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Toolkit to address forced labor in artisanal mining available in three languages

Forced labour takes many forms and is still common in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). This can even happen without people being aware of their own enslavement. Women, children, migrant workers and indigenous people are especially exposed to this risk. The toolkit “Addressing Forced Labor in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining: A Practitioner’s Toolkit” is designed to help miners, civil society organizations, government agencies and experts identify and deal with forced labour in artisanal and small-scale mining communities.

The toolkit that is now available in English, Spanish and French was developed by the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) in collaboration with Solidaridad and with financial support from Humanity United.

“The general informality of the artisanal and small-scale mining sector puts the workers at high risk of exploitation, slavery and dangerous conditions. With this toolkit, we want to give the stakeholders engaging with the sector a hands-on instrument to help miners get out of these situations,” said Deputy Director in ARM, Marcin Piersiak.

The Alliance for Responsible Mining and Solidaridad devised the toolkit to fill an information gap within the industry. It includes practical tools such as criteria for good practice in ASM mining, as well as guides and checklists for potential human rights abuses. Managers of companies buying gold will also be able to use it to check the source of their imported wares and understand the risks of human rights abuses.

The toolkit is based on 18 months of research and field-testing by the collaborators and draws specifically from the Fairmined Standard that was developed by the Alliance for Responsible Mining to promote responsible mining practices and miner’s access to fair markets.

The toolkit is available for download on ARM’s and Solidaridad’s websites.

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About The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)

ARM is a global non-profit organization that works to transform artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) into a socially and environmentally responsible activity that improves the quality of life of artisanal miners, their families and communities.

ARM has developed the Fairmined Standard and Certification System a rigorous, third party system that ensures that ASM miners formalize while meeting world-leading standards for responsible practices. Through the Fairmined Standard and ARM’s support on the ground, miners are able to produce Fairmined certified metals and gain access to responsible supply chains. ARM also works for the recognition and understanding of ASM and its main challenges promoting inclusive legal frameworks on the national and global level. Additionally, ARM develops toolkits and trains professionals working with ASM through its capacity building center and e-learning platform.

For more information, go to www.responsiblemines.org or www.fairmined.org.

About Humanity United

Humanity United was founded in the U.S. in 2005 as part of the Omidyar Group to build peace, advance human freedom and combat slavery worldwide. Its website is www.humanityunited.org.

About Solidaridad

Solidaridad is an international civil society organization with more than 45 years of global experience in facilitating the development of socially responsible, ecologically sound, and profitable supply chains. Solidaridad works across 13 supply chains and operates through nine Regional Expertise Centres on five continents.

We bring together supply chain actors and engage them in innovative solutions to improve production, ensuring the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy that maximises the benefit for all.

Solidaridad envisions a world in which everything we produce and consume can sustain us all, while respecting the planet, each other and future generations.

www.solidaridadnetwork.org