStorybook>



planetGOLD Uganda

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

The planetGOLD project in Uganda is part of a global programme similarly implemented in 25 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



Highlight on **VALUE ADDITION**

Turning Minerals into Opportunities

THE GREAT LAKES REGION IS RICH IN MINERALS THAT POWER GLOBAL INDUSTRIES, HOWEVER FOR MANY OF THE COMMUNITIES WHO EXTRACT THEM, THE BENEFITS REMAIN OUT OF REACH. For too long, resource wealth has coexisted with insecurity, informal economies, and missed opportunities.

Across the region, momentum has grown around value addition which aims to increase the economic value of minerals through processing, refining, smelting, or manufacturing. This interest is also shaped by concerns around access to formal markets. Meeting responsible sourcing requirements often comes at a high cost, with the burden falling largely on upstream actors. Value addition is seen as a way to retain more benefit locally and reduce reliance on low-value, high-cost export models.

Value addition in the mineral sector is also increasingly viewed as a pathway to sustainable development. Instead of exporting raw minerals, which yield limited revenue, countries are exploring methods to refine and manufacture mineral-based products domestically. This shift not only boosts the economic value of exports but also stimulates local industries, fosters job creation, improves women's access to financing, and strengthens the technical capacity within the mining sector.

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For the Great Lakes region, value addition offers a pathway to leverage natural resources for broader socio-economic development. Some countries are already taking steps toward value addition, establishing smelters, refineries, and other mineral processing facilities. By situating these entities close to mineral-producing areas, countries are capitalizing on job creation opportunities while increasing tax revenue from the mining sector.

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), through its Regional Initiative Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR), plays a critical role in shaping policies for mineral governance. While the RINR has not specifically outlined value addition, its overarching goal of responsible mineral governance aligns closely with the goals of beneficiation and local mineral processing.

Importantly, while value addition offers promising economic benefits, **IMPLEMENTING IT ON A LARGE SCALE PRESENTS SUBSTANTIAL CHALLENGES.** Competing on the global market requires consistent product quality, efficient logistics, and regulatory compliance, all of which necessitate significant investment. However, the margins and underlying economics may not always support such efforts.

In this context, a regional approach to value addition becomes invaluable. **BY POOLING RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE, MEMBER STATES CAN DEVELOP INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES THAT ARE COMPETITIVE ON A GLOBAL SCALE.**

In 2024, the ICGLR convened the Regional Forum on Mineral Value Addition in South Sudan, which brought together stakeholders to explore how minerals can deliver more value to Member States by strengthening local processing, formalizing trade, and promoting inclusive governance. The meeting introduced new Regional Guidelines on Mineral Beneficiation, Value Addition, and Cross-Border Trade which offer a framework for regulating mineral extraction, processing, and trade. These guidelines will not only support Member States of the region to not only improve value addition initiatives but also promote cross-border collaboration. **MEMBER STATES ARE INCREASINGLY SEIZING THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES** that the ASM sector offers, investing in more responsible mining practices, and developing inclusive practices to ensure communities see benefits.

Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region Funded by European Union

The project aims to improve mineral governance in the region while advancing security, stability, and development. The project builds the capacity of the ICGLR and its Member States to address artisanal mineral flows and harness their potential as drivers for economic and social development, as well as stability and security.

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Highlight on **CRITICAL MINERALS**

Resilience in the Age of the Critical Minerals Rush

MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, GLOBAL ATTENTION FOCUSED ON CONFLICT MINERALS AND THEIR CONNECTION TO VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. Today, the international community is focused on critical minerals central to the green energy transition. Communities producing these minerals face many similar challenges.

Over the years, the landscape has grown more complex. A wider range of minerals is in demand, more global actors are involved, and producer countries are under pressure to meet rising needs without always having the legal frameworks, infrastructure, or institutional capacity to manage extraction responsibly. Without deliberate and inclusive approaches, the long-standing patterns of exclusion that marked the past risks repeating themselves. Communities are calling for a greater say in how resources are managed and for a fairer share of the benefits, but progress remains uneven.

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In DRC, IMPACT has been supporting partners to tackle these challenges. Through the Fair Taxation in ASM Cobalt Supply Chains project, one of the winners of the JET Minerals Challenge run by USAID, informal payments in the ASM cobalt sector were being made more visible through the dissemination of payment maps describing legal fees and taxes. This new tool helps supply chain actors and ASM communities track informal and illegal payments—and pushing back on corruption. At the same time, local civil society groups were supported to monitor corruption in communities. While the project ended early, these maps remain in use and our work to support partners pushing for accountability continues.

In Kolwezi, many women work in artisanal cobalt mines to keep their families fed. The work is physically demanding, often unsafe, and rarely pays enough to meet basic needs. As a result, women often rely on income from child labour to cover basic needs.

This past year, we started a new project to address this reality. The Her Security project aims to address the root causes of child labour in DRC's artisanal cobalt and copper mining sector by improving the well-being of women and youth. The project

builds on a first phase in 2022-2023, which examined the link between women's security and child labour.

The new, four-year project will implement strategies to increase and diversify women's incomes through technical skills training, financial literacy, and savings and loans associations. The leadership capacity of women and youth will be strengthened allowing them to take part in decisions affecting their communities, including supply chain due diligence and risk mitigation measures. The project will also support supply chain actors and local authorities to monitor and mitigate child labour at mine sites.

Change happens when local communities—especially women—have the security and opportunity to shape their own futures. A just energy transition depends on resource-rich communities being included and protected.

Private sector actors must immediately cease sourcing minerals from any areas under the influence of armed groups including mine sites, transportation routes, and trading areas. While this may not alone resolve the conflict, it is a basic measure of due diligence.



READ NOW:

<https://bit.ly/IMPACTCongoStatement2025>

Her Security

Funded by the European Union

The project aims to decrease child labour in DRC's artisanal cobalt and copper mining sector by addressing its root causes, specifically

women's insecurity. The project seeks to improve the overall well-being of women and youth in artisanal mining communities, while also

strengthening capacity of the private sector and local authorities to implement due diligence.

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Highlight on ZIMBABWE

Making Mercury History

ZIMBABWE'S ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING SECTOR

supports over 300,000 miners and generates more than 40 percent of the country's mineral exports. Yet, 96 percent of mine sites still use mercury for gold extraction, often without protective equipment. Each year, this practice releases more than 24 tonnes of mercury into the environment, creating health risks for mining communities and damaging local ecosystems.

In 2024, IMPACT launched the five-year planetGOLD Zimbabwe project to strengthen community resilience by making artisanal gold mining safer and more responsible.

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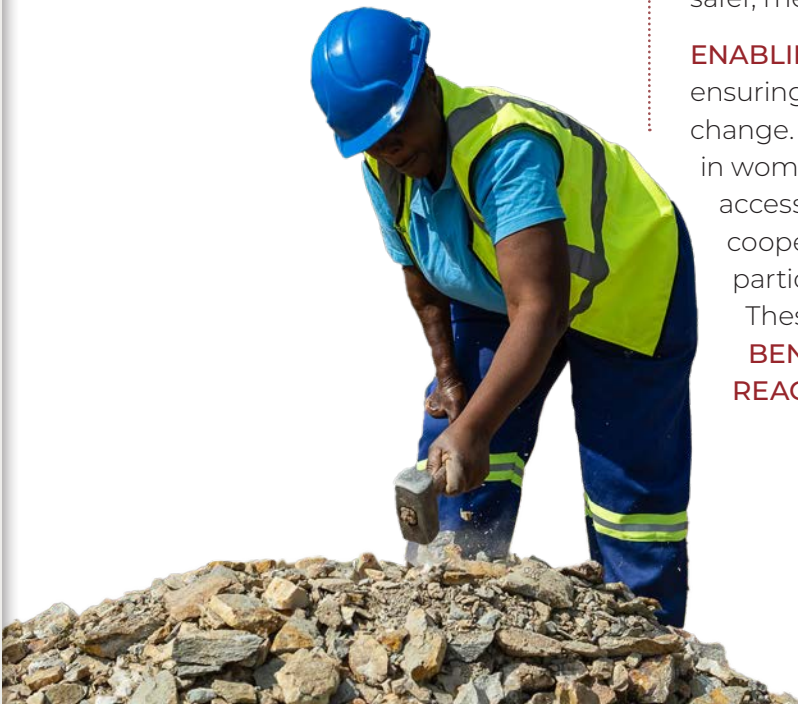
The project is part of a global programme in **25 COUNTRIES** focused on reducing mercury use in artisanal gold mining, the world's largest source of mercury emissions.

The planetGOLD Zimbabwe project aims to reach 7,500 miners across 11 districts and reduce mercury use by nearly five tonnes. The project supports sector formalization, improves access to finance, and promotes mercury-free technologies. These efforts also help build more transparent and traceable gold supply chains.

The project launch in Harare brought together government, civil society, technical experts, and mining community representatives to advance Zimbabwe's National Action Plan under the Minamata Convention, ratified in 2021.

In 2024-2025, the project focused on building awareness and partnerships at the community level. Outreach activities highlighted the health risks of mercury and the need to protect the environment. Technical training provided miners with practical skills for safer, mercury-free gold extraction.

ENABLING RESILIENCE means ensuring everyone has a stake in change. planetGOLD Zimbabwe invests in women and youth by expanding access to training, supporting cooperatives, and encouraging active participation in decision-making. These efforts help ensure that the **BENEFITS OF FORMALIZATION REACH ENTIRE COMMUNITIES.**



planetGOLD Zimbabwe

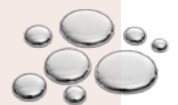
**Supported by the Global Environment Facility,
Led by the UN Environment Programme**

The planetGOLD project in Zimbabwe is part of a global programme similarly implemented in 25 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.

2024-2028



Highlight on DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Community-Led Action Amid Climate Change

IN DRC, MINING COMMUNITIES FACE DAILY PRESSURES FROM CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, AND THE IMPACTS OF MINING ACTIVITY. High temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and shrinking ecosystems are common challenges, especially for women and Indigenous Peoples.

In the provinces of Ituri, Tshopo, Lualaba, and Haut-Katanga, communities are rotating crops and turning to non-timber forest products such as honey and mushrooms, as resources become scarce. These strategies reflect the determination and adaptability of local populations.

In 2024-2025, IMPACT and its partners completed a comprehensive assessment through the Powering Resilience project to understand how these overlapping challenges affect communities. The research confirmed severe threats to biodiversity, persistent river pollution from mining, and the growing impact of unpredictable weather. Throughout all project areas, artisanal mining communities are struggling to adapt to these new realities.

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THE ASSESSMENT OUTLINED CLEAR RECOMMENDATIONS. Restoration of forests, improved water management, and support for alternative livelihoods are essential to strengthening community resilience. These steps need to be paired with stronger local governance, better awareness of environmental protections, and action to reduce mining-related pollution.

A gender and inclusion analysis highlighted ongoing barriers for women and Indigenous Peoples. Across the provinces, Indigenous communities reported unequal access to land, limited representation in decision-making, and restricted economic opportunities. **MANY WOMEN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES** face a higher risk of violence. Pygmy women, in particular, experience exclusion based on both gender and their Indigenous identity.

The research calls for practical steps to strengthen women's leadership, build the capacity of Indigenous Peoples, and increase participation in natural resource management. Shifting social norms and expanding economic opportunities are key to building more inclusive and resilient communities.

Conflict analysis further identified land disputes, competition over resources, and weak governance as persistent sources of tension. The findings recommend supporting community peace structures, promoting transparent management of land and resources, and involving women, Indigenous Peoples, and youth in local governance.

These findings now guide the Powering Resilience project. Together with local partners, IMPACT is supporting communities in restoring forests, developing new livelihoods, and centering local voices in ecosystem management. By prioritizing women's leadership and Indigenous knowledge, the project helps communities prepare for future challenges and build a stronger **FOUNDATION FOR RESILIENCE.**

Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and drought are disrupting daily life. The loss of biodiversity is hitting women and Indigenous Peoples the hardest. The Powering Resilience project examined how to restore ecosystems and support inclusive leadership.

READ NOW:
<https://bit.ly/ClimateChangeAndBiodiversityLoss>



Powering Resilience Funded by Sweden

The Powering Resilience project aims to increase the resilience of DRC's communities vulnerable to the impacts of mining, particularly critical minerals that are vital for

the green transition. The project will enhance the local populations' capacity to restore and safeguard their ecosystems, such as tropical forests and woodlands. It will center women's leadership

and promote Indigenous knowledge as part of efforts to support communities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

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Digital Innovations for Responsible Trading

In northeastern Côte d'Ivoire, the Bobosso Kogbera artisanal gold mine is alive with activity.

Inside the INNOVATION LAB

MORE THAN 50 MINERS work side by side under the cooperative known as COOPEDA, at a mine site that has become a model for how responsible sourcing and digital innovation can reshape the artisanal gold sector.

COOPEDA first captured national attention in 2020 by producing Côte d'Ivoire's first traceable, responsible artisanal gold for the

international market. Through its work with IMPACT's Just Gold project, **THE COOPERATIVE STRENGTHENED TRANSPARENCY TO MEET LEGAL AND REGULATORY STANDARDS**, allowing it to partner with Ivorian exporter SICOM to bring responsibly sourced gold to global markets.



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In Côte d'Ivoire's artisanal gold sector, traders are essential. They connect mine sites to markets and sustain local economies, yet they have often been excluded from responsible sourcing efforts. Recognizing this challenge, the Scaling Up project is advancing digital solutions that enable traders to meet due diligence standards while also learning what incentivizes them to implement due diligence.

In 2024, digital tools were piloted at the Bobosso Kogbera mine site. Using a smartphone or tablet, the Extension Solution app developed by Solidaridad allows mine managers to track their progress against international standards such as the CRAFT Code, generate workplans, and upload evidence such as policies, authorizations, and visual documentation. The app also enables real-time sharing of updates with traders like SICOM, helping them carry out due diligence while supporting mine sites in addressing compliance gaps.

To further strengthen transparency, the project is deploying Bloom by IMPACT, allowing supply chain actors and downstream buyers to access and share verified information for responsible sourcing and social impact reporting.

Bloom by IMPACT is a monitoring and evaluation platform for responsible supply chains and project that connects compliance and social impact goals. Use your favourite data collection tools and visually track progress on your selected goals to seed change within local communities and along your supply chain.

LEARN NOW:

<https://www.bloombyimpact.com/>



Since the adoption of these tools, COOPEDA has made improvements across the mine site to its health and safety practices, as well as child labour and gender-based violence policies.

The collaboration between miners, traders, and digital tools is expanding to other sites. It shows how technology and local action, can support transparent, responsible, and resilient supply chains that benefit all actors.

Scaling Up

Funded by the European for Partnership for Responsible Minerals

IMPACT's Scaling Up project aims to enable scalable and sustainable artisanal mineral supply chains by encouraging artisanal gold traders in Côte d'Ivoire to participate in responsible resourcing. The project tests an open-pipe sourcing model to provide a stable and consistent supply of responsible minerals to downstream market actors.

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ACTION POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET LA GESTION DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES (ADGRN)

is an NGO in DRC established in 2010 whose work is based on human dignity. ADGRN's activities focus on civic education, agroforestry, and land issues. It has a wide range of stakeholders such as farming communities, Indigenous Peoples, rural and women leaders, civil society, political parties, trade unions, policymakers, and the private sector.

BON PASTEUR KOLWEZI is a DRC nonprofit established in 2012 by the Good Shepherd sisters to improve the situation of artisanal miners by promoting community development, women's empowerment and child protection. The organization continues its activities in Kolwezi, Lualaba Province, strengthening its support in seven artisanal mining communities in the surrounding area.

**CENTRE AFRICAIN POUR LA SANTÉ
ENVIRONNEMENTALE (CASE)** is a non-government organization dedicated to protecting the environment, improving conditions for better health, preserving natural resources and promoting sustainable development throughout the African continent. They have offices across Africa including in Côte d'Ivoire.

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES is a public research university in Golden, Colorado founded in 1874. The school offers both undergraduate and

graduate degrees in engineering, science, and mathematics, with a focus on energy and the environment.

EITI-DRC is committed to strengthening transparency and accountability of the management of DRC's extractive sector by implementing the EITI Global Standard. This process is supported by a National Committee composed of an Executive Committee, represented by the Government, the private sector, and civil society, as well as a Technical Secretariat. The executive body of the National Committee is led by a National Coordinator.

**GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION (GSIF)** is a non-profit organization based in Italy. GSIF was founded by the Good Shepherd sisters to support their programs in developing countries by promoting Economic Justice for women and children and offering opportunities for the empowerment of grassroots communities and individuals.

ICGLR is an inter-governmental organization of 12 Member States: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. It was created in response to the recognition that political instability and conflicts in these countries have a considerable regional dimension and require a concerted effort to promote sustainable peace and development. The headquarters of the ICGLR are in Bujumbura, Burundi.

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MINESPIDER is a technology company offering a blockchain-based platform for tracking mineral supply chain data and creating more sustainable and transparent mineral supply chains. Minespider developed digital Product Passports, which are digital IDs of material that easily communicate key data across the supply chain.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY is the principal agency in Uganda responsible for the management of the environment by coordinating, monitoring, and supervising all activities in the field of the environment.

ORGANISATION CONGOLAISE DES ÉCOLOGISTES ET AMIS DE LA NATURE (OCEAN) is a DRC NGO dedicated to placing local communities and Indigenous Peoples at the forefront of ecosystem preservation and resource management for over 28 years. Their vision is to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of ecological balance in natural ecosystems while promoting socio-economic development by safeguarding the rights and interests of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. The organization possesses technical expertise in a wide range of areas including environmental management, forestry, conservation, implementation of activities related to REDD+ and climate change, participatory mapping, security, human rights, the mining sector, and Indigenous Peoples.

PROGRAMME D'APPUI AUX POPULATIONS FORESTIÈRES EN RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO, LES PYGMÉES AUSSI (PAP-RDC) is a DRC organization

established in 2002. It supports vulnerable forest-dependent populations, particularly Indigenous Pygmy Peoples. PAP has experience in ecosystem protection measures, agroforestry, and support to communities whose ecosystems are threatened by mining. Additionally, PAP works on strengthening human rights, including monitoring human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples, advocacy, and supporting women's and Indigenous Peoples' leadership.

PROTECTION DES ÉCORÉGIONS DE MIOMBO AU CONGO (PREMI-CONGO)

is an environmental NGO established in 2002 and active in the mining sector since 2005, specializing in the Miombo woodlands located in DRC. It works on community forestry and defending the rights of local communities and Indigenous Pygmy Peoples, creating maps of the regions affected by industrial mining activities.

SOLIDARIDAD is an international civil society organization with over 50 years of experience in developing solutions to make communities more resilient — from its early roots working with marginalized communities in Latin America to current work fostering more sustainable supply chains. Solidaridad currently operates in over 40 countries, on five continents, through seven independently supervised regional offices.

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SOLIDARITÉ FÉMININE POUR LA PAIX ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT INTÉGRAL

(SOFEPADI) is a national organization in DRC that advocates for women's rights. It was established in 2000 in Bunia as part of the community radio station CANDIP/ISP Bunia, to promote and defend women and children's rights, as well as to involve women in the province's peace process. SOFEPADI brings extensive experience in promoting gender equality and women's leadership, conducting peace education and peaceful conflict resolution initiatives, advocating for women's political representation, championing women's socio-economic rights and driving advocacy initiatives.

TROPENBOS DRC has been active in the country since 2010. It is part of the international Tropenbos network. Tropenbos' mission is to improve the governance and management of tropical forests for the benefit of people, biodiversity, and sustainable development. Their area of expertise includes forest and natural resource governance, community forestry, and improving the livelihoods of local communities.

ZIMBABWE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION (ZELA) is a public environmental law group promoting environmental justice, sustainable and equitable use of natural resources, democracy and good governance in the natural resource and environment sector.



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LEGEND:

 Description •  Location •  Donor

BLOOM BY IMPACT

 A monitoring and evaluation platform for responsible supply chains and projects that connects compliance and social impact goals. Use your favourite data collection tools and visually track progress on your selected goals.

 Global

 Technology partners

FAIR TAXATION IN ASM COBALT SUPPLY CHAINS

 Making informal and illegal payments and its impacts in DRC's artisanal cobalt supply chain more visible, while supporting civil society to monitor informal payments more effectively and leverage analytics for change.

 Democratic Republic of Congo

 JET Minerals Challenge, run by USAID

HER SECURITY

 Decreasing child labour in DRC's artisanal cobalt and copper mining sector by addressing its root causes—specifically women's insecurity—while also strengthening capacity of the private sector and local authorities to implement due diligence.

 Democratic Republic of Congo

 European Union

PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

 Building the capacity of the ICGLR and its Member States to address artisanal mineral flows and harness their potential as drivers for security, stability, and development.

 Great Lakes Region

 European Union

planetGOLD CÔTE D'IVOIRE

 Decreasing the use of mercury in Côte d'Ivoire's mining sector, support formalization, 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

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planetGOLD ZIMBABWE

 Reducing the use of mercury in ASGM through a holistic, multisectoral, integrated formalization approach, increasing access to traceable gold supply chains and finance for adoption of sustainable mercury free technologies. Led by UNEP.

 Zimbabwe

 Global Environmental Facility

POWERING RESILIENCE

 Supporting DRC's artisanal mining communities driving the transition to a low carbon future to protect their forests and adapt to climate change.

 Democratic Republic of Congo

 Sweden

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, 2025 with comparative information for 2024

	2025	2024
REVENUES		
Swedish Embassy	2,097,203	330,705
UN Environment Programme	1,804,745	1,407,379
European Union	1,581,889	546,448
Cowater	398,727	508,556
European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM)	393,582	377,506
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	171,894	175,929
German Agency for International Co-operation (GIZ)	153,239	13,700
Google	143,045	-
Microsoft	109,296	102,842
Foreign exchange gain	112,925	19,752
Open Ownership	98,838	-
Interest	84,155	73,483
Apple	82,021	225,195
Donations	62,213	445
Contributions to PWYP	79,062	159,575
Colorado School of Mines	54,964	17,117
Resolve	50,242	14,504
Other	16,040	14,959
Stratos	1,770	-
Responsible Business Alliance	782	99,353
UNICEF	-	24,933
Global Affairs Canada	-	19,580
TOTAL	\$7,496,632	\$4,131,960
EXPENSES		
Direct Project Costs	4,739,436	2,042,299
Salaries and Benefits-Canada	1,177,196	1,112,269
Salaries and Benefits-International	1,154,258	701,271
Project Development	40,646	18,997
Communication (Public Awareness)	18,027	23,058
Administration and Project Support	353,811	230,824
TOTAL	\$7,483,374	\$4,128,718
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	13,258	3,242

Revenue and direct cost figures for 2024 have been adjusted from our previous statement due to a change in our accounting methodology for foreign exchange gains/losses.

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WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING FOR SUPPORT IN 2024-2025:

Apple	Google
European Partnership for Responsible Minerals	Microsoft
European Union	National Science Foundation/Colorado School of Mines
GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)	Resolve
Global Affairs Canada/Cowater	Responsible Business Alliance
Global Environment Facility/UN Environment Programme	Sweden
	United States Agency for International Development

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As of July 2025

Shivani Kannabhiran
France
President

Edward Blight
United Kingdom
Treasurer

Louise Ouimet
Canada
Secretary

Anthony Goerzen
Canada

Bocar Thiam
United States

Carl Bruch
United States

Guus Houttuin
Netherlands

Issa Dominique Konate
Burkina Faso

Katharine Evans
Canada

Leah Butler
United States

Pamela Fierst-Walsh
United States

Term Ended in 2024-2025:

Nicole Piggott
Canada

David Onyalo
Canada

Gavin Hilson
United Kingdom

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Looking AHEAD

Navigating the Risks of the Critical Minerals Rush

THE ACCELERATING RACE FOR CRITICAL MINERALS is reshaping economies, policies, and global power dynamics. As the world moves toward clean energy and digital transformation, the pressure on mineral-producing regions is intensifying. Yet the communities that extract these resources often face exclusion from decision-making, limited access to benefits, and increased vulnerability to environmental harm.

Looking ahead, the challenge lies in ensuring that the transition to greener economies does not deepen inequalities or leave ASM communities behind. Responsible sourcing must deliver more than minerals. It must deliver security, opportunity, and dignity for those whose livelihoods sustain global supply chains. **FAILURE TO DO SO WILL ALSO UNDERMINE SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCY, GLOBALLY.**

Deepening Local Ownership and Inclusive Governance

RESILIENCE IS STRONGEST when communities shape their own futures. Across mineral-rich regions, durable solutions draw on local knowledge and leadership.

Artisanal mining communities are forming cooperatives, adopting sustainable practices, and taking on roles in resource governance. Through training, access to credit, and peer networks, they are building capacity to organize and influence decision-making.

But systemic barriers persist. Discriminatory land rights, lack of legal recognition for informal actors, and social norms limit participation and opportunities. These challenges weaken the legitimacy of local institutions and slow progress toward inclusion.

Embedding diverse leadership in governance is not only a matter of equity. It strengthens resilience by making decisions more inclusive, increasing trust, and ensuring solutions respond to lived experience.

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What **YOU CAN DO**

Are Your Beliefs About Artisanal Mining Holding Communities Back? (**MYTH** or **FACT**)

Minerals from ASM end up in many everyday products. Yet myths and misconceptions about ASM shape how the sector is perceived, blocking opportunities for millions who rely on artisanal mining for their livelihoods.

✂ **MYTH: ASM IS ALWAYS ILLEGAL**

Many believe ASM operates entirely outside the law. The reality is that most countries have legal frameworks and licensing systems for ASM. However, for many miners, getting a license is too expensive, too slow, or too complex. Without access to affordable and practical pathways to legality, millions are forced to work informally. They are not trying to break the law; they simply have no realistic way to comply.

✂ **MYTH: ALL ASM ACTORS OPERATE IRRESPONSIBLY**

Given the right support, ASM actors can meet international standards for environmental protection, human rights, and responsible sourcing. With access to training, better equipment, and stable markets, artisanal miners can reduce environmental impacts and improve safety. In some cases, ASM supply chains can be more transparent than industrial mining.

Banning ASM or cutting it off from legal markets does not stop mining.

It forces miners further into informality, where they are more vulnerable to exploitation and unsafe conditions.

✓ **FACT: ASM IS A VITAL SOURCE OF INCOME FOR MILLIONS, INCLUDING WOMEN**

Globally, more than 40 million people work in ASM, and up to 150 million people depend on it indirectly. In remote and rural areas where other economic opportunities are scarce or non-existent, ASM provides a critical source of income. Around 30 percent of ASM workers are women, often performing labor-intensive roles such as ore processing and transport. ASM keeps food on the table, children in school, and local economies alive.

Assumptions shape policies that exclude artisanal miners from legal markets, deny safer working conditions, and strip away vital income. Changing how ASM is understood can help communities move from survival to resilience.

Ask where your minerals come from. Transparency brings miners into responsible supply chains.

Support brands that work with ASM communities. This improves incomes, safety, and access to global markets. Advocate for policies to formalize ASM. Formalization reduces exploitation and builds stability.

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PUSHING
BOUNDARIES
TO SHIFT

POWER

IMPACT

Transforming natural resource management
Empowering communities

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