

PRESS RELEASE

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DDII Receives Grant from the UK DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Diamond Development Initiative International (DDII) is very pleased to announce that the organization has been awarded a £50,000 grant from the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID).

The contribution is specifically aimed at supporting DDII's work to help make the Kimberley Process for certification of diamonds more effective. It will help African and South American governments that are members of the Kimberley Process, deal with the development challenges of artisanal alluvial diamond mining. It will enhance DDII's work in research and policy dialogue related to artisanal miners, and it will allow DDII to expand its hands-on work with artisanal diamond mining communities.

The Kimberley Process (KP) is an international regulatory system for rough diamonds. It has no development mandate, although 15 countries within it have formed a working group, under the chairmanship of Angola, to share information and to develop common approaches to issues that have underscored the phenomenon of conflict diamonds over the past two decades.

The DFID grant will allow DDII to support the KP working group turn policy discussions into practical actions. The long term success of the KP will only be sustained if it addresses the practical development needs of the impoverished and exploited alluvial diamond miners from whom significant amounts of rough diamonds are sourced in developing countries. .

'DFID support will allow us to build solid alliances for real progress in areas where poverty, chaos, and neglect have generated little more than violence and more poverty,' said Dorothee Gizenga,' Executive Director of DDII. 'We have a lot of work cut out for us as a result of the steps that have already been taken. The potential for collaboration, improvement and approaches that will benefit some of Africa's and South America's 1.5 million artisanal diamond miners and their families is real.'

The UK Department for International Development aims to 'help poor people build a better life for themselves' by tackling the many challenges of world poverty. 'It is DFID's job to make sure UK aid works its hardest to help the world's poor.' For more information on DFID, please see <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/>. For more on DDII, please go to <http://www.ddiglobal.org/>.

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DDII is a registered, charitable organization bringing civil society, governments and business together in a common effort to ensure that diamonds produced by artisanal miners can be a genuine driver of development.