The social and economic contribution of gold mining

Introduction

Gold mining occurs on every continent except Antarctica, often in remote and poorly connected areas with little infrastructure or alternative economic activity. This briefing note aims to help quantify the size of the direct financial contribution of 31 World Gold Council (WGC) member companies in 2021. Their direct impact has been quantified in four main categories:

- Payments to governments (including taxes and royalties)
- Payments to suppliers
- Payments to employees
- Payments to communities

Mining is a complex, multi-year business. This data is based solely on a one-year snapshot in time and does not represent the full mining cycle. However, it does help to demonstrate the sizable economic impact of the gold mining industry, especially in developing economies.

Key highlights

- In 2021, WGC member companies directly contributed a total of US$57.1bn to host economies
- This comprised US$35.4bn of payments to in-country suppliers, US$11.7bn in employee wages and US$10.0bn in payments to governments
- On top of this, in 2021 contributions of over US$450m were made to local communities and Indigenous groups in the 37 countries of operations
- In 2021, WGC member companies directly employed close to 250,000 people and over 140,000 contractors
- Every job in the gold mining industry also supports six more indirect jobs in the supply chain or almost ten more if induced jobs are included
- Recent company efforts to train and develop local skills, as opposed to bringing in expatriates, has led to 95% of employees coming from the host country of operation

1. Details on how community investments in the gold industry contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be found in these reports.
2. The Social and Economic Contribution of Gold Mining 2021

Chart 1: In-country payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payments to in-country suppliers</th>
<th>Payments to employees</th>
<th>Payments to governments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$35.4bn</td>
<td>$11.7bn</td>
<td>$10.0bn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total in-country payments: $57.1bn
- Payments to suppliers: $35.4bn
- Payments to employees: $11.7bn
- Payments to governments: $10.0bn

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Chart 2: Payments to communities

Total payments $451.8m
- Communities $297.0m
- Indigenous communities $154.8m

Chart 3: Supporting livelihoods

Total workforce 386,984
- Total employees 246,271
- Total contractors 140,713

Employee breakdown
- Nationals 96%
- Expatriates 5%

Total workforce breakdown:
- Employees 246,271
  - Nationals 233,915
  - Expatriates 12,356
- Contractors 140,713

Chart 4: Gender diversity

16% Female
- Total employees 246,271
  - Female 38,386
  - Male 207,885

17% Female
- Executive Leadership 299
  - Female 50
  - Male 249

27% Female
- Board of Directors 283
  - Female 76
  - Male 207

The social and economic contribution of gold mining
Global data

Table 1: Consolidated data from survey 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Payments to governments</th>
<th>Payments to suppliers</th>
<th>Payments to employees</th>
<th>Payments to communities</th>
<th>Number of employees and contractors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>1,572.5</td>
<td>278.8</td>
<td>928.4</td>
<td>352.0</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>11,233</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>8,066.0</td>
<td>1,470.1</td>
<td>5,627.6</td>
<td>955.6</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>14,689</td>
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<td>404.0</td>
<td>1,620.0</td>
<td>278.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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<td>Burkina Faso</td>
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<td>1,083.1</td>
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<td>33.6</td>
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<td>1,856.9</td>
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<td>340.3</td>
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<td>20,822</td>
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<td>604.9</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>347.8</td>
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<td>Peru</td>
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<td>1,288.4</td>
<td>243.2</td>
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<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>340.9</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>221.0</td>
<td>757.6</td>
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<td>9.1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
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<td>3,863.1</td>
<td>1,642.2</td>
<td>22.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10,327.3</td>
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<td>5,130.4</td>
<td>2,395.4</td>
<td>124.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57,459.8</td>
<td>9,951.8</td>
<td>35,364.1</td>
<td>11,692.2</td>
<td>451.8</td>
<td>386,984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WGC Member Data
Note: Only includes countries where more than 2 member companies operate. All other country information can be found under ‘Other’

Methodology

The research is based on 2021 data from 31 World Gold Council member companies producing 35.6m ounces of gold and operating across 37 countries.

3. Countries include: Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Finland, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Serbia, Suriname, Tajikistan and Tanzania.