



**OUR COMMUNITIES: STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT**

SPOTLIGHT ON MALI

Mining projects provide a unique opportunity for contributing to the development of host communities. As a responsible mining company, we provide support and contributions to help local community members develop sustainable communities, focusing on livelihood, education, health and environmental improvement initiatives. We believe that working in an inclusive manner with local stakeholders, government and organizations to identify, select and implement projects is the key to successful community development projects.

Every country in which we operate has distinct community development needs, and we have found that the best way to make investment go the furthest is to listen to those on the ground, especially those who will be directly affected. In Mali and the Philippines, we have established governance committees composed of stakeholders, including representation from women and vulnerable groups, which evaluate and select potential projects. In Namibia, committees with a mix of internal and external stakeholders are part of the process. At all our sites, projects are selected based on regularly updated assessments of community needs.

In addition to targeted development programs, we are also committed to maximizing local and national economic benefits from our contracting and purchasing. In sourcing the goods and services necessary to run our operations, we give preference to local businesses where possible, thus investing in the community directly through procurements that are essential to our operation and simultaneously increasing local interest and investment in our operations.



The Pride of AFECK

In 2017, with co-funding from Global Affairs Canada and in partnership with CowaterSogema, we launched the Adéquation Formation-Emploi dans le Cercle de Kéniéba (AFECK) project in the region of our Fekola Mine in Mali. AFECK is a “Skills for Employment” initiative designed to improve vocational skills for Kéniéba District residents to meet the needs of the labour market and to increase the capacity of small businesses, with a focus on female entrepreneurs. In its first three years, AFECK has delivered vocational and entrepreneurial training to nearly a thousand local residents.

AFECK has helped formalize 27 small businesses, including 13 women’s cooperatives, and ensured they are registered as vendors with the mining companies operating in the region. Monitoring of the 13 women’s cooperatives showed a 65% increase in their income.

One of the more significant and tangible achievements of the AFECK project has been the establishment of the Kéniéba Vocational Training Centre, with a capacity to train up to 360 students each year in catering, welding, electricity and auto mechanics. Complementary training is also offered in literacy and entrepreneurship. Today, the centre is the pride of the region with 133 graduates (including 78 women) to date.



UNICEF Partnership to Support and Empower Girls and Young Women in Artisanal Mining

The region surrounding our Fekola Mine in Mali is known locally and globally as one of the most important gold-producing areas in Africa. We recognize the local economic and cultural value of artisanal and small-scale mining as a traditional livelihood and strive to maintain a peaceful coexistence with these miners. We work to improve the circumstances of those involved in artisanal and small-scale mining to the benefit of the broader community.

One concern about artisanal mining in Mali is the ubiquity of children working on the sites, with limited access to health and education services. These children, especially the girls, are among the most vulnerable peoples of Mali, and are prone to experiencing violence, abuse and exploitation.

In pursuit of safer and more equitable outcomes for these youth, we partnered with UNICEF in 2019 to minimize these risks in collaboration with local government and organizations.

These efforts, over the course of three years, will ensure that children, including those who have never been to school, have access to education and training opportunities, that adolescent girls are protected from abuse and empowered in their choices, and that young mothers have access to daycare for their children.

By protecting, educating, and empowering vulnerable girls and boys in mining communities, the overall well-being of the community will be improved, creating social cohesion and reducing potential tensions that may arise. Through education and training, the project will also enhance the knowledge, skills, and confidence of girls and boys in the area, contributing to local employment and economic development.

Driven by a commitment to operate with fairness, respect, transparency and accountability, we support local stakeholders to identify and implement community development projects. We believe it is our responsibility to share benefits and aim to leave a positive legacy with communities that will last beyond the life of our mines. We hope to attain this by listening, engaging, and then delivering, ensuring promises made are kept.