

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Rwanda Extractive Workers' Union (REWU) invites ITSCI at BTN TV

RWANDA

Traceability is done directly on the ground with a large number of field staff deployed to regularly monitor the mines. The implementation of essential due diligence work on risk reporting and incident resolution requires the availability of funding

Implemented in Rwanda in 2011, ITSCI has established a vast network with multiple stakeholders, supporting government agents in mineral traceability and companies in due diligence practice. ITSCI engages with the Rwanda Mining Association (RMA), Federation of Mining Cooperatives (FECOMIRWA), processors, exporters, and RMB agents in charge of data collection through training and discussions to improve the procedures applied on the ground.

The Rwanda Extractive Workers' Union (REWU) hosts regular TV shows to discuss mining issues, miners' rights, and ways to professionalise the sector. On February 29th, Ildephonse Niyonsaba, ITSCI Programme manager was invited by REWU (Rwanda Extractive Workers' Union) to explain how mineral traceability and Due diligence is implemented in Rwanda. The show depicted the progress made over the years and the current challenges such as mineral smuggling and the collaboration with several stakeholders including the police, the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum & Gas Board (RMB), and civil society to stop and prevent this problem.

Responding to queries about due diligence cost, the ITSCI Programme manager highlighted that, what differentiates ITSCI is its traceability system, which is done directly on the ground with a large number of field staff deployed to regularly monitor the mines all over the country, which justify the costs. He added that ITSCI has confirmed its efficiency in terms of following international procedures, and is the only programme independently recognised as 100% aligned with the OECD due diligence guidelines for responsible mineral trade.

“ ITSCI has been very important to the country's mineral industry helping miners to access the international market ”

Mr Mutsindashyaka, secretary-general for REWU



REWU secretary-general (left) and ITSCI programme manager (right) during TV show at BTN TV

The Rwanda Extractive Workers' Union (REWU) expressed its gratitude for the close collaboration with ITSCI and for the opportunity to participate in joint workshops with RMB in different provinces to raise issues regarding miners' rights and contracts.

ITSCI will continue performing outreach activities through TV and radio to raise awareness about the programme and its role in the country.