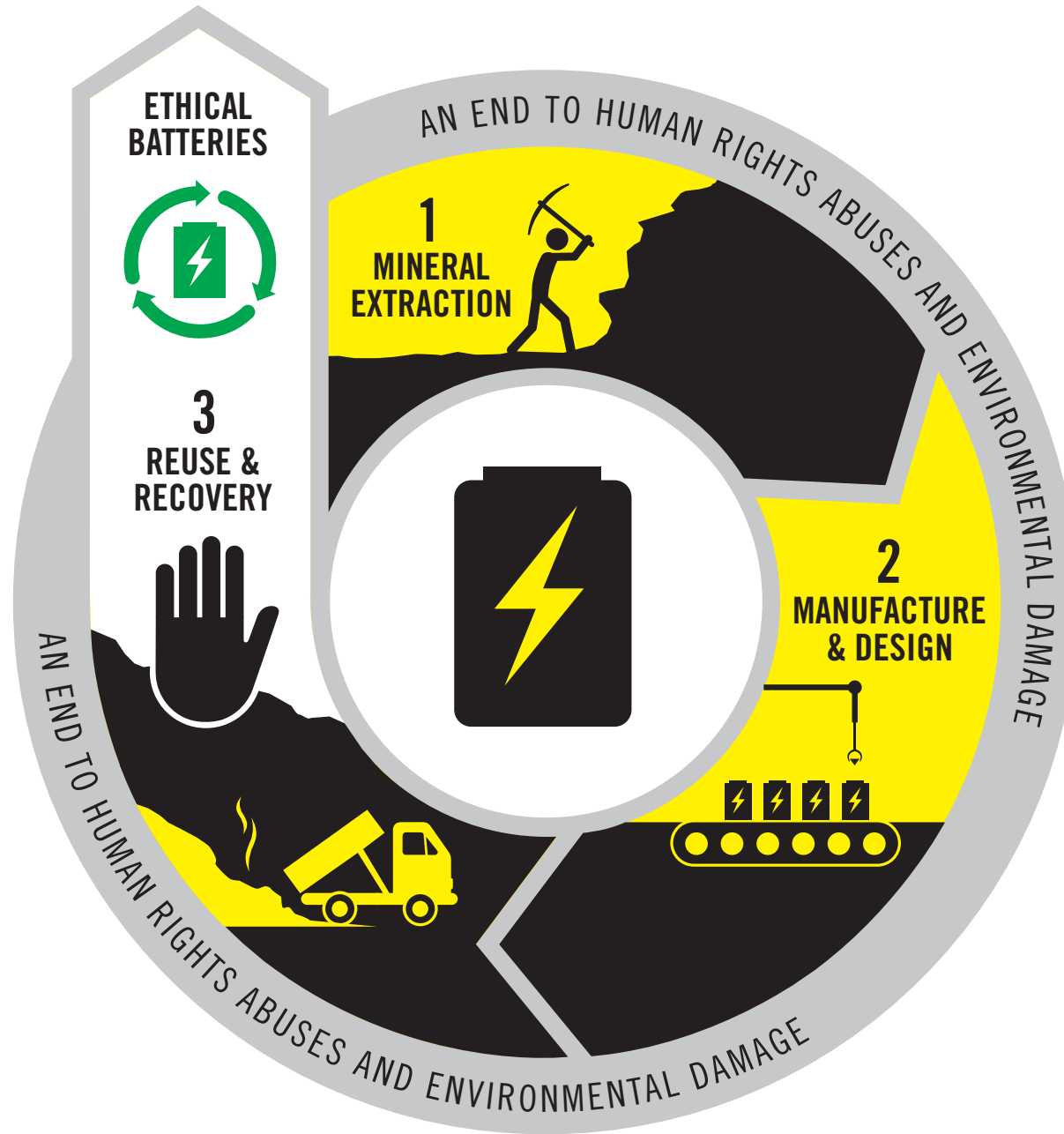


# BATTERY POWERED BY CHANGE



**Children sorting and crushing cobalt ore in the neighbourhood of Kasulo, Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of Congo. In July 2014, residents found a rich seam of cobalt ore running underneath their neighbourhood. Since the discovery, hundreds of mines have been dug by artisanal miners in the neighbourhood. Cobalt is used to power mobile phones, laptop computers, and other portable electronic devices.**

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**Artisanal miners hold up handfuls of cobalt ore (left) and copper ore (right) that they have scavenged from the mounds of tailings from active and inactive industrial mine sites near Lake Malo, Kapata on the outskirts of Kolwezi, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The miners must then sort, wash and crush the mineral ore before selling it. Cobalt enters the supply chain of many of the world's leading brands.**

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**Artisanal miners, including thousands of children, mine cobalt in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in hazardous conditions. Using basic hand tools, miners dig out rocks from tunnels deep underground, and accidents are common. Despite the potentially fatal health effects of prolonged exposure to cobalt, adult and child miners work without even the most basic protective equipment.**

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**In the Andean highlands of north-western Argentina, Kolla Indigenous communities of the Salinas Grandes basin and Lake Guayatayoc are concerned about the potential impact of the rapidly growing lithium industry on their livelihoods, their water supply and the environment.**

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**Argentinian authorities are failing to uphold the right to free, prior and informed consent of indigenous communities from Salinas Grandes in the Jujuy province, Argentina, as the lithium mining industry expands into their territory.**

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