

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.