

# THE ROAD TO RUIN?

## Electric vehicles and workers' rights abuses at DR Congo's industrial cobalt mines

### ANNEX 1: LIVING WAGE CALCULATION FOR KOLWEZI\*

**NOTE:** This calculation is based on the Minimum Expenditure basket (MEB) methodology and uses as a reference the UNICEF MEB conducted for Congo in 2016. It has been adapted for the Kolwezi context in consultation with Lualaba based organizations and in-person assessments of prices in the local markets in Kolwezi in October 2021. It assumes an average household of 6 people (2 adults and 4 children).

RAID and CAJJ adjusted the MEB as follows:

- (1) We modified the “education” criteria to cater for the fact that Congo made access to primary school education free in 2019, although the practice remains that parents provide some subsidy.
- (2) We adapted the “food” category to portray more accurately eating habits in Kolwezi.
- (3) We added a “transportation” category which was calculated considering public transport between Kolwezi and the Luilu neighbourhood where most mine workers live.
- (4) We added a small amount for “leisure activities” because the MEB applies only to the very minimum needs in situations of humanitarian emergencies. This was also an item added by other civil society groups when determining the living wage of artisanal miners in Congo’s Kivu provinces.

\*Exchange rate: \$1 = 1,979.11 FC

Item	Average cost per item	Cost per month per household (Fc) <sup>1</sup>	Cost per month per household (\$)	Assumption
<b>FOOD</b>				
<b>Manioc</b>	642.85 Fc or \$0.32 per Kg	46,285.20	23.39	12 Kg per person per month
<b>Maize</b>	740.74 Fc or \$0.37 per Kg	53,333.28	26.95	12 Kg per person per month
<b>Staple crops (average of manioc and maize)<sup>2</sup></b>		49,809.24	25.17	12 Kg per person per month
<b>Vegetables (not tomatoes or onions)</b>	1,000 Fc or \$0.50	21,600	10.91	3.6 Kg per person per month
<b>Tomatoes</b>	5,000 Fc or \$2.53 per container (approx. 3 Kg)	30,000	15.16	1 container per person per month
<b>Onions</b>	20,000 Fc or \$10.10 per container	20,000	10.11	1 container per month
<b>Chicken legs</b>	5,000 Fc or \$2.53 per Kg	50,000	25.26	1.6 Kg per person per month
<b>Fresh fish (Thomson)</b>	2,700 Fc or \$1.36 per Kg	27,000	13.64	1.6 Kg per person per month
<b>Small fish (fretin)</b>	5,000 Fc or \$3.54 per small container	20,000	10.11	4 small containers per month
<b>Cooking oil</b>	5,000 Fc or \$2.53 per Kg	27,000	13.64	0.9 Kg per person per month

<sup>1</sup> Congolese Francs.

<sup>2</sup> This is the amount considered in the total calculation; the standalone “Manioc” and “Maize” items are only indicative.

<b>Salt</b>	1,000 Fc or \$0.50 per Kg	900	0.45	0.15 Kg per person per month
<b>Sugar</b>	13,000 Fc or \$6.57 per bag (approx. 5.5 Kg)	2,364	1.19	0.15 Kg per person per month
<b>Tea</b>	3,000 Fc or \$1.52 per Kg	3,000	1.55	0.15 Kg per person per month
<b>HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>				
<b>Rent/living quarters</b>	90,000 Fc or \$45.47	90,000	45.47	Once a month
<b>5-litre pan</b>	20,000 Fc or \$10.10	1,666.67	0.84	Replacing it once a year
<b>Kitchen knife</b>	2,500 Fc or \$1.26	416.67	0.21	Replacing it twice a year
<b>Bar of soap</b>	1,000 Fc or \$0.50	6,000	3.03	1 bar per person per month
<b>Mattress</b>	110,000 Fc or \$55.58	9,166	4.63	Median costs, 1 mattress per 2 persons, replacing it every 3 years
<b>Blanket</b>	80,000 Fc or \$40.42	20,000	10.11	1 per person, replacing it every 2 years
<b>Pagne/cloth</b>	15,000 Fc or \$7.58	3,750	1.89	1 per 2 persons, replacing it once a year
<b>Jerry can</b>	2,500 Fc or \$1.26	416.67	0.21	2 per household, replacing them once a year
<b>Washing basin</b>	35,000 Fc or \$17.68	2,916.67	1.47	1 per household, replacing it once a year
<b>Bag of charcoal (60/80 kg)</b>	25,000 Fc or \$12.63	25,000	12.63	1 per month per household
<b>7-litre pan</b>	28,000 Fc or \$14.15	2,333.33	1.18	1 per household, replacing it once a year
<b>Mug</b>	1,500 Fc or \$0.76	750	0.38	1 per person, replacing them once a year
<b>Small spoon</b>	500 Fc or \$0.25	500	0.25	1 per person, replacing them twice a year

<b>Large spoon</b>	2,000 Fc or \$1	333.33	0.17	1 per household, replacing it twice a year
<b>Small bowl</b>	6,000 Fc or \$3	1,500	0.76	3 per household, replacing them once a year
<b>Big bowl</b>	20,000 Fc or \$10.10	1,666.67	0.84	1 per household, replacing it once a year
<b>Large bag</b>	1,745.44 Fc or \$0.88	297.52	0.15	2 per household, replacing them once a year
<b>Tarp</b>	19,715.53 Fc \$9.96	1,646.27	0.83	1 per household, replacing it once a year
<b>Clothing items</b>	40,000 Fc or \$20.21	40,000	20.21	2 pieces per person, replacing them once a year
<b>SANITATION AND HYGIENE</b>				
<b>Latrine maintenance</b>	6,000 Fc or \$3	500	0.25	Once a year
<b>Hygiene kit (toothbrush, soap, etc.)</b>	20,000 Fc or \$10.10	10,000	5.05	1 per household, replacing it every 2 months
<b>Water treatment tablets</b>	2,000 Fc or \$1	2,000	1.01	Once a month
<b>Fees for potable drinking water (town supply or public taps)</b>	50,000 Fc or \$25.26	50,000	25.26	Once a month
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
<b>School fees</b>	30,000 Fc or \$15.16	90,000	45.47	Once a month for 9-month academic year
<b>Uniform</b>	31,250 Fc or \$15.79	10,416.67	5.26	Once a year for 4 children
<b>School materials</b>	25,000 Fc or \$12.63	75,000	37.90	Once a month

HEALTH				
Health expenses at dispensaries/hospitals	60,000 Fc or \$30.32	15,000	7.58	Cost of an admission for a serious disease, 3 times per year for 1 household
Painkillers and other medicines	1,000 Fc or \$0.50	12,000	6.06	12 packages per month
Mosquito net	3,000 Fc or \$1.52	250	0.13	1 for 2 persons, replacing it every 3 years
Anti-malaria tablets	3,000 Fc or \$1.52	500	0.25	1 package every 6 months
TRANSPORTATION				
Public transport	3,000 Fc or \$1.52 per total trip	30,000	15.16	5 times a month for two persons travelling
OTHER				
Cheapest mobile phone in the market	23,000 Fc or \$11.62	1,277.77	0.65	2 per household, replacing them every 3 years
Average phone credit	2,000 Fc or \$1	32,000	16.17	Credit for 2 phones per household, recharged twice a week
Leisure (meal out, cinema, public holiday or other)	47,600 Fc or \$24	7,917.55	4	Average for two outings a year for the household
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>796,895.03</b>	<b>402.65</b>	<b>46</b>