



THE PROJECT

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COMBATTING MINING-RELATED
HEALTH AND SAFETY CHALLENGES
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

THE PROBLEM

Congolese miners are frequently afflicted with respiratory and skin ailments, the severity of which can largely be reduced and/or prevented if miners wore appropriate protective gear.

TARGETED SOLUTION

Provide health and safety equipment to miners in the South Kivu province of the DRC.

RATIONALE

- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) contains roughly 2 million artisanal workers
- An estimated 20 million people are dependents of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM)
- Approximately 200,000 are working in 3TG (tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold) mines situated in Eastern Congo
- Majority of the artisanal miners in the DRC lack basic protective equipment

¹ DRC Chamber of Mines (2015 Annual Report) // ² Fair Congo // ³ Reuters

HEALTH CHALLENGES

- Prolonged exposure to metal dust and direct contact (with metals) frequently results in poor health outcomes such as:
 - respiratory sensitization, asthma, decreased pulmonary function and shortness of breath, invariably leading to hard metal lung disease
 - skin sensitization, which may result in eruptions of contact dermatitis: a red, itchy skin rash

HEALTH & SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- As a first step to combatting these ailments, we want to provide miners with durable gloves, respirators, hard hats, and boots. This will vastly reduce the inhalation of minerals dust through the mouth and nose and eliminate direct contact with metals. The hard hats and boots will increase miners' safety as they work in subterranean environments.
 - Future items to be included in protective gear offering are eye shields and impervious clothing/overalls



FUTURE PLANS

Public Relations

- In 6-12 months, produce optics revealing the government's support and active participation in improving the miners working conditions

Community Investment

- In 18-24 months, a portion of the profits will begin to be invested in the community in the form of:
 - Elementary schools
 - Adult programs (financial planning classes, vocational training, etc.)

Mobile: +714 612-1676

Official Email: samuel@elpisafrica.com

Official Website: elpisafrica.com