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Social Performance Standard 3:
Community Investment

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3 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

3.1 OBJECTIVE

This Standard defines the minimum requirements to make meaningful, positive and sustainable contributions to the communities where we operate.

3.2 PRINCIPLES

Community Investment activities will:

- be identified based on community needs and priorities;
- include a focus on women and other vulnerable groups;
- help to address any negative impacts and increase the benefits of site activities;
- be developed and implemented with community stakeholders;
- increase community ownership and capacity over time and have an exit plan; and
- be valued by their outcomes rather than dollar-spend.

Community Investment activities will not:

- duplicate existing activities of other organizations or replace the role of governments;
- support, or be seen to support, a public official in an individual capacity or a political organization;
- provide support based on ethnic or religious factors; or
- create a dependency culture.

3.3 REQUIREMENTS

3.3.1 Process

- Formal Community Investment processes will be established at sites to receive and respond to requests, develop strategies and plans, and select, implement and review projects.

3.3.2 Planning

- Sites will define the scope for Community Investment (bounded by geography, time and investment types) based on an assessment of local demographic, cultural and social characteristics, stakeholder input and company priorities.



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- Sites will work with stakeholders to establish a participatory planning process to develop Community Investment objectives and indicators.
- Sites will develop and update (at a minimum every five years) Community Investment strategies that outline development objectives and indicators based on community needs, opportunities, assets and priorities, and the impacts and opportunities of mining activities. Required information sources for the Community Investment Strategies include social and environmental impact assessments, an updated community socio-economic profile, local/regional/national development plans, and site closure plans.
- Annually, sites will establish Community Investment Plans that include activities, projects, budgets, and responsibilities. These annual Plans will align with other site planning processes, including Improvement Plans.
- Sites will establish indicators for significant projects to track outputs and outcomes.
- Sites will plan to enhance the sustainability and community ownership of projects, for example through partnerships and capacity building.

3.3.3 Due Diligence, Decision-making and Implementation

- Sites will work with stakeholders to identify, design and implement Community Investment activities.
- Decision-making criteria will be established that reflects the principles in this Standard.
- Decisions on Community Investment projects must demonstrate consideration of stakeholder views. Where possible stakeholders will be directly involved in the decision-making process.
- Sites will demonstrate appropriate due diligence of potential beneficiaries and partners.
- Sites will determine and record who can authorize commitments to stakeholders, record all commitments in a Register and, where possible, avoid making commitments prior to a formal approvals process.
- All Community Investment activities will comply with company and national legal requirements, abide by relevant legislation concerning corruption and bribery and meet all internal financial management requirements.

3.3.4 Records, Monitoring and Reporting

- Sites will keep records of Community Investment activities, including monitoring the key performance indicators in the Community Investment Plan.
- Sites will internally report performance to senior management and to Corporate level as required.
- Sites will regularly evaluate the effectiveness of Community Investment activities, including against the Principles outlined in this Standard, and will include stakeholders in this process. Results will inform future Plans and activities.
- Sites will conduct regular external reporting of Community Investment performance, including communication of the decision-making process.

3.4 REFERENCE MATERIAL

3.4.1 Guidelines and Tools

[*Strategic Community Investment: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets;*](#)
by International Finance Corporation (IFC); available in English, Spanish, Portuguese

[*Community Development Toolkit*](#) by International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM); available in English, Spanish, French



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[Beyond Zero Harm](#) by the Devonshire Initiative

United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#)

3.5 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Closure: Refers to the period of time and associated actions that occur at a site when the site activities (e.g. exploration or ore-extraction activities) are diminishing or have ceased, and final decommissioning and site reclamation is being completed.

Community Investment: The involvement of the Company in social initiatives to meet the needs of the communities in which the Company operates. Investment is typically made in programs of community health, education, and other development programs that improve people's quality of life. Community Investment does not include investments necessitated by the Company's operations or infrastructure development, but does include social investment activities such as employee volunteering and charitable donations.

Site: For the purposes of this Standard, sites include B2Gold offices, operating mines, satellite mines (either independently or included within an operating mine's reporting), construction sites, and legacy sites; and, does not include exploration (unless otherwise expressed), joint-venture sites (non-management roles), relinquished sites, non-active sites, and sites under care and maintenance.

Stakeholder: Any individual or group that is impacted by or has an interest in B2Gold and its activities. Stakeholders may include locally affected communities or individuals and their formal and informal representatives, employees and contractors, national or local government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organizations and groups with special interests, the academic community, or other businesses or groups.

Vulnerable persons: people who by virtue of gender, ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, economic disadvantage or social status may be more negatively impacted than others, and who may not be as able to take advantage of project benefits.

3.6 DOCUMENT CONTROL

Revision	Approved	Date	Description
Final	Ken Jones	29 November 2020	Original 2020 issue of the B2Gold Social Performance Standards