

CONCEPT NOTE
WiM-Africa Future Minerals Leaders Club
(Primary Schools – Pan-African Initiative)

Document Code: WIM-NG-AFR-PRIM-CN_11_2026
Institution: Women in Mining Africa (WiM-Africa)

Table of Contents

CONCEPT NOTE 1
 WiM-Africa Future Minerals Leaders Club1
 (Primary Schools – Pan-African Initiative)1
1. Background and Rationale 1
2. Program Objective 2
3. Program Description 2
4. Implementation Approach 2
5. Expected Outcomes 3
6. Alignment with WiM-Africa Strategy 3
7. Partnership and Scaling Opportunity 3
8. Conclusion 4

1. Background and Rationale

Africa is endowed with vast mineral resources, including gold, diamonds, copper, lithium, and other critical minerals that are central to global economic development and the energy transition. Despite this natural wealth, awareness and understanding of the mineral sector remain limited at early stages of education, particularly among young learners.

Across many African countries, children grow up in environments where natural resources are present but not fully understood in terms of their economic value, environmental implications, and future opportunities. This gap is further compounded by limited early exposure to structured learning on resource management, sustainability, and leadership, as well as persistent gender disparities that limit the participation of girls from an early age.

As a result, many young people transition through the education system without foundational awareness of the role natural resources play in national development, and without the confidence or aspiration to engage in related fields in the future.

The **WiM-Africa Future Minerals Leaders Club** has been designed as a Pan-African response to this challenge. It introduces children at the primary school level to the fundamentals of natural resources, environmental stewardship, leadership, and responsible citizenship, thereby laying the foundation for future engagement in the mineral sector and broader economic participation.

2. Program Objective

The overall objective of the WiM-Africa Future Minerals Leaders Club is to **build early awareness, leadership capacity, and foundational knowledge among primary school children**, enabling them to understand and appreciate Africa's natural resources and their role in sustainable development.

The program seeks to inspire curiosity, promote inclusive participation, and cultivate a generation of young learners who are informed, confident, and prepared to engage responsibly with their environment and future opportunities.

3. Program Description

The WiM-Africa Future Minerals Leaders Club is a structured, school-based program implemented within primary schools for children aged 8 to 13 years.

The program is delivered through a series of interactive sessions that introduce children to key concepts such as natural resources, minerals, environmental responsibility, safety awareness, leadership, and values. These sessions are designed to be engaging, practical, and age-appropriate, using storytelling, group activities, and simple demonstrations to enhance understanding.

The Club operates as a weekly extracurricular activity over a defined school term, creating a consistent platform for learning and engagement. It is implemented through collaboration between teachers, trained volunteers, and school management, ensuring continuity and local ownership.

A central feature of the program is its adaptability. While it provides a standardized framework, it allows each country to contextualize content based on its dominant mineral resources and local environment. This ensures relevance across different African contexts while maintaining alignment with WiM-Africa's continental objectives.

The program also emphasizes gender inclusion by actively encouraging the participation of girls and ensuring equal opportunities for engagement and leadership within the Club.

4. Implementation Approach

The program is implemented through a **school-centered and community-supported model**, with delivery anchored at the primary school level.

Participating schools host the Club and provide the environment for weekly sessions, while designated Teacher Coordinators oversee implementation and ensure alignment with school structures. Volunteers support session delivery, bringing energy and facilitating interactive learning.

The program is supported by WiM-Africa country chapters, which coordinate rollout, provide guidance, and ensure alignment with national priorities. Engagement with education authorities and relevant institutions further strengthens the program's integration into existing systems and supports scale-up.

Standardized implementation manuals, reporting tools, and monitoring frameworks are used to ensure consistency and quality across all participating schools.

5. Expected Outcomes

The WiM-Africa Future Minerals Leaders Club is expected to deliver measurable outcomes at the individual, school, and community levels.

At the individual level, participating children will demonstrate increased awareness of natural resources, improved confidence in expressing ideas, and enhanced understanding of environmental responsibility and leadership.

At the school level, the program will strengthen extracurricular learning, promote inclusive participation, and foster a culture of curiosity and engagement among pupils.

At the community level, the program will contribute to increased awareness of responsible resource management and reinforce positive values among young learners, with potential long-term influence on community practices.

Collectively, the program contributes to building a foundation for a future generation that is better informed, more inclusive, and more prepared to engage in Africa's mineral economy.

6. Alignment with WiM-Africa Strategy

The WiM-Africa Future Minerals Leaders Club aligns directly with WiM-Africa's Strategic Focus Areas, particularly **Coalition Building and Capacity Development**, as well as **Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Development**.

It contributes to the NextGen component of the Seven Point Program Agenda, while also supporting ESG awareness, youth development, and long-term capacity building within the extractive sector.

7. Partnership and Scaling Opportunity

The program presents a strong opportunity for collaboration with governments, development partners, educational institutions, and private sector actors interested in youth development, gender inclusion, and sustainable resource management.

Support is sought to expand the program across multiple countries, increase the number of participating schools, strengthen training and materials, and enhance monitoring and evaluation systems.

Given its structured design and adaptability, the program offers a scalable model that can be implemented across diverse African contexts with measurable impact.

8. Conclusion

The WiM-Africa Future Minerals Leaders Club represents an early-stage intervention with long-term significance. By introducing children to the fundamentals of natural resources, leadership, and responsibility, the program lays the foundation for a more informed and inclusive future generation.

It is both a preventive and transformative initiative—addressing current gaps in awareness while building the capacity of young Africans to engage meaningfully with their environment and contribute to sustainable development across the continent.