

2020 PPA Member Meeting

November 9, 2020
Summary

OVERVIEW AND NEXT STEPS

On November 9, 2020, the Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA) gathered virtually for the ninth PPA member meeting. Ahead of the meeting, members participated in or received recorded presentations of a [briefing](#) on the state of the PPA; a [briefing](#) and [panel discussion](#) on recent [research on socioeconomic impacts of due diligence programming](#); and “lightning talks” (on [Sep. 30](#) and [Oct. 6](#)) to highlight news, activities, and resources of interest for one another. With this context, members met on November 9 to:

- discuss how the PPA’s work could integrate and build on findings from the research on due diligence programs;
- consider how COVID-19 has impacted responsible artisanal sourcing and opportunities for the PPA to contribute to resilience in the sector; and
- begin prioritizing and planning for the PPA’s 2021 activities, including potential grantmaking, member coordination and collaboration, and engagement with other stakeholders.

A group photo from the meeting appears on [page 5](#).

To inform work planning and future member events, we request that meeting participants respond to the following survey by Friday, November 27: <https://forms.gle/hzkoSjA6kGmKcTYP7>

As a follow-up to the member meeting, the Governance Committee (GC) and Projects and Resources Work Group (PAR) will continue discussing priority focus for PPA action in 2021, including through grants, further co-creation, member collaboration, or broader stakeholder engagement. Members should contact the Secretariat (Margaret Lee, mlee@resolve.ngo) to express interest in joining the PAR, or to share any suggestions, questions, or comments on priorities and activities for the coming year.

MEETING SUMMARY

The full [webinar recording](#) and [slides](#) are available online for members, as well as virtual whiteboard notes taken during the breakout sessions (see [links below](#)). Members who could not attend the live session are encouraged to review those materials to see detailed presentation and discussion points. This summary is an accompaniment to the recording, to highlight main themes and takeaways.

Socioeconomic Impacts of Due Diligence Programs

Members met in breakout groups to discuss recent [research](#) from UCLA, IPIS, SFR, and Ulula on the socioeconomic impacts of due diligence programs in the tin, tantalum, and tungsten sectors and reflected on key takeaways, as well as how the PPA might bolster learning or action on socioeconomic impacts of due diligence. The themes below summarize highlights of the breakout session report-backs.

PPA Opportunities to Boost Data Collection and Sharing. Members expressed interest in exploring how due diligence data collection processes could be expanded to include information on socioeconomic impacts,

such as whether and how taxes are returned to local communities. In addition to data collection from supply chain partners, there may be value in collectively exploring approaches to incentivize – and tools to enable – more regular data collection and sharing, particularly from government actors and communities. Corrective action plans from upstream site monitoring and risk assessment could also be analyzed in aggregate to identify and drive investments to areas of most need.

The PPA could commission or conduct follow-up research to assess impacts over time within communities where due diligence programs are present. There is additionally interest in replicating this research in relation to due diligence programs for gold.

Distinguishing between Due Diligence Objectives and Desired Socioeconomic Outcomes. Members discussed that due diligence in itself, with its focus on supply chain risk mitigation, is not designed to produce the social and other development outcomes that many would like to see. At the same time, members remain very interested in supporting both responsible supply chains and positive community outcomes in human rights and economic prosperity. These dual goals, requiring different types of interventions, generated discussion about additional development-focused activities that the PPA could support; these initial ideas are outlined in the below section on [PPA Opportunities and Priorities for 2021](#).

Communications and Information Sharing. Members noted that research like this report can be a valuable tool to engage public and private stakeholders in the region, as well as internationally. While the current report is intended as a PPA discussion draft, the research team is pursuing publication; the Secretariat will notify members when the paper is published.

For additional details on the member meeting conversation, please see the [recording of the breakout report-back](#) and [virtual whiteboard notes](#) from participants.

Effects of COVID-19 on Responsible Sourcing and Supporting Resilience in ASM

The PPA Secretariat presented a summary on how COVID-19 has affected responsible sourcing, based on inputs from a spring PPA member survey and external sources, including the World Bank and Pact's Delve Platform, Artisanal Gold Council, and the Responsible Minerals Initiative conference. This led into a discussion of potential PPA activities to support resilience, and what may be a priority for the PPA in 2021. *For additional details, please see the recorded [presentation and member discussion](#) and [slides](#), as well as the below section summarizing the discussion of potential 2021 priorities.*

PPA Opportunities and Priorities for 2021

In reflecting on how COVID-19 has impacted the artisanal sector, as well as other themes which link to the PPA Results Framework, members discussed possible PPA responses and approaches to support resilience within ASM communities, including the following:

- **Business operations support**, including access to finance and financing, equipment purchases, or models for scaling commercially-viable approaches to due diligence and logistics at scale. Discussion indicated that finance is of particular interest. A quick meeting poll indicated that there is both interest and some hesitation about this category on the whole, and the Secretariat will work with the PAR to parse, prioritize, and sequence potential work on this theme (e.g., whether grantmaking on this topic should wait until initial results from the current TMB pilot are available, or if there is sensitivity about purchasing equipment, etc.).
- **Addressing barriers for formalization.** There may be a particular opportunity to make progress on the issue of formalization in the near term, as the new DRC government may be more open to

policy changes, and the ASM sector (and potential to capture tax on legal minerals) could be seen as a means of contributing to national economic recovery from COVID. The member poll reflected that this is a priority for many.

- **Support for women in mining**, including a focus on pay equity, reduction of gender-based violence, and increase of inclusion and leadership of women in cooperatives. The member poll reflected high interest in this topic, and discussion included a recommendation to integrate gender equity and related objectives into all PPA activities and grants.
- **ASM community-level interventions**, such as improving health and sanitation measures at mine sites, addressing increased food insecurity, or engaging on systemic and root cause issues (e.g., energy access or alternative livelihoods) that lead to exclusion from many development opportunities. Market-based approaches could be utilized, too (for instance, using tools and approaches such as microcredit programs, village savings and loan associations, community emergency funds, etc.). The member poll indicated some uncertainty about this theme, and so the PAR will scope potential activities in the coming weeks to assess which are best suited to PPA action.
- **Increased sourcing of conflict-free artisanal minerals, with increased local retention of value** was also seen as a potential priority, though further discussion among membership is needed to scope an appropriate PPA role and investment in supporting this.

Members split back into breakout groups to discuss these themes further, consider which might be potential priorities for 2021 PPA activity, and generate initial ideas for specific grants, collaborative engagement, or stakeholder outreach. Members' [virtual whiteboard notes](#) reiterated the importance of all five of the topics in the section above, and added the following highlights:

Raising awareness of due diligence to reduce exploitation of communities. Members suggested activities that could support engagement with government agents and communities to raise awareness about due diligence, DRC laws, and legal vs. illegal taxation. This could include the creation or curation of digital tools that can support communities and miners and enhance transparency.

Strengthening engagement with government. As a result of the change in DRC administration, there is a window of opportunity to strengthen coordination and collaboration between the PPA and DRC government on formalization, illegal taxation, and child labor. The PPA could explore how to enhance our information-sharing and communications with the new government.

In particular, this may be a moment for **further action on artisanal gold** (of which 98-99% is smuggled). Members raised interest in a concentrated policy effort to expand legal, artisanal gold production and address critical barriers (e.g., provincial and regional tax rate variations which create incentives for smuggling). There is also interest in strengthening downstream understanding of gold sources and chain of custody, possibly through engagement with other stakeholders like the World Gold Council, LBMA, and the Responsible Artisanal Gold Solutions Forum.

Other Potential Activities.

- Throughout the meeting, members expressed interest in thinking how the PPA might seek to more actively address child labor, recognizing that it is not just an issue of risk mitigation but also a community and social norm, linked to poverty and education access.
- There is some interest in considering how the PPA could engage to reduce environmental impacts of artisanal mining.

- Members also expressed interest in a PPA briefing on what potential regulatory/policy shifts might occur as a result of the incoming Biden presidential administration.

In addition to the above, members articulated considerations to help guide the final design of PPA activities, including that root causes of poverty and conflict should be considered; projects should seek to amplify resilience for supply chains and sourcing; the PPA's unique niche and competitive advantage should drive prioritization; and the PPA should explore opportunities for co-creation that could pool funds, increase donor coordination, and expand work on topics of shared interest.

For additional details on this session, please see this segment of the [session recording](#) and the [virtual whiteboard notes](#).

Meeting Materials:

Links to all meeting materials referenced above are aggregated here for reference:

Advance Materials

- State of the PPA [recording](#) ([slides](#))
- Socioeconomic impacts of due diligence programming
 - [Discussion draft of report](#)
 - [Pre-recorded presentation](#) of findings ([slides](#))
 - [Panel](#) with researchers, ITSCI, OECD, ICGLR
- Member lightning talks
 - September 30 – [webinar](#) and [slides](#)
 - October 6 – [webinar](#) and [slides](#)

November 9 Session

- [Final agenda](#)
- [Participant list](#)
- [Session recording](#)
- [Session slides](#)
- [Jamboard for Breakout Session #1](#): Socioeconomic impacts of due diligence programs
- [Jamboard for Breakout Session #2](#): 2021 work planning

GROUP PHOTO

