

Translation of Yvette's interview in Kampala from Kiswahili to English
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Presentation: Yvette is a single mother with five children. She works on SOME gold mining site in Mambasa district, Oriental Province (DRC). She also does farming. So, to make a living, she combines both farming and gold mining activities.

Reasons for mining gold: to support her family; she is the older daughter of the family, her parents are old, her youngest sister is a single mother with children as well. Because of her family's situation and poverty, the only way to provide and support her family needs is to mine gold.

Responsibilities on Some site: Her father was responsible for the site (DK's comment: I suspect he was the traditional authority in charge of the site). Given that his is old, he delegated his responsibilities to Yvette.

What other activities do you do beside framing and mining? She owns a small business comprising a restaurant and a bar (beer). In addition to mining gold, she also purchases gold as well from miners with the earnings she gets from her small business.

What is your relation to the GrOW project: for this project, my task is to sensitize women on gold mining activities. I am the gender focal point for this project at the SOME site.

How do you work with other women on the site? We formed a group of women who are involved in gold mining. We hold meeting on a regular basis every Saturday. During their meeting, I explain to other women how to better do their gold mining activities. Some of the women do grinding sands as their main activity on the gold site. Some others supply water to miners to clean their sands, while others only supply food (i.e own small restaurant) to miners on the site.

I also sensitize women to participate in research interviews when field researchers – westerners and Congolese-are on the site.

How do you conduct your gold mining activities? We carry stones and/or sands on the head (physical transportation) from the mineshaft to the camp. At the camp, there is an *atelier (I don't know how to translate this one)*. We dry stones and sand with wood fire because some of the stones or sands are wet. After the stones or sands get dried, we grind them manually using grinding mortar. The other option we take is to take dried sands or stones to a place where is a crushing machine. After this step, we use mercury to collect gold from the crushed sands or stones we get from the crushing or grinding process. The next step is to burn the gold collected with mercury. The goal is to get yellow gold because the one we get from mercury is white. So, we put the white gold in an empty tomato can that we burn on fire. The result of this burning process gives us yellow gold that we can sell.

What kind of materials do you use to mine gold? We use very small and artisanal tools such as spades, hammers, and metal bar.

How would you describe your gold mining work? It's a very physically challenging work. We only use very traditional tools that are physically demanding. It is a very difficult work for us as women. Given the physical demands of digging gold, most women do not do it, only men do the primary digging tasks. After the men have produced the stones or the sands, that is when women get involved in the work.

Do you have more information you want to share with us? Gold mining is a very challenging work for women; it requires a lot of physical energy. But, there are no other options for us to earn income. In addition to what I just said earlier, there are times when there is flood on the site; women have to first clean the place in order to work. Cleaning after the flood is also very challenging and takes long time. Consequently, at the end of the day, women get very tired. Getting an external assistance for women, to make their job easy on the gold mining site would be a great thing. If women could get an external support that would address their physical challenges, their productivity will increase and their revenues will go up.

How do you work with men? Do they get you to do the hard work as themselves or no? Do you they respect you as female (DK's comment: I intended to ask whether men do abuse or assault/harass women)? We work well with men, in collaboration. They do the hard work first. Women are mostly involved in transportation of the stones and sands from the pit to the camp as well as in grinding and cleaning.

After you get your gold, do you, as a woman, take your own decision to sell it by yourself or no?? There are two cases. If someone is married, then her husband controls the selling process and the revenue. For someone who is not married like me, I am fully independent in selling my gold.