



International
Labour
Organization

► Using data to remediate child labour in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

2024 Impact brief on the DRC Child Labour
Monitoring and Remediation System



► What is it

As a pathfinder country under the Alliance 8.7, a global initiative led by member states to accelerate the elimination of child labour and forced labour, the DRC government elaborated a 2023-2030 strategic roadmap to strengthen its political call to action on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7.

In 2022, the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) was developed in response to the DRC's commitment to implement the Alliance 8.7 roadmap.



A team of adolescent miners known as diggers "creuseurs" identified by the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System. © ILO/COTECCO project

The DRC government has shown substantial efforts to accelerate efforts in combatting child labour through the implementation of national policies. The ratification of ILO Conventions No. 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment or Work and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour set national standards for the elimination of child labour. These ratifications have had an impact on other policies, such as the 2018 DRC Mining Code, which prohibits access to artisanal mining activities for persons under the age of 18.

The establishment of the *Stratégie Nationale Sectorielle de Lutte contre le Travail des Enfants dans les Mines Artisanales et sur les Sites Miniers Artisanaux 2017-2030* (Strategic Sectoral National Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour in Artisanal Mining) in 2017 allowed for the DRC to prioritise short, medium and long-term activities with stakeholders to combat child labour in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), including the creation of the *Commission Interministérielle chargée du Suivi de la question du Travail des Enfants dans les Mines Artisanales (CISTEMA)* (Interministerial Committee for the Monitoring and Remediation of Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation in Artisanal Mining). Since the revision of the strategy in 2024 to include the CLMRS in its actions, the CISTEMA has been designated to coordinate all activities related to the CLMRS.

► Who runs it

The CISTEMA and the ILO trained local technicians to use the CLMRS for monitoring and data collection through smartphone collection tools and validation using fingerprints, empowering local people to support the fight against child labour. It also leverages the use of new technologies and adds value to existing approaches, ensuring that knowledge and lessons learned are not lost.

While centralised, the system also supports a network of different actors to identify children and assess the socio-economic situation of their families, taking into consideration each child's context. Local committees for CLMRS implementation committees have been established to harmonize, monitor and refer cases to service providers.

Data is stored in a centralized database, making it accessible to constituents and stakeholders throughout the country and worldwide.

Official statistics on the total number of children identified by CLMRS can be found on the open platform www.ssrte-drc.com.



A teenage girl identified as working in mining has her fingerprints uploaded to the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System database, Kolwezi, Lualaba, DRC. © ILO/COTECCO project

► What it looks like

To date, the CLMRS (Identification and registration, and case management) has been piloted in 14 mining sites in Lualaba and Haut Katanga.

Since its initial deployment in the two pilot provinces, the latest figures have identified **6,242 children** working in the 14 mine sites in Haut Katanga and Lualaba, including 3,516 boys and 2,726 girls.

Identification and case study

The data collected from the CLMRS provides caseworkers about each child, the geographical location where they were found to be working, and the tailored support needed to ensure their removal from child labour. This includes the child's level of education and whether they are currently in school, whether they live with their parents and any other indications of heightened vulnerability that should be taken into consideration.

The CLMRS also allows technical agents to accurately identify the needs of individual children and parents who may not be able to provide sufficient resources to meet the child's needs.

Due to the sensitivity of this data, policymakers and other stakeholders can get this information from the DRC government prior to any community development project to better target and inform interventions.

Tailored remediation

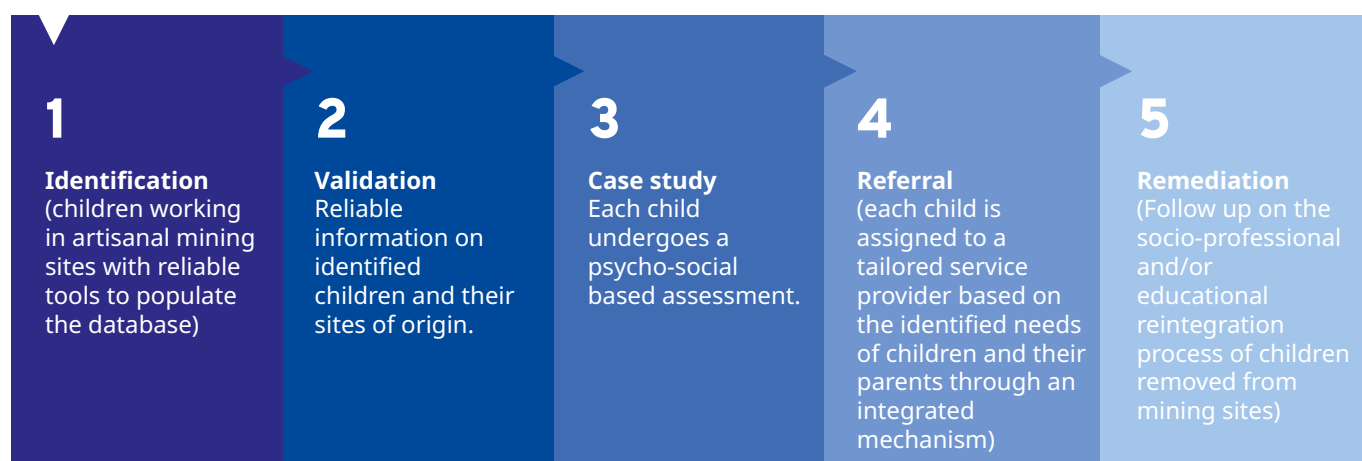
Based on their age, education and psycho-social assessment, the child receives tailored referral and remediation through the CLMRS and its community. Work is already underway with the DRC government and its partnering stakeholders to reintegrate children.

Prevention and remediation for children aged 5-13 years old

- Identification of 40+ potential schools where children identified by CLMRS are eligible for schooling.
- Provision of scholarships to help children under 14 years to attend school (equipment, grants, etc.).
- Literacy training for those who cannot return to the education system due to early dropping out.
- Provision of support to parents to increase household income to enable children to be educated

Prevention and remediation for children aged 14-17 years old

- **615 young people** identified in the CLMRS received technical training for future integration into the world of work.
- **384 children** received entrepreneurship training, such as how to start a business in different sectors. These trainings provided pragmatic approaches and prepared the children for integration into the world of work, while strengthening the importance of decent work practices.
- **1,348 parents/guardians** received training on household economics and micro-entrepreneurship, supporting adults through children identified in the CLMRS. Decent work for parents is a crucial factor in preventing and remediating child labour.
- Through sustainable micro-finance training, identified parents placed a total of **USD 75 500** to a community savings fund to facilitate microcredit and community-led investments. A total of **408 adults** received a loan from this fund to start their micro-enterprises, helping to diversify the economies of mining communities.



► The Child Labour Platform

The Child Labour Platform (CLP) is the world's leading business network on child labour. It draws on the ILO's unparalleled convening power to jointly address the root causes of the problem by working with companies across sectors to develop innovative collaboration models. In order to ensure the sustainability of the CLMRS in DRC beyond the end dates of the ILO's project, the CLP is working with its members through a DRC working group, to connect end buyers of critical minerals from DRC with the remediation efforts from the government and leading private sector actors in DRC.

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