

Congressional Research Service, “The Mining Sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Selected Issues Related to Human Rights, Corruption, and Strategic Competition,” Memorandum to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, July 7, 2022

Excerpt

“Foreign Assistance. The United States allocated \$336 million in bilateral aid for DRC in FY2021, and also is the top financial contributor to the U.N. peacekeeping operation in DRC (with \$311 million allocated in FY2021) and the top country donor of emergency humanitarian assistance (\$443 million provided in FY2021).¹ Several U.S. aid programs seek to improve adherence to human rights and labor rights in the mining sector. These include:

- **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Commercially Viable, Conflict-Free Gold Project.** Budgeted at \$12 million, 2018-2023.²
- **USAID Sustainable Mine Site Validation Project.** Budgeted at \$3.7 million, 2018-2022.³
- **State Department support for the Public Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA).** Renewed in 2017 for five years; funding data not publicly released.⁴
- **Department of Labor compliance with international labor standards project.** Grant awarded in 2021 for \$3 million; timeline for implementation not publicly specified.⁵ ...”

¹ State Department, FY2023 *Congressional Budget Justification*, March 2022; and USAID, “Democratic Republic of Congo – Complex Emergency,” FY2021 Fact Sheet #6, September 30, 2021.

¹ For a program description, see USAID, DRC “Responsible Minerals Trade Fact Sheet,” at <https://www.usaid.gov/democratic-republic-congo/fact-sheets/usaiddrc-fact-sheet-responsible-minerals-trade>.

¹ Ibid.

¹ See State Department, “Conflict Minerals,” at <https://www.state.gov/conflict-minerals/>.

¹ See U.S. Department of Labor, “U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$3M Grant to Support Progress on Labor Standards in the Democratic Republic of Congo,” December 14, 2021.

¹ State Department, FY2023 *Congressional Budget Justification*, March 2022; and USAID, “Democratic Republic of Congo – Complex Emergency,” FY2021 Fact Sheet #6, September 30, 2021.

² For a program description, see USAID, DRC “Responsible Minerals Trade Fact Sheet,” at <https://www.usaid.gov/democratic-republic-congo/fact-sheets/usaiddrc-fact-sheet-responsible-minerals-trade>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ See State Department, “Conflict Minerals,” at <https://www.state.gov/conflict-minerals/>.

⁵ See U.S. Department of Labor, “U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$3M Grant to Support Progress on Labor Standards in the Democratic Republic of Congo,” December 14, 2021.