

THE WAY THAT MINERALS ARE MINED AFFECTS CONFLICT IN EASTERN CONGO

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Abstract

There is strong evidence that mining activities fuel local conflict. But existing research makes no distinction on how the two main types of mineral extraction – artisanal and industrial mining – affect conflict. Our research shows that the mode of mineral extraction, as well as their interaction, have very different implications for local conflict in Eastern DR Congo. Rising mineral prices increase battles over artisanal mines, indicating competition between armed groups. This effect is much less pronounced for industrial mining. Moreover, the expansion of industrial mining decreases battles, suggesting that companies can secure their concessions. Such expansion does, however, trigger riots, and, when it crowds out artisanal mining, also increases violence against civilians and looting. Our findings highlight the importance of improving security at artisanal mining sites. In addition, we argue that any policy to expand industrial mining should incorporate measures that protect the livelihoods of local mining communities.



Keywords

1. Natural resources
2. Artisanal mining
3. Industrial mining
4. Conflict
5. Democratic Republic of Congo

Output so far

- [“Artisanal or Industrial Conflict Minerals? Evidence from Eastern Congo”](#). *HiCN Working Paper 308*, 2019.
- [“Artisanal or Industrial Conflict Minerals?”](#) *IOB Policy Brief 39*, 2019.
- [“The way that minerals are mined affects conflict in eastern Congo”](#). *The Conversation*, 2019.
- [“Artisanal or Industrial Conflict Minerals? Evidence from Eastern Congo”](#). *World Development*, 2019.
- [“Van mijnen in Oost-Congo naar technologie in je smartphone.”](#) *Video for the University of Antwerp’s Kinderuniversiteit. Science communication to children aged 8-12*, 2021.
- [“Essays in development economics : case studies from Benin and the DRC”](#). *PhD thesis Nik Stoop*, 2017.

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