



ALLIANCE FOR
RESPONSIBLE MINING



Roadmap 2023-2024

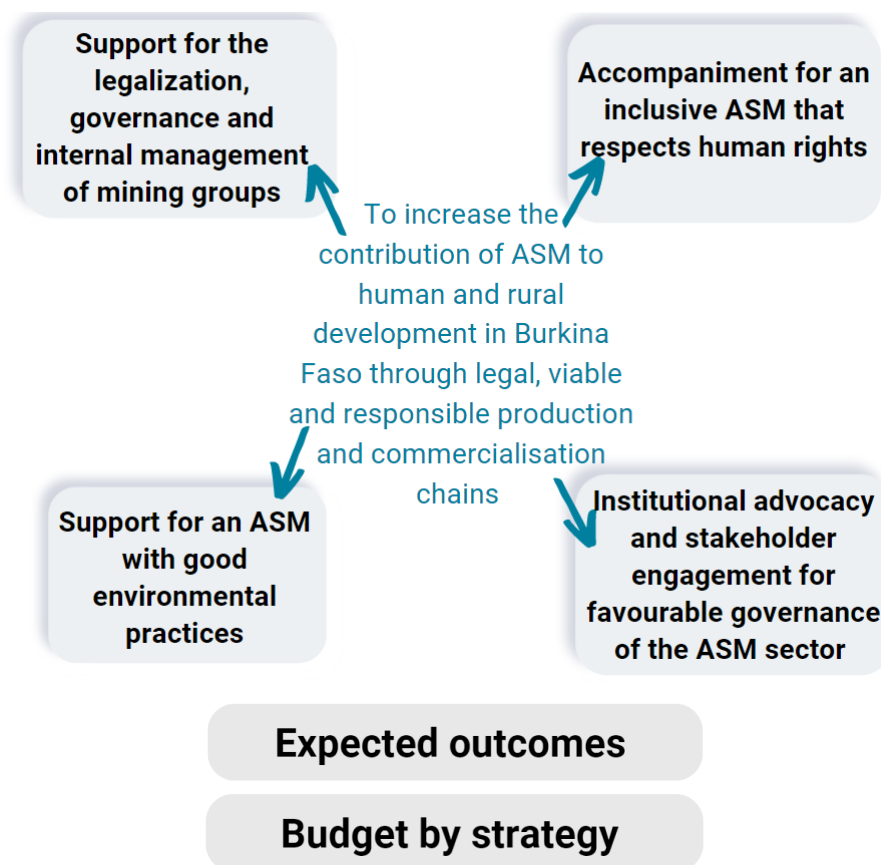
For a Legal and Responsible Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) in Burkina Faso

Proposed by: **Alliance for Responsible Mining**
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Thank you for being here!

Through this interactive concept note, we seek to present the roadmap that we wish to implement in the next two years (2023-2024) in order to continue the path undertaken since 2019 for the formalisation of the ASM sector in BF and the adoption of best practices. To do this, we will capitalise on the lessons learned over the past four years through the ten or so projects carried out, and on the results already achieved with the mining communities we have supported.

Click on each of the items in the following illustration to access the content and on the arrow at the top of each section to return to the starting point.





1.1 Presentation of ARM in Burkina Faso

Since 2019, the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) has a permanent team of over 10 people in Burkina Faso (BF) -Ouagadougou + 05 regions of intervention- working, through **an integral and inclusive approach, on the formalisation and professionalisation of artisanal miners as well as the improvement of the living conditions of Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) communities through the adoption of efficient techniques and good organisational, social and environmental practices.**

For more information about ARM, our projects in Burkina Faso and the results achieved through our interventions, please refer to the document [“BURKINA : IMPULSER UN DÉVELOPPEMENT INCLUSIF ET DURABLE DANS LA MINE ARTISANALE ET À PETITE ÉCHELLE”](#)

1.2. ASM sector in Burkina Faso

With the surge in world gold prices at the end of the 2000s, which peaked in July 2011, Burkina Faso experienced a veritable "gold rush", which created employment opportunities: **nearly 1 million people live directly or indirectly from artisanal mining** according to the 2017 ENSO. Since 2009, gold has become the main export product¹ ; Burkina Faso is currently the third largest producer on the continent after Ghana and South Africa.².

The ASM sector represents a key livelihood for people and a strategic economic development opportunity for both rural territories and the state. However, this perspective is hampered by the often **negative environmental and social impacts associated with the informal deployment** of the activity (high risk of accidents, financial dependence, child labour, gender-based violence, toxic waste, etc.). The current deteriorating security situation in Burkina Faso only increases **the exposure of this sub-sector to the worst risks, in particular the violation of the most fundamental human rights** (human exploitation, threats or even takeover of sites by armed groups, etc.).

Although strategic for the Burkinabe government, **the ASM sector is barely formalised; of the more than 800 artisanal sites identified by the government, fewer than 30 held operating licences in 2020.** Aware of the opportunity that an ASM integrated into the formal economy would represent for the country, in recent years it has undertaken a **strategy of formalisation of the sector**, materialised by the creation and progressive deployment of the National Agency for the Management of Artisanal and Semi-Mechanised Mining Operations (ANEEMAS). ARM contributes fully to the objectives pursued by the government, and it is in this context that it has signed **a partnership agreement with ANEEMAS in 2021.**

Although initiatives are multiplying in support of the sector and considerable progress has been made at the level of the communities supported, there is still a long way to go to achieve the **emergence of a legal and responsible ASM, integrated into the formal economy.** It is in this sense that ARM shares, through this concept note, its approach to continue to contribute to the formalisation of the sector and the creation of a sectoral and institutional environment favourable to its emergence.

¹ All sub-sectors (industrial, semi-mechanised, craft) combined.

² Data provided by World Gold Council as of 31/12/2021. <https://www.gold.org/goldhub/data/gold-production-by-country>



2.1. Approach

2.1.1. Objectives

The overall objective of the proposed interventions is *to increase the contribution of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) to human and rural development in Burkina Faso through legal, viable and responsible production and commercialisation chains* by capitalising on the lessons learnt and results achieved by ARM since 2019.

Specifically, our interventions aim *to foster the progressive formalisation of the artisanal gold mining sector and its integration into responsible gold supply chains* through strategies of direct and integral support to artisanal miners, advocacy, engagement and capacity building of stakeholders. This will allow for sustainable *economic* (improved productivity, earnings, creation of sustainable and formal rural employment), *social* (improvement of working conditions, reduction of gender-based breaches, child labour), and *environmental* (elimination of toxic products, water and waste management, responsible exploitation with respect to ecosystems) at the level of artisanal mining groups, contributing, in the long term, to *the conversion of artisanal mining into a driving force for the sustainable development of rural communities* in Burkina Faso.

2.1.2. Regions of intervention

On the strength of the progress made with artisanal miners and local stakeholders **in the regions where it has been working since 2019**, ARM wishes to continue to work with these same actors, with the aim of spearheading ASM formalisation in Burkina Faso. The technical support and training interventions will focus on *10 mining sites engaged in a formalisation process in the Centre-West, Centre-North, Plateau-Central and South-West regions*.

The intervention will not stop at the level of the mining sites, and will also integrate, as a common thread, a work of *mobilisation of the actors and advocacy at the local and national level*, relying in particular on the partnership and the close collaboration already in place with ANEEMAS and the local stakeholders.

2.1.3. Theory of change

If... artisanal mining groups are *accompanied towards formalisation*, have *attractive access to the legal market* and that *governance mechanisms are functional and conducive* to the development of a formal and responsible ASM,

....Then the sector will become a source of *decent employment* and *sustainable income* for individuals, while *negative social, economic and environmental impacts will be reduced*, leading to a *better quality of life* for artisanal miners and their communities and contributing to the *sustainable development* of mining regions and the country.

As the formalisation of the ASM sector is a paradigm that encompasses a number of workstreams, and as it is also the result of an inclusive territorial approach, there will be many *synergies* throughout the intervention between the different categories of actors around the sector and the mining communities.

2.1.4. Key areas of intervention

Support for the legalization, governance and internal management of mining groups



The organisational, legal and financial dimensions are the prerequisite for the sustainable commitment of artisanal miners to good social and environmental practices; they are the essential condition without which responsible ASM will not emerge. On the basis of important achievements (several associations and cooperatives formed, bank accounts opened, etc.), our intervention will continue to accompany artisanal miners towards the administrative formalisation of their activity, enabling them to:

- **Operate in a structured manner**, through legitimate and fully functional cooperative groups carrying out the formalisation process, ensuring that artisanal miners are represented in dealings with the various interlocutors (in particular the State, service providers, etc.), and making the production and commercialisation processes more efficient (grouped purchases, centralisation of production, etc.).
- **Work legally**, by obtaining individual operator cards and recognition of the right to access the resource, which is often complicated for artisanal miners due to complex administrative processes. Administrative support on the one hand, and institutional advocacy on the other, will be combined during the intervention.
- **Develop an entrepreneurial approach**. Strengthening the administrative and financial management skills of the cooperatives set up will be coupled with the introduction of financing mechanisms enabling artisanal miners to be more autonomous in their management, savings and collective investment capacities.
- **Comply with the expectations and requirements of the formal market**, with a view to facilitating the integration of artisanal miners into legal supply chains offering them better economic opportunities and long-term business projections. The intervention will be based on the CRAFT Code developed by ARM, allowing a practical application of due diligence for responsible mineral supply chains as promoted by the OECD Due Diligence Guidance³, the Eu regulation⁴, the Dodd Frank Act⁵. ARM will seek to ensure that, in the long term, market players engage with artisanal miners in a responsible way, as a sustainable lever for changing practices.

In parallel with this basic work to set up and strengthen artisanal mining groups, work on social, environmental and productive aspects must be developed, with the aim of gradually converting them into profitable and responsible entities. Thus, in terms of monitoring, ARM is equipping itself with new decentralised information technologies to evaluate progress at the community level and the performance of mining sites.

³ OECD (2016), OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas: Third Edition, OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264252479-en>

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2017/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 laying down supply chain due diligence obligations for Union importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32017R0821>

⁵ United States. (2010). Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act: Conference report (to accompany H.R. 4173). Washington: U.S. G.P.O. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-9515/pdf/COMPS-9515.pdf>



Accompaniment for an inclusive ASM that respects human rights

For artisanal mining to be beneficial to all, it must first and foremost be carried out in a way that respects individuals, i.e. in acceptable working conditions with controlled risks, while promoting the inclusion of the entire population while respecting everyone's rights, especially the most vulnerable. Building on the significant progress made in the first phase of support, ARM will continue to work, through a combined approach of awareness raising, training and the establishment of practical mechanisms within the mining communities, to:

- *Guarantee good working conditions, preserving the health and safety of artisanal miners on the sites.* The prevention and reduction of risks to which artisanal miners are directly exposed is the priority strategy. This will gradually be complemented by the implementation of mutualised social protection mechanisms.
- *Guarantee women's rights and promote gender equality.* Particular attention will be paid to the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and to the sexual and reproductive health of women. In order to guarantee the full success of this strategy, the actions carried out will also involve raising awareness and mobilising the male population.
- *Promote the economic empowerment of the most vulnerable populations* through the creation of sustainable and adapted income-generating activities (IGAs), in particular for women and internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing conflict zones. These IGAs may be directly linked to the mining ecosystem (extraction, processing, supply of goods and services) or to the development of additional income, as an economic diversification strategy for these populations.
- *Promote a healthy and safe environment for children,* free from the worst forms of child labour and conducive to their personal development, including access to education and training.
- *Foster peaceful cohabitation between artisanal miners and other community groups* (residents, farmers, herders, authorities, etc.) by promoting ongoing dialogue and, where possible, synergies of action and contributions to community development by artisanal miners. Commitment to environmental best practice is a particular focus to ensure that the ASM activity does not cause harm and tension with other groups in the community.
- *Ensure that artisanal miners do not contribute to so-called "conflict minerals",* i.e. ensure that, through the financing they receive or the marketing channels they use, they do not facilitate the money laundering of criminal proceeds or the financing of armed groups and indirectly of war crimes or related crimes. The progressive integration of ASM into formal financing and marketing channels is one of the main assurances.



Support for an ASM with good environmental practices

The environmental dimension is also fundamental in the path towards responsible ASM. This was mainly addressed through the introduction of non-polluting (mercury-free) treatment technologies during the first phase of support. In this next phase, a much more comprehensive intervention will be promoted, drawing in particular on the results of environmental diagnostics carried out on a few targeted sites in the first half of 2022, during a feasibility study of the new standard co-created by ARM for a Forest-Smart ASM. ARM, through awareness-raising, training and, where appropriate, the provision of technical equipment, thus proposes to support the targeted groups (and in particular the environmental management committees that will be created for this purpose) in the deployment of their environmental management strategy, which will enable them to :

- *Implement appropriate and efficient non-polluting production methods*, in particular through a) processing units free of chemicals such as mercury, in accordance with the commitments made under the Minamata Convention, b) decantation and/or filtration basins for the water used in the ore processing phase.
- *Manage and benefit from water extracted from mining wells for mining and agricultural purposes*. Water is a scarce and valued resource in the target communities (mineral processing, crop watering, livestock watering, ...), yet at certain times of the year, large quantities (mine water) are extracted to allow access to flooded mine shafts and directly discharged to the surface without any management. By introducing management of this mine water, it can be converted into a resource for other processes and thus a positive externality.
- *Compensate, through reforestation, for the loss of vegetation and forest cover* generated by the extraction of ore and the use of timber in mine shafts. With a view to generating alternative income, this approach could have an agricultural objective, with the planting of trees intended to protect crops, add fertility to the soil and be commercially valued for their fruit or leaves. This activity will contribute, in a global way, to the reduction of the carbon footprint of the ASM activity.
- *Initiate the progressive rehabilitation of abandoned extraction areas* by filling in the pits and, where possible, reclaiming the top layer to facilitate revegetation.
- *Establish a hazardous materials and waste management system*, particularly with regard to the use and storage of fuels, and the management of plastic waste.



Institutional advocacy and stakeholder engagement for favourable governance of the ASM sector

Multi-stakeholder dialogue and strategies for advocacy and governance

ARM's experience shows that the best results are achieved not only when there is a strong will and organisational structures on the side of the artisanal miners, but also when a favourable environment and an atmosphere of dialogue, listening and collaboration between the artisanal miners, the authorities, the institutions, the national and international buyers and the community are put in place. In this sense, the approach we advocate is consultative, participatory, inclusive and based on existing dialogue bodies and their complementarity to the project.

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms at local level. The aim is to capitalise on the experience and strengthen the functioning of the dialogue platforms set up by ARM since 2020.
- Generating and facilitating national-level consultation frameworks to address strategic ASM issues and strengthen MAPE monitoring and risk assessment.

Similarly, in order to support the emergence of an enabling environment for MAPE, the organisation will play a role in the governance of the sub-sector through capacity building, advocacy with public decision makers and the creation of spaces for exchange in order to reduce the consequences of terrorism by participating in the improvement of security on mining sites and the mitigation of ML/TF risks.

Our work also aims to empower Burkinabe CSOs and strengthen their capacity to identify and support the management of human rights risks related to ASM. This axis focuses on facilitating the proper implementation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance and the legislative frameworks based on it.



2.2. Expected outcomes

- 8 mining organisations (ASMO) have implemented environmental, social and organisational best practices.
- 6 efficient and mercury-free gold processing units are set up.
- 800 jobs are recognised.
- 500 women and 500 men are sensitized to GBV.
- 500 women empowered to develop income-generating activities (IGAs).
- 1 national action plan for securing mining sites is adopted.
- 5 ASMOs constituted as cooperatives with a financing plan.
- 50 public sector actors are trained in the CRAFT Code and the requirements of responsible mineral sourcing.
- 8 sites have a rehabilitation plan in place.
- ASM is included in the community development charters of the areas concerned.



2.3. Budget by strategy

The strategy of basic formalisation of the mining activity through technical support and training of artisanal miners in the field is the basis of our intervention. Indeed, in order to be able to sell their production to responsible markets, it is essential that artisanal miners meet the minimum formalisation criteria as defined in the CRAFT Code and the OECD guide. This first strategy is therefore essential to our actions. Two other strategies, which support this core, focus on the social and environmental sustainability of the mine. Also, our intervention focuses on generating an enabling environment for the formalisation of the ASM sector in the country and making the results achieved in the mines sustainable. The funding of these complementary activities is conditional on the funding of the basic formalisation, but it is not mandatory to fund all complementary activities at the same time.

	Strategies	Type of expenses	Cost
Essential: basis of the intervention	Support for the legalization, governance and internal management of mining groups	Activities	389.000,00 €
Intervention regarding the social and environmental sustainability of the mining organisation	Support for an ASM guaranteeing good environmental practices	Activities	132.000,00 €
		Investment	200.000,00 €
		Total	365.000,00 €
	Accompaniment for an inclusive ASM that respects human rights	Activities	109.000,00 €
		Investment	38.000,00 €
		Total	147.000,00 €
Intervention aimed at generating an ecosystem of actors favourable to ASM	Institutional advocacy and stakeholder engagement for favourable governance of the ASM sector	Activities	199.000,00 €