Context

In developing countries rich in mineral resources, a universal trend is that cultural, communication, and public policy barriers limit rural communities, especially ethnic groups and vulnerable populations, from accessing and using these resources. Such barriers are generally grounded in a socio-political context that systematically excludes small-scale mining producers and their communities from being involved in the processes of discussion and decision making regarding sectorial public policies. As a consequence of this exclusion, there is a lack of adequate policies, regulatory frameworks, and planning processes that promote sustainable development.

Within this context, miners who work in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) face closed doors for their access to legality, decent work, and the formal market. This vulnerable situation makes mining communities prone to being exploited by criminal networks, incurring human rights violations, and harming the environment and public health. For these reasons, the general public is skeptical that the mining industry can become a sustainable and viable economic alternative in the territory.

Objective

To contribute to empowering rural communities, particularly the vulnerable population engaging in artisanal and small-scale mining activities in Colombia and Peru, to adopt better mining practices and become more involved in public policies that shape local development.

Laboratories of responsible ASM

What are them?

These venues for critical thinking and concerted decision making about local changes will bring together multiple key players to foster dialogue and form a shared vision for the sustainable development of ASM at the field level.

From dialogue to action

They will build capacities and promote technical support activities for adoption of best practices, in order to produce conflict-free gold and to improve access to legal markets for artisanal and small-scale miners.
**Geographic zone and target population**

To maximize its impact, the project will be conducted mainly in territories where ARM already has a presence and is implementing other projects, such as Chains of Peace (CAPAZ: Cadenas de Paz).

- **Ethnic communities**
  - Mining population in vulnerable situations, especially gold panners and mineral sorters (mostly women)
  - Local authorities
  - Local civil society

- **COLOMBIA**
  - Tarazá, Antioquia
  - Suárez, Cauca

- **PERU**
  - The municipality will be chosen during the first phase of the project.
  - Mining population in vulnerable situations, especially mineral sorters (mostly women) and informal miners who exploit gold on the industrial sites that have concessions by formal mining organizations, performed under very precarious conditions.
  - Local authorities
  - Local civil society

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**Formulation and implementation of locally-focused ASM governance models that are inclusive, transparent, and have a differential approach**
- Management Committees (local action plan drafted with the participation of the members themselves) and Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Committees (PM&E)

**Systematization and dissemination of achievements and lessons learned in citizen and advocacy platforms at the national level**
- Participatory and grassroots approach that reflects the mining reality and ensures it will be applied locally.

**Promotion of good mining practices in vulnerable ASM groups**

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**To contribute to...**

1. Motivate rural mining communities to participate in forming a vision for the future role of ASM in local development, to create greater understanding and forge ties among local players.

2. Promote the processes of building shared visions for territorial development and prioritizing addressing related governance challenges and opportunities.

3. Encourage mining communities to take an active role in the formulation of policies that affect them.

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**ARM**

The Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) was established in 2004 and is a leading global expert on artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). We work to transform the ASM sector into a socially and environmentally responsible activity, while improving the quality of life of artisanal miners, their families and communities. Our mission is to set standards for responsible artisanal and small-scale mining and to support and enable producers to deliver Fairmined certified metals and minerals through economically fair supply chains to the markets, in order to contribute to the transformation of the sector into a socially and environmentally responsible activity, and to the improvement of the quality of life of marginalized artisanal miners, their families and communities. [www.responsiblemines.org](http://www.responsiblemines.org) / +57 4 3324711 / arm@minasresponsables.org

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