



JSC May 27, 2025



Plan

- **Achievements & insights** from the past year
- **Key priorities** for the coming year
- **Collaboration** with other PSP projects and **opportunities for further exchange** in the coming year

About SPRING

How should we approach "social protection and inclusive growth" in an informal economy context ?

1. Informal economy

- Promoting labour intensive and decent work -> **WP1**
- Social dialogue in informal economies -> **WP4**
- Social protection in informal economies-> **WP5**

2. Health

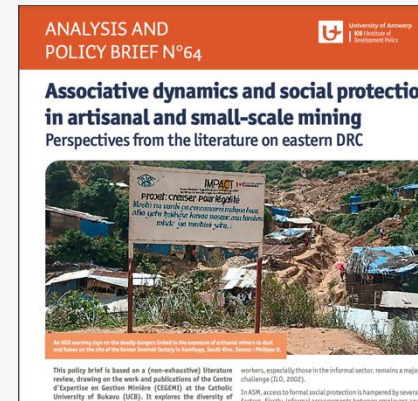
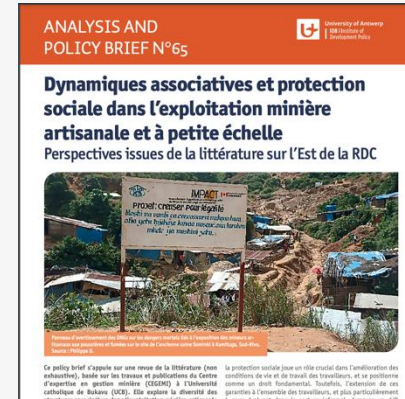
- Financing social protection -> **WP3**
- Universal health coverage -> **WP2**



Achievements

Informal Economy

- **Research on Social Protection in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining**
 - 3 IOB Policy Briefs
 - 1 IOB Working Paper Acteurs associatifs et protection sociale dans l'exploitation minière artisanale et à petite échelle : survol de la littérature sur l'est de la RD Congo
- **Research on Decent Work in the Construction Sector in Kinshasa**
 - October 2024: Collective research phase
 - June 2025: extended research phase(quantitative & qualitative)
 - September 2025: Presentation of preliminary results
- **Research on Social dialogue & decent work**
 - HIVA Decent Work Assessment Tool – Uganda: July-August



Insights

Informal Economy

- One economy, a variety of working conditions
- Besides state-backed social protection: mutual aid, microcredit, social networks, access to information
- « Work » both on the workplace and beyond: 'social reproduction' perspective
- Heterogeneity among workers with associated risks and social protection needs



Image: Robert Carrubba

Achievements

Health

- 1 IOB Working Paper Note de synthèse CSU et protection sociale
- Exploratory research in RDC in July 2024
 - Meetings with Belgian partners (Embassy, Enabel...)
 - Meetings with DRC partners (Ministry of Health, FSS, FPS, UHC coordination...)
 - Data collection to understand the health system and UHC in the DRC
- Scientific support mission for the Enabel AINCS intervention in DRC in April 2024
(Not SPRING as such but SPRING was (re)presented)

Note de synthèse sur la couverture santé universelle et la protection sociale

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Insights

Health

- UHC & Social Protection are quite different agendas which may compete for resources and policy influence
- In DRC, Belgium finances competing agendas through various programs: the national UHC policy, decent work & consolidation of social protection, community-based health insurance,...
- In DRC, UHC & SP policies are particularly fragmented, which questions their efficiency and sustainability



Image: <https://www.factuel.cd/2023/09/04/rdc-felix-tshisekedi-lance-la-couverture-sante-universelle-ce-mardi-kinshasa>

Key priorities for the coming year

- Receive further guidance from DGD on how we could be useful to its cooperation policy in the focus countries or more broadly
 - Training session delivered to the DGD on some themes related to our PSP
 - On demand research...?
- Ongoing research:
 - Presentations planned
 - Publications planned
 - PhD research: reorientation of ASM research to Lualaba (cf. security situation in the East)

Collaboration & opportunities for further exchange

- Working together within our PSP – Informal economies & Health
- Contribution to the Lexicon project of CLEAR
- Open to further collaborations & opportunities for further exchange

