



Stronger OECD implementation on the ground in DRC

The ITSCI traceability and due diligence programme was piloted in 2010 at one mine in DRC's South Kivu province. Eight years later, ITSCI covers seven DRC provinces and nearly 1,000 sites where 40,000-plus artisanal miners extract and sell conflict-free 3T minerals. ITSCI is the only industry programme whose standards are 100 percent aligned with OECD Due Diligence Guidance.

On the ground, alignment is slightly less, at 75 to 80 percent, according to an assessment. ITSCI is committed to continuing to improve these scores and to implementing all of OECD's recommendations. As a first step, ITSCI conducted an intensive four-day training for all of its on-the-ground teams in DRC. In total, 62 staff members from Pact and its field implementing partners ARDERI and BEPAT attended the training, in Goma, North Kivu, in October 2018.

ITSCI program manager for the Great Lakes Region Mickaël Daudin started the training by reviewing all of the program's actors and structures. Besides the regulatory context, the training extensively focused on the central role of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance, the five-step framework and the Annex II on high on-the-ground risks and how these should be mitigated.



Warm-up session led by Pact project manager Luc Assosa

[Photo: Pact]



ITSCI field teams in working groups

[Photo: Pact]

"We learned how to better support companies in performing their due diligence and in assessing risks. It is now our goal to continue improving their capacities in these areas."
-Désiré Bisimwa, director of BEPAT

Through a Train-the-Trainer component, field teams can now train companies on better assessing risks for their supply chains and conducting their due diligence.

In depth discussions reminded everyone of procedures for collecting mine data, recording incidents and following-up on their mitigation, as well as facilitating local multi-stakeholder meetings. Through case studies, staff got the opportunity to conduct discussions, ask questions, and share challenges, with the most active participants rewarded each day.

"Between the first and last day, we have seen great improvements in the number and quality of interventions during discussions, which shows that the staff have learned much," said Willy Muyamba, ARDERI president.

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 ITA 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 sustainably by upstream operator benefiting from the initiative.