

Transformed livelihoods



Rural communities living in the border areas between southwestern Mali, northeastern Guinea, and southeastern Senegal face many challenges. In addition to the region's instability and security challenges, their relatively isolated location results in limited access to public services, and those dependent on agriculture are vulnerable to climate impacts. In these border areas, many families depend on informal artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) to earn a living.

The “[Strengthening Resilience in Border Areas \(RéZo\) Programme](#)” is funded by the European Union (EU) and Germany through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ. The objective of RéZo is to strengthen the socio-economic resilience of local populations in cross-border areas, especially youth, between Senegal, Mali and Guinea.



PHOTO BY: JORDEN DE HAAN / PACT

Artisanal gold mine in Cercle de Kangaba, Mali.

As a partner of RéZo, Pact is implementing “*Moyens de subsistance transformés*”, or Transformed Livelihoods, also known as MOST, in partnership with three NGO: *Fédération des Femmes Minières du Mali* (FEMIMA), *La Lumière* in Senegal, and *Action Mines Guinée*. **MOST aims to enhance the livelihoods resilience, peace, and stability of ASGM communities in cross-border areas between Senegal, Mali, and Guinea.**

The two-year project, which will be closely coordinated with GIZ and local government partners, including border and mining authorities of each country, aims to achieve this with the following activities:

1. Integrated analysis and capacity development of local partners

The project partners are first engaging all relevant government and civil society stakeholders in each country to : i) plan project activities in line with national priorities; ii) raise awareness of ASGM's environmental impacts and the importance of formalization. Subsequently, they will visit ASGM communities in the project's target border areas (see map on page 2) to undertake an integrated analysis. This analysis will assess the political economy of the regional ASGM sector, community needs, and livelihoods options, as well as their vulnerability to pressures such as climate change and local conflict dynamics. Pact will also strengthen the capacity of its local partners to enable them to support continued progress after the project ends.

2. Establishment of formal institutions and livelihood formalization

Project partners will strengthen the capacity of existing groups of gold miners and support their formal registration with local authorities as either cooperatives, small to medium enterprises, or economic interest groups, as applicable in each country. Depending on local needs, they may also support their application for mining licenses and help them negotiate

formal land access with landowners or industrial companies. To further support the professionalization of such formalized institutions, project partners will provide training series covering topics such as national mining regulations, business and financial management, safe mining, and mercury-free mineral processing.

Finally, in Mali and Guinea, Pact and *Action Mines Guinée* will engage formalized mining communities in rehabilitating mined out sites to restore the areas’ full ecosystem and facilitate post-mining livelihoods.

3. Participatory governance and social cohesion

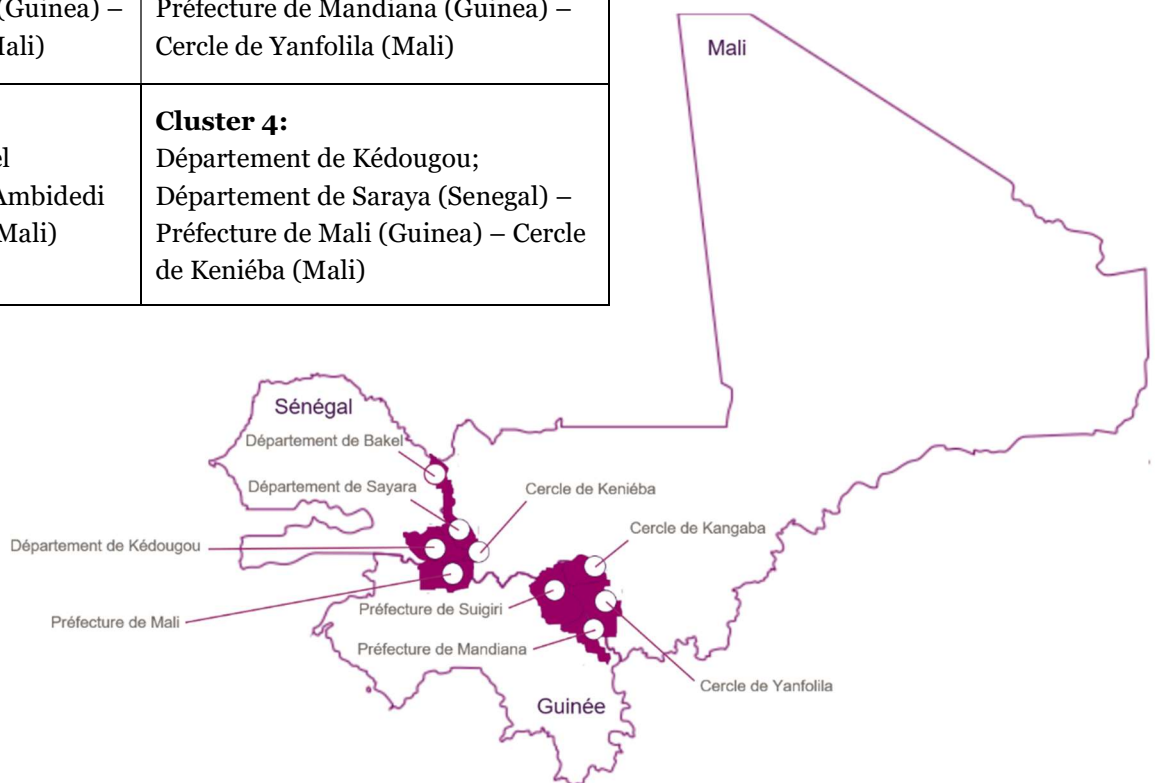
Complementing the first two project components, which mostly focus on the community-level, the third project component supports participatory mining governance and social cohesion at the regional and national levels. This includes addressing the local needs in each country, in close coordination with government partners.

In Mali, Pact will provide technical support to the ‘*Cadre de Concertation*’, a multi-stakeholder mechanism established with the Ministry of Mines in 2024 under Pact’s ‘Promoting a Mercury-free Mali’ project which concluded in 2025. By supporting the coordination of quarterly meetings and technical working sessions of the Cadre’s government, private sector, and civil society members, Pact will support this mechanism in pursuing its ambitions of formalizing ASGM gold production and gold trading and preventing terrorism financing in Mali.

In Guinea, *Action Mines Guinée* and Pact will facilitate the establishment of similar multi-stakeholder mechanisms involved in ASGM sector governance at the regional level, and facilitate workshops to promote transparent mining governance, citizenship, and human rights. After assessing key barriers to ASGM formalization, these partners will organize a workshop including government, civil society, and private sector stakeholders in Conakry to facilitate social dialogue around ASGM formalization and foster consensus on related actions. Subsequently, they will develop, in partnership with the Ministry of Mines and Geology, a national action plan on this topic.

Cross-border regions targeted by MOST

Clusters of MOST target regions	
<p>Cluster 1: Préfecture de Siguiri (Guinea) – Cercle de Kangaba (Mali)</p>	<p>Cluster 2: Préfecture de Mandiana (Guinea) – Cercle de Yanfolila (Mali)</p>
<p>Cluster 3: Département de Bakel (Senegal) – Cercle d'Ambidedi et Cercle de Sadiola (Mali)</p>	<p>Cluster 4: Département de Kédougou; Département de Saraya (Senegal) – Préfecture de Mali (Guinea) – Cercle de Keniéba (Mali)</p>



Finally, in Senegal, *La Lumière* will, with support from Pact, similarly organize regional workshops with civil society and private sector stakeholders to discuss ASGM governance and prepare these stakeholders to advocate for their rights with the Senegalese government. Based on these dialogues and an assessment of key barriers to ASGM formalization in Senegal, *La Lumière* will organize a workshop bringing together all stakeholders in Dakar to facilitate social dialogue around ASGM formalization and foster consensus of related actions. Subsequently, they will develop, in partnership with the Ministry of Energy, Petroleum, and Mines, a national action plan on this topic. At the community level, *La Lumière* and Pact will further analyze land conflicts and strengthen local monitoring and alert committees in preventing and mitigating such conflicts and sexual and gender-based violence in mining areas.

ABOUT THE PROJECT PARTNERS

Pact builds lasting solutions for thriving, resilient communities, leveraging integrated solutions for greater impact. In partnership with government, industry, miners, and mining communities, we make ASGM safer, formal, and more productive, while making the most of the sector's contributions to sustainable development. Pact's peacebuilding work focuses on addressing root causes of conflict, identifying shared interests that incentivize peace, and working with governments, civil society, and communities to build sustainable institutions and mechanisms for peace.

FEMIMA is a Malian federation of women miners created in 2015 which brings together 70 associations and 50 cooperative societies from the mining regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, and Sikasso. Its headquarters are in Bamako, and it has branches in the said regions.

La Lumière is an NGO established in 1999 in Senegal focused on empowering vulnerable Senegalese communities, including gold miners. Its headquarters are in Tambacounda and the organization has branches in the Kédougou, Kolda, and Sédhiou regions.

Action Mines Guinée is an NGO created in 2012 in Conakry, which participates in monitoring the governance of extractive industries, including the gold mining sector. Its headquarters are in Conakry, and it has branches in the prefectures of Siguiro and Mandiana.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jorden de Haan

Senior Manager and MOST Project Director, Pact
jdehaan@pactworld.org

Aly Diarra

MOST Deputy Project Director, Pact
adiarra@pactworld.org

Mamadou Oury Bah

Monitoring & Evaluation Manager, Action Mines Guinée
anitasogoba@gmail.com

Anne Sogoba

Secretary General, FEMIMA
bmamadououry80@gmail.com

Aliou Bakhoum

Station Manager, La Lumière
bakhoumaliou2000@yahoo.fr

Pact is an international nonprofit with experience in more than 60 countries building solutions for human development that are evidence-based, data-driven, and owned by the communities we serve. Founded in 1971, Pact works with partners to build resilience, improve accountability, and strengthen knowledge and skills for sustainable social impact.