



Convening Actors to Develop and Implement Strategies to Reduce Child Labor and Improve Working Conditions in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (CARING GOLD MINING PROJECT)



AT A GLANCE

➔ **Partners**

BANToxics!, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Coalition for Small Scale Miners, Municipal Governments of Labo and Paracale, Provincial Government of Camarines Norte, Municipal Government of T'boli and Provincial Government of South Cotabato

➔ **Donor**

US Department of Labor

➔ **Duration**

December 2015 to October 2019

➔ **Target beneficiaries**

child labourers and their families, artisanal and small scale gold miners and workers, government agencies and local government units

➔ **Geographical focus**

Global and National



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The CARING Gold Mining Project in the Philippines will address the problem of child labour and poor working conditions in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) operations by supporting the sector towards setting-up of legal and regulated Peoples' Small Scale Mines (Minahang Bayan) that are compliant with environmental, health, and labour standards. It will work with BanToxics!, which has long been working with ASGM communities in the area of eliminating the use of mercury, and the Coalition for Small Scale Miners in reaching out to these communities while establishing a convergence platform where different government agencies led by the DOLE and the LGUs in Camarines Norte and South Cotabato, which are the pilot provinces, can come together to support this effort.

The following are the objectives of the Project:

1. Laws, policies and action plans to address child labour (CL) and working conditions (WC) in ASGM are strengthened, enforced and/or implemented.
 - Enhancement of national and local laws, policies, regulations, licensing contracts, action plans and budgets to reflect CL and WC issues.
 - Strengthening regulatory and enforcement bodies as well as inter-agency coordination mechanisms.
2. Access of vulnerable households living in ASGM communities to relevant social protection and livelihood programs is improved.
 - Strengthening of ASGM communities and their associations.
 - Mobilization of tripartite constituents, civil society groups and other stakeholders to support improving access of ASGM communities to social protection and livelihoods.
 - Innovative solutions to reduce CL and improve WC in ASGM are supported and disseminated.
3. Mechanisms to increase transparency and monitoring of CL and WC in gold mining supply chains, particularly ASGM, are implemented.
 - Setting up Monitoring Teams at the provincial, municipal and community level to detect and report child labour incidents as well as environment and OSH violations.
 - Conduct of an awareness campaign at the national, local and community levels.
4. Global networks to reduce CL and improve WC in ASGM are operational.
 - Development of a global network of stakeholders to work on issues of CL and WC in ASGM.





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International Labour Organization



MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Conduct of researches on situation of the ASGM sector including gaps in laws and enforcement, social and labour conditions in mining activities and community needs.
- Formulation and/or amendment of laws, action plans and programs at the national and local levels that support formalization of ASGM.
- Provisions of services and support to ASGM communities towards the formalization of their operations.
- Support for ASGM operations in legalizing their operations and acquiring necessary technologies and tools to comply with standards.
- Conduct of communications and advocacy campaigns to address child labour and working conditions in ASGM and support formalization of the sector.
- Setting up of monitoring platforms at the mine, community and industry levels to detect violations of environmental, social and labour standards.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Component 1: Laws, policies and action plans to address child labour and working conditions in ASGM are strengthened, enforced and/or implemented

- Gap analysis on child labour and working conditions in relevant laws analyzed, with the view to amend the current small-scale mining law.
- ASGM Situation Report validated and finalized for publication.
- Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Risk Assessment Study on ASGM validated by stakeholders toward amending OSH Guidelines on Small Scale Mines.
- Scope of ASGM Technical Working Group expanded to include labor and working conditions.
- ASGM Roadmap for Camarines Norte and South Cotabato adopted by the Miner's Federation.
- Memorandum of Understanding signed by LGUs of Camarines Norte and South Cotabato, and key stakeholders to address ASGM issues.
- Community-Based Monitoring System to support LGUs in developing ASGM laws and plans developed.
- Bill to amend R.A. No. 7076 (People's Small-Scale Mining Law), National Action Plan on ASGM, drafted and validated with the National Coalition of Small Scale Miners.

Component 2: Access of vulnerable households living in ASGM communities to social protection services and to improved livelihood programmes is increased

- Formation, registration and strengthening of seven workers' associations in Camarines Norte.
- Training on the use of mercury-free technology conducted.
- Barangays Malaya and Casalugan declared as Minahang Bayan in 2018. Barangay Malaya now in the process of acquiring small scale mining contract with DENR.
- Ongoing service delivery by DOLE, DepEd, TESDA, DSWD in Project pilot areas.
- Fifty adults and youth in ASGM communities trained on Plumbing (25 males) and Electronics (25 females) and linked to the job market through the training for employment program of TESDA
- Compassionate Gold brand launched.
- Orientation sessions on Freedom of Association (FOA), OSH in Mines and Child Labour conducted.

Component 3: Mechanisms to increase transparency and monitoring of child labour and working conditions in gold mining supply chains are developed and implemented, with a particular focus on ASGM

- Updates on SHIELD Against Child Labour Programme in partnership with DSWD: (a) MOA with LGUs signed; Resolutions issued; (b) Process flow and forms finalized; (c) Communication materials launched; (d) Child Labour Local Registry finalized; (e) Profiling of children and service delivery ongoing; and (f) Of more than 500 child labourers validated, almost 300 have been withdrawn.
- Local mechanism, or the Multi-stakeholders Monitoring and Certification Team (MSMCT) for the certification of the Compassionate Gold brand established.
- Pre-Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Study completed.
- Advocacy and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaigns conducted.

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