

Resilient and sustainable global supply chains

Reducing risks in supply chains, improving investment conditions in partner countries

The *Investing in Resilient and Sustainable Global Supply Chains (IGS)* programme supports companies, associations, trade unions and public actors in making global supply chains more sustainable and resilient. The aim is to minimise social and environmental risks and to create a framework for responsible investment in developing countries and emerging economies.

Background

Global supply and value chains secure the livelihoods of millions of people and are a key driver of prosperity and development. For producing countries, a connection to international supply chains opens up important opportunities for economic development and diversification. At the same time, social, environmental and human rights standards are not always sufficiently ensured.

Raw materials supply chains are particularly vulnerable to human rights violations and environmental damage; local value

creation is often limited. However, stable and diversified raw materials supply chains are crucial for the global mobility, energy and digital transition, and the need for critical raw materials like lithium, graphite and bauxite is growing rapidly across the globe. Policy makers and the private sector are therefore calling for strategic projects and measures along raw materials supply chains to help increase raw materials security, diversification and resilience, for example as part of the EU Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) and the German Government's raw materials strategy.



The approach

To diversify and stabilise supply chains and make them responsible, companies, business associations, financing institutions, civil society, trade unions and public partners from Germany, Europe and partner countries need to work together. This is precisely where IGS comes in.

Partnerships in critical and strategic raw materials supply chains

IGS leverages and aligns its activities with investment projects and industry initiatives in raw materials extraction, processing, recycling and infrastructure in developing countries and emerging economies that contribute to the resilience and diversification of raw materials supply chains. The project supports private-sector projects with technical assistance measures that reduce the risks of such projects for the partner country, promote local value creation and employment, and improve investment and trade conditions.

This creates added value in terms of development, which contributes to stable and viable economic relations in the long term. Partner countries and German and European industry benefit from this win-win approach. The overarching goal is to minimise



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risks in supply chains and improve investment conditions in the partner countries. The focus is on human rights, environmental issues, local value creation, transparency and governance.

Information, training and advisory services on sustainability standards for companies and trade unions in partner countries

There are multiple EU regulations that require companies to ensure that corporate due diligence is implemented in their supply chains. IGS provides global information, training and advisory services and supports producing companies, associations and trade unions in partner countries in implementing EU regulations and higher sustainability standards (such as CSDDD, CBAM, EUDR). The services are cross-sectoral offerings and not focused solely on raw materials supply chains.

IGS supports chambers of commerce, associations and potential financing partners in setting up *Responsible Business Helpdesks (RBH)* as part of the *RBH Network*. The Helpdesks provide country-specific materials, training and advice on due diligence, ESG standards and EU regulations for local suppliers.

The *Competence Centre for Human Rights Due Diligence*, which was established in 2025 and is supported by IGS, assists trade unions in applying the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) to exercise workers' rights along global supply chains and in companies. Partners are UNI Global Union, IndustriALL Global Union, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB).

IGS thus supports partner countries in safeguarding social, environmental and human rights standards, making supply relationships more sustainable and strengthening local value creation and participation. At the same time, the project contributes to improving access to critical raw materials for German and European industry.



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