

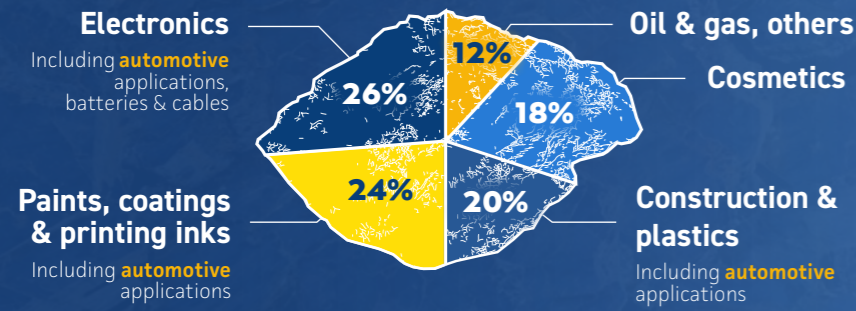


RESPONSIBLE  
MICA INITIATIVE



"A *coalition for action* toward a fair, responsible and sustainable *mica* supply chain"

## Breakdown of the mica market by end-user



Mica is a versatile mineral known for its shimmering effects, heat resistance and electrical properties. It finds its way into an array of products ranging from eyeshadow, batteries and electrical components to automotive coatings and building materials.

Source: Global mica mining and the impact on children's rights (SOMO, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, 2018)

# The Mica Challenge

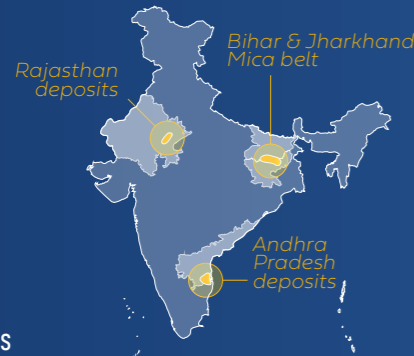
Primarily extracted in India and Madagascar, mica serves as a lifeline for thousands of families in isolated regions where mining often represents one of the few economic opportunities. However, the challenges of isolation, insecurity, extreme poverty, and the constant informality of the sector lead to the association of mica mining with issues such as child labor and poor working conditions.

### INDIA:

Mica production: 130K tons/year (25% of global mica supply)

Child labor: 10% of workforce

Industries supplied: cosmetics, paints, automotive, electronics



### MADAGASCAR:

Mica production: 70K tons/year

Child labor: 50% of workforce

Industries supplied: automotive, electronics



Source: UN Comtrade (2022), SOMO & Terre des Hommes Netherlands (2018)

## A COALITION FOR ACTION AND IMPACT

Collaboration among all stakeholders in the mica ecosystem from governments and industry players to NGOs and local communities is essential to address the many issues related to mica extraction and implement sustainable solutions that will ensure the wellbeing of mica-dependent communities. The Responsible Mica Initiative (RMI) emerged in 2017 as a force uniting all these stakeholders to eradicate child labor, improve working conditions and build fair and transparent mica supply chains. At the start of 2024, the RMI had over 100 members committed to supporting this shared vision.

RMI began its programs in India's Mica Belt, which straddles the border between the states of Bihar and Jharkhand, and has since extended its work into southern Madagascar and India's two other mica-producing states of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. Drawing on the expertise and resources of various stakeholders including human rights experts, local NGOs and industry members among others, RMI aims to bring about significant change and improve lives and livelihoods in mica mining communities. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive approach, RMI has developed three interconnected program pillars to address the root causes of child labor and poor working conditions.

# 3 Pillars of Action

1

IMPLEMENT RESPONSIBLE WORKPLACE STANDARDS

2

EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

3

PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1

IMPLEMENT RESPONSIBLE WORKPLACE STANDARDS

2030 GOAL

100% of RMI members supply chain members comply with globally recognized labor, OHS and environmental workplace standards, including prohibition of child labor and provision of living incomes

KEY RESULTS

1 Global Workplace ESG and Due Diligence Standard for mica processors

Development of 1 blockchain-based traceability platform for mica supply chains

Launch of a mica specific version of the CRAFT Code, a workplace standard for artisanal miners

Prepared 1st economic model to support the provision of a living income to mica workers

43 training sessions in India in 2023 for 324 workers & managers in 14 mica processing units

2

EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

2030 GOAL

100% of targeted communities are reached by inclusive empowerment programs through a coordinated approach that provides improved standards of living, including alternative means of livelihoods and access to quality education

KEY RESULTS

211 scholarships awarded in 2023 to the most marginalized children

180 villages and 16,500 families reached in India since programs started

14 new Common Facility Centers (CFCs) opened in 2023

484 persons trained in 2023 to adopt alternative livelihoods

4,892 villagers received medical care in 2023 and 13,726 villagers were enrolled in government social security benefits programs

35 new child care centers opened in 2023 providing better nutrition and preschool education

3

PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

2030 GOAL

100% of mica pickers, owners and operators of companies involved in mica mining work under a clear legal framework and associated control systems

KEY RESULTS

1 local mica collection policy adopted in India in 2022 supporting better practices

Participation in international human rights and child labor forums to raise awareness about issues in the mica supply chains

# Join us in helping create **fair, sustainable, and responsible** mica supply chains globally and **eradicate child labor**

*Become a member of the Responsible Mica Initiative and join forces with a coalition of more than 100 companies, mining cooperatives and NGOs engaged to transform the reality of mica communities.*

## **BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS**

- *Contribute to the development of well-crafted Human Rights Due Diligence regulatory requirements for the mica sector*
- *Gain access to valuable updates, contextual analyses, studies, training, and toolkits concerning the mica supply chain and methods for making it fairer and more responsible*
- *Leverage the collective strength of fellow members and partners to expedite the implementation of RMI's comprehensive programs and standards and push for structural changes in the legal framework and eliminate informal markets*
- *Influence the coalition's strategies through your participation in RMI governance*
- *Help transform the daily lives of mica-mining communities by enabling them to access better schools, health care, government social services and increased resources to raise incomes from farming and artisanal trade*

## **CONTACT US:**

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