
RMI Report 2022

Thematic Results



Human Rights



Responsible
Mining Foundation

English version

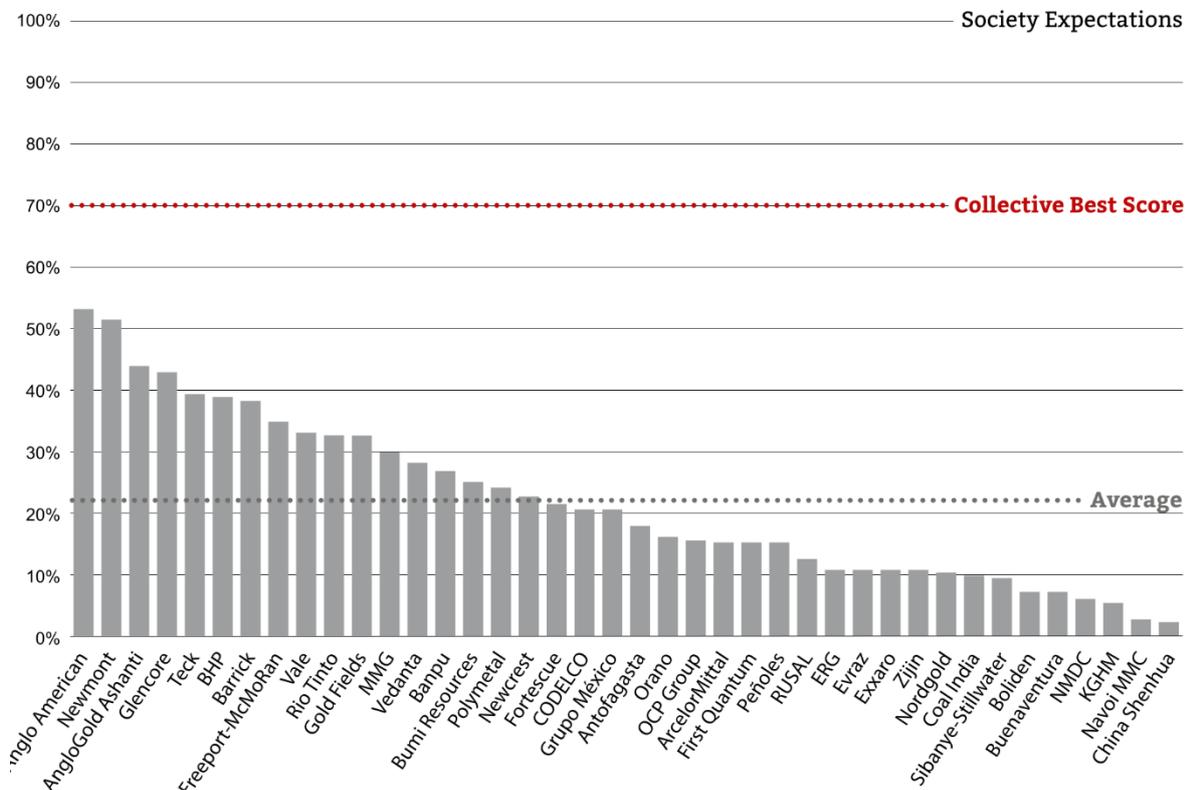
Human Rights



Human rights indicators assess the extent to which companies are assessing and addressing the risks of human rights violations from their own activities or those of their supply chain partners. The topics covered by this transversal issue include for example, labour rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, and the rights of affected communities and groups to access natural resources such as water and land. The responsibility of companies, to respect human rights and provide for remedy where rights are violated, is well established with ten years since the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The assessment results show that overall performance on human rights issues is low, with an average score of only 22%. Encouragingly, about one-quarter of the companies score 75% or more on their measures to assess and address specific risks related to issues such as water rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, land rights, workers' rights, or child labour. However, no company shows systematic action on all these issues and there is virtually no evidence of measures on a number of other issues such as efforts to ensure the right of workers to a living wage or efforts to track and improve the performance of grievance mechanisms. If companies were to adopt the good practices already demonstrated by their peers, they would achieve a score of 70% (noted on the chart as the Collective Best Score).

Human Rights results



EXAMPLES OF DETAILED RESULTS

FPIC

The assessment results reveal that while a few companies have made formal commitments to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to FPIC, none have extended this commitment to other affected people (see scoring spectrum below). Indeed, this is one of the lowest-scoring commitment indicators in the assessment.



Human rights defenders

Mining is one of the deadliest sectors for human and land rights defenders and companies can be expected to promote respect for defenders. A few companies – Anglo American, Glencore, Newmont and Teck – have taken the step of establishing formal commitments to respect the rights of human and land defenders. (Anglo American has also reported plans to develop a protocol for the protection of human rights defenders, following engagement with relevant NGOs.) These commitments have been put in place over the last couple of years, providing models for other companies to follow. While a few other companies have publicly stated that they would not tolerate threats against defenders, so far none of the other assessed companies have made formal commitments to respect defenders’ rights.



0 score Full score

TRENDS

Gradual improvements on several fronts, overall performance still low

Evidence of policies and practices on human rights has increased steadily over the last three assessments (covering companies’ public reporting in 2016-2021). All but one of the 40 companies now refers to human rights somewhere in their public reporting and 70% of the companies have made formal commitments to respect human rights, in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights. The use of human rights due diligence is increasing, but from a low base – companies now score on average 28% on this issue. Significant improvements are also seen on some specific issues, including for example the existence of corporate systems to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

EXAMPLE OF LEADING PRACTICE

Transparency of worker grievance mechanisms

CODELCO and Polymetal are among the very few companies to provide mine-site-disaggregated data on the functioning and uptake of their worker grievance mechanisms. Both companies report for each mine site the number and types of grievances raised – for example, on safety issues, living conditions, or sexual harassment. CODELCO provides further information on the outcomes of the investigations of grievances (including for example the numbers of allegations that were confirmed, rejected or dismissed due to lack of evidence).

LINK TO MINE-SITE ACTION

Community grievance mechanisms

Companies can build trust in their community grievance mechanisms by disclosing information on how these mechanisms are being used: the issues raised, any actions taken and any remedy provided. Companies score an average of 30% on tracking and publicly reporting company-wide information on these aspects of their community grievance mechanisms, and 12 of the 40 companies disclose no such information. Mine-site-level information on community grievance mechanisms is considerably rarer. Only 12% of the 250 assessed mine sites disclose data on the number and types of grievances registered through these mechanisms.

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The RMI Report 2022 seeks evidence of companies' policies and practices on economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) issues, but does not seek to measure the actual outcomes achieved on EESG issues. Results are based only on evidence sourced from the public domain or provided by companies as open data. Whilst this information is believed to be reliable, no guarantee can be given that it is accurate or complete, nor does it preclude the possibility that policies and practices may exist, but which the RMI Report 2022 has not been able to consider for purposes of assessment. In this respect, the results of the low-scoring companies do not necessarily reflect a lack of relevant policies and practices; as they may be due to a lack of public reporting by the companies, limitations in accessing information, and/or any difficulties in accessing the RMI company portal.

It should be noted that, prior to publication, all companies in the RMI were invited to check the factual accuracy of the contextual data and evidence upon which the RMI is based and to review company information in the RMI document library.

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