



ORGANIZATION

Global Battery Alliance, United States of America
pledges to

**End child labour in the battery
supply chain**

End child labour in the battery supply chain

Name:

Global Battery Alliance: Ending child labour in the battery supply chain

Description:

Child labour in the battery supply chain is an escalating issue as the demand for batteries grows rapidly to contribute to the goals for a low carbon transition. Lithium ion batteries depend on access to cobalt where two-thirds of global reserves located in the copper belt of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and often associated with human rights issues including child labour.

Separately, lead-acid batteries (LAB) constitute approximately 72% of the world rechargeable battery capacity (in GWh) for cars, including electric vehicles, industrial batteries, and for off-grid energy renewable energy storage especially in developing countries. The “informal sector” of lead recycling via unregulated, unlicensed and often illegal economic activity includes significant use of children in the collection, and hazardous recovery of lead from lead batteries, especially in emerging economies.

Leading global businesses across the battery supply chain, alongside governments, international organisations, NGOs and academics have formed the Global Battery Alliance (GBA) to actively shape a battery value chain together that powers sustainable development and does not include child labour. GBA has developed a multi-year roadmap towards 2030 based on 10 principles to which we all commit, including Principle #8 “Immediately and urgently eliminating child and forced labour, strengthening communities and respecting the human rights of those employed by the value chain”. To achieve these goals, GBA is focusing on 4 areas of action:

- Development of a digital Battery Passport to track and authenticate the absence of child labour in the sourcing of cobalt and sustainability criteria of the battery;
- To eliminate child and forced labour from the cobalt value chain through the Cobalt Action Partnership, by contributing to the sustainable development of responsible artisanal and small scale mining (ASM) and surrounding communities, and the respect of human rights of those affected by the cobalt value chain;

GLOBAL BATTERY ALLIANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- To raise US\$ 21 million from public and private partners over the next three years for the “The Fund for the Prevention of Child Labour in Mining Communities – A Global Battery Alliance collaboration” to address the root causes of child labour in mining communities through multisectoral initiatives, and in cooperation with the government and civil society organizations in the DRC.
- Convening policymakers to accelerate the adoption of best practices to formalise lead-acid battery recycling

Implementation plan:

In 2021, we envision the following steps:

Battery Passport:

- Co-create a comprehensive ESG reporting framework including the absence of child labour – in alignment with globally accepted standards including OECD due diligence guidelines – to be implemented across the battery value chain;
- Develop an index framework, that reports child labour issues in a standardized pattern and determine data governance processes;
- Launch a Battery Passport demonstration product which will include child labour indicators and respective analytic dashboards.

Cobalt Action Partnership:

- Co-create a Framework for responsible artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) that is supported by a global and local (DRC) stakeholder consultation and development process;
- Pilot the ASM Framework in partnership with government, providing support to DRC public authorities inspectors on the identification of ASM sites and assessment of baseline conditions, and monitoring successes and lessons learned;
- Foster networks and programming that ensure continued and inclusive dialogue and sharing/learning with relevant stakeholders via quarterly newsletters and two webinars that assemble global stakeholders on cobalt production opportunities/challenges and child labour in the DRC;
- Publish independent research on the cobalt value chain, DRC cobalt political economy, production/sourcing risks, and policies to formalize the cobalt ASM sector.

The Fund for the Prevention of Child Labour in Mining

- Strengthen local systems and basic social services through support for health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection programmes in 2 health zones in DRC’s copper belt region;
- Focus on support to programmes to reinforce child protection systems to prevent, identify and respond to children’s vulnerabilities at the community level;

GLOBAL BATTERY ALLIANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Foster an entrepreneurial environment by supporting apprenticeship and internship programmes for apprenticeships to ultimately diversify the local economy and support youth transition from school to work;
- Establish a referential system that will allow young reporters to monitor our interventions at the community level (beneficiaries satisfaction) and raise alerts if a child is at risk of child labour in mining.

Formalising Lead-acid batteries recycling

- Convene policymakers in two countries (India and an African nation) to raise visibility and advance the adoption of best practices on formalizing lead-acid battery recycling in emerging economies

Impact:

- The Battery Passport will require companies to meet and show that they have no child labour along the value chain by reporting on child labour indicators, and so leading to greater transparency and monitoring
- The Cobalt Action Partnership will support the implementation of standards at mine sites in the DRC which will require no child labour
- The Fund will address the issue of child labour by building self-resilient communities and addressing the root causes of child labour.
- Formalizing lead recycling would eliminate both the participation of children in recycling and eliminate the direct exposure they have and indirect exposure of children to lead.

[Website](#)