

THE HUB

FOR CHILD LABOUR PREVENTION AND REMEDIATION

To get involved or
learn more, please
contact us:

✉ ines.kaempfer@childrights-business.org

🌐 clrhub.org

The Hub adapts a **network-based approach** that **delivers immediate and long-term impact** for children at risk of or engaged in child labour within ASM communities.

Our aims

- Create a standardised processes, including guidelines and tools to manage long-term remediation
- Foster collaboration & system integration, including close collaboration with other actors and government agencies
- Take immediate action & long-term support to keep children in school or give them access to decent work
- Create a network of trained case managers to provide children with effective, targeted support through our trainings
- Conduct transparent reporting on all remediation activities, and track the situation of children in the programme
- Acquire funding to cover long-term remediation together with the Fair Cobalt Alliance (FCA) and partners

Our programmes



Child Labour Remediation Programme



Emergency and Education Fund



Decent Access to Work for Youth Programme



School Support & After-School Centres

Getting involved



Contact The Hub directly or become a member of the FCA, contributing via membership fee



Donate to a specific programme



Make an in-kind contribution



Offer apprenticeship opportunities to young workers in your company or your business partners' organisations

Why Safeguard Children's Rights in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining?



Minerals from ASM in supply chains

Due to the nature of how cobalt from ASM and LSM is eventually mixed and processed, companies must assume that ASM cobalt is in their supply chain.



Lack of decent work or apprenticeships

72% of working children aged 15-17 in ASM communities work as artisanal miners, implying a scarcity of alternative employment opportunities or vocational training programmes.



Education crisis

School drop-out rates have been aggravated by the income shocks of a cobalt price slump and the impact of COVID-19. 32% of AMS miners' children aged 6-17 years do not attend school.



Work for education

Child labour in ASM is a common phenomenon. School fees are the main obstacle to education and a driver of child labour. 44% of children work in ASM to pay school fees for both themselves and their siblings.



Risk management

By engaging ASM communities, companies can both address the risks and contribute to long-term positive change for children.

In 2021, Save the Children and The Centre for Child Rights and Business conducted a study on *"Opportunities for Businesses to Promote Child Rights in Cobalt Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining"*

The study found that children in cobalt ASM communities face numerous challenges that increase child labour risks. It also highlighted other factors that have implications for businesses' HRDD.

To learn more, scan the QR code to download our study:



Programmes to Safeguard Children's Rights in ASM

CHILD LABOUR REMEDIATION PROGRAMME

Led by The Hub, this programme enhances local partners' capacity to manage child labour cases, particularly those from mining contexts. It provides access to education, medical and psychological support, and a monthly stipend until the child reaches 16. Assigned case managers ensure ongoing support and engagement with the child, family, and teachers for the best possible outcomes.

EMERGENCY AND EDUCATION FUND

The Hub maintains an Emergency Fund, offering additional medical, psychological, or other necessary support to those in the remediation programme requiring support beyond the standard protocol. The Education Fund assists children and youth outside the remediation programme but at risk of entering child labour in mining communities. It covers school fees for primary, secondary, or higher education, as well as vocational training. Additionally, stipends are provided to those who have reached the legal working age but wish to pursue higher education.

ACCESS TO DECENT WORK FOR YOUTH

Recognising that children aged 16-18 in mining communities often seek employment in mines, this programme connects out-of-school youth with non-hazardous work and training opportunities. It links companies aiming to cultivate a motivated, young workforce with underage individuals seeking decent and safe workplaces. Participating companies receive training and guidance to establish a safe and supportive apprenticeship management system, while youth undergo technical and soft skills training, including literacy, communication, information on gender-based violence and adolescent health.

SCHOOL SUPPORT AND AFTER-SCHOOL CENTRES

Principals and teachers are trained to adapt curriculum and teaching methods for children in the remediation programme who have been out of school or are at risk of dropping out. After-School Centres provide various recreational and learning activities, including homework support, to keep children engaged after school and improve their academic success. These programmes are conducted in collaboration with experts in childcare protection and support.

THE HUB

The Hub was established to tackle challenges faced by children in ASM communities. Managed by The Centre for Child Rights and Business with support from the Fair Cobalt Alliance and Save the Children, six local child rights organisations are now part of The Hub in Kolwezi. They are committed to a child rights-driven, long-term approach to child labour prevention and remediation.

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Child Labour Remediation for the DRC's ASM Cobalt Sector

HOW IT WORKS

The Hub breaks the cycle of child labour by supporting children in returning to education, overseeing their development, and providing financial assistance until they reach working age. It gives children and families a path towards a brighter future and ensures they do not return to the mines to work. Preventive activities include support for children of working age (16-18 years) and their families by finding alternative job opportunities outside of mining and capacity building for schoolteachers to better cater to at-risk children.

OVERVIEW OF THE REMEDIATION PROCESS

Identification of child labour by evolving child protection network or The Hub; immediate support to ensure the child's safety

Assessment of the child's situation by The Hub and the case manager and development of an individual remediation plan for the child

Agreement by all parties (financing entity, the child, and the family) on individual remediation plan

Remediation process: The child receives support on education, living expenses, medical or psychological intervention until he/she reaches the ages of 16 (legal working age)

If the child wants to continue his/her education after he/she turns 16, The Hub will try to support them through the Education Fund Programme or Apprenticeship Programme

Creating Real Change on the Ground: Kamia's Story

Kamia was estranged from her family and left fending for herself. She dropped out of school and was found washing and breaking down ores at the side of a road at age 12.

Through the remediation programme, she was assigned a dedicated case manager who arranged for her to stay in a safe place. In close collaboration with the Department for Social Affairs, she was reconciled with her family and now lives with them.

Through the programme, Kamia receives financial support to keep her in school and to cover basic expenses. She attends a local primary school that partners with a Save The Children education project. In 2023, she came second in her class.

Kamia is just one case. The programme has the potential to steer many more children away from child labour indefinitely and improve their prospects.

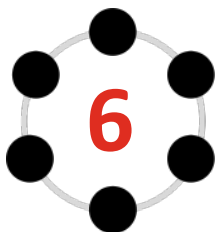
Statistics up to Dec 2024

During the pilot phase in 2023, 20 children were supported through The Hub. In 2024, The Hub has scaled up this number, with 43 now receiving support through the remediation programme and 14 additional siblings also receiving support. Our case manager network has also expanded and five global companies, government organisations and CSOs invested in The Hub by the end of 2024.



43

children integrated in child labour remediation out of which 38 are still in the programme



active case managing organisations

- Alternatives for Action (AFA)
- Action Pour Le Developpement Regional Integre (ADERI)
- Association des Femmes Pour Le Developpment Communautaire (AFEDECO)
- Humanitarian Emergency Rescue Action for People in Need (HERAPIN)
- Institut Congalaise des Droits Humains (ICDH)
- National Peasant League for Human Rights (LINAPEDHO)



14 active case managers, and 25 junior case managers who attended a refresher training and passed their test



months of child labour remediation provided



34 children back in primary and secondary school



4 children provided with vocational skills training

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On top of our own programmes for remediation and prevention of child labour in global supply chains, The Hub collaborates with other initiatives such as educational programmes and regular exchanges with the government to make sure our approach aligns with theirs.

—Ines Kaempfer, CEO

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