

## Report on BEA Mining Company and Weajue Community Issues Facing the Weajue Community



### Introduction

This report examines into the multifaceted issues faced by the Weajue community due to the operations of BEA Mining Company (BMC) in the region. It aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the problems, financial and legal concerns, environmental impacts, employment challenges, health and safety issues, and the utilization of development funds. Additionally, the report offers detailed recommendations for addressing these issues and improving the overall well-being of the Weajue community.

**Problems Facing the Weajue Community Infrastructure and Development Building Integrity:** The concrete buildings in Weajue have developed significant cracks, posing serious safety risks to the residents. These structural issues are exacerbated by the vibrations from mining activities, particularly blasting, which has led to further deterioration of the buildings.

**Road Construction:** Despite numerous requests from the community, no progress has been made on road construction. The lack of proper roads hampers transportation, access to markets, and overall economic development.

**Financial and Legal Concerns Legal Fees:** In an effort to secure the promised USD 150,000 annual development fund per community, Weajue and two other affected communities collectively paid USD 90,000 to a lawyer. This fund, according to the agreement with BEA Mountain, is intended to support community development but was initially kept secret by the company.

**Social Responsibility:** There is uncertainty regarding whether the community has obtained a copy of the social responsibility agreement from BEA Mountain. Transparency in this agreement is crucial for holding the company accountable to its commitments.

**Water and Environmental Issues Water Safety:** The community struggles with access to safe and clean drinking water. Residents often have to buy mineral water, and those who cannot afford it resort to boiling water. Despite testing by EPA personnel indicating that the water is safe, there remains a lack of confidence in its quality.

**Mining Operations:** BEA Mountain initially promised open pit mining but later transitioned to underground mining. This shift has caused significant disturbances, with blasting operations leading to shaking and potential structural damage to households. Residents have repeatedly requested relocation due to the dangers posed by underground mining, but BEA Mountain has been non-committal, citing the high costs of relocating over 1,000 households.

**Employment and Education Employment Shortfall:** BEA Mountain has employed only about 20 community members on short-term contracts, far below the initial promise of 200 jobs. Additionally, there have been incidents where workers died during work, and their families received inadequate support from the company.

**Skills Development:** The community lacks vocational training facilities, which hampers the ability of local residents to gain employment in the mining sector. The youth chairperson, Varney Thomas, has called for BEA Mountain to establish a vocational training center and offer educational scholarships to improve employment prospects.

**Health and Safety Healthcare:** While BEA Mountain has built a primary school and clinic, these facilities lack essential equipment. This deficiency limits their ability to provide adequate healthcare and education services to the community.

**Sanitation:** There are insufficient private bathroom facilities for women and girls. This lack of sanitation infrastructure puts them at risk of physical abuse and hampers their ability to maintain hygiene, particularly during their menstrual cycles.

**Development Funds and Community Needs Fund Utilization:** Despite receiving an annual development fund of USD 150,000 since 2023, the Weajue community continues to face shortages in school furniture, medical supplies, and infrastructure such as guest houses. The effective utilization of these funds remains a critical issue.

**Living Conditions:** Workers live in poorly ventilated containers, which are uncomfortable and detrimental to their health. The lack of qualified healthcare personnel and restrictions on cooking exacerbate the situation, leading to poor nutrition and potential health risks.

## Recommendations

**Infrastructure Improvement:** Immediate action should be taken to repair cracked buildings and construct proper roads. This will enhance safety and improve economic activities in the region.

**Enhance Transparency:** BEA Mountain must provide the community with a copy of the social responsibility agreement. Transparency is essential for accountability and ensuring the company meets its commitments.

**Relocation and Safety Measures:** Address the concerns related to underground mining operations by conducting a thorough risk assessment. Consider relocating affected households to safer areas and provide adequate compensation.

**Employment and Training:** Increase employment opportunities for local residents by fulfilling the initial promise of 200 jobs. Establish vocational training centers to equip the youth with necessary skills and offer educational scholarships to support their development.

**Healthcare and Sanitation:** Upgrade the clinic with essential medical equipment and ensure it is staffed with qualified healthcare professionals. Construct private bathroom facilities for women and girls to improve hygiene and safety.

**Utilization of Development Funds:** Ensure that the annual development fund of USD 150,000 is used effectively to address community needs. Implement a transparent process for fund.

# ANALYSIS REPORT



The report on the BEA Mining Company and the Weajue Community presents a comprehensive analysis of the multifaceted issues impacting the community, highlighting critical areas such as gender-responsive public services, environmental degradation, sexual and reproductive health rights, climate change, and climate financing.

## Gender-Responsive Public Services

1. **Healthcare Access:** The report emphasizes the inadequacies in healthcare facilities, particularly for women and girls. The lack of private bathroom facilities poses significant risks, including potential physical abuse and challenges in hygiene management during menstruation. This highlights a gap in gender-responsive services that are crucial for the safety and dignity of women in the community.

2. **Employment Opportunities:** The low employment rate for local residents, particularly the underemployment of women, indicates a failure to provide equitable job opportunities. The community's call for vocational training centers reflects the need for gender-sensitive approaches in employment and skill development.

## Environmental Degradation

1. **Mining Impact:** The transition from open pit to underground mining has led to increased vibrations and structural damage to community buildings, which poses safety risks. This environmental degradation not only affects physical infrastructure but also has implications for community health and safety.



2. **Water Quality Concerns:** Despite testing by the EPA, the community's distrust in water quality underscores ongoing environmental issues. The reliance on bottled water due to fears about contamination further illustrates the adverse impacts of mining activities on essential resources.

### **Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights**

1. **Sanitation Infrastructure:** The lack of adequate sanitation facilities for women directly affects their sexual and reproductive health rights. Improvements in sanitation are critical to ensuring safety, privacy, and health for women, particularly during menstruation and related health concerns.

2. **Healthcare Services:** The report's mention of inadequate medical equipment in the clinic suggests a broader issue of access to reproductive health services, which is essential for the overall health and empowerment of women in the community.

### **Climate Change and Climate Financing**

1. **Impact of Mining on Environment:** The mining operations are likely contributing to local climate change effects through environmental degradation. The report suggests a need for BEA Mining Company to consider the sustainability of its practices and their long-term impact on the community and environment.

2. **Utilization of Development Funds:** The effective use of the annual development fund of USD 150,000 is crucial for addressing both immediate and long-term community needs, including those related to climate resilience. Transparency in fund allocation can ensure that resources are directed toward sustainable projects that mitigate environmental impacts.

### **Recommendations**

The report provides several recommendations aimed at tackling these issues:

- **Infrastructure Improvement:** Addressing structural damage and enhancing transportation will support both safety and economic development.
- **Enhancing Transparency:** Access to the social responsibility agreement will hold BEA Mining accountable to its commitments, ensuring that the community's needs are prioritized.
- **Safety Measures for Mining:** Conducting risk assessments and considering relocation for affected households can mitigate the dangers posed by mining operations.
- **Employment and Training Initiatives:** Expanding job opportunities and vocational training will empower the local workforce, particularly women and youth.
- **Healthcare and Sanitation Upgrades:** Investing in healthcare infrastructure and sanitation facilities is essential for promoting health and safety, especially for women.

- **Effective Fund Utilization:** To ensure that development funds are utilized transparently and effectively, it is essential to address the critical needs of the Weajue community. Currently, the community receives an annual development fund of USD 150,000. However, there are concerns regarding the lack of clarity in how these funds are being used. Leadership must prioritize directing the development funds toward the community's actual developmental needs rather than distributing the money among themselves. By nurturing transparency and accountability in fund allocation, the community can better address pressing issues such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education, ultimately enhancing the well-being and prosperity of all residents.

In conclusion, the report outlines significant challenges faced by the Weajue community due to the operations of BEA Mining Company, with a strong emphasis on the need for gender-responsive public services, environmental stewardship, and a focus on health rights. Addressing these issues through the recommended actions can improve the community's well-being and resilience against the impacts of mining and climate change.

Below are the three different case studies based on the report findings:

### **Case Study 1: Environmental and Health Concerns**

#### **Title: The Impact of Underground Mining on Weajue Community**

**Background:** The Weajue community has been affected by the underground mining activities of BEA Mountain, which has led to environmental and health concerns.

**Problem Statement:** The community has reported that the underground mining has caused the breaking of their homes, and the blasting has made it difficult for residents to live comfortably. The community has also expressed concerns about the lack of access to safe and clean water, as well as the poor living conditions.

**Solution:** The community has requested that BEA Mountain relocate them to a safer area, but the company has not provided a concrete answer. The community has also requested that BEA Mountain provide better living accommodations, including proper ventilation and comfortable living spaces.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Conduct a thorough environmental impact assessment to identify the effects of underground mining on the community.
- Provide alternative housing options for the community, such as relocating them to a safer area.
- Improve living conditions by providing proper ventilation and comfortable living spaces.
- Ensure access to safe and clean water for the community.

## Case Study 2: Economic and Social Development

### Title: The Impact of BEA Mountain's Operations on the Weajue Community

Background: BEA Mountain has been operating in the Weajue community for several years, but the community has not seen any significant economic or social development.

Problem Statement: The community has reported that BEA Mountain has not provided any significant economic or social benefits to the community, despite receiving a development fund of \$150,000 per year. The community has also expressed concerns about the lack of job opportunities and the poor working conditions.

**Solution:** The community has requested that BEA Mountain provide more job opportunities and improve working conditions. The community has also requested that BEA Mountain provide vocational training and educational scholarships to young people in the community.

Recommendations:

- Provide more job opportunities for community members, including vocational training and educational scholarships.
- Improve working conditions by providing proper protective clothing, adequate living conditions, and limited access to medical care.
- Increase transparency and accountability in the use of the development fund.

## Case Study 3: Human Rights and Social Justice

### Title: The Impact of BEA Mountain's Operations on the Weajue Community

**Background:** BEA Mountain has been operating in the Weajue community for several years, but the community has not seen any significant improvements in their living conditions or access to basic services.

**Problem Statement:** The community has reported that BEA Mountain has not respected their human rights, including their right to a safe and healthy environment, access to education and healthcare, and the right to participate in decision-making processes.

**Solution:** The community has requested that BEA Mountain respect their human rights and provide better living conditions, including access to safe and clean water, proper sanitation, and adequate housing.

#### Recommendations:

- Respect the human rights of the community, including their right to a safe and healthy environment, access to education and healthcare, and the right to participate in decision-making processes.
- Provide better living conditions, including access to safe and clean water, proper sanitation, and adequate housing.
- Increase transparency and accountability in the use of the development fund and the company's operations in the community.