

Monthly Security and Human Rights Meetings - DRC¹

Since 2012, monthly security meetings have been held in Lubumbashi to discuss challenges and share good practices around extractive operations in the province of Katanga, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Initially, meetings have been coordinated by the NGO Pact Congo and the company Tenke Fungurume Mining (TFM). Participation in the meeting is open to all extractive companies working in the area, regardless of their VPs status, as well as local public institutions, public security forces, private security companies, human rights NGOs and the United Nations Organization Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). This open approach has promoted the implementation of VPs good practices beyond formal members of the initiative.

Each meeting focuses on one or more concrete challenges (e.g. impact of mining on the environment, legal obligations of companies when contracting private security services, vetting requirements, correct procedures for use of non-lethal defensive equipment). The meetings also provide the opportunity for participants to share updates on any security incidents around extractive operations in the region.

These meetings are conducted in a manner that allows for open and ongoing exchanges among participants, facilitating the sharing of information between companies, public authorities and civil society organisations. Efforts are underway to systematise the follow up of recommendations made during these sessions and assess how these have had an impact. The monthly VPs meetings in Lubumbashi provide a framework that facilitates multi-stakeholder collaboration to address local challenges.

1. This case study has been written by DCAF in collaboration with TFM, in the framework of the DCAF-ICRC project 'Addressing Security and Human Rights Challenges in Complex Environments'. See: <http://www.securityhumanrightshub.com/>