

Transparency in accident and crisis reporting

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Swiss Better Gold stands firmly for transparency and integrity within the gold sector. We are proud to regularly report on the progress of SBG accredited operations in meeting our 27 criteria. **Sharing challenges transparently** is also an integral part of our approach.

Each crisis situation is unique but through our experience to date, we have identified several scenarios that could adversely impact Swiss Better Gold accredited miners, members, threaten the security of Swiss Better Gold team or partners on the ground, damage Swiss Better Gold's reputation, the reputation of its members and partners. These scenarios may include:

Area	Example of scenario
People	<p>Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High security alert on the ground that could put Swiss Better Gold / members / partners at security risk • Abduction of people related to Swiss Better Gold activities • Injuring / killing of people related to Swiss Better Gold activities / Serious injuries / fatality (i.e. Swiss Better Gold employees, members employees during a site visit, miners) at mining site due to critical operation situation (mine accident, fire, flooding, earthquake, etc.)
Swiss Better Gold value chain operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-compliance with either of Swiss Better Gold sourcing criteria which might undermine producer's accreditation status.
Reputational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allegations of illicit activities in Swiss Better Gold related activity: mining & sourcing contributing to conflict financing / human rights violation activities / serious damage to the environment, etc. • Swiss Better Gold partners involved in fraud • Swiss Better Gold accredited mine causing environmental impact (e.g. deforestation, land degradation, etc.)

Transparent reporting on such cases sheds light on **an often-underreported reality** and demonstrates our **commitment to monitoring progress** towards eliminating these.

Mining is, by nature, a hazardous activity, often carried out in complex and often fragile local contexts. **Miners need support** to achieve better livelihoods, and disengagement is not an option. By standing alongside the producers, continuously supporting them to overcome challenges, and learning from our implementation experience, **Swiss Better Gold strives to generate lasting, positive impact** within mining communities.

For these reasons, and in line with [OECD requirements](#), SBG makes its crisis and accident-response procedure publicly available here:

The SBG crisis and accident-response procedure:

Step 1: Immediately establish contact with the mine to obtain accurate and comprehensive information. Confirm the nature, scope, and circumstances of the incident through reliable sources.

Step 2: Notify all relevant stakeholders across the SBG ecosystem in a timely and appropriate manner.

Step 3: Assess the severity of the incident, the likelihood of recurrence, and the extent of its impact. Categorise the risk using a criticality matrix (low, moderate, high).

Step 4: Conduct operational evaluation, including on-site visits and verification activities if needed.

Step 5: Present the evaluation report to the Accreditations Committee in view of validating mine's accreditation status – whether maintained, downgraded to Step 1, or subject to a specific independent verification event.

Step 6: Define corrective actions, establish an implementation timeline, and set appropriate monitoring indicators. In cases of non-cooperation, consider termination of the contract with the mine.

Step 7: Consolidate all reported cases within the annual reporting cycle, including lessons learned during the period, in the Impact Report - starting with the 2025 Impact Report. Include details of remediation activities undertaken across the network of SBG-accredited mines.