

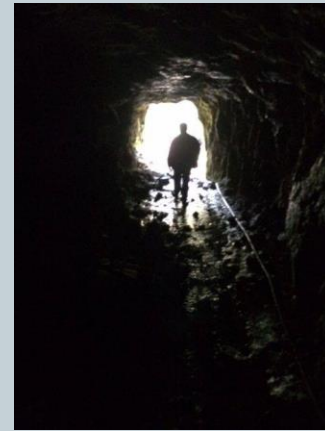
# Understanding Gendered Dimensions of Due Diligence Programming in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo



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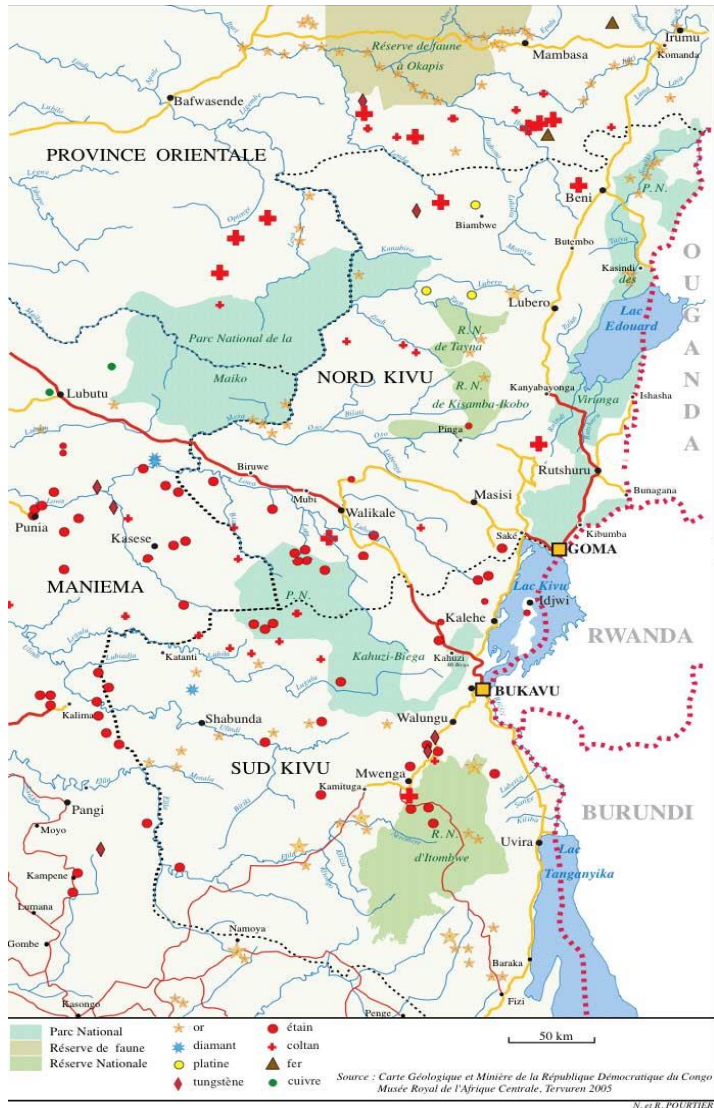








# Profile of Mining in Eastern DRC



- 800 mine sites (most unregistered)
- Conflict-affected environment
- Gold, cassiterite, columbo-tantalite, wolframite, precious gemstones
- Upwards of between 400,000 – 550,000 persons directly engaged in ASM activities



# Women in Artisanal Mining





# History of Due Diligence (DD) Efforts

- In the 2000s, advocacy groups lobbied to ensure mineral supply chain profits did not fund armed groups or exacerbate human rights abuses
- Companies started implementing programs that certify mines as “conflict-free” and trace minerals along the supply chain, otherwise known as *due diligence mechanisms*
- The primary due diligence mechanism in eastern DRC is the ITRI Tin Supply Chain Initiative (ITSCI), which scaled up across four provinces in 2014

# So – how to embrace this complexity while giving the research a theoretical grounding?

A rights-based approach ensures the research draws on universal standards of human protection:

- (i) Identify the key gender dimensions of DD programs in ASM
- (ii) Identify methodologies of resilience or positive coping in communities;
- (iii) Inform DD interventions to improve human protection in these areas

A mixed-methods design allows the research to be context-specific, culturally relevant, and sensitive to unexpected or emerging issues



# Methods

- Used qualitative work to understand the nature and dynamics of abuses in mining towns and the current reality of DD programming for both women and men (completed in April 2019)
- Will follow up with quantitative survey to examine the scope of these issues (Winter 2019)

## Phase I: Qualitative

- Key informant interviews with healthcare providers, community leaders, women's leaders
- Focus groups with miners and women in mining support roles

## Phase II: Quantitative Survey

- Population-based survey to be done in South & North Kivu
- Equal sample of women and men
- Innovative digital data collection
- Ability to quantitatively compare human rights outcomes in Due Diligence versus non-Due Diligence sites



# Qualitative Results – Due Diligence Programming

- Workers in due diligence mines state that they appreciate the stability brought by the program
- However, they still face intermittent harassment and exploitation from armed groups present in their area
- Feelings of being burdened by required documentation and fees, and note that they do not receive enough of the tags used to trace the minerals
- Labor exploitation is one of the primary forms of abuse in the mines, still difficult to report



# Qualitative Results – Due Diligence Programming

- Women disenfranchised by the ISTCI process, and may be intentionally and unintentionally overlooked or excluded from processes related to due diligence programming
- Threats from armed groups when they travel to and from certain mining sites
- There is clear gender discrimination in the mines, with women occupying lower-paying support roles. This further exacerbates women's financial insecurity
- Women face multiple forms of sexual violence and sexual exploitation as a result of working in mining sites
- Women may have to engage in transactional sex to access work or to make enough money to feed themselves and their children

# Qualitative Results – Due Diligence Programming

- Don't feel able to report sexual violence /sexual exploitation to traditional authorities.
- Inappropriate reporting mechanisms
- However, there is a model in certain sites where women have a trusted female focal point. This approach is showing great promise for elevating women's issues and increasing reporting of highly sensitive issues
- Despite challenges, women have found creative grass-roots ways to support each other in these contexts:
  - Rotating savings and loans groups
  - Self-organizing into associations
  - Sharing the burden of child care;
  - Banding together to protect individuals targeted for harassment.



# Summary

- Women disenfranchised by the ISTCI process
- Exacerbates profound gaps in equity and agency that already exist in these areas
- Yet, women have found multiple creative avenues to support themselves and each other in these difficult contexts
- Opportunity for due diligence programs to strengthen these grassroots efforts and to prioritize the inclusion of women in future programming.



# Next Steps

- Communication of findings to relevant stakeholders and consultations on how to make DD programming more effective and inclusive
  - Improve women's engagement in DD sites
  - Leverage women's focal points
  - Strengthen existing women's grassroots approaches
- Quantitative survey leveraging knowledge gained during qualitative phase
- Direct comparison of economic, social and human rights outcomes in Due Diligence versus non-Due Diligence sites



# Thank you and Questions?



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