



Telephone  
+44 (0)1727 875 544

Email  
[itsci@internationaltin.org](mailto:itsci@internationaltin.org)

Internet  
<http://www.internationaltin.org>  
and  
<http://www.itsci.org>

International Tin Association Ltd  
Secretariat ITSCI Programme  
Unit 3, Curo Park, Frogmore,  
St. Albans, Herts AL2 2DD, UK

## ITSCI suspended in Masisi territory following the presence of non-state armed group M23 in Rubaya town

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The non-state armed group M23 advanced in Masisi territory in the last week of February taking control of the town Mushaki, on a mineral transport route between Masisi territory and Goma, and the mineral trading hub of Rubaya town. **State mining services stopped tagging at all ITSCI sites** and left Masisi territory for Goma. These events also created fear among the local population and led to large internal population displacement from Masisi territory towards Goma. For security reasons, ITSCI field teams based in Masisi territory have also left the area and are currently in Goma.

**The ITSCI Programme is therefore suspended at all ITSCI sites in Masisi territory until further notice.** During a recent extraordinary provincial multi-stakeholder meeting in Goma the Provincial authorities also recommended that mineral supply chains in Masisi are suspended.

Mining activities at ITSCI sites in both Walikale and Lubero territories, North Kivu Province are so far not impacted by these events and continue smoothly. ITSCI closely monitors the situation, including via which route minerals from those territories are transported to Goma.

Latest information seems to indicate that state security forces have retaken control of Rubaya town although the situation has not yet been confirmed by ITSCI field team visit. ITSCI remains committed to support responsible sourcing from North Kivu Province and continues to engage with stakeholders from government, industry, and civil society to monitor and further evaluate the situation.

Activities of M23 started in June 2022 in Rutshuru territory, north-east of Goma which, as explained in our [public statement](#), did not have any previous reported impacts on ITSCI associated mineral supply chains.

For more information, please contact: Mickaël Daudin, ITSCI Programme Manager,  
[mickael.daudin@internationaltin.org](mailto:mickael.daudin@internationaltin.org)