Resilience for Peace (R4P) -Risks and opportunities of artisanal and small-scale mining in Northern Côte d'Ivoire



KEY INFORMATION ABOUT ILLEGAL ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING IN NORTHERN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

KEY FACTS



ESTIMATED VALUE ASGM* PRODUCTION

\$1.6 BILLION



ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ASGM MINERS (2014)

500,000



NUMBER OF PERMITS GRANTED FOR ARTISANAL MINING OPS

25

+200 FOR INDUSTRIAL OPS

ESTIMATED ANNUAL ASGM PRODUCTION
30 TO 40 TONS

LSGM** PRODUCTION (2021)
41.8 TONS

Highly informal, secretive nature

Profit margins are tight and economies of scale are critical for profitability

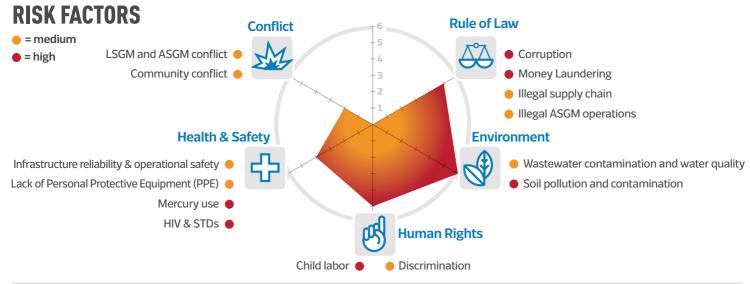
Most Ivorian artisanal gold
is undeclared and untaxed,
and smuggled out

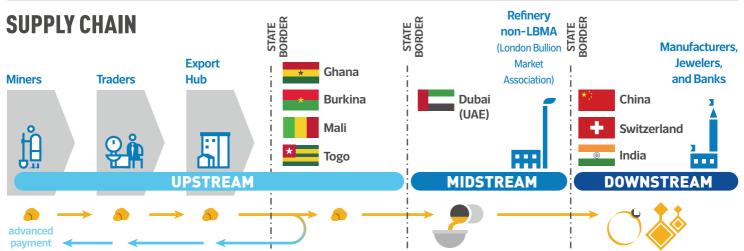
 Λ

High and moderate risk identified in ASGM sector in Côte d'Ivoire

* Artisanal & Small Scale Gold Mining

** Large Scale Gold Mining





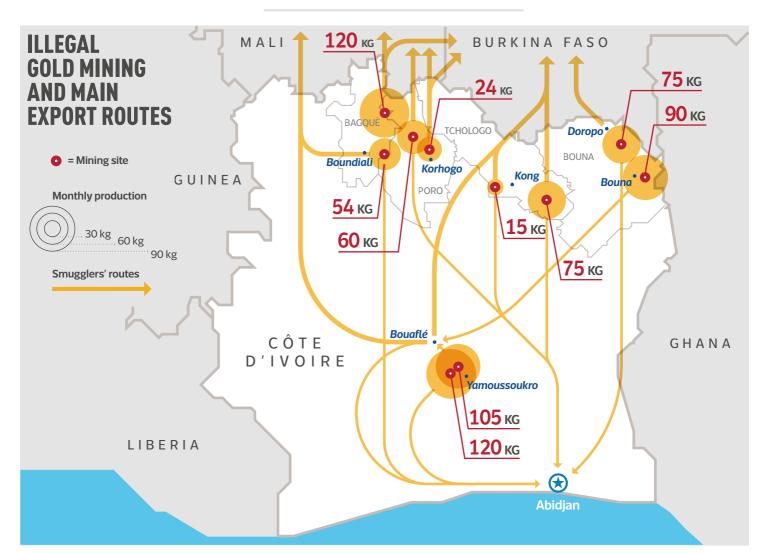
BACKGROUND

This study was commissioned by the USAID-funded project Resilience for Peace implemented by Equal Access International. The report is informed by field-based research involving semi-structured interviews, document reviews, and direct observation conducted from March to May 2022 in Abidjan, Bouake, and in 11 illegal high-production mining sites around Bouna, Kong, Korhogo, Boundiali, and Bouaflé. Over 60 interviews were conducted with multiple stakeholders involved in the ASGM sector, including supply chain actors (miners, local buyers, cooperatives, and exporters), trade associations, local authorities, civil society and international organization representatives, and experts in Ivoirian natural resource management. The study focused exclusively on larger ASGM sites with high production, therefore the conclusions are not representative of smaller ASGM sites.

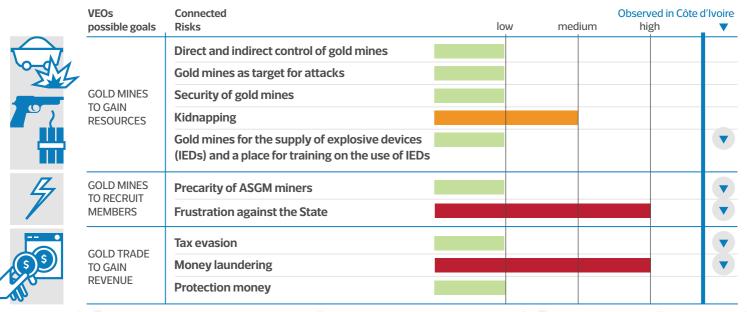




KEY INFORMATION ABOUT ILLEGAL ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING IN NORTHERN CÔTE D'IVOIRE



RISK FACTORS: VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND ILLEGAL AS GOLD MINING



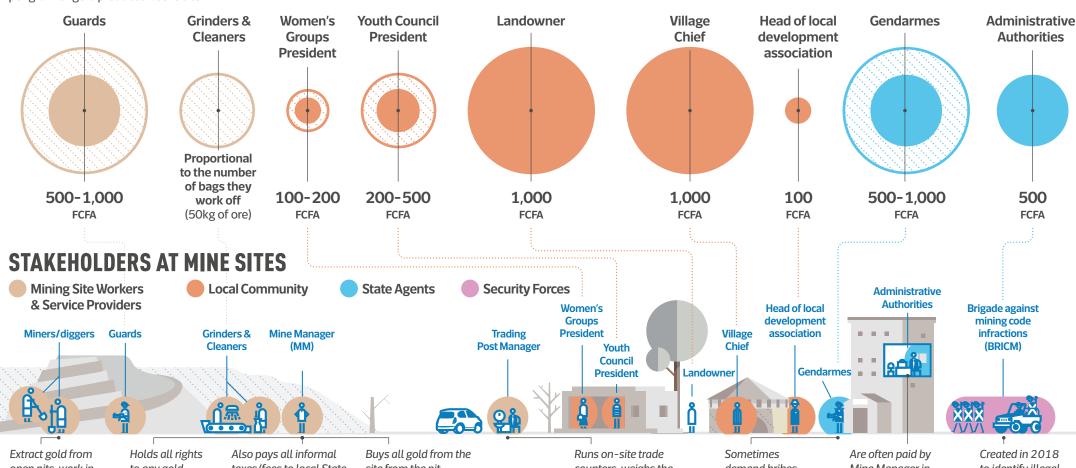




KEY INFORMATION ABOUT ILLEGAL ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING IN NORTHERN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

REVENUE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

per gram of gold produced at the site



Extract gold from open pits, work in teams, hired by MM, often Burkinabe or Malian nationals, and are paid per grams of gold produced. Holds all rights to any gold generated at a site, having paid off the landowner and relevant customary authorities.

Also pays all informal taxes/fees to local State authorities and traditional leaders. Pays all service providers, including armed guards and trading post manager.

Buys all gold from the site from the pit supervisor, who hires and pays the diggers, using money lent by investors who the MM later repays after the resale of the gold.

Runs on-site trade counters, weighs the gold, and pays service providers (diggers, washers, guards, etc.) per grams produced. Is known, trusted, and paid by the MM. Sometimes demand bribes and kickbacks. Other times receive payments in exchange for protection in different forms. Are often paid by Mine Manager in exchange for protection against threatened closures by BRICM agents. Created in 2018 to identify illegal sites, seize equipment, and prosecute actors. Collaborate with Water and Forestry officials.