

Opportunities for Businesses to Promote Child Rights in Cobalt Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

A study by Save the Children & The Centre for Child Rights and Business



THE CENTRE
FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

Research methodology:

- Secondary data
- Interviews
- Participatory workshops
- Quantitative survey

7 In-depth interviews with international stakeholders
20 In-depth interviews with community-based stakeholders

8 ASM communities
10 ASM sites

207 Parent artisanal miners
209 Children from ASM communities

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Cobalt Production in the DRC

70%

of the world's cobalt is produced in the DRC, of which is produced in ASM providing work for an estimated people

15–30%

Democratic Republic of Congo

140,000–200,000

Data on ASM shows:

- Hazardous working conditions
- Workers are exposed to harassment and violence
- Worst forms of child labour

66%

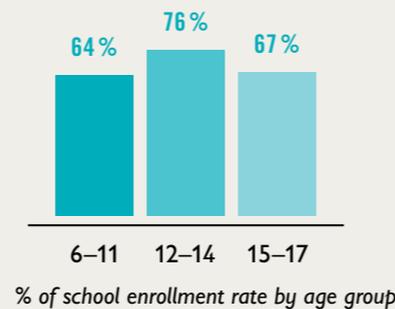
of interviewed parent artisanal miners report high air pollution and chronic dust exposure

50%

of parent artisanal miners say their income does not (or only occasionally) cover their basic living costs

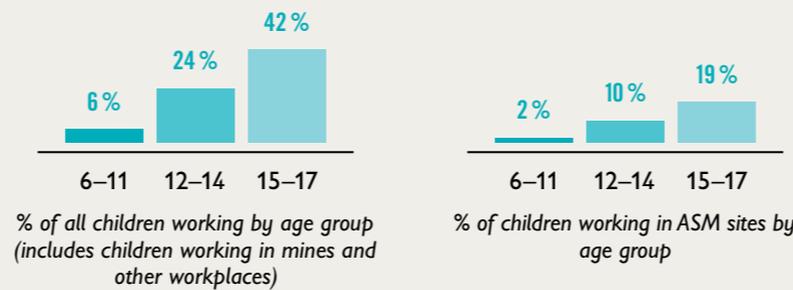
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The Toll it Takes on Children Affected by Cobalt Mining



Nearly 1/3 of children in our survey are not in school

Every 6th child in our survey is working



44% say they use their income for their own or their siblings' school fees

88% report a minimum of one negative emotion (stress, anger, worry) that they feel most of the time

46% of children say their families cannot survive without their income

52% feel pain in their bodies after a day of work

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The Responsibility of Business

It is nearly impossible to ensure no ASM cobalt enters the more formal supply chain and ASM is crucial for the livelihoods of the local population

Downstream brands/buyers play an important role in improving child rights in ASM communities

Engagement means

- Support formalisation of ASM
- Support at-risk children in ASM communities

Reduced Risks

- Improved working conditions and improved wages
- Create traceable cobalt supply chain

- Prevent child labour risks
- Use buying leverage

Child Labour

- Bad working conditions and insufficient wages
- Hidden supply chain

- No visibility on child labour / child rights in ASM
- No remediation of child labour

- Informal working environment on ASM sites
- No buying leverage

Increased Risks

Disengagement means