The social and economic impacts of gold mining

Supporting global economic growth

$83.1bn
Globally the mining industry directly contributed US$83.1 bn to the global economy in 2013.

$171.6bn
Including indirect economic impacts, this contribution rises to: US$171.6 bn.

700%
Contribution to global GDP increased almost 700% from 2000–2013.

Supporting host nations

70%
of total expenditure by gold mining companies remain in the host country (payments to suppliers, contractors and employees).

Over 60% of the top 30 gold producing countries (accounting for 90% of gold production) are low or lower-middle income countries.

There is a positive correlation between growth in gold mining’s impact on host economies and improvements in income status in these countries.

*Data is taken from Large Scale Mining listed companies, focusing on the Top 30 gold producing countries, which together account for over 90% of gold production.
Investing in people

1m
In 2013, the gold mining industry directly employed over 1 million people.

4.2m
This rises to 4.2 million employed as a result of procurement activities.

90%
In most regions, 90% of gold mining employees are local workers.

Mine worker salaries are consistency higher than the national average.

And in many countries with limited employment opportunities, these mining jobs often support many dependents.

Beyond the mine

Supporting communities
Gold mining companies can catalyse impactful development projects that improve the socio-economic conditions of host communities well beyond the mine.

Building linkages from the mine to the broader economy is central to supporting wider economic development.

Healthcare
is a significant focus area for gold mining companies, particularly HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

In a significant number of gold producing countries, the growth of gold mining over a ten-year period coincides with a clear reduction in the prevalence of these diseases.

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