An integrated approach for a community-based Child Protection in Artisanal Mining Communities.

Bon Pasteur Kolwezi/GSIF

www.fondazionebuonpastore.org/congo/

How can a sustainable future be so harmful for so many?!

A sustainable, low-carbon future seems unthinkable without batteries and cobalt. Yet the human and environmental costs of cobalt production are unsustainable for the communities living at the ‘upstream’ end of the supply chain. While the market price of cobalt tripled in the past 2 years, human rights conditions in the mining communities of Kolwezi (DRC), the global capital of cobalt, have not improved accordingly, and, for many, have declined. While the lithium-ion battery market, particularly in the last two years, continue to surge in billions of dollars, this growth has not improved one bit the life of artisanal mining communities in Kolwezi (DRC), the global capital of cobalt. Kolwezi remains the poster-child of the resource curse. Insufficient development of agriculture and services generates food and health insecurity and the lack of robust governance of the private and public extraction activities leads to widespread human rights violations:

A growing “UBER-mining model” exacerbates socio-economic inequalities through:

- Minimal initial investment; very limited direct employment; cooperative system in “legal” mines too limited, too weak
- Exploitation of uneducated and unlimited “freelance” workforce;
- Minimal social investments by large traders/international corporations;

* Formal systems to prevent, protect and prosecute HR violations are weak and corrupted

Good Shepherd 2013 research findings:

Violations of children’s rights

- 70% of children engaged in labour - causing trauma and long-term health hazards
- 90%+ illiteracy –
- 50% unattended orphans;

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

- 75% women abused (50% sexual abuse);
- 70% of women –and 50% of girls are illiterate/semi-literate
- High birth-mortality rate

Poverty and hunger

- 90% of the population lives on less than 1$ per day.
- Only 53% of population have access to clean drinking water.
- 100% of children could not recall when they had their last meal
- Unpredictable and intermittent household income from mining
Remedial actions deployed so far in the cobalt supply chain:
- Restricting purchase of ASM Cobalt
- Ring-fencing concessions to keep children (and expectant women) out of the sites.
- Block chain tracking of minerals.

Good Shepherd integrated approach:

Model of Intervention

1. Alternative livelihoods that are sustainable and secure
2. Safe spaces created for children, girls, and women
3. Empowered children thrive outside the mines
4. Strengthened communities improve their welfare
5. Effective management ensures program scalability

Success factors of Bon Pasteur Kolwezi - Evaluation by Prof. Mark Canavera
Columbia University/CPC Network

- Radical inclusivity
  Poorest First.
- Integrating human rights AND development
  Education, civic strengthening and sustainable alternative livelihoods
- Taking the time to build human relationships
  A persons-centered approach, uplifting human dignity in a materialistic environment
- Focusing on both process AND outcomes
  Pay as much attention to “how we do” things, as to “what we do”, in a slow-gradual process
- Adopting a strategic approach to engaging the most powerful
  As insiders/outiders, best positioned to refuse corruption and slowly gain credibility, moving from the periphery to the center.