



Combating illegal trading through formalisation

"Everything I have in life is thanks to mining tin. I have built two shops, and bought two pieces of land and 10 cows" says Kasheija Evariste, a production manager with African Panther Resources Uganda (APRU). Kasheija started mining in 2006 when he was 23 years old at **Nyarubungo** in Kikagati Sub-County, Isingiro District, Uganda. After working for 9 months at the site, Kasheija realized that he could increase his profit margin by selling minerals illegally and became an illegal trader. "There used to be a lot of chaos and disorganization, since the mineral trade was unregulated and anyone could enter the mine." Although profits from trading were sometimes larger than for selling minerals legally, prices were volatile and fluctuated significantly, activities were inconsistent, production often decreased and the site was vulnerable to security and safety incidents.



A group of miners carrying out washing tests in Nyarubungo [Photo: Pact]

Kasheija explained that the introduction of the **ITSCI** system in Uganda helped reduce illegal trading significantly due to increased local transparency; "Before **ITSCI**, there was no clear price for minerals, whereas now prices are stable and widely known since there is a single collection point and tagging area." Legitimate companies like APRU could more easily sell minerals to the international market at international prices and were therefore able to raise mineral prices to compete with the local black market. As a result, miners' incomes increased and stabilised and illegal mining and trading was discouraged, boosting overall production.

..”the mineral trade was unregulated and anyone could enter the mine.... there was no clear price for minerals”

iTSCi has helped drive out unauthorized and illegal traders and miners, and encouraged the company to improve prices and working conditions.

"Everything I have in life is thanks to mining tin. I have built two shops, and bought two pieces of land and 10 cows."

In 2015, after the implementation of the **iTSCi Programme**, APRU offered Kasheija a formal position in the company because of his experience in mining. Prior to iTSCi, security in the area had not been a major concern and mining activities were carried out without threats or extortion from the military or police, however, with the iTSCi system in place, safety and security were further enhanced. The presence of iTSCi has helped to drive out unauthorized and illegal traders and miners from the site, and that has encouraged companies, such as APRU, to improve working conditions and occupational safety in the pits.

Illegal trading is still a challenge for the mining sector in the region. However, as more mine sites are evaluated and integrated into the iTSCi programme, companies and miners alike are encouraged to follow better practices, reducing illegal activities and ensuring a safer and more productive working environment.



Kasheija standing in front of one of his shops [Photo: Pact]

iTSCi Programme

Supporting responsible mineral production



c/o iTSCi Secretariat at ITRI Ltd
3 Curo Park
St Albans
UK, AL2 2DD
Phone: +44 1727 875 544
E-mail: itsci@itri.co.uk

iTSCi was developed and is managed by the global not-for-profit tin and tantalum industry associations ITRI and T.I.C. as an inclusive, sustainable, multi-stakeholder programme. We assist all actors in implementing OECD recommended due diligence to create responsible 3T mineral supply chains and benefit from trade, even from high risk areas. iTSCi has a track record of global co-operation and achievement contributing to capacity building, better governance, human rights and stability through monitoring more than 1,500 mine sites in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, and protecting the livelihood of tens of thousands of miners plus their communities.

See more news and information on <http://itsci.org>

The field activities of iTSCi are implemented through Pact Inc. The programme is funded by the 3T mineral business with support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.