



Associated Sectors (Construction, Domestic Work and Sex Trafficking)

Related Commodity Reports

- Extractives
- Forestry

How do Key Export Sectors Contribute to Trafficking Vulnerability in Associated Sectors?

Sex Trafficking

Extractive activities, whether large-scale commercial mines or artisanal mining activities can draw in a large influx of primarily male workers – often living in remote locations away from their support networks. These dynamics can also play out in fishing ports or isolated forestry operations. Mining camps and communities may spring up quickly and lack infrastructure and robust rule of law. These conditions can incentivize and enable sex trafficking around mining operations. Risk may be particularly high around illegal mining operations, given that the parties that control the mines may already be operating with impunity. Once victims are in remote mining communities, the isolation can make accessing services or assistance difficult.

According to the U.S. Department of State, women and girls are trafficked around oil producing regions in Equatorial Guinea “where burgeoning construction and economic activity funded by oil wealth have contributed to increases in the demand for...prostitution.”¹ In Ghana, “sex trafficking...is growing in the oil-producing Western Region.”² There was reportedly sex trafficking of minors associated with construction of the Cameroon/Chad oil pipeline.³ There are some reports that women migrating from oil producing regions in Nigeria are vulnerable to sex trafficking within the country as well as to Europe.⁴

Some gold mining operations in sub-Saharan Africa have been associated with sex trafficking and child prostitution. Large mining areas bringing together transitory



populations are particularly conducive to sexual exploitation.⁵ In Ghana, girls who are as young as 10 are trafficked to mining camps.⁶ In Mali, over 12 percent of sex workers in mining towns were between the ages of 15 and 19, and a majority were foreign workers from Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire.⁷ Child prostitution and child sex trafficking has been noted anecdotally around mining camps in Mali.⁸ Porous regional borders allow for regional trafficking to occur.⁹ The gold rush in Senegal is increasing demand for sex workers for miners who may believe that paying for sex will increase their chances of finding gold.¹⁰ Women from Nigeria are reportedly promised work in Europe and then are left in Kedougou, Senegal's gold mining region.¹¹ They are stripped of their documents and often owe traffickers up to 4,900 USD.¹² In Tanzania, there is evidence that girls are forced into commercial sexual exploitation in mining areas.¹³ Women were reportedly coerced into sex with local police officers and security guards at the mines.¹⁴ In Angola, Congolese migrants, including children, are reportedly trafficked for sex work around diamond mines.¹⁵

Commercial sex work and high rates of HIV/AIDs have also been noted in fishing ports in Africa, including in Namibia. While there is no specific evidence that these sex workers are victims of trafficking, media coverage has noted the presence of transnational migrants.

Domestic Work

In mining and logging camps in remote areas, high numbers of migrant (whether domestic or international) workers and managers may drive demand for domestic services such as cooking and cleaning. Indigenous people displaced from forestry concessions have been documented in the domestic service sector,¹⁶ a sector that is at high risk for trafficking and exploitation. The risks for trafficking can be compounded when indigenous people lose access to traditional livelihoods due to environmental destruction associated with mining or logging.

Rapid development associated with extractive sectors, particularly oil and gas mining, can draw a large expat population to urban areas of the country, which may also act as a pull factor for domestic workers.

Construction

Large scale logging and extractive industries can require heavy infrastructure investment, particularly around road construction.¹⁷



Booming oil and gas expansion can draw in migrants to work in support ancillary services as well, which can be particularly risky when there is a need for an influx of labor quickly. The oil and gas sector requires significant infrastructure development so construction sectors may boom in conjunction with oil and gas. For example, there are some reports that sub-contractors from the oil and gas sector and related construction industry confiscated workers' passports in Equatorial Guinea.¹⁸ During construction of the Cameroon/Chad pipeline, transnational migrants worked on construction, and labor rights concerns documented included restricted freedom of association, wage complaints, and hazardous work and living conditions.^{19,20} In Angola, foreign workers are reportedly subject to forced labor in the construction sector. While no ties with the oil and gas sector have been made explicitly, given the centrality of the sector to the Angolan economy, a corollary relationship seems likely. These workers may experience passport retention, threats, and confinement. The U.S. Department of State specifically notes the exploitation and deception of Chinese workers working on large construction contracts.²¹ The report notes that some Chinese women may also be recruited by construction companies, but are instead forced into prostitution around compounds.²² Research in Ghana found that in the construction sites supporting the oil and gas sector, some workers, including migrant workers, were hired through third-party labor contractors. Other studies have found that many of these workers are likely rural to urban migrants; they may be seeking better paying jobs in the oil and gas sector. Instead the jobs available tend to be low-paid, low-skilled casual jobs in the construction sector.²³

External Resources for Good Practice

- International Labour Organization. *Ensuring protection and rights for domestic workers in Africa*. http://www.ilo.org/addisababa/media-centre/pr/WCMS_459465/lang--en/index.htm
- International Labour Organization. *Sourcebook on Implementing Labour Standards in Construction*. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/--emp_policy/---invest/documents/publication/wcms_asist_8268.pdf
- BSR. *Addressing Workers' Rights in the Engineering and Construction Sector*. https://www.bsr.org/reports/BSR_Addresssing_Workers_Rights_Engineering_Construction_Sectors.pdf
- UNEP Finance Initiative. *Human Rights Guidance Tool: Infrastructure*. <http://www.unepfi.org/humanrightstoolkit/infrastructure.php>



- Oxfam Australia. *Women, communities and mining: The gender impacts of mining and the role of gender impact assessment.* http://oecdwatch.org/publications-en/Publication_3287/at_download/fullfile
- The World Bank Group. *Strategies for Mainstreaming Gender in the Extractives Industries.* https://olc.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/WB_Nairobi_last.pdf
- The World Bank Group. *Extracting lessons on gender in the oil and gas sector.* <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/266311468161347063/Extracting-lessons-on-gender-in-the-oil-and-gas-sector>
- The World Bank Group. *Gender Dimensions of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining. A Rapid Assessment Toolkit.* https://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEXTINDWOM/Resources/Gender_and_ASM_Toolkit.pdf
- International Labour Organization. *Information Guide for Zimbabwe Migrant Domestic Workers in South Africa.* http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_502772/lang--en/index.htm
- International Labour Organization. *Information for Domestic Workers in Zimbabwe.* http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_504176/lang--en/index.htm



Gift of the United States Government

This report was funded by a grant from the United States Department of State. The opinions, findings and conclusions stated herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of State.



Endnotes

- ¹ U.S. Department of State. *2016 Trafficking in Persons Report*. 2016. <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258876.pdf>.
- ² U.S. Department of State. *2016 Trafficking in Persons Report*. 2016. <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258876.pdf>.
- ³ Kaiser Health News. "Conditions Along Oil Pipeline Construction Route in Cameroon, Chad Ideal for HIV Spread, Health Experts Say." June 18, 2003. <http://khn.org/morning-breakout/dr00018333/>.
- ⁴ European Asylum Support Office. *EASO Country of Origin Information Report: Nigeria-Sex Trafficking of women*. October 2015. <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5631cf0a4.pdf>.
- ⁵ Human Rights Watch (HRW). *A Poisonous Mix: Child Labor, Mercury, and Artisanal Gold Mining In Mali*. December 6, 2011. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2011/12/06/poisonous-mix/child-labor-mercury-and-artisanal-gold-mining-mali>.
- ⁶ Gillmore, Christy. *Free The Slaves*. "New FTS Research Explores Child Slavery in Ghana Gold Mining." September 4, 2013. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170330110114-5j2sz>.
- ⁷ Human Rights Watch. *A Poisonous Mix: Child Labor, Mercury, and Artisanal Gold Mining In Mali*. December 6, 2011. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2011/12/06/poisonous-mix/child-labor-mercury-and-artisanal-gold-mining-mali>.
- ⁸ Human Rights Watch (HRW). *A Poisonous Mix: Child Labor, Mercury, and Artisanal Gold Mining In Mali*. December 6, 2011. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2011/12/06/poisonous-mix/child-labor-mercury-and-artisanal-gold-mining-mali>.
- ⁹ Gillmore, Christy. *Free The Slaves*. "New FTS Research Explores Child Slavery in Ghana Gold Mining." September 4, 2013. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170330110114-5j2sz>.
- ¹⁰ Gillmore, Christy. *Free The Slaves*. "New FTS Research Explores Child Slavery in Ghana Gold Mining." September 4, 2013. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170330110114-5j2sz>.
- ¹¹ Gillmore, Christy. *Free The Slaves*. "New FTS Research Explores Child Slavery in Ghana Gold Mining." September 4, 2013. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170330110114-5j2sz>.
- ¹² Gillmore, Christy. *Free The Slaves*. "New FTS Research Explores Child Slavery in Ghana Gold Mining." September 4, 2013. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170330110114-5j2sz>.
- ¹³ Human Rights Watch (HRW). "Tanzania: Hazardous Life of Child Gold Miners." August 28, 2015. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/08/28/tanzania-hazardous-life-child-gold-miners>.
- ¹⁴ York, Geoffrey. *The Globe and Mail*. "Claims of sexual abuse in Tanzania blow to Barrick Gold." May 30, 2011. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/claims-of-sexual-abuses-in-tanzania-blow-to-barrick-gold/article598557/>.
- ¹⁵ U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 2017. <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271339.pdf>.
- ¹⁶ Kouaghe, Kosiane. "Forced from their forests, Cameroon's female pygmies bear brunt of alcohol abuse." Reuters. May 17, 2017. <http://af.reuters.com/article/africaTech/idAFKCN18D1NP-OZATP>.
- ¹⁷ Butler, Rhett. "Deforestation in the Congo Basin." Mongabay News. January 23, 2016. http://rainforests.mongabay.com/congo/deforestation.html#_VZ6tC_IViko.
- ¹⁸ U.S. Department of State. *Equatorial Guinea*. <https://www.state.gov/p/af/ci/ek/>.
- ¹⁹ Brown, Paul. "Chad oil pipeline under attack for harming the poor." *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media. September 26, 2002. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2002/sep/27/internationalnews>.
- ²⁰ "Afrol News - Chad-Cameroon pipeline cause of labour disputes." *Afrol News*.
- ²¹ U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 2017. <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271339.pdf>.
- ²² U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report*. 2017. <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271339.pdf>.
- ²³ Ghana Web. "Rural - Urban migration not all negative – Study." August 7, 2015. <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Rural-Urban-migration-not-all-negative-Study-373582>

