STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

B2Gold engages openly and respectfully with stakeholders to better understand actual or perceived impacts, ensure stakeholder views are considered in our operational decision-making, and build constructive and responsive relationships. Our Stakeholder Engagement Performance Standard aligns with the IFC Social Performance Standards. Effectively engaging with stakeholders has proven to be critical to business performance as it allows a company to proactively identify and address issues, thereby lowering operational and reputational risk. Engagement can also contribute to positive social and economic development when stakeholders are involved in identifying and designing programs to address community needs.

Community Relations managers at each site generally hold overall responsibility for managing stakeholder engagement, with general managers and other senior staff holding responsibility for various relationships or activities. This cross-functional group meets frequently to share feedback from stakeholders and plan for managing social impacts and issues.

Every site has identified relevant stakeholders based on project impacts and risks, and stakeholder influence and interests. We engage through a variety of methods, depending on the social and cultural context: public meetings, door-to-door visits, community assemblies or interest-group gatherings. Formal consultation committees that involve vulnerable groups are in place at Fekola for general engagement, natural resources management, community development, and resettlement; and at Masbate for community development planning. Public consultations were conducted at all sites as part of mine planning activities. Non-salient issues that were raised by stakeholders and addressed by B2Gold include local employment, blasting, and potable water at El Limon; blasting, community investment, and noise at La Libertad; concerns over land use and water at New Fadougou (near Fekola); and flooding, blasting, and compensation at Masbate.

An ongoing area of focus for B2Gold is to ensure we are proactively sharing our understanding of our impacts and how they are being managed with stakeholders. In Nicaragua, there are regular bilateral and group meetings with key stakeholders; in the Philippines, a multi-stakeholder monitoring team that includes local representatives conducts an annual review of the management of impacts; in Namibia, environmental monitoring data is shared directly with local stakeholders through social media forums; and in Mali, annual town hall-style meetings are held in local communities.

SDG covered by this initiative: **1**

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PLANNING TOGETHER AT THE MASBATE MINE

The Masbate Mine Community Relations team launched community-level information campaigns that included monthly meetings with different stakeholder groups in the eight host communities and 33 neighbouring communities. Target groups include village, municipal and provincial officials, youth, women, senior citizens, fishermen, farmers, artisanal miners, and religious groups.

Presentations outlined major activities on mining and provided updates on community investment projects and environmental management programs. Various government agencies were invited to collaborate and deliver vital information about the government's priority programs and how to access available government resources and services. This collaborative effort is also designed to create good working relations with agencies implementing programs aligned with the goals of the Mine, especially on community investment. The partners include Departments of Trade and Industry, Social Welfare and Development, Interior and Local Government, and Health, and the Philippine National Police. The Masbate Mine also coordinates with government agencies in its management of security issues, planning for community development and mine closure, among other issues.

These collaborative meetings generated active participation from stakeholders in raising possible issues and exploring possible solutions together.