THE JOURNEY TOWARDS
FAIRTRADE CERTIFICATION:
FORMALIZATION OF ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINERS IN EAST AFRICA
ABOUT FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade is an alternative approach to conventional trade based on a partnership between producers and traders, businesses and consumers. The international Fairtrade system - made up of Fairtrade International and its member organizations - represents the world’s largest and most recognized fair trade system.

ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINING

The Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) is the second biggest employer in Africa after agriculture and it offers a crucial livelihood to some of the most socially and economically vulnerable people. Across the world there are approximately 30 million Artisanal and Small-scale Miners, with the sector indirectly supporting 3-5 times the number. This is equivalent to 90% of the labour force in the Gold sector, which produces 10% of the global gold supply annually.

1 KG GOLD
FROM ARTISANAL MINING = 45 JOBS
FROM LARGE SCALE MINING = 0.2 JOBS

90% OF THE LABOUR FORCE IN THE GOLD SECTOR
ASM is a traditional activity of many communities, which has often been associated with illegality. With the price of gold reaching historical heights, millions more are attracted to the sector, as an alternative way to earn a living, despite the harsh working conditions and the vicious cycle of exploitation within the informal economy.

Majority of Artisanal miners in over 52 countries live on less than 1USD per day.

A BETTER DEAL FOR MINERS

Fairtrade certification is an initiative that helps communities grasp the opportunity to improve the quality of life. It promotes community-based artisanal and small-scale mining that is organized and responsible with its workers, the local community and the environment and facilitates access to ethical jewellery markets.

Mining organizations that adhere to good practices and become Fairtrade certified enter into long term business relationships with Fairtrade markets and are guaranteed a Fairtrade Minimum price for Gold (95% of London Fix) and a Fairtrade Premium to Invest in their business and community.

THE SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES THROUGH ASM IS POSSIBLE.
Positive Transformation: It’s Already Happening!

Through funding from Comic Relief, a 3 year project was initiated with 5 Partners to extend the benefits of Fairtrade Gold to Artisanal Miners in East Africa. Over 1100 artisanal miners were directly or indirectly involved in the pilot phase of the project whose objectives were:

1. **To enable miners to mine gold in a responsible manner as guided by the Fairtrade Standard**
   Miners trained in occupational health and safety of workers, child labour, responsible mercury use, women’s rights, clean and efficient technology, and environmental stewardship.

2. **To create a network of ASM stakeholders that promotes responsible ASM in Africa**
   Miners, individuals and institutions facilitated to learn and exchange expertise on responsible ASM to ensure the sustained development of ASM in Africa.

3. **To engage with miners, governments and ASM stakeholders to influence decisions around ASM**
   Governments, NGOs and Artisanal Mining organisations engaged to stimulate effective representation and debate of ASM in the governance and development.

4. **To create a market of Fairtrade Gold from Africa with ethical jewellers**
   Linkages with ethical jewellers and miners established to guarantee ready markets for Fairtrade Gold.

5. **To increase awareness amongst consumers on ethical and Fairtrade issues related to gold**
   Consumers enlightened through press briefings and media outlets to increase interest on Fairtrade gold products.
IMPACT:

- Formalisation of mining organisations
- Better occupational health and safety conditions for miners and workers
- Improved efficiency in mining and processing techniques
- Child labour eradication in mining sites
- Democratic decision making processes
- Improved business practices
- Environmental damage mitigation

BENEFICIARIES:

**Name:** Lolgorian ASMO Group Kenya  
**Region:** Transmara, Kenya  
**Year of Registration:** 2013  
**Total members:** 52

**Name:** Micodepro Development Group  
**Region:** Migori, Kenya  
**Year of Registration:** 1999  
**Total members:** 31

**Name:** Nsangano Gold Mine Project under Nsangano Traders  
**Region:** Geita, Tanzania  
**Year of Registration:** 1989  
**Total members:** 14

**Name:** Umoja Lwamgasa Saccos  
**Region:**  
**Year of Registration:** 2007  
**Total members:** 57

**Name:** Mawemeru Gold Project  
**Region:** Geita, Tanzania  
**Year of Registration:** 2007  
**Total members:** 23

**Name:** Busia United Small Scale Mining Association  
**Region:** Busia, Uganda  
**Year of Registration:** 2011  
**Total members:** 50

**Name:** Syanyonja Artisan Miners Alliance  
**Region:** Busia, Uganda  
**Year of Registration:** 2013  
**Total members:** 35

**Name:** Tiira Small Scale Mining Association  
**Region:** Busia, Uganda  
**Year of Registration:** 2013  
**Total members:** 52

**Name:** Buteba Small Scale Mining Association  
**Region:** Busia, Uganda  
**Year of Registration:** 2013  
**Members:** 31

www.fairgold.org
**Fairtrade Africa**

Fairtrade Africa (FTA) is the independent non-profit umbrella organisation representing all Fairtrade certified producers in Africa. FTA facilitated knowledge exchange and horizontal learning amongst ASM stakeholders for the development of an African network on responsible ASM.

[www.fairtradeafrica.net](http://www.fairtradeafrica.net)

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**Environmental Women in Action for Development (EWAD) – Uganda**

Environmental Women in Action for Development (EWAD) is a non-governmental organization based in Entebbe, Uganda, that provides support to impoverished local communities irrespective of religious, political, gender and racial affiliations. EWADs responsibility was to train 4 mining groups in Busia, Uganda to meet Fairtrade certification requirements.

[https://ewadprogramme.wordpress.com](https://ewadprogramme.wordpress.com)

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**MTL Consulting – Tanzania**

MTL Consulting Company Ltd (MTL) provides consulting services in the areas of mining, environmental and social management, geology and mineral exploration, mineral rights management and training in Tanzania. MTL supported the training of 3 mining groups in Geita, Tanzania to meet Fairtrade certification requirements.

[www.mtlconsulting-tz.com](http://www.mtlconsulting-tz.com)

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**Solidaridad**

Solidaridad is an international civil society organisation with more than 45 years of global experience in facilitating the development of socially responsible, ecologically sound, and profitable supply chains. Solidaridad works across 12 supply chains and operates through 10 regional offices on 5 continents.
Solidaridad - Kenya
Solidaridad’s regional office in Kenya, Solidaridad East and Central Africa (SECAEC), supported the training of 2 mining groups in Kenya to meet Fairtrade certification requirements.

Solidaridad - Netherlands
Solidaridad’s office in the Netherlands (NL), Solidaridad Netherlands, promoted the development of markets for Fairtrade Gold in Netherlands and supported jewellery brands interested in sourcing Fairtrade Gold from Africa.

www.solidaridadnetwork.org

Fairtrade Foundation
An independent non-profit organisation that licenses the use of the FAIRTRADE Mark on products in the UK in accordance to internationally agreed Fairtrade Standards. Fairtrade Foundation promoted the development of markets for Fairtrade Gold in the UK and supported jewellery brands interested in sourcing Fairtrade Gold from Africa.

www.fairtrade.org.uk

DONOR:

Comic Relief – UK
In 2012 Comic Relief granted The Fairtrade Foundation a sizeable grant towards the ‘Fairtrade Gold in East Africa’ programme, investing into nine pilot projects in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda & Tanzania). The impact of the programme has been considerable with all of the nine pilot sites making significant improvements to their organisations.

www.comicrelief.com
For more information about Fairtrade gold, visit www.fairgold.org.