



Fair Cobalt Alliance
L'Alliance du Cobalt Equitable

2025 Impact & Financial Report



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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AFA</i>	Advisory Board
<i>ASM</i>	Alternatives for Action
<i>CEEC</i>	Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
<i>CLPR</i>	Centre Arrupe pour la Recherche et la Formation
<i>CLR</i>	Chief Executive Officer
<i>CMDS</i>	Child Labour Remediation
<i>CPF</i>	Coopérative Minière pour le Développement Social
<i>DRC</i>	Cellule Technique de Coordination et de Planification Minière
<i>EGC</i>	Centre Promotion Familiale
<i>ESG</i>	Conseil Présidentiel de Veille Stratégique
<i>EPRM</i>	Civil Society Organisations
<i>EVs</i>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<i>FAC</i>	European Partnership for Responsible Minerals
<i>FCA</i>	Entreprise Générale du Cobalt
<i>LME</i>	Environmental, Social, and Governance
<i>NGO</i>	Fund Allocation Committee
<i>OHS</i>	Fair Cobalt Alliance
<i>PPE</i>	Kamoto Copper Company
<i>RMC</i>	London Metal Exchange
<i>SAEMAPE</i>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<i>SC</i>	Operational Health and Safety
<i>TIF</i>	Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade
<i>VSLA</i>	Personal Protective Equipment
<i>ZEAs</i>	Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas

FOREWORD

2025 was a tumultuous year for everyone working in supply chains, and the Fair Cobalt Alliance (FCA) was no exception. Changes in the U.S. administration had a real impact on our work, most directly through the cutting of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funding awarded to FCA at the end of 2024. At the same time, the FCA underwent significant internal changes, including leadership shifts.

There's no point pretending this was easy. It created uncertainty, delayed some plans, and put extra pressure on a team already working in a challenging environment. And yet, we ended the year on a more positive note. FCA's leadership was secured, and we closed 2025 with a new opportunity in sight: a new Request for Proposal (RFP) from the U.S. Department of Labour (USDOL). That matters—not as a “win” on paper, but because it helps protect continuity and build confidence for the work ahead.

If anything, the turbulence of 2025 reinforced why FCA exists and why this work can't be “on and off.” FCA has become a stable presence in the industry and in Kolwezi. Even though public funding shifted, the association did not disappear. With strong backing from industry partners, FCA not only stayed standing—it kept delivering. The FCA initiated the Child Rights Action Hub project, which continued to grow. In Kolwezi, the team continued to show up at the Kamilombe mine—week after week—to help uphold minimum health and safety standards.

That continuity wasn't accidental. It was carried by FCA's members, companies and civil society organisations, who helped hold the association steady through the leadership transition and ensured FCA could keep moving. At the same time, 2025 made something else clear: there is still a lot to do. Many things need to improve, and much still needs to be built on health and safety, on stronger cooperatives and ASM structures, and on systems that better protect workers on site.

We are hopeful that 2026 will be a year when we see real change in artisanal and small-scale cobalt mining (ASM). That includes the implementation of exported quotas for ASM mined cobalt, continued strengthening of health and safety measures that more effectively protect workers at Kamilombe, stronger cooperatives, and scaled support for children in cobalt communities. We remain committed to supporting the FCA in this journey—and to going the extra mile where it's needed.

Ines Kaempfer,
CEO of The Centre for Child Rights and Business

*By
the Chair
of the Steering
Committee*

*By
the Executive
Director*

*Delivering on our four
workstreams*

FOREWORD

In a year defined by disruption and determination, the Fair Cobalt Alliance demonstrated something important: that a well-rooted organisation can weather significant storms without losing sight of what it is here to do. The loss of USAID funding, awarded at the end of 2024 and withdrawn shortly after, created real uncertainty - for our team, our planning, and our partners. It was a serious setback. And yet, the FCA did not stand still.

That resilience was made possible by our members - companies and civil society organisations across the cobalt supply chain - who held the alliance steady through the transition and ensured continuity of our work in Lualaba. It was also carried by an exceptional team on the ground, whose commitment to showing up - week after week, at the Kamilombe mine site - reflects the kind of sustained engagement that this work demands.

Despite the headwinds, 2025 was a year of tangible delivery across all four of our workstreams. Our 100 safety captains conducted 46 toolbox training sessions, reaching nearly 5,000 miners on topics from cholera prevention to tunnel risk management. A solar kit was installed at Kamilombe to help miners charge headlamps underground - reducing a daily hazard that had long been overlooked. Women washers received protective gloves and, for the first time, a dedicated changing facility: a concrete step toward dignity in a difficult working environment. The Child Rights Action Hub DRC continued to grow in both scale and depth. In 2025, 52 additional children were enrolled in the remediation programme, bringing the cumulative total to 95 children supported. Every child enrolled passed their end-of-year exams. The Sibling Education Fund, piloted in 2024, was expanded significantly - enabling 113 siblings of children in remediation to return to school. The launch of the first Youth Club, bringing children and parents together in community, was a milestone that reflects the programme's evolution toward a truly holistic model of support.

Our Voluntary Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) continued their steady, transformative work. With 27 groups and over 600 active members, participants saved over USD 180,000 in 2025 and created 76 new income-generating activities. Behind these numbers are people like Julien, who rebuilt his business and kept his children in school, and Tatiana, who turned a single sewing machine into a community workshop - stories that remind us why economic resilience is not a secondary concern but a foundation for everything else we are trying to achieve. The Responsible Mineral Credits mechanism continued to generate site-level improvements, with over USD 34,000 in credits purchased in 2025 and reinvested directly at Kamilombe. New worker representatives were elected to the Fund Allocation Committee, reinforcing the principle that the people most affected by mining conditions should have a voice in how improvement funds are deployed.

2025 was also a pivotal year for the artisanal cobalt sector more broadly. The DRC government introduced significant regulatory reforms: 64 new artisanal mining zones were announced in Lualaba Province, an export quota system replaced the previous moratorium on raw cobalt, and the Entreprise Générale du Cobalt produced its first 1,000 tonnes of traceable artisanal cobalt. These are complex, transitional developments - but they point in a direction that aligns with what the FCA has been working toward: a formalised, professionalised ASM sector that better protects the people within it.

Within this evolving landscape, we continued to deepen our partnerships with EGC, SAEMAPE, CEEC, and local cooperatives - working toward formalisation that translates into real improvements for workers and communities, not just regulatory compliance on paper.

We are pleased to share that 2025 ended on a more positive note than it began. We closed the year with a new opportunity secured: a grant as a subgrantee within a larger consortium led by World Vision, funded by the U.S. Department of Labour. This matters because it provides the continuity that meaningful, community-level change requires. The work of transforming artisanal mining cannot happen in bursts; it needs consistent, patient presence over time.

As we enter 2026, the FCA does so with stable leadership, a committed membership, and a clearer sense of where to focus. There is still a great deal to build - on health and safety, on cooperative structures, on child labour remediation, on systems that more effectively protect workers. We do not shy away from that. It is precisely why this alliance exists.

We extend our deepest thanks to our members, implementing partners, donors, and the communities in Lualaba who continue to work alongside us. This report is a record of what that collective commitment made possible in 2025 - and a foundation for what we intend to build together in the year ahead.

*Bandi Mbubi,
FCA Executive Director*

*An evolving sector - and
our role within it*

*Looking ahead with
confidence*



2025 IMPACT...



48
TOOLBOX TRAINING
SESSIONS

conducted by the



100
SAFETY CAPTAINS

trained in 2021 and 2022, reaching a total of
4,790 MINERS IN 2025

SOLAR ENERGY KIT INSTALLED
at the mine site to charge



235
HEADLAMPS

provided in 2024 benefiting approximately



2,000
MINERS AT THE
KAMILOMBE MINE SITE

This enabled the provision of *peer-to-peer loans*, enabling the **CREATION OF**



27
SAVING GROUPS

comprised of



605
MEMBERS

saved a total of



76
NEW MICRO
ENTERPRISES

bringing the total number of new businesses
created to **39**



180,488
USD

bringing the historic savings under the
mechanism to



+1
MEMBER

joined the FCA



389,903
USD



847,049
USD SPENT IN 2025



95
CHILDREN

(43 girls, 52 boys) have entered the
remediation programme since the launch
of the *Action Hub* (of which 20 have been
directly supported through the FCA's funding)



77
CHILDREN

currently in the programme, of which 64
are in primary or secondary school, and 13 in
vocational training



64
CHILDREN

attend primary and secondary school,
and 13 are enrolled in *vocational training school*



236 & 405
PARENTS & SIBLINGS

have benefited from improved household
stability and support services (60 siblings
and 39 adults are directly supported through
FCA funding)



127
SIBLINGS

have returned to school through the
Siblings Education Fund



52
ADDITIONAL CHILDREN

joined the programme in 2025



15
CHILDREN

have **successfully completed the programme** so far



1134
REMEDICATION MONTHS

provided to date

... AT A GLANCE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE ASM COBALT SECTOR

To contextualise the work of the FCA, it is important to highlight a number of political and economic developments that have the potential to impact the ASM cobalt sector.

Reflection on changes in the DRC Mining of Mines

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains central to the global energy transition. The country is the world's leading producer of cobalt, the second largest producer of copper, and a growing producer of lithium, with significant graphite potential. These minerals are indispensable to battery production for electric vehicles (EVs), renewable energy storage systems, and broader clean energy technologies.

While the majority of Congolese cobalt is produced through large-scale industrial mining, an estimated 2% of cobalt production originated from artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), according to the Cobalt Institute's 2024 Cobalt Market report. This number likely increased in 2025, as cobalt prices rose.

This sector plays a vital socio-economic role, providing livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of Congolese workers and their families.

However, the artisanal cobalt sector continues to face sustained international scrutiny due to hazardous working conditions, the presence of child labour, informal or unclear legal status of operations, weak traceability systems, risks of corruption and mineral diversion, and, in some areas, the historic presence of non-state armed actors

Against this backdrop, 2025 marked a pivotal year of regulatory recalibration and renewed state engagement.

Intensified Government Action to Formalise the ASM Sector

Throughout 2025, the Congolese government significantly strengthened its regulatory and administrative interventions in the artisanal cobalt sector. Under the leadership of the newly appointed Minister of Mines, H.E., Louis Watum Kabamba (August 2025), a series of measures and ministerial decrees were introduced aimed to facilitate the integration of artisanal cobalt into formal supply chains and regulated markets, with a particular emphasis on ensuring that cobalt flows—especially those originating from historically difficult-to-monitor artisanal sites—comply with international responsible sourcing expectations.

Measures taken by the Ministry of Mines included:

- Temporary suspension of artisanal processing:** As part of its regulatory consolidation efforts, authorities enacted a temporary suspension of certain artisanal processing activities to verify the legal origin of minerals, combat corruption
- Promote domestic beneficiation of cobalt:** The Ministry of Mines, in coordination with other public institutions, is advancing efforts to develop refining capacity, produce higher-value products such as cobalt sulphate, attract foreign di-

and illegal exports, and reassess commercial channels across the value chain

- End of the moratorium on Raw Cobalt Export:** In 2025, the DRC lifted the previous moratorium on raw cobalt exports, which had been introduced to stabilise global prices and incentivise local processing. The moratorium was replaced by a strict export quota system that limited export volumes. These policy shifts reflect a broader strategic objective to actively manage global cobalt supply, strengthen the state's revenue capture, particularly through the promotion of domestic beneficiation and stronger state oversight of production and trade.

rect investment, create skilled employment, and increase fiscal revenues

- **Expansion of Artisanal Mining Zones (ZEAs):** In November 2025, Minister Watum announced the creation of 64 new artisanal mining zones (Zones d'Exploitation Artisanale – ZEAs) in Lualaba Province. The expansion aims to provide legally designated areas for artisanal miners, reduce encroachment on industrial concessions, improve site-level governance, and enhance safety and regulatory compliance. If effectively implemented, this measure could significantly reduce informality and support safer, more structured ASM operations.

While these reforms introduce transitional challenges, they also signal a decisive move toward a more formalised and strategically managed ASM cobalt sector. These efforts align with the DRC's long-term ambition to position itself not merely as a supplier of raw materials, but as an active participant in regional and global battery value chains.

A significant milestone in 2025 was the production of the first 1,000 tons of traceable artisanal cobalt by the Entreprise Générale du Cobalt (EGC) – the state agency that holds an exclusive mandate to purchase and market artisanally mined critical minerals requiring processing before export.



FCA's Role Within a Rapidly Evolving Policy Landscape

Within this evolving regulatory and institutional environment, the Fair Cobalt Alliance (FCA) continued to work closely with the Entreprise Générale du Cobalt (EGC), SAEMAPE (Service d'Assistance et d'Encadrement de l'Exploitation Minière Artisanale et à Petite Échelle), local cooperatives, and civil society partners to support the formalisation and profes-

sionalisation of ASM in the region. For FCA and its partners, the priority remains clear: to ensure that formalisation translates into safer working conditions, child labour-free communities, transparent supply chains, and improved livelihoods for artisanal mining families.

Our work in 2025

2025 marked the fifth anniversary of the Fair Cobalt Alliance. Over this period, we have built a strong network of local and international partners, learning from both our successes and our setbacks.

As we prepare to expand our footprint to additional mine sites, we remained focused in 2025 on deepening impact at the Kamilombe artisanal cobalt and copper mine site. Working closely with our partner artisanal mine site cooperative CMDS (Coopérative Minière pour le Développement Social), we implemented targeted mine site interventions in collaboration with local and international stakeholders

to strengthen safety, formalisation, and community resilience. The various activities undertaken by the FCA are separated out into four distinct workstreams, detailed in this chapter.

- 1. Enabling safe and dignified working conditions**
- 2. Child labour prevention and remediation**
- 3. Economic Resilience**
- 4. Value chain participation for scale and sustainability**

ENABLING SAFE AND DIGNIFIED WORKING CONDITIONS



TOOLBOX TRAINING

*A total of 46
toolbox training
sessions were
conducted in 2025*

Over the past five years, we have made significant strides in promoting safer working conditions at the Kamilombe mine site through the training of 100 safety captains (done in 2021 and 2022) and the ongoing health and safety awareness-raising efforts. In 2025, the safety captains continue to lead in the organisation of weekly toolbox training sessions aimed at reinforcing health and safety knowledge and risk management approaches among miners.

A total of 46 toolbox training sessions were conducted in 2025, addressing key occupational health and safety risks at the mine site. Topics included cholera prevention, site hygiene and sanitation, rainwater and shaft water management, tunnel risk assessment, dust exposure, drainage around tunnels, safe manual handling of ore, and general safety protocols. These sessions reached 4,790 miners, including diggers, transporters, "sailiseurs" (sailiseurs are the group of workers that lift the ore from the tunnel to the surface), depot workers, site cleaners, and washerwomen.

*One of the 100 Safety
captains trained by
the FCA conducting a
toolbox safety training
session to other miners
at the Kamilombe mine
site.*



PPE PROVISION

To improve the mine site's safety standards, the FCA continued to expand its efforts to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to better safeguard miners from occupational hazards. The following PPE was distributed to site maintenance workers: 17 uniforms, 17 gum boots, 34 protective goggles, and 34 PVC.

To aid in providing sufficient lighting underground, the FCA provided a solar kit to the CMDS cooperative, comprising of solar panels, battery and a regulator to support miners effectively charge their headlamps.

17 uniforms, 17 gum boots, 34 protective goggles, and 34 PVC



Solar installation for charging lighting tools at the Kamilombe mine.

CASE STUDY Tunnel roofing

Historically, the mining pits at Kamilombe were inadequately protected against rainwater and harsh weather conditions, as tarpaulins, typically made of plastic, are the most common material used to cover the pits, exposing miners to the constant risk of shaft collapses. It was in this context that FCA, in 2023 and 2024, financed the purchase of iron sheets - with a lifespan of 10-15 years - to cover a total of 136 pits, directly benefiting over 5,000 miners in Kamilombe. This intervention significantly improved safety by reducing water infiltration and mitigating structural weaknesses during rainy periods.

In 2025, the team was able to track the intervention's impact. In this section, we highlight testimonials from two benefiting miners in Kamilombe:

Eddy Lutumba, owner of a well, shared his positive impressions with us: *"Previously, when the wells were covered with tarpaulins and a structure supported by a wooden crossbeam, we had too much rainwa-*

ter infiltration. This practice had disadvantages. During the rainy season, work sometimes stopped to avoid the risk of accidents, as water seeps into the well through the tarpaulins and can cause the walls to collapse. This has happened in my well. The initiative to cover wells with metal sheets has solved many problems and improved working conditions."

Fiston Bomashi, one of the miners in Kamilobe, in his reflection stated, *"We used to spend a lot of money on tarpaulins, replacing them three times a year. Tarpaulins are not resistant to water and sunlight. They tear under the weight of water and decompose in sunlight, increasing the risk of accidents. With the wells covered with metal sheets provided by FCA, we no longer spend money securing them. We work in complete safety, without rainwater seeping into the tunnels."*

Mine safety governance and monitoring

The OHS Committee, established in 2021 as a multi-stakeholder committee comprising a Chair from the Kamoto Copper Company (Chair), a Co-Chair from Service d'Assistance et d'Encadrement de l'Exploitation Minière Artisanale et à Petite Échelle (SAEMAPE), CMDS, and FCA (Secretariat), continued to serve as a platform that provides oversight, reviews opportunities, and addresses OHS concerns at the mine site. The committee met once in 2025 to discuss and review recommendations from previous meetings, including an update on the site sanitation and mine incident control statistics.

During the meeting, the committee formulated several new recommendations aimed at strengthening site-level safety management and coordination. These included:

- The creation of a regular waste collection schedule to monitor waste management on site.
- The identification of shafts in production and their owners to facilitate PPE distribution and monitoring.

CHILD LABOUR PREVENTION AND REMEDiation



CHILD RIGHTS ACTION HUB DRC

In 2022, the FCA supported The Centre for Child Rights and Business to establish the Child Rights Action Hub ('Action Hub') in the DRC, including enabling the enrolment of the first 20 children into the Action Hub's child labour remediation programme.

The Action Hub is a locally registered association comprising six local organisations, with The Centre for Child Rights and Business serving as the implementor and secretariat. It is currently directly supported by 15 companies and has also received public support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The Action Hub has established a network of 23 active case managers, of whom 4 received their accreditation in 2025, and works closely with key partners, including Better Mining, Bon Pasteur, the ILO and DIVAS. The Action Hub also partners with Save the Children in Germany and Switzerland.

*95 children
had been
integrated into
the remediation
programme since
the launch of the
Action Hub*

By the end of 2025, 95 children had been integrated into the remediation programme since the launch of the Action Hub. In addition, 127 siblings have been supported to return to school through the Sibling Educational Support Programme & Fund, including 113 in 2025 alone.

The FCA continues to play a key supporting role in the Action Hub. Specifically in 2025, it supported the launch of an Access to Decent Work for Youth programme, which connects young people to apprenticeships in local workshops, while also strengthening the capacity of mining companies, ASM cooperatives, community focal points and government representatives. A portion of FCA member company fees also contributes to the ongoing sustainability of the Action Hub and its programmes.

*(©) The Centre for Child
Rights and Business*



Child Labour Remediation by the numbers (2022 - 2025)

 **95**
CHILDREN

have joined the remediation programme to date, with **52** newly joining in 2025.

 **20**
CHILDREN

of these children have been financially supported by FCA since the start

 **77**
CHILDREN

are currently still enrolled in the programme, of whom **64** are in primary and secondary school and **13** in vocational training school.

 **1**
CHILD

enrolled in vocational school through a government-funded scholarship

 **236 & 405**
PARENTS SIBLINGS

have benefited from improved household stability and support services so far.

 **39 & 69**
ADULTS SIBLINGS

Of these, have been directly supported by FCA funding.

 **15**
CHILDREN

completed the programme so far.

 **1**
CHILD

dropped out of the programme.

 **1134**
MONTHS

of child labor remediation have been provided to date.

 **406**
REMEDIATION MONTHS

of these remediation months were delivered through FCA funding.

ZOOMING IN ON 2025: OUTCOMES AND PROGRESS

In 2025, the Action Hub saw strong growth in engagement and funding, with 25 companies, government actors, and CSOs supporting or partnering with the initiative, including support from the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Modern Slavery Fund (FCDO).

Expanded remediation support:

- **52 additional children** joined the remediation programme through additional Action Hub supporters' funding in **2025**
- The Sibling Education Fund, first piloted in the **2024/25 school year**, was expanded for **2025/2026**, with the aim of ensuring that all siblings attend school
- This extended to siblings of children in remediation, enabling **113 siblings** to return to school in **2025**
- Case management has been moving towards a holistic household approach, including supporting parents with diversification of income streams, financial planning and savings
- Two training sessions attended by **24 case managers** included a focus on how to support income diversification through the sharing of case studies and experiences
- Lead case managers were appointed to strengthen school and community relationships
- The first Family Day was held in the UCK community, bringing together **23 parents** and **24 children** from the local community

Education and child protection outcomes:

- All children passed end-of-year exams, with an average score above **58%**, and were re-enrolled after the school break
- Play and learning kits were distributed during school holidays to prevent entry into mining

System strengthening and alignment with government structures:

- As part of efforts to strengthen identification, referral, and reporting, the Action Hub established collaboration with PREPEC (Plateforme des réseaux de protection de l'enfance), a community-based child protection network initiated in collaboration between the Division of Social Affairs (DIVAS) and Pact Congo. Several children identified in child labour by PREPEC have been integrated into Action Hub's Child Labour Remediation Programme in **2025**
- The Action Hubs renewed its Acte de Reconnaissance with DIVAS, confirming our continued status as one of the actors officially aligned with the government's strategy for prevention and remediation of child labour in mining. The Action Hub was also part of the launch of the CPSTEMA (Commission provinciale chargée du suivi de la question du travail des enfants dans les mines artisanales)

Youth, livelihoods and access to decent work:

- The first Access to Decent Work for Youth (AD-Y) programme was launched, supporting apprenticeships in local workshops with FCA and Fairphone
- One former beneficiary was awarded a government-funded vocational scholarship

Capacity building for local partners and communities:

- The Action Hub is now active with its programmes in **12 mining communities** in two mining areas, covering all communities around the Kamilombe ASM site

- **2 ASM cooperatives** were trained on child labour identification, referred **19 cases**, with 2 already integrated into remediation. These sessions reached **39 agents**
- Training materials on child labour prevention and remediation (CLPR) were developed targeting various mining company departments
- 3 sessions of CLPR training were delivered to mining companies, reaching **29 Community Relations staff, 10 Human Resource staff, and 18 Security staff**
- 2 sessions of CLPR training were delivered to community stakeholders, reaching **28 community focal points**, including government representatives
- Training materials on financial planning and entrepreneurship were developed, supported by the UK Government and AFA

One of the youth beneficiaries of the Child Rights Action Hub DRC playing a game at the first Youth Club event. (©) The Centre for Child Rights and Business



Part of a Global Action Hub Model

Expanded remediation support:

The Action Hub DRC is one of six Child Rights Action Hubs currently operating worldwide in high-risk sourcing regions. Together, they provide a scalable, locally embedded model for addressing child labour in complex supply chains through collective action between brands, suppliers, governments, and civil society.

In line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance, the model supports companies sourcing from high-risk contexts to identify, prevent, and address adverse human rights impacts linked to their operations and supply chains.

How the Action Hub Works

Core Programmes

Enabled through pooled investment from brands and public sector partners, and implemented by local and international civil society organisations, the Action Hub DRC works closely with mining companies, ASM cooperatives, government departments, and communities to strengthen prevention and remediation networks. Its core programmes include:

- **Research, mapping and risk assessments:** Identifying child labour risks and mapping resources
- **Increased accountability of supply chain actors:** Training on HRDD and child labour prevention & remediation; strategic partnerships with local organisations and dialogue between key stakeholders
- **Capacity building for local partners and communities:** training on responsible business conduct and child rights, as well as training and accreditation for local case managers)
- **Child labour remediation and case management:** Individualised and collective support for children, managed by accredited local case managers
- **Access to decent work for youth:** connects out-of-school youth to decent work and apprenticeship opportunities, reducing the risk of hazardous mine work (one of the worst forms of child labour)
- **After-School Centres:** Community-run learning and recreational spaces to keep children engaged in meaningful after-school activities.
- **Siblings Educational Support Programme:** ensures that all school-age children in affected households attend school for one year

Through this integrated approach, children and families receive long-term support, including education, stipends, case management, and pathways to decent work.

CASE STUDY

The Child Rights Action Hub Organises its First Family Day Club Activity, Giving Children Knowledge and a Voice

Family Day provides an opportunity for children (and parents) in the Action Hub's programmes and living in the same community to come together to get to know each other, share experiences, receive training in relevant life skills and child rights, and have fun.

The Family Days are organised by the Action Hub in collaboration with key community stakeholders and aim to strengthen the support network for each child and family within their own community.

For this first Family Day, both children and parents were invited. 23 parents and 24 children attended, including 22 children currently in the child labour

remediation (CLR) programme and 2 children who have "graduated" from the programme.

The agenda also included a discussion of the importance of education, a workshop where the children shared their dreams for their lives, and a session with parents on parental skills, focusing on parent-child communication.

The children about to play a game as one of the activities under the Family Day. (©) The Centre for Child Rights and Business



The parents attending the first Family Day organised by the Action Hub DRC. (©) The Centre for Child Rights and Business

"We thank this organisation for its support, and as parents, we must encourage one another by participating in the project. In particular, by monitoring our children and raising awareness among our neighbours about the risks associated with child labour and the importance of education," said one of the mothers in attendance.

"It was great playing games with my mom, as we don't get to do that very often. I want to come to the club for the whole holiday!" One of the children at the Family Day added.

*Chadrack Kanyingu,
Director of the Child
Rights Action Hub DRC.*

"What stood out in 2025 was not just the growth of the Action Hub, but the depth of its impact, supporting children, young people, siblings, and parents together, and strengthening collaboration across companies, communities, and partners to build brighter futures."

The active involvement of local leaders, including a school manager and a community representative, helped anchor the initiative in the local context. Their involvement enabled an open discussion on parental responsibilities and child rights, ensuring that our protection goals are supported by local authorities. With four more sessions scheduled for 2026, each reaching up to 50 participants, our Action Hubs are committed to scaling this proactive, community-led approach to advancing child rights.

Hygiene and sanitation micro-project in rehabilitated schools

In June 2021, the London Metal Exchange (LME) donated approximately USD 790,000 to The Impact Facility (TIF) as part of its efforts to support charitable projects that protect children's rights in mineral supply chains. The funds were designated to improve school infrastructure in and around Kolwezi, aiming to create an environment for quality schooling, a known mitigator to keeping children out of mine sites - fully aligned with FCA's wider Child Labour Remediation efforts in the region. The project was completed in 2023 with the renovation of three school facilities: Kabulungu, Dima, and the Centre de Promotion Familiale (CPF), benefiting approximately 1,400 students.

Following the completion of the school renovations at Kabulungu, Dima and CPF in March 2025, for which an additional USD 400,000 was provided to complete the renovation works and the construction of a borehole at DIMA primary school and provision of training material and equipment at CPF, the FCA, in collaboration with the school's management, initiated a micro-project with the remaining balance from the project in November 2025 to improve the hygiene and sanitation of the three schools, in an aim

to prevent disease and the premature deterioration of the renovated buildings.

The FCA, in December 2025, provided training modules and showcased practical hygiene and sanitation skills to school principals, representatives of parents' committees, cleaners, and representatives of teachers and pupils. A total of 47 people received the necessary training, knowledge, and practical skills to promote hygiene and sanitation in their schools. Each school set up its own hygiene and sanitation brigade comprising around 11 members, and FCA provided schools with kits containing hygiene and sanitation equipment. To date, the schools are implementing these practices every day, and the effects are already visible: outdoor rubbish bin use, handwashing, hygienic latrine use, and drinking water consumption. Thanks to the teachers' efforts, the lessons to keep their surroundings clean have also been turned into songs and slogans that the children repeat every day and put into practice.

Staff and students of Dima Primary School with the FCA team.



Impact of the borehole drilling project at Dima Primary School

The DIMA drilling project, completed in March, 2025, has transformed school life. According to the school's headmaster, challenges due to poor hygiene were more frequent before the borehole construction was completed. Handwashing at school was uncommon, the pit latrines were dirty, and clean drinking water was unavailable; as a result, the school had many cases of absenteeism due to hygiene-related illnesses. The students had to walk long distances to fetch water for school use every day; classrooms were dusty, and the latrines were unused and smelly, attracting flies due to the lack of water. At the present time, the borehole drilling project has proved a success, as the school has met the required hygiene standards for education, as it now has:



Drilled well at Dima Primary School.

- Sufficient drinking water for each pupil
- Clean, dust-free classrooms
- Hygienic latrines with no odour and no flies
- Attentive students who do not have to worry about fetching water for use at school
- Motivated students with more regular school attendance numbers

Testimonials

"Before, I used to spend the day at school without drinking any water, but now I have my own cup and drink water. I would like to thank FCA and LME for their intervention".

*Kasongo Sebe, pupil in Year 4A,
Dima school*

"Finally, water! I no longer need to bring a water bottle from home, the latrines are clean and I can concentrate in class. Thank you to FCA and LME".

*Nyembo Emmanuel, pupil in Year 6A
Dima school*

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



FAIR COBALT ALLIANCE

Since 2022, FCA has supported the establishment of Voluntary Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) as part of its broader strategy to strengthen the economic resilience of mining households in the Kapata community, together with our implementation partner, Alternatives for Action (AFA).

2025 marked the third phase of the project, which ran from August 2024 to July 2025. In this period, six new groups were created, in addition to the 21 existing groups, bringing the total to 27 groups comprising 603 members.

Key 2025 figures

# of VSLAs (Groups)	27
# of Active Members	603 (190 men and 413 women)
Amount Saved (USD)	USD 180,488
Solidarity Funds	USD 2,740.70
# people with access to loans	520 (190 men, 330 women)
Loans	USD 84,561
Fund Repaid	USD 91,455
Income Generating Activities (AGA) Created	76
Amount allocated to IGAs	USD 286,962
Members trained in entrepreneurship	102 (42 men, 60 women)
Amount allocated to children's education	USD 8,181
Amount used for healthcare	USD 2,710
Amount invested in agriculture	USD 6,022

The fund allocation and cycle closure ceremony, organised by AFA and with the support of the FCA, took place in June 2025. Present at the ceremony were several guests, including political and administrative authorities from Lualaba province, the Provincial Planning Division, the National Agency for the Development of Congolese Entrepreneurship

(ANADEC), and other state services. Also present at the ceremony were representatives of mining companies Kamo Copper Company (KCC) and international Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) partners, including World Vision International, Enabel, and Pact.

Testimonials

“My name is Kalenga Julien, a member of the Agapao group and father of nine children. Before the project started, I was a trader and had gone bankrupt. One day at the market, I was approached by the AFA and encouraged to join the Saving Group project in its third cycle in 2024. After joining the savings group, I made saving a part of my daily life. Before joining the group, my children were no longer going to school, but now I am able to support their education. Before joining the group, I sold wigs, hair extensions, and clothing, and I have now been able to rebuild my income-generating activity. After the entrepreneurship training, I developed a new business in duck and chicken farming. I am grateful for the project’s contribution to my life.”

Julien Kalenga

“My name is Tatiana, and I am a member of the Moto-Moto group. I am a seamstress, and before joining the project, I only had one sewing machine at home. I have been saving since the first cycle in 2022 in order to achieve my goal. It was in the third cycle, three years later, that I saw my dream come true: I opened a large sewing workshop in my community. Today, I have five machines and several pieces of equipment. All the equipment was purchased with loans from the group and contributions from the project. I plan to expand the services offered at my workshop by incorporating seamstress training at my establishment to share my expertise and improve living conditions in my community by passing on knowledge in my field.”

Ms. Tatiana



The saving groups are designed to support communities, mine workers and disadvantaged people to save more efficiently and to help build solidarity among members while providing a safety net against predatory lending.

VALUE CHAIN PARTICIPATION FOR SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY



Responsible Mineral Credits

In August 2023, the FCA partnered with Dutch electronics brand Fairphone, a co-founding member of the FCA, to launch an innovative solution: the Responsible Mineral Credits (RMC) mechanism. The idea was simple but powerful—to make it easier for companies to participate directly in creating responsible mineral supply chains, starting with artisanal cobalt and copper mining.

How do credits work?

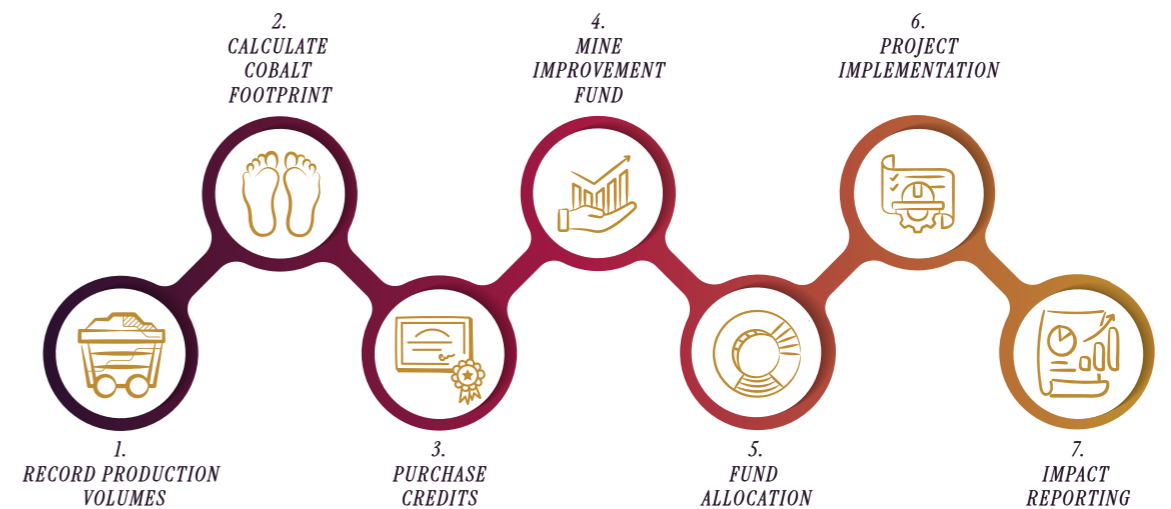
Companies pay USD 5,000 per tonne of cobalt produced at the artisanal mine site—equivalent to 10% of the commodity’s average price over the past three years— to purchase credits. Each credit verifies that a corresponding tonne of cobalt was produced and sold with defined environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

What do buyers get in return?

Credible assurance that their purchase supports continuous mine improvements that will, over time, enable safer, more responsible mining, backed by well-defined ESG standards. This offers a practical way to support the professionalisation of the sector, even if direct physical offtake and physical integration of ASM material into global supply chains remains challenging. The funds raised are managed by The Impact Facility, FCA’s secretariat, with transparent and inclusive governance. A Fund Allocation Committee (FAC)—comprising FCA, CMDs, and 12 representatives of mine workers, including women washers, diggers, transporters, and sailiseurs—collectively decides how funds are used. Together, they focus on four key areas:

- Good governance,
- Safe and dignified working conditions,
- Environmental protection, and
- Inclusive economic development.

Process flow of the Responsible Mineral Credits mechanism.



From idea to proof of concept: Projects funded by RMC sales

Following the launch of the Responsible Mineral Credits (RMC) mechanism in August 2023, Fairphone led by example. Coinciding with the launch of the Fairphone 5, the company purchased **USD 12,000** worth of cobalt credits (2.5 tonnes), equivalent to its full 2023 cobalt consumption.

The funds were allocated to improve underground ventilation conditions at the Kamilombe mine site. 8 dynamos were procured to power air blowers serving 129 pits, significantly improving air circulation for more than 5,000 miners and reducing the risk of suffocation and gas exposure underground. Building on this pilot, in 2024, we secured a **€320K grant** from the

European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) to scale and digitise the cobalt and copper credit mechanism, and in 2025, the mechanism continued to generate tangible site-level improvements in 2025.



The awareness raising campaign hosted by the FCA in July 2025 to raise visibility on the credits model

Responsible Mineral Credits in 2025

In 2025, **5,813 cobalt credits** worth **USD 30,762.66** and **6,096 copper credits** worth **USD 5,390.81** were purchased, for a total of **USD 36,153.47**. These funds were directly reinvested at the Kamilombe mine site, financing targeted improvements aligned with the mechanism's four priority areas.

To raise visibility of the mechanism, the FCA in July 2025 organised an awareness-raising campaign to highlight the credits model and encourage the larger Kamilombe mining community to identify mine-site priority projects for funding consideration under the RMC scheme. The project has also erected billboards at the Kamilombe mine site to raise visibility of the credit model and its potential impact, encouraging project submissions. This campaign reached over 2,000 people at the mine site.

To encourage new worker representation on the Fund Allocation Committee, the FCA held an election two years after the pilot to refresh the FAC and encourage participation in the scheme. 7 new people



were elected in the FAC's September 29 elections. These include 2 women washers, 2 underground diggers, and 3 transporters. The project still has 12 worker representatives in the committee, covering key mining roles (washers, underground diggers, ore haulers, and transporters). These new members, together with the existing members, have since been inducted into the FAC governance process.

RMC-funded projects in 2025

- 402 pairs of protective gloves were distributed to 200 women washers, strengthening occupa-

- tional safety during ore washing activities.
- One motorised tricycle was provided to CMDS to support sanitation and waste management across the mine site, benefiting approximately 6,000 miners.
- One dedicated changing facility constructed for women washers, improving dignity, privacy, and working conditions for 200 women at the site.

Women washers showcasing their gloves upon receipt.



By linking downstream financial contributions directly to site-level priorities, the mechanism continues to show how shared responsibility across the value chain can translate into concrete improvements for artisanal mining communities.



Changing room (top) and (bottom) tricycle provided for waste management on site.

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

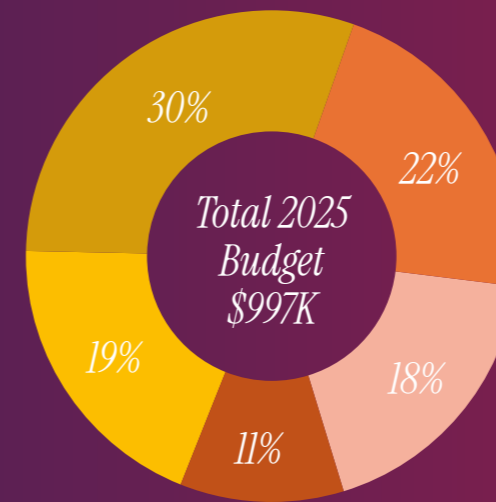
Contributions to the FCA are received and managed by The Impact Facility, which functions as the permanent FCA Secretariat. As a UK charity, The Impact Facility's financial accounts undergo independent financial audits every year, which are filed with the Charity Commission of England and Wales in line with UK charitable regulations. Our annual budget and workplan are subject to approval by the FCA's Steering Committee, who also monitor and review

quarterly reporting on expenditures and workplan progress. The FCA's programme implementation is financed through annual membership contributions, grants from (institutional) donors and public subsidies towards specific projects. All membership contributions are pooled to finance the implementation of the Steering Committee-approved workplan; as such, individual member contributions are not attributed to specific activities.

2025 Budget

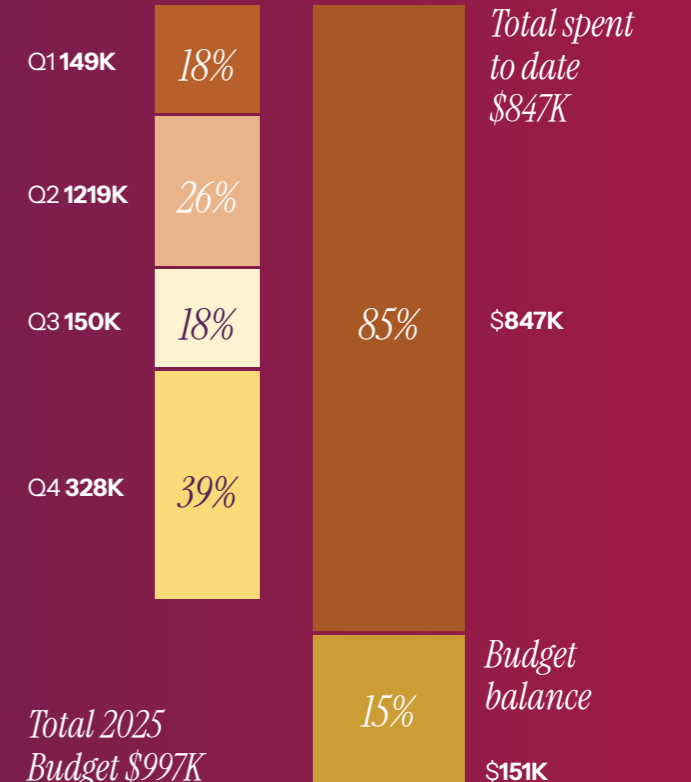
The budget for 2025 was set at USD 997,945 across five workstreams dedicated to delivering support for formalisation and professionalisation in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) to more than five thousand men and women. The workstreams are as follows:

- **Safe and Fair Working Conditions:** \$220K
- **Child labour remediation and prevention:** \$203K
- **Economic resilience:** \$105K
- **Value chain participation:** \$189K
- **FCA Administration:** \$291K



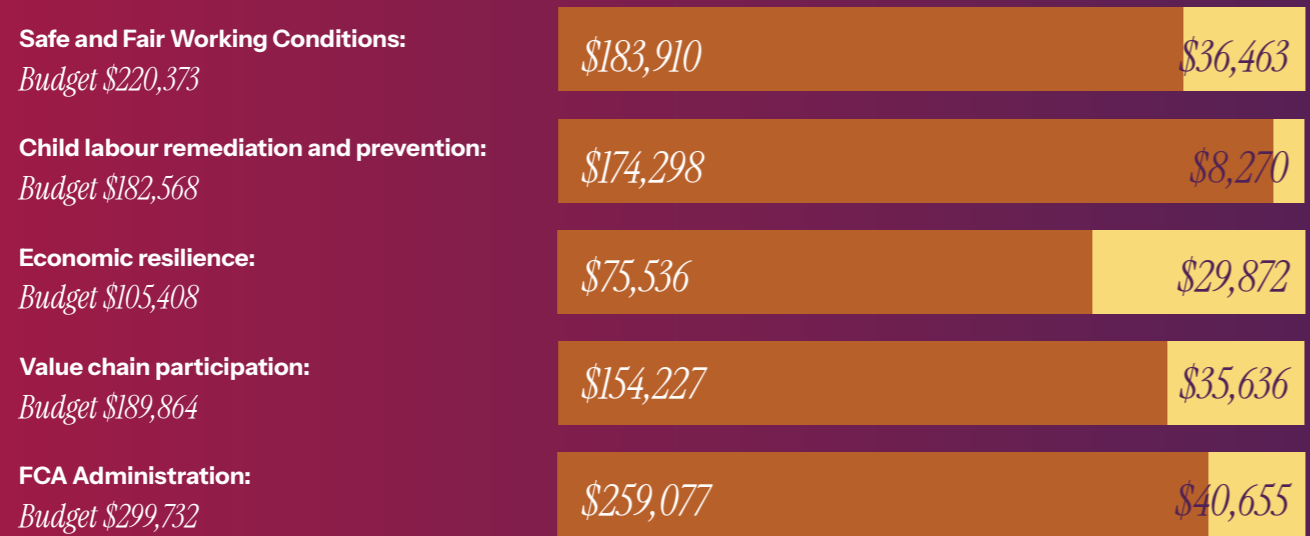
Budget Utilization

By the end of 2025 from the set budget of USD 997K, the FCA spent a total of USD 847,049 which is 85% of the total budget, with most of the spending coming in Q4 2025 at 39% of the total spend. This expenditure was mainly through the FCA's engagement with the Child Rights Action Hub DRC.



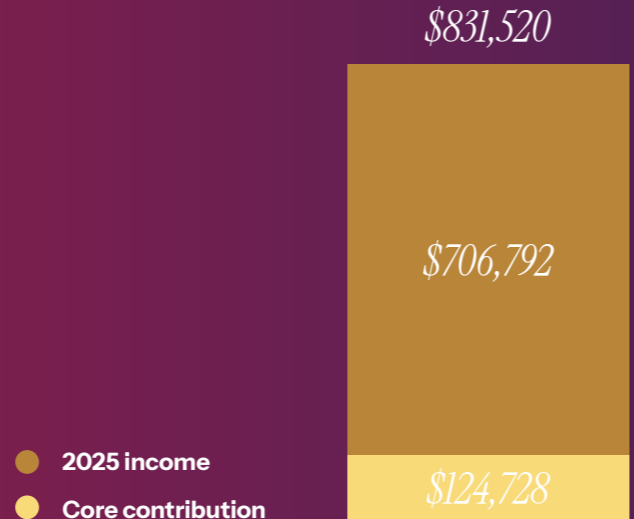
Measurable Impact: Budget vs Actual Spent

- Safe and Fair Working Conditions: USD 183,910 of the USD 220,373 allocated was spent on provision for PPE, workers registration, sanitation, local and international travel.
- Child labour remediation and prevention: USD 174,298 of the USD 182,568 allocated was used to reduce school dropout rate and to provide structured financial and oversight support for the implementation of a child-specific education remediation program, as well as the launch of the Decent Work for Youth program for the employment and apprenticeship of young people.
- Economic resilience: USD 75,536 of the USD 105,408 allocated was spent mainly on expanding the VSLAs and providing support in their setting up of income-generating activities.
- Value chain participation: USD 154,227 of the USD 189,864 allocated was focused on capacity building and program management through on-going communication and public outreaches.
- FCA Administration: USD 259,077 of the USD 299,732 allocated was spent on the budget, running office overheads, including office registration



Incoming Funding for 2025

The total expected funding from membership fees for the year was USD 831,520. Of this, TIF secured a core contribution of USD 124,728, leaving USD 706,792 as FCA income for 2025.



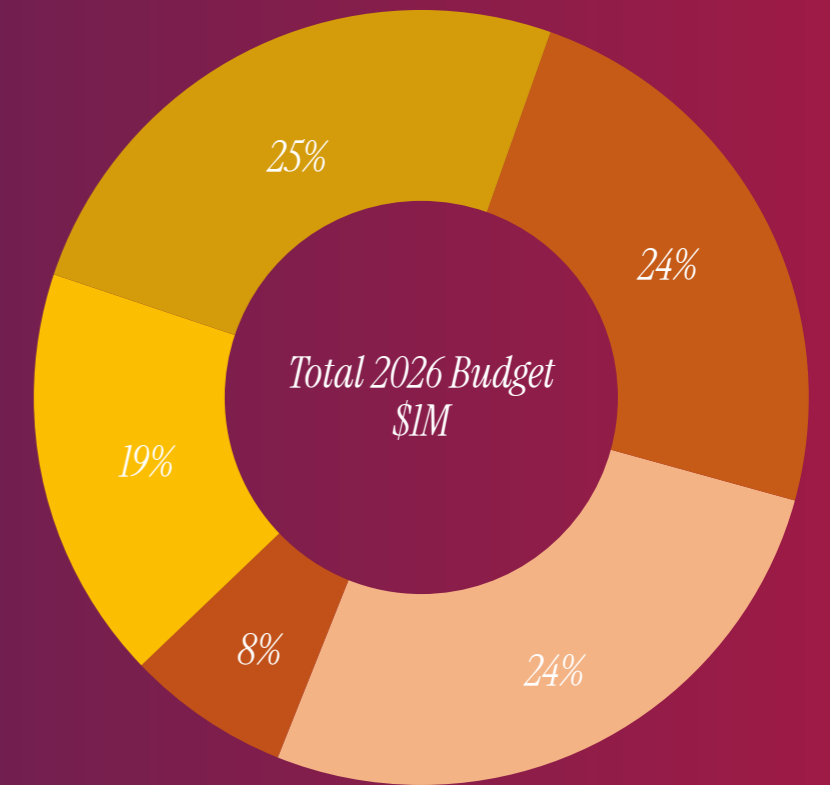
2026 Budget

Looking ahead, the 2026 budget is currently set at USD 1,051,812, as broken down below

- Safe and Fair Working Conditions: USD 253K (25% of the budget) dedicated to awareness campaigns, policy development, and worker training, all aimed at reducing workplace accidents and fatalities.
- FCA Administration: USD 253K (25% of the budget) covering office overheads, legal expenses, and other operational costs from core contribution USD 124K).
- Child Labour Remediation and Prevention: USD 213K (21% of the budget) allocated to direct child support initiatives and programmes that help youth transition into decent work.
- Value chain participation: USD 200K (20% of the budget) for geological scoping and International Travel for conferences and events.
- Finally Economic Resilience: USD 85K (9% of the budget) allocated to strengthening savings groups and supporting the income study, which measures how many people gain access to formal financial services.

FCA 2026 Budget per workstream

- Safe and Fair Working Conditions: \$240K (24%)
- Child labour remediation and prevention: \$240K (24%)
- Economic resilience: \$80K (8%)
- Value chain participation: \$190K (19%)
- FCA Administration: \$250K (25%)



CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: GOVERNANCE

Since the launch of the FCA in August 2020, our membership has grown significantly to now tally 20 members, and it is with the support and commitment of our diversified membership that we are able to report on the impact of our work showcased in the pages above.

In 2025, we proudly welcomed Airbus as the latest member of the FCA. Airbus pioneers sustainable aerospace for a safe and united world. The company constantly innovates to provide efficient and technologically advanced solutions in aerospace, and connected services.

Our members



FAIR COBALT ALLIANCE

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC), composed of elected representatives, provides strategic oversight of the FCA strategy and programmatic direction to ensure objectives are met and funds mobilised.

<i>Ines Kaempher (Chair)</i>	The Centre for Child Rights and Business
<i>Angela Jorns</i>	Fairphone
<i>Anne-Marie Fleury</i>	Glencore
<i>Alexandra Davis</i>	Tesla
<i>Shane Lee</i>	LG Energy Solution
<i>Julien Kagere</i>	Centre Arrupe pour la Recherche et la Formation (CARF)
<i>Jon Bauer</i>	Google
<i>Marcin Piersiak</i>	Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)
<i>Ines Kaempher (Chair)</i>	The Centre for Child Rights and Business

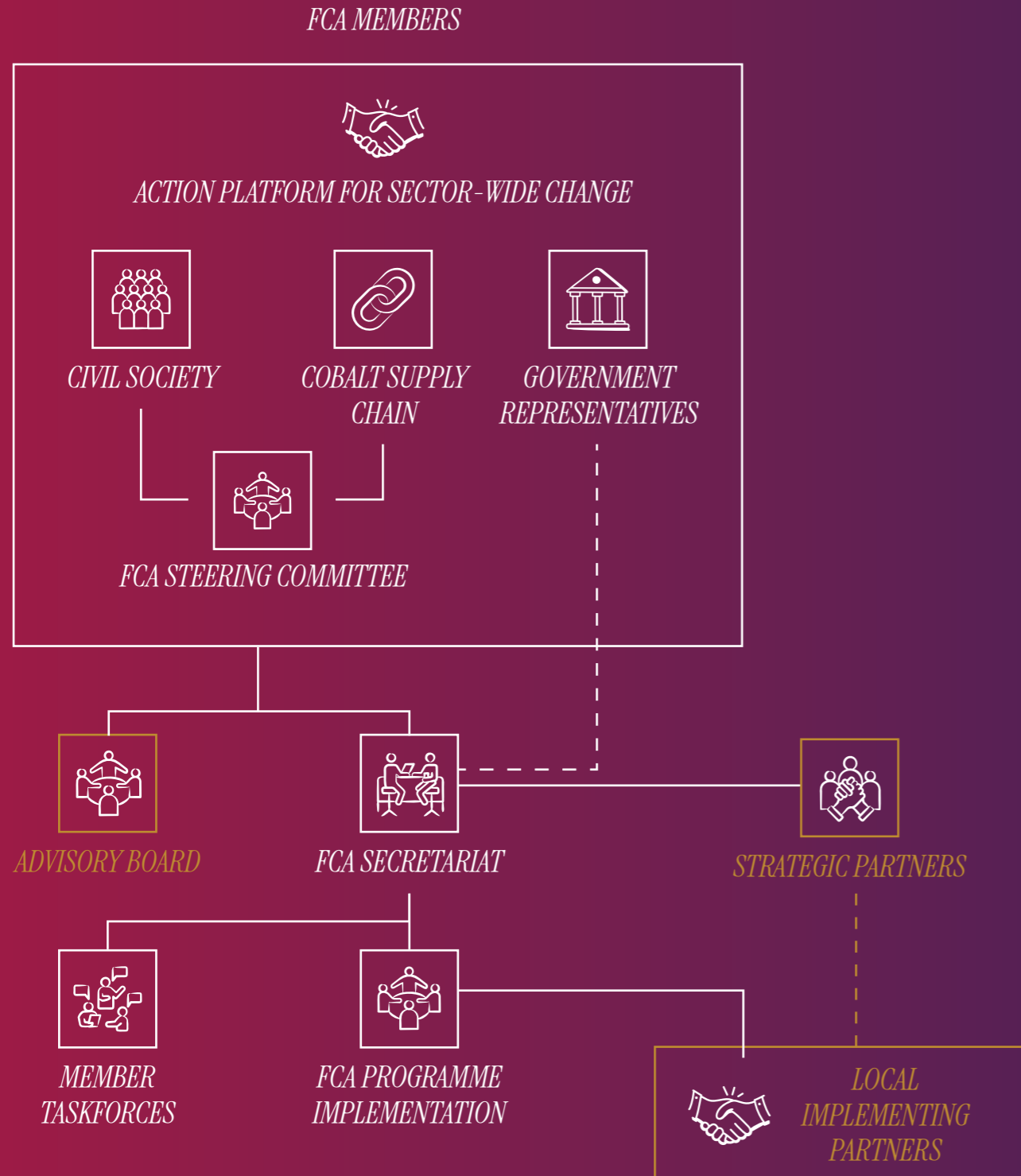
Advisory Board

The FCA Advisory Board comprises 10 members, including subject matter experts, practitioners and civil society members willing to help shape the further development of the FCA approach and evolution of our programme by providing non-binding advice to the FCA Secretariat and SC. Our dedicated advisory board members serve within their individual capacities and share our commitment to multi-stakeholder action to create better developmental outcomes for ASM mining communities. For the second year in a row, Holger Grundel (Managing Director, Levin Sources) continued to serve as the chairperson of the Advisory Board for the second year. More details on the Advisory Board and meeting summaries are available [here](#).

International Strategic Partners

Internationally, the FCA continued its engagement as a member of the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM), a multi-stakeholder initiative with a mandate to support responsible mineral production and sourcing in artisanal mining communities. These partnerships enhance stakeholder coordination, promote transparency, and support long-term improvements in the sector.

FAIR COBALT ALLIANCE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



Learn more about the FCA on our website:
www.faircobaltalliance.org

Follow us on social media:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/fair-cobalt-alliance>

Contact us at:
secretariat@faircobaltalliance.org

The Fair Cobalt Alliance is an initiative managed by The Impact Facility, a UK-registered charity and founding member of FCA that serves as its permanent Secretariat.

The Impact Facility, UK Charity Registration Number: 1181077, Registered office: Avening Park, West End, Tetbury, GL8 8NE. Learn more about The Impact Facility at: www.theimpactfacility.com



Fair Cobalt Alliance
L'Alliance du Cobalt Equitable