

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Sparking Growth in ITSCI Communities

BURUNDI

Many miners have improved their lives with new family homes, and more local businesses have emerged.

In July 2019, the Burundian government stressed the importance of the mining sector, which contributes more to the national economy than the traditional exports such as coffee and tea.

ITSCI covers 155 sites in 21 communes in Burundi and directly employs at least 7,712 Burundians, including more than 6,565 miners, as well as washers, guards, and more.

The program has helped formalise miners activities by providing them legal protection, giving them assistance in their due diligence, and access to the international market. ITSCI has alleviated problems related to informal mining, such as reduced livelihoods and health and safety risks.

According to local co-operative leaders, ITSCI members and the mining community in Burundi are benefiting from the results of stricter regulation with the ITSCI program. About 420 residents of the village of Kidunduri work on the mining sites, many of them through COMEBU and local cooperatives such as the Cooperative de Development Populaire. In 2018, three new classrooms were built with the benefits of mining activities. One student said, "I'm not late for class anymore because this school is close to my family's house."



New classrooms added to the elementary school in Kidunduri village

“ Even if mining activity declines in the future, the owner of Umuco restaurant can support his family off profits from the restaurant. ”

Gabriel Nikobamye, the president of COMIRU cooperative



Family homes in Kidunduri village

In addition, at the Nyagatobo II site in Bubanza province, the revenues of the local cooperative COMIRU have helped expand business opportunities. Reflecting on the creation of the Umuco restaurant and bar, Gabriel Nikobamye, president of the COMIRU cooperative, praised the positive impacts of the ITSCI system on local communities. The ITSCI programme continues to expand in Burundi and communities are confident that they will continue to reap the benefits.