
RMI Report 2022

Thematic Results



Harm Prevention

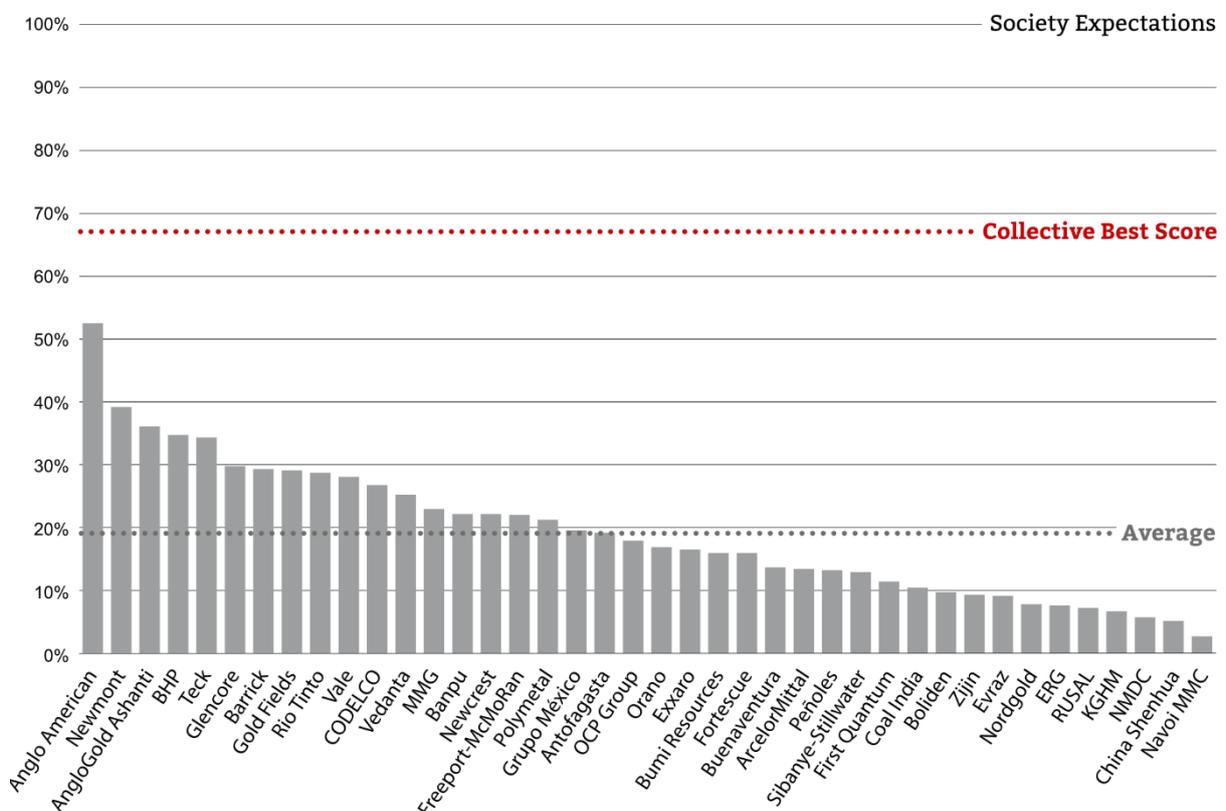
Harm Prevention



The Harm Prevention indicators assess the extent to which companies have put in place ESG risk management systems to prevent their operations or business relationships causing, or contributing to, harm to people or environments. A lack of adequate risk management measures is by far the most common cause of mining-related harmful impacts, as evidenced by a recent RMF [report](#) on the subject. The topics covered by this transversal issue include for example, emergency preparedness and planning, rehabilitation, human rights due diligence, and efforts to minimise ESG impacts related to resettlement, health and safety, water quality and quantity, resettlement, etc.

The assessment results show that there is limited evidence of such prevention measures, with an average score of only 19%. However, the best scores seen across all Harm Prevention metric questions show that the companies could already achieve a score of 67% by adopting the good practices demonstrated by their peers.

Harm Prevention results



EXAMPLES OF DETAILED RESULTS

Board and senior management responsibility

As a necessary step towards a company-wide focus on harm prevention, responsibility for ESG issues needs to be assigned to senior members of the company’s governance and leadership teams. The results on this issue are very mixed, with very few companies being able to show that responsibility for sound ESG management has been assigned to individual Board members and senior managers, that competency requirements have been set for these positions, and that those occupying the positions are held accountable for ESG performance.



Preventing human rights abuses by security providers

While security providers employed or hired by mining companies can help maintain stability and safeguard the rule of law at mine sites, there is a risk that a lack of awareness and understanding of human rights may lead to rights violations by these service providers. Mining companies can be expected to demonstrate that they are taking steps to minimise such risks. The assessment results show that only a couple of companies can fully show that they systematically review the background of security providers to ensure they do not engage individuals who have been implicated in human rights abuses in the past.



0 score Full score

TRENDS

Progress on risks from business decisions, not from operations’ impacts

Significant progress has been made on integrating the consideration of ESG risks into business decisions. For example, the average performance levels have more than doubled, to 43%, on the issue of assessing human rights, labour and environmental risks associated with companies’ supply chains. However, there is much less evidence of progress on efforts to assess and address ESG risks within companies’ own operations. While the use of human rights due diligence is starting to become more widespread, there is still barely any evidence of corporate measures to ensure that operations assess specific risks they may pose to community health, to women, or to land access for local communities.

EXAMPLE OF LEADING PRACTICE

Managing land-use impacts

AngloGold Ashanti has developed management standards to assess and address its impacts on land use and land access. The standards require operations to regularly identify areas that are no longer required for operational activities, which can be made available for progressive (concurrent) rehabilitation. Operations are also required to develop post-mining land-use objectives in consultation with affected communities and government authorities.

LINK TO MINE-SITE ACTION

Engaging local stakeholders in emergency planning

While nearly all companies can demonstrate that they require their operations to develop emergency preparedness and response plans, less than half of the companies can show they require operations to engage with local stakeholders in the design and testing of emergency response plans. Without such engagement, there is a real risk that the plans will be ineffective in protecting local communities and other affected groups. This apparent lack of attention to local engagement is underscored by the mine-site assessment results. Only two mine sites show evidence of having involved local communities in the testing of emergency response plans and only five mine sites can demonstrate that they have informed local communities of what to do in the case of a mining-related emergency.

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