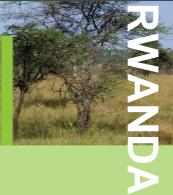




STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Empowering women in the Rwandan mining industry



Many women are involved in the mining sector in Rwanda, and active in a historically male-dominated industry. The Rwandan government actively encourages women to study science and engineering and established regulatory and policy instruments to promote gender mainstreaming in the mining sector.

Yvonne Uwimana, a mining engineer, makes a good illustration. After finishing high school, Yvonne studied at the Polytechnic Regional College where she combined studies with internships in mining companies where she learned the importance of due diligence in mineral supply chains. Today, Yvonne works for an ITSCI member company in the Rukoma sector of Kamonyi district.

Yvonne focuses on ensuring compliance with the OECD due diligence including risk assessment and mitigation at the mine site.

Addressing the stereotypes and the importance of encouraging more women in the sector, Yvonne stated: "People are often surprised when they see me working as a mining engineer, but I believe anything a man can do, a woman can do it." Her ongoing advocacy for more gender balance led the company to hire more women, including



an accountant, transporters and crushers, making up about 40% of the workforce.

Yvonne has experienced firsthand how impactful a career in mining can be for the community. In three years, Yvonne has supported herself financially, paid school fees for her siblings, and bought land. She says, 'women feared to work in mining because of some misconceptions, prejudices and stereotypes. But thanks



I am grateful for ITSCI's role in promoting responsible mineral supply chain that fights corruption and promotes human rights. ""

Yvonne Uwimana, mining engineer in Rwanda

to the ITSCI Programme and the Rwandan government efforts, I have a place where I can practice safely and earn a decent income.'

ITSCI continues to encourage actions that enable environment for women to assert their rights in the mining sector across the Great Lakes region.

ITSCI Programme Supporting responsible mineral production

ITSCI was developed and is managed by the global not-for-profit tin and tantalum industry associations ITA and T.I.C. as an inclusive, sustainable, multi-stakeholder programme. We assist all actors in implementing due diligence to create responsible 3T mineral supply chains and benefit from trade, even from high risk areas and our standards are 100% aligned with the OECD guidance. ITSCI has a track record of global co-operation and achievement contributing to capacity building, better governance, human rights and stability through monitoring more than 2000 mine sites in Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, and protecting the livelihood of tens of thousands of miners plus their communities. The field activities of ITSCI are implemented through Pact Inc. See more news and information on http://itsci.org