

Ushimbaji kwa Kanuni, heshima na Haki

Supporting Responsible and Inclusive Mining Governance

In December 2023, ITSCI was delighted to announce a new collaboration with its Associate Member, TPV Technology Ltd (TPV), to increase social value of ITSCI field activities. The two-year project supports artisanal mining communities and enhances responsible sourcing practices. It has been implemented in Kalehe and Walungu territories in South Kivu Province, DRC.

The project includes five key components:

- Awareness-raising about the DRC Mining Code and Regulation
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) training and awareness-raising
- OHS risk monitoring and mitigation
- Support of women-owned businesses and awareness-raising on gender
- Research on disabilities in ASM



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The field work of ITSCI truly makes an impact in the communities they support, helping to improve safety and working conditions, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, women, and people with disabilities. This project is not only improving the overall health and safety standards in artisanal mining but also raising awareness and fostering a more inclusive approach to responsible sourcing, with a particular focus on increasing the participation and rights of women in the sector. With such impressive achievements in the first year, we look forward to continuing the work and seeing further progress in the second year.

Stefan van Sabben
Global Director CSR and Sustainability,
TPV Technology



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KEY IMPACT IN 2024

+3,300
participants in
DRC Mining
Code & OHS
awareness-
raising sessions

The popularisation of the DRC Mining Code combined with OHS awareness-raising reached more than 3,300 participants, including 20% women. Mining stakeholders gained a better understanding of their rights, obligations, and their compliance with DRC law as well as international standards. Regular OHS awareness sessions were held at ITSCI-monitored mine sites to ensure rigorous monitoring of sustainable health and safety practices. Preventive measures were recommended by the OHS committees and adopted by artisanal miners and mining cooperatives, leading to a noticeable reduction in incidents.

+470
participants
in women's
rights
awareness-
raising sessions

More than 470 people, including around 320 women, participated in awareness-raising sessions on women's rights, the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, and the economic empowerment of women. The project has not only raised awareness among local mining stakeholders but has also introduced mechanisms to promote the inclusion of women in local multi-stakeholder committees (Comité Local de Suivi, CLS) facilitated by ITSCI, therefore enhancing inclusive and responsible mining practices.

+250
people
surveyed for
the research
on disabilities

250 participants, 54% of whom were women, were surveyed for the research on disabilities ASM. This survey is conducted with the aim of designing potential interventions that can provide support to individuals based on their needs and experiences. People with disabilities or marginalised were identified and shared their experiences with the project team.



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In 2024, capacity-building sessions focused on the DRC Mining Code and OHS led to tangible improvements such as:

- mining cooperative increasing the safety of retention basins to limit water contamination around mine sites
- mining cooperatives planting trees around mining sites to support re-forestation
- mining stakeholders increasing their engagement in promoting human rights and addressing child labour in mining sites



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ITSCI Field Officer and mining stakeholders in front of a sign raising awareness on the ban of child labour and the presence of children at the Numbi mine site, South Kivu Province

Safeguarding children in mining communities awareness raising of the DRC Mining Code

One of the most powerful outcomes of this work has been the increased awareness of mining communities in Nyabibwe and Numbi towns, South Kivu Province. Artisanal miners, having gained a deeper understanding of the legal frameworks protecting children and the inherent risks for children at mine sites, took steps to address the issue. In a display of community responsibility, they established a designated space outside the Filon 2 mine in Numbi where the children and their caretakers can play safely and where parents can meet their children for lunch.

This initiative not only helps protect children from the risks prevalent at mines but also fostered a sense of collective commitment to maintain safe mining practices. The project stands as a testament to how awareness-raising can spark change from within and create safer, more sustainable environments for both artisanal miners and their families.

[Read the full story on our website](#)

Awareness-raising about the DRC Mining Code and Regulation

The project held over 100 awareness-raising sessions on OHS reaching nearly 3,300 artisanal miners and covering various topics from the inspection and identification of risks at various workstations in the mine to the prevention of landslides and collapses.

OHS training and awareness-raising and OHS risk monitoring and mitigation

Two OHS committees, which were established by the project, and composed of mining cooperatives, local authorities, state services and security forces, negociants (local traders), and civil society groups, carried out regular visits at mine sites to monitor and identify risks as well as give recommendations to mitigate the risks. This proved successful in the reduction of incidents as OHS committees members could observe mining sites in real-time and discuss best practices and risk mitigation directly on site. For instance, during a field visit, an OHS committee identified a risk of rockfalls. Following discussions, the local mining cooperative mobilised funds and workers to work on the pits' support to avoid rockfalls and pit collapses.

Support of women-owned businesses and awareness-raising on gender

ITSCI partnered with a local organisation, SOFEDI asbl, to support women-owned businesses and awareness-raising on gender in mining. This activity included 22 awareness-raising sessions on gender in ITSCI-monitored mine sites and during local CLS meetings to discuss women's rights and the national and international framework protecting these rights, sexual and gender-based violence, and financial empowerment. Thanks to this activity, two CLS now have a woman representative participating in each monthly meeting.

Research on disabilities in ASM

To obtain an overview of artisanal miners with disabilities and understand their challenges and needs, ITSCI developed a questionnaire and trained 14 surveyors on the evaluation of people with disabilities' working conditions, research methodologies, communication techniques, and conducting research ethically. Among the 251 people surveyed, 83 had disabilities, and the remaining 168 were identified as marginalised or vulnerable, for example young women with children, indigenous people, or internally displaced people following the conflict with M23 in North Kivu.

As a facilitation initiative Fully Aligned with the OECD Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, we support companies with their due diligence responsibilities.

One of our core activities is to deliver training and tools to multiple stakeholders at all levels of the supply chain, and one of our key strengths lies in acting as a convening force and instrument of mediation to support risk mitigation and resolution.

As a not-for-profit entity, we operate at cost, and external funding can play a vital role in increasing our impact on the ground and supporting local mining communities in the Great Lakes Region.

Organisations of all sizes can support us, and you will receive updates from our team on how your funding is making an impact as well as invitations to events.



EMPOWER RESPONSIBLE PROJECTS WITH ITSCI LOCAL EXPERTISE



Established Local Presence

Operating on the ground since 2010, ITSCI offers deep local expertise to support impactful projects.



Trusted Relationships

Strong, long-standing connections with governments, industry, and civil society for meaningful collaboration.



Support for ESG Standards

Projects align with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles



Transparent Impact Reporting

Receive regular updates on your funding impact and invitations to events.

For more information on our local projects and how to participate in the ITSCI Programme, please contact secretariat@itsci.org



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