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MINING HORIZON

Encouraging responsible gold mining through legality, better practices, and knowledge management.

OVERVIEW

Mining Horizon strengthens the Colombian Government's capacity to govern artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), and to mitigate the impacts of informal gold mining on the environment. The activity also responds to the Colombian Government's request for technical assistance to strengthen formalization of the mining sector and to train miners in good mining practices. Formalization and governance of the ASGM sector are key to reducing deforestation, land degradation, and environmental pollution. Unregulated gold mining also undermines the governance system, fosters corruption, and threatens communities' social and economic well-being. Mining Horizon is implemented nationally, but focuses on Antioquia, Choco, and a third department (TBD). The activity runs from June 2021 to December 2022.

Mining Horizon is administered through USAID/Washington's [Integrated Natural Resource Management Activity](#) (INRM). To implement this activity, INRM has partnered with a consortium of international development specialists from DAI, CORCRESER, New America, Social Impact, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC).

PHOTO BY RYAN THOMPSON

COMPONENTS

IMPROVING THE E-LEARNING PLATFORM

Mining Horizon improves miners, public servants, and college students' access to affordable instruction on ASGM topics through an expansive e-learning platform. This component is led by DAI.

SUPPORTING MINING FORMALIZATION

Mining Horizon helps informal miners understand the laws and procedures that govern mining. It works with universities and mining authorities to design and pilot regional ASGM clinics to guide informal miners on formalization and address formalization bottlenecks. This component is led by CORCRESER.

ENCOURAGING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Mining Horizon strengthens the GOC's capacity by facilitating knowledge exchange between Colombian officials and international mining and environmental experts. These exchanges inform Colombian officials on ASGM topics, and they provide collaboration opportunities between Colombian officials and ASGM subject matter experts. This component is led by New America.

FACILITATING ASGM DIALOGS

Mining Horizon facilitates open dialogue among ASGM stakeholders, including miners. These dialogues enable stakeholders to share their perspectives, provide feedback to improve mining public policy, and strengthen mining formalization commitments between actors. This component is led by IIED.

DEVELOPING A LEARNING AGENDA

Mining Horizon develops and implements a learning agenda to inform USAID, the Colombian Government, and international development actors of actions to address illegal mining. The learning agenda integrates cross-cutting topics like climate change and biodiversity conservation. This component is led by CBC.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Reduce the perception of artisanal small-scale miners as criminal actors;
- Improve the National Mining Agency's capacity to advance gold mining formalization;
- Improve decision-making on mining public policy and associated environmental issues;
- Facilitate constructive and inclusive public discourse around addressing illegal gold mining;
- Engage Colombian Government decision makers in dialogues with international ASGM experts;
- Increase the number and quality of ASGM technical topics and tracks offered by the e-learning platform; and
- Increase the number of informal miners starting and advancing in the ASGM formalization process and complying with environmental standards.