

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



Mining projects provide a unique opportunity for engaging with and contributing to the development of host communities. As part of our socio-economic impact and legacy, one of our goals is to help build sustainable communities, with B2Gold acting as a catalyst and community members playing a lead role in their own development. We believe that working in an inclusive manner with local stakeholders, government and NGO partners to identify, select and implement projects is an important factor in the success of our community development projects. Our Community Investment Performance Standard, which aligns with the IFC Performance Standards and ICMM guidance, defines how we focus on sustainable contributions to the communities where we operate.

Responsibility for managing community investment budgets and the implementation of projects rests with the Community Relations department at each operation. In Mali and the Philippines<sup>34</sup>, B2Gold has established governance committees composed of stakeholders, including representation from women and vulnerable groups, which evaluate and select potential projects that meet pre-established objectives and criteria. In Namibia, committees with a mix of internal and external stakeholders are part of the process. At all sites, projects are selected based on regularly updated assessments of community needs.

B2Gold continues to evolve its approach to monitoring community investment projects and their impacts. In Nicaragua, a formal assessment is conducted upon project completion that evaluates project outcomes and includes stakeholder feedback. In the Philippines, regular reporting on project implementation is provided to communities and submitted to the mining regulator, and as part of planning for social closure, a household survey was conducted that tested residents' experiences with the community programs. In 2020, B2Gold will be working with the regulator in the Philippines and other regional mining companies to assess the potential for integrating SDG indicators into community investment reporting. In Mali and Namibia, regular monitoring of project implementation is conducted; efforts to establish outcome-based indicators are ongoing.

<sup>34</sup> In the Philippines, the community development committees are established in line with regulatory requirements.

