How Batteries Are Powered by Child Labor

Cobalt, a key input to lithium-ion batteries, is often mined with child labor. With enormous volumes of cobalt shipped to China from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), electronic products around the world are at risk of being linked to labor abuse.

The DRC produces over 70% of the world's cobalt. A large portion of this production comes from artisanal and small-scale mining, where thousands of children work in hazardous conditions. Children work underground in tight quarters, carry heavy loads, and face serious injury risks from tunnel collapses and falling down mine shafts.

MINE SITE THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO **BUYING HOUSE** THF DRC TREATMENT UNITS As cobalt ore produced with child labor is transported to be refined and prepared for export; COLLECTION POR it is often mixed with Most of China's cobalt is further refined cobalt from large-scale and used to produce battery chemicals mines. This makes and components, such as cathodes. traceability extremely China uses these parts to produce \$2.17B in cobalt challenging. In 2020, China imported rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. 89.4% of its cobalt from the DRC. REFINERY \$16.5B in lithium-ion batteries In 2020, countries around the world imported over 41% of their lithium-ion batteries from China. CHINA FACTORY \$2.1B in lithium-ion **batteries** In 2020, the United Lithium-ion batteries power dozens of States imported 47% consumer products, including cell of its lithium-ion phones, electric cars, and laptops. batteries from China. With the vast majority of batteries dependent on cobalt, these products may be at risk of containing an input THE REST OF produced with child labor.

THE WORLD

Source: US ITC Dataweb and UN Comtrade. Trade data are from 2020.