

Vulnerability of Artisanal Diamond Miners in Guinea: Mapping and Remediation Needs.

Case studies in Macenta, Kérouané and Forécariah

Executive summary



AMINES & CECIDE

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Grassroots research on local diamond mining impact



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Executive Summary

This study entitled "The vulnerability of diamond artisanal miners in Guinea: mapping and remediation needs. Case studies in Macenta, Kérouané and Forécariah" is the work of the NGOs *Action Mines* and *CECIDE* with technical and financial support from the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition. This study was implemented in three artisanal diamond mining prefectures: Kérouané, Macenta and Forécariah. The study has a dual purpose. On the one hand, it aims to map artisanal mining sites with a focus on the vulnerability of artisanal miners on mining sites. On the other hand, it advocates the Government of Guinea to take into account the vulnerability of miners in order to take appropriate measures to ensure better living conditions for the miners. To achieve these objectives, the study used a mixed methodological approach. Individual and group interviews were conducted in 38 mining sites with 45 key informants from decentralised and deconcentrated authorities, socio-professional associations, local leaders, security forces and artisanal miners.

The **study highlights** that miners use very rudimentary tools and have little personal protective equipment such as boots, gloves or helmets. Furthermore, interviews reveal that the income of the miners does not allow them to cover their basic needs. Indeed, the study points out the absence of income-generating activities in artisanal diamond mining areas. Several factors explain this situation, mainly: 1) a lack of organisation of the artisans and of supervision on mining sites which facilitate a better coordination; and 2) very poor access to information, which does not favour the identification of promising economic niches, costs, risks and benefits, financing possibilities and techniques as well as the know-how to improve the mining sites' productivity. This situation restricts artisanal miners to accepting repetitive mining tasks and minor agricultural activities, inevitably preventing them from seeking income-generating activities in other sectors.

At the end of the study, we make the following **recommendations** to national and local authorities to ensure that the concerns of artisanal diamond miners are effectively taken into account in the development of regulatory texts, in order to reduce their vulnerabilities while guaranteeing them a safe and beneficial working environment

1. Vulnerability related to income-generating activities;

Since women are mainly affected by this vulnerability, we recommend the development of income-generating activities to support them financially and technically in the implementation of agricultural activities, vegetable gardening, etc. This could ensure an improvement in women's living conditions.

2. Vulnerability related to working equipment;

Conducting inclusive awareness raising and training activities to enable supply chain actors to better understand the challenges of diamond production. These activities will also bring together all those involved in artisanal diamond mining to improve the equipment of workers on site and to prevent the risks and consequences of the absence of safety equipment. Civil society and professional organisations can be supportive of such actions.

3. Vulnerability related to social risks;

Health and hygiene measures are less respected on the sites, child labour is visible in many places and social connections are almost non-existent. It would therefore be important to set up trainings to raise awareness of health issues (diseases, drug use, etc.) in full collaboration with the existing health structures in these localities.

4. Vulnerability related to salaries;

Advocacy activities through the public and private media, community and rural radio stations targeting managers and all other actors in the diamond industry to improve the living conditions of workers and diggers, as well as women who transport gravel, pull ropes and wash the minerals.



ACTION MINES GUINEA (AMINES) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation whose objective is to participate in the monitoring of the management of the extractive industries. It was created in December 2012. AMINES' main goal is to promote good governance of the extractive sector in Guinea, by calling on actors on the need for transparency in the management of resources from the sector.

The work of AMINES revolves around four (4) main objectives: (i) promote transparency in the extractive industries in Guinea, (ii) work for the promotion and protection of the rights of communities living in mining areas of Guinea, (iii) work for the professionalisation of information processing in the field of extractive industries, (iv) work for the protection of the environment in areas impacted by mining activities. With ten (10) years of experience, AMINES is a member of several African and global civil society coalitions on transparency and accountability issues in the mining sector, including Publish What You Pay (PWYP), ACCA, Civil Society Coalition on the Kimberley Process, Tax Justice Network etc.).



CECIDE is a Guinean civil society organisation created in October 2000, to respond to the challenges of promoting and protecting the socio-economic and cultural rights of citizens, alongside political and civil rights, as well as their lack of recognition by the latter. These challenges are nowadays not only of concern to the community of states but also to civil society actors.

CECIDE brings together actors engaged in reflection and militant action on development issues (good governance, international trade, human rights, etc.), directly related to the rights and needs of the population at the grassroots level (associations and federations of agricultural producers, artisans, mining communities, local elected officials, women's and youth organisations, representatives of the local and national administration and the private sector), the target publics on which its missions are based. They participate in the identification and design of the NGO's activities by making useful information available, as well as in their implementation and monitoring-evaluation.

Context: This report is part of a larger pan-African research project called *Grassroots research on local diamond mining impact* which was run in eight African countries by ten African member organisations from the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition.

The eight country reports intend to study some of the impacts of artisanal and small-scale diamond mining in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory-Coast, the Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe and the impact of industrial diamond mining in Lesotho.

The full version of the reports can be read and downloaded on <https://www.kpcivilsociety.org/publications/publications-from-the-coalition/grassroots-research-on-local-diamond-mining-impact/>



This study was conducted with the guidance and technical support of the Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition (KP CSC). The KP CSC is the umbrella organization that acts as an observer to the Kimberley Process (KP) on behalf of civil society. Most of the coalition's members are based in Africa, the world's largest diamond producing continent. Representing communities affected by diamond mining and trade, members work to improve the governance of the diamond sector in their home countries. The coalition's local and regional expertise allows us to monitor responsible diamond sourcing on the ground and to articulate a citizen's perspective on the diamond sector in national, regional and international forums. The Coalition includes representatives from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Guinea, Ivory-Coast, Liberia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Belgium.



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