RESPONSIBLE MICA INITIATIVE

A COALITION FOR ACTION

Together, let's make mica value chains fair,responsible, sustainable and free of child labor

Mica: a critical mineral in everyday products

Mica is a naturally occurring mineral valued for its unique physical properties, including heat resistance, electrical insulation, flexibility, chemical stability and optical effects. These characteristics make mica an essential input across a wide range of industries.

Global demand for mica remains strong, driven most recently by its role in emerging technologies associated with batteries used for electric vehicles and energy storage applications, and smart constructions.

Social and economic realities of mica

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 rampant informality of the sector lead to the association of mica mining with issues such as child labor and poor working conditions.

INDIA

Average mica exports:
130,000 tons per year

Main type of mica: **Muscovite**

Main client industries:
Pigments for cosmetics, paints and printing inks, Automotive, Electronics, Cables

Estimated child labor in mica extraction: **10% of workforce**

MADAGASCAR

Average mica exports:
50,000 tons per year

Main type of mica: **Phlogopite**

Main client industries:
Automotive, Electronics, Cables

Estimated child labor in mica extraction: **50% of workforce**

Sources: UN Comtrade, SOMO, Terre des Hommes Netherlands

A GLOBAL COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE MICA SOURCING

The Responsible Mica Initiative aims to transform the mica sector by fostering supply chains that are fair, responsible, and sustainable while eliminating child labor and upholding human rights. At the core of RMI's mission is the belief that lasting change can only be achieved through collective action and a holistic approach. Mica supply chains are complex and deeply rooted in social and economic realities.

Addressing their challenges requires collaboration across industries, governments, civil society organizations, and local communities. RMI focuses on tackling the root causes of child labor and poor working conditions in key mica-producing regions, including poverty, lack of access to education, weak governance, and limited economic alternatives.

RMI's holistic three-pillar approach

1 PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY & RESPONSIBLE WORKPLACE PRACTICES

2030 target: Members reach full traceability in their upstream value chains and compliance with Responsible Workplace Standards

Key results:

1 Global Workplace ESG and Due Diligence **Standard** for processors, being implemented and assessed at **47 sites**

1 CRAFT Code for artisanal miners implemented across **6 sites** in Madagascar and **1 standard** for small to medium mines

1 traceability platform revealing mica supply chains across **39 countries**, including **1,277 mica transactions**

17 accredited auditors covering India, Madagascar, and China

2 FOSTERING GOVERNANCE & AN ENABLING LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

2030 target: Mica workers within members' upstream value chains benefit from a clear and enforced legal framework

Key results:

6 mining associations formalized of which **3** obtained a formal **license to operate** thanks to RMI support

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

Meetings with key opinion leaders to foster workplace standards and responsible practices

120+ members uniting for responsible mica sourcing

3 EMPOWERING WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES

2030 target: Workers and mining communities within members' upstream value chains have improved their quality of life and meet their basic needs, without recourse to child labor

Key results:

114,000+ households, including **50,000+ children** supported through community empowerment programs

3,574 children newly enrolled in schools or educational facilities

2 living wage & income programs initiated, with productivity and delivery mechanism studies to design fair pay systems

235 villages supported in India and Madagascar

Membership that drives real change

JOINING A GLOBAL COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE MICA SOURCING

Becoming an RMI member means contributing directly to eradicating child labor and improving economic and social conditions in mica-producing regions, particularly in India and Madagascar.

Benefits for members:

COLLABORATE AND CREATE POSITIVE IMPACT

- Work alongside companies, NGOs, and civil society actors across the mica supply chain to co-develop concrete solutions and best practices for responsible sourcing.
- Participate in taskforces focused on key areas such as traceability, workplace standards, community empowerment, living wage, and advocacy efforts.

GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND CO-CREATE STRATEGY

- Access exclusive studies, reports based on aggregated members' data, contextual analyses, training sessions, and toolkits to strengthen your organization's due diligence and sustainability practices.
- Contribute to RMI's strategy and roadmaps through your participation in annual General Assemblies, where members shape collective priorities and decisions.

STRENGTHEN COMPLIANCE AND DUE DILIGENCE

- Leverage RMI's traceability platform to improve supply chain visibility – while retaining responsibility for your data and due diligence – and engage with suppliers when needed.
- Benefit from the collective audit protocol, reducing costs and administrative burden while maintaining high due diligence standards.
- Support your Human Rights Due Diligence and ESG efforts with tools and insights that help you navigate and comply with evolving regulations.

AMPLIFY YOUR COMMITMENT

- Demonstrate your company's commitment to continuous improvement and responsible business practices.
- Be part of a recognized global network that accelerates responsible transformation throughout the mica industry.
- Join and benefit from the collective strength to accelerate the transformation of mica supply chains in a resource-efficient manner.

RMI is not a certification scheme.
Rather than offering a certification, RMI provides a platform for coordinated action,
enabling its members to work together toward continuous improvement.
Membership signals a shared commitment to responsible sourcing, transparency, and long-term engagement.

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