

Labour in the construction sector and its supply chain(s) - The socioeconomic impact of handmade urbanism

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The background features several sets of curved lines in the top-left and bottom-right corners. Each set consists of multiple parallel lines, with some being solid and others being dashed, creating a sense of motion or a stylized frame.

Agenda

- **Research gaps & questions**
- **Research design**
- **Study area**
- **Data collection strategies**
- **Data collection tools and timeline**
- **Data analysis strategies**

Research gaps

- Construction Materials (CM) belongs in the category of Development minerals (DM)
 - ✓ informal sector, absence of regulation
 - ✓ Local uses and short value chain length
- Tensions in literature:
 - ✓ Positive linkages and job creation
 - ✓ Adverse outcomes, including OHS, working conditions, etc.
- DW perspective a coherent framework to identify aspects of informality to be addressed (ILO)
 - ✓ Rare studies on DW in construction sector (Ferreira et al., 2019)

Research gaps (end)

- Studies focus more on the downstream of CS: few on the upstream (i.e. construction materials)
- Existing empirical on (DW in) CS are more descriptive: lack of mechanisms and rationales
- High amount of studies on high-value minerals (GVC/GPN): few on CM (LVC)
- DW approach lacks of theoretical background to understand capital-labour relationship and how employment relations in the labour market and workplace influence DW outcomes

Research question

- How are employment relations in the construction materials value chain in the DRC?
 - ✓ *How is labour agency in the CMVC?*
 - ✓ *To what extent jobs are decent?*
 - ✓ *What workers bargain for and how?*
 - ✓ *How workers navigage working conditions issues?*



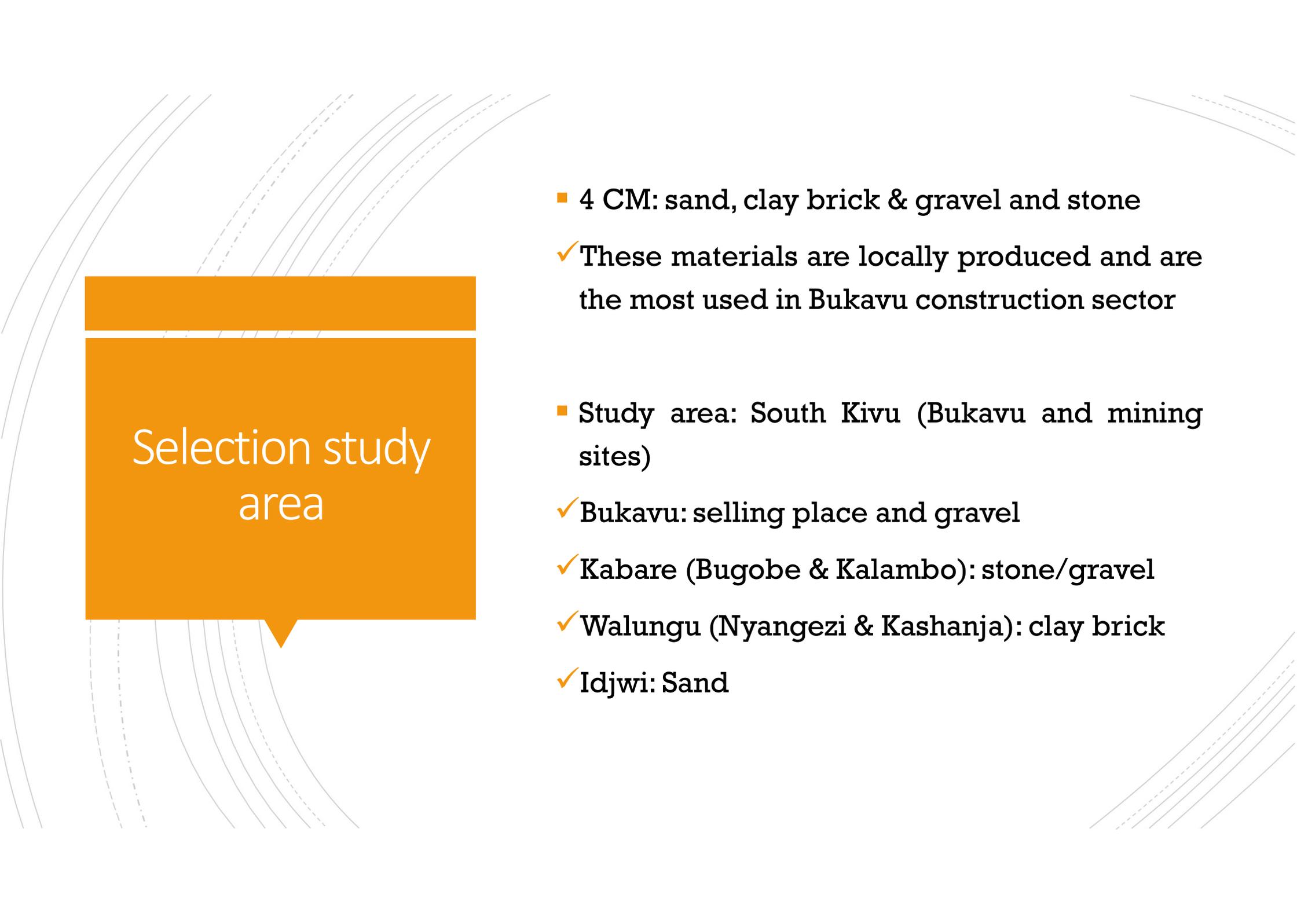
Intended Knowledge claim

- Informal urbanization – Informal institution
- ✓ Understanding the complexity and practices in this process
- ✓ Highlight the pro & cons of development mineral “rush” (cf. HVM – “local” modern capitalism?)

- Behaviour – choice – Agency – Institution(s) – Structure(s)
- ✓ Legitimation – grassroot “solutions”

Research Design

- Epistemology stance: post-positivism
- Explonatory sequential mixed-methods:
 - ✓ Qualitative design: nature of employment relations (actors agency, workers understanding of DW)
 - ✓ Quantitative design: analyze the extent of DW (DW practices / deficit, workers vulnerabilities, linkages DW and employment relations practices)
- Qualitative insights to design survey questionnaire (quantitative insights)



Selection study area

- 4 CM: sand, clay brick & gravel and stone
- ✓ These materials are locally produced and are the most used in Bukavu construction sector
- Study area: South Kivu (Bukavu and mining sites)
 - ✓ Bukavu: selling place and gravel
 - ✓ Kabare (Bugobe & Kalambo): stone/gravel
 - ✓ Walungu (Nyangezi & Kashanja): clay brick
 - ✓ Idjwi: Sand

Case(s)



**Bukavu + surroundings places
(where CM are mined)**



**(Informal) workers & investors
(Public authorities) in
construction sector**

Data collection strategies

- Value chain perspective i.e. data collected from different actors to ensure representativity
- ✓ Extraction – Processing – Production – Transport – End marketplace
- Sampling techniques: snowball and purposive sampling
- Sampling size:
 - ✓ Qualitative: semantic saturation
 - ✓ Quantitative: [300 – 400] participants; i.e +/- 60 participants per site
- Participant categories: workers, (self)employers & public authorities

Data collection tools and timeline

- Three phases of data collection:
 1. Qualitative data collected (done in March-May 2023): Actors & organization of the CM supply chains
 - ✓ Semi-structured interview & focus group discussions
 2. Qualitative data (April-May 2025): employment relations and bargaining process
 - ✓ Semi-structured interview & focus group discussions
 3. Quantitative data (June-July 2025): DW & workers vulnerabilities
 - ✓ HIVA DW questionnaire:
 - ✓ PDWQ (to develop): workers' valuation of DW

- Choice experiment survey design: compare alternatives using a small set of DW attributes

Data analysis strategies

- Question 1:
 - ✓ Thematic analysis
 - ✓ Ergocentric network analysis: map the value chains (*cf. Marovoet et al., 2024*)
- Question 2:
 - ✓ PCA: individual and global level of DW – DW deficit
 - ✓ Thematic analysis
 - ✓ Econometric analysis: how different factors explains the DW deficit

Data analysis strategies (end)

- Question 3:
 - ✓ Thematic analysis:
 - ✓ Simulation game: bargaining process
 - ✓ Econometric analysis
- Question 4:
 - ✓ **Complex Adaptive System analysis:**
 - ✓ Thematic analysis
 - ✓ Econometric analysis: linking employment relations outcomes to DW outcomes

Thanks!