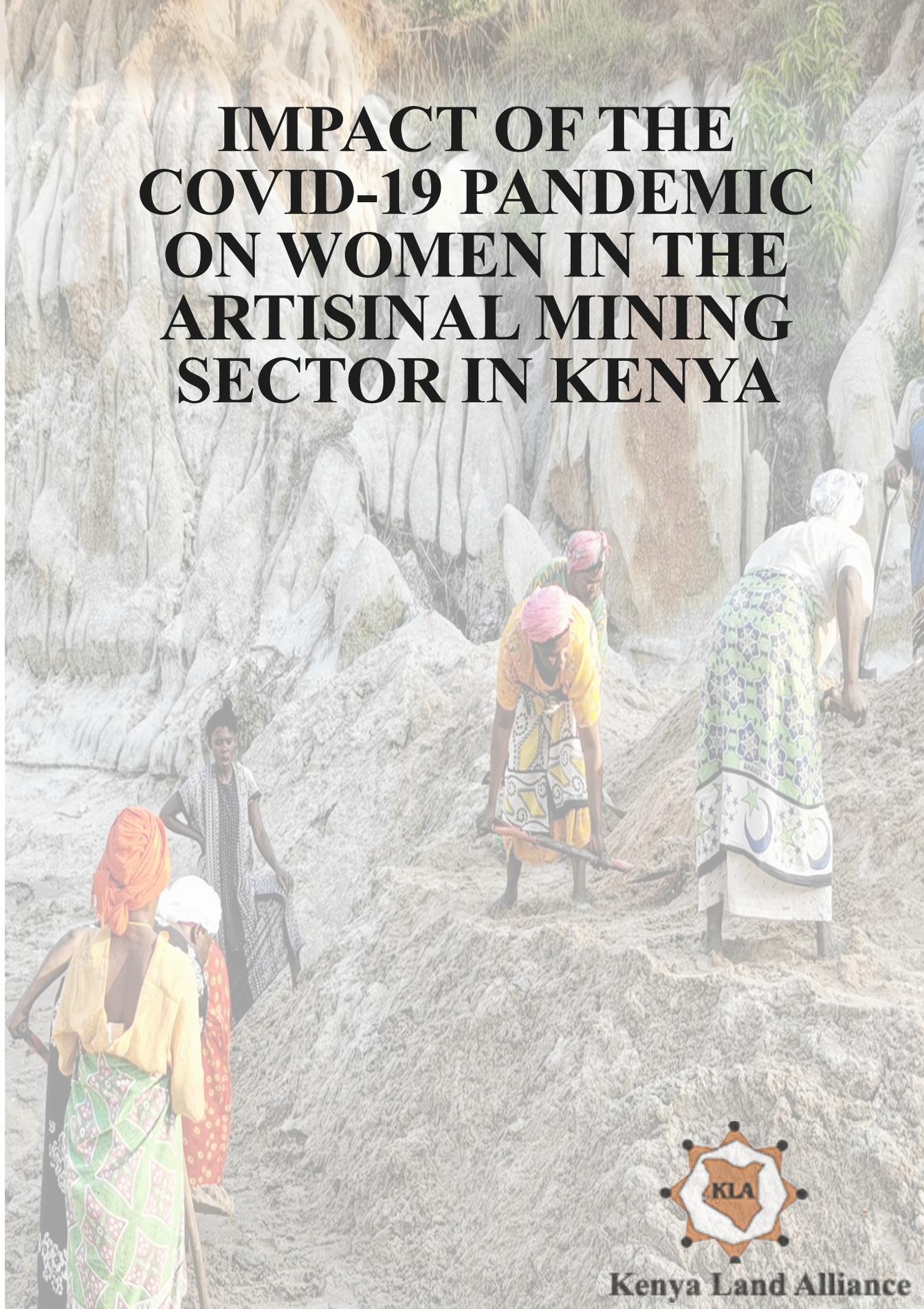


IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON WOMEN IN THE ARTISINAL MINING SECTOR IN KENYA



Kenya Land Alliance

Foreward

The COVID-19 pandemic has had noteworthy impacts on the lives and livelihoods of a substantial portion of the women and men involved in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). The pandemic -and resulting government responses - has disrupted the lives of many women and communities at large, especially the ones that rely on ASM. This has presented substantial challenges to the miners and their families, to local authorities, to national governments, and to local and international partners, as all struggle to address and contain a health crisis the scale and nature of which has not been seen in over a century. Consequently, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been dire on several fronts, ranging from sociocultural disruptions to economic reorganization.

Kenya is well known for artisanal mining; however, the small-scale (artisanal) miners dominate the industry. Researches indicate that artisanal mining accounts for over 60 per cent of annual gemstone production in Kenya and women play a major role.

Artisanal Mining is particularly labour intensive and provides employment opportunity and income to a large number of people working in mines and other various areas directly or indirectly associated with mining. The sector in the different Counties has gained increasing importance as more and more locals turn to mining as their source of income.

Artisanal mining is used to denote all small-scale as well as medium and large-scale mining that may be illegal or legal, formal or informal. These artisanal miners employ rudimentary techniques for mineral extraction and often operate under hazardous, labour-intensive, highly disorganized and illegal conditions. Gender discrimination is a phenomenon in the mining industry that cannot be overlooked.

The study represents at least six Counties where mining operations are happening, and targeted respondents who have been immensely affected by COVID-19 besides the formalization of the sector. The key findings from the report are provided below. It identifies gaps and opportunities to better meet the needs of women and to address gaps in understanding and practices among all actors as the world battles the pandemic.

It is Kenya Land Alliance (KLA) hope that this data and findings presents an opportunity to right the wrongs in gender discrimination in the sector and a call that the policy and practice should move in the same direction in the sector. This is a rallying call to the need to think of how to engage to deliver women's rights in the artisanal mining sector.

Faith Alubbe,

Chief Executive Officer.

Acknowledgements

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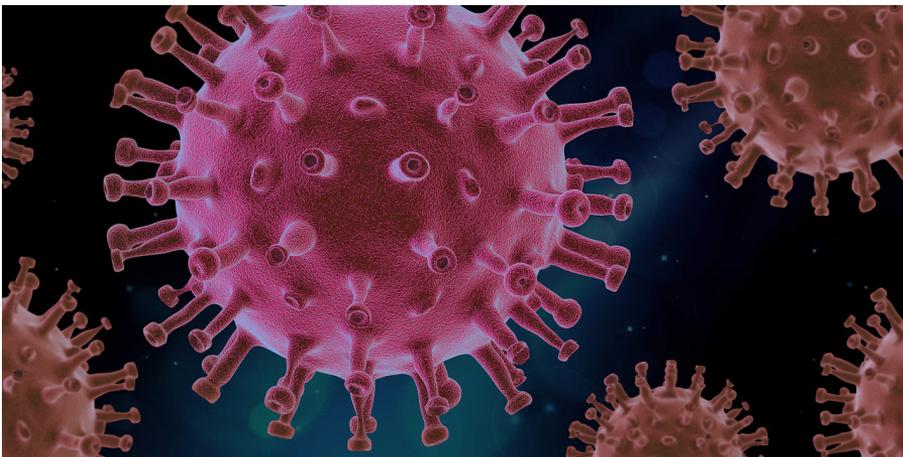
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INTRODUCTION

The analysis seeks to inform the situation of women artisanal miners in the context of formalization of the sector dominated by small-scale miners. The objective of the overall study was to inform gender-sensitive policy directives in the artisanal mining sector. It is expected to raise awareness on gender-based issues that are essential for creating a safe, secure, inclusive and socially just environment for women associated with the artisanal mining industry in Kenya. The objective of this analysis was therefore to isolate, decipher and provide metrics for important themes in line with the questionnaire titled “Women in Artisanal Mining”.

This report gives an overview of the qualitative and quantitative analysis of 459 responses from interviews that were conducted with participants in artisanal mining in 6 counties of Kenya. This report uses statements and quotes from “raw” responses to exemplify the results. The aim of the quantitative analysis is to illustrate and complement the results of the qualitative analyses.

This approach allows us to find out the interdependencies and relationships in the data that might not be too obvious when a one sided analysis is conducted. By one sided we mean qualitative analysis or statistical analysis either exclusively. Moreover, this allows for drawing conclusions and hypotheses with regard to possible variations in the case of isolated analysis by gender, counties and possibly group and association membership. Additionally, the researches paid attention to county-specific aspects that appear to have an impact on the ways in which participants experience and report issues such as Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the impact of COVID-19 on artisanal mining and family relations.



2.0

Methodology

This report presents the findings of the qualitative component of women in artisanal mining that consists of a series of semi structured interviews with mostly women and a few men of various age groups involved in mining and other support functions. They were asked to reflect upon their mining experience, the issues they face in the mining sector and suggestions on how those issues could possibly be resolved.

2.1 Data collection

Data was collected through focus group discussions (FGDs) in six counties of Kenya. The target respondents were women in artisanal mining. The paper versions of the FGD notes for women in artisanal mining qualitative and quantitative survey responses were collected and entered into electronic format (Google forms) which was downloaded as an Excel file for ease of reading and analysis.

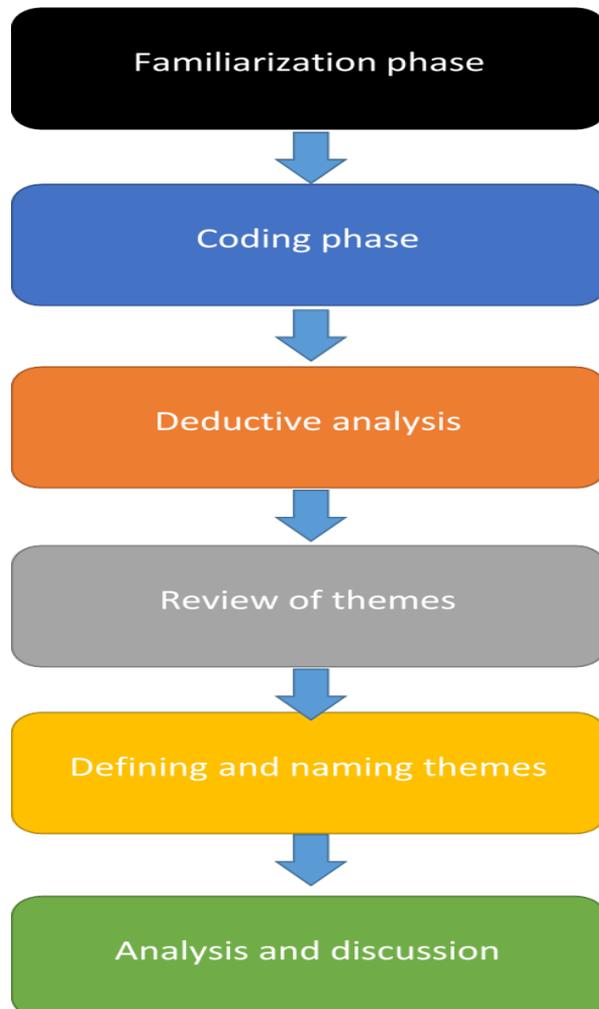
2.2 Analytical methods

The data was downloaded and cleaned, blank responses were isolated and dropped. Out of 475 observations, 459 were duly completed and provided good enough responses for analysis.

A tailored thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke 2006) was used to analyse the FDG data. The theory-led six-stage process consisted of (i) the familiarisation phase where the interviews were read, and notes made; (ii) the coding phase, which was performed on the initial reading stage to aid the generation of key themes by examining the meaning of phrases, concepts or patterns in relation to the questions asked using an inductive approach.

The units of analysis were phrases and sentences that related to the pre-identified codes; (iii) a deductive analysis was applied to the data by examining the identified codes and marking up the themes and language that interviewees used that had resonance to women in artisanal mining; (iv) the themes were then coded in a manner that allowed for them to provide explicit meaning of the data with a latent approach applied in relation to and the links between themes; The coded segments are then grouped and synthesised 'up' into (more general) categories, which in turn get linked to more general themes and (theoretical) concepts. The analysis was carried out stage-wise, using a combination of deductive and inductive coding ((also called "hybrid" coding, (Fereday & Muir-Cochrane 2006)); (v) the main themes were then defined and named; (vi) and lastly discussed in detail.

Thematic analysis process



The stepwise coding consisted of; first, the data was downloaded into an excel sheet then a quick sorting was done by counties in order to gain a quick perspective of the weights of the data by the respective counties. The data was then subjected to a quick clean up to ensure all responses were in line with the correct variable. Those partially filled responses were dropped as follows;

Table 1: Clean up and dropping of observations

Number of observations dropped	Reasons for dropping
7 observations	Incomplete data
2 observations	Dropped due to response of “maybe” to the variable “group membership”
6 observations	Dropped due to blank responses to “group membership”
5 observations	Dropped for blank “gender”

Thereafter, a first read of the data was done to allow a quick understanding of the “nearest” or most pronounced themes. These themes were then entered into a matrix that allowed responses in its most raw form to be entered under those wider themes. A review of the matrix was then done which allowed for linkages between themes and responses to be observed. Some themes were then collapsed, deleted or merged based on the overall responses on the respective variables and on the interdependency of responses that maintained the key intention of the study.

The themes were then coded and the cleaned data set duplicated and saved. The codes were then assigned to the responses in the duplicate data set where the variable name and variable label were set according to those defined themes and codes. This now allowed the data to be converted from qualitative data to quantitative data. This helped to analyse the data in a qualitative manner that provided easily understandable metrics. The original qualitative data was then used in the discussion to support the quantitative results.

2.3 Clustering and coding of responses according to themes

2.3.1 Impact of Covid-19 on mine operations¹

Table 2; Clustering and coding of responses according to them

Responses	Thematic Areas				
	No operations and unproductive mines	Insufficient working capital and inability to repay loans	No income from support activities	Poor Markets and prices	Unfavourable competition, family break ups, violence and poor working conditions
	The mining sites were closed and business that brings our source of income has become slowly.	No consecutive monthly payments, low production, no savings, sometimes stopped to mine.	COVID-19 has had very negative effect. Those who sell foods, clothes and the miners had to close food because there was no work.	Price fluctuations	High competition
	No work was carried out	Capital is limited hence making majority to give up easily	The business went down. I have been selling food to miners. But when the Corona came there was no customer and I had to suspend my business. Many of us went to other activities.	Lack of market for our products	We were forced to keep distance when working yet our work involves working close to each other. We were also forced to wear mask, making our breathing relatively difficult.
	No production due to lack of Covid-19 regulations	Lack of capital and funds to boost thief work. Congestion in their area of mining	Am a sponsor and I was unable to lease my machine making it difficult to pay my loan	Very low prices. Almost working for free.	Fear from police officers who would chase us during work. Due no mask and demanding that we keep social distance.

¹ All responses are entered in its raw form as recorded by the enumerator and no attempts are made to alter them in any way

Responses	Thematic Areas				
	No operations and unproductive mines	Insufficient working capital and inability to repay loans	No income from support activities	Poor Markets and prices	Unfavourable competition, family break ups, violence and poor working conditions
	Lack of masks, no one at site so I wasted my food no one could buy	Investors left we are unable to mine	There is no work. We used to get clients, many of them. Since coming of Corona, we are just trying. Hakuna pesa.	The dollar went down and as such the price also went down. The price per gram was ksh2500 instead of 5000	Most of my material was wasted (timber) ,my workers left to their counties
		Unable to pay for machine	It lead to breaking up of our group because there was no money for Mary go round. Women now are poorer.	The price has drastically gone done.	Forced to move to other places
	The work/ business went very low	Not able to repay my loans	Yes. We ended up virtually penniless. Our group was suspended because we had no money for the May go round.	Unstable pricing of gold,	Shafts have collapsed we are lacking resources to start another one
	The business or work went under totally		Our group of Mary-go-round closed down. There was no money to contribute. Poverty came in and we have just been surviving.	Badly. The prices went so low that many of us didn't see any use of working in the mining.	During initial times of COVID-19, we were restricted from venturing out to work. Issue of masks, social distance and all that.
	Starved as we depend on gold		Due to Covid-19, our group broke because we had no money to contribute. Families are in financial difficulties, and poverty is very high.	At some point we closed down due Corona. Buyers of gold came but would buy at half price of what we sold at.	At some point we closed down. Issue of masks and social distancing. Also we were scared going out Fearing contracting Covid-19.

	Thematic Areas				
Responses	No operations and unproductive mines	Insufficient working capital and inability to repay loans	No income from support activities	Poor Markets and prices	Unfavourable competition, family break ups, violence and poor working conditions
				The most significant effect was prices which went very low. Secondly in the earlier days we were being chased about by police officers. With bad business, we have no money.	Very much. We used work late but we found ourselves closing early. The police would harass us. The business hasn't been good
	Very much! The business virtually came to a standstill! We were reduced to beggars.				It has been rough, most especially from the fact there was restricted travels, curfew, and controlled social distance. We ended up operating under normal
	The business went very low. The miners were very few. There was little gold rocks to crash.				The most significant effect was prices which went very low. Secondly in the earlier days we were being chased about by police officers. With bad business, we have no money.
	The situation has been very bad. Some women ended up shifting to selling Omena and others. There was profit in the gold.				Yes. We would be at work and police officers would come and chase us away meaning that on days chased away we never made any living.

Responses	Thematic Areas				
	No operations and unproductive mines	Insufficient working capital and inability to repay loans	No income from support activities	Poor Markets and prices	Unfavourable competition, family break ups, violence and poor working conditions
	Yes. There has not been any business. We come here while day and leave empty. It just like "Pata potea".				It has affected us badly. Even families have broken up due to luck of funds. There has been no money. And women are left to provide for the family.
	We shelved all operations during Corona. Now that we here it is gone, we are starting all over again.				Corona has affected us very badly. Very little food on the table. We have no money and all our attention is on our husband and sometimes they don't have also.
					Corona has killed us. Marriages have broken, we have no source of income.
	We went out of business. We hear that Corona is gone. Now we are starting afresh.				
	Most of the group members had to stay at home for over three months without engaging in mining activities.				

Responses	Thematic Areas				
	No operations and unproductive mines	Insufficient working capital and inability to repay loans	No income from support activities	Poor Markets and prices	Unfavourable competition, family break ups, violence and poor working conditions
	The operations were stopped for almost 4 months and we haven't resumed yet as we were not able to survive the economic blow rented to us by covid-19.				
	Lack of ore, resources				
	Have not been able to get ore				
	There was low supply of rocks. We had to stay at home. Even some of grinding machines stop running for some time				

2.3.2 Major issues faced by artisanal miners

Table 3; Major issues faced by artisanal miners

Responses	Thematic area							
	Registration and licences	Natural calamities	Resource constraints and poor skills	Poor ore yield	Poor prices/income/pay	Investor constraints	Health associated issues	GBV
	The registration process has been slowed	Floods and water borne diseases	Low production, limited time to Mine, working in fear.	Given ore that doesn't contain gold	Low prices of gold during height of Corona.	There is a rise of many cartels	Congestion in the mining areas	Gender based violence within the society
	We are not registered	Too much rains and majority lack proper equipment that can help in the working	Lack of Machines	The business is low, the gold is depleted.	Low prices of gold. The price has gone down.	There is no profit. Due to Corona, big dealers suspended operations and now we only come to try what we can get.	It is a rough job, very difficult and calls for a lot of effort.	
	Lack of licences	Too much rains	Lack of resources	We are barely surviving. We are starting all over again	Low prices. Working so hard but returns are not proportional to the work	We do the donkey work, while the rich go home with the money	use of Mercury	

Responses	Thematic area							
	Registration and licences	Natural calamities	Resource constraints and poor skills	Poor ore yield	Poor prices/income/pay	Investor constraints	Health associated issues	GBV
	Licences	Heavy rains,	Lack of machinery,	Uncertainty of this business. The mines are getting depleted. We don't get so much rocks like before.	Low prices by the Asians who offer very low prices despite global prices being high/good.	There is no money. The buyers are few. The prices have gone down	We are slaves in gold mines. Our backs are aching from the hard work that we do day in day out	
	Licence,	Heavy rains	Lack of equipment	The gold mining has not yet picked up. Still there are fewer of us in the mines	The business is just beginning to pick up. But prices are still low. One cannot entirely depend on this activity	We are almost working for free. We are only enriching others. We take home very little. Yet we are touching gold every day.	Too much work. Heavy work. But no money.	

Responses	Thematic area							
	Registration and licences	Natural calamities	Resource constraints and poor skills	Poor ore yield	Poor prices/income/pay	Investor constraints	Health associated issues	GBV
		Heavy rains	Machinery	Limited gold rocks because mines close due to cafew. They don't operate 24 hours as before.	Low prices. The buyers are giving very low prices such that we feel like closing down. But we are slowly	Investors left	Very hard work. Long hours but very little returns. Some women have even changed to other things.	
		Heavy rains	Lack of capital is big challenges	Limited supply of rocks with gold.	This business is very difficult and returns are very little		Very little money for so much work. As you can see our work is to wash with water and mercury. So we are in water and chemical throughout the day. Then the bending as you wash gold is another issue. When you get home you are so tired!	

Thematic area								
Responses	Registration and licences	Natural calamities	Resource constraints and poor skills	Poor ore yield	Poor prices/income/pay	Investor constraints	Health associated issues	GBV
		Floods	High cost of machine maintenance, and poor technology in mining.	Slow business picking up. The mines are also running out of gold.	Barely surviving. We toil all day and take home almost nothing.		Economic disarmament through the harsh conditions we are in and lack of equipment.	
			Poor marketing and rehabilitation of sites	It looks like the gold is getting finished. Beneficiary of our gold are outsiders.	The business is not profitable. We are only working for the stomach			
			Lack of skills		Low business			

Thematic area								
Responses	Registration and licences	Natural calamities	Resource constraints and poor skills	Poor ore yield	Poor prices/income/pay	Investor constraints	Health associated issues	GBV
			Lack Right Knowledge On Identifying Coloured Gemstones E.G Green And Red Coloured Gemstones	The gold market or business is not good. Even price has gone down. Livelihood is not good				
					The amount of work and money earned is very far apart. We are slaves in			

2.3.3 Respondents' suggestions to main issues raised

Responses	Thematic area					
	Groups, registration, licences and policy	Civic education and capacity building	Humane and environmentally friendly conditions	Women involvement	Markets	Capital and equipment
	We call the national government to fasten the gazettment of Artisanal Miners associations and committees.	People are supposed to get Civic education about their rights	Development partners to assist miners to get good equipments, abolish curfew to allow us work 24 hrs, be provided with security, related agencies to give grants	Educate the men as they dig the ore not to frustrate women	Middle men and brokers should be eliminated and increase profit for us.	Find donors that can help miners with improvised tools and lessons on mining
	Working together as a group and register	To get well wishers who can help them get improvised equipments and also to teach the miners more about mining	Corona restrictions should be lifted and operations to proceed as before so that we may continue with business	Educate the society on mining that was not meant for only one gender(men) and so they should support the women more and encourage them so as to help them earn a living	Streamline the market and eliminate middlemen.	We should be uplifted through capital. This business of gold is like gambling. Sometimes you get, sometimes you lose.

Thematic area						
Responses	Groups, registration, licences and policy	Civic education and capacity building	Humane and environmentally friendly conditions	Women involvement	Markets	Capital and equipment
	Need to register groups	Create awareness in mining	Rehabilitation of sites after mining	The mining business is for men. The government should help women by giving them capital so that they can buy gold and sell.	Revenue should be under one department	Make available capital to us women. If there is capital to a given group, then the group can buy all the gold from the women, at better prices, and sell directly to dealers instead of Asian
		Improve mining techniques	Engage with the ministry on how they agreed rehabilitation	The government should look for ways of making us women benefit. The profit is very little.	Government to help market our gold.	The biggest challenge is not having a gold crusher. It would

Thematic area						
Responses	Groups, registration, licences and policy	Civic education and capacity building	Humane and environmentally friendly conditions	Women involvement	Markets	Capital and equipment
	Now that the ASM committee was gazetted they should be able to provide licences to the mined	Sensitization of community on laws	Policy on licencing and alternative for Mercury	Women should form groups and be supported also to be become buyers of gold	The government should help stabilize the prices so that we don't work for nothing.	Capital to us women would be good.
	Trainings, group working together	Capacity building	The government should see how they can help us and make our bodies strong from sickness	We hope some NGO can come up with plan to help us, women	Help us sell our own gold so that brokers don't exploit us.	We need equipment to work with when Inside the mines.
	The government to make gold mining an economic activity worth venturing into and uplift lives of locals.	Training on compliance issues	The government should step in and make life in the mines bearable.	Honestly I don't know. Only God can help us. Women we are being exploited.	The government should help us by buying gold from us and selling it	Modernize the mining industry.

Thematic area						
Responses	Groups, registration, licences and policy	Civic education and capacity building	Humane and environmentally friendly conditions	Women involvement	Markets	Capital and equipment
	The County should be assisted with a Multi Stakeholder Platform, for us to get assistance in this sector.	Train community on how to seek justice			We should be helped in the business of gold by introducing another type that is more profitable	We need help financially to enable us buy more rocks.
		Capacity building on improved techniques				The machines we are using are stone age. Maybe someone should help mechanize and modernize the industry
		Have forums to capacity build the miners on the opportunities presented to them				Maybe we get a sponsor who would form us into a group and give financial support

Responses	Thematic area					
	Groups, registration, licences and policy	Civic education and capacity building	Humane and environmentally friendly conditions	Women involvement	Markets	Capital and equipment
						If we have a modernized way of getting gold. Outsiders are exploiting us.
						We need to some support. We always think of how we can get stone crusher machine. No woman has any. All are owned by men.

Table 4; Respondents' suggestions to main issues raised

2.3.4 Coding and conversion for quantitative analysis

The identified thematic areas were then allocated identifier codes/ variable labels then transferred to STATA for quantitative analysis. For further qualitative analysis, the links within and between the tables were identified to gain more understanding of the emerging themes and to isolate the more pronounced themes.

Table 5: Impact of Covid-19 codes

Thematic area	Conversion code	Code Link to main issues	Code Link to suggestions
No operations and unproductive mines	1	4	
Insufficient working capital and inability to repay loans	2	3	6
No income from support activities	3	5	5
Poor Markets and prices	4	5	5
Unfavourable competition, family break ups, violence and poor working conditions	5	8,7	1

Table 6: main issues in artisanal mining codes

Thematic area	Conversion Code	Link to impact of Covid-19	Link to Suggestions
Registration and licences	1	5	1
Natural calamities	2	5	
Resource constraints and poor skills	3	2	2
Poor ore yield	4	1	
Poor prices/ income/pay	5	4	
Investor constraints	6	2	
Health associated issues	7	5	3
GBV	8	5	

Table 7; suggestions to main issues codes

Theme	Conversion Code	Link to Impact of covid-19	Link to main issues
Groups, registration, licences and policy	1		1
Civic education and capacity building	2		3
Humane and environmentally friendly conditions	3		7
Women involvement	4		
Markets	5		
Capital and equipment	6	22	

3.0

Results and discussion

3.1 Gender

Proportion of respondents by Gender

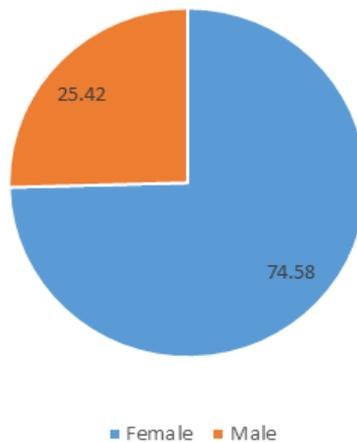


Figure 1: Proportion of respondents by Gender

The survey yielded responses of 75% female and 25% male. Further disaggregation of the data yielded what we can observe in table 8. The reason for disaggregation was to gain a deeper view of those counties that the study could comfortably make statistical inference from and advise which counties need further study. From the results it is evident that most responses were from Kakamega and Migori counties. Suffice to say the conclusions of this analysis will statistically describe the situation in the two counties. The analysis also describes the results in a statistically robust view from the women. However, the number of respondents of men in the two aforementioned counties as compared to the overall sample is sufficient for statistical comparison across the genders.

Table 8; Gender disaggregated by county

		Kakamega	Kwale	Migori	Nairobi	Taita taveta	Vihiga
Frequency	Female	12	171	25	1	112	
	Male					77	1
%	Female	89.47	100	71.43	100	50	
	Male	10.53		28.57		50	100

3.2 Responses by counties

As for the analysis of responses by county, we can clearly see the aggregated numbers on table 9 which summarizes what was previously seen in table 8. And that is only 2 counties provided enough responses to be statistically permissible for analysis. The rest were for the sake of this analysis and this particular time were treated as simply additions to the overall/general analysis. For this purpose therefore this study only provides analysis for the situations in both Migori and Kakamega counties.

Table 9; proportion of responses by county

County	Frequency	%
Kakamega	19	32
Kwale	1	1.69
Migori	35	59.32
Nairobi	1	1.69
Taita Taveta	2	3.39
Vihiga	1	1.69
Total	59	100

3.3 Membership to artisanal mining group

From the overall sample, the observation was that 54% of the respondents belonged to a group and specifically an artisanal mining group as seen in figure 2. To further understand the dynamics of the groups, especially since this is a gender study, further disaggregation of membership cross tabulated with gender resulted in figure 4.

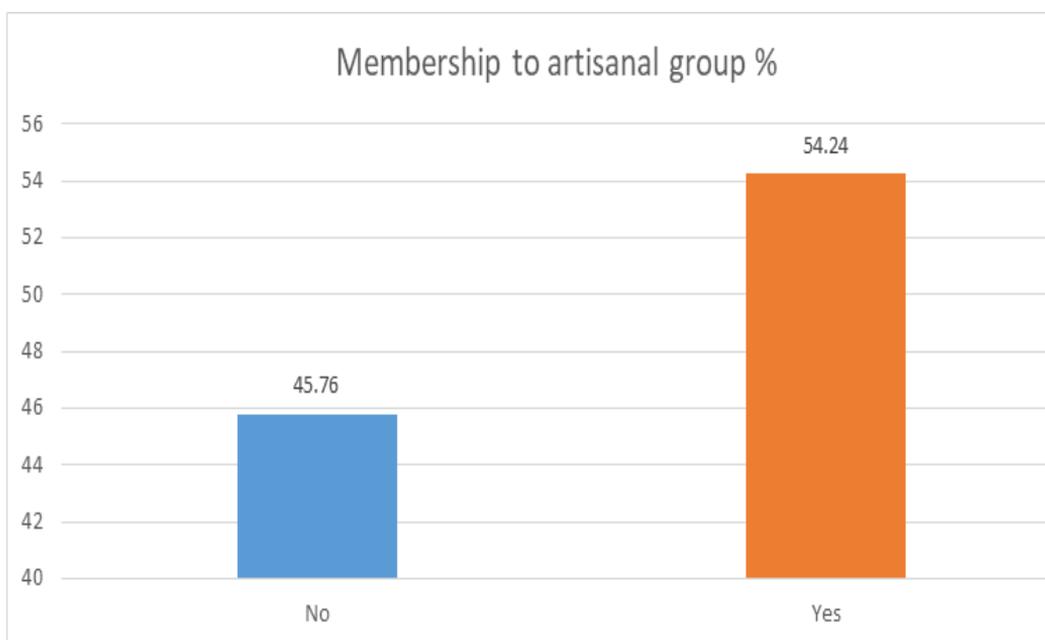


Figure 2; Proportion of respondents with membership to an artisanal group

The results from figure 3 provide a very interesting dynamic. More women 64% were members of the artisanal mining groups, while from the men interviewed more 73% preferred not to be members of the mining groups. The reasons behind this observation requires further inquiry.

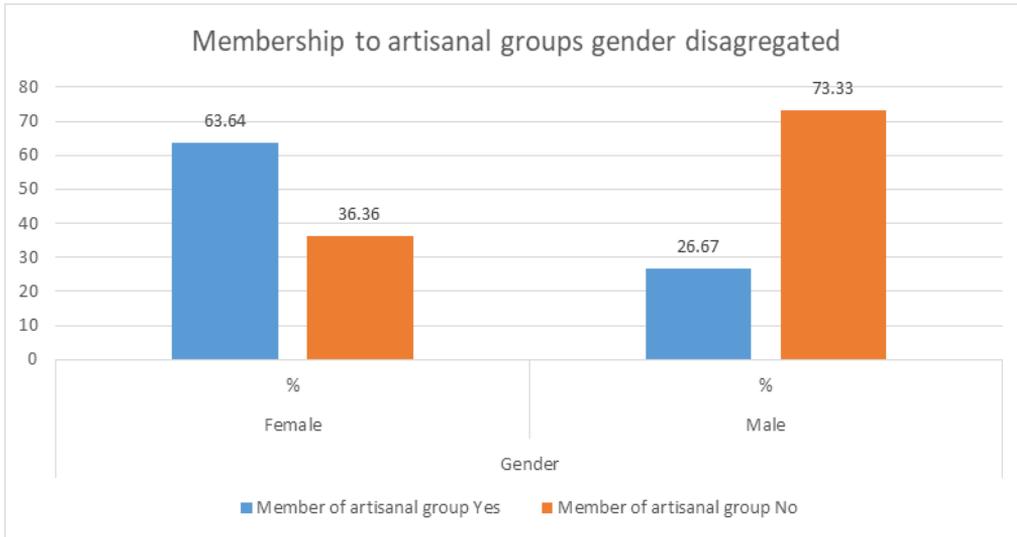


Figure 3: disaggregated membership by gender

3.4 Impact of COVID-19 on mining operations

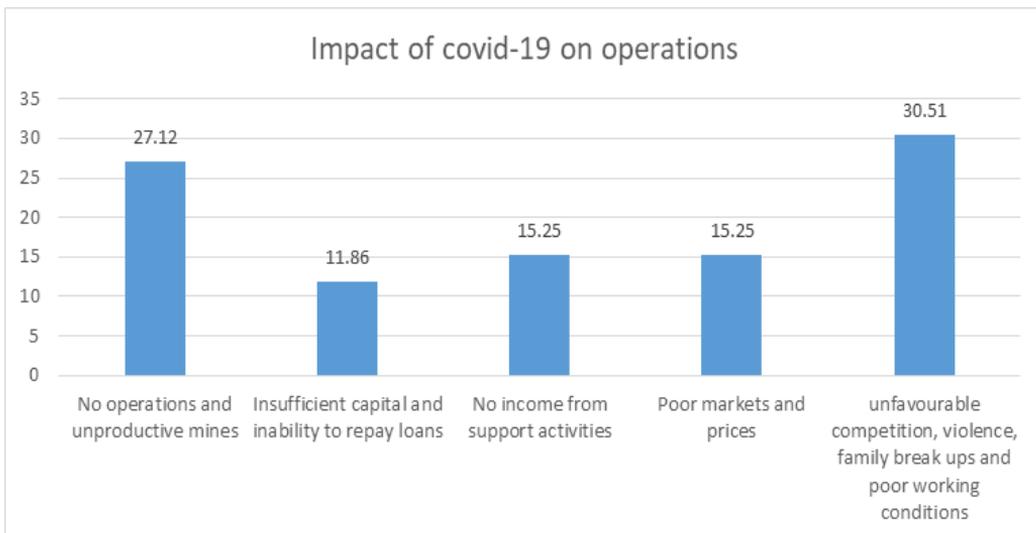


Figure 4; thematic cluster results of Impact of Covid-19 on operations

The impact of covid-19 on mining operations were captured under 5 broad thematic areas as seen on figure 6. 31% of the responses said that covid-19 created unfavourable completion and working conditions for them, they observed an increase in violence and family break ups.

Some unique responses were as follows;

“It has affected us badly. Even families have broken up due to lack of funds. There has been no money. And women are left to provide for the family.”

“Corona has killed us. Marriages have broken, we have no source of income.”

This goes to show that women bear the brunt more when there is social distress or during tough economic situations.

27% of the respondents said that covid-19 stopped or drastically reduced operations in the mines. This then directly impacted on their sources of livelihood. This has a direct link to the 15% who said that there was no income from support activities. Support activities in this case were those activities secondary to mining but were essential to the operations of the mines for example food vendors, those who lease out machinery and materials etc.

Some unique quotes were as follows;

“The situation has been very bad. Some women ended up shifting to selling Omena and others. There was profit in the gold.”

“It lead to breaking up of our group because there was no money for Mary go round. Women now are poorer.”

Here we can see two examples of support activities within the mining value chain collapse due to the Covid-19 situation. The primary activity substituted with selling “omena” just for the women to make ends meet and financial activities i.e “mary go round”/table banking collapsing due to lack of constant rolling funds. Poor markets and prices and insufficient capital provided responses of 15% and 12% respectively.

3.5 Experience on Gender based Violence

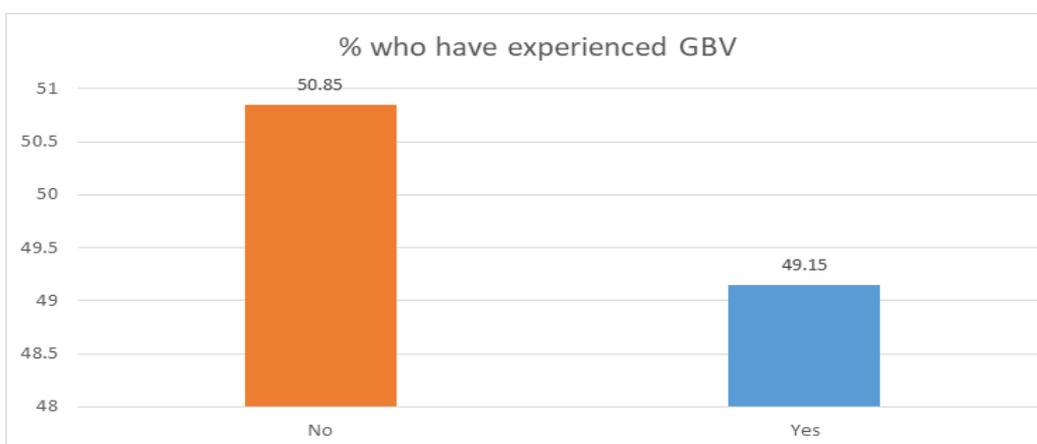


Figure 5; respondents experience GBV

Half of the respondents said they had experienced GBV. With the sensitivity of the issue, this is quite a significant number. If this was extrapolated into the wider society, this means having a society where half of the population have either experienced or witnessed GBV. To gain a deeper understanding of this concept, the study isolated some quotes from the respondents as follows;

“Yes, despite Covid-19 mining still continued through hide and seek so women had to go for ore at night putting them at risk of sexual violence”

“Yes a lot of women are working tirelessly to make ends meet but their effort is not recognized since they are violated during the extra hours of work that is early in the morning and late in the evening”

These two quotes provide a unique insight into the impact of Covid-19 on the women, time being an explanatory variable that feeds into GBV. The fact that Covid-19 resulted in restrictions by local authorities on mining activities led to the women needing to work in times that are considered “unsafe”. It is during those times that the women experience GBV.

3.6 Do GBV victims get justice

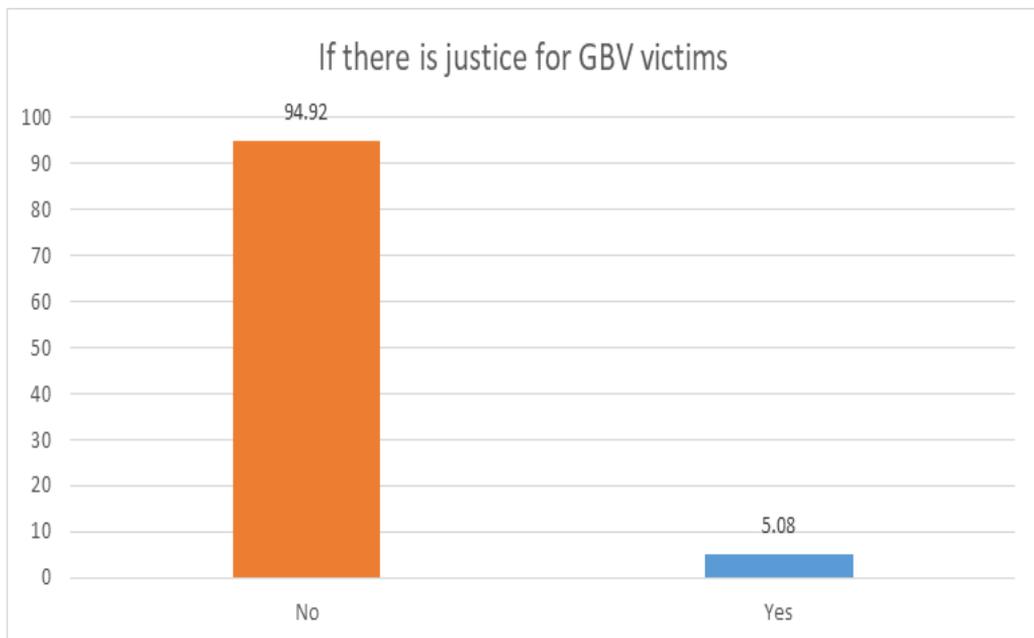


Figure 6; Opinion whether GBV victims get justice

95% of the respondents said that GBV victims do not get justice. As far as their responses went, the following quote summarized the situation;

“No they do not get justice because the gender desk in police stations are not available now”

“No. because people do not report, hence no justice”

“No unless mostly if the family of the victim are willing to report to the Taita Taveta human rights watch. But also the costs of achieving justice and reaching out to the justice systems are rather high”

“No because there are cultural beliefs in the society and victims hide because of stigma associated with GBV”

“No justice because arrests are made but there is lack of follow up by the victims due to financial reasons”

“No you just need to keep quiet. If you report your husband where will you go after that?”

Suffice to say, GBV victims do not get justice and a combination of factors contribute to this. However, social constraints seem to rank high, the inability of the women to speak out and feel protected when they do so.

3.7 Main issues/problems faced in artisanal mining

Table 10; main issues/problems faced by artisanal miners

Main issues/problems faced by artisanal miners	%
Registration and licenses	5.08
Natural calamities	13.56
Resource constraints and limited skills	15.25
Poor ore yield	16.95
Poor prices, income and pay	32.2
Investor constraints	6.78
Health and associated issues	8.47
Gender based violence	1.69
Total	100

At 14%, 15% and 17% respectively, natural calamities, resource constraints and limited skills and poor ore yield ranked high as responses towards main issues faced by artisanal miners. Floods and excessive rains were reported to have great impact on their livelihoods. Many also reported that they had limited skills and feel like they would be more efficient with modern mining techniques which is also interlinked with the solutions and suggestions provided by table 8 where civic education and capacity building and capital and equipment ranked higher than the other thematic variables. This goes to show that the respondents understand their problems quite well and are aware that there could be solutions to their problems. However if they are able to resolve those issues by themselves is yet to be seen and was beyond the data available for this analysis.

Table 11; Suggestions on how issues/problems in artisanal mining could be resolved

Suggestions	%
Groups, registration, licences and policy	16.98
Civic education and capacity building	18.87
Humane and environmentally friendly working conditions	9.43
Women involvement	28.3
Markets	7.55
Capital and equipment	18.87
Total	100

Women involvement was a very important theme that emerged from the analysis and ranked top to the solutions provided by the respondents to the main issues they face in artisanal mining.

“Educate the society on mining that was not meant for only one gender(men) and so they should support the women more and encourage them so as to help them earn a living”.

“Women should form groups and be supported also to be become buyers of gold.”

“The mining business is for men. The government should help women by giving them capital so that they can buy gold and sell”.

4.0

Conclusion and recommendations

This analysis aimed at isolating, deciphering and providing metrics for important themes in line with the questionnaire titled “Women in Artisanal Mining”. The analysis adopts a mixed-methods approach as seen already. The qualitative survey was based on one general research question: How has covid-19 impacted on the lives of women artisanal miners? The analysis shows that the respondents do indeed recognize a high need for women involvement in the mining sector and not just as secondary actors offering support functions. On the basis of the qualitative interview analysis we can draw a number of conclusions: -

Women are aware of the need for civic education to the wider society especially on matters of the roles and position of women in artisanal mining – Respondents are able to recognise and reflect on what GBV is and its impact on women and the wider society – The respondents generally understand the art and business of mining, the weaknesses and possible solutions to those weaknesses. – The collapse of mining activities leads to a domino effect and the collapse of livelihoods around the mining sector.

Recommendations drawn from raw responses are drawn as follows;

Issue	Quote	Recommendation
GBV	“No I have not experienced GBV, but women give their bodies in exchange of rocks with gold”	Civic education- The respondent clearly does understand that taking advantage of someone in desperation is gender based exploitation
GBV	“Our husbands don’t allow us to go to work because they suspect we will sell our bodies for gold”	Civic education on the role of women both in the household and in the mining industry
GBV	“People view women working in mines as prostitutes”	Civic education

Issue	Quote	Recommendation
GBV	“Men sometimes get frustrated and relive their anger on us with blows and kicks”	Civic education and space for women to report and talk about domestic violence
Markets	“Streamline the market and eliminate middlemen.”	The need for developed highly efficient associations and umbrella groups
Markets	“The government should buy gold from us and sell it on our behalf”.	Influence on policy at both County and national level
Capital and equipment	The biggest challenge is not having a gold crusher. It would help our group.”	Financial support

Future research/assessments

This analysis came across gaps that could be filled by the following studies in future;

1. A human behaviour change study needs to be conducted in all the artisanal mining counties to gain proper understanding of the behaviours around GBV and what motivates such behaviour.

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