

BRIDGING THE GAP

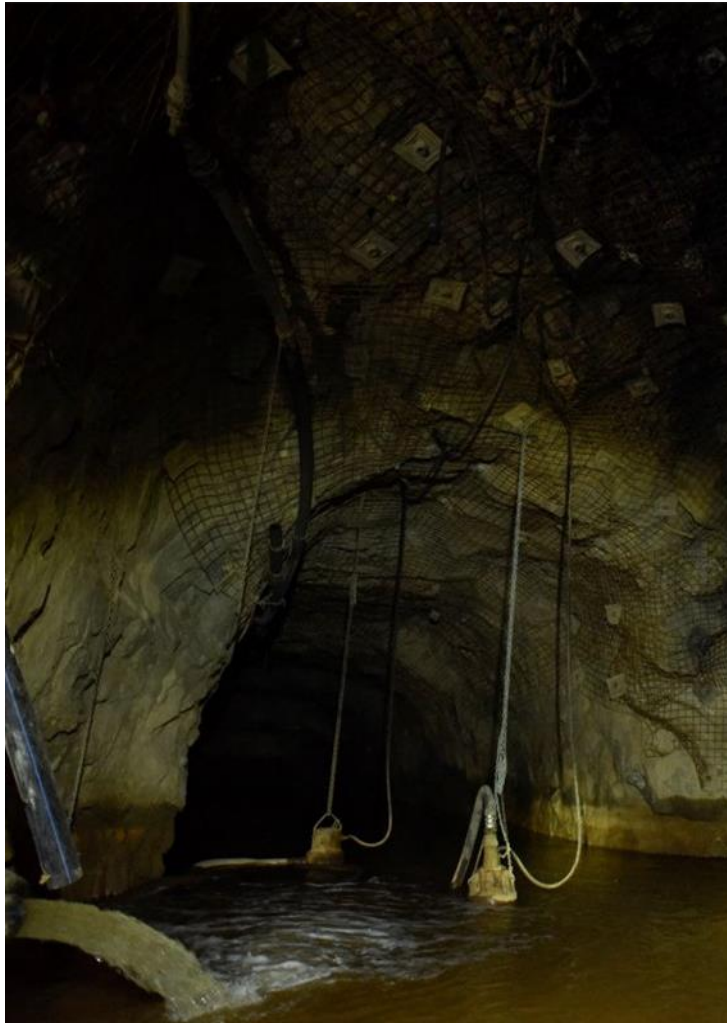
ALIGNING WEST AFRICAN MINE
RESCUE STANDARDS WITH
GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES

KEEGAN NEWMAN

INTERNATIONAL MINE RESCUE BODY CONFERENCE – 2025



Case Study: Perkoa Mine Incident



‘When anybody asks me how I can best describe my experience of nearly forty years .., I merely say: 'Uneventful'. I have never been in an accident of any sort worth speaking about..... nor was I ever in any predicament that threatened to end in disaster of any sort.’

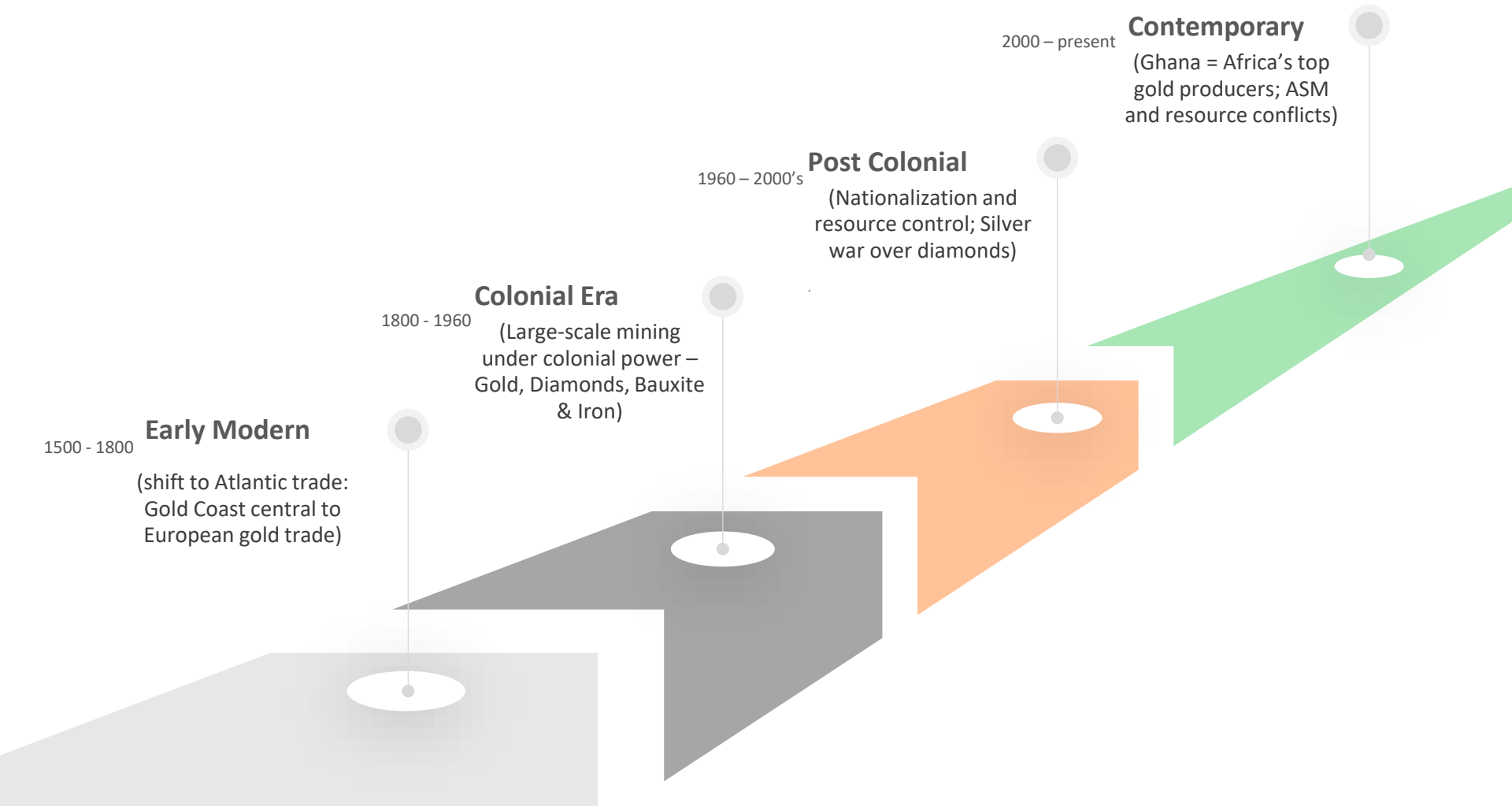
From a presentation by Captain Edward J Smith in 1907



**On 14 April 1912, RMS
Titanic sank with the loss of
1500 lives.....
One of which was its Master
– Captain Edward J Smith!**



History of mining in West Africa



West African Mining



Mining is rapidly expanding across West Africa (Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Senegal, etc.)

The region remains rich in various minerals

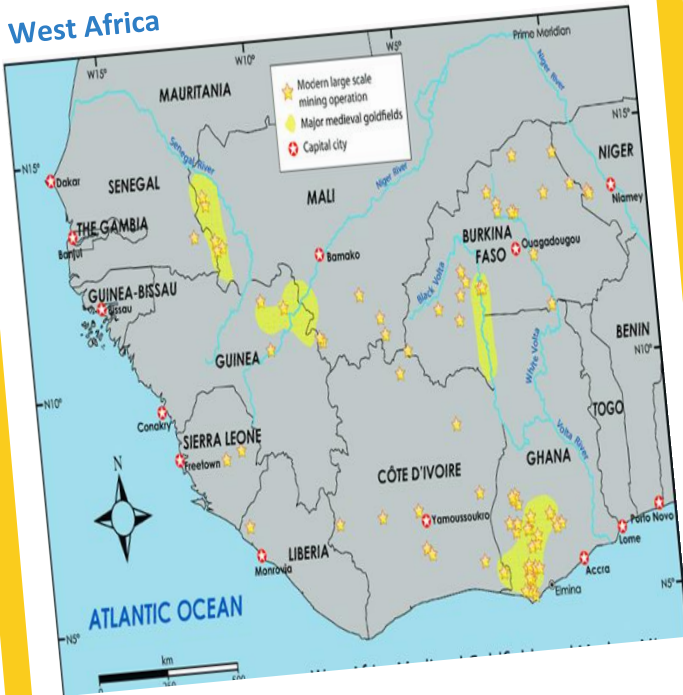
Emergency preparedness

Underground Mining

West Africa Large-Scale Mining Companies



West Africa

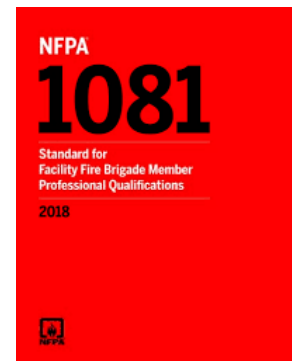


History of West African Mine Rescue



International Standards

Standard/Guideline	Application in Mine Rescue
NFPA 1081 – Industrial Fire Brigade	Guides fire response capabilities for MRTs.
ISO 45001 – Occupational Health & Safety	Framework for ERT structure, training, and drills.
ICMM Good Practice Guide: Emergency Preparedness and Response	Applied by many multinational mining firms operating in West Africa.
Mining Association of Canada's TSM Protocols	Guides response team preparedness and crisis management.
APELL Guidelines (UNEP)	Used for community-inclusive emergency planning, especially in high-risk operations.



SAVE THE DATE !

Date: **1 – 3 October 2025**

Place: Sabodala Massawa Gold Operations – Senegal



INTER-MINES FIRST AID AND SAFETY COMPETITION '25



INTER MINE EMERGENCY RESCUE COMPETITION

Real heroes never work alone JOIN THE COMPETITION



RESCUE COMPETITION

Real heroes never work alone
JOIN THE COMPETITION

Safety Our Responsibility
Your Vigilance



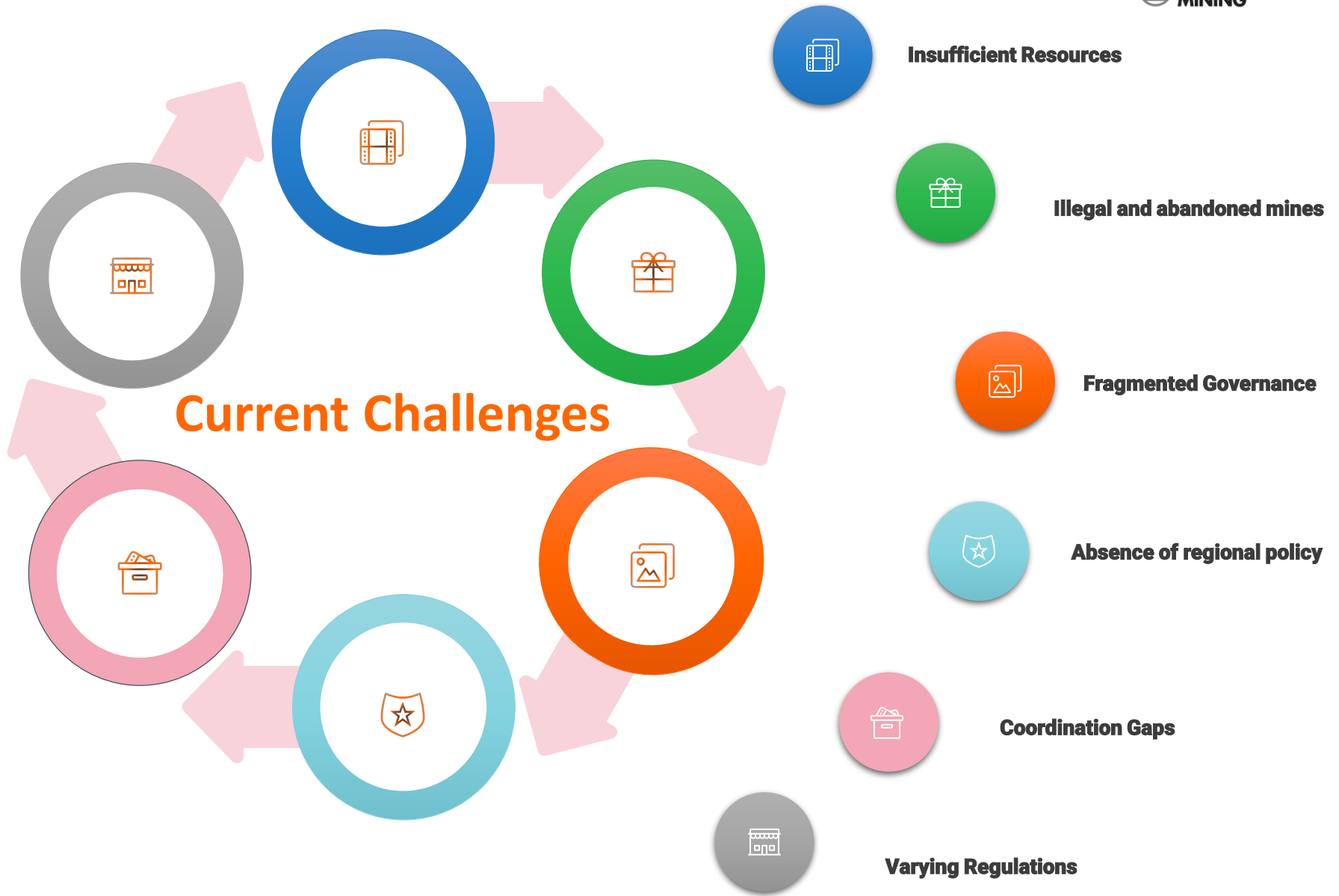


WOMEN IN MINE RESCUE & EMERGENCY SERVICES



Endeavour Mine Rescue – Promoting Females





Comparison of West Africa vs Globally

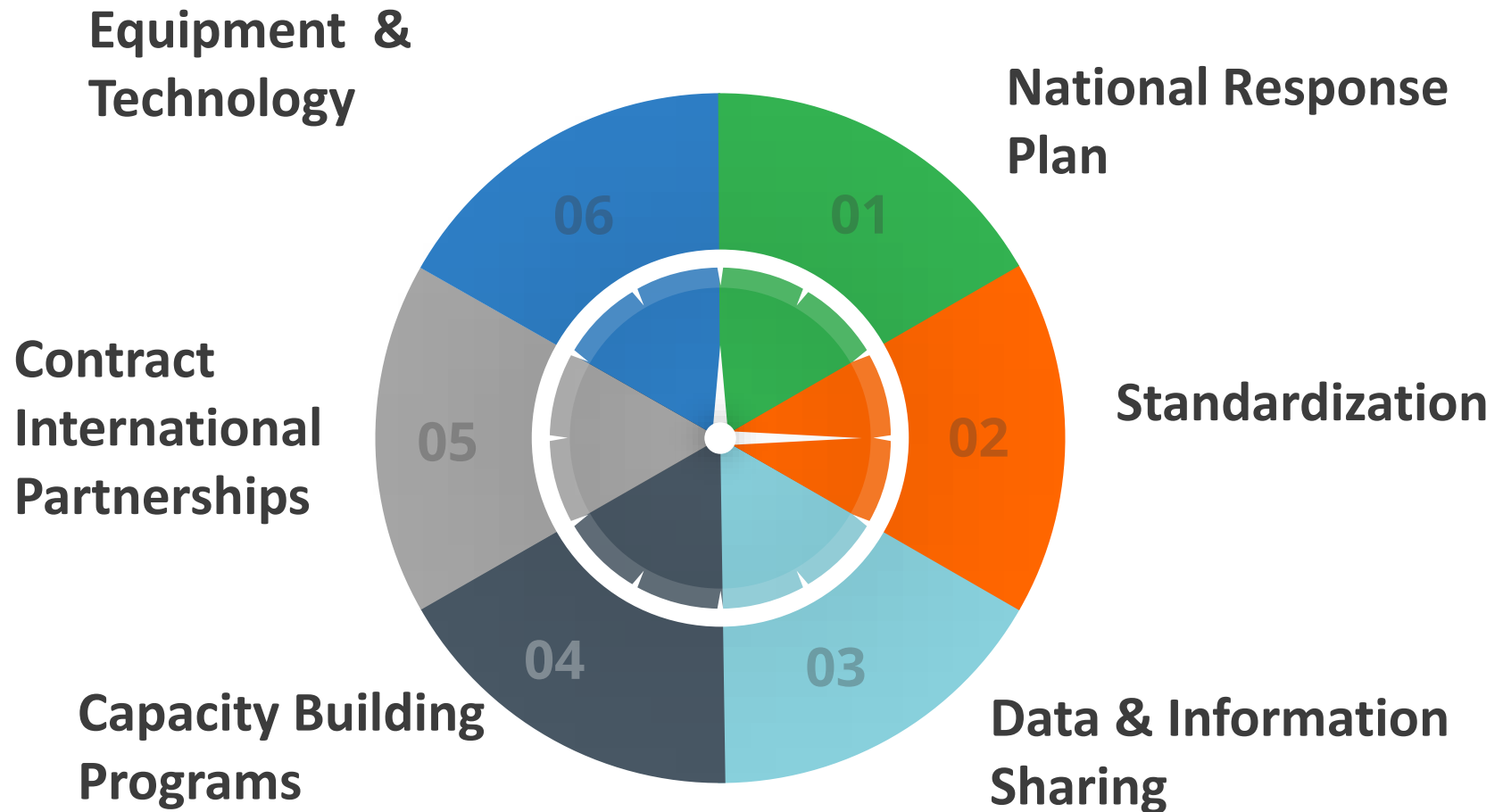
Metric	West Africa	USA (MSHA)	Canada (ON)	Australia	South Africa	EU (DE/PL)
Legal Rescue Requirement	⚠️ Varies	✅	✅	✅	✅	✅
Standardized Training Hours	❌	✅	✅	⚠️ Varies	✅	⚠️ Varies
Physical Fitness Standards	⚠️ Varies	✅	✅	⚠️	✅	⚠️ Varies
Rescue Simulation Centers	❌	⚠️ Limited	✅	✅	✅	⚠️ Partial
Tech: Underground Comms	⚠️ Basic	⚠️ Basic	✅	⚠️	⚠️ Upgrading	✅
Central Governance Body	❌	✅	✅	✅	✅	✅
Rescue Competitions	✅ Internal	✅	✅	✅	✅	❌

(✅ = aligned, ⚠️ = partial, ❌ = lacking)

Key Elements for Alignment



Benefits of Alignment



In Conclusion

Alignment of Mine Rescue
Standards

Governments and Regulators

Harmony

Knowledge Sharing

Continuous Improvement





END

