

Press release

Location and date London, 24 March 2022

New World Gold Council report looks at lessons learned on managing the interface between large-scale and small-scale and artisanal gold mining

In line with its commitment to promote formalisation of responsible artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), the World Gold Council has released a new report which looks at models for better managing the interactions between ASGM and large-scale mining (LSM).

The World Gold Council and its members, the world's leading large-scale gold mining companies, support the responsible mining and trading of gold from all legitimate sources including ASGM. Unfortunately, however, the great majority of artisanal and small-scale gold mining occurs outside of legal frameworks and as such the sector is a source of contention.

Although it is difficult to provide precise estimates, leading international institutions estimate that ASGM accounts for some 20% of the annual newly mined gold supply and provided direct livelihoods for some 15 to 20 million people. This report focuses on the efforts of World Gold Council Member companies and others to promote the formalisation of responsible ASGM entities, improve its impacts on development and to address the negative safety, social and environmental aspects of such mining activities.

This report aims to provide a platform for LSM companies and other actors to share not only their challenges, but also the progress that they have achieved through dialogue, engagement, and collaboration. Importantly, it focusses attention on the need to get incentives and regulatory frameworks right. Amongst the issues covered in the report are the provision of capacity-building and technical support in replacing mercury and in improving safety practices; models for diverting responsibly-produced ASGM from illicit markets; co-operative approaches to mine closure; protecting human rights and combatting child labour.

The report includes input from 15 companies and case studies from 25 mines or projects in 18 countries which includes World Gold Members and non-member companies as well as material contributed by the Swiss Better Gold Initiative. A number of perspectives pieces from governmental and civil society stakeholders are also included.

The report shows that many leading gold mining companies are engaging with ASGM issues, both in and around their mines and at a policy level. Where circumstances permit, they welcome the opportunity to work with governments, industry groups, civil society organisations and responsible artisanal miners to better understand how to reduce the negative impacts of ASGM and to improve developmental outcomes.

Terry Heymann, Chief Financial Officer at the World Gold Council, said: *"The World Gold Council supports the responsible mining and trading of gold from all legitimate sources which includes ASGM. Unfortunately however, much ASGM gold comes from illegitimate sources, associated with poor environmental and social practices. In line with Principle 3.3 of the Responsible Gold Mining Principles, our Members support access to legitimate markets for those*



ASGM who respect applicable legal and regulatory frameworks and seek formalisation. This is in order to provide a safer and more secure livelihood for the largely poor and marginalized people. The central role in enabling this rests with host country governments. But this report outlines the commitment and support the large scale gold mining industry is offering to responsible ASGM and the many benefits that can be secured when the two sectors work together constructively, albeit recognising that there are many challenges.”

To read the report in its entirety, please visit this page: <https://www.gold.org/esg/artisanal-and-small-scale-gold-mining>

ENDS

You can follow the World Gold Council on Twitter at @goldcouncil and on Facebook.

For further information please contact:

Stephanie Cadman
World Gold Council
T +44 20 7826 4767
E stephanie.cadman@gold.org

World Gold Council

We're the global experts on gold.

Leveraging our broad knowledge and experience, we work to improve understanding of the gold market and underscore gold's value to individuals, investors, and the world at large.

Collaboration is the cornerstone of our approach. We're an association whose members are the world's most forward-thinking gold mining companies. Combining the insights of our members and other industry partners, we seek to unlock gold's evolving role as a catalyst for advancements that meet societal needs.

We develop standards, expand access to gold, and tackle barriers to adoption to stimulate demand and support a vibrant and sustainable future for the gold market. From our offices in Beijing, London, Mumbai, New York, Shanghai, and Singapore, we deliver positive impact worldwide.