



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



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Responsible Minerals Trade (RMT) Project

Creation and Monitoring of Conflict-Free Supply Chains



Miners working in a cassiterite artisanal mine in South Kivu. © Chiara Frisone/IOM

Overview

Following the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s suspension of artisanal mining in the eastern Congo in September 2010, various international, regional and national legislations on Responsible Minerals Trade (RMT) were enacted including the US Dodd Frank Act (July 2010), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict Affected and High-Risk Areas and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Regional Certification Mechanisms.

Since 2012, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through its USAID-funded RMT program has contributed to strengthen the capacity of the Government of the DRC to regulate its trade in the strategic minerals of tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold (3Ts+G) in pilot mining areas, and validated conflict-free mineral supply chains, including the setting-up of "Centres de Négoces" (CdNs, Trading counters).

RMT includes efforts to promote conflict-free Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) supply chains in eastern DRC in partnership with the National and Provincial Ministries of Mines and their technical services to promote improved economic governance, formal and regulatory frameworks, increased sustainable Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for mining companies operating in the DRC and alternative livelihoods. The RMT interventions reinforce the implementation of the Conflict Minerals Rule for Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank law and OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk areas by establishing conflict free supply chains that promote civilian control of the minerals sector and reinforce the protection of the vulnerable populations.



Miners working in an artisanal cassiterite mine in Birembo, South Kivu. © Chiara Frisone/IOM



A sack of cassiterite is weighed, sealed and recorded by a mining official in South Kivu. © Chiara Frisone/IOM

Partnerships

- Provided critical financial support to Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) for the creation of legal sales chains for tracked artisanal gold in Mambasa Orientale province through the Maison d'Achat Modele (MAM, -Model Trading House). This enabled the export of clean gold from the DRC to the gold refineries in Europe. The RMT also supported PAC to provide technical support to the ICGLR and its member states in the implementation of the ICGLR Regional Certification Mechanism, in full compliance with certification standards.
- Substantively backed the Public Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (RMT-PPA) housed at RESOLVE to coordinate international end users "companies under the PPA" importing minerals from the Great Lakes region of Africa and as result improved the end-users confidence in the pilot conflict-free mineral supply chains.
- In partnership with IPIS, supported the mapping activities of 900 artisanal sites and 64 points of sales in Maniema, Orientale, North and South Kivu Provinces thus developing the capacity of the GDRC Ministry of Mines to demonstrate credible certification and traceability.
- Backed the implementation of the Geo-Traceability alternative certification and traceability system of the 3T to complement the achievements of the International Tin Supply Chain Initiative (iTSCi).
- Support the Better Sourcing Program (BSP) to implement alternative traceability for the 3Ts in Rwanda and the creation of a national electronic mineral production data system for the Government of Rwanda; reform the mineral tracing system to increase transparency and accountability by building an alternative tracing scheme and develop a reporting platform that transmits real-time compliance regulation information.

Accomplishments

- Supported the DRC government multi-stakeholder validation of 310 artisanal mine sites of 3Ts+G as free from armed groups control, child labor, and illegal taxation. These sites contribute to the conflict free supply chains allowing global market to purchase minerals consistent to the Dodd-Frank Act and the OECD due diligence.



Nzibira "Point de Vente" (Point of Sale), South Kivu. © Chiara Frisone/IOM

- Monitoring, documenting and reporting on the minerals trafficking routes, ongoing security in and around the conflict-free pilot sites, illegal mining and fraud involving the armed groups and the non-controlled elements of the armed forces that significantly contribute to the militarization economy of artisanally-mined minerals in the eastern DRC.
- Supported the DRC government to reinforce civil administration of the artisanal mine sites through the construction and operationalization of the minerals' points of sales, including one for gold in Maniema Province, and seven others for 3Ts in the provinces of South and North Kivu thereby contributing to the creation of legal mining revenue both for the mining communities and the DRC government.



Miners at Birembo artisanal cassiterite mine, South Kivu. © Chiara Frisone/IOM

- Strengthened the capacity of the DRC government through training of mining agents and cooperatives on the OECD Due Diligence guidance for credible supply chains and export procedures for issuing ICGLR regional certificates.
- Supported negotiations and agreements between mining companies, title holders and cooperatives of artisanal miners leading to partnerships for mining and establishing traceable tantalum export supply chains in North and South Kivu.
- Supported local actors, with engagement of end-users and donors in reducing taxes, furthering the demilitarization of mine sites and reducing smuggling by armed groups.

For more information please contact:

Maxie Muwonge | Email: mmuwonge@iom.int | Tel: +243 810 790 632

Mohammed Cherif Diallo | Email: mcdiallo@iom.int | Tel: +243 810 916 025

Emmanuel Ngueyanouba | Email: engueyanouba@iom.int | Tel: +243 811 775 930

