

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

From informal trader to owner and manager of a mine

RWANDA

Informal mining is hazardous for miners as they do not use adequate equipment and exploitation techniques. It tends to pollute and affect the environment and increase human rights risks such as child labour.

Informal mining and trading are some of the main challenges faced by ITSCI in Rwanda. Following the suspension of many licenses by the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB), informal mining increased in 2019.

Different measures have been implemented by ITSCI, many times as joint efforts with RMB. Moreover, private companies are also developing formalisation plans to tackle the problem.

Kwizera Bosco, 35 years old, started trading small manufactured products in Kunganzo centre, in Ngororero district (located within Gatumba historic concession) at the age of 16.

In 2007, Mr Kwizera started buying minerals illegally from the concession and other sites in the country to sell them to Kigali's illegal processing entities. He continued trading illegal minerals for ten years and was arrested several times. Mr Kwizera stated "I was making benefits regardless of the negative impact caused to the environment and informal miners' health and safety. I was also not contributing to any local peoples' livelihoods and not paying taxes".

Realising the dangers and risks of informal mining and illegal trading, Mr. Kwizera decided to formalise his activities. In July 2018, he bought an ITSCI mine site known as DUMAC in Rwamagana district as the former owner failed to manage the site.

Since that period, a total of \$110,000 have been invested in equipment and site restructuring. The site is currently well

“ There is nothing more peaceful than working formally. This improvement would not have been possible without the significant contribution of ITSCI through different advice provided during the visits and tags available for my minerals. We thank ITSCI for its helpful support, other miners and I will always be thankful ”

Mr. Kwizera, former informal trader



Kwizera supervising mining work

established and employ around 120 people working in a safe environment with adequate OHS and PPE standards.

ITSCI provided guidance and advice on traceability procedures and safety measures during site visits and through workshops in Eastern province.

Appreciating his current situation, Mr Kwizera argued "I'm proud of my business, how it is done, and the progress I have made trying to be clean and environmental and human rights friendly. I'm upgrading my mining skills, contributing to national development, complying with national and international laws."



Mineral washing process through sluices

ITSCI Programme Supporting responsible mineral production

JULY 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>