

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

*Bon Pasteur Kolwezi/GSIF*

[www.fondazionebuonpastore.org/congo/](http://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



## 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/outsideers, best positioned to refuse corruption and slowly gain credibility, ***moving from the periphery to the center.***
- *Way forward - Replication of the model and results of the first phase 2013-2017 being replicated into additional sites during the strategic phase 2018-2022.*