



Standard 8

8 SOCIAL CLOSURE

8.1 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to outline the requirements for managing the social impacts on host communities arising from the closure of a B2Gold site. B2Gold's intention is to realize a positive legacy with host communities while minimizing negative outcomes resulting from Closure. A separate B2Gold Standard covers the HSE requirements for Site Closure.

8.2 PRINCIPLES

Closure planning and implementation activities will:

- Consider social risks and opportunities arising from closure;
- Seek to ensure a smooth transition of local socioeconomic conditions from Operations to Post-closure scenario;
- Aim to leave a positive net socioeconomic impacts on the affected region; and
- Be informed by internal and external stakeholders' input.

8.3 REQUIREMENTS

8.3.1 Compliance

- Sites will identify, track and comply with all in-country legal obligations and other corporate commitments regarding Closure.
- Social Closure Plans (see Section 8.3.2 for details) will be integrated with other Site Closure plans and must be shared with relevant departments at Corporate and Site, in particular Environmental, Human Resources, Finance and Legal.

8.3.2 Planning

- Sites must develop Social Closure Plans to manage the social impacts and risks associated with Site Closure.
- Social Closure Plans will:
 - Identify key external stakeholders, including at a minimum host communities, local and national government authorities;
 - Include closure goals developed during engagement with key stakeholders;



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- Identify socio-economic impacts, risks and potential opportunities arising from Closure;
 - Develop strategies to manage and reduce residual risks;
 - Be designed to achieve the objective of this Standard;
 - Detail the costs of Closure for inclusion in annual budgets and will support the Asset Retirement Obligations for the Site; and
 - Demonstrate mechanisms for input from key stakeholders throughout the process.
- Social Closure Plans shall be reviewed upon completion of the construction phase of a project and updated at least every five years thereafter through analysis and appropriate stakeholder engagement.
 - Social Closure Plans will display a level of detail consistent with the planned life of the Site and shall be reviewed annually when the project is within five years of the end of the life of mine and during the post-closure period. The Social Closure Plan shall also be reviewed and updated after significant changes to the project that may generate potential risks or opportunities to local stakeholders (e.g., pit expansion, plant expansion, new tailings storage facility, etc.).
 - Commencing at the first five-year review (or earlier) and as part of all subsequent reviews, updated social baseline data must be reviewed with relevant stakeholders in line with B2Gold Social Performance Standard 10 – Social Baseline & Impact Assessment and Management. Data collected and the results of the review should inform and be aligned with community investment, local procurement and local employment plans.

8.3.3 Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

- Sites must transition the Social Closure Plan to a Social Closure Implementation Plan at least two years prior to decommissioning.
- Sites must monitor the impacts of Closure on host communities and report on outcomes compared with the goals and costs established in the Social Closure Implementation Plan, at least annually or more frequently as appropriate.

8.4 REFERENCE MATERIAL

8.4.1 Guidelines and Tools

[Integrated Mining Closure: Good Practice Guide](#), 2nd Edition by International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM) 2019; available in English.

8.5 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Closure: Refers to the period of time and associated actions that occur at a site when the site activities (e.g. exploration or ore-extraction activities) are diminishing or have ceased, and final decommissioning and site reclamation is being completed.

Host Communities: Communities receiving resettled households.

Site: For the purposes of this Standard, sites include B2Gold offices, operating mines, satellite mines (either independently or included within an operating mine's reporting), construction sites, and legacy sites; and, does not include exploration (unless otherwise expressed), joint-venture sites (non-management roles), relinquished sites, non-active sites, and sites under care and maintenance.



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Stakeholder: Any individual or group that is impacted by or has an interest in B2Gold and its activities. Stakeholders may include locally affected communities or individuals and their formal and informal representatives, employees and contractors, national or local government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organizations and groups with special interests, the academic community, or other businesses or groups.

Stakeholder engagement: Ongoing formal and informal processes between a company and its stakeholders intended to build trust-based relationships and allow for informed decision making. Engagement can include a range of activities and approaches, such as information sharing, dialogue, consultation, and participation.

8.6 DOCUMENT CONTROL

Revision	Approved	Date	Description
Final	Ken Jones	29 November 2020	Original 2020 issue of the B2Gold Social Performance Standards