



## From Standards to Action: Preventing and Addressing Child Labour in the Copper and Cobalt Supply Chains in DRC

# Agenda

---

**04:00 - 04:10 P.M.**

Welcome and introduction

---

**04:40 - 04:50 P.M.**

What's next?

---

**04:10 - 04:20 P.M.**

Setting the scene

---

**04:50 - 05:00 P.M.**

Q&A and Closing remarks

---

**04:20 - 04:40 P.M.**

From standards to action

# Welcome remarks

**Sara Olsson**

Responsible Business Manager

IXM, A CMOC Group Company



# Meet the presenters



**Cecilia Tiblad  
Berntsson**

**Director of Services, Europe,  
Africa & Americas**

The Centre for Child Rights  
and Business



**Mark  
Robertson**

**Senior Vice President**

The Centre for Child Rights  
and Business



**Erick  
Kitungwa**

**Project Manager, DRC**

The Centre for Child Rights  
and Business



**Sara Olsson**

**Responsible Business  
Manager**

IXM, A CMOC Group  
Company

We support companies to respect and promote the rights of children

- 
- 1 Increase supply chain transparency

---

  - 2 Improve corporate practice and human rights due diligence

---

  - 3 Implement supply chain solutions

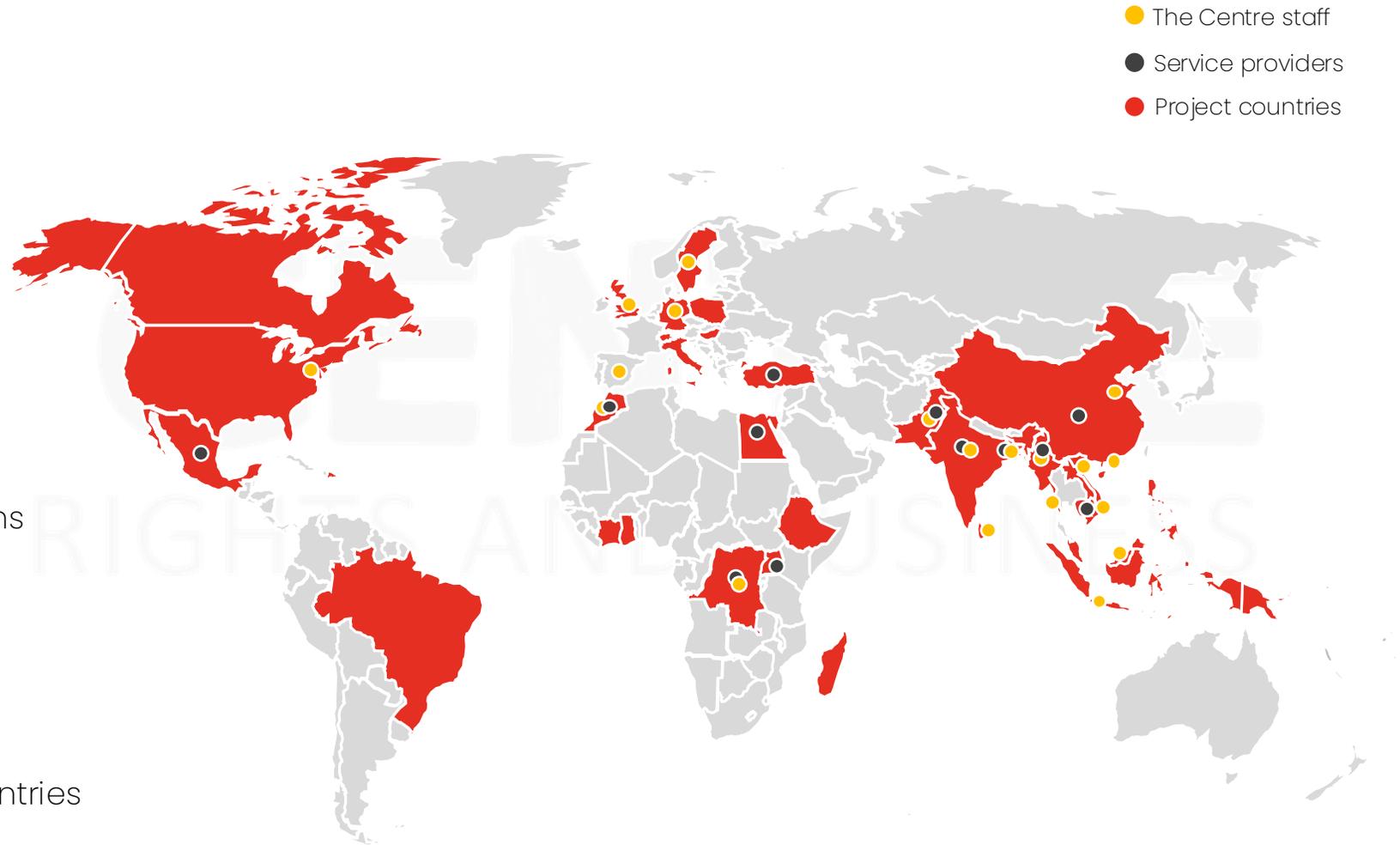
# Our global presence

We run approximately **60** service implementations at a time

We have **60** staff working from **20** locations

We work with **98** accredited and tested service providers in **12** countries

We have implemented services in **36** countries



# Setting the scene

Child rights, child labour and business responsibilities



# What is child labour?



Work that **deprives children** of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development

Any person employed under the minimum age of admission to employment (16 years in DRC)

Any person below the age of 18 engaged in hazardous work

# Child labour risk in mining in the DRC

## ASM mining in the DRC

- **Dominant source:** >70% of global cobalt originates from the DRC
- **ASM component:** 10–30% comes from ASM
- **Traceability gap:** Complex mixing stages make origin tracking impossible
- **Corporate reality:** Companies must assume ASM involvement in supply chains
- **Human impact:** ASM remains a critical primary livelihood for local families

## Informal mining

- 1 in 6 children are working
- Most children start below legal min working age

## Education crisis

- 32% of miners' children do not attend school (6–17 y.o.)
- 44% of children work to pay school fees

## Lack of a safety net

- Low income and no safety nets for ASM workers and their families

## No decent work or apprenticeship

- 72% of children (16–17) in ASM communities work as miners, highlighting a critical lack of alternative jobs or vocational training for youth

## Health issues

- Poor psychological health

## Short-term projects

- Children return to work when project funding stops

# Different types of child labour in mining

## At Legal Mine sites (LSM)

Collection



## At ASM sites

Extraction, collection, crushing, washing, sorting, transportation...



## In ASM communities

Collection, crushing, washing, sorting, transportation, sales...



# From standards to action

Addressing child labour through collective solutions

02

# Common gaps in industry responses to child labour



**Over-reliance** on audit- or certification-led approaches



**Prioritising traceability tools over interventions** to tackle the root causes of child labour



**Focus on short-term, reactive approaches** rather than long-term commitments to prevent and remediate child labour



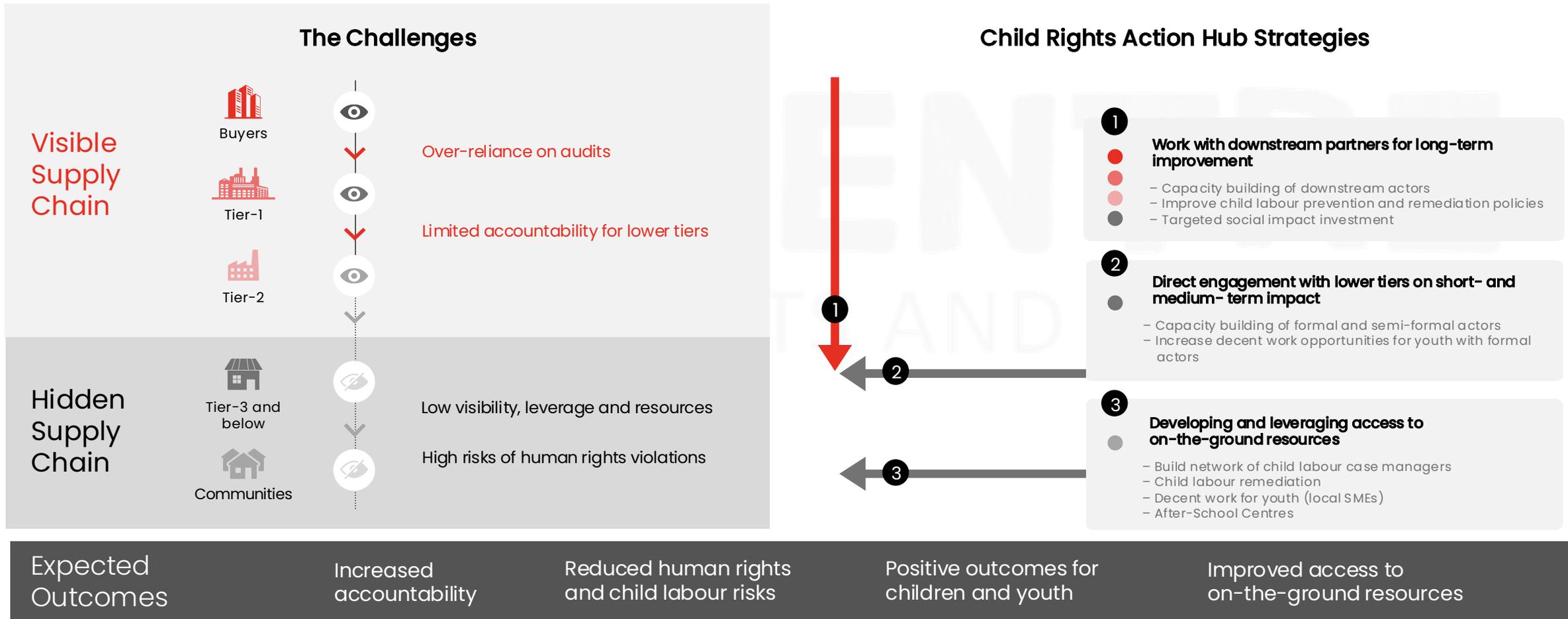
**Fragmented industry responses** limit the effectiveness of risk mitigation and leverage at scale



**Lack of decent work for youth** increases vulnerability to child labour and informal work

# The solution? Implementing deeper due diligence

**The Goal** Long-term prevention and remediation of child labour in mining communities, reducing risk of child labour in copper and cobalt supply chains





# Key workstreams



Research, risk assessments, mapping of supply chain linkages



Increased accountability of international supply chain actors



Training and capacity building for on-the-ground lower tiers & key community stakeholders



Youth development programme



Child labour remediation

# Child rights action hub DRC

*A framework for collective action pooling resources to bring **positive and impactful change to affected children and youth** through collaboration with formal and informal industry actors, communities and governments*

## Children & youth

**95**

children enrolled in remediation and receiving financial and educational support

**7**

young workers accessing decent work opportunities through the AD-Y programme

**127**

siblings have returned to school through the Siblings Education Fund

**236**

parents and 405 siblings have benefited from improved household stability and support services

## Ecosystem & community

**9**

local civil society organisations are engaged and working with the Action Hub

**39**

junior case managers trained, with 23 actively managing remediation cases

**19**

accredited case managers with a proven track record of qualitative and impactful work

**3**

MoUs for collaboration with other stakeholders on the ground, incl. Acte De Reconnaissance from the government

## Industry

**12**

ASM communities in 2 mining areas where remediation and prevention currently is in place

**2**

ASM cooperatives have been trained to strengthen their capacity on child labour prevention and remediation

**1**

Local large mining company is actively engaged in strengthening DDMS

**96**

participants in trainings on child labour prevention and remediation measures

# Kamia's story

~~April 2025~~ April 2022

Residing with the family in Kinshasa District, Kamia's mother, having lost her husband, is struggling to support her children's education. Kamia's mother, after being displaced from her home, is now living in a temporary housing, a living stipend and school reintegration



# Child labour remediation



## Child-centric and needs-driven

The remediation plan is tailored to each child's (and their family's) specific needs and circumstances



## Proportional

Responds to the scale and severity of the case/s



## Expert-led

Guided by professionals and strengthened through local collaboration (building local capacity)



## Access to remedy that ensure basic child rights

Access to adequate remedy (e.g. schooling, rehabilitation, living stipend) is facilitated



## Leverage

Brands use leverage and resources to support the process

# A holistic approach to remediation

- Strengthening the protection of children in mining communities



# Increased accountability at international supply chain actors

## Ensure compliance with due diligence obligations through:

- Comprehensive child labour policies and practical guidelines to inform prevention and remediation activities.
- Dedicated staff with authority to implement activities to prevent and remediate child labour in own operations and across the supply chain, informed by risk.
- Sufficient budget for the staff to carry out their activities and build leverage throughout the supply chain
- Accountability and oversight with upper management to monitor and measure the performance of child labour prevention and remediation activities.



If you are aware of a high risk of child labour, you are obliged to act to address the issue.

## Building capacity with lower tiers

Support on-the-ground supply chain and key community actors by providing training and guidance on:

- Putting in place child labour prevention and remediation policies for own operations and supply chain management
- Adequate knowledge, tools and resources to ensure responsible recruitment, including age verification, and to influence and manage suppliers
- Key staff and community actors trained on child rights, provided training and practical tools for child labour notification, and child safeguarding
- Create programmes for prevention, such as young worker programmes and community development programmes, targeting key root causes



## Who is a young worker?

Workers above the age of 16 but under 18 (15 upon special approval).

# Supporting safe workplaces for young workers

Encourage and support on-the-ground companies to create safe workplaces for young workers through Access to Decent Work (ADY) pathways

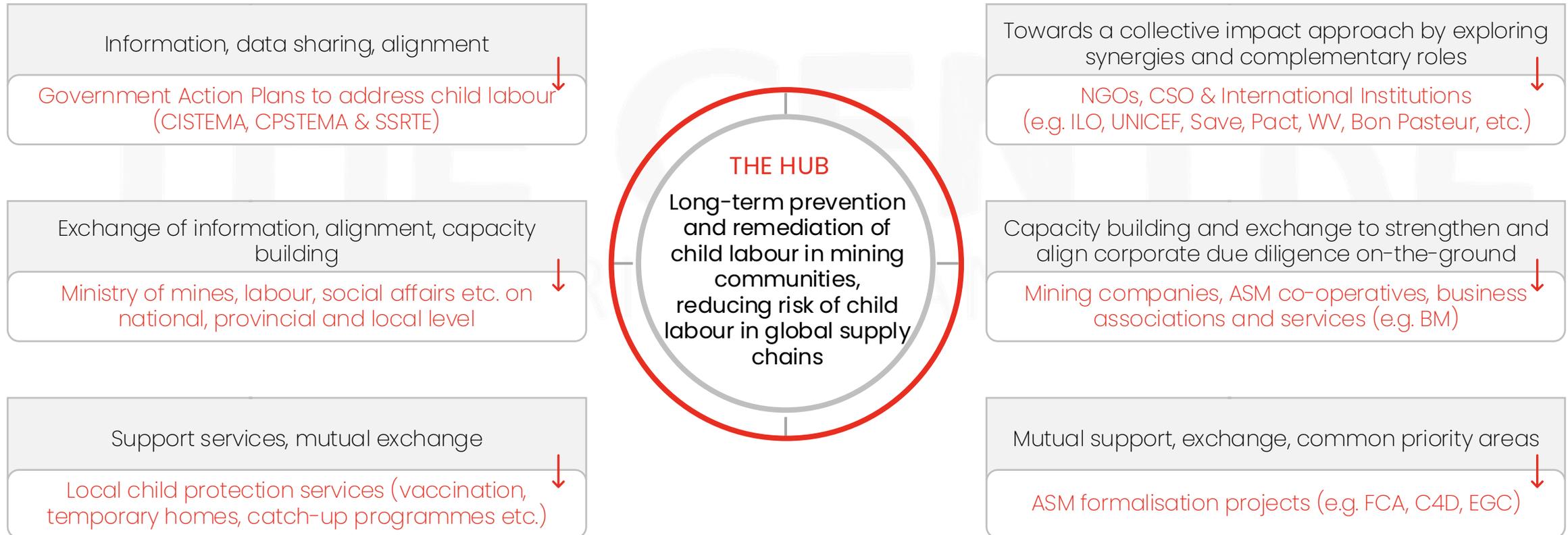
- Respecting a young worker's right to work
- Not discriminating against young workers by raising the hiring age above the minimum working age
- Providing special protections to young workers in the workplace (health checks, no hazardous work, limited working hours)

### Pathways

- ✓ Youth employment
- ✓ Apprenticeship
- ✓ Vocational training in community workshops
- ✓ Entrepreneurship and digital pathways

# System integration and sustainability

*The Action Hub supports system strengthening and integration by aligning with government strategies and collaborating with other on-the-ground initiatives.*



# What's next

Getting to action



## Ways to act

Use the tools in your leverage tool-box



Financial support to the Child Rights Action Hub, allowing us to integrate more children into the CLR and ADY programmes



Promote our upcoming webinar for Chinese mineral supply chain actors on 22nd April



Nominate on-the-ground supply chain partners to our capacity building programme



Incentivise local companies to engage in our ADY programmes



Spread the word, and like our work on social media

# Why engage?



**Strengthen due diligence and reduce supply chain risk** through credible on-the-ground prevention and remediation activities.



**Reduce legal, operational and reputational risk.** Meeting evolving regulation and stakeholder expectations..



**Support access to remedy for children and young workers and a just transition.** With a focus on both immediate and long-term sustainability of efforts.



**Collaborate with leading brands, clients and suppliers.** By pooling resources, we can achieve more together and move away from short-term fixes towards system-level solutions.

# Thank You

✉ [info@childrights-business.org](mailto:info@childrights-business.org)

🌐 [childrights-business.org](http://childrights-business.org)

Follow us on: [in](#) [f](#) [▶](#) [@](#)

