



**OUR COMMUNITIES: STAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY  
INVESTMENT**

**SPOTLIGHT ON THE PHILIPPINES**

Mining projects provide a unique opportunity for contributing to the development of host communities. As a responsible mining company, we provide support and contributions to help local community members develop sustainable communities, focusing on livelihood, education, health and environmental improvement initiatives. We believe that working in a participatory manner with local stakeholders, government and organizations to identify, select and implement projects is the key to successful community development projects.

Every country in which we operate has distinct community development needs, and we have found that the best way to make investment go the furthest is to listen to those on the ground, especially those who will be directly affected. In Mali and the Philippines, we have established governance committees composed of stakeholders, including representation from women and vulnerable groups, which evaluate and select potential projects. In Namibia, committees with a mix of internal and external stakeholders are part of the process. At all of our sites, projects are selected based on regularly updated assessments of community needs.

In addition to targeted development programs, we are also committed to maximizing local and national economic benefits from our contracting and purchasing. In sourcing the goods and services necessary to run our operations, we give preference to local businesses where possible, thus investing in the community directly through procurements that are essential to our operation and simultaneously increasing local interest and investment in our operations.



**PAMANA Project**

In 2017, our Masbate Mine launched the Palaguin Ang Masaganang Nayon (PAMANA) program. PAMANA, which translates to “legacy” in Filipino, is an initiative where a parent enterprise adopts would-be entrepreneurs and provides them with start-up capital and business training to aid in their development.

The program began with providing resources and training to small-scale miners and their families, enabling them to start successful chicken egg production enterprises.

Since this initial success, the program has expanded to include 40 organized business associations in eight host communities and their neighbouring areas, covering diverse business activities such as mud crab production, yam flour processing, soap-making, integrated farming, fish processing, duck egg and salted egg production, and garments and accessories tailoring.



**Masbate Gold Project  
Scholarship Program**

As one of the poorest provinces in the region, Masbate struggles with providing educational and career opportunities to its youth, with many unable to attain higher education or leaving for more prosperous locales once they do.

We have decided to improve this situation by combining local employment opportunities with our Masbate Gold Project Scholarship Program. We began the program with 56 students in 2009 and have since helped thousands of local students attain their educational aspirations. Of the many college graduates we have sponsored, we hired several directly at our Masbate Mine and helped many others find rewarding local opportunities.

As just one example, Gilbert Pusing, came from a Masbate family supported by artisanal mining. He graduated from high school as class valedictorian and earned a Masbate Gold Project Scholarship which enabled him to study Civil Engineering in Masbate City. “My life became easier,” Gilbert says. “I didn’t have to worry about my tuition fees and monthly allowance. It helped me focus on my goals.” Having passed his engineering board exam, Gilbert is now an engineer with the Masbate Department of Public Works and Highways.

While a percentage of scholarship beneficiaries migrate outside of Masbate, most remain to give back to their communities and help build a better future.

Driven by a commitment to operate with fairness, respect, transparency and accountability, we support local stakeholders to identify and implement community development projects. We believe it is our responsibility to share benefits and aim to leave a positive legacy with communities that will last beyond the life of our mines. We hope to attain this by listening, engaging, and then delivering, ensuring promises made are kept.