

### What is ASM?

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) is a profoundly important livelihood for millions of people around the world, however as it is often clandestine, illegal or socially disruptive in nature, it rarely receives the time, support and attention needed to strengthen its local economic potential while transforming its dangerous aspects and practices.

Artisanal mining typically uses manual labor, simple tools, and basic recovery and processing techniques. Small-scale mining is also labor-intensive but also employs a higher level of mechanization and more sophisticated processes.

Minerals mined by ASM include precious metals and stones, industrial minerals, construction materials and consumables such as salt. Extraction is often carried out in precarious conditions and trade of ASM minerals is frequently linked to illegal chains, rarely contributing back to the formal economy.

**ASM has been linked to conflict, child-labor, pollution, migration, and poverty.**

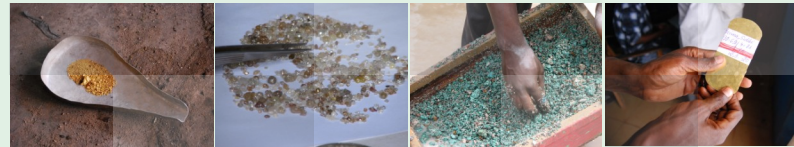
### Why is ASM important?

Despite the negative practices and impacts, for the millions of people involved in ASM mining, trade and associated economies, it is an extremely important part of their survival strategy (whether as a full-time, seasonal or supplementary activity). In some countries, artisanal extraction rivals or exceeds industrial mining in terms of scale and volume of material produced. ASM is also fundamentally linked to communities' sense of rights to, and control over, their national resources.

### Pact's approach to ASM

Pact's approach to ASM is based on direct engagement with the ASM community, on the ground and in the mines. All too often, ASM interventions are designed without genuinely consulting the ASM communities and their objectives, constraints, ideas and doubts. Pact works closely with the mining and trading communities to ensure that projects actually represent and meet the needs of those engaged in ASM.

Pact works with local and international partners to bring artisanal miners, traders, NGOs, development agencies, governments, technical experts, and the private sector together to collectively recognize, understand and address the challenges and opportunities created by ASM.



**Pact's Corporate Community Engagement Mission is to be:**

- **a knowledgeable, influential, independent voice on business and community**
- **a professional advisor and implementing partner to responsible enterprises, international agencies, and civil society**
- **a social entrepreneur, committed to catalyzing positive lasting change in communities where business plays a critical role.**



### How Pact works with ASM communities

Pact recognizes the value of ASM and works with artisanal miners, their host communities, governments and other actors such as large-scale mining companies, to find ways to reduce the negative impacts of ASM and to enhance its economic development potential. In order to achieve this, Pact takes the following approaches:

- Assisting artisanal miners to enhance the value and impact of their income through savings and financial management training
- Providing training in agriculture, small enterprise development, or other income generating activities to men and women artisanal miners who wish to find alternative / supplementary livelihoods
- Contributing to improved standards and safety in ASM through appropriate training for mine supervisors, notably government ASM agents
- Assisting artisanal miners to improve their organization and hence their collective voice for access to resources, fair pricing, and legal protection
- Assisting resident communities facing an influx of migratory miners, to reduce conflicts between the community and the miners, and to rehabilitate the social structure when the miners move on
- Supporting ASM communities to address some of the complex social challenges and issues which are frequently associated with artisanal mines including HIV/AIDS, sexual violence, and child labor
- Researching the links between ASM and issues such as informal trade, demobilization and conflict, mineral rights and access, in order to recommend innovative, practical solutions and options
- Supporting governments to find ways to improve the legality, regulation and economic contribution of artisanal mining through mechanisms such as artisanal mining areas and using popular and appropriate methods to disseminate the law



### A Case Study from Kolwezi, DRC

**Kolwezi, in the heart of the Katanga Copperbelt, contains globally important mineral resources and is the centre of much new international investment.** However, for years, the region's copper ore has also provided a livelihood to tens of thousands of artisanal miners and their families. Pact is working with a wide range of partners to reduce the tensions associated with the transition from ASM to large-scale mining, and to find livelihood alternatives for the ASM communities. This overview of just some of our activities in the area shows how Pact takes an integrated approach to addressing ASM issues, engaging stakeholders in every sector.

Pact worked with Anvil Mining and artisanal miners to establish an agreed buying system for copper tailings which were mined, by hand, in an old river bed in Kolwezi. This site was safe, supervised by government ASM officials, and paid all legal taxes.

With funding from USAID and Anvil Mining, Pact worked with partners from many sectors to start a locally-led campaign to prevent child labor in the mines in Kolwezi.

Pact established literacy, savings and income-generation groups for women working in artisanal mines in Kolwezi to enable them to start farming, restaurants, bakeries and other small businesses, and thus to leave the mines.

In partnership with UN agencies, USAID and Anvil Mining, Pact supported the DRC government in Kolwezi to determine how to implement the national ASM law in relation to establishing artisanal mining zones.

