



## Mineral revenues bring light to save lives

Walikale territory, in the province of North Kivu, has long been known as an important source of cassiterite from the DRC although it has in the past been associated with high profile conflict issues. The province suffered from a de-facto embargo from 2011 until the iTSCi due diligence and traceability system was implemented in 2014. At that time, a new locally **developed mechanism called the ‘basket fund’** designed to fund community projects and improve the lives of artisanal miners and communities became operational through financial contributions from mineral exporters. The basket fund is based on a system where exporters pay US\$180 per tonne of cassiterite and wolframite, and US\$360 per tonne of tantalite concentrates irrespective of the value.



Hospital's patients room, Walikale, North Kivu [Photo: Pact]

Before the implementation of iTSCi, Walikale town hospital, which serves the surrounding population and communities, had been **struggling to function** with budget constraints and without a reliable electricity supply. “The conditions of the hospital were worrying” said the Hospital General Manager Bingi Barutsi while describing how difficult it was to run a hospital without electricity. “Storm lamps were used at night since **we didn’t have enough fuel for the generator**, which was reserved for use during surgery only. Due to limited electricity, the hospital’s cold storage of vaccines and the blood bank were also non-compliant with minimum medical standards” added Mr Barutsi.

*...it was worrying and difficult to run a hospital without a regular supply of electricity...*

*The dire situation prompted the hospital to request immediate help from the basket fund*

The dire situation prompted hospital management and community leaders to request immediate help from the Provincial Government and the Ministries of Health and Energy. As a result, in 2015, the **Provincial Government agreed to allocate part of the basket fund to provide a solution**. After consultation with local communities and with the help from Ministry of Energy experts, 10 solar panels were supplied and installed in Walikale hospital regularly providing electricity for the benefit of its patients. **“After 5 difficult years the staff were able to see, and provide better care to the sick in the hospital”** says Bikimbo Mbuso, Walikale’s Health Zone Development Officer.

*...the hospital saved on the high cost of generator fuel and lamp batteries and re-directed the money to buy medical supplies and increase staffing. ...*



*Three damaged solar panels awaiting replacement at the Walikale Hospital [Photo: Pact]*

After the solar panel installation was completed, the hospital saved on the high cost of generator fuel and lamp batteries and re-directed the money to buy medical supplies and increase staffing. Although some damage was inflicted to the solar panels by severe weather in mid-2016 management has reached out to the Provincial government **soliciting further assistance** to re-secure electricity supply. In the meantime, the hospital is working with a donated large-capacity generator.

## iTSCI Programme

*Supporting responsible mineral production*



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*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>*

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