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EXTERNAL EVALUATION FOR THE ALTERNATIVE MINING INDABA (AMI) PROGRAMME

FINAL REPORT

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Disclaimer: Tiyimele Consultants has prepared this report. The views expressed herein are those of the Consultants and therefore do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI).

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Acronyms

AMI	Alternative Mining Indaba
AU	African Union
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments
FP	Focal Point
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
NAMI	National Alternative Mining Indaba
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
PAMI	Provincial Alternative Mining Indaba
SARW	Southern Africa Resource Watch
SADC	Southern African Development Community
ZAMI	Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba
ZELA	Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association

Executive Summary

The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI), a Pan-African advocacy platform established 15 years ago, has been instrumental in addressing the rights, needs, and concerns of mining-based communities across Africa. This Bench Marks Foundation commissioned evaluation, conducted by Tiymele Consultants, provides a comprehensive analysis of AMI's achievements and challenges through six evaluation criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Using a mixed-methods approach, incorporating qualitative and quantitative data from multiple sources such as focus groups, surveys, and field studies across Angola, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia, the study stresses AMI's role in fostering equitable resource governance.

Summary of Findings

Relevance

AMI has proven to be a vital platform for marginalised communities affected by mining activities. It advocates for human rights, environmental stewardship, and social equity. By focusing on inclusivity, involving the integration of women, youth, and rural voices, AMI fills a critical advocacy void thereby enabling affected groups to influence mining governance policies and practices. Through initiatives such as the Zambia's Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) and TCHOTA in Angola, AMI has successfully translated grassroots concerns into national and regional policy dialogues. The alignment with international frameworks, such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), further enhances its relevance.

Coherence

AMI's work complements the efforts of civil society organisations (CSOs) and effectively aligns with regional and global frameworks. It bridges local concerns with international advocacy platforms, leveraging its Pan-African reach to influence policy across multiple levels. Despite this, challenges remain in harmonising messaging and actions across its platforms and initiatives. The integration of faith leaders, environmental experts, and grassroots representatives into its advocacy model adds a unique, ethical dimension to its efforts.

Effectiveness

AMI has achieved significant progress, fostering community empowerment, advocating for corporate accountability, and influencing policy changes in areas such as environmental justice and human rights. Its capacity to mobilize diverse stakeholders such as communities, faith-based leaders, CSOs, and policymakers, strengthens its effectiveness. However, limited engagement with the private sector and inconsistent governmental participation present obstacles to broader effectiveness.

Efficiency

Operating with a constrained budget, AMI has optimised its financial and human resources resultantly producing impactful outputs. However, its heavy reliance on donor funding and lack of a diversified financial model limits its operational flexibility. Weak monitoring and evaluation systems further hinder the measurement of long-term outcomes.

Impact

AMI has positively impacted policy discussions, media narratives, and community empowerment. It has brought critical issues, such as land displacement and environmental degradation into mainstream discourse. However, missed opportunities in engaging corporate actors and lack of structured post-event follow-ups restrict its long-term influence.

Sustainability

While AMI's structures are robust and its mission deeply rooted, overreliance on donor funding poses high sustainability risks. Limited institutional capacity within the Secretariat and Steering Committee exacerbates this challenge, impacting long-term strategic planning and continuity.

Conclusion

AMI's 15-year journey stresses its pivotal role in reshaping mining governance across Africa. By empowering affected mining-based communities, advocating for sustainable practices, and influencing regional and international policies, AMI has achieved remarkable progress. Addressing its financial constraints, operational challenges, and gaps in engagement will enable it to maximize its potential as a transformative force in resource governance. With a forward-looking strategy, AMI can continue championing equitable, inclusive, and sustainable mining practices, setting a global benchmark for ethical resource management.

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Definition of Key Concepts

Monitoring

Monitoring is the ongoing process of tracking performance information, which involves the systematic collection, analysis, and reporting of data on inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts. This process provides stakeholders with timely feedback on the progress of a programme in achieving its predefined targets against chosen indicators. Monitoring supports adaptive management by enabling evidence-based decision-making to refine implementation strategies (Guerra-López & Hicks, 2020).

Evaluation

Evaluation refers to the periodic, objective, and systematic assessment of an ongoing or completed intervention, programme, or policy. It examines its design, implementation, and outcomes to determine relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. By incorporating lessons learned, evaluation helps to refine decision-making and improve future initiatives. This cyclical process ensures accountability and fosters organisational learning (Alkin et al., 2022).

Activity

Activities are discrete actions or tasks undertaken using allocated resources, such as funds or technical assistance, to produce specific outputs. These represent the operational steps necessary to achieve a programme's objectives and are crucial for maintaining the coherence between inputs and outcomes (Mayne, 2021).

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries encompass individuals, groups, organisations, or countries that directly or indirectly benefit from an intervention. This includes primary stakeholders receiving immediate advantages, as well as secondary groups impacted by broader programme outcomes (OECD-DAC, 2021).

Conclusions

Conclusions involve the systematic synthesis of evaluation findings, highlighting success factors, shortcomings, and the resulting implications of an intervention. They encompass intended and unintended results, serving as a foundation for actionable recommendations (Bamberger et al., 2021).

Efficiency

Efficiency is a measure of how economically inputs (such as financial resources, expertise, and time) are transformed into outputs. It evaluates the cost-effectiveness of achieving results, ensuring that resource use is optimised without compromising quality (Kusek & Rist, 2020).

Effectiveness

Effectiveness assesses the extent to which an intervention achieves its stated objectives. It examines both immediate and long-term results, considering the efficiency and sustainability of the process in reaching its major aims. This criterion is integral to understanding the impact of initiatives within complex systems (Patton, 2021).

Feedback

Feedback is the systematic sharing of evaluation findings with stakeholders to enhance learning, accountability, and practice. It involves the communication of conclusions, recommendations, and lessons in formats that are accessible and actionable, fostering informed decision-making (Preskill & Catsambas, 2022).

Finding

Findings are factual statements derived from evidence collected during the evaluation process. They form the empirical basis for drawing conclusions and formulating recommendations, ensuring evaluations remain transparent and objective (Alkin et al., 2022).

Impact

Impact refers to the long-term effects of an intervention, whether positive or negative, intended or unintended. These effects include changes in economic conditions, social structures, or environmental outcomes. For example, interventions may contribute to poverty reduction, improved governance, or climate resilience (Stern et al., 2020).

Indicator(s)

Indicators are quantifiable or qualitative metrics used to assess progress towards achieving an intervention's objectives. These measures enable consistent monitoring and evaluation across all levels, from inputs to outcomes, providing reliable insights into programme performance (OECD, 2021).

Outcome

Outcomes represent the medium-term effects resulting from an intervention's outputs. These can include immediate changes, such as increased awareness or capacity, as well as intermediate effects, such as improved practices or policies. Outcomes reflect the programme's contribution to achieving its strategic goals (Mayne, 2021).

Outputs

Outputs are the tangible products, goods, or services generated by an intervention. They represent the direct results of activities and serve as building blocks for achieving broader outcomes (Bamberger et al., 2021).

Sustainability

Sustainability is the capacity for benefits generated by an intervention to endure beyond the completion of external support. It encompasses financial, institutional, and social dimensions, ensuring that positive outcomes are maintained and scaled over time (Stern et al., 2020).

Section I: Evaluation Background

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI): A 15-Year Journey

The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI), established by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and its partners, is a Pan-African platform committed to amplifying the voices of communities affected by the extractive industries across Africa. Diverging from traditional mining forums that primarily cater to corporate interests, AMI emerged as a civil society-led initiative designed to address the social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by mining-impacted populations. Its foundational mission is to advocate for more equitable and sustainable resource governance while prioritising the welfare of communities under the guiding principle of “people and planet first, not profits.”

Over the last 15 years, AMI has evolved into a transformative platform for dialogue and advocacy, convening diverse stakeholders including civil society organisations (CSOs), interfaith groups, labour movements, and academia. From its humble beginnings as a forum of 40 participants, AMI has grown into an influential annual event attended by over 2,000 delegates from nearly 20 countries. The platform’s multi-tiered approach includes National, Provincial, District, and Village Alternative Mining Indabas (NAMIs, PAMIs, DAMIs, and VAMIs), fostering engagement at all levels and raising critical policy issues that shape governance frameworks across Africa's mining sector.

Transformative Role in Addressing Inequities

AMI functions as a nexus for communities confronting the harsh realities of mining, including entrenched poverty, environmental degradation, and public health risks. Through its work, AMI exposes and challenges the inequities entrenched in Africa’s extractive industries. By foregrounding the lived experiences of mining-affected communities, the platform empowers these populations to hold corporations and governments accountable for their actions, driving changes that prioritise human rights, environmental justice, and sustainable development. Some of the key achievements include policy advocacy wherein AMI has played a pivotal role in advancing policy discussions that prioritise community welfare, environmental protection, and corporate accountability. This has led to meaningful engagement between mining communities and decision-makers, promoting policies that better reflect local realities.

AMI has positioned itself as a platform for amplifying marginalised voices, particularly women, youths, and rural communities at large. AMI ensures that historically excluded groups actively contribute to shaping mining governance and social justice outcomes.

There has also been the establishment of coalitions wherein AMI fosters collaboration among diverse stakeholders, bridging the gap between local grievances and broader national and international advocacy initiatives. In this, there has been strategic focus based on how over its

history, AMI has remained steadfast in its mission to influence corporate and governmental practices. This commitment is evident in its advocacy for:

- Equitable mineral resource governance, ensuring that mining contributes to sustainable development while respecting community rights.
- Human rights and social justice, aligning its strategies with global frameworks such as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).
- Environmental stewardship; addressing issues such as biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and ecosystem health.

As a symbol of solidarity and a catalyst for change, AMI has become a vital mechanism for addressing power imbalances in Africa's mining sector. Its growing network of stakeholders emphasises its relevance and transformative potential in ensuring just and sustainable resource governance across the continent. Figure 1 summarises AMI's objectives:

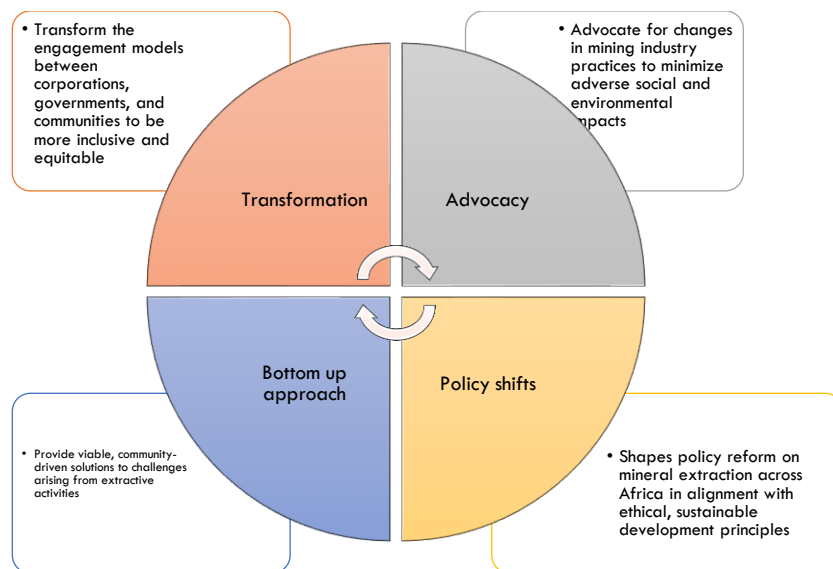


Figure 1: Summary of AMI's key objectives

The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) crafted a robust and innovative approach to advocacy, fundamentally altering the discourse around mining governance in Africa. Its growing influence is rooted in a strategy that prioritises sustained visibility, community empowerment, and pressure on industry actors. These pillars work cohesively to ensure that AMI not only facilitates dialogue but also drives actionable change in the extractive industries. The following principles are at the core of AMI's engagement strategy:

1. Equal and Inclusive Dialogue

AMI promotes an equitable exchange of ideas by creating spaces where the voices of marginalised communities, including women, the youths, and rural populations, are amplified. By doing so, it ensures that discussions are not dominated by powerful corporate or governmental entities but reflect the diverse perspectives of stakeholders

affected by mining activities. Emphasis on inclusivity balances historically skewed power dynamics and centres the lived realities of communities.

2. Commitment to Human Rights and Social Justice

Guided by international frameworks such as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), AMI prioritises the protection and restoration of the rights of mining-affected populations. Its advocacy targets systemic injustices such as displacement, land grabs, and environmental degradation, that disproportionately affect vulnerable groups. AMI's insistence on human dignity and equitable treatment underscores its broader mission of fostering social justice in the mining sector.

3. Sustainable Development Focus

AMI's vision extends beyond immediate remedies to mining-related grievances. It advocates for a governance model that prioritises sustainability, emphasising environmental conservation, climate resilience, and the protection of ecosystems vital to community survival. By championing sustainable practices, AMI contributes to aligning the mining sector with global climate action goals and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goals 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

4. Community Empowerment and Agency

Recognising the resilience of mining-affected communities, AMI's strategy includes capacity-building initiatives that equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to advocate for their rights effectively. Through training in legal frameworks, environmental monitoring, and digital advocacy, AMI empowers communities to negotiate with corporations and policymakers as equal stakeholders. This empowerment fosters a culture of agency and self-determination.

5. Expanding Influence through Advocacy and Media Engagement

Unlike traditional mining events which often prioritise investment opportunities, AMI underlines the importance of critical dialogue that confronts systemic inequalities. Its strategic media engagement has been instrumental in reshaping public narratives, shifting the focus from corporate profitability to the pressing challenges faced by communities. By amplifying stories of resilience and injustice, AMI has raised awareness among global audiences, creating a groundswell of support for its advocacy initiatives.

This sustained visibility has emboldened communities, empowering them to articulate their needs with confidence and credibility. Through its annual assemblies and ongoing campaigns, AMI has challenged corporations and governments to move beyond symbolic participation to engage in meaningful, results-oriented dialogue. This shift has led to tangible policy discussions that prioritise human rights, environmental stewardship, and equitable governance. AMI promotes dialogue that counters dominance and fosters an equitable exchange of ideas, emphasizing that engagement must elevate community perspectives.

In line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, AMI advocates for the protection, respect, and restoration of the rights of those impacted by extractive

activities. AMI's vision extends beyond immediate social justice; it also champions environmental stewardship and sustainable development practices that respect biodiversity and community survival. Recognising the resilience and agency within mining-affected communities, AMI supports these communities' efforts to advocate for their rights and ensure their voices remain central to all engagements. This 15-year evaluation considers several areas that reflect AMI's transformative role:

- **Policy Influence and Industry Practice Changes:** A critical measure of AMI's impact is its success in influencing policy reforms and shifts in corporate practices toward more ethical, community-conscious frameworks.
- **Media and Public Awareness:** AMI's role in reshaping media narratives to accurately represent the realities of mining-impacted communities has been pivotal, marking a shift in public perception that supports broader advocacy efforts.
- **Strengthening Community Voice and Agency:** AMI has significantly bolstered the confidence and advocacy capacity of communities, encouraging their active participation in dialogues that shape the future of Africa's extractive industries.
- **Advocacy for Sustainable Practices:** As an advocate for environmental protection, AMI has consistently highlighted the unsustainable practices associated with mining and promoted policies that protect ecosystems, contributing to a model of extractive governance that aligns with the principles of sustainable development.
- **Commitment to Human Rights:** Through its focus on justice and dignity, AMI has reinforced the necessity of ethical governance within the mining sector, fostering an advocacy model that prioritizes human rights in alignment with international frameworks.

The Alternative Mining Indaba represents a 15-year journey of resistance, advocacy, and solidarity. AMI's efforts to empower communities, advocate for policy reform, and challenge the extractive industry's status quo have redefined resource governance in Africa, offering a pathway for sustainable and just development in the extractive sector. Through this evaluation, AMI's successes, challenges, and transformative potential become visible, providing an evidence-based foundation to guide future advocacy and engagement efforts across Africa.

1.2 Evaluation Objectives

The primary objective of this evaluation is to provide a comprehensive assessment of AMI's impact, relevance, and sustainability. The findings presented in this report will inform strategic planning, shape the future direction of AMI, and enhance its role in advocating for the rights of mining-affected communities. The evaluation contributes to the development of a robust strategy for the Cape Town AMI 2025 and guide future fundraising and sustainability efforts. The evaluation of AMI is a comprehensive and reflective process that not only documents past outcomes but also provides actionable insights for future growth and impact. The outcome evaluation will focus on five specific objectives, these are:

i. Document Outcomes

The primary objective of this evaluation is to meticulously document the outcomes of AMI's initiatives over the past 15 years. This involves:

- **Mapping achievements:** detailing the successes and milestones AML has reached, including specific policy changes influenced by AML's advocacy.
- **Assessing impact:** evaluating the direct and indirect effects of AML on mining-affected communities, policy frameworks, and stakeholder relationships.
- **Quantifying reach: analysing** participation data to understand the growth and geographic spread of AML, from 40 participants at inception to over 2000 delegates from nearly 20 countries.

ii. Successes and Challenges

To inform future strategies, it is crucial to appreciate both the successes and shortcomings of AML:

- **Identifying success factors:** pinpointing key elements and strategies that contributed to successful outcomes.
- **Analysing challenges:** investigating areas where AML did not achieve its intended goals, understanding the reasons behind these shortcomings, and identifying lessons learned.
- **Case studies:** conducting in-depth case studies to provide contextual insights into what has worked and what has not in different settings.

iii. Enhance Sustainability

Ensuring the long-term sustainability of AML is one of the goals of this evaluation aligned with:

- **Funding strategies:** evaluating past and current funding mechanisms to recommend sustainable financing strategies that ensure AML's continued operation and growth.
- **Organisational structure:** assessing the effectiveness of AML's secretariat and Steering Committee, and providing recommendations to enhance organisational efficiency and governance.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** identifying ways to strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, faith-based organisations, and mining companies, to secure ongoing support and collaboration.

iv. Promote Inclusivity and Equity

AML's mission is deeply rooted in inclusivity and equity. The evaluation undertook:

- **Inclusivity assessment:** Evaluating how inclusive AML has been in its approach, considering the diversity of participants and the representation of various stakeholder groups.
- **Gender equity:** Assessing the efforts and outcomes related to promoting gender equity within the mining sector and AML's activities.
- **Marginalised voices:** Ensuring that the voices of the most marginalised and affected communities are heard and considered in the evaluation findings.

v. Strengthen Advocacy and Influence

AML's advocacy efforts are central to its mission. The evaluation will guarantee:

- **Effectiveness of advocacy:** Assessing the effectiveness of AML's advocacy strategies in influencing policy and practice at local, national, and regional levels.

- *Policy impact:* Documenting specific instances where AMI's advocacy has led to policy changes or significant shifts in stakeholder behavior.
- *Future advocacy:* Providing recommendations for enhancing the impact of AMI's advocacy work, ensuring it remains a powerful voice for mining-affected communities.

1.3 Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation in its scope is designed to provide a deep appreciation of AMI's role and effectiveness in advocating for mining-affected communities, fostering dialogue, and influencing policy changes. This evaluation focuses on the following key areas:

- **Geographic Scope:** The evaluation covered all levels where AMI has had a presence, including national (NAMIs), and provincial (PAMIs) levels. Specific case studies were conducted in selected southern African countries notably Zambia, Angola, Tanzania, and South Africa.
- **Temporal Scope:** The evaluation conducted a review of activities and outcomes from the inception of AMI in 2010 to 2024, with a particular focus on the developments and changes over the past five years.

Section II: Evaluation Methodology

2. Methods, Approaches and Processes

2.1 Evaluation Criteria

This section presents a tabulation of the OECD-DAC criteria and the types of evaluation approaches to be employed in executing the evaluation.

Table 1: Evaluation criteria, description and evaluation questions

OECD-DAC Criteria	Description	Questions
Relevance	Assess the alignment of AMI's goals with the needs and priorities of its target groups, the inclusivity of its approach, and the clarity and realism of its objectives.	Are AMI's goals aligned with the needs of mining-affected communities? Are we inclusive in our approach?
Coherence	Examine how well AMI's activities fit with other initiatives in the mining sector, its unique contributions, and its relevance in international contexts.	How does AMI's work complement other initiatives? What sets AMI apart from other platforms?
Effectiveness	Evaluate the extent to which AMI has achieved its goals, the factors influencing success or failure, the roles at different levels, and the effectiveness of its advocacy.	To what extent have AMI's goals been achieved? What factors have influenced these outcomes?
Efficiency	Assess the economic use of resources about outputs, organisational strengths and weaknesses, and the efficiency of AMI's operational structure.	How effectively have resources been utilized? What are the organisational strengths and weaknesses?
Impact	Determine the broader impacts of AMI's work at national and regional levels, including significant and constant changes, unintended impacts, and overall contributions to community empowerment.	What significant changes has AMI created? Are there any unintended positive or negative impacts?
Sustainability	Evaluate the lasting effects of AMI's work, the sustainability of its structures and funding, and the roles of the secretariat and Steering Committee.	How sustainable are AMI's structures and funding? What roles do the secretariat and Steering Committee play in ensuring sustainability?

2.2 Type of Evaluation, Purpose, Method and Activities

Type	Purpose	Method	Activities ¹
Formative Evaluation	Provides insights and recommendations for improving AMI's processes and strategies in real time	Programme documents, unstructured interviews with steering committee members representing various countries	Programme documents and best practices from AMI countries. Information seeking sessions with AMI Chairperson, Angola, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia representatives will be held
Participatory Evaluation	Involves AMI stakeholders, including community members, in the evaluation process to ensure their perspectives and experiences are fully integrated.	Participatory observation during AMI events including ensuring that local organisations	Attend the Zambia AMI event. Ensure that grassroots organisations are included in the sample. E.g., Sekhukhune Combined Mining Affected Communities, Bafokeng Land Buyers Association etc
Theory-Based Evaluation	To understand how and why AMI's activities lead to specific outcomes by examining the underlying assumptions and mechanisms.	Reconstruction of a Theory of Change, detailed examination of causal pathways, and validation through stakeholder consultations and case studies.	Reconstructed Theory of Change. Finalise, translate and administer data collection tools (survey, interview guide, observation and case study).
Case Study Evaluation	To provide an in-depth analysis of AMI's impact in specific contexts and identify lessons that can be applied more broadly	Detailed case studies in selected countries, involving field visits, interviews, and document analysis to capture contextual variations and specific outcomes.	Analyse secondary data and conduct interviews with AMI programme staff and grassroots organisation reps from Angola, Tanzania and South Africa
Summative Evaluation	Assesses the overall outcomes and impacts of AMI after 15 years of operation.	Comprehensive review of documentation, analysis of survey data, interviews and synthesis of case study findings.	All data sources to be analysed and interpreted to document findings and recommendations

¹ A list of the sampled organisations and individuals are presented in Annexure

2.3 Evaluation Approaches

The evaluation of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) employed a mixed-method approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to ensure robust, reliable, and comprehensive outcomes. This approach enabled a thorough understanding of AMI's impact, aligning with the diverse nature of its stakeholders and activities. The methodology encompassed data collection protocols, analytical techniques, and evaluation outputs, facilitating an evidence-based assessment of the programme's performance. This is further explained in Figure 2.

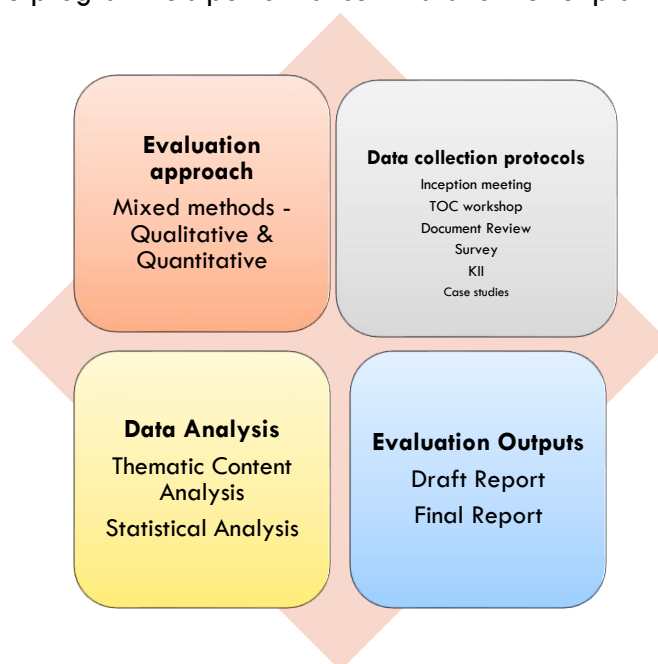


Figure 2: A summary of the evaluation approach, data collection instruments and data analysis techniques

2.3.1 Mixed-Method Design

The evaluation followed a structured mixed-methods design that blended the strengths of qualitative and quantitative research. This dual approach ensured that both numerical data and contextual insights were captured, providing a holistic perspective of AMI's achievements, challenges, and future opportunities.

a. Qualitative Evaluation

The qualitative component focused on capturing in-depth insights from stakeholders. It included interviews which were conducted with key informants, including AMI participants, community leaders, government officials, and representatives of civil society organisations. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were designed to explore community perspectives and collective experiences related to AMI's initiatives while case studies examined specific contexts, such as AMI's work in Zambia and Tanzania, to understand its localised impact.

Further, document review was also done to analyse AMI reports, policy briefs, advocacy materials, and feedback forms to build a contextual narrative of the programme's evolution. The evaluation applied a diverse set of methods and instruments to collect and analyse data, ensuring a comprehensive and accurate assessment. This included AMI documentation, annual reports, policy briefs, advocacy materials, feedback forms, and plenary session notes. The purpose was to provide a historical and contextual understanding of AMI's activities and

outcomes. Hence, a random or purposeful sample of AMI participants, private sector representatives, decision-makers, Steering Committee members, community members, faith leaders, environmental activists, past and current AMI chairs were part of the 30 interviewees engaged. The purpose was to gather in-depth qualitative data on experiences, perceptions, and suggestions for improvement

b. Quantitative Evaluation

The quantitative component sought to provide measurable evidence of AMI's effectiveness. These included surveys distributed to participants across multiple regions to gauge satisfaction, perceived impact, and areas for improvement. This also involved structured online surveys translated into multiple languages for inclusivity. The evaluation exercise collected quantitative data on participation, satisfaction, and perceived impacts. A total of 62 respondents participated in the survey. Further, participation data was analysed in terms of attendance figures and demographic trends to evaluate AMI's reach and inclusivity. Regarding data collection protocols, it was designed to ensure consistency and validity. The evaluation applied diverse data collection protocols tailored to AMI's multi-faceted operations.

c. Descriptive Statistics (Quantitative Data):

The evaluation also used survey responses as evidence to support the claims made in the findings. These generated metrics to quantify AMI's reach, inclusivity, and perceived impact. Thus, triangulation involved cross-verified findings from qualitative and quantitative sources to ensure reliability and address potential biases.

d. Case Studies

The evaluation conducted in-person interviews in Zambia, virtually engaged respondents in Angola, Tanzania, and South Africa, and also borrowed much from ongoing evaluations in Zimbabwe. The rationale was to provide a detailed, context-specific insights into the outcomes and impacts of AMI's work. To gain a first-hand appreciation of AMI's processes and participant interactions, observations, a face-to-face sessions were held with some of the ZAMI attendees.

2.3.2 Study Limitation

The evaluation encountered several limitations that may influence the interpretation of findings and recommendations:

1. Limited Survey Response Rate: Despite efforts to reach a broad participant base, the online survey recorded a 12% response rate. This low participation may restrict the generalizability of some quantitative findings.

2. Language Barriers: Although surveys and interviews were translated into French and Portuguese, some nuances in responses may have been lost in translation, potentially impacting the depth of insights from non-English-speaking participants.

3. Resource Constraints: Budgetary and logistical constraints limited the extent of in-person fieldwork, with some case studies conducted virtually. This may have affected the richness of data collected from community members in remote regions.

4. Focus on Selected Regions: While the study included case studies from Angola, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, it did not encompass all regions where AML operates. This may lead to an incomplete representation of AML's impact across its full geographic scope.

5. Time Constraints: The evaluation was conducted within a compressed timeframe, which may have limited opportunities for deeper engagement with all stakeholders and affected the comprehensiveness of certain findings.

2.3.3 Mitigation Strategies

The project team devised mitigating strategies to attenuate the identifiable risks. This included but not limited to a tabulation of the targeted respondents per country led by Steering Committee members. In addition, the use of French and Portuguese experts in designing and administering the instruments was also helpful. In addition, check in meetings with the project team members were scheduled to problem solve and innovate around encountered problems. As an example, the survey timelines were extended and in instances where access to respondents was a challenge, Steering Committee members were always readily available to intervene.

2.3.4 Data Analysis and Interpretation

Since qualitative and quantitative data are analysed differently, thematic content analysis and descriptive analysis were utilised. Thematic content analysis is a process of looking at data from different angles to identify keys in the text that will help us understand and interpret the raw data (Henning et al., 2004). In turn, the key concepts were coded and arranged into themes. For quantitative data, descriptive analysis using an Excel sheet technique was opted for.

a. Thematic Analysis and Descriptive statistics (Qualitative Data):

The exercise identified recurring themes and patterns from interviews, FGDs, and case studies. It also involved coded qualitative data to align with the OECD-DAC criteria to ensure consistency with international evaluation standards.

Table 2: Data collection instrument versus data analysis technique

Type of data	Data collection protocols	Data analysis method
Primary	Desktop review Key informant interviews/focus group/Survey	Thematic content analysis and Descriptive statistics

2.4 Theory of Change for the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) at Continental (AMI) and National (NAMI) Levels

The Theory of Change (ToC) for the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) outlines a strategic pathway for driving transformative, sustainable change in Africa's mining industry. This model envisions an extractive sector where community rights, environmental stewardship, and equitable resource governance are prioritised. It frames the long-term objectives of both the continental AMI and national NAMI platforms, aligning their activities with measurable outcomes and impact. The ToC serves as a blueprint for fostering community empowerment, promoting inclusive dialogue, and achieving sustainable development within the mining sector.

2.4.1 Context and Rationale

Africa's mining industry has long been marked by significant power imbalances, where corporations and governments dominate decision-making processes at the expense of local communities. These communities, often the most affected by mining activities, face not only environmental degradation, economic inequality, and social injustices but also severe health challenges, including exposure to pollutants and inadequate access to healthcare. Established by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and partners, the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) was created to challenge this status quo and provide a people-centered alternative to traditional mining forums. Through AMI, the voices of affected communities are amplified, advocating for human rights, social justice, environmental stewardship, and the right to health.

2.4.2 Goal of AMI

AMI's main goal is to foster a model of mineral resource governance that prioritises the welfare, rights, and perspectives of mining-affected communities. By focusing on principles of social justice and sustainable development, AMI aims to make a lasting impact across Africa, transforming the extractive industry into one that serves people and protects the planet, rather than prioritising profits.

2.4.3 Foundational Inputs

To achieve its goals, AMI relies on a range of foundational inputs. Financial resources from partners like NCA and contributions from civil society organizations, academic institutions, and advocacy groups form the essential building blocks of AMI. These inputs are further supported by media and public engagement platforms, which amplify community voices and broaden the reach of advocacy efforts. Research and evidence on the extractive industry's social, economic, environmental, and health impacts provide a strong foundation for data-driven and credible advocacy. Together, these resources underpin AMI's activities, enabling it to organize impactful dialogues and build capacity within communities.

2.4.4 Activities: Strategic Actions to Drive Change

AMI's activities are organised in a manner designed to address both continental and local needs. The core activities include:

- **Annual Assemblies and Dialogues:** AML organises continental (AMI) and national (NAMI) gatherings that bring together community representatives, civil society, corporations, and government officials. These dialogues are designed to shift power dynamics, positioning communities as equal stakeholders and ensuring their voices are central to discussions on resource governance.
- **Community Mobilisation and Capacity Building:** AML trains and empowers communities with advocacy skills, rights awareness, and organising capacity. This activity is crucial, as it equips communities with the tools needed to effectively advocate for their interests in a structured, strategic manner.
- **Policy Advocacy and Campaigns:** By developing evidence-based policy recommendations and advocacy materials, AML creates a pathway to influence government and corporate policies. These campaigns aim to reform the industry's approach to mining, making it more inclusive, ethical, and sustainable.
- **Media Engagement and Public Awareness:** Engaging with media is essential for raising public awareness about the inequities in Africa's mining sector. By shaping public narratives, AML challenges the mainstream perception of mining and raises awareness of the lived realities faced by affected communities.
- **Sustainable Practice Advocacy:** AML actively promotes sustainable environmental practices within the extractive sector, drawing attention to issues like biodiversity loss, climate change, and food security. This advocacy aims to shift industry practices toward sustainability and accountability.

2.4.5 Outputs: Results from AML's Actions

The outputs of AML's activities serve as the visible achievements of its strategy:

- **Community Advocacy Platforms:** Creation of local forums, such as National, Provincial, District, and Village AMIs, provides structured spaces for communities to engage in resource governance discussions.
- **Transformation of Engagement Dynamics:** Establishment of strategic platforms that facilitate direct dialogue between mining companies, governments, and mining-affected communities, enabling collaborative efforts to address key challenges and promote equitable solutions.
- **Increased Media Coverage:** AML's engagement efforts lead to more frequent and accurate media representations of mining-affected communities, shaping public understanding and support.
- **Policy Recommendations and Advocacy Materials:** AML produces comprehensive reports, briefs, and recommendations that are utilized to influence policy decisions and corporate practices.
- **Expanded Partnerships and Alliances:** Through its outreach, AML builds coalitions with like-minded NGOs, government entities, and international bodies.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** AML-led campaigns enhance community knowledge about rights and sustainable practices, fostering a culture of self-advocacy and responsibility.

2.4.6 Outcomes: Short, Intermediate, and Long-Term Change

The AML theory of change envisions outcomes across different timelines, gradually building on initial achievements to drive long-term impact.

Short-term Outcomes

- *Elevated Community Voices:* Confident communities express their needs and concerns, bolstered by the support of the AML platform.
- *Improved Engagement from Corporations and Governments:* Corporations and governments engage in addressing concerns of communities due to pressure from AML's advocacy.
- *Shift in Media and Public Perception:* The public is more informed about the challenges faced by mining-affected communities.
- *Capacity for Policy Influence:* Community groups and civil society organisations use developed tools to influence policy and advocate for equitable resource governance.

Intermediate Outcomes

- *Policy Shifts:* Policymakers begin to integrate AML's recommendations, resulting in laws and regulations that protect community rights, the environment and promote sustainability.
- *Reduced Environmental and Social Harm:* Corporate practices begin to reflect a shift toward ethical standards, reducing the adverse impacts of mining on communities and ecosystems.
- *Strengthened Community Agency:* Mining-affected communities are no longer passive stakeholders but active participants in shaping industry practices.
- *Increased Accountability:* Corporations operate with greater transparency and responsibility due to the consistent advocacy and scrutiny from AML and its partners.

Long-term Outcomes

- *Inclusive and Equitable Resource Governance:* The AML platform is a reimagined governance model where community voices are prioritized in the decision-making processes.
- *Sustainable Development in Extractive Regions:* Mining operations align with principles of environmental and social sustainability and international standards, ensuring the long-term well-being of both people and the planet.
- *Realised Human Rights and Social Justice:* Communities benefit from improved living conditions in terms of the environment and health, greater economic opportunities, and respect for their rights, reflecting a just and humane approach to resource governance.

2.4.7 Impact: Pan-African Transformation in Resource Governance

AML envisions a transformative impact that extends beyond individual communities to reshape the extractive industry across Africa. By embedding human rights, social justice, and sustainability within the governance of natural resources, AML sets a new standard for mining

practices on the continent. This impact represents a shift from a profit-centered industry to one that honors community rights, upholds ethical standards, and sustains environmental resources for future generations.

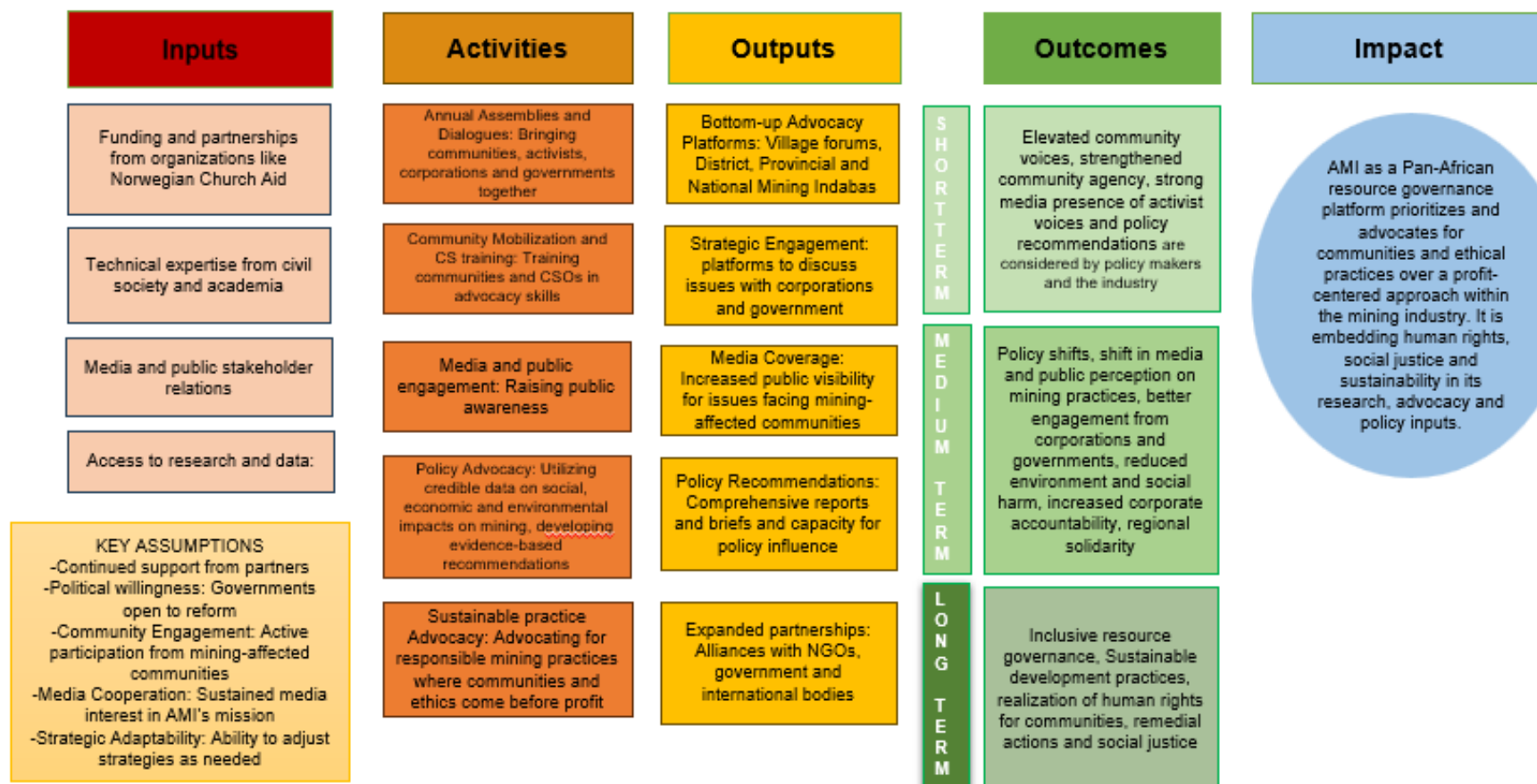
2.4.8 Assumptions Underlying the Theory of Change

The success of this theory of change relies on several key assumptions:

- *Continued Support from Partners:* AML assumes that funders and technical partners remain committed to providing necessary resources.
- *Political Willingness:* Governments are open to reform and willing to engage in dialogues and policy changes that benefit communities.
- *Community Engagement:* Mining-affected communities are motivated and willing to participate actively in AML and NAMI events.
- *Media Cooperation:* Media outlets will continue to engage with AML's mission, maintaining coverage of mining-related injustices and raising public awareness.
- *Strategic Adaptability:* AML can adapt its strategies as the political, social, and economic landscape evolves, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness.

In summary, the AML's 'Theory of Change' articulates a clear pathway to transforming the governance of Africa's mining industry by centering community empowerment, equitable dialogue, and sustainable development. Through a strategic combination of advocacy, capacity building, and policy influence, AML works to dismantle entrenched power imbalances and create a resource governance model that prioritizes the rights, dignity, and well-being of African communities. This vision extends beyond individual communities or nations, aspiring to a Pan-African transformation that can serve as a model for ethical and sustainable natural resource management worldwide. By grounding its efforts in resilience, justice, and environmental stewardship, AML exemplifies a people-centered approach to development that is not only achievable but essential for the future of Africa's extractive industries.

Theory of change for Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) at continental and (NAMI) AT National level



Section III: Evaluation Findings

3. Findings

In this section, evaluation results are discussed. The section start off with the demographic data in accordance with the different data sources followed by a discussion and interpretation of the analytical framework. Subsequently, recommendations and performance rating per each compoment of the DAC criteria is used to make conclusions and recommendations.

Demographics

Key informant Guide and Focus Group Discussion²: The evaluation involved 72 respondents who contributed to the qualitative data collection through a combination of 57 key informant interviews and 15 focus group discussions (FGDs). These engagements were conducted using a hybrid approach, incorporating both in-person and virtual methods, such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and in some cases, WhatsApp calls to accommodate logistical challenges and ensure broad participation.

Table 3: Qualitative study participants.

Country	Male	Female	Organisations
Angola	6	4	Baptist evangelical church, Community leaders, Association of Women Journalists, Mãos Livres Association, Mosaiko, ALDA, NCA, ENDIAMA
Tanzania	1	4	Christian Council of Tanzania, Norwegian Church (Tanzanian Office), Interfaith Coordinator and member of the AMI steering committee, Legal Advisors to the Interfaith Steering Committee in Tanzania, Community Trainers
South Africa	3	5	Anglo American, Center for Applied Legal Studies (CALS), AMI Steering Committee, Sekhunene Concerned Mining Affected Communities, Community-based Org: Snake Park Bambanani Cooperative
Zambia	29	19	Centre for Environmental Justice, Copper Belt Chapter, Transparency International Zambia, Care for Nature Zambia, Civil Society Organisations, Center for Trade, Policy and Development, Zembaland Alliance
Zimbabwe	-	1	AMI Steering Committee
TOTAL	39	33	

Online Survey: An online survey instrument was designed for AMI and NAMI. Then onwards, the tool was translated into French and Portuguese and thus distributed via email and Whatsapp platforms. Targeted follow up emails and Whatsapp messages were sent to the project steering committee members. This resulted in the participation of a total of sixty two (62) people consisting of fifty eight AMI and four (4) NAMI participants which recorded a 12% participation rate. As shown by Table 4, most of the emails totalling seven hundred (700) had no responses.

² Focus group discussion protocol was only dischared in Zambia. Most of the interviews were conducted in English, except for Angola where Portuguese was opted for.

Table 4: Survey Participants

Category	Number
Surveys Sent Out	762
No Response	700
AMI	58
NAMI	4
Total Responses Received	62 (12%)

Although Figure 3 illustrates that most of the survey participants were located in the Southern African Development Corporation (SADC) region, if carefully analysed, the information further suggests the popularity of the AMI initiatives beyond the scope of work for this evaluation. This is informed by the fact that countrymen and women involved in the extractive industries from the Western and Eastern tips prioritised filling in the instrument.

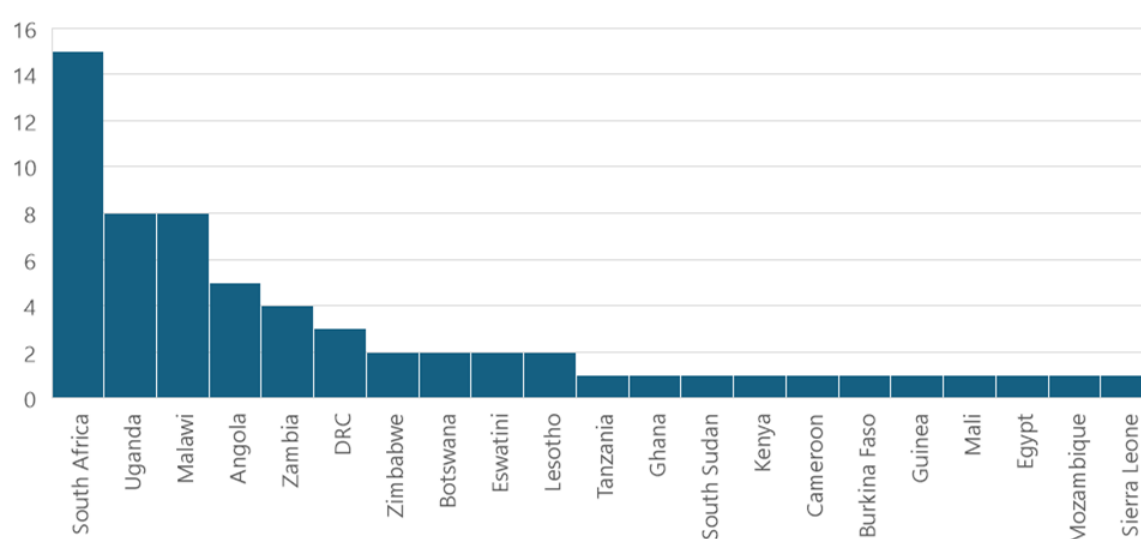


Figure 3: No of participant per country

Figure 4 exhibits that the highest levels of participation was constituted by the age groups **25-34 and 35-44**. Male accounts for approximately **65%**, while females representation was around **35%**, and non-binary individuals contributed a minimal proportion (approximately **1%**). The data reflects a common trend in gender imbalances in participatory contexts, where males dominate in industries like mining. However, the notable female participation within the 25-34 age range indicates progress towards inclusivity. Such information is indicative of the need to advocate for targeted engagement of underrepresented demographics in future surveys or initiatives.

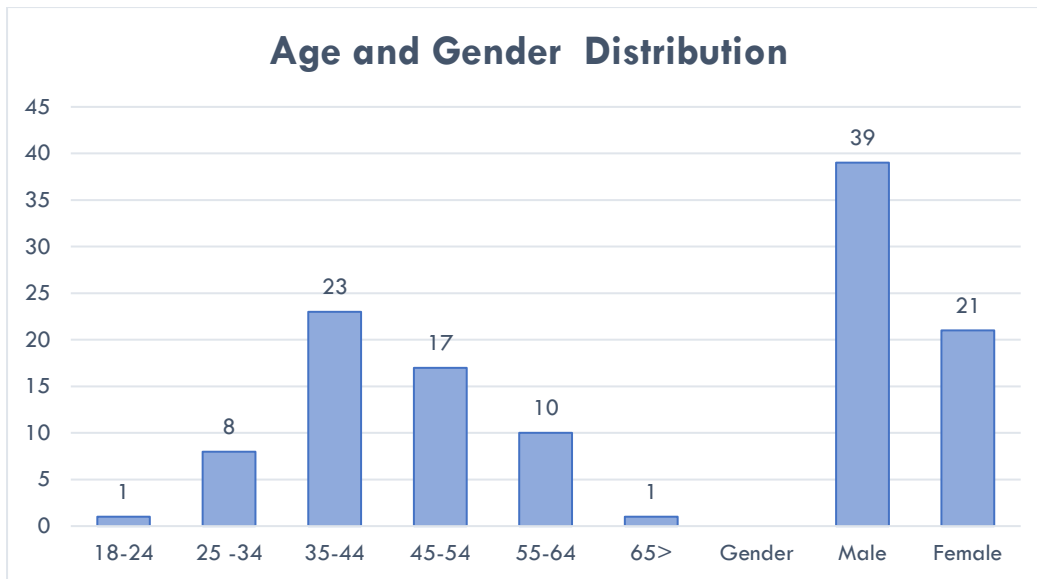


Figure 4: Age and Gender Distribution

3.1 Relevance

The relevance of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) is evident in its alignment with the pressing needs of its target groups, primarily mining-affected communities across Africa. AMI's goals are rooted in addressing these communities' urgent need for equitable resource governance, human rights, and sustainable development, ensuring that the voices and experiences of rights holders are central to its mission. Qualitative results showed that AMI is aligned to the plight of marginalised communities residing in prone mining areas. From the interviews conducted analysed jointly with the reviewed literature the following questions helped establish a number of aspects.

1. To what extent are the AMI goals aligned with the needs of the target group?

Largely, the results reflect that the goals of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) align closely with the needs of marginalised communities who are most affected by mining activities and often excluded from mainstream policy and corporate dialogues. AMI platforms, including national initiatives like the Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) and their counterparts in Zimbabwe, play an essential role in elevating the voices of rural communities, women, youth, and other marginalised groups, creating spaces for them to express their concerns and advocate for their rights. Other external sources such as an article by Dube and Nyoni (2021) argue that this advocacy approach as explained emphasises the role of AMI in amplifying marginalised voices within mining policies. Similarly, the AMI (2024) report highlights how its platforms foster inclusive community engagement in decision-making processes, bridging the gap between affected groups and policymakers.

Feedback from AMI members and interviews with ZAMI participants showed that these platforms empower community members to address critical issues such as displacement, environmental degradation, and land rights. For example and as pointed out by few of the respondents: "ZAMI provides rural women, who often lack knowledge of their legal entitlements, with

opportunities to learn about and defend their rights concerning mining in their areas”. Other scholars argued that ZAMI’s focus on women’s land rights has strengthened rural women’s ability to advocate for fair practices emphasising how AMI programmes in Zambia enhance local governance by building the capacity of communities to demand accountability in resource distribution (Mubanga & Phiri, 2023; Chisanga & Mulenga, 2022).

The impact of ZAMI is especially evident through initiatives like the provincial meetings held in Zambia’s Luapula Province, where local issues are elevated to the national stage. Mukwakwami (2023) views this as a bridging of local grievances with national-level policy discourse which ensures that the voices of marginalised communities are not only heard but actively included in decision-making processes. Similarly, the ZAMI (2021) report documented the outcomes of provincial meetings, stressing their effectiveness in connecting grassroots concerns with national policies. This approach enables communities to present their concerns directly to policymakers and corporate entities, helping to shape policies that better reflect the needs and realities of those impacted by mining.

Environmental justice and sustainability are critical areas addressed by AMI as a strategy to foster community rights while addressing environmental degradation. This alignment with environmental and community rights issues ensures that AMI’s efforts encompass the full spectrum of concerns faced by marginalised groups.

Overall, AMI’s goals are well-aligned with the needs of the target communities. By creating accessible platforms for discourse and advocacy, AMI enables marginalised voices to participate more actively in policy and corporate discussions, addressing their most pressing challenges and fostering more inclusive decision-making. According to Ncube and Banda (2024), the alignment of these goals with the needs of marginalised communities allowing evaluation of how inclusive policymaking in AMI initiatives promotes sustainable mining practices. More evidence in support of the relevance aspect from participants were as follows:

Community level interventions championed by TCHOTA’s in the Lunda Sul region has yielded positive results and dialogues are in high demand form communities in other regions like the Luanda Norte - [Community Leader, Angola]

The AMI platform has been instrumental in ensuring that mining-affected communities are no longer marginalised. For years, these voices were missing from the policy table. Now, not only are they heard, but their specific challenges and priorities are shaping key interventions and decisions. – [Community Leader, Zambia]

2. Are we targeting the right rights holders? Are we inclusive in our approach (different participant groups/ different regions)? Who is missing? Who have been the most unlikely partners or supporters?

The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) and the National Alternative Mining Indaba (NAMI) have proven pivotal in promoting inclusivity, particularly for groups historically marginalised in mining-related discussions.

Gender Inclusivity in AMI and NAMI

One of the standout contributions of AMI and NAMI lies in advancing gender inclusivity. Women in rural communities often bear the disproportionate brunt of mining-related impacts, as they are primary caregivers and depend on natural resources such as water and land for their families' livelihoods. Mining activities frequently degrade or contaminate these essential resources, exacerbating the challenges faced by women. Despite these impacts, women have historically been excluded from formal discussions and decision-making processes on mining policies.

Through NAMI, significant strides have been made to rectify this imbalance. By connecting women with civil society organisations and legal experts, NAMI equips them with knowledge about their legal rights and the mechanisms available to protect these rights. This empowerment has enabled women to challenge illegal land grabs perpetrated by mining companies, demand fair compensation, and advocate for more humane resettlement options when displacement is unavoidable. Literature by Mubanga and Phiri (2023) highlight that these initiatives have strengthened women's roles in local governance and made their voices central to discussions on equitable resource distribution.

NAMI's workshops and community engagement strategies have also played a crucial role in changing local dynamics, ensuring that women's concerns are no longer sidelined. According to Chisanga and Mulenga (2022), the platform has fostered greater gender parity in policy dialogues, bridging historical inequities and embedding a stronger culture of inclusivity in decision-making processes. By promoting gender equity and addressing systemic barriers, AMI and NAMI have set a precedent for how extractive industries can be more accountable to marginalised rights holders.

Evidence of Impact

Testimonies from women participants underline the tangible benefits of these initiatives. For instance, rural women in Zambia's North-Western Province successfully mobilised to demand compensation for land lost to mining, citing their participation in ZAMI workshops as instrumental to their success. These platforms have also highlighted the need for policy reforms that address the gender-specific impacts of mining, aligning local advocacy efforts with broader national and international sustainability goals. As it can be seen, AMI and ZAMI have established themselves as critical platforms for promoting inclusivity, particularly for marginalised women in mining-affected regions. By addressing systemic inequities and empowering women to assert their rights, these platforms have not only amplified marginalised voices but also contributed to shaping policies that are more responsive to the realities of mining-affected communities. A participant said,

Our government appreciates the focus AMI places on inclusivity. Women and youth, who are often excluded from policy dialogues, now actively participate and share insights that influence the direction of discussions." – [Government Official, Zambia]

In addition, women have found a crucial space within ZAMI to voice their unique experiences and advocate for policy changes that address their specific needs. This inclusion has led to women actively contributing to discussions on policy reforms, particularly in areas like compensation for displacement and safeguarding water sources from mining pollution. TCHOTA

and ZAMI has thus become vital platforms for incorporating the voices of women, ensuring that policies and actions better reflect the lived realities of women in mining-affected communities.

Youth Empowerment is another key focus of AMI which has been engaging young people, who will ultimately inherit the long-term environmental and social consequences of mining but are often excluded from formal advocacy efforts. Through youth-focused initiatives, AMI has successfully fostered a new generation of advocates by providing skills and knowledge on sustainable development and environmental justice. For instance, youth workshops equip young participants with digital skills, such as responsible use of the social media and other digital tools; monitor and report environmental violations. This training has empowered youth to play a proactive role in raising awareness and advocating for sustainable mining practices in their communities. A youth based in South African and Zambia who participated independently in the local and international forums have since taken on active roles, monitoring mining operations and using digital platforms to highlight environmental justice issues, demonstrating the program's success in inspiring long-term engagement and advocacy among younger generations.

Identifying Gaps and Unlikely Partners: While AMI have made strides in inclusivity, there remain areas for expansion to ensure that all affected groups are represented. Some marginalised communities and regions in Africa still lack adequate representation, particularly those in remote areas with limited access to advocacy platforms. Moving forward, extending AMI's outreach to these areas and exploring partnerships with unlikely allies, including private sector actors and non-traditional civil society organisations, could further strengthen their impact. In summary, AMI have effectively targeted the right rights holders by focusing on women, youth, and rural communities, providing them with the tools and platforms needed to advocate for their rights in the context of mining impacts. This inclusivity is central to AMI's relevance and underscores its commitment to addressing the needs of those most affected by mining activities. A participant in Zambia noted that:

AMI has been inclusive in amplifying the voices of mining-affected communities, especially at the provincial and district levels, ensuring local issues are represented. However, there are gaps in consistently integrating these voices into broader national discussions. Some participant groups or regions may still be underrepresented, and stronger collaboration with unlikely partners like private sector actors and certain government bodies could enhance the inclusivity and effectiveness of our approach. – [Civil Society Participant, Zambia]

3. Does AMI have a mandate from community members? To what extent have ordinary community members participated in AMIs at different levels?

AMI holds a strong mandate from community members, particularly rural and indigenous populations whose lands and livelihoods are most vulnerable to the impacts of mining. These communities, often disproportionately affected by displacement and environmental degradation, face limited political and economic leverage to challenge the encroachment of mining operations. Through the national platforms like ZAMIs, AMI facilitates their engagement and amplifies their voices, allowing them to participate in various levels of dialogue and advocacy around mining activities that impact their lives.

AMI member from the Centre for Applied Legal Studies underlines the vital role of AMI in offering marginalised groups a much-needed platform to express their concerns. Without such avenues, indigenous communities in Southern Africa would struggle to advocate for the protection of their lands and resources. The participant went further and stated that:

Through AMI, these communities, particularly rural women gain access to networks of legal experts, environmental scientists, and this civil society advocates assist in framing their grievances in a way that resonates with policymakers and international human rights bodies, thus elevating their influence on critical issues. – [Human Right Lawyer, South Africa]

One community leader shared their experience regarding how AMI empowered their community to address the environmental damage caused by local mining operations. Prior to their involvement with AMI, community found their concerns largely dismissed by both local government officials and mining companies. Through AMI, however, they connected with national and international civil society organisations, which provided support in documenting the environmental impact and presenting their case to national policymakers. This advocacy fostered a more responsive dialogue, demonstrating AMI's relevance in bridging the gap between community concerns and actionable responses at the policy level. In summary, AMI's community mandate is not only affirmed through its inclusive approach but is instrumental in enabling vulnerable communities to participate actively in defending their rights and resources.

AMI has provided a platform for community voices, especially at the provincial and district levels, where local issues and community perspectives are amplified. However, there has been a challenge in ensuring that these voices are consistently integrated into the broader discussions at the national level. While some sessions have been more inclusive, others have reverted to a space dominated by complaints without concrete recommendations, which can limit meaningful community participation. – Civil Society Participant

<p>4. What motivates community members and organisations to participate in the AMI platforms? What do they get in return? Has their interest grown or shrunk over the years?</p>
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The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) platforms have emerged over the years to be critical spaces for community members and organisations seeking to address the profound impacts of mining activities on their lives, lands, and livelihoods. These platforms offer a rare opportunity for individuals and groups, often excluded from mainstream decision-making processes, to amplify their voices, raise awareness about their challenges, and engage with a broader network of advocates and policymakers. To this point, AMI has over the years been recognised as a unique and invaluable forum has grown, further motivating participation from diverse stakeholders who see its potential for driving meaningful change (Mudjisuusatyo, Darwin, & Kisno, 2024; Arjaya, Suastra, & Redhana, 2024).

For many communities, the motivation to join AML stems from the daily realities of mining's direct impacts. Issues such as environmental degradation, forced displacement, and threats to land rights create an urgent need for a platform where these grievances can be expressed and addressed collectively. AML provides a space where affected individuals can not only share their experiences but also learn from others facing similar struggles. Secondary data sources explain that the sense of solidarity and mutual support fostered in these forums empowers participants and lays the groundwork for coordinated action against shared challenges (Elshenawy et al., 2024). This aligns with broader global trends in advocating for community participation in addressing environmental and social issues related to industrial practices (Arjaya et al., 2024).

Organisations also find AML a compelling platform, as it aligns with their objectives of supporting vulnerable communities. Environmental NGOs, and legal advocacy groups benefit from the collaborative environment that AML promotes. By participating in these platforms, organisations can exchange valuable information, develop strategies, and amplify their collective impact. The inclusivity of AML is a significant draw, as it ensures representation across various groups, including rural communities, women, and youth. Other scholars mention that the noticeable diversity enriches discussions and strengthens the platform's ability to advocate for equitable and sustainable solutions (Mudjisesatyo et al., 2024).

The growing awareness of AML's benefits further fuels its appeal. Participants increasingly recognise that these forums provide a rare chance to engage meaningfully with decision-makers and influence policies that affect their communities. By bridging the gap between marginalised groups and powerful stakeholders, AML empowers communities to transition from passive observers to active participants in shaping outcomes that impact their futures. As such, the platform continues to attract and inspire those committed to addressing the multifaceted impacts of mining activities through collective effort and advocacy (Elshenawy et al., 2024; Arjaya et al., 2024).

We've been on a journey to transform how we engage—shifting from a defensive stance to fostering open, collaborative partnerships. Our focus has been on moving beyond merely identifying issues via the AML platforms to actively exploring solutions with civil society, aiming for meaningful collaboration that delivers tangible, direct impact. [Mining Industry Representative, South Africa]

The motivation for participating in AML lies in leveraging joint advocacy to address the complex and diverse issues in mining. By coming together as civil society and agreeing on an agenda, we can collectively push for policy and legal reforms, making it more likely for the government to hear and act on our recommendations. This progression from complaints to constructive discussions and targeted advocacy has been strategic and impactful over the years. [NGO Representation and AML member, Zambia]

Tangible Benefits and Returns on Participation:

Participants report several key benefits from AML engagement, including increased awareness of their rights, access to legal and technical expertise, engagement with mining companies, and the opportunity to influence policy discussions. For many community members, participation in

AMI has been transformative; it has empowered them to challenge exploitative practices, defend their land rights, and seek compensation for damages. Organisations supporting these communities also gain a strategic platform to engage with policymakers and foster partnerships that amplify their advocacy efforts. Additionally, participants benefit from knowledge-sharing and skill-building workshops, gaining tools for effective advocacy such as digital media skills, legal literacy, and environmental monitoring techniques.

Changes in Interest Over Time: Interest in AMI platforms has consistently grown, largely due to the tangible outcomes achieved through participation. Many communities and organisations report heightened enthusiasm over the years, spurred by AMI's success in raising awareness and influencing policies. The platform's evolving focus on new issues, such as sustainable development, climate resilience, and youth inclusion, has also expanded its relevance, attracting an even broader range of participants. This sustained and growing interest demonstrates AMI's effectiveness in meeting community needs and adapting to changing priorities, reinforcing its role as a vital forum for addressing mining impacts. In summary, community members and organisations are motivated to participate in AMI by the opportunity to advocate for their rights and address the challenges posed by mining activities. The benefits they receive, including access to expertise, skill development, and influence in policy dialogue, have strengthened their commitment to AMI, fostering a growing and enduring interest over the years.

5. Which role do faith leaders play in AMI? Which importance do they attach to the AMI process?

Faith leaders are integral to the AMI process, leveraging their trusted status and moral authority to champion social and environmental justice. Their involvement amplifies the credibility of AMI initiatives, particularly in contexts where they wield significant influence over community dynamics and decision-making. Faith leaders not only act as intermediaries between communities and advocacy platforms but also provide a vital moral framework that underpins the objectives of AMI.

Roles of Faith Leaders in AMI

Faith leaders play multifaceted roles within the AMI framework, addressing both practical and ethical dimensions of mining impacts. One of their primary contributions is raising awareness about the ethical and social implications of mining on communities. By articulating these issues in accessible language and aligning them with moral and spiritual principles, faith leaders make complex topics like land rights and environmental degradation relatable and urgent. Their ability to contextualize these challenges within the ethical teachings of stewardship and social responsibility helps galvanize community engagement and advocacy.

Another critical role of faith leaders is bridging the gap between affected communities and the AMI platform. Their trusted position allows them to facilitate communication and understanding between grassroots groups and the broader advocacy network. Faith leaders often serve as conveners, mobilizing community members to participate in AMI forums and fostering open dialogue on topics that might otherwise be too sensitive to address. Their encouragement creates

an inclusive atmosphere, enabling marginalised voices to unite around shared concerns and values.

Faith leaders also bring a holistic perspective to the discussions, grounding the discourse in long-term moral and ethical considerations. Their emphasis on the spiritual and communal consequences of environmental harm and resource exploitation resonates deeply with community members, strengthening the call for sustainable and equitable practices. By aligning AMI objectives with religious teachings, they help embed the platform's initiatives within the cultural and spiritual fabric of the communities they serve.

As such, faith leaders are invaluable in amplifying the reach and impact of AMI. Their ability to inspire, and unify communities ensures that the platform remains deeply rooted in the values and aspirations of those most affected by mining activities. Through their leadership, AMI forums become not only sites of advocacy but also spaces for collective moral reflection and action.

Importance Attached by Faith Leaders to the AMI Process:

Faith leaders view the AMI process as an essential mechanism for addressing the injustices their communities face due to mining activities. They attach great importance to AMI as a platform where moral and ethical issues related to mining can be highlighted and where the voices of the vulnerable can be amplified. For many faith leaders, AMI represents a critical opportunity to advocate for the protection of creation, justice, and dignity—values that are deeply rooted in their faith traditions.

In essence, the importance faith leaders attach to AMI is linked to their dedication to addressing systemic inequities and advocating for sustainable solutions. Their involvement ensures that the process remains grounded in values of compassion, justice, and responsibility, reinforcing AMI's mission to empower communities and promote equitable development. Through their leadership, faith leaders continue to inspire meaningful participation and galvanise collective efforts to protect both people and the planet.

This commitment reflects their belief that safeguarding the environment and supporting the rights of affected communities are moral imperatives.

Faith leaders have benefited immensely from AMI's platforms. The ability to learn strategies from other countries and adapt them to local contexts has strengthened our advocacy for social justice. – [Faith-Based Leader, Angola]

Faith leaders see AMI as instrumental in upholding the principles of social equity and environmental protection. Their participation not only strengthens community engagement but also signals to policymakers and corporate actors that these issues are of profound ethical concern to society at large. By engaging with AMI, faith leaders affirm their dedication to advocating for justice and stewardship, supporting a vision of sustainable development that aligns with the welfare of all people, particularly those most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of mining. Faith leaders play a vital role in AMI by mobilising community support, framing advocacy within ethical and moral dimensions, and fostering collective action. Their commitment

to the AMI process underscores the platform's relevance as a vehicle for social and environmental justice, reflecting shared values of equity, dignity, and stewardship.

6. To what extent is the AMI goal clear and realistic? Is it viewed the same by different stakeholders?

The main goal of the AMI is to create a platform for communities affected by mining to advocate for their rights and promote responsible, equitable mining practices—is generally viewed as both clear and realistic by stakeholders and AMI participants?. However, perspectives on the goal's scope and feasibility vary slightly among different groups, reflecting their diverse experiences and expectations. The diverse perspectives are illustrated below.

Clarity of AMI Goal:

Across stakeholder groups, there is consensus that AMI's primary goal is well-articulated: to empower communities, amplify their voices in mining-related discussions, and push for policies that address the socio-environmental impacts of mining. Community members, civil society organisations, and faith leaders all report a shared understanding of this objective, underscoring its relevance to their experiences and aspirations. AMI's explicit focus on inclusivity, social justice, and environmental protection resonates strongly, particularly with communities directly impacted by mining and with organisations dedicated to sustainable development. For some stakeholders, particularly those newer to AMI or less directly involved, the goal can appear ambitious due to the complexity of mining-related issues and the power imbalances between affected communities and corporate or governmental actors. However, AMI's commitment to transparent dialogue and capacity-building within communities helps clarify how this goal is pursued, making it easier for new participants to understand and support the process.

Realism of AMI Goal: The realism of AMI's goal is viewed differently by stakeholders based on their engagement levels and expectations. Community members and civil society groups often see the goal as achievable, especially when they observe tangible progress, such as increased awareness, policy changes, and growing community solidarity. For these groups, AMI's incremental successes in advocating for fair compensation, environmental protection, and greater community input in mining decisions reinforce the goal's feasibility, even if achieving it fully requires sustained effort.

Representation matters, and AMI ensures that grassroots challenges are brought into national conversations. This is critical for achieving policy relevance that is anchored in real-world experiences. – [Civil Society Representative, South Africa]

Some stakeholders, such as policymakers and corporate representatives, recognise AMI's goal as valuable but may view it as more challenging to achieve within the constraints of existing regulatory and corporate frameworks. While they acknowledge AMI's role in promoting accountability, these groups sometimes express concerns over the practical limitations of fully realising the goal, given the economic and political complexities involved in the mining sector. Nonetheless, their engagement with AMI indicates a recognition of its role as a legitimate and constructive forum for dialogue.

Stakeholder Variations in Viewing the AMI Goal: Although the AMI goal is broadly understood and respected, perspectives on its impact and feasibility vary. For community members and grassroots organisations, the goal is deeply relevant and achievable, aligning closely with their immediate needs and rights. Faith leaders and civil society partners view the goal as realistic within a broader ethical and moral framework, emphasizing long-term transformation in mining practices. Policymakers and private sector stakeholders, while generally supportive of AMI’s purpose, tend to approach the goal with more caution, noting the challenges of translating advocacy outcomes into policy changes that balance economic and environmental interests.

From a business perspective, AMI allows us to hear directly from the communities we work in. Understanding their real-life challenges makes our corporate social responsibility initiatives much more targeted and impactful. – [Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, Tanzania]

Overall, the AMI goal is widely regarded as clear and, by many stakeholders, realistic in its scope and approach. While varying perspectives exist, especially around the feasibility of achieving systemic change, the platform’s consistent progress and inclusive processes affirm its goal as both relevant and necessary for promoting justice in mining-affected communities. This broad endorsement across diverse groups highlights AMI’s effectiveness in uniting stakeholders around a shared vision of equitable, responsible mining practices.

3.1.2 Performance Rating: Relevance

Based on the analysis and findings on relevance, AMI’s relevance can be rated as **highly satisfactory**.

Rating	Evidence Supporting the Rating
Highly satisfactory	Clear Alignment with Community Needs: AMI’s goals directly address the specific and urgent concerns of communities affected by mining activities, including displacement, environmental degradation, and loss of land rights. This alignment underscores a strong relevance to the core needs and rights of its target groups, particularly marginalised communities, women, and youth.
	Inclusive and Targeted Approach: The platform’s inclusivity, which prioritizes the engagement of vulnerable and often underrepresented groups, such as rural women, youth, and indigenous communities, further reinforces its relevance. By providing a space for these voices in mining policy discussions, AMI fills a critical gap left by traditional decision-making processes.
	Stakeholder Consensus on AMI’s Purpose: Feedback indicates that stakeholders across the board—community members, civil society organisations, faith leaders, and, to a cautious extent, policymakers and private sector representatives, find AMI’s objectives to be clear, meaningful, and essential. Although stakeholders vary in their views on the feasibility of systemic change, there is a shared recognition of AMI’s role in amplifying marginalised voices and promoting equitable mining practices.
	Adaptability and Evolving Focus: AMI’s ability to respond to emerging issues, such as digital advocacy for youth and the moral perspectives of faith

	<p>leaders, has sustained interest and engagement from various groups over time. This adaptability enhances its relevance by ensuring that it continues to reflect and address the evolving priorities of its participants.</p> <p><i>Tangible Outcomes and Incremental Successes:</i> Evidence of AMI's impact—such as policy engagement, increased rights awareness, and community empowerment—illustrates that the platform is achieving incremental successes that resonate with stakeholders, reinforcing the realism and relevance of its objectives.</p>
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In conclusion, AMI's commitment to addressing the specific needs of mining affected communities, its inclusivity, and its clear impact on advocacy and policy dialogues justify a high rating for relevance. This assessment suggests that AMI is well-positioned to continue addressing its stakeholders' needs while adapting to new challenges and priorities.

3.2 Coherence

The AMI process achieves coherence by aligning with other NGOs and actors in the mining sector at national and regional levels, fostering collaboration for greater impact. Its distinctiveness lies in amplifying marginalised voices, such as rural and indigenous communities, women, and youth, often excluded from mainstream mining discussions. AMI provides an inclusive, grassroots platform for these groups to advocate for their rights and engage with policymakers, complementing NGO efforts while addressing advocacy gaps. Its international relevance brings global attention to African mining issues, aligning local advocacy with global human rights and environmental standards, solidifying its role in mining sector advocacy and reform.

7. To what extent does the AMI process fit with the work of other NGOs and other actors in the sector at country level and in the region?

The AMI process demonstrates a strong level of coherence with the work of other NGOs and actors within the mining sector at both national and regional levels. By focusing on the rights and well-being of mining-affected communities, AMI aligns closely with the objectives of numerous NGOs working on issues such as environmental justice, land rights, human rights, and social equity. This alignment allows AMI to complement and reinforce the efforts of other organisations, fostering a collaborative network that amplifies advocacy on mining-related issues across the region.

"The alignment of AMI's initiatives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adds coherence to our efforts. By tying local issues to global frameworks, AMI ensures that no problem is addressed in isolation." – [Development Consultant, Zambia]

Many stakeholders report that AMI's focus on marginalised voices—particularly those of rural and indigenous communities, women, and youth—addresses critical advocacy gaps left by other actors, making AMI a valued partner in shared efforts. NGOs working at the country level view AMI as an important platform for grassroots advocacy, where community perspectives inform broader campaigns and policy dialogues. Through provincial and national forums, AMI provides

a space for local NGOs to bring community issues into a national and regional spotlight, facilitating a unified response to common challenges faced by mining-affected populations.

AMI has transformed the way we work with civil society and businesses. There's now alignment between our local government's priorities and broader regional goals, making advocacy efforts much more cohesive. – [Government Official, Tanzania]

Moreover, AMI's regional scope supports coherence by creating a cross-border network that enables knowledge-sharing and coordinated advocacy among NGOs and civil society actors across multiple countries. This approach strengthens advocacy efforts by connecting local concerns with regional priorities and by leveraging the collective voice of multiple actors to influence policy at various levels. The AMI process thus fits well within the broader ecosystem of NGOs and sector stakeholders, enhancing coherence and solidarity in advocating for sustainable, equitable mining practices across the region. As noted:

"As a mining company, we've appreciated how AMI fosters collaboration rather than confrontation. The ability to sit down with government representatives and communities has led to shared solutions that balance economic growth with social responsibility." – [Mining Sector Representative, South Africa]

8. What makes AMI different from other platforms/actors in the field?

The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) stands out from other platforms and actors in the field due to its unique, community-centered approach that prioritizes the voices and concerns of marginalised communities directly impacted by mining. Unlike many advocacy platforms that focus on high-level policy or corporate engagement, AMI places affected communities particularly rural, indigenous, women, and youth voices at the heart of its process, creating a space where their lived experiences and priorities guide the advocacy agenda. This grassroots orientation allows AMI to address issues such as displacement, environmental degradation, and land rights from a community perspective, ensuring that policy dialogues are grounded in the realities of those most affected.

What makes AMI different is its ability to bring together diverse civil society organisations and communities to collectively push for an agenda, rather than working in silos. Unlike other platforms, AMI has evolved to focus not just on raising issues but on targeted advocacy and policy reform, ensuring that the voices of affected communities are part of the conversation with policymakers. – [Civil Society Participant]

Furthermore, AMI's inclusive and multi-stakeholder model fosters collaboration across a diverse spectrum of participants, including faith leaders, civil society organisations, legal experts, environmental scientists, and community representatives. This blend of voices enables AMI to facilitate constructive dialogue between communities, NGOs, and policymakers, bridging gaps that are often left by other actors. AMI's regional and international reach also sets it apart, as it not only addresses national issues but elevates local challenges to the international stage, aligning community-driven concerns with global human rights and environmental standards. This

distinct, bottom-up approach makes AMI a unique and essential actor in the mining sector, as it provides marginalised groups with a platform to influence policy and advocate for equitable, sustainable mining practices.

9. Is AMI relevant in other international spaces?

The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) holds significant relevance in international spaces by bringing attention to the unique challenges faced by mining-affected communities in Africa. AMI actively participates in global forums such as the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, the UNFCCC COP climate summits, and regional dialogues aligned with the African Mining Vision (AMV). Through these platforms, AMI amplifies grassroots voices on critical issues like environmental degradation, displacement, health impacts, and economic inequality. Collaborating with international networks such as Publish What You Pay (PWYP) and the International Alliance on Natural Resources in Africa (IANRA), AMI advocates for transparency, accountability, and sustainable resource governance. By aligning its work with frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Goals, AMI ensures active participation in global forums and networks. AMI provides a unique, grassroots-informed perspective that enriches international discussions around mining practices, human rights, and the just transition to sustainable energy.

AMI's relevance extends beyond national and regional boundaries, as it aligns local advocacy efforts with international human rights and environmental standards. This connection brings global attention to mining issues in Africa, making it a critical platform for influencing both local and international spaces. [– Civil Society Participant].

Through cross-border discussions, AMI has facilitated policy coherence. Countries learn from each other's successes and challenges, making the process of aligning national policies much smoother. – [Regional Policy Coordinator, Zimbabwe]

Stakeholders note that AMI's involvement in international spaces has helped elevate the voices of marginalised African communities, allowing their concerns to resonate with international policymakers, human rights organisations, and environmental bodies. By presenting the experiences and advocacy priorities of local communities, AMI plays a critical role in bridging local realities with international standards, such as those established by the United Nations and other human rights institutions. Furthermore, AMI's work in international spaces has led to valuable partnerships with global organisations, enhancing knowledge-sharing and creating opportunities for collaborative action. This presence not only reinforces AMI's influence but also raises global awareness of the urgent need for equitable and sustainable mining practices in Africa.

AMI's consistent messaging across regions has been one of its strongest assets. By uniting voices from different countries, the platform ensures that policies are both coherent and impactful. – [Mining Industry Representative, South Africa]

3.2.2 Performance Rating: Coherence

AMI's coherence can be rated as **highly satisfactory**, based on the analysis and findings on coherence. The following assessment supports this rating.

Rating	Evidence Supporting the Coherence
High satisfactory	Alignment with NGOs and Sector Actors: AMI's activities are well-aligned with the work of NGOs and civil society organisations working on issues related to mining impacts, such as environmental justice, land rights, and social equity. This alignment enhances AMI's coherence within the sector, allowing it to contribute meaningfully to collective advocacy and create a unified response to challenges affecting mining-impacted communities.
	Complementary, Community-Focused Approach: AMI's distinct focus on amplifying marginalised voices—particularly rural communities, women, and youth—fills a critical gap often left by other platforms and actors in the sector. This unique, community-centered approach complements the efforts of other organisations, making AMI a valuable partner and enhancing the sector's overall coherence in addressing mining-related issues from multiple perspectives.
	Effective Regional and International Reach: AMI's involvement in regional networks and international spaces extends its impact, allowing local issues from mining-affected communities in Africa to reach a global audience. This international relevance enhances coherence by linking local and global advocacy, reinforcing AMI's alignment with global standards such as human rights and sustainable development goals.
	Collaborative Partnerships and Adaptability: AMI's capacity to engage a diverse range of partners—including faith leaders, environmental experts, and legal advocates—demonstrates its coherence with varied stakeholders within the mining sector. This adaptability allows AMI to remain relevant across different contexts and maintain strong connections within regional and international advocacy networks.

In conclusion, AMI's alignment with other sector actors, its distinct role in addressing community needs, and its effective regional and international reach justify a high rating for coherence. This rating indicates that AMI is well-integrated within the broader ecosystem of mining sector advocacy, enhancing collective impact and advancing the goals of equitable and sustainable mining practices across multiple levels.

3.3 Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) can be assessed by its progress toward its original goals and its evolution over the past 15 years. Initially established to provide a platform for mining-affected communities to advocate for their rights and challenge exploitation, AMI has expanded its focus to include environmental justice, human rights

protection, economic sustainability, and cross-border coalition-building. Key factors contributing to its effectiveness include its grassroots, community-centered approach, strong coalition-building processes, and engagement with national and regional actors in mining governance. AMI has influenced policy, supported land restitution and small-scale miners, and advanced human rights advocacy across regional, national, and district levels.

At the regional level, it has fostered alliances and shared learning, while at the national and district levels, it has enabled communities to directly engage policymakers and industry stakeholders. Despite these successes, AMI faces areas for improvement, such as enhancing collaboration with governments and mining companies and identifying new avenues for policy influence. Strengthening these relationships could further amplify its impact and address missed advocacy opportunities. Moving forward, AMI's evolution can be guided by these insights to reinforce its role in advancing sustainable mining practices and supporting the rights of affected communities.

10. To what extent have the AMI goals been achieved? What had AMI set out to do 15 years ago? How has it changed over time?

Over the past 15 years, the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) has made significant strides toward achieving its original goals, which focused on creating a platform for mining-affected communities to voice their concerns, advocate for their rights, and promote equitable and sustainable mining practices. Since its inception, AMI has successfully established itself as a critical space for community-led advocacy, providing these groups with avenues to engage policymakers, corporate actors, and civil society organisations. A quote from two respondents read:

Over the years, I feel AMI has progressed from being a space where communities and civil society primarily vented complaints to one that actively engages in targeted advocacy, policy, and legal reform. Initially, the focus was on raising issues, but now there is a stronger emphasis on constructing concrete recommendations and aligning efforts to influence government actions. While there have been challenges in coordination and content in some years, the strategic shift towards a more structured and outcome-oriented agenda has marked a significant evolution in AMI's role and impact. – [Civil Society Participant]

Well I as AMI regular, I felt privileged and very proud to have been involved in the 2018 social audit exercise. I should mention that community based knowledge and experiences (stories of change) found an expression during the sessions and importantly the final report – [Survey Participant]

Throughout its evolution, AMI's scope and focus have broadened in response to emerging challenges and needs. In addition to empowering community voices, AMI has increasingly prioritized issues like environmental justice, climate resilience, and economic alternatives for small-scale and artisanal miners. This expanded focus reflects a growing awareness of the multifaceted impacts of mining on communities and the environment. The platform has also

enhanced its regional and international presence, helping to elevate local issues to global arenas and align its objectives with international human rights and sustainable development frameworks.

Study participants suggested topical issues that the AML initiative could consider in the nearest future. Among others, these include:

Unpacking what Just Energy Transition means for rural women and men, youth, small-scale farmers, farm workers, miners, ocean people, and forest communities. This includes covering topics such as how to make Economic opportunities available for small-scale miners. – [Survey Participant]

A discussion on climate change, energy transition versus mining, importantly how the African continent affirms its position and strategy within the broader international discourse. – [Survey Participant]

Have case studies on country specific issues for discussions and peer to peer learning. We may consider inviting mining companies and government officials into one space to discuss issues with evidence with the objective to find long lasting solutions. – [Survey Participant]

While AML has achieved many of its goals, certain challenges remain, particularly in sustaining direct policy influence and fostering deeper engagement with governments and mining companies. Nevertheless, AML's adaptability and commitment to its core mission have enabled it to make substantial progress, marking it as a unique and impactful platform within the mining sector. As AML moves forward, building on these achievements and addressing outstanding challenges will be key to further realizing its long-term vision of fair, inclusive, and sustainable mining practices across the region.

In offering suggestions on how to enhance AML's effectiveness, survey answerers remarked as follows:

Utilise podcasts or similar platforms to keep audio and videos for future use. This will also allow participants to keep up with breakaway sessions they could not attend during the annual event.

Programmes need to be sent out well in advance, a month or two before the event. AML needs to be relevant to people beyond its immediate circles and thus needs to improve its media and communications outreach. For example, they could be a media room at the AML and dedicated press liaison officer(s).

Widen inclusion to include French, Portuguese, youth and women representatives into the Steering Committee including publishing documents in the mentioned languages.

11. Which factors were decisive for the achievement or non-achievement of AML goals?
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Through interviews and narratives provided by members of the African Mining Indaba (AMI) and other national platforms, several decisive factors influencing AML's effectiveness have

emerged. These platforms provide essential spaces for affected communities, civil society organisations (CSOs), government representatives, and the private sector to address crucial issues in the mining sector, including displacement, environmental degradation, and corporate responsibility. However, challenges around stakeholder engagement, funding, sustainability, and coordination have impacted the achievement of AML's goals.

A decisive factor for achieving AML's goals has been the ability to leverage joint advocacy, where civil society comes together to agree on an agenda and push it collectively, making it more likely for the government to listen and act. However, challenges in coordination, particularly when key organisations like Oxfam faced program changes or when participants were absent during planning, have hindered progress. Additionally, some sessions lacked alignment with the identified themes, which impacted the effectiveness of discussions and recommendations. – [Civil Society Participant]

1. Community Empowerment and Advocacy

Amplifying Marginalised Voices:

AML and national platforms have effectively elevated the voices of marginalised communities, particularly those affected by mining activities, who are often excluded from mainstream decision-making. These forums have empowered rural communities, women, youth, and indigenous groups to articulate their concerns on issues such as land rights, displacement, and environmental degradation. By creating spaces where these communities can interact with policymakers and corporate stakeholders, AML and NAMI bridge local grievances with national policy agendas.

Empowerment Through Knowledge and Capacity Building:

AML have served as crucial educational platforms, equipping community members with the tools and resources needed to advocate for their rights. Workshops and discussions have enabled participants to understand legal frameworks, develop evidence-based arguments, and mobilise support. For instance, community members learned to document environmental abuses and communicate these findings to policymakers, effectively transitioning from passive victims to active agents for change.

The awareness campaigns led by AML have been eye-opening for many. In my region, these campaigns encouraged communities to challenge mining companies on issues like pollution, which resulted in significant clean-up commitments. – [Steering Committee Member]

In my country mining companies no longer do as they please because communities are clearer on questions to pose in protecting their human rights and the preservation of the environment. – [Survey Participant]

AML has brought many changes in the way of seeing things in terms of civil society advocacy for community rights. AML is that place where you feel the real commitment that motivates you to do better. – [Survey Participant]

Gender Inclusion in Mining Advocacy:

Acknowledging that women bear unique burdens from mining impacts, ZAMI and AMI have made strides in fostering gender-inclusive discussions. These platforms have educated women on land and environmental rights, allowing them to advocate against illegal land grabs and demand fair compensation in cases of displacement. Women's voices, previously marginalised, are now integral to pushing for reforms that address gender-specific impacts of mining. As seen through the eyes of one of the respondents more work still needs to be done. For example the cited participant made this appeal: *"The Mining Indaba should be a non paid space which will in turn widen the participation of civil society, women in particular. We could borrow from lessons on how to streamline from the likes of COP, IMF/WN meetings etc and ensures that this is consistent and not adhoc."*

2. Challenges in Engaging Government and the Private Sector

Limited Private Sector Engagement:

Mining companies' limited and often superficial engagement in AMI and NAMIs discussions has been a critical obstacle. This reluctance is attributed to fears of public scrutiny, distrust of CSOs, and a perception that these platforms are adversarial rather than collaborative. Mining companies often prefer controlled environments, such as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, over open forums where their practices might be scrutinized.

While AMI has successfully opened doors for national and regional advocacy, influencing policy changes and fostering improved relations between communities, governments, and mining companies, some stakeholders note that greater collaboration with government and industry could further enhance its impact and address missed advocacy opportunities. – [Civil Society Participant]

Inconsistent Government Participation:

Government engagement has similarly been limited, often confined to ceremonial roles with little follow-up on resolutions. This lack of sustained involvement reduces AMI and NAMI's capacity to influence policy effectively. Without formal structures to ensure government accountability, commitments made during the forums often remain unimplemented, leaving community grievances unaddressed.

3. Policy Advocacy and Influence

Advocacy for Legal and Policy Reforms: AMI and other national platforms have been instrumental in advocating for stronger legal frameworks in mining governance, particularly around environmental protections and corporate accountability. Successful instances include influencing frameworks for responsible mining audits and advocating for the formalization of artisanal and small-scale mining. These successes demonstrate AMI's potential to drive national policy changes, though sustained follow-up mechanisms are needed to ensure policy implementation.

AMI's effectiveness is reflected in its ability to influence policy changes by creating platforms for dialogue between mining-affected communities, policymakers, and industry stakeholders. This has allowed for the promotion of rights-based advocacy on issues like land restitution, small-scale miner support, and human rights, while fostering coalition-building that strengthens national platforms and advocacy efforts. – [Faith based Leader]

Promoting Accountability and Transparency:

In advocating for corporate accountability, AMI and NAMIs have prioritized the need for mining companies to adhere to strict Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and robust CSR programs. Participants also highlighted the critical role of transparency, particularly around financial disclosures and contract negotiations. Increased transparency is crucial for ensuring that revenues benefit local communities rather than being misallocated or mismanaged.

4. Environmental and Social Justice Concerns

Addressing Environmental Degradation:

AMI and NAMIs have focused on the environmental impacts of mining, including water contamination, land degradation, and air pollution. By advocating for stronger environmental regulations and inclusive EIAs, these platforms empower communities to demand accountability for environmental damages. Improved policies around environmental protection and corporate accountability remain essential to mitigate the adverse impacts of mining.

Over time, AMI has expanded its focus to incorporate strategies for environmental justice and human rights protection, addressing critical concerns such as economic sustainability and the rights of mining-affected communities. This broader scope has strengthened its advocacy efforts, making it a more effective platform for addressing the social and environmental impacts of mining. – [Civil Society Participant]

Social Displacement and Human Rights Violations:

Forced displacement and inadequate compensation for affected communities are among the most severe social justice issues. AMI and NAMIs provide a platform for these communities to demand fair treatment and support, though challenges remain in ensuring that these demands translate into action. The lack of gender-sensitive policies around displacement further exacerbates vulnerabilities, particularly for women who rely on natural resources for household needs.

5. Funding and Sustainability Challenges

Inconsistent Funding and Donor Dependency:

Reliance on project-specific donor funding has limited AMI and NAMI's capacity to plan long-term activities and ensure continuity. Dependency on international donors has created challenges in maintaining a community-centered approach, as donor priorities can shift over time. Participants noted that diversified funding sources and greater local ownership could strengthen the sustainability of these platforms. It was noted that project-based funding has sometimes resulted in fragmented agendas, where multiple donor-driven priorities compete, diluting the

focus of AML and NAMI. This fragmentation can weaken advocacy efforts, as resources are stretched across numerous issues without achieving sustained impact in any single area. As highlighted:

One of the challenges impacting AML's effectiveness has been the sustainability of its coordination and programming, especially when key organisations face funding constraints or program transitions. For instance, when organisations like Oxfam scaled down their extractive industries program, it affected the planning and execution of AML activities, highlighting the need for more stable and diversified funding sources.
– [Civil Society Participant]

6. Coordination and Monitoring Gaps

Lack of Systematic Follow-Up on Resolutions: One of the most critical gaps identified is the lack of follow-up mechanisms to monitor the implementation of resolutions. Without dedicated structures to track progress, commitments from stakeholders often go unfulfilled, which diminishes the platforms' credibility. Establishing a formal monitoring and evaluation committee could address this gap and ensure accountability. As mentioned:

There was a lack of coordination in organizing the recent AML, with key organisations and individuals missing from planning sessions. This affected the alignment of sessions with identified themes and limited the overall effectiveness of the program. Stronger coordination and monitoring are essential to ensure that AML achieves its intended outcomes. – [Civil Society Participant]

Fragmented Coordination Among CSOs: Competition for funding and limited resources has sometimes led to fragmented coordination among CSOs. This lack of alignment weakens collective advocacy, as CSOs focus on individual priorities rather than a unified agenda. A more cohesive strategy would enable stronger, collective pressure on governments and mining companies. To amplify this point one participant said:

Both sides often hold preconceived notions about what the other brings to the table. At times, the main goal of overcoming these biases and foster mutual understanding, ultimately driving meaningful impact gets compromised – [Civil Society Participant]

7. Impact on Personal and Organisational Growth

Capacity Building and Leadership Development: AML and NAMIs have been instrumental in building the advocacy, leadership, and technical skills of participants. By enhancing individuals' abilities to engage with policymakers and corporate stakeholders, these platforms have empowered participants to become influential advocates for change in their communities.

Being part of AML has provided valuable opportunities for personal and organisational growth by fostering collaboration and shared learning. It has strengthened advocacy skills and broadened perspectives on mining governance, which has been instrumental in enhancing our ability to engage with policymakers and push for meaningful change. – [Civil Society Participant]

Strengthening Organisational Capacity and Influence:

Organisations have benefited from networking and partnership opportunities provided by AMI and NAMIs. Through collaborations with other CSOs, organisations have expanded their reach and advocacy impact, gaining access to resources and technical support that strengthen their effectiveness in addressing mining-related issues.

12. What are the different roles of AMI at the different levels (regional, national, district)? How successful has AMI been at the different levels? What did organisations / participants find most useful? What more can we do? What was missing?

In response to questions regarding the African Mining Indaba's (AMI) roles and effectiveness across regional, national, and district levels, interviews with AMI participants reveal insights into the platform's key contributions, successes, and areas for further improvement. AMI's multi-level approach enables it to tackle complex issues across different spheres, although each level brings unique challenges and opportunities for impact.

1. AMI's Roles Across Different Levels

Regional Level - Facilitating Cross-Border Dialogue and Policy Influence:

At the regional level, AMI serves as a collaborative platform that facilitates cross-border dialogue among multiple African countries. It fosters policy discussions that address transnational issues in the extractive industries, such as environmental degradation, corporate accountability, and labor standards. This regional forum allows participants to share experiences and best practices, develop unified advocacy positions, and influence regional policies and agreements in the mining sector.

At the regional level, AMI has successfully fostered alliances and shared learning, while at the national and district levels, it has provided platforms for mining-affected communities to directly voice their concerns to policymakers and industry stakeholders. This multi-level engagement has been valuable for promoting policy changes and building coalitions. However, there is more to be done in ensuring stronger coordination and filling gaps in aligning local voices with national advocacy efforts. What's missing is consistent follow-through to ensure that community inputs translate into actionable policy influence. – [Civil Society Participant]

For Tanzania, AMI has been a learning platform...we have been able to identify regional policy issues and run them at the country level. –[Faith-based Leader]

National Level - Shaping Policy and Advocacy Agendas: At the national level, AMI is instrumental in shaping policy agendas and driving advocacy efforts that address national regulatory frameworks governing the extractive industries. AMI national forums bring together government officials, CSOs, mining companies, and community leaders to discuss policies on environmental protection, community compensation, and labor practices. AMI's national role

includes hosting policy dialogues, developing policy recommendations, and providing a platform for mining-affected communities to engage directly with policymakers.

Participants highlighted that AMI's national forums are often successful in raising awareness of community rights and pushing for legal reforms, though challenges remain in securing consistent government follow-through on recommendations. AMI's influence on national policy has grown, but stronger accountability mechanisms are necessary to ensure that government and corporate commitments are translated into action.

In substantiating the role of AMI in advancing national agendas, two of the survey respondents said: *"Issues raised at the AMI has given rise to NAMIs in the partner countries to incorporate issues of mainstreaming"*. A different participant noted that: *NAMI is informed by the AMI in terms of format and final declaration, with some feedback to the AMI in Cape Town* while another respondent declared that: *the AMI sets the tone for issues to be discussed at the NAMI."*

District Level - Empowering Local Communities and Building Capacity: At the district level, AMI plays a crucial role in empowering local communities directly impacted by mining activities. This includes facilitating capacity-building workshops, knowledge-sharing sessions, and advocacy training that help community members understand and assert their rights. AMI's district-level engagements provide a platform for community members to discuss pressing issues such as land rights, environmental degradation, displacement, and corporate social responsibility.

Participants appreciated that district-level forums make AMI's advocacy efforts accessible to those directly affected by mining, providing a space for grassroots voices to be heard and represented. However, challenges in resource allocation and logistical support for district-level engagements have limited AMI's reach and impact in some rural areas.

2. Successes and Most Useful Aspects of AMI at Each Level

Regional Successes: AMI's success at the regional level lies in its ability to facilitate cross-border collaboration and unified advocacy. Participants emphasized the importance of AMI's role in strengthening regional coalitions that advocate for common policies, such as sustainable mining practices and stronger environmental regulations. AMI's alignment with regional organisations, like the Southern African Development Community (SADC), has enhanced its influence in regional policy discussions. An example of AMI's alignment with regional organizations like the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is its advocacy for incorporating community concerns into the SADC Protocol on Mining. AMI worked alongside civil society organizations to push for stronger provisions on environmental protection, community engagement, and fair compensation for mining-affected populations. This alignment allowed AMI to contribute directly to policy discussions within SADC frameworks, ensuring that grassroots perspectives were reflected in regional mining governance strategies. Through this collaboration, AMI strengthened its credibility and influence in shaping policies that prioritize sustainable and equitable resource management across the region.

National Successes: A prominent example of AMI's success at the national level is its role in influencing environmental policy reforms in Zambia. Through advocacy efforts facilitated by national forums, AMI brought attention to the severe impacts of mining pollution on local communities, particularly in the Copperbelt region. These efforts led to increased scrutiny of

mining companies' environmental practices and prompted the Zambian government to strengthen environmental regulations governing waste management and emissions in the extractive sector. Additionally, in South Africa, AMI forums contributed to heightened awareness of corporate social responsibility (CSR) obligations. Mining companies were encouraged to invest in local community development projects, such as building schools and clinics, as part of their CSR commitments. This was further complemented by AMI's push for better community compensation frameworks, ensuring that displaced communities received fair settlements for land lost to mining operations. These national forums not only brought governments and companies to the table but also provided a platform for affected communities to voice their concerns, thereby holding policymakers accountable and ensuring greater protection of human rights in mining activities.

District Successes: District-level engagements have been especially successful in empowering local communities to advocate for their rights. Participants noted that district forums, though sometimes resource-limited, are highly impactful in educating community members on legal frameworks, environmental issues, and strategies for local advocacy. AMI's work at this level has enabled communities to articulate their concerns and demands to mining companies and local government representatives, often resulting in greater visibility for community grievances.

Figure 4 summarises the satisfaction elements at the core of AMI initiatives. AMI attendees ranked four key factors as responsible for the relevance of the initiatives. These entailed (i) organisation and logistics, (ii) venue and facilities), (iii) inclusivity and diversity, followed by (iv) networking opportunities. As shown by Figure 6, most respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied. Such a rating gives further credence to the relevance of the AM initiative.

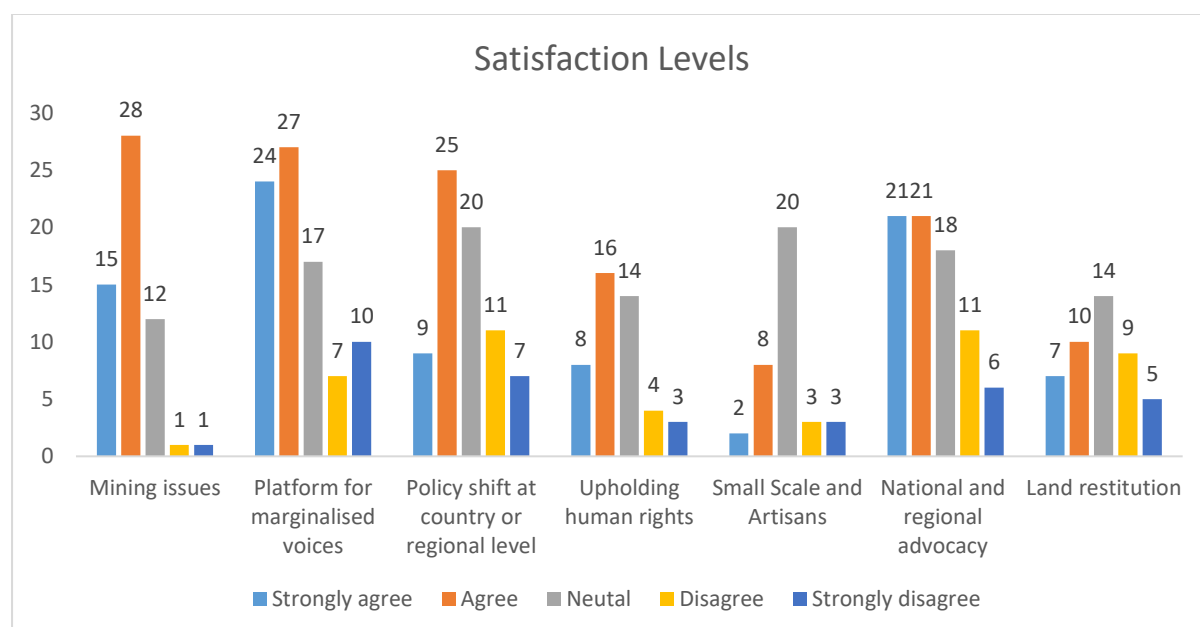


Figure 5: Elements responsible for the success of AMI

However, it should be noted that a handful of the participants were not as impressed. As depicted, some among them were either neutral; dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. For example, there is view that much work on networking opportunities, relevant topics and espousing inclusivity and diversity principles still needs to be done to improve on these areas.

3. Opportunities for Improvement: What More Can Be Done?

Strengthen Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms: Across all levels, participants expressed a need for stronger follow-up mechanisms to ensure that resolutions and commitments made during AMI events are implemented. Establishing a formal monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework would enable AMI to track progress on policy changes, commitments from stakeholders, and the tangible impact of resolutions. This would also enhance AMI's credibility and encourage more consistent engagement from governments and mining companies.

Enhance Regional and Cross-National Collaboration: Participants recommended that AMI continue to build regional coalitions that address cross-border mining issues, including labor rights, environmental protections, and corporate accountability. By facilitating joint initiatives with regional organisations and neighboring countries, AMI can strengthen its advocacy for sustainable policies that have widespread regional impact.

Expand District-Level Outreach and Support: AMI's efforts at the district level could be expanded to reach more remote communities affected by mining. Participants suggested increased logistical support for district-level events and greater resource allocation to ensure these forums reach underserved areas. Enhanced engagement at the district level would amplify grassroots voices and address the unique needs of rural communities that often face the greatest impact of mining activities.

4. Gaps and Missing Elements

Consistent Government Participation and Follow-Through: A recurring challenge highlighted by participants was the inconsistent and often superficial engagement of government representatives, particularly at the national level. While government officials frequently attend AMI events, their participation is often limited to ceremonial roles, with little follow-up on resolutions or policy commitments. This gap has limited AMI's effectiveness in achieving long-term policy impact and enforcing accountability in the mining sector.

Sustainable Funding and Resource Mobilisation: Resource limitations have affected AMI's capacity to sustain its activities and expand its outreach at the district level. Participants highlighted the need for more stable and diversified funding sources to support AMI's operations. Establishing partnerships with local and regional organisations, diversifying funding streams, and exploring alternative financial models could help address AMI's resource challenges and ensure its long-term sustainability.

Coordinated Advocacy and Unified Agendas: Participants noted that without a unified advocacy strategy, AMI's agenda can become fragmented as different stakeholders prioritise their own issues. An expression by one of the survey participant which shows some contestation on tact and approach said *"some among us expect AMI to be an ultra radical and totally against mining thus levelling the AMI a mere talk show"*. Therefore, developing a comprehensive, multi-level advocacy plan that aligns regional, national, and district priorities could help focus AMI's efforts on achieving sustained policy impact. This coordinated strategy would also strengthen AMI's leverage in advocating for systemic change across the extractive industries.

Finally, AMI's multi-level approach has allowed it to address mining-related issues from multiple angles, creating an influential platform that connects local grievances with regional policy discussions. However, AMI's effectiveness across regional, national, and district levels could be

strengthened by addressing challenges around monitoring, resource allocation, and stakeholder engagement.

13. What is the importance of movement and coalition building in AMI and NAMI? How effective has AMI been in supporting NAMI processes?

Interviews with AMI members revealed that movement and coalition building are central to the effectiveness of the African Mining Indaba (AMI) and the National Alternative Mining Indabas (NAMI). These activities help unify diverse stakeholders around shared goals, amplify marginalised voices, and strengthen advocacy for equitable mining governance across the African continent. Furthermore, AMI's role in supporting NAMI processes has been crucial in creating a connected and resilient advocacy network, although there are opportunities to enhance these efforts.

1. Importance of Movement and Coalition Building in AMI and NAMI

Creating a United Front for Mining-Affected Communities: Movement and coalition building within AMI and NAMI provide mining-affected communities with a united front, making their concerns harder to ignore at both national and regional levels. By bringing together civil society organisations (CSOs), community leaders, government representatives, and activists, these platforms create a space for shared objectives, which strengthens advocacy efforts. Participants highlighted that this unity empowers communities to push for policy reforms on issues like environmental protection, fair compensation, and corporate accountability, demonstrating solidarity and amplifying their collective influence.

Movement and coalition building are central to AMI's effectiveness, as they create a network of support that strengthens advocacy efforts and promotes policy change. AMI has been instrumental in supporting NAMI processes by providing a unified platform where national platforms can draw from regional and international advocacy strategies, ensuring that local and national issues are amplified in broader discussions.
– [Civil Society Participant]

Amplifying Voices of Marginalised Groups: Coalition building within AMI and NAMI has been instrumental in amplifying voices from marginalised groups, particularly women, youth, and rural communities. These groups often face barriers in accessing mainstream decision-making platforms, and AMI/NAMI coalitions provide an inclusive environment where these voices can be heard and represented. Through these coalitions, community concerns such as displacement, environmental degradation, and labor rights, receive greater attention in policy dialogues, creating a platform for more equitable and just mining practices.

Facilitating Cross-Border Knowledge Sharing and Solidarity: Movement building within AMI and NAMI enables stakeholders to exchange best practices, knowledge, and strategies for advocacy across national boundaries. Participants noted that the cross-border solidarity fostered through AMI and NAMI coalitions strengthens efforts to hold corporations accountable,

especially those operating across multiple African countries. By learning from successful advocacy cases, stakeholders can adopt effective approaches tailored to their local contexts, which enhances the resilience and adaptability of mining-affected communities.

Increasing Influence on Policy and Legislation: Coalitions within AMI and NAMI create a powerful advocacy body that can exert greater pressure on policymakers and corporations than individual organisations could achieve alone. Participants observed that the strength in numbers offered by these coalitions gives AMI and NAMI greater influence in shaping policy and legislation, as they represent a broad constituency with significant, unified demands. This collective influence has proven critical in pushing for legislative changes, securing commitments from governments, and advocating for stricter environmental and labor regulations in the mining sector.

2. Effectiveness of AMI in Supporting NAMI Processes

The intersections between AMI and NAMI was largely recognised. For example, two of the study participants had this to say.

AMI has been effective in supporting NAMI processes by fostering collaboration and creating linkages between regional, national, and community-level advocacy. This has allowed NAMI platforms to benefit from shared strategies and resources, making their efforts more impactful and aligned with broader advocacy goals. – [Civil Society Participant]

NAMI is a platform that draws from communities mining issues and present these at the AMI so the relationship between the two is direct – [Survey Respondent]

Providing a Strategic Framework for NAMI Engagement: AMI has been effective in providing a strategic framework for NAMI processes, offering guidelines, themes, and agendas that align national and regional goals. By establishing overarching objectives, AMI helps NAMIs maintain consistency in their focus on key issues such as human rights, environmental protection, and economic justice. Participants appreciated this structured support, noting that it helps NAMIs target their advocacy on issues that resonate across multiple countries, reinforcing both national and regional impact.

Building Capacity Through Training and Resource Mobilisation: AMI has supported NAMIs by facilitating capacity-building sessions and resource mobilisation efforts that equip local advocates with the knowledge and skills needed to drive effective change. These training sessions cover topics such as legal frameworks, environmental justice, and strategic communication, empowering participants to advocate more effectively. Participants valued AMI's role in building local capacity, emphasizing that it has helped communities better understand and articulate their rights, engage with policymakers, and mobilise local support.

Strengthening Communication and Knowledge Exchange: AMI has played a critical role in enhancing communication and knowledge exchange among NAMIs by creating networks for regular updates, information sharing, and support. This has facilitated the transfer of advocacy strategies, legal insights, and policy developments across countries, enabling NAMIs to learn

from each other's successes and challenges. Many participants highlighted that this ongoing communication strengthens the entire coalition by enabling rapid response to emerging issues and building solidarity across borders.

Facilitating Partnerships with Key Stakeholders: By acting as a regional hub, AMI has facilitated partnerships between NAMIs and key stakeholders such as international organisations, donor agencies, and advocacy networks. These partnerships have been essential for resource mobilisation and expanding the reach of NAMIs, as they provide technical expertise, funding, and visibility. Participants acknowledged that AMI's role in fostering these connections has significantly strengthened NAMI processes, making them more resilient and capable of sustaining long-term advocacy.

3. Opportunities for Improvement: Enhancing AMI Support for NAMI Processes

Participants emphasized the need for AMI to strengthen its support for NAMI processes by addressing several key areas. First, they highlighted the importance of establishing robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms. A monitoring framework, would equip NAMIs to assess the effectiveness of their processes, measure the impact of coalition activities, and adjust strategies as needed. Such a framework would also help identify areas where additional resources or training are required, ensuring AMI's support translates into tangible outcomes at the national level. Resource limitations were identified as a significant barrier, particularly in reaching rural and marginalised communities. Participants called for AMI to expand its financial support and resource mobilisation efforts. This could involve securing longer-term funding commitments, exploring partnerships with additional donor agencies, or setting up a resource-sharing platform to distribute materials and tools more effectively. Sustaining NAMI activities year-round would require addressing these financial challenges.

Another priority was enhancing local ownership and inclusivity within NAMI processes. While AMI provides valuable strategic direction, participants stressed the importance of allowing NAMIs to address country-specific issues with greater autonomy. Encouraging community-led agenda-setting and enabling NAMIs to adapt regional strategies to local contexts would better align with the unique needs of affected communities, creating a balance between unified goals and localized solutions.

To strengthen NAMI processes, AMI could focus on creating formal monitoring frameworks to track effectiveness and outcomes, increasing resource mobilisation to support year-round activities, and fostering local ownership by allowing NAMIs to prioritise and adapt strategies to their specific contexts. These steps would enhance AMI's support and ensure that coalition-building efforts drive sustainable change." – [Civil Society Participant]

In conclusion, participants acknowledged AMI's success in providing strategic guidance, capacity building, and partnerships for NAMIs. However, they identified opportunities for improvement in accountability, resource mobilisation, local ownership, and inter-NAMI coordination. By addressing these areas, AMI can reinforce its support for NAMIs, ensuring that coalition-building efforts continue to drive sustainable change across Africa's mining sector.

14. What are the strengths and weaknesses of AMI as a regional platform? What does the regional cooperation contribute to?

As a regional platform that collates and disseminates the views of diverse rural communities, voices, AMI has done very well in championing equitable mining practices, and fostering cross-border cooperation. Its regional structure is a key strength, enabling it to influence mining governance across African countries while fostering knowledge exchange, solidarity, and policy advocacy. However, feedback from members highlights areas where AMI's effectiveness could be further refined to bolster its impact and sustainability.

AMI excels in bringing together stakeholders from across sectors, including civil society, government, and community leaders, to form a unified voice advocating for mining justice and corporate accountability. This collective approach amplifies the demands of marginalised communities and enhances the credibility of advocacy efforts. Its regional scope facilitates cross-border knowledge sharing, empowering members to learn from each other's experiences and adopt innovative solutions. AMI's influence extends to policy reforms at the continental level, engaging organisations like the African Union and regional bodies such as SADC to address environmental and social protections. Strategic partnerships with international organisations and regional networks have been crucial for capacity-building, resource mobilisation, and sustaining advocacy campaigns. Additionally, AMI's legitimacy as a regional body strengthens local and national advocacy efforts, giving them greater authority and visibility in addressing mining-related challenges.

AMI's strength as a regional platform lies in its ability to amplify diverse voices, foster cross-border knowledge sharing, and build strategic partnerships that enhance advocacy efforts. However, weaknesses such as limited coordination, reliance on donor funding, and inconsistent engagement from key stakeholders hinder its full potential. Regional cooperation through AMI contributes to stronger policy influence, solidarity among countries, and coordinated responses to shared challenges like environmental and social impacts of mining. – [Civil Society Participant]

One of the things that some colleagues were saying was that they were struggling to make sense of the strategic direction that AMI is taking. And then there is also a little bit of careerism that some of the colleagues have found a route to make careers out of it. – [Civil Society Participant]

Despite its successes, AMI faces challenges that hinder its overall effectiveness. Limited coordination and follow-up mechanisms weaken alignment between national and regional goals, leading to fragmented efforts and reduced impact. Resource constraints, including a reliance on donor funding, affect AMI's sustainability and limit its ability to implement long-term strategies. A lack of consistent engagement from key stakeholders, particularly governments and the private sector, undermines AMI's ability to create the multi-stakeholder dialogue necessary for systemic reforms. The absence of a formal monitoring and evaluation framework makes it difficult to track progress, measure impact, or adjust strategies effectively. Additionally, AMI's broad agenda sometimes results in competing priorities that dilute focus, weakening its advocacy efforts.

Regional cooperation through AMI has been instrumental in advancing cross-border environmental and social protections, fostering solidarity, and enhancing advocacy capacity. By coordinating efforts across countries, AMI addresses shared challenges like water contamination, displacement, and labor rights violations, promoting inclusive and sustainable development. The platform also enables capacity-building through training sessions and workshops, equipping members with the skills needed to engage in effective mining governance. Its focus on inclusivity ensures that issues like gender equality, indigenous rights, and youth engagement are prioritized, encouraging holistic approaches to development. To further enhance its effectiveness, AMI could strengthen coordination mechanisms, secure more sustainable funding, and develop a formal monitoring and evaluation framework to assess its impact. Increasing engagement with governments and the private sector would help create the multi-stakeholder dialogue necessary for systemic change. Addressing these gaps will allow AMI to continue amplifying voices, building coalitions, and driving just and sustainable mining practices across Africa.

15. How has AMI influenced rights holders to defend their human rights? How has AMI helped with land restitution? How has AMI assisted Small Scale and Artisanal Miners?

AMI plays a key role in raising awareness about land rights and advocating for fair restitution processes for communities impacted by mining-induced displacement. By engaging rights holders, policymakers, and legal experts, AMI helps communities understand their rights to compensation and transparent resettlement. This awareness has empowered affected groups to demand equitable treatment. As an example, one of the interviewees articulates that:

“AMI’s advocacy has also influenced policy reforms, such as ensuring Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) are conducted before mining projects commence. Additionally, AMI connects communities with legal aid organisations to pursue restitution for lost lands and hold mining companies accountable for unlawful practices” – [Civil Society representative]

These efforts have strengthened communities' ability to seek justice and secure their land rights. Recognizing ASM's vital contribution to local economies, AMI advocates for formalizing the sector, calling for legal protections, licensing access, and improved working conditions for ASM operators. This formalization provides ASM workers with labor and environmental protections previously unavailable in the informal sector. AMI also supports ASM communities through training on sustainable mining practices, safety, and environmental management, fostering improved livelihoods and reducing environmental harm. Addressing financial barriers, AMI advocates for better access to financing, including low-interest loans and grants, to enable ASM operators to invest in safer and more sustainable operations. Moreover, AMI promotes partnerships between ASM operators and larger mining entities, facilitating knowledge sharing, fair labor practices, and enhanced socio-economic conditions.

"AMI has been instrumental in empowering rights holders by providing them with the knowledge and tools necessary to defend their human rights. Through workshops and training sessions, communities have gained a deeper understanding of legal frameworks and advocacy strategies, enabling them to effectively challenge violations

such as land grabs and environmental degradation. Additionally, AMI's support has been pivotal in land restitution efforts, raising awareness about land rights and facilitating connections between affected communities and legal aid organisations. This has empowered communities to pursue restitution and hold mining companies accountable for unlawful land acquisitions. Furthermore, AMI has advocated for the formalization of the ASM sector, providing training on sustainable mining practices and promoting partnerships between small-scale miners and larger mining entities. These initiatives have improved working conditions, enhanced environmental stewardship, and contributed to the economic security of artisanal miners." - [Civil Society Participant]

AMI's efforts have significantly advanced human rights, land restitution, and ASM support across the region. By empowering communities, influencing policies, and fostering partnerships, AMI has created pathways for equitable and sustainable mining practices. However, sustaining these gains requires additional resources, improved coordination, and expanded financial support. Strengthening these areas will enable AMI to continue driving meaningful change for mining-affected communities across Africa.

16. How effective is AMI advocacy? Has AMI opened doors for national and regional level advocacy? Has there been sufficient engagement of mines and government? How influential has AMI been in these processes? Has AMI contributed to any policy change at national or regional level? What were missed opportunities?

The African Mining Indaba (AMI) has been instrumental in advancing advocacy efforts at both national and regional levels, creating a platform that amplifies the voices of rights holders and facilitates policy dialogue on mining governance, human rights, and environmental justice. While AMI has made significant contributions, it also faces challenges that present opportunities for growth. AMI has established itself as a reputable space for advocacy, enabling participants to raise concerns directly with governments, mining companies, and international observers. At the national level, AMI empowers local organisations, enhancing their visibility and credibility while linking their efforts to broader regional and global discussions. Members highlighted the platform's success in increasing awareness around land rights, environmental protections, and community compensation. Regionally, AMI has fostered collaboration among stakeholders across borders, addressing shared challenges such as cross-border environmental impacts and corporate accountability. By uniting voices, AMI has created momentum for policy changes that protect communities and promote responsible mining practices.

AMI has contributed significantly to policy dialogue and change. At the national level, its advocacy has led to heightened attention to issues such as environmental protections, land restitution, and community rights. For instance, AMI has influenced the adoption of more stringent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations in several countries. An example of AMI's influence on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations can be seen in Malawi. AMI's advocacy efforts highlighted the gaps in the country's EIA processes, particularly the lack of community participation and insufficient attention to long-term environmental and social impacts. Through its platforms, AMI facilitated dialogue among civil society, government officials, and

mining-affected communities, bringing these concerns to the forefront. This advocacy contributed to the Malawian government revising its EIA guidelines to include mandatory community consultations and stricter requirements for mining companies to disclose environmental risks and mitigation strategies. The updated regulations now ensure greater transparency and accountability, reflecting AML's role in shaping more robust EIA standards that prioritize environmental and social safeguards. This success has been a model for similar reforms in other African countries influenced by AML's work.

Regionally, AML has been a key player in harmonizing mining policies across Southern Africa, promoting standards that prioritize human rights, environmental sustainability, and corporate accountability. The platform has also impacted Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices, pressuring some mining companies to adopt more responsible approaches, such as fair compensation for displaced communities and investments in local infrastructure in countries like Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

However, the depth and consistency of corporate engagement vary, with many companies perceiving AML's stance as adversarial.

"One significant change brought by ZAMI is the shift in engagement dynamics with the government. Previously, it was confrontational, with civil society presenting recommendations after events. Now, government officials actively participate during discussions, making resolutions alongside us. This shift has opened consistent access to policymakers at national and regional levels. For example, in Northwestern Province, civil society's advocacy led to suspending mining operations until community grievances were addressed. Additionally, we've seen improvements in local government revenues due to engagements facilitated by ZAMI." – [Steering Committee Member, Zambia]

Despite its achievements, AML faces challenges in engaging governments and mining companies more consistently. Government participation is often limited to ceremonial roles, while corporate involvement tends to be sporadic. This undermines AML's ability to foster substantive, multi-stakeholder dialogue. Members also pointed to a lack of mechanisms to follow up on policy commitments made during AML discussions. Establishing formal monitoring and accountability systems could ensure stakeholders act on their pledges. To enhance its effectiveness, AML should deepen its engagement with government and corporate stakeholders, expand partnerships with regional and international bodies, and provide additional resources for local and national advocacy efforts. Strengthening coordination with NAMIs would better link grassroots concerns to broader advocacy. By addressing these gaps, AML can continue to drive impactful change in mining governance across Africa, ensuring lasting improvements for communities affected by the extractive sector.

17. How do mining companies and governments view AML? How do they assess its role? Have relationships improved between communities and mining companies and government?

The African Mining Indaba (AMI) is widely recognized as a significant platform for advocacy and dialogue, serving as a bridge between mining companies, governments, and communities. While its role in amplifying community voices and fostering transparency is appreciated, the

effectiveness of its activities garners mixed views across stakeholders. This narrative explores the perspectives of mining companies and governments on AML's contributions, the dynamics of relationships fostered, and potential areas for strengthening its impact.

Mining companies acknowledge AML's role in advocating for corporate accountability, particularly regarding environmental practices, labor conditions, and corporate social responsibility (CSR). While some companies view AML as an adversarial space that publicly critiques their operations, others see it as a constructive platform for dialogue. Companies that engage meaningfully have reported aligning CSR programs with community needs and investing in local infrastructure such as health and education. However, concerns persist among certain corporations about the potential reputational risks posed by AML's scrutiny of issues like pollution, displacement, and labor disputes.

Governments value AML as a forum for public discourse that highlights community grievances and accountability. Participation in AML has provided governments with insights into the impacts of their policies, occasionally prompting regulatory reviews or the creation of consultative bodies to oversee mining activities. However, government engagement often remains symbolic, with limited substantive involvement in policy discussions. While some officials see AML as a means to enhance transparency, others feel it focuses excessively on critique, diminishing its potential to foster balanced, solution-oriented dialogue. This inconsistency in government participation has affected trust and hindered AML's influence on policy implementation.

AML has facilitated modest improvements in relationships between communities and mining companies, offering a structured platform for dialogue. Communities have used this space to raise concerns that have occasionally led to increased transparency and corporate policy adjustments. However, tensions persist, with communities feeling that companies and governments often fall short in addressing key grievances such as pollution, land rights, and fair compensation. Meanwhile, government-community relations have seen limited progress, as communities perceive minimal regulatory enforcement and follow-through on policy promises.

"Anglo-American sees AML as a valuable portal to engage directly with civil society and communities impacted by mining activities. Over the years, there's been a shift from adversarial engagement to a more constructive partnership. AML has provided a platform for mining companies to understand community concerns better and refine their corporate social responsibility strategies. However, challenges persist, including ensuring the right stakeholders are consistently part of these dialogues to strengthen relationships further." – [Representative from Anglo-American].

To enhance its impact, AML must encourage greater government participation in substantive discussions and promote collaborative dialogue with mining companies. By framing issues as shared challenges and establishing formal accountability mechanisms, AML can ensure follow-through on commitments made by stakeholders. Strengthening these dynamics could improve trust and cooperation, enabling AML to better serve as a bridge between communities, governments, and the private sector. Overall, while AML's role is highly valued, addressing engagement gaps and fostering accountability will be critical to maximizing its effectiveness.

3.3.2 Performance Rating: Effectiveness

Effectiveness for AMI, considering the analysis and findings on relevance, would be rated as **moderately effective with strong potential** to achieve greater impact. This rating reflects several key points:

Rating	Evidence Supporting the Effectiveness
Moderately effective with strong potential	Significant Achievements in Advocacy and Awareness: AMI has been effective in creating a platform that amplifies the voices of marginalised communities and supports advocacy for responsible mining practices and human rights. Stakeholders report positive outcomes in raising awareness, enhancing local capacity, and influencing public debate around mining's socio-environmental impacts.
	Limitations in Engagement and Accountability: While AMI has made progress, the effectiveness is tempered by recurring challenges with sustained engagement from governments and mining companies. The limited follow-through on resolutions, particularly from government representatives, reduces the overall impact. Mining companies' perception of AMI as adversarial also restricts their participation, limiting constructive dialogue and collaboration.
	Success in Policy Influence, but Missed Opportunities for Deeper Impact: AMI has contributed to policy discussions and shaped frameworks in some national contexts. However, there remain missed opportunities to leverage regional influence fully, such as more consistent tracking of government and corporate commitments and stronger alignment with national advocacy bodies (NAMIs) for sustained policy influence.
	Moderate Impact on Community Empowerment with Potential for Greater Reach: AMI has empowered communities through capacity-building efforts and advocacy training, yet more extensive outreach is needed. There is also room to expand its role in supporting small-scale and artisanal miners by providing clearer pathways for legal protections and sustainable practices.
	Financial Sustainability and Strategic Consistency: The reliance on project-based funding and challenges with strategic focus have diluted some advocacy efforts, as agendas can become fragmented. Diversifying funding sources and enhancing consistency in long-term planning would significantly boost AMI's effectiveness.

This rating suggests that while AMI has demonstrated effective advocacy and relevance, addressing key challenges around stakeholder engagement, accountability, and funding stability will be essential for maximizing its impact and achieving a higher level of sustained effectiveness.

3.4 Efficiency

18. To what extent were the inputs of the project (financial, human and material resources) used economically in relation to the outputs produced (products and services)?

Based on responses from AMI members, the evaluation findings on efficiency suggest a mixed yet generally positive assessment of resource use in relation to the outputs produced. Key insights are outlined below:

1. Financial Resource Utilization

AMI members indicated that, despite limited funding, the platform has successfully organized numerous impactful events, workshops, and advocacy sessions at local, national, and regional levels. Financial resources have been allocated carefully, often leveraging partnerships with local and regional organisations to maximize reach and reduce costs. The project's heavy reliance on donor funding has led to some financial constraints, particularly as specific donor priorities sometimes shift, impacting AMI's ability to maintain consistent focus across all thematic areas. Additionally, members noted that the fragmentation of funding across various small projects has occasionally diluted financial efficiency, limiting AMI's ability to fully capitalize on economies of scale. As noted:

"Funding has always been a challenge, especially when resources are tied to specific projects. We've had to be creative in mobilizing resources, including engaging event organizers to approach potential sponsors directly. This approach has allowed us to stretch the limited financial and human resources available while still delivering impactful outputs like advocacy workshops and community engagement sessions. However, the shortfall in budgets, such as the \$10,000 gap we faced recently, highlights the ongoing need for more sustainable funding strategies." – [Civil Society Member, Zambia]

"Despite operating on a limited budget, AMI has managed to achieve more than most organisations with twice the funding. This efficiency is due to their strategic planning and partnerships." – [Donor Representative, Norway]

2. Human Resource Allocation

Strengths: Members recognized that AMI's lean staffing model and the high level of commitment from volunteers and partner organisations have contributed to efficient human resource utilization. Staff and partners bring specialized knowledge in policy advocacy, community mobilisation, and legal aspects, which has helped optimize program delivery. However, the limited human resources sometimes constrain the reach and depth of AMI's activities. With more specialized staff dedicated to follow-up, monitoring, and relationship management with government and corporate stakeholders, members believe that AMI could achieve even higher productivity and maintain greater continuity in its advocacy efforts.

"We've prioritized resource efficiency by leveraging partnerships and shared platforms to maximize impact with minimal financial outlay. For example, by co-hosting workshops with regional organisations, we've reduced costs significantly while ensuring wide reach and high-quality outputs. However, the mismatch between

available resources and growing community needs remains a pressing challenge." – [Steering Committee Member].

3. Material and Logistical Resources

Strengths: AML's use of shared spaces and digital platforms for virtual meetings has helped reduce logistical costs while still allowing effective coordination and communication across countries and regions. Efforts to use local resources (venues, catering, and materials) also highlight AML's focus on cost-efficiency and supporting local economies. Members expressed a need for better access to digital tools and more updated technology for data gathering and monitoring outcomes. Limited access to such resources has occasionally impacted data collection efficiency and the timely dissemination of information to key stakeholders.

19. What are strengths and weaknesses in the organisation of AMIs?

The evaluation of AML's efficiency reveals a mix of strengths and areas for improvement, reflecting its organisational dynamics and impact. AML's efficiency is supported by its clear vision and focused objectives, which unify members and partners around promoting responsible mining practices and community rights. This shared mandate streamlines activities and ensures resources are directed toward impactful areas. Additionally, AML's inclusive approach fosters collaboration among diverse stakeholders such as civil society, communities, and regional bodies, enhancing relevance and cost-effectiveness through local expertise and resource optimization. The platform's strong regional networks enable resource-sharing and cross-border partnerships, reducing repetitive investments and expanding its advocacy reach. These networks provide collective bargaining power, improving AML's ability to influence policy and corporate practices. Furthermore, AML benefits from its experienced and dedicated personnel, whose expertise in local contexts and mining sector issues facilitates efficient coordination, stakeholder engagement, and consistent follow-up. In evaluating the organisational strengths and weaknesses of the African Mining Indaba (AMI), a representative from Anglo-American highlighted:

"AML's inclusive approach has been instrumental in bringing together diverse stakeholders, fostering dialogue that aligns corporate social responsibility initiatives with community needs. However, the challenge remains in ensuring consistent engagement from all parties to maintain momentum and achieve lasting impact."

This perspective underscores the dual nature of AML's organisational dynamics, emphasizing both its collaborative strengths and the ongoing need for sustained participation to enhance effectiveness. Despite these strengths, AML faces challenges. Its reliance on fragmented donor funding limits flexibility and long-term planning. Resource constraints often result in minimal staffing, which strains capacity and delays tasks and follow-ups. Additionally, inconsistent stakeholder engagement with mining companies and governments can reduce trust and dialogue, requiring AML to reinvest time and resources to maintain connections. The regional scope of AML, while a strength, introduces coordination challenges, with occasional communication gaps and fragmented priorities across regions diluting advocacy efforts. Lastly, AML's limited monitoring and evaluation mechanisms hinder its ability to track outcomes, adjust

strategies, and share insights effectively. Without systematic follow-up, AML risks missing opportunities to enhance impact and strengthen accountability.

3.4.2 Performance Rating: Efficiency

Based on the analysis and findings on efficiency, AML's efficiency is rated as **moderate, with room for improvement**. This rating reflects a balance of AML's strengths in effectively delivering impactful advocacy and support to communities, while also acknowledging significant areas where efficiency could be improved.

Rating	Evidence Supporting the Effectiveness
Moderately with room for improvement	Effective Use of Resources in Advocacy and Outreach: AML has shown efficient use of its existing financial, human, and material resources to produce valuable advocacy outcomes and provide essential services. Despite funding limitations, AML has been able to amplify community voices, build capacities, and engage in policy discussions at both national and regional levels. This indicates effective prioritization and resource use in key areas of impact.
	Challenges in Resource Allocation and Consistency: The dependence on short-term, project-specific funding leads to inefficiencies in planning and continuity. Additionally, inconsistent funding has resulted in fragmented agendas that sometimes dilute focus and impact. Addressing these inefficiencies through more sustainable funding approaches and streamlined coordination would enhance AML's efficiency.
	Strengths in Stakeholder Engagement but Inconsistencies in Follow-Through: While AML has effectively engaged stakeholders, including communities and civil society, its engagement with government and industry remains inconsistent. This affects both the breadth and impact of advocacy efforts, as sustained influence relies on ongoing, collaborative relationships across sectors. Improved engagement strategies would reduce missed opportunities and maximize advocacy returns.
	Operational Coordination Across Regions: Coordination among regional teams and national partners is not fully optimized, leading to occasional redundancies and inefficiencies. Enhanced communication and standardized operational processes would reduce these inefficiencies, improve consistency across AML's network, and promote a more cohesive agenda.
	Limited Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Structure: The absence of a formalized monitoring and evaluation system makes it challenging to assess impact fully, document learning, and refine processes based on evidence. Developing a structured M&E system would increase AML's ability to measure efficiency and make targeted improvements.

In conclusion, a moderate efficiency rating reflects AML's capacity to deliver outputs with limited resources while underscoring the importance of optimizing resource allocation, stakeholder engagement, and operational processes. Strengthening these areas would elevate AML's efficiency, enhance its impact, and contribute to sustained advocacy outcomes across the regions it serves.

3.5 Impact

The African Mining Indaba (AMI) has made significant impacts at national and regional levels, particularly by amplifying community voices and fostering policy dialogue in mining-affected areas. It has achieved much of its intended change, with notable successes in elevating community participation and consistently supporting advocacy on environmental and social justice. While AMI's work has strengthened civil society alliances, some unintended effects include occasional tensions with government and mining entities. Key criticisms focus on missed opportunities for deeper collaboration with these stakeholders. Should AMI discontinue, communities and civil society would lose a crucial advocacy platform, potentially weakening support for their rights and visibility in policy spaces.

20. Which impact has AMI had at national and regional level? Has it created the desired change? What has been the most significant and what the most constant change?

In evaluating the impact of the African Mining Indaba (AMI) at national and regional levels, members highlighted several key achievements and ongoing contributions to advocacy and policy reform. Nationally, AMI has successfully elevated community voices, allowing civil society and affected communities to raise their concerns on critical issues such as environmental protection, land rights, and corporate accountability. This has led to stronger local advocacy frameworks and, in several instances, influenced policy shifts toward more inclusive and responsible mining practices. As noted:

"One notable impact of AMI has been empowering communities to demand their rights from mining companies. For instance, in Kamkoyo, where pollution and cracked houses were significant issues, the community mobilized to engage directly with the government, even reaching the Vice President. This empowerment is a testament to AMI's role in creating platforms for capacity building and enabling communities to voice their grievances effectively." – [Steering Committee Member].

Regionally, AMI has fostered solidarity across borders, strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) and promoting shared strategies for confronting similar challenges faced in mining-affected areas. The most significant impact has been AMI's role in building a unified platform that connects communities with policymakers, enabling continuous advocacy that centers human rights and environmental sustainability. The most constant change observed has been AMI's support for a more informed and empowered civil society, which has sustained momentum for social and environmental justice in the face of varying political landscapes. According to an informant:

"Through ZAMI, we participated in reviewing legal frameworks around extractive or mining sectors, such as the Mines and Minerals Act. This platform allowed us to interact, compare regional practices, and implement lessons effectively. For instance, it enhanced our organization's advocacy for land rights, water rights, and the impacts of mining on these issues. Annually, ZAMI provides us a space to voice these concerns, either through presentations or panel discussions, increasing our profile and influence in policy discussions." – [Civil Society Representative, Zambia].

"Through the work of faith leaders...we have successfully secured a law which now ensures Tanzania also has equal access to health."- [Faith Based Leader, Tanzania]

On the opposite side there was a proposition that AMI could draw lessons from country programmes. This is in reference to the Zimbabwean and Zambian context wherein the decentralisation across the different layers has occurred. In substantiating this viewpoint, one of the interviews had this to say:

"We have actually managed to register a breakthrough on engaging with government and companies at country level. A lot of what we do is flows from AMI."

- [Steering committee, Zimbabwe]

This goes to show that while AMI has achieved substantial influence, some challenges remain in fully achieving desired policy reforms due to complex regulatory environments and, at times, limited cooperation from mining companies and government bodies. Nonetheless, AMI's regional network has steadily advanced an agenda for equitable and sustainable mining practices, demonstrating a lasting positive impact on advocacy at both local and regional levels.

21. Are there any unintended positive / negative impacts?

In evaluating the unintended impacts of the African Mining Indaba (AMI), both positive and negative consequences emerged as important considerations. On the positive side, AMI's platform has spurred stronger regional networks and alliances beyond its original scope, resulting in enhanced collaboration across civil society organisations (CSOs) and creating additional advocacy channels not previously foreseen. This networking effect has enabled organisations to exchange insights, resources, and strategies, significantly amplifying their reach and efficacy in both advocacy and grassroots mobilisation. Furthermore, AMI's presence has increased awareness of environmental and human rights issues within local communities and among policymakers, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability that extends beyond the extractive sector into other domains of governance.

However, some unintended negative impacts were also noted. As AMI has raised awareness and empowered communities, mining companies and government entities have, in some cases, responded by limiting community access to certain forums or placing restrictions on advocacy activities, potentially stifling some aspects of civic engagement. Additionally, while AMI has sought to build trust among diverse stakeholders, instances of mistrust and perceived adversarial relations have occasionally been exacerbated, particularly when advocacy efforts led to increased scrutiny or criticism of corporate practices. These unintended impacts underscore the need for AMI to carefully navigate the complex dynamics among stakeholders, balancing empowerment with constructive engagement to mitigate potential resistance while capitalizing on the positive ripple effects of its work. As noted:

"...one unintended negative impact is that key players, especially industry representatives, often feel excluded, which sometimes limits the reach of our efforts. On the positive side, it has broadened our understanding of emerging issues like energy transitions and their link to critical minerals, helping us connect these global trends to local advocacy efforts." – [Steering Committee Member]

22. What are the biggest criticisms? What were missed opportunities? What are best approaches?

The evaluation of AML's impact highlights key criticisms, missed opportunities, and recommendations for improvement. Members noted AML's limited influence on achieving concrete policy changes and perceived gaps between resolutions and implementation, compounded by inconsistent engagement from governments and mining companies. Missed opportunities include insufficient private sector involvement and a lack of youth and marginalised community representation, which limits diverse perspectives and cross-border advocacy.

"One of the biggest criticisms is the lack of follow-up on resolutions. Every year, stakeholders come together and agree on recommendations, but there is no structured mechanism to ensure implementation or accountability. This has been a missed opportunity to turn dialogue into measurable outcomes. To improve, AML needs a dedicated secretariat to monitor progress and provide updates, which would strengthen trust among stakeholders." – [Steering Committee Member].

To strengthen effectiveness, members recommended adopting robust monitoring mechanisms, fostering inclusive and constructive dialogue with the private sector, and enhancing grassroots capacity-building. By addressing these gaps, AML can deepen its impact and foster sustainable mining governance.

23. How would it impact communities if AML would stop today? Who else or what would be impacted if AML platforms would stop today?

AML members expressed concern that if AML were to cease its operations, it would leave a considerable gap in advocacy, support, and community empowerment for mining-affected communities. Communities that rely on AML's platform to voice concerns about environmental degradation, land displacement, and labor rights issues would lose a critical channel through which to engage government and corporate stakeholders. Without AML, these communities would likely struggle to access the legal, technical, and strategic support that has allowed them to hold mining companies accountable and seek policy reforms.

"If AML stopped today, mining-affected communities would lose a significant platform to voice their concerns. Without this space, grievances such as land rights, pollution, and compensation issues would have no structured forum for resolution. Additionally, the alliances and networks built between civil society and local leaders would weaken, leaving communities vulnerable and disconnected from policymakers." – [Steering Committee Member].

A mixed bag of feedback was solicited from the survey data gauging AML's impact at various levels. Similar to the findings on AML's relevance, survey participants were asked to either agree or disagree with statements aimed at establishing the impact of the initiative under study. As shown by Figure 6, most respondents conceded that the intervention increased their awareness levels on mining issues, facilitated a platform for marginalised voices, human rights and advocacy issues. For example, a total of seventy seven respondents (77) made up of

twenty eight (28) and fifteen (15) and nineteen (19) and fifteen (15) respectively agreed and strongly agreed to AMI having increased their awareness levels on industry issues. They also rated that the voices of the marginalised groups were recorded. With regards to advocacy, a sum of twenty two (22) either agreed or strongly agreed with AMI's in footprints at national and regional levels.

To corroborate the above narrative, representatives shared the following:

"Apart from creating new networks, I have been empowered with how litigation in the mining sector works."

"AMI contributed to widening access to compensation for occupational lung diseases and social security benefits in the region especially in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe".

"Some mining groups in Uganda have mirrored the work of MACUA, a regular AMI participant which culminated in the formation an influential National Association in Uganda."

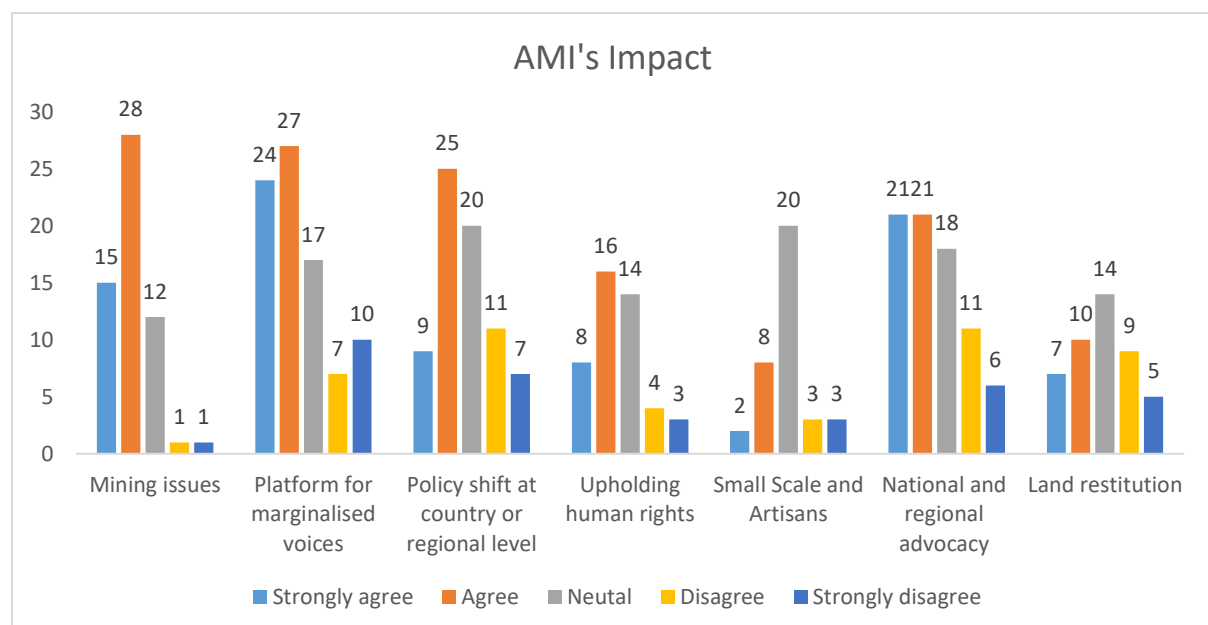


Figure 6: Evidence gauging AMI's impact

Respondents felt that AMI's impact was less strong in terms of addressing the issues of small scale and artisanal miners and of land restitution. For example, a total of twenty six (26) consisting of twenty (20) – neutral and six (6) either disagreed or strongly disagreed. Regarding land restitution, the data indicates that a sum of twenty eight (28) ranked the impact poorly and the feedback is allocated as follows: fourteen (14) neutral, nine (9) disagreed and five (5) strongly disagreed. To illustrate their feedback, few of the respondents remarked on the ongoing challenges around small scale and artisanal mining and land ownership:

"Artisinal small-scale mining remains unattended and thus causes the environmental, health and social hazards."

“Return land to owners, compensate and relocate people to decent places. Empower them with technical mining skills so they can reap the benefits of their ancestral land.”

Although unknot directly related to the point about artisinal mining, a comment by one of the activists provided some more insights on the challenges of sharing and meaningful engagement. The cited activists stated that:

“ ... we have less avenues or safe spaces for activists to share our experiences and exchange notes without the involvement of mining companies. I feel like the industry uses interference and surveillance to distablise activism activities.”

At a broader level, civil society organisations, including local and regional advocacy groups, would face challenges in coordinating efforts without AML's structured forums and networking opportunities. The discontinuation of AML would also weaken regional advocacy by removing a key platform for cross-border coalition-building, reducing the strength of collective action aimed at improving governance and transparency in the extractive industries. Furthermore, the mining sector itself might lose an essential partner in sustainable development initiatives, leading to less progress in creating a fair and responsible mining landscape. Ultimately, if AML platforms were to stop today, both communities and the broader ecosystem of civil society and industry stakeholders would experience reduced momentum toward achieving a sustainable, equitable, and just mining sector across the region.

Suggestions for the attention of AML were availed by the survey participants. Among others, these included:

We need continuous engagement and best practices between CSOs, governments and mining industry utilizing minerals for dual purpose of profits and community upliftment. Leaders from these nations could be invited to share their pan-African perspectives on how the continent can transition from a poverty-stricken mindset. For example, President Traoré of Burkina Faso has made notable progress that often goes unnoticed amidst the prevailing negative narratives. A platform like a Zoom session during the African Mining Indaba (AMI) could provide an opportunity to highlight and discuss his initiatives.

AML needs to be more aggressive in engaging the private sector and ensuring that there is a mechanism through which the recommendations in the communiques are implemented.

Regional projects, research and advocacy - e.g. tracking how specific mining companies beneficiate and profit share its revenues, while reducing emmissions.

3.5.2 Performance Rating: Impact

The impact of AML can be rated as **moderate to significant**, with notable successes at both the national and regional levels in driving policy influence, strengthening community voices, and fostering coalitions. AML has effectively catalyzed positive changes in rights awareness, capacity building for advocacy, and increased regional cooperation, achieving the desired outcomes in various areas.

However, while the core impact is solid, there are areas where the full potential of AML's influence remains untapped. Issues such as inconsistent follow-up on policy recommendations,

insufficiently formalized stakeholder engagement, and missed opportunities for broader government and corporate buy-in suggest that AML's impact, while impactful, is not yet fully maximized.

Overall, with continued efforts to address these gaps—particularly by enhancing resource stability, establishing a stronger M&E framework, and expanding inclusive representation—the potential for AML's lasting impact remains high. Therefore, the impact rating leans toward significant but with clear areas for strategic enhancement.

3.6 Sustainability

The sustainability of AML's achievements and structures is essential to its long-term success in promoting equitable mining practices and community rights. The lasting effects of AML's work depend heavily on robust organisational frameworks, secure funding, and effective governance. While AML has achieved notable outcomes, sustained impact requires stable financing, and the current funding model — largely donor-dependent — poses challenges. Increasing financial resilience through diversified funding sources is crucial. Both the secretariat and the Steering Committee play pivotal roles in supporting AML's structure, coordination, and mission continuity. Enhancing organisational sustainability will require strategic improvements, including bolstering leadership capacities, reinforcing partnerships, and implementing mechanisms to secure AML's future impact and relevance.

24. To what extent can the positive effects of AML be assessed as lasting? How sustainable are the AML structures?
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Based on AML participants' feedback, the positive effects of AML demonstrate potential for long-term impact, especially in fostering community empowerment, policy advocacy, and regional solidarity among mining-affected populations. AML's influence has enabled local communities to assert their rights and encouraged ongoing dialogue on environmental and social justice issues. However, the lasting impact of these effects depends on the sustained operation and support of AML's structures.

The resolutions made at AML provide a framework for community advocacy that continues to influence dialogue with the government and mining companies. However, for these impacts to be sustainable, we need stronger follow-up mechanisms to ensure that commitments are implemented. Without such structures, the lasting impact may be limited, as there is no consistent accountability for the resolutions. – [Steering Committee Member].

As an international event, AML has been consistent in ensuring that rural issues through coordinated from grassroots, the district, provincial, national level find space within its annual calendar. If nurtured correctly, such consistency could be used to cultivate its sustainability. - [Survey respondent]

Participants noted that while AML's foundational structures, such as its secretariat, Steering Committee, and annual forums have been effective in building momentum, they remain

vulnerable due to funding limitations and dependency on external financial sources. Without stable, diversified funding and reinforced internal support mechanisms, these structures risk becoming less sustainable. For the positive outcomes to endure, there is a need for investment in strengthening AMI's organisational capacity, enhancing financial security, and developing strategies to deepen local partnerships, ensuring that AMI's achievements continue to benefit communities over the long term.

25. How has AMI been funded and how can sustainable financing be increased?

Feedback from AMI members highlights that AMI has largely relied on donor funding, which, while critical in supporting its activities, creates a level of financial uncertainty. The current funding structure, dependent on international donors and project-based grants, poses challenges for long-term planning and sustainable growth. This reliance on external sources also constrains AMI's ability to prioritize issues and activities fully aligned with community needs and its strategic goals, as funding often comes with predefined donor objectives.

The challenge with funding has always been tied to specific projects, which often dilutes the overarching themes or agendas of AMI events. To improve sustainability, we've suggested that affiliated members include contributions to NAMI in their annual budgets rather than attaching it to project-specific funding. This would allow for more cohesive and unrestricted financial support. – [Civil Society Member, Tanzania].

To increase sustainable financing, members suggested a multi-pronged approach. First, diversifying funding sources through partnerships with local businesses, philanthropic foundations, and government agencies would reduce dependence on a single type of funding and promote regional ownership of AMI's mission. Additionally, exploring revenue-generating activities, such as organizing paid training sessions or publishing insights on mining governance, could provide AMI with unrestricted income. Members emphasized the need for AMI to develop a strategic fundraising plan that includes building partnerships with regional stakeholders and securing multi-year funding commitments from donors, thus enhancing financial stability and aligning resources more closely with AMI's long-term objectives.

26. Which role do the Secretariat and the Steering Committee play? How can organisational sustainability be improved?

Feedback from AMI participants indicates that both the Secretariat and Steering Committee play crucial roles in supporting AMI's sustainability. The Secretariat is primarily responsible for day-to-day operations, facilitating communication among stakeholders, and ensuring that activities are coordinated efficiently. Members emphasized the Secretariat's role in maintaining institutional knowledge, continuity of initiatives, and consistent stakeholder engagement, which are essential for AMI's effectiveness and longevity. Meanwhile, the Steering Committee provides strategic oversight, sets policy priorities, and offers guidance on decision-making processes, ensuring that AMI remains aligned with its mission and objectives across varying contexts.

To improve organisational sustainability, members suggested several actions for both bodies. For the Secretariat, strengthening internal capacity through regular **training on program management and resource mobilisation** was recommended. This would enhance its ability to secure diversified funding and manage resources effectively. Additionally, members proposed **formalizing a knowledge management system** within the Secretariat to ensure continuity, preserve best practices, and document learnings for future leaders and stakeholders. For the Steering Committee, members recommended expanding its strategic partnerships to **increase AMI's regional influence** and secure additional funding streams. **Greater engagement with regional organisations and donors** could help foster stronger regional impact and long-term support. Furthermore, establishing **clear succession planning within both the Secretariat and Steering Committee** was highlighted as a priority to ensure that AMI's leadership remains strong, resilient, and adaptive over time.

The role of the Steering Committee has been to coordinate and identify thematic areas that need focus, engaging technocrats to provide actionable recommendations. However, for sustainability, it's essential to ensure regular meetings to follow up on resolutions and hold accountable those tasked with implementation. Additionally, greater collaboration with key funding institutions and strategic consultations with government are needed to align priorities and secure long-term support. – [Steering Committee Member].

3.5.2 Performance Rating: Sustainability

AMI's sustainability can be rated as **moderate**. While AMI has established a strong foundation with positive impacts that are recognized by stakeholders, its long-term sustainability faces challenges, particularly in funding stability, capacity building, and institutional structures. The program has demonstrated lasting positive effects through its influence on policy and regional advocacy, yet ongoing reliance on donor funding, limited diversified income sources, and a need for enhanced internal capacity and succession planning pose risks to sustained impact.

With targeted improvements such as diversified funding strategies, capacity-building initiatives, strengthened regional partnerships, and formalized organisational structures, AMI has strong potential to bolster its sustainability and secure its role in advancing human rights and social and environmental justice in mining communities over the long term.

Section III: Case studies and their implications on AMI

Zambian Case Study

Introduction:

The Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) is a national platform under the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) initiative, aimed at empowering mining-affected communities and promoting equitable resource governance. ZAMI's approach evolved from confrontational advocacy to collaborative engagement with government and mining companies, reshaping the dynamics of Zambia's mining governance.

Background and Context:

Evidence points out that the Zambia's economy relies heavily on copper mining, with regions like the Copperbelt and Northwestern Province being central hubs. Inherently, this breeds challenges wherein communities near mining operations face environmental degradation, displacement, and limited economic benefits. Prior to the dosage of the ZAMI initiatives, advocacy was adversarial, with minimal collaboration between civil society, government, and corporations. Centralized mining discussions in Lusaka excluded grassroots voices. Fast forward, the advent of the AMI and NAMI interventions has registered a sizeable number of milestones. Some of the noticeable outcomes are presented below:

Key Outcomes and Impacts:

1. Improved Government Engagement: There has been a transition from confrontation to collaboration with active government participation in ZAMI events. For example, regular government feedback on resolutions, are disseminated. A statement by one of the interviewees attested that: *"Government now comes to the table as a partner, and discussions lead to immediate responses."*

2. Empowerment of Communities: Community members from grassroot levels were trained to articulate their grievances effectively. For example: one of the participants had this to say: *"Kamkoyo residents used advocacy tools from ZAMI to address air pollution and structural damage caused by mining."*

3. Policy Influence: Successful advocacy for stricter environmental compliance, evidenced by the suspension of a gold mine in Northwestern Province resulted in revenue collection reforms. Such reform led to visible community benefits, not limited to infrastructure improvements.

Best Practices: Multi-Level Advocacy: Local forums (e.g., the Luapula Provincial Mining Indaba or "Nsaka") ensures that grassroots voices influence national and regional policies. A participant noted, *"ZAMI gives us a platform where what starts as a village concern translates into an action that reaches policymakers in Lusaka and beyond."*

Collaborative Networking: Partnerships with organisations like Publish What You Pay and the Human Rights Commission strengthened advocacy efforts.

Inclusivity and Representation: Efforts to involve marginalised groups, including women and children, in forums. Local language use ensured broader participation, as highlighted: *"Speaking in my own language gave me the confidence to share our struggles."*

Challenges:

1. Resource Constraints: Reliance on donor funding limits grassroots participation thus travel costs exclude rural voices, prompting calls for decentralized events: One of the participants said: “We need ZAMI to come closer to us.”

2. Accountability Issues: Lack of follow-up on resolutions frustrates participants, with feedback like: “It feels like we are talking to ourselves.”

3. Balancing Collaboration and Independence: Concerns about maintaining independence while engaging governments and corporations. A key informant emphasized, “Collaboration is important, but we must ensure that ZAMI remains a space where communities can speak freely.”

4. Adapting to Energy Transition: The global demand for critical minerals presents new challenges, including environmental risks and child labor.

Future Directions:

1. Sustainability: Diversify funding through public-private partnerships and community contributions. Including proposing an endowment fund for financial stability: “If communities, government, and mining companies all contribute to ZAMI, it will show that everyone is invested in making it work.”

2. Inclusivity: Expand participation for marginalised groups and provide multilingual materials. Incorporate children’s perspectives to deepen advocacy efforts: “If children can attend and speak about how mining affects them, it will add a dimension to ZAMI.”

3. Strengthened Accountability: Introduce feedback mechanisms and a monitoring system to track the progress of resolutions.

4. Focus on Energy Transition: Advocate for equitable policies ensuring community benefits from critical mineral extraction.

Conclusion:

ZAMI exemplifies the power of inclusive advocacy in transforming mining governance. By amplifying grassroots voices, fostering partnerships, and adapting to emerging challenges, it has set a benchmark for sustainable resource management. Its success underscores the potential of platforms that unite diverse stakeholders to drive systemic change, particularly a bottom up advocacy model on how to do advocacy.

Background and Context

The role of the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and partners in founding the AMI round 2010 which serves as a platform to address the challenges of extractive industries across Africa is uncontested. Similar to the Zambian context, it also empowers mining-affected communities by promoting dialogue, sharing tools for advocacy, and fostering accountability. Its influence has grown, hosting over 2,000 delegates from 20 countries annually. In the case of Angola, the initiative led to the creation of TCHOTA³ which is explained as an avenue that brings together Civil Society Organisations and Ecclesiastical Institutions, namely, ADRA, AJIUDECA, ACC, ACDA, ASSOCIAÇÃO MÃOS LIVRES, MWANA PWO, CICA, MOSAIKO, CEA, ALDA seeking to contribute to increase the awareness levels of the citizenry concerning challenges related to the exploitation of natural resources in Angola. Among its objectives, TCHOTA's seeks to:

- Advocate for fair distribution of mining revenues.
- Promote dialogue among communities, government, and mining companies.
- Ensure gender equality and inclusion in governance structures.

One interviewee used these words to summarize its significance: *"TCHOTA creates a space for communities to identify challenges and propose solutions in their interactions with mining companies."*

Key Outcomes and Impacts

1. **Community Impact:** TCHOTA has been credited for strengthening community capacities through training programs, equipping them to advocate for their rights effectively. Some of the tangible successes include the establishment of community councils for development, which have negotiated benefits such as school buses from mining companies like CATOCA. To this point, the study participants remarked that: *"These groups now have the strength to talk to CATOCA due to TCHOTA's efforts."* In more specific terms, women have also been empowered to voice their concerns: *"Due to organisations like MWANA PO and AJPD, women have gained the strength to speak out."*

2. **Policy and Advocacy:** Its advocacy led to Angola's accession to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), promoting accountability. For instance, ENDIAMA, a public mining company, now includes detailed financial reports on its investments, influenced by TCHOTA's reports. In recognising this progress, a participant emphasized that: *"This ensures greater rigor and comfort for investors while benefiting communities."*

Challenges and Lessons Learned

1. **Geographical and Institutional Constraints:** The initiatives operations are concentrated in Lunda Sul, with limited impact in regions like Lunda Norte. Expanding coverage remains a priority. Community leaders face barriers like illiteracy, which limits their capacity to advocate

³ TCHOTA is the local name designated to mention the AMI platform in Angola. TCHOTA means meeting where the big topics are debated, where there are big discussions and without taboo (members interviewed, October 2024)

effectively. As one respondent noted: *“The leaders lack capacity to discuss priorities and budgets with mining companies.”*

2. Gender Inequality: Women’s participation is hindered by literacy barriers and social norms restricting public engagement. Regardless of concerted efforts to include women in TCHOTA’s governing bodies, their representation remains limited. A respondent highlighted: *“We must address underlying norms that restrict women’s participation.”*

3. Sustainability: Similar to the Zambian context, funding AMI activities in Angola relies heavily on donor funding, primarily from NCA. Diversifying funding sources and fostering local contributions are essential for sustainability. *“Participating organisations should contribute to meeting expenses to ensure continuity,”* one participant suggested.

Best Practices

1. Inclusive Advocacy: To date, translating meeting materials and using local languages fosters inclusivity, enabling diverse participation. To this point, regional meetings ensure that marginalised voices are surfaced, and evidence from the lived experiences of the local leaders reach the intended audiences such as policy makers and the mining sector.

2. Collaborative Engagement: TCHOTA’s structured approach integrates local, national, and regional levels, influencing policy and promoting transparency.

Future Directions

1. Strengthening Accountability: AMI and TCHOTA must enhance mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of resolutions from meetings. A participant noted: *“We need to ensure that INDABA resolutions translate into tangible outcomes.”*

2. Improving Inclusivity: Addressing gender imbalances and empowering underrepresented groups should be prioritised. This was articulated by one interviewee who reflected that: *“Women must be central to decision-making for equitable resource governance.”*

3. Sustainability: Creating country-specific fundraising strategies and exploring community-based contributions are essential for TCHOTA’s financial independence. One of the respondent made a clarification and said these words: *“Sustainability requires everyone — communities, companies, and governments to contribute.”*

4. Adapting to Emerging Challenges: The energy transition presents opportunities and risks, such as increased demand for critical minerals. Advocacy efforts must address these evolving dynamics.

Conclusion

The AMI and TCHOTA platforms are instrumental in amplifying grassroots voices and fostering collaboration among stakeholders in Angola’s extractive sector. While challenges like gender inequality, resource constraints, and accountability gaps persist, TCHOTA’s achievements demonstrate the transformative power of inclusive advocacy. As one interviewee summarized: *“Natural resources should benefit communities equitably, with women empowered to access these benefits.”* Addressing these systemic issues will ensure that platforms like TCHOTA continue to strengthen governance and drive sustainable development.

Best Practices

1. **Inclusive Advocacy:** It was suggested that meeting materials should be translated into local languages and this will foster inclusivity, enabling diverse participation. On respondent made this observation, *“regional meetings allow marginalised voices to surface, as evidenced by local leaders sharing challenges with stakeholders”*.
2. **Collaborative Engagement:** TCHOTA’s structured approach integrates local, national, and regional levels, influencing policy and promoting transparency.

Future Directions

1. **Strengthening Accountability:** AMI and TCHOTA must enhance mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of resolutions from meetings. In agreeing with this sentiment, a participant noted: *“We need to ensure that INDABA resolutions translate into tangible outcomes.”*
2. **Improving Inclusivity:** Addressing gender imbalances and empowering underrepresented groups should remain priorities. One interviewee reflected: *“Women must be central to decision-making for equitable resource governance.”*
3. **Promoting Sustainability:** Creating country-specific fundraising strategies and exploring community-based contributions are essential for TCHOTA’s financial independence. As a respondent stated: *“Sustainability requires everyone, communities, companies, and governments to contribute.”*
4. **Adapting to Emerging Challenges:** The energy transition presents opportunities and risks, such as increased demand for critical minerals. Advocacy efforts must address these evolving dynamics.

Conclusion

The AMI and TCHOTA platforms are instrumental in amplifying grassroots voices and fostering collaboration among stakeholders in Angola’s extractive sector. While challenges like gender inequality, resource constraints, and accountability gaps persist, TCHOTA’s achievements demonstrate the transformative power of inclusive advocacy.

As one interviewee summarized: *“Natural resources should benefit communities equitably, with women empowered to access these benefits.”* Addressing these systemic issues will ensure that platforms like TCHOTA continue to strengthen governance and drive sustainable development.

Introduction

AMI represents a critical platform for addressing the social, economic, and environmental impacts of mining in South Africa and focuses on empowering mining-affected communities, fostering dialogue among stakeholders, and promoting equitable resource governance. This synthesis examines AMI's transitional pathing, its impact on communities and policy, the challenges it faces, and its future trajectory.

Context and Background

The mining sector remains one of the largest contributors to the South African economy, GDP and consequently job absorption. However, the industry has dire socio-economic and environmental costs with negative effects on communities adjacent to these operations. In turn, displacement, environmental degradation, and limited local economic benefits are some of the symptoms associated with the extractive industry.

With this backdrop, AMI was constituted as a response to the exclusion of mining-affected communities in mainstream governance processes. It facilitates a space where diverse stakeholders comprising communities, civil society, faith-based organisations, government representatives, and mining companies convene with the sole objective of confronting the cited challenges. One participant noted, *"This platform brings together communities and policy makers in ways that create lasting dialogue."*

In South Africa the national AMI engagements draw inspiration from AMI's broader goals but tailor its strategies to South Africa's unique socio-economic landscape, characterized by high unemployment, widespread inequality, and legacy issues rooted in apartheid spatial planning.

Outcomes and Impact

1. **Empowering Communities:** AMI has enhanced community capacity to engage in governance processes, equipping them with tools for advocacy and dialogue. As one community leader shared, *"We now have the tools and confidence to negotiate directly with mining companies for our rights."* For example, communities have successfully negotiated social responsibility programs with mining companies, resulting in concrete benefits such as improved infrastructure and access to basic services.
2. **Policy Advocacy:** Through its annual forums, AMI has influenced policies around environmental compliance, labor rights, and community beneficiation. An interviewee said: *"Our recommendations on equity and sustainability are now part of national policies."* The Mining Charter which elevates equity and sustainable practices was referred to as one of the registered milestones attributed to SAAMI's advocacy.
3. **Collaboration Among Stakeholders:** AMI coordinates constructive dialogue between civil society and government. This is accorded to have reduced tensions and advanced partnerships. The forums rallied the participation of the mining executives into discussions, propelling them to explore opportunities for inclusive governance. A participant remarked, *"For the first time, mining companies are sitting at the table with communities to address shared concerns."*

4. **Gender Equality Initiatives:** The platform emphasizes women's participation in mining governance, addressing their unique challenges and ensuring their inclusion in decision-making processes. A woman attendee reflected, *"AMI gave me the courage to speak up and contribute to decisions that impact my community."*

Challenges and Lessons Learned

1. **Resource Constraints:** Similarly to other countries, the study found that AMI and South African AMI engagements face financial limitations, relying heavily on donor funding to sustain its operations and outreach efforts. Thus, local contributions from member organisations remain minimal, affecting the platform's sustainability. A respondent noted: *"We need diversified funding to ensure AMI's future."* This is because as observed by a different respondent: *"International NGOs are very powerful in the make-up and the program and strategic direction of the AMI, which is on itself a risk."*
2. **Participation Barriers:** Rural and marginalised communities often struggle to with travel and accommodation resources and thus hindering their participation. Just like in the case of Angola, language and literacy barriers exacerbate exclusions of rural cohorts. One participant highlighted that: *"Translation and subsidies are essential for rural voices to be heard."* In agreeing with this sentiment, a different participant said the following: *"The lack of translation for meeting discussions and documents from Portuguese or French significantly hinders the ability of delegates from Portuguese-speaking and French-speaking countries to fully engage and participate effectively."*
3. **Private Sector Engagement:** While AMI attracts the involvement of mining corporations into the debating tables, there is a perception that they remain reluctant to openly address critical issues. One female attendee said: *"Several years ago, one of the mining companies operating in our area made commitments during a bilateral meeting held through the AMI platform. However, to date, there has been no meaningful change that benefits our community."*
4. **Accountability Gaps:** Linked to the above discussion, resolutions from the AMI forum often lack follow-through mechanisms, leaving community members uncertain about their outcomes. This phenomenon cuts across all participating countries: *"We need mechanisms to track progress on resolutions; otherwise, they feel like empty promises."* remarked one of the respondents.

Future Directions

1. **Sustainability:** AMI should diversify its funding sources through partnerships with socially responsible corporations, donors with an open mind to multi year funding and community-based contributions. A suggestion by one of the interviewees was as follows *"Creating an endowment fund could provide stability for the platform."*
2. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Efforts should focus on reducing barriers to participation by subsidizing travel costs and translating materials into local languages, diverse attendees, people with disabilities and gender centric interventions geared to support women should be introduced or replicated. *"Accessibility mechanisms meted to ensure that a pool of marginalised groups participate meaningfully is urgent,"* remarked a

respondent. Another respondent cautioned against this *“So, we’ve created a cadre of conference people in South Africa. You find them everywhere and not many new faces.”*

3. **Accountability Mechanisms:** Establish feedback systems where stakeholders report progress on resolutions through an M&E framework was recommended. A community member emphasized: *“Without accountability, our efforts lose impact.”*
4. **Adapting to Emerging Challenges:** With the hehgtening debate on just transition in extracting minerals, AML should expand its advocacy to include sustainability and equitable community benefits in new mining operations. One attendee noted that: *“Critical minerals present opportunities, but we must ensure communities benefit and are not harmed further.”*

Best Practices

1. **Decentralized Advocacy:** The forums ensure grassroots voices are heard and noted, feeding into national discussions and influencing policy decisions. *“Our concerns now influence national discussions.”* shared a steering committee member.
2. **Collaborative Networking:** AML’s partnerships with civil society, government, and international organisations strengthen its credibility and impact. A stakeholder observed: *“By working together, we achieve more impactful outcomes.”*
3. **Capacity Building:** Training sessions empower community representatives to articulate their challenges and negotiate effectively with stakeholders. *“We are now capacitated to advocate for ourselves.”* said a community representative.
4. **Gender Mainstreaming:** Much more work to improve efforts to prioritize women’s inclusion and addressing their unique challenges remains key. However, one of the feale respondent acknowledged that *“I feel valued and included in the decision-making process.”*

Conclusion

The Alternative Mining Indaba is a vital platform for promoting sustainable and equitable mining governance. Its focus on empowering communities, influencing policy, and fostering collaboration has yielded significant outcomes. However, challenges such as resource constraints, participation barriers, and accountability gaps must be addressed to sustain its impact.

By widening inclusivity, strengthening financial sustainability, and adapting to emerging challenges, AML can continue to lead the way in advancing social justice and equity in South Africa’s mining sector. As one participant summarized: *“AML ensures that the voices of those most affected by mining are central to the dialogue, fostering solutions that benefit all, but much more work to improve its efficiencies remains to be done.”*

Introduction

The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) has emerged as a transformative platform advocating for the rights of mining-affected communities across Africa. In the case of Tanzania, NAMI provided an inclusive space for dialogue among communities, faith leaders, civil society organisations, government representatives, and mining corporations. This case study examines Tanzania's engagement with AMI and NAMI, focusing on its impact, challenges, and future directions.

Context and Background

Just like other countries in the region, Tanzania is endowed with substantive mineral deposits. But it has a complex history of mining-related challenges, witnessed via displacements, environmental deterioration, and deeply rooted levels of underdevelopment. As a response, localised AMI in Tanzania seeks to address these issues by and has since localised the AMI framework. To date, the forum has convened a myriad of stakeholders to promote equitable resource governance, enhance transparency, and empower marginalised communities. A member of the Christian Council of Tanzania noted: *"We decided to organize ours locally...to bring voices together as one."*

Faith leaders have played a crucial role in Tanzania's AMI efforts, using their influence to advocate for social justice and equitable mining practices. The partnership and support of the Norwegian Church Aid and interfaith coalitions have resulted in the advancement of policy advocacy, social justice, and capacity building initiatives.

Outcomes and Impact

1. Amplification of Community Voices: Issues from the mining-affected communities have gained traction at national and international platforms courtesy of the AMI and localised interventions. Most importantly, faith leaders have and continue to advocate for fairer compensation and ecological preservation on behalf or jointly with displaced populations. As one member of the faith leaders stated: *"The forum provided a good space for community voices to be heard ... a platform for everyone to hear the reality of what is happening, especially for people living in such areas."*

2. Policy Influence and Advocacy Successes: Its contribution to the 2017 amendments to Tanzania's Mining Act, which highlighted transparency and equity as backbone of the country's development agenda is counted as one of Tanzania local advocacy's proudest moments. For example, the *"Make It Happen"* campaign, resulting from techniques and solidarity drawn from their involvement with AMI, they managed to influence the legislation allocating extractive industry tax revenues to fund universal health insurance. *"Through the work of faith leaders ... we have secured a law which ensures equal access to health,"* remarked an AMI Steering Committee member.

3. Learning and Regional Collaboration: Through a peer to peer regional learning AMI platform, Tanzanian representatives engaged with counterparts from South Africa, Zambia, and Mozambique to exchange notes on best practices. As an example, the interfaith coalition's collaborative model inspired similar initiatives across the region. *"For Tanzania, AMI has been a*

learning platform ... we have identified regional policy issues and adapted them at the country level." AMI Tanzania Participant.

4. Local Adaptation of AMI Initiatives: Almost identical with Zambia, Tanzania has managed to establish a national or localise AMI which in turn abailed an avenue for grassroots voices and debates around extractive sector. A Steering Committee member observed: *"We decided to bring voices together as one."*

Challenges and Lessons Learned

1. Language and Funding Barriers: As with almost countries under review including Tanzania, insufficient resources and language are two main reason that hinder the participation of stakeholders from marginalised groups.

2. Tensions Among Stakeholders: Divergent advocacy strategies was deemed to create subtle frictions between stakeholders, highlighting the need for clearer alignment. To this point, one of the Norwegian Church members posited that *"We struggled to maintain our faith identity because a lot of players came on board ... sometimes the agenda was not focused."* A similar observation was made in the case of South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Future Directions

1. Enhance Funding Mechanisms: Sourcing alternative and long term funding partners to ensure sustainability and expand AMI's reach was raised an area that requires urgent attention. *"We need to ensure that AMI remains sustainable by diversifying funding and building partnerships that empower communities to continue their advocacy efforts."* – Steering Committee Member

2. Strengthen Inclusivity: To remedy the continuation of exclusions, it was proposed that translations and increasing accessibility to information materials could be a good start. Almost identical with recommendations solicited from the Angolan experience, one of the respondents advised that: *"prioritize the inclusion of marginalised groups, especially women, in decision-making processes"*

3. Expand Regional Collaboration: There is a view that insights from other AMI initiatives to address emerging challenges, such as energy transition and critical mineral governance should be interrogated further. *"To ensure lasting impact, we should collaborate for a regional and diverse funding streams which will enable us to adapt to emerging challenges in the extractive sector."* – AMI Steering Committee Member

Best Practices

1. Faith-Based Leadership: In the case of Tanzania and similar to Zambia, faith leaders have effectively used their influence to champion equitable mining practices and amplify marginalised voices.

2. Localized Approaches: One of the successes associated with Tanzania is that the AMI framework has been adapted and tailored to their context. Importantly, it ensures that grassroots concerns are raised addressed extensively.

3. Regional Knowledge Sharing:As already mentioned, peer to peer if you like collaboration with neighboring countries has managed to foster innovation around advocacy strategies.

Conclusion

Tanzania's engagement in the Alternative Mining Indaba underscores the power of collective advocacy to address systemic inequities in the extractive industry. By amplifying marginalised voices, influencing policies, and fostering collaboration, AMI has significantly contributed to social justice and sustainable development in Tanzania. As an AMI participant summarized: *"The forum has given us the tools to create meaningful change for communities affected by mining."* However, addressing funding issues, governance gaps, and broader inclusivity remains pivotal for future success.

Section IV: Recommendations and Conclusion

4. Recommendations and Conclusion

4.1 Recommendations

4.1.1 Relevance

- **Enhance Goal Communication and Stakeholder Alignment:** Strengthen communication around AMI's goals to ensure clarity and manage expectations among all stakeholders, including community members, policymakers, corporate partners, and faith leaders.
- **Expand Inclusivity and Reach of Marginalised Voices:** Deepen AMI's engagement with marginalised groups, especially women, youth, and remote rural communities, by expanding outreach initiatives and supporting underrepresented voices in decision-making forums.
- **Strengthen Faith Leader Engagement and Moral Advocacy:** Amplify the role of faith leaders in AMI by formalizing their involvement as advocates for ethical and socially responsible mining practices.
- **Sustain and Broaden Youth Engagement:** Increase efforts to engage youth by incorporating digital tools and fostering opportunities for youth leadership in AMI activities.
- **Increase Collaboration with Unlikely Partners and Expand Alliances:** Broaden AMI's network by fostering collaborations with unconventional allies, including select private sector entities and other non-traditional partners who can provide new resources and perspectives.
- **Monitor and Communicate Incremental Achievements:** Implement a system to track and communicate incremental achievements, making it easier for stakeholders to recognize AMI's progress even amid long-term goals.

4.1.2 Coherence

- **Strengthen Partnerships with NGOs and Regional Actors:** Deepen partnerships with NGOs and civil society organisations across countries and regions to foster coordinated advocacy and address shared challenges in the mining sector.
- **Enhance AMI's Unique, Community-Centered Approach:** Further develop AMI's distinctive, community-focused model to address issues specific to marginalised groups and to differentiate AMI from other actors in the field.
- **Strengthen AMI's Influence in International Spaces:** Increase AMI's visibility and influence in international spaces by aligning its activities with global human rights and sustainable development agendas.
- **Implement Monitoring and Evaluation for Coherence:** Establish a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to track AMI's coherence with other actors in the field and the impact of its unique approach in achieving advocacy goals.

4.1.3 Effectiveness

- **Strengthen Stakeholder Engagement and Build Constructive Dialogue:** Establish more balanced and collaborative dialogue spaces to encourage active participation from mining companies, governments, and communities. This involves shifting from a primarily adversarial tone to a solutions-oriented approach that addresses corporate concerns while advocating for community rights.
- **Enhance Government Participation and Accountability:** Encourage stronger, more sustained government engagement throughout AMI activities, with an emphasis on accountability and follow-through on commitments made during forums.
- **Institutionalize Accountability Mechanisms:** Develop formal accountability mechanisms to track and report on progress regarding resolutions, commitments, and actions agreed upon during AMI forums, ensuring transparency and building trust among stakeholders.
- **Support and Enhance NAMI Processes:** Increase support for NAMIs to ensure that national-level processes are well-coordinated with regional objectives and equipped with the resources necessary for meaningful engagement.
- **Broaden Advocacy and Communication Strategies:** Expand AMI's advocacy approach by incorporating more diverse communication strategies to increase its visibility and influence among regional and international audiences.
- **Enhance Capacity Building and Community Empowerment:** Invest in capacity-building programs that empower communities and provide training to effectively advocate for their rights, focusing on legal literacy, environmental advocacy, and negotiation skills.
- **Identify and Address Missed Opportunities:** Undertake a comprehensive review to identify and address areas where AMI could further capitalize on opportunities for impact and collaboration, strengthening AMI's future advocacy effectiveness.
- **Diversify Funding Sources for Sustainability:** Reduce dependency on short-term donor funding by pursuing diverse and sustainable funding sources that can support AMI's long-term objectives.

4.1.4 Efficiency

- **Secure Multi-Year and Flexible Funding:** Reduce reliance on short-term, project-specific funding by pursuing multi-year, flexible funding arrangements. This would enable AMI to plan more sustainably and ensure continuity in advocacy and support activities.
- **Strengthen Stakeholder Engagement, Especially with Mining Companies and Government:** Build consistent and meaningful engagement with government agencies, industry stakeholders, and community representatives to improve advocacy effectiveness and stakeholder buy-in.
- **Enhance Coordination Mechanisms Across Regions:** Strengthen internal coordination across regional and local AMI platforms to streamline communication and ensure a unified approach to advocacy and support activities.
- **Invest in Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Systems:** Develop and implement a comprehensive MEL system to track the impact of AMI's activities, identify areas for improvement, and document best practices for future initiatives.

- **Streamline Internal Operations and Resource Allocation:** Ensure that AML's resources are allocated to the most impactful activities by regularly reviewing and optimizing resource use.

4.1.5 Impact

- **Strengthen Stakeholder Engagement and Accountability:** Deepen engagement with government and mining stakeholders through formalized partnerships, ensuring a balanced approach that enables communities to voice their concerns without hostility.
- **Enhance Capacity-Building for Local Advocacy:** Continue to support local and national capacity-building to empower communities with advocacy, legal, and environmental expertise.
- **Broaden Coalition-Building Efforts:** Extend coalition-building to incorporate diverse community groups, civil society actors, and relevant international bodies, thereby strengthening AML's regional influence.
- **Develop Mechanisms for Monitoring and Evaluation of Policy Impact:** Implement a robust M&E framework to track the outcomes of policy advocacy and the effectiveness of AML's interventions in policy reform.
- **Address Resource and Sustainability Gaps:** Secure diverse funding streams to ensure AML's financial stability, focusing on both international support and sustainable local contributions.
- **Leverage Digital Platforms for Broader Engagement:** Use digital tools to widen AML's reach, particularly in areas where in-person participation is challenging.
- **Promote Inclusive Representation in AML Structures:** Ensure that underrepresented groups, including women, youth, and artisanal miners, have dedicated representation within AML's governance and programming.

4.1.6 Sustainability

- **Diversify Funding Sources:** Develop a diversified funding strategy to reduce dependence on a limited pool of donors. Explore partnerships with regional organisations, private sector actors, and philanthropic entities.
- **Strengthen Internal Capacity and Knowledge Management:** Build internal capacity for the Secretariat through training on resource mobilisation, strategic planning, and knowledge management.
- **Enhance Regional Collaboration and Advocacy Networks:** Expand partnerships with regional bodies to support advocacy efforts and provide greater legitimacy and visibility for AML's work.

4.2 Conclusion

The evaluation of AML underscores the critical role it plays as a transformative platform within Africa's mining landscape, empowering communities, shaping policy, and fostering collaborative action. Through sustained advocacy and a commitment to human rights, AML has built a credible and impactful presence that not only addresses the immediate needs of mining-affected communities but also sets a standard for ethical resource governance across the continent. While AML's achievements are significant, the findings highlight the necessity for continuous

improvement, particularly in enhancing stakeholder engagement, securing diversified funding, and strengthening accountability mechanisms.

Evidence drawn from case studies show the unevenness of AML's impact in the respective countries. The data reemphasises four key main areas that require urgent attention. These cover strengthening the inclusion aspect; diversification of resource mobilisation strategies; decentralisation of the AML initiatives and lastly clarity on the strategic and future direction for NAMI, particularly on how it navigates diverse interests, agendas and needs of multiple stakeholders. Most notably, Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe avails principles or templates on how the decentralisation of AML processes could be decentralised at different tiers of its targeted constituencies.

Looking forward, the AML Steering Committee is encouraged to implement the recommendations in this report to consolidate AML's successes and address its current limitations. By refining its strategic approaches and bolstering operational efficiency, AML can deepen its impact, inspire further policy change, and ensure the sustainability of its advocacy efforts. Through these enhancements, AML will remain well-positioned to support African communities, catalyzing meaningful and lasting change in the governance of mineral resources.

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6. Annexure

List of interviews completed

Country	Organisation
Zambia	PWYP
	SARW
	Zambia Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development
	Council of Churches in Zambia
	Zambia Land Alliance
	Luapula Province: Centre for Trade Policy and Development
	Centre for Trade Policy and Development
	Democratic Governance and Human Rights Advocates
	FP Zambia
	Centre for Environmental Justice
	Caritas Zambia
	Climate Disaster Risk Project
	Critas Zambia
	Kabwe, Central Province
	Multiple organisation
	Independent Consultant
	Centre for Environmental Justice
	Nowergian Church Country Director
Zimbabwe	Transparency Int'l Zimbabwe
	Steering Committee Member
Angola	Baptist evangelical church
	Community leader King Mwatchissengue
	Community leader (Soba)
	Community leader (Soba)
	Association of Women Journalists
	Mãos Livres Association
	Mosaiko
	ALDA
	NCA
	ENDIAMA
	Mosaiko
South Africa	Anglo American - Sustainability Relations Unit
	Center for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) - Program Head
	AMI Member / Lawyer
	NGO
	Community Leader
	Steering Committee Member
Tanzania	Interfaith Coordinator

	Norwegian Church (Tanzanian Office) -M Programs Manager
	Interfaith Coordinator and member of the AML steering committee
	Community Trainer and AML participant - Hakira Silimali
	Norwegian Church (Tanzanian Office) - Programs Manager