

CONGO'S MINING SLAVES

Enslavement at South Kivu Mining Sites



Mining is a key source of export income for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC or Congo). Minerals such as tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold are shipped to industrialized nations for use in electronics, jewelry manufacturing and many other industries. Congo's mineral resources have the potential to help the nation's economy expand and diversify. But at present, many Congolese people in mining zones toil in conditions of slavery, and much of the profit from mining benefits groups engaged in armed conflict.

This Free the Slaves field investigation was conducted to document the types, nature and scale of slavery at major mining sites in South Kivu province; to analyze the characteristics that cause Congolese workers to be vulnerable to enslavement; and to recommend solutions. The survey team findings are valuable information for a wide variety of actors working to improve the status of human rights in eastern DRC, including those focused on human trafficking, "conflict minerals," child rights, gender-based violence and rural poverty.

KEY FINDINGS

866 cases of slavery discovered

Scope of Slavery: 866 individuals were confirmed to be in various forms of slavery in three mining communities, out of 931 individuals interviewed by researchers

7 types of slavery identified

Types of Slavery: 7 types of slavery were identified: forced labor, forced prostitution, debt slavery, worst forms of child labor, peonage, forced marriage, sexual slavery

23% of slaves interviewed were children

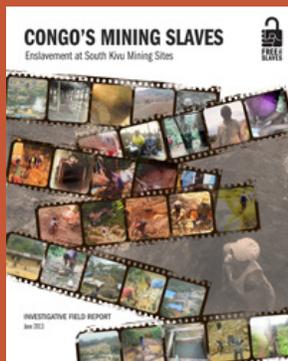
Child Slavery: 23 percent of those in slavery were under 18 years of age

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **DRC Government:** Enforce Congo's anti-slavery laws; demilitarize mining sites; provide universal free primary schooling; develop social protection procedures to ensure safety of people in mining zones
- **U.S. Government:** Enforce Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act and the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) conflict minerals disclosure rule; exert diplomatic influence with DRC government
- **U.N. Peacekeeping Operation in Congo (MONUSCO):** Deploy peacekeepers at pilot sites for conflict-free mineral trading; prioritize monitoring and reporting of slavery in U.N Human Rights and Child Protection sections
- **Civil Society, Donor Governments, Aid Organizations:** Support rights-based community development efforts, mineworker associations and alternative livelihood projects; incorporate slavery eradication into the design of humanitarian assistance programs
- **Multinational Corporations:** Map product supply chains for slavery-tainted raw materials, and disclose findings; fund DRC community development efforts to reduce residents' vulnerability to slavery
- **Consumers and Investors:** Hold businesses and governments accountable for taking action

This report exposes that widespread slavery exists at major mining sites. The South Kivu research builds on a 2011 Free the Slaves investigation in Congo's North Kivu province that produced similar findings: The Congo Report: Slavery in Conflict Minerals. Free the Slaves has begun implementation of community-based interventions in North Kivu province, and recommends that similar interventions be implemented to benefit residents of South Kivu province, as well.

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Read the full June 2013
Investigative Field Report here:
www.freetheslaves.net/congo