**FUNDING REQUEST**

# Supporting Four Open Study Hubs Community Leaders to Attend the 5th Africa Bitcoin Conference 2026

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## 1. Background

Open Study Hubs is a community-led initiative bringing practical Bitcoin and freedom technologies education to rural communities in Malawi.

Our goal is to make this knowledge accessible to people who are often left out of technology and financial education because of limited access to smartphones, reliable internet, electricity, and other resources.

Through local learning groups, we help people understand Bitcoin-powered Freedom Technologies. We focus on practical learning, local participation, and building knowledge that communities can share with others.

The 5th Africa Bitcoin Conference, taking place in Blantyre from 2–5 December 2026, is an important opportunity for our community leaders to connect with other Bitcoin educators, developers, organisers, and community builders from across Africa and beyond.

I have been invited to attend the conference as a speaker. The Africa Bitcoin Conference Team has already sponsored my conference pass, meals, and accommodation. I am therefore seeking support for four community leaders from Open Study Hubs to attend alongside me.

## 2. Why We Are Seeking Support

The four community leaders are actively involved in the work of bringing Bitcoin education to their communities. However, attending a conference of this nature comes with costs that they cannot reasonably cover themselves, and neither can I afford to cover for them.

Although the conference is taking place in Malawi, travelling from Lilongwe to Blantyre, paying for accommodation, meals, and conference passes still presents a significant financial challenge.

I do not want these community leaders to miss an opportunity to learn, connect, and contribute simply because they lack the resources to attend.

Supporting them would also mean investing in people who can take what they learn back to their communities. The value of their participation will extend beyond the four days of the conference.

## 3. Purpose of the Funding

We are requesting US$1,475 to cover the following expenses:

1. Conference passes for four community leaders.
2. Return transport for five people, including myself.
3. Accommodation for the four community leaders.
4. Meals for the four community leaders during the six-day trip.

The transport budget covers five people because I will be travelling with the four community leaders. My own conference pass, meals, and accommodation are already covered by the Africa Bitcoin Conference Team. 4. Proposed Travel and Accommodation Arrangements

Transport

The journey will be from Liwera, near Kauma, Lilongwe, to Amaryllis Hotel in Blantyre and back.

The approximate distance is 331 km one way, making the return journey approximately 662 km.

We have considered two transport options:

Transport option Estimated total cost
Public transport bus return tickets for 5 people (K160,000 per person) MWK 800,000 Six-day self-drive vehicle hire and estimated fuel MWK 1,418,745

Public transport is the more affordable option, so we have used it in the proposed budget.

A hired vehicle could provide more flexibility for the group, but it would increase the transport cost considerably.

Accommodation

We have identified some affordable accommodations on bookings.com. The estimated cost for a 6 nights stay for 4 adults is: US$315, including taxes and fees.

The accommodation arrangement will be confirmed to ensure appropriate sleeping arrangements for the participants.

**5. Proposed Budget**

The budget below covers four community leaders, except for transport, which covers all five travelers.

| **Item** | **Calculation** | **Estimated cost (MWK)** | **Estimated cost (USD)** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Conference passes | 4 × $50 | 346,766 | $200 |
| Return transport | 5 × K160,000 | 800,000 | $461 |
| Accommodation | 4 people, 2 rooms, 5 nights | 546,156 | $315 |
| Meals | 4 people × 3 meals × 6 days × K12,000 | 864,000 | $499 |
| **Total** | | **2,556,922** | **$1,475** |

Calculations use an estimated exchange rate of US$1 = MWK1,733.83. Actual costs may vary slightly depending on exchange rates and final bookings.

Transport Cost Comparison

For transparency, we also considered hiring a vehicle.

The estimate is based on:

Vehicle hire: K180,000 per day.

Hire period: 6 days.

Total estimated distance, including local travel: 723 km.

Assumed fuel efficiency: 12 km per litre.

Estimated fuel requirement: 60.25 litres.

Fuel price used: K5,619 per litre.

| Item | Estimated cost |
|---|---|
| Vehicle hire (6 × K180,000) | MWK 1,080,000 |
| Fuel (60.25 litres × K5,619) | MWK 338,745 |
| Total vehicle hire and fuel | **MWK 1,418,745** |

This option would cost approximately **US$818,** compared with approximately **US$461** for public transport. We therefore recommend public transport to keep the funding request affordable.

## 6. Expected Outcomes

Attending the Africa Bitcoin Conference will give the four community leaders an opportunity to:

Learn from Bitcoin educators, developers, and community builders working across Africa.

Build relationships with organisations and individuals who can support community-led Bitcoin education.

Share experiences and challenges from introducing Bitcoin in rural Malawi.

Gain practical knowledge that can strengthen the activities of Open Study Hubs.
Identify useful tools, resources, and partnerships for our learning spaces.

Bring back knowledge and connections that can be shared with other students and community members.

Most importantly, their participation will help strengthen local leadership within Open Study Hubs. We want the initiative to grow through capable community members who can teach, organise, and support others rather than depending on one person.

## 7. Our Commitment

We are committed to making this opportunity count.

After the conference, the four community leaders will share what they have learned with other Open Study Hubs participants. We will also use the knowledge, connections, and practical lessons gained to improve our learning activities and strengthen our work in rural communities.

Our intention is not simply to attend a conference. It is to bring back knowledge and relationships that can help more Malawians understand and use Bitcoin and freedom technologies.

## 8. Funding Request

We respectfully request US$1,475 to support the participation of four Open Study Hubs community leaders at the 5th Africa Bitcoin Conference in Blantyre.

The Africa Bitcoin Conference Team has already made it possible for me to attend as a speaker by covering my conference pass, meals, and accommodation. This request is specifically to ensure that the community leaders working alongside me can also participate.

For these leaders, the conference would be an opportunity to learn, connect, and bring valuable knowledge back to the communities they serve.

We would be grateful for your support in making this possible.

Thank you for considering our request.

**Kondwani Konyani**
Lead Catalyst – Open Study Hubs, Malawi Bitcoin & SovTech Volunteer and Educator, Lilongwe, Malawi

## Contact

Email: yekhayo@proton.me

Nostr: npub16ecxhn2xscwjt2mmn2ls59yms0avkvd0z3t64v70pew6vfg9y6qqh38puf

## Donations

## Lightning Address: malawi@8333.mobi

## Bitcoin Address:

bc1qszqpve4ecvcsm28j42kwm3n9e5m2f6zvksp4acwt46mzjm97grwscg5pda