



EmpowerGen Africa

FUNDING PROPOSAL

Youth Awareness and Safer Livelihoods in Côte d'Ivoire

A community programme addressing the risks of illegal and unsafe artisanal gold mining

We seek US\$500,000 to deliver a 24 month programme that helps young adults understand mining related risks, participate in community decisions and access practical livelihood support.

Funding requested	Duration	Primary participants
US\$500,000	24 months	Young adults aged 18 to 30

Proposed field areas

Bouaflé and Toumodi–Kokoumbo

Two intervention areas and approximately six communities

Submitted by EmpowerGen Africa

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Executive summary

EmpowerGen Africa requests US\$500,000 for a 24 month programme in Côte d'Ivoire that combines community education with practical support for young adults living in areas affected by illegal and unsafe artisanal gold mining. We propose to work in approximately six communities across Bouaflé and Toumodi–Kokoumbo, subject to local consultation and delivery agreements.

The need extends beyond awareness. Gold mining supports livelihoods, while poorly regulated activities can expose workers and neighbouring communities to serious harm. The World Bank described the artisanal sector as supporting about 500,000 people in 2025; this estimate covers the sector broadly and is not a count of illegal miners or young people. [2] Our programme will help participants consider risks alongside realistic ways to earn, learn and contribute to their communities.

We will retain a manageable delivery model: two short films, four audio episodes, 24 workshops, 12 screening discussions, 12 trained youth relays, structured livelihood support for 150 young adults and 10 youth community initiatives. Radio, printed materials, local language facilitation and preloaded media will allow participation without personal Internet access.

We aim to engage 600 unique young adults, including the 150 livelihood participants and 12 relays. At least 40% of direct participants will be women. We target 120 training completions and 60 verified employment, apprenticeship, further education or active enterprise pathways six months after support. These are proposed programme targets, not outcomes already achieved.

How the investment will be used

The budget allocates US\$150,000 to training and livelihood support, US\$70,000 to community delivery and US\$30,000 to youth initiatives. Media and radio account for US\$35,000, or 7% of the request. The remaining provision funds local staffing, logistics, evaluation, preparation, financial assurance and a US\$20,000 contingency. Our emphasis is sustained delivery and follow up within a focused geographic area.

Delivery and accountability

EGA is a registered, youth led nonprofit organisation developing its first programmes. Our mission centres on storytelling, education and civic participation. [1] We will establish written arrangements with an experienced Ivorian delivery organisation and qualified training providers before field implementation. EGA will lead programme oversight and creative direction; locally recruited personnel and partners will manage day to day delivery.

Funding will support a three month inception phase, staged implementation and six month participant follow up within the grant period. We will provide quarterly activity and financial reports, a midterm review, a final outcome evaluation and independent financial assurance. Our contribution will be assessed through participant knowledge, access to services and livelihood progression; we do not promise a measurable reduction in national illegal mining within two years.

Proposal guide

This proposal sets out our funding request, the evidence informing the programme and the delivery arrangements we propose. The schedule begins when the funding agreement takes effect. Financial amounts are in United States dollars unless stated otherwise.

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Reading the figures

All charts show EGA planning allocations, delivery schedules or targets. National and regional findings are attributed to dated sources. Historical statistics are not presented as a current census, and the pilot locations are proposed rather than confirmed.

ASGM means artisanal and small scale gold mining. In this proposal, orpaillage refers to artisanal gold mining; illegal or unsafe practices are identified explicitly. Legal artisanal activity is not treated as inherently unlawful.

Our organisation and delivery role

We are EmpowerGen Africa, a registered, youth led nonprofit organisation connecting Ottawa and African communities through digital education, culture and civic participation. Our public launch programme centres on short films, youth podcasts and practical workshops. These formats give young people opportunities to tell their own stories and build skills in media literacy, dialogue and community action. [\[1\]](#)

Why this programme belongs within our mission

The choices facing young adults in mining affected communities concern education, access to information, livelihoods and their ability to influence local decisions. We will apply our storytelling and workshop approach to these questions. Young people will help shape the themes, test the language and assess whether the messages reflect their experiences.

Our contribution will combine accessible communication with a practical route to local support. A screening will end with a facilitated conversation and clear information about available activities. A workshop participant interested in training will be offered an orientation appointment. Relays will maintain contact between events so that engagement can continue beyond a single encounter.

Our founding leadership

Team member	Publicly stated role
Joy Neema	Chief Executive Officer
Mike Kanyatsi	Chief Operating Officer and Chief Information Officer
Molly Kanyatsi	Chief Technology Officer
Aaron Guinnou	Chief Financial Officer
Lloyd Ackah	Chief Production Officer

Leadership roles above follow our public website. [\[1\]](#) Project appointments, time allocations and delegated financial authority will be documented for the funding agreement.

Building credible local delivery capacity

As a launch stage organisation, we will build delivery capacity through an experienced Ivorian implementing partner, locally recruited staff and qualified providers. We will verify their relevant experience, references, financial systems, accessibility arrangements and ability to serve the selected communities before contracting. We will not rely on remote management alone.

Before contracting with a funder, we will provide the organisational registration and governance documents required for eligibility, authorised signatory details and financial account information. Our registration documentation will accompany the application as required by the funding partner. Programme agreements will identify the entity responsible for local implementation and the arrangements for transfers to delivery partners.

The situation and need for action

Artisanal gold mining is an important source of income in Côte d'Ivoire, but illegal and poorly controlled operations can transfer substantial risks to workers, households and neighbouring communities. An effective response must recognise why people depend on the activity while improving access to information and feasible livelihood choices.

Economic dependence and a changing sector

The World Bank estimated that about 40 tonnes of gold, valued at more than US\$2 billion, left Côte d'Ivoire illegally in 2022. In July 2025 it announced a partnership with the government and World Gold Council to support safer, traceable and formalised small scale mining. [2] These findings support a programme that distinguishes illegal practices from legitimate livelihoods and connects people to verified services.

Environmental and social consequences

The government's July 2025 account identifies contaminated water sources, school abandonment, sexual violence and hazardous abandoned pits among the consequences associated with illegal mining. [3] In November 2025, authorities also reported sediment pollution affecting Aby Lagoon and linked it to rainfall and upstream mining near the Aboisso border corridor. [9] This illustrates how impacts can extend beyond extraction sites.

WHO identifies mercury exposure as a threat to the nervous system and kidneys and highlights particular risks to developing children. Its guidance identifies mercury use in artisanal mining as hazardous. [4] This supports carefully reviewed health education; it does not establish contamination levels or illness rates in our proposed communities. Clinical assessments and treatment will remain the responsibility of qualified services.

Young people require information and practical options

The US Department of Labor's 2024 findings document children undertaking hazardous mining tasks in Côte d'Ivoire, including crushing, transporting, digging and sieving, and identify forced mining. [5] Our primary participants will be adults aged 18 to 30, but delivery partners will need a clear referral route if concerns involving children arise.

Our design assumes that knowledge alone may not resolve the pressures shaping livelihood decisions. During inception, we will investigate income needs, education barriers, household responsibilities, peer influence and the availability of local work. We will test these explanations with participants rather than present them as established causes in every community.

The gap our proposal addresses

We propose a local service connecting trusted community communication with orientation, short training and follow up. This is a programme hypothesis to validate during inception. We will map existing services first and direct resources towards unmet needs, avoiding duplication of programmes already available to the same participants.

Geographic focus and community selection

We propose two field areas, Bouaflé and Toumodi–Kokoumbo, with approximately three communities in each. A focused footprint allows repeated visits, fewer long distance journeys and closer relationships with local providers. Final community names will be agreed during months 1 to 3.

Area	Documented relevance	Programme status
Bouaflé and Marahoué	An initiative to map illegal sites and support land rehabilitation was launched in May 2026. [6]	Proposed field area
Kokoumbo in Toumodi department	Authorities reported an operation against an illegal gold processing site in September 2026. [7]	Proposed field area
Séguéla and wider Woroba	A June 2026 campaign addressed illegal mining across Worodougou, Béré and Bafing. [8]	Wider context
Aboisso corridor and Aby Lagoon	Reported downstream sediment impacts near Assinie in November 2025. [9]	Wider context
Oumbolo and Tangafla in Poro	Authorities reported action against illegal installations in September 2026. [10]	Wider context

The locations above are examples supported by public reports. They are not an exhaustive map, a ranking of severity or a list of communities already enrolled. Citations in the table refer to the reference list.

How we will select communities

Selection will consider documented exposure to mining related risks, interest expressed by young adults, an accessible and trusted local partner, suitable meeting spaces and realistic training links. We will consult women and young adults outside formal associations, not only community leaders. We will also verify travel conditions and the ability to maintain contact without Internet access.

The selected communities will not need to host an active mine. Households affected through livelihoods, water or social pressures may also be relevant. Community selection will not require residents to disclose unlawful activity or identify individual miners.

Evidence limits and local verification

Official operations establish that events were reported at specific places and times. They do not measure local youth participation, establish that sites remain inactive or demonstrate current safety. Historical ISS research identifies additional security dynamics in some northern areas. [11] We will use a current local assessment for access decisions and will not generalise those findings to all miners or regions.

Programme logic and objectives

Our objective is to improve informed decision making, community participation and access to safer livelihood pathways among young adults in the selected communities. We will combine a modest public education programme with more intensive support for a smaller group.

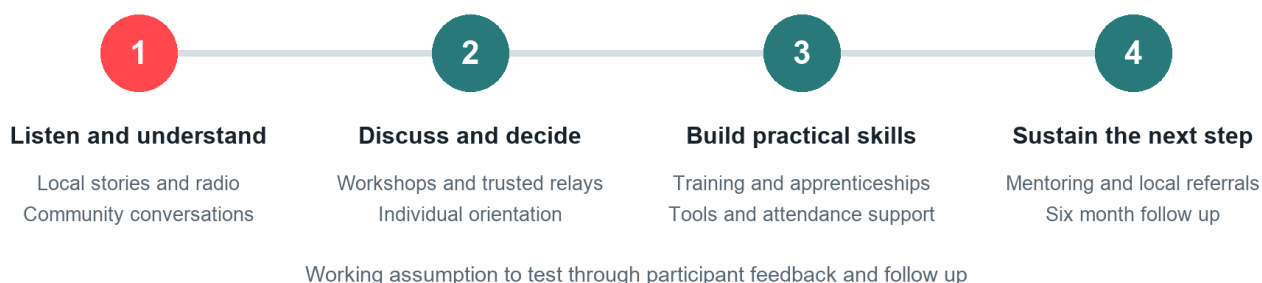


Figure 1 Proposed participant pathway. This is EGA's programme logic to be tested, not a demonstrated causal effect.

The change we expect to support

If young adults can discuss credible information with trusted local people, identify realistic opportunities and receive support to overcome participation costs, we expect more of them to complete a chosen learning pathway and take a feasible next step. Continued contact will help identify barriers that remain after training.

Community activities will provide a broad point of entry. Interested participants can request individual orientation, and selected applicants can enter structured support. A person may attend several activities; we will count that person once in the overall direct participant total.

Three objectives

- Improve understanding of mining related risks and knowledge of available local support through accessible media and repeated community dialogue.
- Enable 150 young adults to enter structured training and livelihood support, with attendance assistance, practical tools and mentoring tailored to their pathway.
- Equip 12 youth relays and support 10 small initiatives that allow young adults to practise facilitation, collaboration and constructive community action.

Assumptions and boundaries

The design depends on accessible providers, participant willingness, safe travel and sufficient local demand for the skills offered. We will review these assumptions at inception and midterm. We will not finance extraction equipment, purchase gold or promise jobs. Specialist mine rehabilitation, enforcement and medical treatment fall outside the programme budget; appropriate concerns will be referred to competent services.

Community education and youth media

We will use a small number of reusable productions, supported by well prepared local facilitation. The same films and audio episodes can be shown or played in several communities, with discussions adapted to local concerns.

Deliverable	Quantity	Delivery specification
Community workshops	24	Four per community, planned for about 20 to 25 participants each.
Short films	2	Approximately 8 to 12 minutes each, with subtitles and accessible companion audio where useful.
Audio episodes	4	Approximately 10 to 15 minutes each, suitable for radio and group listening.
Screening discussions	12	Two per community, normally about 40 to 60 attendees.
Youth relays	12	Two per community, trained and supervised with modest activity support.

Workshop sequence

Each community will receive a sequence covering livelihood choices and mining related risks; practical information and service access; income planning and career options; and a youth led action discussion. Sessions will include oral examples, role play and small group exercises. Participants will be able to ask questions privately after the session.

Production and editorial approach

One film will explore the choices facing a young adult seeking an income. The second will examine community experiences and constructive responses. Any dramatised or composite story will be labelled as such. We will use genuine testimony only with informed consent and an assessment of the risks of identification.

The four audio episodes will address common questions about risks, livelihood planning, local training and youth participation. Scripts will be reviewed by appropriate specialists and tested with a small youth group. We will avoid sensational images, unverified accusations and messages that stigmatise people dependent on mining.

Turning an event into an opportunity

Every workshop or screening will provide a simple explanation of the programme and a named local contact. Registration will be available on paper. Relays will offer follow up at agreed times, record common questions and help people reach orientation or referral appointments. Radio slots will be purchased only after checking station reach, language suitability and price.

The expected workshop and screening attendance includes repeat visits and potentially older community members. The target of 600 unique young adults will be monitored separately; attendance slots will not be presented as unique beneficiaries.

Livelihood pathways and youth initiatives

We will offer structured livelihood support to 150 young adults drawn from the wider participant group. Support will focus on a feasible next step, informed by an assessment of local demand and the participant's circumstances. Training will be delivered through qualified local providers and suitable artisans.

Selection and individual planning

Applicants will receive a plain language explanation of eligibility, selection and complaints procedures. Assessment will consider motivation, barriers to participation, suitability of the pathway and realistic access to the provider. We will not require disclosure of illegal mining involvement. An independent review of selection decisions will help reduce favouritism and exclusion.

We plan three cohorts of approximately 50 participants, beginning around months 4, 8 and 12. Course length will depend on the occupation and provider, generally within three to six months. All funded courses will finish by month 18 so that six month follow up can be completed within the grant.

Support element	Average per participant	Total for 150
Course or apprenticeship fees	US\$500	US\$75,000
Attendance and access assistance	US\$250	US\$37,500
Essential tools or materials	US\$150	US\$22,500
Provider mentoring and follow up	US\$100	US\$15,000
Total planning envelope	US\$1,000	US\$150,000

These are average planning allocations, not uniform cash entitlements. Assistance may be provided in kind or paid to a provider. Disbursement will follow individual plans and documented eligibility. Tools will be appropriate to the chosen lawful activity.

Choosing pathways with local demand

Options to assess include small equipment repair, food processing, selected trades and services for local businesses. Digital work will be considered only where reliable access and customer demand exist. Providers must explain course content, assessment, attendance expectations and post training prospects. EGA will monitor placement quality and will not describe an unpaid placement as a job.

Ten youth community initiatives

We will award 10 grants averaging US\$3,000 to small youth teams. Eligible projects may include a career event, a repair skills demonstration, a community audio programme or environmental education. Selection will assess community benefit, feasibility, ownership and cost. Each grant will have a named mentor, milestones, an expenditure record and a completion check. Hazardous cleanups, excavation and unverified remediation claims will be excluded.

Access and participation without Internet

Participants will be able to join the programme without owning a smartphone, buying mobile data or completing an online application. Offline access is a delivery requirement. Language, literacy, mobility and household responsibilities will be considered alongside connectivity.

Barrier	Planned response	Fallback
Limited Internet	Preloaded video and audio; radio; paper registration.	In person registration and scheduled relay visits.
Unreliable electricity	Portable equipment and suitable battery or power provision.	Facilitated oral discussion or a short live scene.
Limited literacy	Illustrated materials and verbal explanations.	Private oral assistance with forms and assessments.
Language differences	Local language facilitation and reviewed translations.	An interpreter or bilingual relay.
Travel or care responsibilities	Local venues and targeted access assistance.	Adjusted timing and individual orientation.
Disability related barriers	Accessible venues and individual accommodation discussions.	An equivalent format or suitable meeting arrangement.

Reach people beyond existing youth associations

Recruitment will use community contacts, local noticeboards, radio and outreach through women's groups, artisans and service providers. We will track whether recruitment reaches young adults outside school, formal employment and established associations. No participation fee will be charged.

At least 40% of direct participants and livelihood entrants will be women. We will review enrolment and retention by gender throughout delivery. Where participation is low, we will investigate the timing, location, care responsibilities and safety concerns involved and adjust the programme within the access allocation.

Language and communication quality

The working language of this proposal is English. Community delivery will use French and locally appropriate languages selected during consultation. Printed materials will use short explanations and illustrations that facilitators can explain aloud. We will test comprehension before large scale printing or radio distribution.

Optional virtual support

Calls, SMS, voice notes and small online mentoring sessions may supplement field delivery when participants can use them. Essential programme information will also be available through local contacts. Personal information will not be posted in public groups, and group participation will be voluntary. We will maintain a basic contact schedule that works when people change numbers or share a phone.

Implementation schedule

The 24 month schedule begins at the effective date of the funding agreement. Field expansion will follow a documented review of the initial activities. Procurement and provider contracting will be sequenced so that participants can complete support and follow up before the grant ends.

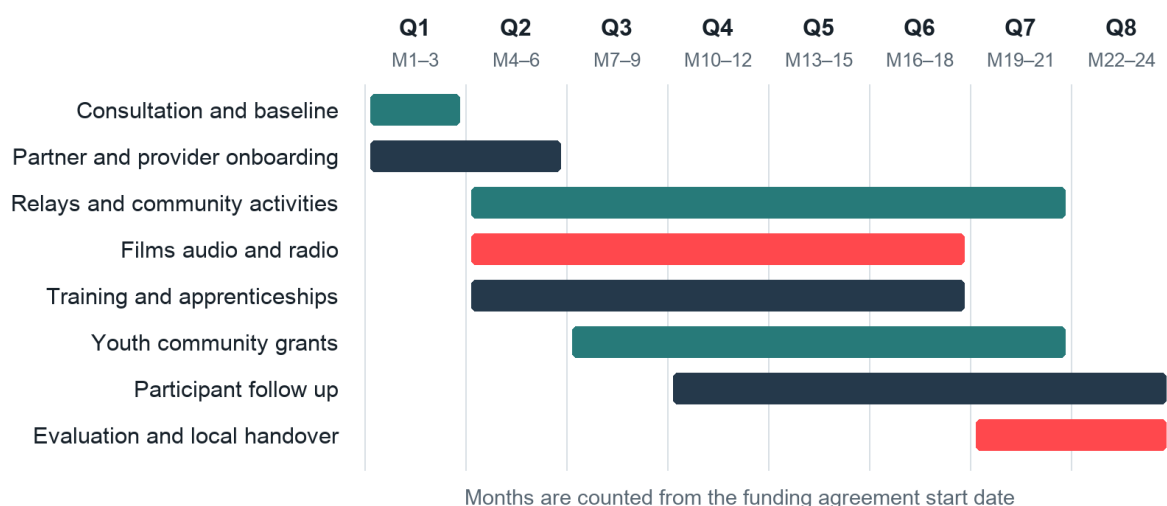


Figure 2 Proposed implementation schedule. Quarter 1 covers months 1 to 3. Timing will be aligned with local calendars during inception.

Milestone	Due	Evidence
Inception package approved	Month 3	Community selection, baseline plan, partner agreements, local cost checks and access assessment.
First delivery review	Month 6	Feedback from initial workshops, first cohort records and reviewed media materials.
Midterm review	Month 12	Progress against targets, spending forecast and agreed corrective actions.
Training completed	Month 18	Provider completion records and participant follow up schedules.
Final outcome review	Month 24	Six month pathway verification, evaluation and financial closeout.

Local scheduling and delivery checks

Meetings will be planned around agricultural seasons, market days and participants' work and care responsibilities. Each area will have a monthly coordination check covering attendance, access, provider performance, complaints and expenditure. Activities will move to a suitable venue or be postponed when safe delivery cannot be maintained.

Material changes to geography, budget or targets will be documented and agreed with the funder under the grant conditions. We will not add new communities at the expense of completing the planned follow up.

Results framework

We will distinguish activities delivered, people reached and changes observed. The figures below are proposed targets for this grant. Training entrants are included within the overall group of 600 direct young adult participants.

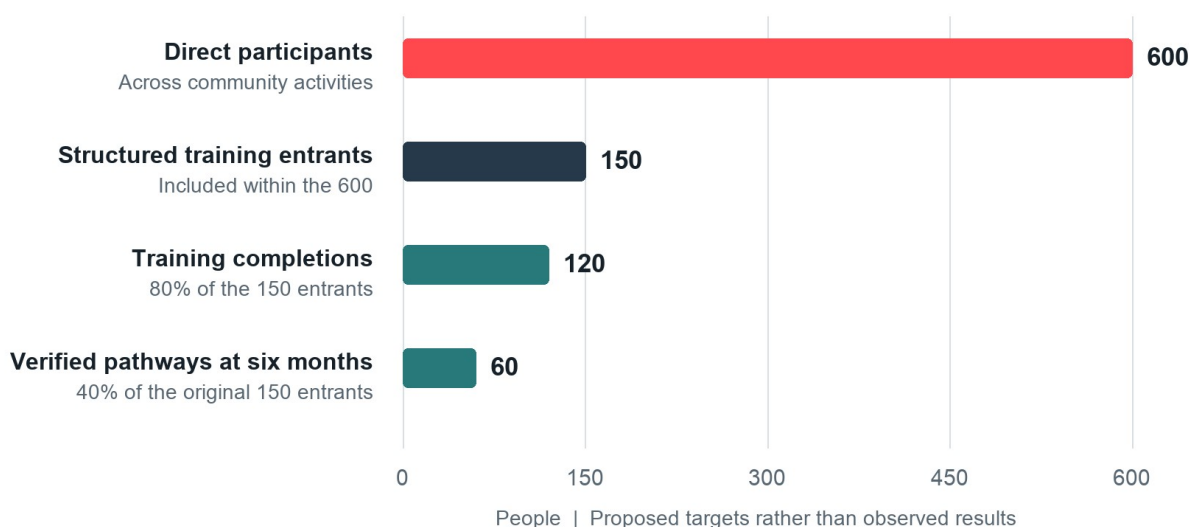


Figure 3 Proposed participant targets. The participant groups overlap and must not be added together. Six month pathways use all 150 entrants as the denominator.

Indicator	Target	Verification
Unique direct participants aged 18 to 30	600	Deduplicated participant register.
Women among direct participants	At least 240	Registration and attendance records.
Women among livelihood entrants	At least 60	Enrolment and retention records.
Active trained youth relays	12	Training completion and supervised activity records.
Training completions	120 of 150	Provider confirmation against agreed course criteria.
Verified pathways at six months	60 of 150	Participant follow up and corroborating evidence.
Completed community initiatives	10	Milestones, expenditure and completion checks.

For matched workshop assessments, we target an average improvement of 20 percentage points on a short knowledge score. The instrument and achievable target will be reviewed at inception. Where initial scores are high, we will also assess retention and knowledge of where to obtain support rather than rely on score improvement alone.

Monitoring evaluation and learning

Monitoring will support decisions during delivery and provide an honest account of results. We will establish baseline measures before the first substantive activity, review progress at month 12 and complete an outcome evaluation by month 24. We will not commission a national prevalence survey within this budget.

A practical measurement plan

A consistent identifier will connect attendance, orientation and training records while limiting the personal details visible to facilitators. We will record age eligibility, consent, participation and the information needed for follow up. Paper records will be stored securely and entered into an access controlled register when connectivity permits.

A short oral or written assessment will be offered immediately before and after selected workshops. Matched results will be reported with the number completing both assessments and the size of any missing group. A sample will be contacted about three months later to assess retention and whether the participant knows where to seek support. Sampling and language versions will be documented before use.

Verifying livelihood outcomes

The six month follow up will seek every one of the 150 livelihood entrants, including those who did not complete training. Verification may include an employer or trainer confirmation, education enrolment evidence, or a visit and basic operating evidence for an enterprise. A referral or a stated intention will not count as a verified pathway.

We will report employment, apprenticeship, further education and enterprise separately. A participant meeting more than one category will be counted once in the headline indicator. Unknown status will remain unknown and will not be counted as success. We will disclose loss to follow up and the type and duration of opportunities confirmed.

Learning and limits of attribution

Participant interviews, provider feedback and selected community discussions will explain why people continue or leave a pathway. We will examine barriers affecting women and participants with access needs. Findings will inform changes to timing, provider arrangements and participant support.

Before and after changes cannot by themselves demonstrate that EGA caused the outcome. We will assess our contribution using programme records and participant accounts, while documenting other training, labour market or household changes. The final report will not claim that awareness activities reduced national mining activity or that all observed employment was created by the grant.

Reporting responsibilities

The local coordinator will maintain monthly records. EGA's monitoring function will check data quality and prepare quarterly summaries. An external evaluator will review outcome evidence and limitations. The evaluation allocation is separate from the independent financial audit, which tests financial accountability rather than programme impact.

Governance partnerships and participant protection

EGA will be accountable for the grant, programme design, reporting and stewardship of funds, subject to the agreed contracting structure. An experienced Ivorian delivery organisation and named providers will carry out defined field responsibilities under written agreements. No external organisation is presented here as a confirmed partner.

Responsibility	Proposed accountable role
Programme oversight and funder reporting	EGA executive lead with documented delegation.
Daily implementation and local coordination	Locally recruited programme coordinator and implementing partner.
Community mobilisation	Two area mobilisers working with the 12 youth relays.
Training and mentoring	Contracted providers and suitable apprenticeship hosts.
Financial control and compliance	Designated finance officer, separate authoriser and external auditor.
Participant protection and complaints	Named focal point with an independent escalation route.

Partner selection and agreements

Before mobilisation, we will verify partner experience, references, financial controls and capacity to serve the proposed communities. Agreements will define outputs, safeguarding expectations, reporting, payment milestones, data responsibilities and termination provisions. Prospective mining sector sponsors or providers will be assessed for conflicts of interest; financial support will not give a sponsor control over participant testimony or findings.

Respectful participation and informed consent

Participation in media will be optional and separate from access to support. We will explain where material may appear and allow withdrawal before publication under the agreed consent process. Identifying details will be removed when disclosure could create risk. We will not request allegations against identifiable individuals as a condition of participation.

Young adults can raise concerns verbally with a trained focal point, through a telephone contact or through an agreed private reporting method. Complaints will be logged with restricted access, acknowledged promptly and escalated according to severity. No participant will lose assistance for raising a concern in good faith.

Activities will take place in suitable community venues. Youth will not be asked to enter active illegal sites or handle contaminated materials. Health, protection or child related concerns will be referred to qualified services. Staff will explain the limits of confidentiality where immediate harm or applicable reporting duties require action, using procedures reviewed locally before delivery.

Risk management

The following ratings are preliminary programme judgements. We will update them with local partners at inception and maintain a live risk register. The coordinator will review access conditions before each field activity; EGA will review material risks and corrective actions quarterly.

Risk	Initial rating	Response and trigger for action
Unsafe access or retaliation	High	Use suitable venues, protect identities and obtain local access advice. Pause or relocate an activity when safe delivery cannot be maintained.
Low attendance or dropout	High	Use accessible times and targeted assistance. Contact absent participants and review barriers when cohort attendance deteriorates.
Training without local demand	High	Verify employers, customers and provider capacity before commissioning. Change a pathway before enrolment if demand evidence is weak.
Partner capacity or delivery failure	Medium high	Check references, contract milestones and supervise delivery. Withhold undelivered milestone payments and activate a replacement plan.
Exclusion or favouritism	Medium	Publish selection criteria, monitor gender and access, and provide a complaints route. Review decisions when patterns of exclusion appear.
Misuse of funds or conflicts	Medium	Separate approval and payment, maintain receipts and reconcile accounts. Investigate exceptions and report under grant conditions.
Power or connectivity failure	Medium	Use offline files, paper records and backup power. Substitute oral discussion when equipment cannot operate.
Inflation or currency changes	Medium	Obtain local quotes, monitor forecasts and use contingency only for documented eligible adjustments.
Harm from media disclosure	High	Separate media consent from support; review identification risks. Remove unsafe identifying details before publication.
Missing outcome evidence	Medium	Maintain consented contact alternatives and local follow up. Disclose unknown outcomes rather than assume success.

Residual risk remains even with these measures. Material incidents, suspected fraud and safeguarding concerns will follow agreed reporting timeframes. Contingency funds will not be used to continue an activity that fails the programme's safety or participant protection requirements.

Budget and investment priorities

We request US\$500,000 for the full 24 month programme. The budget preserves the agreed activity volumes and funds the staff time, access assistance and follow up required to deliver them well. It is a planning budget subject to local quotations and the funder's eligible cost rules.

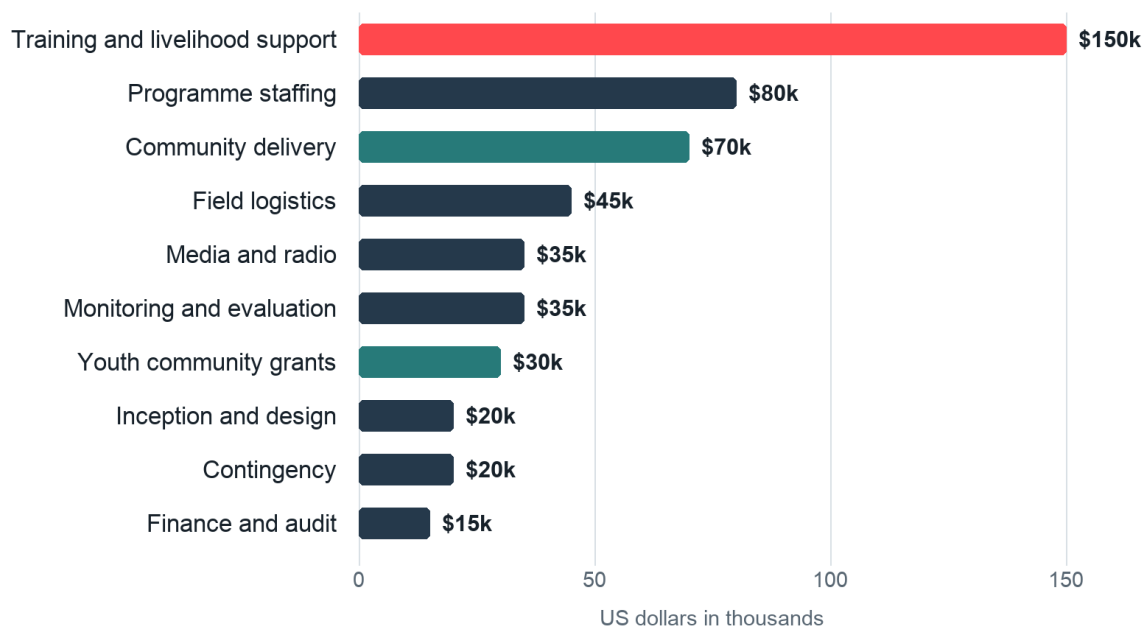


Figure 4 EGA proposed budget allocation. Source: the detailed planning budget in this proposal. Total US\$500,000.

Investment grouping	US\$	Share
Direct delivery including inception media outreach training and grants	305,000	61%
Staffing logistics monitoring and financial assurance	175,000	35%
Contingency	20,000	4%
Total funding request	500,000	100%

The grouping above describes budget functions, not a donor defined overhead calculation. Programme staffing, evaluation and field logistics support delivery but are shown separately from the direct delivery subtotal. Media and radio together represent 7% of the total; structured training and livelihood support represent 30%.

Pricing assumptions

Amounts include provisional provision for associated delivery costs. Local quotations must identify applicable taxes, duties and currency terms. We will record the budget exchange rate at contracting and report actual conversion rates. Existing venues and rented transport are assumed; the budget does not finance a permanent centre or a vehicle purchase.

Detailed budget for direct delivery

The unit rates below are planning assumptions, not supplier quotations. Each cost will be assigned to one budget line, with supporting records that prevent the same expense being charged twice. Average participant support will vary according to an approved individual plan.

Cost item and basis	US\$
Inception and programme design	20,000
Community consultations 6 × US\$1,500	9,000
Opportunity and provider assessment 2 areas × US\$3,000	6,000
Curriculum and language adaptation 1 package × US\$5,000	5,000
Media production and radio	35,000
Short films 2 × US\$7,000	14,000
Audio episodes 4 × US\$1,500	6,000
Translation accessibility and print masters 1 package × US\$6,000	6,000
Radio placement 2 area packages × US\$4,500	9,000
Community delivery and youth relays	70,000
Workshops 24 × US\$1,000	24,000
Screening discussions 12 × US\$750	9,000
Initial relay training 12 × US\$500	6,000
Relay activity support 12 × 18 months × US\$100	21,600
Community participation access fund 1 allocation × US\$9,400	9,400
Training and livelihood support	150,000
Course and apprenticeship fees 150 × US\$500	75,000
Training attendance assistance 150 × US\$250	37,500
Essential tools and materials 150 × US\$150	22,500
Provider mentoring and follow up 150 × US\$100	15,000
Youth community initiatives 10 grants × US\$3,000	30,000
Direct delivery subtotal	305,000

Workshop rates cover session facilitation, materials, venue costs where required and refreshments. Screening rates cover local event delivery, excluding the central equipment package. General workshop access assistance and training attendance assistance serve distinct purposes. Relay allowances support agreed outreach duties rather than duplicate salaried staff work.

Detailed budget for programme support

Staffing is limited to the proposed operational roles below. Founder time is not charged automatically. Any paid EGA role will require a documented assignment, rate and approval. Field transport covers team movements and equipment, rather than assistance already allocated to participants.

Cost item and basis	US\$
Monitoring evaluation and learning	35,000
Baseline tools and implementation 1 × US\$8,000	8,000
Monitoring and verification rounds 8 × US\$1,000	8,000
Midterm review 1 × US\$5,000	5,000
External final outcome evaluation 1 × US\$10,000	10,000
Data quality and accessible reporting 1 × US\$4,000	4,000
Programme staffing	80,000
Local coordinator 24 months × US\$1,500	36,000
Area mobilisers 2 × 24 months × US\$600	28,800
Allocated EGA oversight time 24 months × US\$400	9,600
Staff induction supervision and duty support 1 × US\$5,600	5,600
Field logistics	45,000
Team travel and field transport 24 months × US\$1,000	24,000
Projection audio and backup power kits 2 × US\$4,000	8,000
Insurance maintenance and secure storage 1 × US\$5,000	5,000
Interarea transport and equipment delivery 1 × US\$8,000	8,000
Finance administration and audit	15,000
Bookkeeping bank costs and administration 24 × US\$375	9,000
Independent financial assurance 2 reviews × US\$3,000	6,000
Programme support subtotal	175,000
Controlled contingency reserve	20,000
Total including US\$305,000 direct delivery	500,000

Staff allocations will be contracted and reconciled against actual duties and applicable employment costs. Monitoring fees fund measurement; bookkeeping and independent assurance fund financial accountability. The logistics travel allocation is planned operational travel, while the separate US\$20,000 reserve covers approved unforeseen eligible costs.

Financial management and value for money

The budget will be managed through a separate project ledger, documented approvals and regular reconciliations. We will maintain a rolling expenditure forecast and explain variances in quarterly reports. Purchases and subgrants will follow written procedures agreed with the funder.

Budget category	Year 1	Year 2	Total
Inception and design	18,000	2,000	20,000
Media and radio	23,000	12,000	35,000
Community delivery	35,000	35,000	70,000
Training and livelihoods	80,000	70,000	150,000
Youth initiatives	12,000	18,000	30,000
Monitoring and evaluation	12,000	23,000	35,000
Programme staffing	40,000	40,000	80,000
Field logistics	27,000	18,000	45,000
Finance and audit	7,000	8,000	15,000
Contingency	10,000	10,000	20,000
Total US\$	264,000	236,000	500,000

Disbursement and control

An indicative funding schedule is US\$120,000 at commencement, US\$144,000 at month 7, US\$136,000 at month 13 and US\$100,000 at month 19. Releases will depend on the grant agreement, reconciled expenditure, an updated forecast and required delivery evidence. This schedule is proposed, not a commitment by a funder.

We will separate purchasing, approval and reconciliation duties, obtain comparative quotations for material purchases, disclose related party interests and maintain an equipment register. Subgrants will use milestone payments and documented expenditure. Contingency use and budget transfers will require the approvals specified in the agreement; unspent funds will be treated according to the funder's rules.

Value for money

The full programme averages approximately US\$833 per direct participant. The dedicated livelihood package averages US\$1,000 per entrant. These use different cost bases and must not be added or treated as equivalent measures. Cost effectiveness will also be assessed through completion, verified pathways, inclusion and the reuse of media and equipment. We will not present the full budget divided by job outcomes as a cost per job created.

Continuity and the funding request

We seek a grant of US\$500,000 to implement this 24 month programme. The request funds a defined local footprint and a manageable set of activities, with sufficient support for access, provider quality and follow up. No additional cofinancing is assumed in the budget.

What will remain after the grant

Local partners will receive reusable workshop guides, cleared media files and referral information in formats they can use offline. We will agree rights for noncommercial community reuse during production. The two equipment kits will be assigned to appropriate custodians under the grant's asset rules, with an inventory and a realistic maintenance arrangement.

Youth relays will complete supervised practice and have named contacts in participating organisations. We will seek to embed occasional follow up conversations into existing local activities. Continued paid work for relays after the grant will depend on confirmed resources; it is not assumed. Media distribution agreements will make clear which uses can continue without further fees.

Training participants will retain their completion records and approved tools. Providers will be encouraged to maintain referral links with employers and relevant services. Community projects will identify a local owner and modest operating requirements before receiving a grant. We will not finance initiatives whose survival depends on an unspecified future EGA subsidy.

Milestones before full field implementation

- Complete funder eligibility checks and agree the legal contracting arrangement, authorised signatories and financial reporting requirements.
- Select the Ivorian delivery partner and sign agreements covering responsibilities, participant protection and financial controls.
- Confirm the six communities, feasible pathways, local quotations and the baseline measurement plan.
- Approve participant selection criteria, complaints procedures, media consent arrangements and referral contacts.

Our commitment to the funding partner

We will provide clear accounts of what was delivered, who participated, what changed and what remained unresolved. We will report challenges early, distinguish verified outcomes from self reported intentions and use evaluation findings to improve the programme. Any future expansion will depend on evidence of demand, delivery quality and results.

We invite the funding partner to support a programme that gives young adults credible information, a practical route to training and an active role in their communities. The proposed agreement will translate this request into confirmed delivery responsibilities, a locally costed budget and measurable milestones.

Programme contact info@empowergenafrika.org

[EmpowerGen Africa website](#)

References and evidence notes

The references below support the situation analysis and organisational description. Source titles are retained or shortened for identification. Public material was consulted in September 2026. Proposed activities, budget figures and targets are EGA planning assumptions and are not findings from these sources.

[1] EmpowerGen Africa. Organisation mission and launch programmes. Undated website.

[Open source publication](#)

Primary organisational source for our mission, founding team and planned programmes. It describes an initiative at launch stage, rather than an established record of delivery.

[2] World Bank. Exploitation de l'or artisanal la Côte d'Ivoire s'engage dans la voie de la formalisation d'un vaste secteur informel. 11 July 2025.

[Open source publication](#)

Sector livelihood estimate, estimated illicit exports in 2022, and the announced formalisation partnership. Estimates refer to different measures and must not be combined into a trend.

[3] Government of Côte d'Ivoire. Lutte contre l'orpaillage illégal le ministre appelle à une implication des communautés locales. 14 July 2025.

[Open source publication](#)

Government account of social and environmental consequences, community engagement and formalisation. Enforcement totals are not used as a count of currently active sites.

[4] World Health Organization. Mercury and health. 24 October 2024.

[Open source publication](#)

General evidence on mercury hazards. It is not a contamination survey or a disease prevalence estimate for the proposed communities.

[5] United States Department of Labor. 2024 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor Côte d'Ivoire. Reporting year 2024.

[Open source publication](#)

Country evidence of hazardous mining tasks performed by children and forced mining. Used for protection planning rather than a local prevalence estimate.

[6] Government of Côte d'Ivoire. Initiative de cartographie et de réhabilitation des terres dégradées à Bouaflé. 26 May 2026.

[Open source publication](#)

Launch on 21 May 2026 of an initiative involving Abidjan Legacy Program and AEIE. Relevant to site selection and potential coordination; no EGA partnership is implied.

References and evidence notes continued

[7] Ministry of Water and Forests. Opération Filet Vert démantèlement d'un site d'orpaillage illégal à Kokoumbo. 14 September 2026.

[Open source publication](#)

Official report of an operation on 12 September 2026 in Kokoumbo, Toumodi department. Evidence of a reported event, not a prevalence ranking.

[8] Government of Côte d'Ivoire. Campagne nationale de sensibilisation contre l'orpaillage illégal à Séguéla. 28 June 2026.

[Open source publication](#)

Regional context for Woroba. The reported concentration in Worodougou is a share of the district, not the national total.

[9] Government of Côte d'Ivoire. Assinie pollution de la lagune Aby et appel à une action collective. 20 November 2025.

[Open source publication](#)

Reported sediment pollution and upstream mining around the Aboisso border corridor. Downstream exposure is distinct from extraction at the same location.

[10] Ministry of Water and Forests. Opération Filet Vert du Nord dans la région du Poro. 7 September 2026.

[Open source publication](#)

Official report concerning Oumbolo and Tangafla. Used to illustrate geographic spread rather than to assess current access conditions.

[11] Institute for Security Studies. Côte d'Ivoire must cut ties between terrorists and illicit markets. 18 September 2023.

[Open source publication](#)

Historical research on specific northern areas. It does not establish that all mining communities or all miners are associated with armed groups.

How the evidence is used

National sector estimates describe scale, official local reports describe specific events, and health guidance establishes hazards. None supplies a baseline for the six proposed communities. The inception assessment will therefore establish local needs and feasible delivery arrangements before implementation. A change in the number of reported operations will not be treated as evidence of programme impact.