

MinerLift Foundation

White Paper

Transparent structures for mineral custody, market access, and responsible growth

MinerLift Foundation

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This white paper outlines a practical pathway for producers who already mine, but still need stronger systems to hold value, access support, and reach the market more fairly.

Executive Summary

MinerLift Foundation is being developed as a practical support system for African mining groups that already produce but do not yet have reliable access to development and expansion support, strong mine planning and implementation systems, secure professional route-to-market access, or enough control over the final sale process to retain fair value.

The Foundation brings these gaps into one structured model. It supports custody, transport, refining, storage, sale, settlement, documented reporting, and the wider support architecture needed to help producers grow more responsibly and credibly.

The initial MinerLift structure is being developed around two pilot pathways: a cooperative pathway for groups of small-scale miners, and a single-mine pathway that combines controlled offtake with an added reserve-supported security layer.

1. The Challenge

- Many African mining groups already produce, yet remain outside structured development pathways.
- Sales often move through multiple brokers and middlemen, leaving too little value with the actual producer.
- Technical planning, documented custody, secure logistics, and professional settlement processes are often incomplete or missing.
- Without stronger structure, access to finance, insurance, and long-term buyers remains difficult.

2. The MinerLift Response

MinerLift Foundation responds by creating a transparent operational bridge between production and market realisation. The aim is not simply to trade gold or facilitate a sale. The aim is to create a better system around the producer.

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MinerLift response area	What it means
Controlled offtake	Production moves through an agreed and documented custody channel.
Secure logistics	Transport, refining, and storage are handled through controlled professional processes.
Transparent settlement	Each cycle is reconciled through clear statements showing gross value, deductions, and net remittance.
Growth support	The model can work with equipment lease support, microfinance cooperation, project insurance, and structured finance.
Implementation discipline	The structure is documented in agreements, SOPs, settlement templates, and auditable controls.

3. Who the Foundation Serves

MinerLift Foundation is built to serve several groups at the same time, each through a slightly different value proposition.

Stakeholder group	Value proposition
Miners and mine owners	Stronger control over custody, sale, and value realisation without giving up ownership.
Cooperatives	Administrative structure and shared controls that can work within group governance and transparent distributions.
Buyers	Access to cleaner, better-documented supply with stronger communication and settlement discipline.
Governments	A platform that supports formalisation, transparency, safer export pathways, and regional implementation.
Associations	A framework that members can join to improve standards, market access, and implementation readiness.

4. Core Design Principles

- Ownership remains with the producer.
- Major external costs are documented on an open-book basis.
- Internal fees are separated clearly from external pass-through costs.
- Secure custody and chain-of-custody are treated as central, not optional.
- Transport and insurance assumptions are budgeted conservatively where conditions are difficult.
- Monthly reconciliation is part of the model, not an afterthought.

5. Two Initial Operating Models

The MinerLift platform is currently being developed around two practical pilot models.

Cooperative model: suited to a mining cooperative or group of small-scale producers. An implementation partner can receive all cooperative offtake, manage secure movement to refinery, receive refined product into secure storage, and sell on the cooperative's behalf under an open-book settlement structure.

Single-mine model: suited to one producing mine. This pathway uses the same custody and offtake discipline, while also allowing an independently assessed reserve value to support a security package that can help unlock input or expansion finance which the mine may struggle to obtain directly.

6. Operating System and Document Pack

To make the program real, the Foundation is building a practical document and control package rather than relying on general ideas alone.

- Framework MOU or implementation agreement
- Long-term offtake agreement
- Transparent costing memorandum
- Monthly settlement and reconciliation template
- Secure transport, custody, and chain-of-custody SOP
- Reserve security agreement for the single-mine pathway

This package is intended to make the operating logic understandable to producers, counterparties, and institutional partners before scaling begins.

7. Open-Book Costing and Why It Matters

A central principle of MinerLift Foundation is that it is better to budget conservatively and later reconcile downward than to start with low assumptions and later try to explain upward revisions. In difficult operating environments, mining partners may otherwise suspect that costs are being padded or hidden.

- Refinery costs should be budgeted conservatively.
- Private charter and dedicated secure routing may be required in some corridors.
- Specie or transit insurance should be treated as a separate and explicit cost.
- Each major deduction should be supported by evidence and shown clearly in settlement statements.

8. Secure Custody, Transport and Sale

The Foundation is designed around a controlled path from production to sale. That path begins at the point of handover, continues through weighing and sealing, moves through secure transport and refining, and ends in secure storage and sale.

The purpose of this structure is simple: to reduce confusion, reduce leakage, create stronger evidence, and make the final settlement easier to trust.

9. Access to Support Services

MinerLift Foundation is also being structured to work alongside practical support services that often determine whether growth can happen responsibly.

Support service	Role within the model
Equipment lease support	Helps scale or stabilise production where capital equipment is a bottleneck.

Microfinance cooperation	Supports local payroll, operating supplies, and controlled local expense rails.
Project insurance	Provides risk support around production interruption, transport, storage, and where relevant political or operational exposure.
Structured finance pathways	Allows captured production proceeds and stronger security packages to support access to funding.

10. Why Governments and Associations Matter

MinerLift Foundation is not only a producer-facing platform. It is also intended to be useful for governments and associations that want to support more responsible sector growth.

- Governments can use the model to encourage stronger formalisation and visibility.
- Associations can use the platform to help members access practical standards and stronger market pathways.
- Regional support makes it easier to build repeatable, scalable systems rather than isolated one-off transactions.

11. Expected Outcomes

- Producers gain stronger control over how value is realised.
- Buyers gain access to a more disciplined and transparent channel.
- Governments gain better visibility and a clearer formalisation pathway.
- Associations gain a platform their members can actually use.
- The wider ecosystem gains a more financeable and credible operating model.

12. Road to Implementation

1. Refine and stress-test pilot documents and operating controls.
2. Engage pilot producers and confirm route-to-market assumptions.
3. Confirm refinery, transport, storage, insurance, and settlement counterparties.
4. Launch initial pilot pathways with documented monthly reconciliation.
5. Use pilot learning to support wider regional expansion.

13. Invitation to Engage

MinerLift Foundation welcomes engagement from miners, cooperatives, responsible buyers, governments, and associations that want to help build a stronger and more transparent production ecosystem.

To start a discussion

- Website: www.minerliftfoundation.org
- Email: Contact@minerliftfoundation.org
- Available materials: company profile, ministerial brief, and program document packs

Closing Note

MinerLift Foundation is not being developed as an abstract concept. It is being built as a practical, disciplined, and transparent implementation platform that can help producers keep more value, help partners trust the process, and help the regional mining system grow on stronger foundations.

Further Materials Available

Document	Purpose
Company profile	A concise external overview for producers, buyers, governments, and associations.
Ministerial brief	A short public-sector note for high-level government stakeholders.
Program document packs	Pilot operating documents for cooperative and single-mine pathways.
Brand and messaging guide	Core positioning, audience language, and presentation direction.