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Successful formalization of artisanal and small-scale mining requires a rights-based approach

In order to uncover the basic necessities required for the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector to ensure the rights of people immersed in the activity, the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) launches a new publication: *“Minería y Derechos Humanos: Una mirada desde el sector Artesanal y de Pequeña Escala”*.

This publication exposes the important role formalization of ASM has in the recognition of artisanal and small scale miners’ rights. It also presents strategies for adopting and implementing a rights-based approach in ASM through the principles of the right to work, freedom of association, environmental protection and inclusion processes.

“With this publication we aim to fill a gap in the literature about ASM that traditionally does not address miners’ rights. We have to ask ourselves what conditions are necessary to make formalization possible and make the most of the socio-economic potential of this sector. We need holistic strategies and rights play an important role in these”, said Lina Villa Cordoba, Executive Director of the Alliance for Responsible Mining.

ARM is convinced that ASM has the potential to be a dignified, responsible and sustainable economic sector, and this new publication seeks to contribute to the construction of this vision. Systems and instruments such as Fairmined Certification supports this vision allowing the introduction of a rights-based approach in ASM while still offering a market incentive for formalization.

The publication is part of the ARM’s Responsible ASM Series and was developed with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) during 2013-2014 as part of the project "Strengthening incentives for formalization and improved environmental and social performance in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru".

The publication is mainly authored by Leonardo Guiza Suarez, lawyer and biologist at the University of Rosario in Colombia, who has over 11 years of experience in solving legal, environmental and energy related conflicts with mining communities.

The publication is available for download in Spanish at <http://www.responsiblemines.org/en/resources/arm-publications>



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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 well-being 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.