



Gold Fields supports COVID-19 fight with \$830,000

News Desk Report

MINING giant, Gold Fields Ghana, has committed more than \$830,000 (about GHe4.84 million) to the fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in its operating areas in the Western Region and other parts of



• Mr Alfred Baku — Executive Vice President and Head of Gold Fields West Africa

the country.

The support is made up of \$433,891 contributed to the Ghana Chamber of Mines and \$400,000 spent to support employees and members of its host communities in the Tarkwa-Nsuaem and Prestea Huni-Valley municipalities to fight the virus.

Gold Fields, which operates the Tarkwa and Damang gold mines, contributed to the Ghana Chamber of Mines, which raised about GHe11.6 million (\$2 million) from its members, to support government's efforts to reduce the spread of the disease and assist vulnerable people.

The funds was to support the various testing centres, hospitals and frontline health workers.

Employees support

The Executive Vice-President and Head of Gold Fields West Africa, Mr Alfred Baku, indicated that the contributions represent the timely response to the call by the government for support in the fight against COVID-19.

"We have a duty to support vulnerable people in our society in these challenging times," he said.

The mining company said the community support funds had been

used to procure hand-held thermometers, sanitisers, goggles, face masks, protective gowns and other necessary equipment to prevent the infection.

Gold Fields was also working closely with local and national health authorities to keep its operating areas safe, and to strengthen established protocols to manage any suspected and confirmed cases.

The company sponsors radio programmes to educate residents of its host communities about the coronavirus.

Proactive measures

Prior to Ghana recording its first two cases on March 12, 2020, Gold Fields had already taken proactive steps to prevent infections and spread of the coronavirus at its mining sites at Tarkwa and Damang.

According to the company, all employees and visitors to the sites



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went through an extensive screening process.

"The employees have also been provided with protective kits, including face masks and hand sanitisers, and have been sensitised on basic hygienic practices recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO)," the statement said.

The company, it added, had also put in place measures to ensure that employees practised social distancing at the workplace.

Host communities

"As a company, we prioritise the health and safety of our employees and members of our host communities. We believe our contribution will go a long way towards flattening the curve and help us return to normal lives soon," Mr Baku added.

Mr Baku also commended the company's employees for their vigilance, courage and dedication to work during this critical period.

He urged the employees to stay calm and continue to observe personal hygiene and practice social distancing.