Improving Field Implementation of the Voluntary Principles for Security and Human Rights in South Kivu - DRC

Natural Resources, Security and Human Rights:

South Kivu is a province in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) holding large natural resource deposits. While initiatives to improve responsible management of mineral supply chains have been set up, efforts targeting security and human rights issues are still lacking. Challenges are manifold and range from the presence of armed groups on mining sites to risks posed by under-capacitated elements of the security forces. All of these security challenges lead to severe violations of human rights, disruptions within the mineral supply chain and a lack of confidence in the sector, notably the ability to responsibly source minerals from the DRC.

The Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) together with its Congolese partner organisation Observatoire de la Gouvernance et Paix (OGP) identified the need to support the implementation of the Voluntary Principles of Security and Human Rights (VPs) in DRC to foster good security practices in the extractive sector.

The Project:

Thanks to the Security and Human Rights Implementation Mechanism (SHRIM), a two-year project to promote field implementation of the VPs in South Kivu was launched with the following three objectives:

Build trust in multistakeholder working settings to increase collaboration between private sector, civil society organisations security forces and other public authorities. Through the set-up of a VPs Working Group, security and human rights risks in the extractive sector are jointly identified and addressed.

Offer lessons learnt and good practices by documenting the experience of the Working Group in South Kivu. Case studies demonstrate how multistakeholder platforms work to effectively improve security practices.

Strengthen the Mining Police's capacity to respond to security and human rights related issues through the development and roll out of a human rights training curriculum. Use the Working Group as a platform to monitor the impact of the training on security practices by the Mining Police around mining sites.

Current Status:

Since October 2018, the WG has already established a regular monthly meeting rhythm. Moreover, task forces have been assigned to conduct field visits outside of ordinary reunions to monitor security and human rights risks on the ground and report back to the WG. Their risk assessment and prevention strategies draw from the three-day capacity-building workshop that DCAF organized in Bukavu which contributed to an improved knowledge of how to overcome security and human rights challenges through a joint collaboration of actors.

"During these three days, I have learnt about strategies to identify, prevent and respond to risks. In addition, the role and importance of the VPs for the development of the mining sector in terms of security and human rights. The applied methodology was great."

Private Sector Workshop
Participant

To guarantee the group's continuous learning on the VPs, DCAF has supported the WG's monthly discussions with technical advice based on the current needs identified by the WG. Moreover, fostering regular outreach to the Kinshasa and Lubumbashi-based WGs as well as creating linkages to existing initiatives on responsible supply chain management have been a priority so as to reinforce the effectiveness of existing efforts on the ground.

The SHRIM - Enabling Multistakeholder Action:

This project was enabled through the contribution of the Dutch Embassy in DRC to the Security and Human Rights Implementation Mechanism (SHRIM). The objective of the SHRIM is to channel donor funding to support coherent, targeted and cost-effective security, development and human rights programming in fragile contexts.
To learn more about the different projects that have been funded through the SHRIM so far, **explore the Knowledge Hub.**

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