

Community Engagement

WHY THIS TOPIC MATTERS TO EQUINOX GOLD

Community engagement is essential to the long-term success of our mines. Engaging and collaborating with our host communities builds true partnerships and helps to achieve positive outcomes for both our business and community members. Listening to and consulting with these important stakeholders allows us to better understand their priorities and interests so we can work together to maximize development opportunities and avoid or minimize possible adverse impacts of our activities.



Our Approach

We are committed to engaging with local communities, Indigenous peoples and other rights holders in an inclusive, respectful and culturally appropriate manner, early and throughout the life cycle of our operations, and working to understand local interests and concerns so these can be considered in Equinox Gold’s decision-making. Our approach is guided by our [Social Responsibility and Human Rights Policy](#) and our newly created Equinox Gold Social Management Standards.

Community engagement starts at the beginning of each project, where we identify local stakeholders (interested and affected parties) and document issues that are important to them. Each community is unique, so we develop site-specific plans that consider the local culture, livelihoods and traditions. We also seek to identify vulnerable groups that may be at heightened risk of marginalization and to consider those groups when managing the social and economic impacts of our operations.

RELEVANT POLICIES

- [Social Responsibility and Human Rights Policy](#)





How We Manage Community Grievances

Frequent and transparent dialogue with local leaders and community members is the cornerstone of our community engagement strategy, and we work to collaborate effectively and build relationships based on mutual understanding and trust. We strive to communicate openly, honestly and regularly with local communities, Indigenous peoples, rights holders and other interested parties about Equinox Gold’s plans, programs, performance and compliance. Soliciting feedback and truly listening is essential so we can stay in touch with new and emerging stakeholder issues and identify where we need to do better.

While we offer a variety of ways for stakeholders to reach us, our community grievance mechanisms are a key part of our engagement approach. All our sites have grievance mechanisms in place to allow stakeholders to voice any issues, concerns or complaints. Issues are reported to and handled by site management, and we are committed to addressing them in a timely manner and achieving effective resolution.

Sites register and report community feedback and engagement activities to Company leadership monthly, and we disclose the results annually in this report (refer to [2022 Performance](#) in this section.

Accountability

Our CEO, COO, country SVPs and Vice President External Affairs and Social Responsibility have Company-wide responsibility for overseeing stakeholder relations and social performance. Each site has a dedicated community engagement team that interacts with local stakeholders to solicit feedback and provide updates, engages in activities to build positive community relations, tracks external social impacts, and reports on social performance to the corporate office. The Vice President External Affairs and Social Responsibility reports these indicators to the ESG Committee and the Board quarterly.



Our Performance in 2022

Social Management Standards

developed to drive best practices relating to social responsibility across our mine sites

All sites

have grievance mechanisms in place

100%

of community reported issues addressed and closed

- Achieved across all operations a Level A rating for the TSM Indigenous and Community Relationships protocol indicators of Community of Interest Identification, Effective Community and Indigenous Engagement and Dialogue, and Response Mechanisms
- Developed the Equinox Gold Social Management Standards
- Worked with software developers to configure software that better tracks our engagement activities
- Received 95 community issues reports in 2022 (2021: 137) and addressed and closed 100% in a timely manner
- Had two short blockades that temporarily affected operations at Los Filos and Aurizona

One of our key priorities for 2022 was implementing TSM protocols. We achieved across all operations a Level A rating for the TSM Indigenous and Community Relationships protocol indicators of Community of Interest Identification, Effective Community and Indigenous Engagement and Dialogue, and Response Mechanisms.

As a young Company, we continue working to standardize our management practices and reporting, and this past year we took a

major step forward in our approach to social performance by developing the Equinox Gold Social Management Standards. These standards are based on TSM protocols and RGMPs and cover stakeholder identification and engagement, impact and risk management and other key aspects of social performance.

To ensure we can effectively document and track our engagement activities, we worked with software developers to configure software to match Equinox Gold’s social management policies and practices. The software will be implemented across all operations in 2023 and will enable our team members to better document engagement activities, track and assess community issues reports, manage our social investments and evaluate measurable social outcomes.

Across our operations, we received 95 community issues reports in 2022, compared to 137 in 2021, and we addressed and closed 100% of them in a timely manner. The most common reported issues related to environmental issues (32%), in particular dust, noise and vibration resulting from mining activities, followed by social impacts (23%), such as road conditions and safety concerns related to transit of vehicles on local streets. Compliance with commitments, the behaviour of Company employees or contractors, and community health and safety (transit of

vehicles on community streets) comprised 19% of total reported issues. There were no reported issues at Mesquite or Castle Mountain. Aurizona and Santa Luz reported similar numbers compared to 2021 (excluding issues related to the 2021 flooding event in Aurizona), while Greenstone, Fazenda and RDM had less reported issues and Los Filos had five more reported issues compared to 2021.

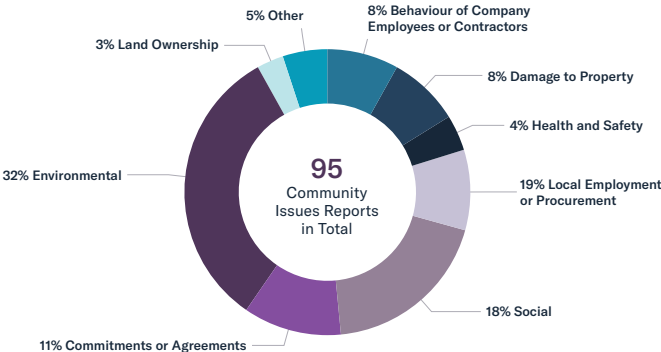




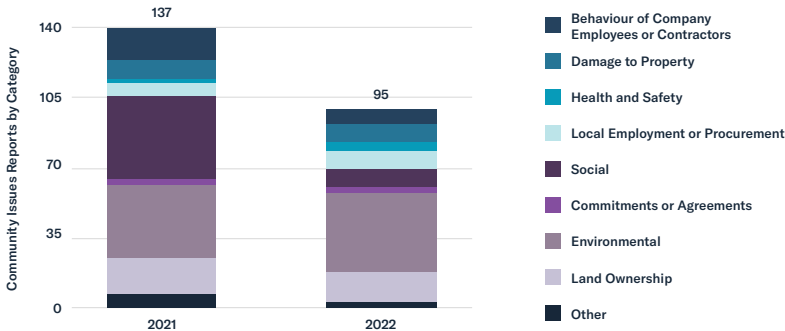
We faced two short-term community blockades that temporarily affected operations:

- At Aurizona, there was local opposition to the new public road we constructed to replace the existing access road, which had deteriorated due to frequent flooding and use. In protest, some community members blocked the access road for nine days. A local judge deemed the blockade illegal and ordered protesters to clear the area.
- At Los Filos, mining activities were affected due to a blockade by members of the nearby Mezcala community that prevented delivery of certain supplies required to maintain operations. We engaged with Mezcala community leaders with the mediation of the state government and the blockade ended after four days.

2022 COMMUNITY ISSUES REPORTS BY CATEGORY



2021 AND 2022 COMMUNITY ISSUES REPORTS BY CATEGORY



PRIORITIES FOR 2023

- Achieve TSM Level AA and AAA for all indicators of the Indigenous and Community Relationships protocol.
- Roll out Equinox Gold Social Management Standards, which will ensure all of our operations have robust systems in place to embed social performance into decision-making.
- Continue the resolution of community concerns raised through our grievance mechanisms in a timely manner.
- Develop guidelines to standardize both the definition and assessment of social risks.
- Implement software to support social performance management and reporting.



Community Development and Impact

WHY THIS TOPIC MATTERS TO EQUINOX GOLD

Our success as a business is connected to the wellbeing of our host communities. Faced with growing social challenges, economic and financial limitations and environmental threats such as climate change, communities require strategic investments that contribute to a healthier, more resilient society. The recent health pandemic has drawn attention to many urgent issues.

We believe mining projects should breathe new life into communities, bringing significant economic benefits and social development opportunities that can endure well beyond the life of the project. As a potential economic driver for host communities, we have an opportunity to contribute to improved wellbeing and poverty reduction. By listening to and collaborating with our host communities to identify their needs, we can support sustainable development initiatives that will have the greatest positive impact.

Our Approach

To help improve lives and build a prosperous society, Equinox Gold is committed to investing in neighbouring communities and creating tangible, lasting benefits that endure beyond the life of our mines. We provide funding to support infrastructure improvements, healthcare, community programs and charitable causes, while our core business activities contribute to local economic development by generating jobs, procurement opportunities for local businesses, and payments to governments of taxes and royalties that can be reinvested into the communities.

Community Investment Programs

Equinox Gold has a strong history of community investment driven by our philosophy to strengthen the communities where we operate and share the value created by our business activities. Our mine sites and offices invest to support social, environmental and economic development initiatives.

While we support a variety of causes each year, our social investment strategy is centred on the following key themes:

- Promoting community health
- Contributing to local infrastructure and services

- Supporting education
- Promoting environmental conservation
- Supporting income generation and economic diversification projects

We champion these areas because they matter to our local stakeholders, as determined through engagement and consultation. Each of our sites define their own community investment programs to respond to different local circumstances and needs. We emphasize development and sustainability rather than philanthropy, to foster positive, lasting change.

Collaborating for Greater Impact

Collaboration and partnership are a key tenet of our approach to community investment. Team members at each site engage with our partners and host communities to identify local needs, and then we target our community investments to support those priorities. We also team up with non-profit, government and private organizations to maximize the impact of the vital activities and services they provide to support community development.

We realize it takes more than dollars to make a difference. We support volunteering initiatives at all of our sites and our team members proudly volunteer their time and talents to positively impact the lives of the people who live in the communities where we work.



Prioritizing Local Procurement and Responsible Suppliers

Through our procurement activities, we contribute to host communities by supporting local businesses. During the lifespan of our mines we procure a wide range of goods and services needed to run our operations, ranging from heavy equipment and construction materials to groceries for our camps and professional services for our community engagement programs.

Our goal is to buy locally as much as possible, prioritizing in-country suppliers and, where available, suppliers from communities surrounding our sites. We conduct procurement in an open, fair and transparent manner, and strive to work with suppliers that meet our expectations for sustainable business conduct, including by demonstrating socially and environmentally responsible practices. Building ESG standards into our supplier screening is one of our longer-term objectives.

Other Contributions

Our operations also generate income for government, primarily through the payment of taxes and royalties. We report on those government payments through our annual [Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act \(ESTMA\) Report](#).





Our Performance in 2022

\$8.7M

in social investments to support community projects

24,000+

people benefited from Equinox Gold’s community investments

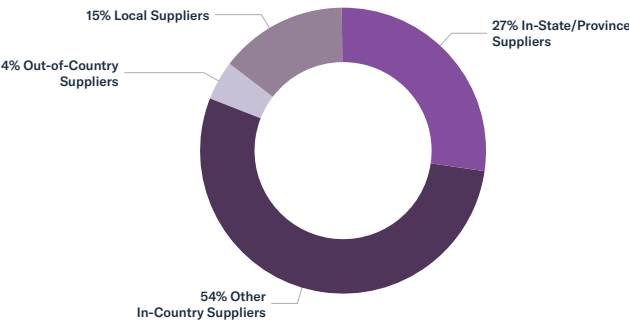
96%

of total procurement spent with in-country suppliers

- Invested \$8.7 million on community projects (2021: \$7 million)
- Provided \$20,000 in scholarships to students pursuing undergraduate university degrees in a mining-related field
- Spent \$1.5 billion on in-country procurement, which supported more than 3,000 businesses in the communities and regions where we operate

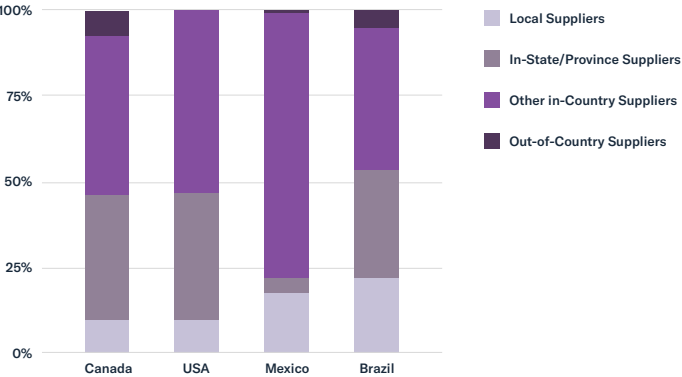
Our community investments supported a range of local initiatives in 2022, from educational programs to healthcare facilities to cultural and sporting events. The next page includes a few highlights of community projects supported by our sites in 2022.

2022 PERCENTAGE OF IN-COUNTRY AND LOCAL PROCUREMENT SPEND



- In Brazil, we provided technical courses, such as welding, mechanical, electricity and information technology for community members in Aurizona and Santa Luz. We supported 27 projects promoting the generation of jobs, income and quality of life for three municipalities around Fazenda (*Seminário de Parcerias* program). We also supported maintenance of the local water treatment plant in Aurizona village to provide better water quality for the community.
- In Mexico, we held a breast cancer awareness campaign and hosted an adult basic education program for local community members around Los Filos. We also funded the sewage water treatment plant powered by solar panels in the community of Mezcala and construction of a new community healthcare centre in Carrizalillo.
- In the USA, we hosted first responder and community cyanide awareness training for community members around Castle Mountain. The Mesquite team participated in and funded the Walk to Fight Alzheimer’s and we helped the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association to purchase and install solar panels at the historic Mojave Goffs Schoolhouse.
- In Canada, we continued to support the Young Mining Professionals organization by sponsoring two \$5,000 scholarships and four \$2,500 scholarships for students enrolled in a mining-related undergraduate program for the 2022/2023 year. At Greenstone we supported two local schools by providing a contribution to students who pursue post-secondary education in mining, environmental sciences, or business administration related fields.

2022 PERCENTAGE OF DISTRIBUTION OF PROCUREMENT SPEND BY COUNTRY



Local suppliers defined as below:

Canada
Corporate Office: Greater Vancouver Regional District
Greenstone: Geraldton, Longlac, Beardmore, Caramat, Jellicoe, Macdiarmid, Nakina and Orient Bay

USA
Castle Mountain: Clark County, NV and San Bernardino County, CA
Mesquite: Imperial County, CA, and Yuma County, AZ

Mexico
Eduardo Neri Municipality

Brazil
Aurizona: Godofredo Viana, Aurizona Village, Candido Mendes, Luis Domingues and Carutapera
Fazenda: Barrocas, Teofilândia and Biringinga
RDM: Porterinha and Riacho dos Machados
Santa Luz: Santaluz and Cansanção

PRIORITIES FOR 2023

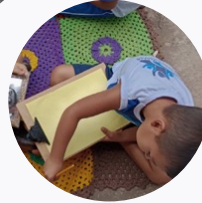
- Continue to invest in community initiatives based on local needs and priorities.
- Work with sites to commence implementation of the Social Management Standards related to community investment.



Barrocas (BA)
Reading activity



Riacho dos Machados (MG)
Activity with Rata Yoga book,
from Evoluir



Godofredo Viana (MA)
Activity with mirrors

CASE STUDY

Inspiring Children's "Discovery Path"

With the goal of enriching children's learning through creative art and experiences, Equinox Gold helped fund the "Trilha das Descobertas" (Discovery Path) project in Brazil.

The project included highly innovative children's classes at 15 schools across Barrocas, Godofredo Viana and Riacho dos Machados. Supported by the Education and Cultural Ministry, approximately 550 children aged 4 to 6 years old received 'discovery boxes' spanning five fields of experience: Identity and Subjectivity, Body and Culture, Aesthetics and Senses, Communication and Languages, and Forms and Rhythms.

Each box contained materials such as books, games and musical instruments designed to help develop children's curiosity, autonomy and creativity, while reinforcing the importance of learning through play.

More than 100 educators were trained to use the materials effectively with their students, with a teacher's book filled with activities for each field of experience.

Through this new learning resource, educators can help each child develop their creativity, independent thinking and self-confidence, ultimately helping them grow into happier, healthier individuals.

Education is one of Equinox Gold's focus areas for social investment in the communities in which we work. Recognizing the importance of helping the next generation succeed, we work to increase access to early learning opportunities and enriched programming for children.

CASE STUDY

Helping Barrocas Community Preserve and Share Its Rich History



As part of our commitment to strengthening local culture and making a positive community impact, the Fazenda team proudly sponsored a unique education and history program called the Contos Brasileiros Project.

This initiative brought together teachers, students and community members for a community-based "memory project." Students from Barroca's public schools researched information for a new book series documenting the history, culture and traditions of the town.

As part of their fieldwork, students interviewed grandparents, parents, neighbours and friends about their origins and local folklore. The students also reviewed existing publications about the community to piece together a wealth of

stories and facts. A professional writer polished all the information to create a book series of short stories about Barrocas.

All the material was recorded so the stories could also be made available in audio format on YouTube (www.youtube.com/@ContosLocais).

The launch of this remarkable collection of stories was accompanied by educational workshops for community members to bring the narratives to life and inspire communal pride. Through this collective effort, the community has preserved and shared its unique history for future generations, including invaluable insights on their roots, ancestors and how their community came to be.