

THE FUTURE IS MINE

ACTIONAID'S WORK TOWARDS A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

As we move away from fossil fuels, the demand for minerals and metals needed for low-carbon technologies is increasing. But their extraction poses serious risks to people and the environment. Together with women and their communities around the world, ActionAid is working on a transition that addresses climate challenges while also ensuring social justice.

THE NEED FOR JUST ENERGY SYSTEMS

In 2021, ActionAid published the [Manganese Matters report](#), which found that large-scale mining in South Africa violates the rights of communities. It depletes and pollutes drinking water. Drilling damages buildings, releasing asbestos into the air and causing health problems. All of this affects women the most, as they are the ones responsible for fetching water and taking care of those who fall ill. And they get little in return, since the mining companies do not employ many local people, and hardly any women. Sadly, such human rights abuses are also widespread in the supply chains of other minerals and metals, such as those used in electric vehicles, windmills and solar panels (Figure 1).

WHAT ACTIONAID DOES

ActionAid supports local communities, indigenous peoples, workers and women in various mining areas around the world (Figure 2). Because they can and must be at the forefront of an energy transition that addresses, rather than exacerbates, existing inequalities. That is why ActionAid:



Provides training and (legal) support to communities and especially women who speak out against governments and corporations to address abuses;



Conducts research on the impact of current trade and investment regimes and alternatives for fair and equitable energy systems;

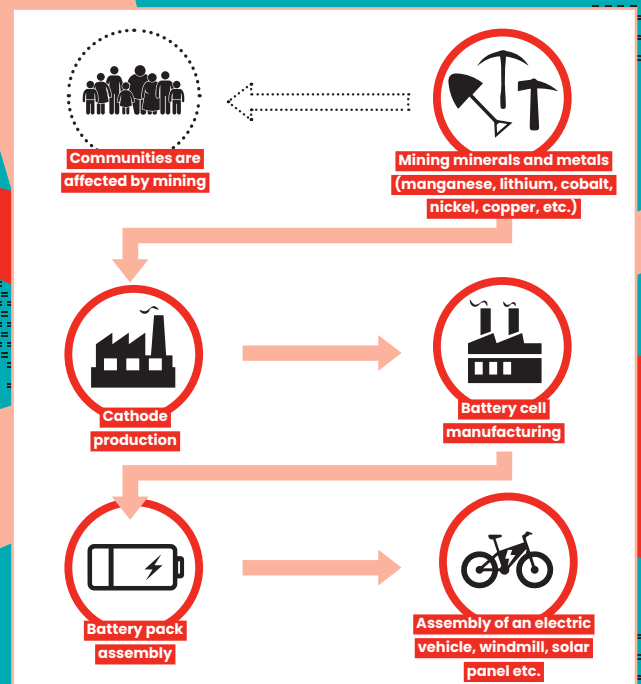


Campaigns and advocates for national and international rules and regulations that promote a just energy transition;



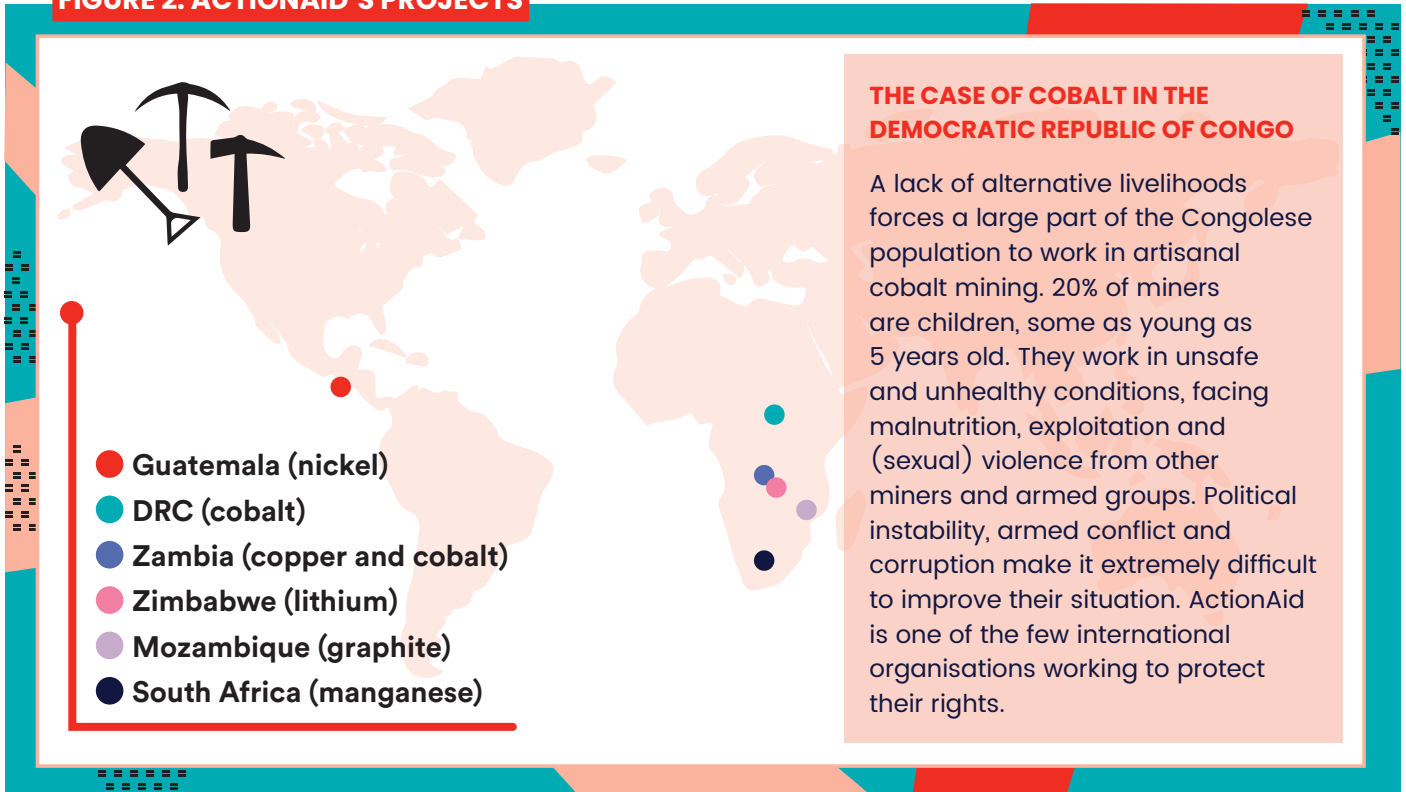
Engages and advises companies at all levels of the supply chain on how to identify, prevent and address abuses in a gender-responsive manner.

FIGURE 1: THE BATTERY SUPPLY CHAIN



Together with activists like Monica, we advocate for binding policies to protect women's rights in supply chains.

FIGURE 2: ACTIONAID'S PROJECTS



JUST ENERGY TRANSITION MILESTONES

2000–2009: Training of 700 community monitors in South Africa to document abuses and support wage negotiations with mining company AngloPlat.

2011: Main initiator of the Fairphone concept, now a company with over 400,000 customers.

2014: Establishment of IANRA, the first African alliance that addresses abuses in mining areas, with 150 local organisations in 13 countries.

2016: Dutch government officials and energy companies visit South Africa to learn how coal mining affects communities.

2017: Coal cruise in the port of Amsterdam to put a just energy transition on the Dutch agenda.

2018: Wind Turbines and Human Rights report published on the protection of human rights in the wind turbine supply chain.

2021: A Zambian community reaches a settlement with mining giant Vedanta after a long-running court case over severe air and water pollution.

2021: Manganese Matters report published, highlighting human rights abuses affecting communities in South Africa's mining areas.

2023: Launch of the Fairbike campaign; 3400 people sign a call to action for electric vehicle manufacturers to improve their practices.

2024: Adoption of the CSDDD, an EU directive ActionAid campaigned for, obliging companies to protect human rights in their supply chains.

2024: Roundtable with e-bike brands and battery manufacturers to identify actions companies can take to map and improve their supply chains.

2024: Launch of the Co-Mining project to support 5,000 artisanal and small-scale copper and cobalt miners in Zambia.



We campaign to raise awareness about the negative side effects of electric vehicles.

INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE OR COLLABORATE? PLEASE REACH OUT TO:

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