

# Artisanal Mining Program Santa Filomena – Perú

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## Artisanal mining: A focus on child labour

- Conditions of poverty force children to work in artisanal mines
- At a young age they are introduced to this activity within the context of their families.
- There is a lack of basic services for children and their families: health and education.
- Rural families believe that child labour is a way of preparing their children for the workforce (manual or professional labour)
- There is a very strong belief that leisure time should be used working instead of playing.
- There is not enough information on the consequences of mercury use in artisanal mining.
- There is not enough information on the consequences of labour on the intellectual development of children.

## Who are the artisanal miners?

- They have migrated with their families from populated areas in the region.
- These families have many children.
- Family members are often separated.
- They left their communities because of the political violence of the last two decades.
- Some of these miners have worked for big mining companies.



## What did we find in Santa Filomena ?

- 450 families
- A third of the population was children
- A high level of child labour in very dangerous conditions
- Lack of services
- High level of organization
- In process of obtaining legal permits



# Sustainable Development for artisanal mining communities

Our proposal was to support the development of Santa Filomena through five complementary strategies that focus on the elimination of child labour

Awareness building

Technological Improvements

Income Generation

Improved services

Capacity building

## Accion Program in Santa Filomena



## Why a focus on local development?

- Child labour must be seen in a broader context.
- Underlining problems must be identified and addressed.
- Complementary strategies are more effective than isolated efforts.
- Development requires the commitment of all actors.



## Technological improvements to eliminate child labour

- Artisanal mining is undertaken using very rudimentary techniques that are labour intensive and dangerous
- Our proposal was to improve artisanal mining by providing technical advice and improved methods that correspond to local needs.



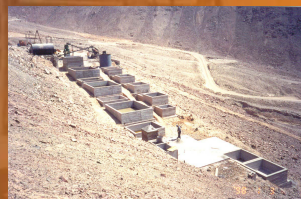
## Technological improvements

- Installation of an electric winch.
- Technical studies of existing mineral deposits and exploitation methods.
- Design and Installation of a gold extraction plant.
- Development of an environmental management plan for the plant.



## The gold extraction plant

- Permits local miners to process mineral ore themselves.
- Is designed to accommodate local ore volumes.
- Centralizes chemical extraction avoiding widespread environmental contamination.
- Operates in accordance with national environmental laws.
- Eliminates child labour in gold extraction.





## Achievements

- Gradual reduction in the use of mercury in gold extraction
- Elimination of child labour in the mine
- Greater income generation in mining households
- Higher production levels and more efficient gold extraction.



## Challenges

- Encourage greater self-confidence in local actors
- Minimize dependence on outside advisors
- Local management of the plant
- Local support for the plant