

Strengths and limitations of voluntary sustainability initiatives

Case study : Swiss Better Gold Initiative

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Swiss Better Gold Initiative (SBGI)

- Public-private partnership between State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland (SECO) and the Swiss Better Gold Association (SBGA).

Objectives:

- Establish direct value chain between artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) operations and Swiss market.
- Reduce poverty and improve environmental and social conditions in ASM.

Research

- **Delimitations:**

Implementation in Peru from 2013 to 2021.

- **Data:**

Public documents, internal SBGI documents, interviews.

- **Research objectives:**

Strengths and limitations of the SBGI in integrating ASM mines into the formal economy.

- **Focus:**

Factors influencing the regional implementation and selection of participating ASM mines.

Regional implementation factors

- Presence of ASM mines with some technological and organisational level.
- Capacity to establish dialogue with local actors.
- Favourable framework conditions.

Peru: Implementation status in 2021

Cartography elaborated by the author, on the basis of a base map made available on d-maps.com



Selection of participating mines

Criteria

- Legality
- Legitimacy
- No child labour
- No direct or indirect support to armed groups
- Relationship with local communities
- Possession of legal concession title or formal exploitation contract
- Production, marketing and export capacity

Summary

- **Factors:**

Implementation context (national framework conditions, relations between the stakeholders on the ground).

Objectives and priorities defined by the initiators.

- **Limitations:**

In Peru, difficulties to keep balance between market and development objectives.

- **Strengths:**

Fosters dialogue and engagement of policy makers and economic stakeholders in the ASM sector.

Implication for traceability

- Relationships and exchanges between participating mines and artisanal miners.
- Difficulty in accessing detailed due diligence processes and audit reports.



Thank you for your
attention