

The Golden Line

Empowering women in mining in Ghana and Tanzania

The Golden Line was launched in 2016 to contribute to the economic empowerment of women in and around artisanal and small-scale gold mines (ASM) in Ghana and Tanzania. This 5-year programme aims to improve women's working conditions and economic position within gold mines and to increase the abilities of women in mining communities to engage in economic opportunities.

Economically empowering women and closing gender gaps in the work sphere are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; particularly Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives; Goal 5: Achieve gender equality, and Goal 8: Promote full and productive employment and decent work.

Background

Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality. Research across all sectors - including mining - has shown that economic empowerment of women leads to more resilient communities and improved livelihoods. Investing in women and girls creates long-term social and economic benefits for all individuals, their communities, and the world as a whole.

Ghana and Tanzania are the second and fourth largest producers of gold in Africa. The role of women in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) is significant, as women are respectively representing approximately 50% and 25% of the workforce in these mines. Currently, women mine workers hold the lowest paid jobs. They face barriers to access productive resources, such as loans and land as well as trainings, and have limited decision making power. Additionally, cultural myths and norms exclude women from more profitable jobs, thus limiting their opportunities to benefit from mining work or to set up their own businesses.

Our approach

The Golden Line works at multiple levels and with various actors to tackle the barriers for women's economic participation and to improve their position. We do so through the following activities:

In the gold mines

- ▶ Developing skills and knowledge of women miners so they can take up different positions in mines.
- ▶ Training male and female artisanal miners to apply good mining practices.
- ▶ Creating women saving groups in the mines and surrounding communities to improve their access to loans to set up businesses.

In the gold mining communities

- ▶ Engaging communities, in particular men, on gender equality and women's health needs.
- ▶ Providing women with information on their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- ▶ Increasing access of women to women-friendly health services through outreach and by training health workers.
- ▶ Training women to run their own small-scale businesses in selling products.

In the gold supply chain

- ▶ Engaging with national and international market players to increase demand for responsible gold produced with respect for women's needs and rights.

At a policy level

- ▶ Advocating, together with women from mining communities and associations, for more gender sensitive policies and standards at local, national and international level.

Our achievements so far

1300+ male and female miners are trained in good mining practices.

2700+ women in mines and communities received business skills trainings and have access to loans.

500+ women are trained to run their own health businesses.

1000+ men in the communities are engaged in gender dialogues sessions.

140+ women's groups are set up to discuss gender norms and create supporting networks.



Our goals for 2020

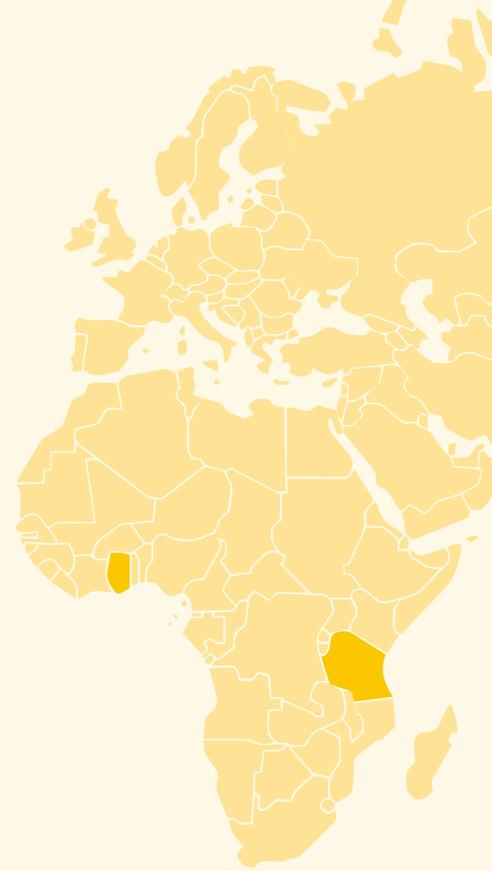
30 artisanal and small-scale mines & 3500+ miners produce gold in line with international standards and with respect for women's needs and rights.

5500 women have access to loans and skills to set up their own businesses.

500 women are running their own business in selling products to improve or maintain one's health.

3000 community members - including men - are more aware of gender equality and women's health needs and rights.

15 market players source responsible gold from The Golden Line mines.



The partners

Solidaridad

Solidaridad is a civil society organization with 50 years of global experience with aiding supply chains in the transition from conventional to fully responsible production.



Simavi works towards a healthy life for all with a special focus on women and girls.



Healthy Entrepreneurs is a social micro-franchise providing health products and services to the most rural areas.



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