



Ushimbaji kwa Kanuni, heshima na Haki

Supporting Responsible and Inclusive Mining Governance

PROJECT ACTIVITY REPORT - 2025

The Ushimbaji kwa Kanuni, heshima na Haki (Supporting Responsible and Inclusive Mining Governance) project, funded by ITSCI Associate Member TPV Technology Ltd, has been implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since December 2023. Building on previous work funded by TPV's sister companies AOC International (Europe) B.V. and MMD-Monitors & Displays B.V. in ITSCI implementing areas, TPV's engagement introduced new components that further advanced support to artisanal mining communities and strengthened responsible sourcing of tin, tantalum, and tungsten (3T) in the DRC. This report provides an overview of achievements during 2025.

The project includes five key components, in targeted locations:



Awareness-raising of the DRC Mining Code



Occupational Health and Safety training



Occupational Health and Safety risk monitoring and mitigation

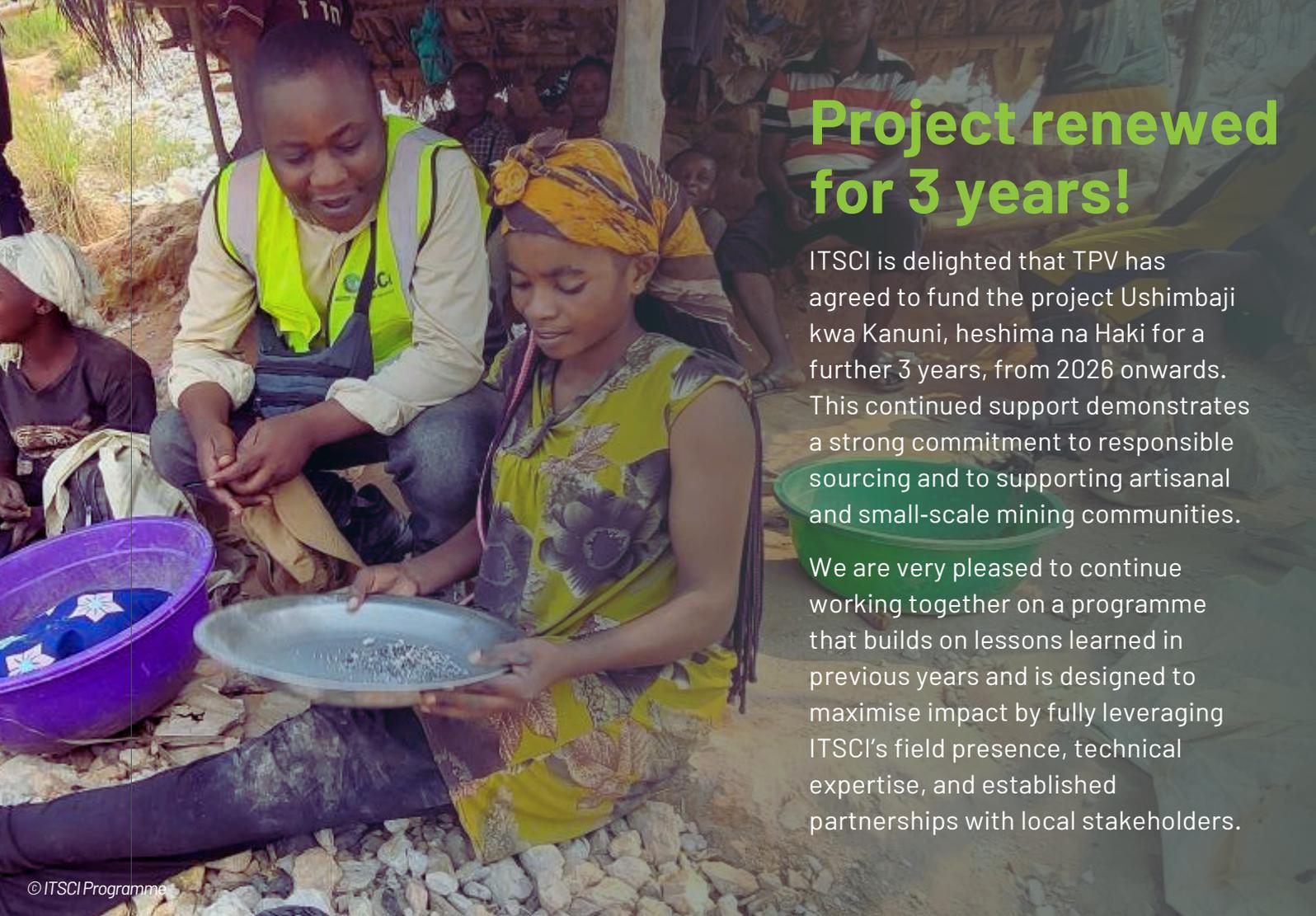


Support of women-owned businesses and awareness-raising on gender



Research on disabilities in ASM





Project renewed for 3 years!

ITSCI is delighted that TPV has agreed to fund the project Ushimbaji kwa Kanuni, heshima na Haki for a further 3 years, from 2026 onwards. This continued support demonstrates a strong commitment to responsible sourcing and to supporting artisanal and small-scale mining communities.

We are very pleased to continue working together on a programme that builds on lessons learned in previous years and is designed to maximise impact by fully leveraging ITSCI's field presence, technical expertise, and established partnerships with local stakeholders.

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At TPV, we are pleased to see ITSCI's adaptability, including the relocation of the project to Maniema province, to provide continued support to mining communities in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Kivus. This partnership translates TPV Technology's commitment to responsible sourcing into direct, tangible impact on the ground. We are excited to see how the additional three years of funding will build on achievements and lessons learned, strengthening sustainable outcomes from safer and more inclusive practices to lasting capacity across artisanal and small-scale mining communities.

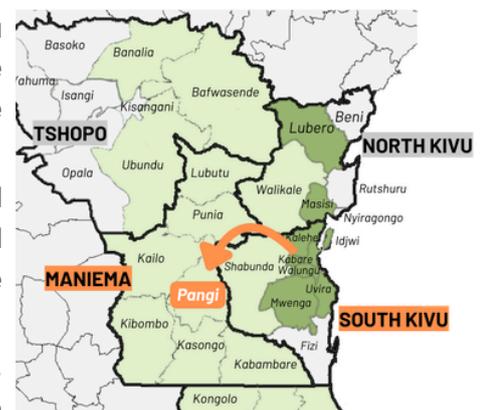
Stefan van Sabben, Global Director CSR and Sustainability, TPV Technology

Project relocation

The project, originally intended to be implemented in both North and South Kivu provinces, started in Kalehe and Walungu territories, South Kivu, due to the deterioration of the security situation in North Kivu, including advances by the M23 non-state armed group, leading to the suspension of ITSCI activities.

As insecurity continued to affect Eastern DRC, ITSCI further suspended operations in Kalehe territory, South Kivu Province, in February 2025 and shifted activities to Kabare territory. Further security deterioration led to the suspension of activities in both Walungu and Kabare territories in August 2025.

The project activities were relocated to Pangji territory in Maniema province, where the ITSCI Programme is also implemented. This adaptive approach ensured continuity of the project and reflects both ITSCI and TPV's flexibility and commitment to achieving the project's objectives of promoting responsible and inclusive artisanal and small-scale mining, even in volatile operating environments.



- Territories with 3T mines participating in ITSCI
- ITSCI activities and tagging by state services suspended

Project impact in 2025

+3,000

participants in DRC Mining Code & OHS awareness-raising sessions

74 awareness raising sessions on the popularisation of the DRC Mining Code combined with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) awareness-raising reached 3,079 beneficiaries.

+1,700

participants in women's rights awareness-raising sessions

20 awareness-raising sessions on women's rights, the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, and the economic empowerment of women reached 1,784 beneficiaries, including 896 women.

+300

project materials distributed

Over 300 booklets and posters distributed to state services, local authorities and mining representatives for OHS and DRC Mining Code awareness-raising.

+25

qualitative interviews for the research on disabilities

25 qualitative interviews (90% in Maniema Province and 10% in South Kivu Province) with marginalised groups and people living with disabilities. People with disabilities or marginalised were identified and shared their experiences with the project team.

Activity 1. Awareness-raising about the DRC Mining Code

In 2025, dissemination activities were implemented across four mining areas in the DRC: Numbi, Nyabibwe and Nindja (South Kivu Province) and Pangi (Maniema Province).

Work focused on two complementary approaches:

- **Capacity-building to strengthen stakeholders' knowledge of the DRC Mining Code and regulations.**

Delivered in workshop settings to provide in-depth guidance on the Mining Code, regulations, and roles and responsibilities of supply chain actors.

Using a train-the-trainer approach for participants to pass on their learning within their communities.

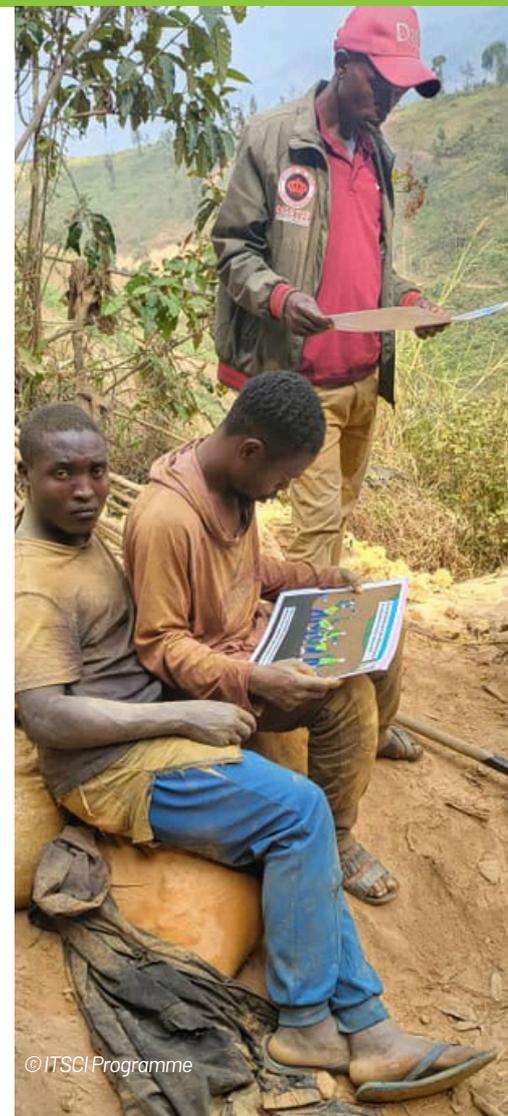
- **Awareness-raising at mine sites to increase understanding of legal requirements and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).**

Conducted directly at mine sites in South Kivu and Maniema.

Combined OHS messaging with legal requirements from the DRC Mining Code.

Targeted artisanal miners, cooperative leaders, state technical service representatives and other local stakeholders.

A total of **3,079 participants**, 909 women and 2,170 men, benefitted from these activities, and over **300 booklets** and posters were distributed.



Nindja local multi-stakeholder committee (CLS) leads action against child labour

In Nindja area, Kabare territory, South Kivu province, ITSCI field teams visited a mine site where the presence of children was observed, leading to the recording of an incident. According to the schools' director, many students had left school to work in the mines. The involvement of children in mining was attributed to household poverty, a lack of awareness of the dangers and consequences of child labour, and school holidays. Such practices risk perpetuating cycles of vulnerability and illiteracy within mining communities.



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CLS/Nindja, Kabare territory, South Kivu province April 2025.
Discussion about child labour and the presence of children at mine sites.

The project team discussed this situation during CLS meetings in which participants agreed to increase number of awareness sessions in and around mine sites. Sessions focussed on highlighting the risks children face at mine sites, the right for every child to education, and the need to protect children from economic exploitation. In addition, two awareness sessions were carried out in neighbouring local schools, reaching 935 students and 27 teachers. According to the school directors, some children who had previously left school to work in mining reportedly returned to education.

Malaki Mubalama Venant, senior teacher and representative of the teaching staff shared:

"We strongly welcome this initiative. The close proximity of mining sites disorients many children and exposes them to a high risk of dropping out of school. Teachers play a vital role in safeguarding these children. It is therefore essential to extend these awareness-raising activities to neighbouring villages, where children, after school holidays, might not return to class because they are drawn to mining activities."

Posters and booklets were distributed to the schools, and the CLS decided to organise two awareness raising sessions in churches to reach the wider local community.



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June 2025, awareness raising in a school in Nindja area, Kabare territory, South Kivu Province.

Activity 2 & 3. OHS training and awareness-raising & OHS risk monitoring and mitigation

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) committees, set up as part of the project, play a key role in promoting safer artisanal mining by monitoring working conditions, identifying hazards and helping artisanal miners apply practical safety measures. Committee members - composed of mining cooperatives, local authorities, state services and security forces, negociants (local traders), and civil society groups - receive training on the DRC Mining Code, basic risk assessment and how to communicate safety concerns within their cooperatives and communities.

Their work has led to concrete improvements in the field. For example, in one area, an OHS committee identified a dangerous elevated water retention basin at a mine site. The committee helped ensure that technical recommendations were issued to stabilise the ground, secure the area and prevent potential flooding or collapse, demonstrating how local monitoring can directly reduce risks.



In 2025, despite the security situation and the relocation of the project activities, the project successfully delivered **74** OHS awareness-raising sessions **reaching more than 3,000 artisanal miners** in South Kivu and Maniema provinces.

This builds on the project's results in 2024, when over 100 OHS awareness-raising sessions were conducted, reaching nearly 3,200 artisanal miners.

The sustained reach in 2025 demonstrates the project's adaptability and continued commitment to promoting OHS practices in challenging operating conditions.

EXAMPLES OF RISKS IDENTIFIED BY THE OHS COMMITTEE AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE

Risk of drowning and landfall following the use of new retention basin.

Stabilisation of the neighbouring terrain to prevent erosion risks and landslides, building of a spillover and repairing any leaks immediately, installation of clear signalisation and barriers around the basin and sensitisation of miners and the local community about drowning risks.

Risk of rockfall.

Monitoring of the blocks and walls, and regularly clearing the unstable blocks and masses. Local state agents were made aware to follow up on these recommendations.



OHS awareness raising session in Atondo sub-sector, Pangi territory, Maniema province, October 2025

Activity 4. Support of women-owned businesses and awareness-raising on gender

A total of **22 awareness-raising sessions** were carried out in 2025, **reaching 1,796 beneficiaries**, including 902 women and 894 men.



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Awareness raising on gender in Chantier 12 sub-sector, Pangi territory, Maniema Province, November 2025

In Maniema province, ITSCI held participatory-based activities by exchanging with artisanal miners about the role of women. This method helped participants understand the prejudices women faced and reminded them of the provisions of the DRC Mining Code, which include women's right to work in mining, as well as obligations related to safety and non-discrimination. In Atondo mine, Pangi territory, women working in artisanal mining faced discriminatory practices rooted in local beliefs, of which the most widespread was the prohibition of women from crossing a drain within the mining site. This practice, considered taboo, limited their mobility and their equal participation in mining activities. After the awareness-sessions, one woman miner said:

“Before, they said that women should not cross the drain, otherwise production would decline. Today, we understand that this was just a belief, and today, men and women work together.”

The dialogue established between men and women promotes better mutual understanding and helps to create a more inclusive working environment.

At Chantier 12, a semi-industrial mine site in Pangi territory, women make up the majority of artisanal miners. Despite their contribution to mining activities, their active participation in the mining sector was neither valued nor understood, often confining them to secondary or precarious roles and facing discrimination as well as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

As part of the project's efforts to raise awareness on women's rights, their role and the risks associated with SGBV, ITSCI field teams organised several discussions with local miners, addressing topics such as equal opportunities, the dignity of women's work and their economic contribution. Two women from the community spoke about the impact of these sessions:

“Thank you ITSCI for thinking of us, because many men and even some women in the city have a negative view of our presence in the mine. These awareness-raising sessions help to clarify our role and our contribution to the local economy. We are beginning to feel valued, listened to and recognised.”

Activity 5. Research on disabilities in ASM

In 2025, the project continued its work to better understand the experiences of marginalised groups and people living with disabilities in the artisanal mining sector. After initial mixed-method research in 2024, the security situation required an adaptation of the approach, leading the team to conduct qualitative interviews first in Kabare (South Kivu) and later in Maniema after the project's relocation.

This flexible methodology allowed the project to continue documenting the challenges, barriers and needs of marginalised groups excluded from mining activities due to their disabilities. In total, **25 interviews were conducted**, 90% in Maniema and 10% in Kabare, complementing the data collected in other territories the previous year.

The findings highlight that people living with disabilities are active across many aspects of artisanal mining, including washing, sorting, monitoring, mineral extraction and small-scale trading. Many respondents had acquired disabilities as a result of mining accidents or illnesses, yet continued to work despite their disabilities due to the absence of alternative livelihoods.

Interviews consistently showed that these individuals face “double vulnerability”: reduced physical capacity and income, combined with social stigma, mockery or exclusion from fellow miners. Such testimonies underline the structural barriers that limit full participation and safety for people with disabilities.



Snapshot of activities for project implementation phase 2026–2028:

**subject to change based on local conditions and developments*



Capacity-building of multi-stakeholder committees

Strengthen multi-stakeholder committee (Comité Local de Suivi, CLS) capacities on the DRC Mining Code and introduce additional themes, including occupational health and safety (OHS), gender and discrimination.



Capacity-building of ITSCI field officers

Strengthen the skills of ITSCI Field Officers in OHS, gender and discrimination for them to raise awareness and provide practical training to local stakeholders in risk identification and mitigation measures.



Support the formalisation of two mining cooperatives

Deliver joint training sessions for two cooperatives, in collaboration with relevant state services, to facilitate peer learning and shared problem-solving. Specific objectives include increasing women participation in cooperative leadership, promoting inclusive policies for people living with disabilities, and supporting the functionality of OHS committees.



DRC Mining Code and OHS awareness-raising sessions

Conduct awareness-raising sessions on the DRC Mining Code and key OHS principles within mining communities and at mine sites, targeting artisanal miners, but also engaging other relevant stakeholders, including state services, negociants, and neighbouring communities.



OHS committees

Establish new OHS committees drawing members from state services, local authorities, mining cooperatives, civil society organisations, landowners, and communities neighbouring ITSCI-monitored sites. Once constituted, each committee will receive comprehensive training using existing modules. Training will combine (i) a theoretical introduction; (ii) first-aid training; and (iii) practical training at mine sites.



Inclusivity - gender and discriminations

Integrate gender equality and inclusivity topics in DRC Mining Code and OHS awareness-raising sessions, ensuring that gender and discrimination are represented in discussions. Sessions will cover women representation in the mining sector, risks related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), women's rights under national and international frameworks, gender prejudices, gender equality, women economic empowerment, women contributions to the sector, and principles of good governance. Topics will also address the rights of people living with disabilities, risks linked to discrimination and stigmatisation at mine sites, and the importance of inclusive practices within mining communities.

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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