



Responsible Mining Index

Transparent assessment and encouraging continuous improvement in responsible extractives

The objective of the Responsible Mining Index program is to encourage continuous improvement in economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) practices by companies in the extractives value chain.

Rationale

The extraction of mineral and metals as well as its trade represent a potential source of revenues and growth for developing countries. Many developing countries (including many of the priority countries of SECO's development cooperation) possess substantial reserves of natural resources and more particularly minerals and metals. However, in practice resource-rich countries in general have tended to underperform economically, have a higher incidence of social unrest and conflict, and suffer from poor governance. Consequently, they are often not only deprived from the benefits of resources exploitation, but suffer also from environmental degradation, human rights abuses, severe working conditions, armed conflicts, corruption and tax evasion.

The practices of large mining and trading companies play a decisive role to assure that the developing countries can indeed benefit from this major potential richness. There is a need for making information on environmental, social and economic practices of mining companies comparable and freely available and thus reducing the information asymmetry. Switzerland has a particular responsibility in this regard as one of world's leading centers of commodities trading and processing.

Objectives and activities

The program is structured in four thematic outcomes areas:

1. Increased awareness by large-scale mining companies, downstream trading companies, customers and other stakeholders of what society expects on economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) issues.
2. Stakeholders are better equipped with the information and tools to build knowledge and know-how, and enable learning, engagement and action on responsible EESG practices.
3. Increasing engagement with large-scale mining companies, traders and customers, and other stakeholders to normalise responsible EESG practices across the extractives value chain.
4. Articulation and application of society expectations on EESG issues challenge the status quo of company policies and practices in the extractives value chain.

SECO country/region

Global

Implementing partner

Responsible Mining Foundation

Duration

2021-2025 (Phase III)

Total budget

EUR 6,000,000

SECO contribution

CHF 3,000,000



The Responsible Mining Index (RMI) Report is a biennial assessment of large globally-dispersed mining companies' policies and practices on economic development, business conduct, lifecycle management, community wellbeing, working conditions and environmental responsibility – with gender and human rights issues integrated throughout the report. The latest RMI Report in 2020 covered around 40 companies including publicly-listed, state-owned and private companies. Together these companies represent between 25-30% of the global value of mining production, cover 55 producing and 19 home countries, and account for over 1,050 operating and 150 closed mine sites, with known tax jurisdictions in 120 countries.

The RMI Report has been complemented by a number of other research insights, tools and reports. One of them is the Mine Site Assessment Tool, a set of questions that is intended as a starting point to constructive engagement at any mine site, or the pilot study on ESG due diligence and transparency policies and practices among a sample of 25 companies in the extractive commodity trading sector.

Project organization and governance

SECO is one of several funders of the Responsible Mining Foundation. RMF accepts funding from governments, civil society and philanthropic foundations. To ensure its independence, the Foundation does not accept funding or other contributions from the mining industry. The Responsible Mining Foundation (RMF) was established in November 2012 as a not-for-profit research organization, operating for the common good and is based in Nyon, Switzerland.

The Board of Trustees is the supervisory authority of the Foundation and oversees the strategy, policies and course of action of the Management Board. The Advisory Council enhances the range of expertise and experience informing the work of the Responsible Mining Foundation.

Further information and contact details

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