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The Alliance for Responsible Mining launches an e-learning platform to strengthen the artisanal and small-scale mining sector

Today, thanks to support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDBF), the Capacity Building Center for artisanal and small-scale mining of the Alliance for Responsible Mining, launches its new e-learning platform. The platform offers online courses aimed at people who work or interact with the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector and want to improve their understanding of it.

"We want to help miners find the local technical support they need and that is why the Capacity Building Center seeks to strengthen the expertise available in their territories. The Center also creates links between local governments, institutions and companies to facilitate formalization processes and the inclusion of ASM in the mining sector." Said Lina Villa, Executive Director of the Alliance for Responsible Mining.

In its initial stage, [the platform provides e-learning modules for Spanish speakers](#) in Gender and Community, in Conflict Identification and Management, and in the Fairmined Certification System. The Capacity Building Center is in the process of developing additional modules and also offers tailor-made training and toolkits.

The central themes of the training are based in the responsible mining practices of the Fairmined Standard, which promotes business development and social and environmental responsibility in small-scale mining operations. Up until now, the Center has accredited its first group of 25 "Fairmined Trainers" in Latin America and it is expected that this network of technical experts will expand in November 2015.

The development of the platform has been made possible by cooperation agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF); Fundación Ayuda; Fondo de Acción Ambiental y para la Niñez, among others.

For more information about the Capacity Building Center and the [new virtual platform](#) please write an email to centro@responsiblemines.org.

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ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING

Note to editors

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[About the Alliance for Responsible Mining](#)

The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) is an independent, global-scale, pioneering initiative established in 2004 to enhance equity and wellbeing in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) communities. ARM is committed to social justice and environmental responsibility as the values driving the transformation of ASM.

ARM's mission is to set standards for responsible ASM and to support and enable producers to deliver Fairmined certified metals and minerals through economically just supply chains to the markets, in order to contribute towards the transformation of ASM into a socially and environmentally responsible activity, and to the improvement of the quality of life of marginalized artisanal miners, their families and communities.

ARM has developed [the Fairmined Standard for Gold and Associated Precious Metals](#) to support sustainable development of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) communities. The standard includes requirements for Artisanal and Small-scale Mining Organizations (ASMOs) to perform responsible artisanal and small-scale mining: formal and legal mining operations, environmental protection, labor conditions, traceability of Fairmined minerals, and socio-economic development through the Fairmined Premium. It also outlines market models and requirements for market actors (Fairmined Operators).

There are currently 4 Fairmined certified Mining organizations in Colombia, Peru and Mongolia and 25 organizations working towards Fairmined certification with ARM in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Senegal and Burkina Faso.

About artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM)

In the world about 100 million people depend on artisanal and small scale mining (ASM) to maintain their livelihoods. Many live in difficult conditions in terms of health, safety and social and economic. However, with support and training, these miners and small entrepreneurs can change these conditions and improve the quality of life for their families and communities.