

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

ITSCI participates in the fight against COVID in the DRC

DRC

Although ITSCI is facing significant financial challenges due to the COVID pandemic, we are undertaking additional health initiatives to help stop the spread of the virus.

Already under threat from the economic shocks of the global crisis, protecting the health of ASM mining communities and stopping further disruption to their livelihoods is essential.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, ITSCI has leveraged its extensive field network and local expertise in Central Africa to engage artisanal miners and encourage local communities to follow the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.

In May 2020, ITSCI held 18 COVID awareness-raising sessions for 342 stakeholders including state agents, miners, cooperatives, state security forces and mineral traders in the Provinces of Tanganyika, Haut-Lomami, Maniema and South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). During due diligence and traceability training in various ITSCI sites, we conducted additional sessions on preventive measures against COVID such as social distancing, frequent hand-washing and other advice from health experts.

The ITSCI team encouraged cooperatives to share the leaflets with all individuals working in the mining sector, including the land chiefs and customary chiefs. ITSCI COVID leaflets were also distributed in Bukama territory.



Awareness-raising of state agents and cooperative members in Punia about COVID, May 2020, Maniema Province, DRC

“ This is a very difficult time. We are using every opportunity to explain miners that COVID has killed many people already; we provide them with information on how they can increase their safety and stop the spread of the virus ”

ITSCI field staff Serge Ntandu, in Maniema Province, DRC.



ITSCI team member distributes the leaflets

Our team on-the-ground has translated the guidelines into English, French, Swahili, Lingala, Kiluba, Kirundi and Kinyarwanda, as well as providing info-graphics.

ITSCI member companies have also stepped up their efforts to help tackle COVID including installing hand-washing facilities and encouraging social distancing practices.

Ultimately, these efforts have supported the DRC government in their fight against COVID and aimed to enable even the smallest mine pits in implementing health and safety measures.

ITSCI Programme Supporting responsible mineral production

JUNE 2020

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 due diligence to create responsible 3T mineral supply chains and benefit from trade, even from high risk areas and our standards are 100% aligned with the OECD guidance. 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 2000 mine sites in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, and protecting the livelihood of tens of thousands of miners plus their communities.

The field activities of ITSCI are implemented through Pact Inc. See more news and information on <http://itsci.org>