

4. Financial Opportunities for Women in Gold Value Addition and Beneficiation

The Fidelity Gold Printers is driving the \$40-million-dollar Gold Development Initiative Fund where women can access funding to go into gold mining and value addition. To date 12% of this 100 million fund has been accessed by women. The Government is also working hand with the Women's Empowerment Bank so that women can access funding for value addition opportunities in the mining sector. Young women can also tap from the Youth Empowerment Bank for investment opportunities for their banks. The Ministry of Mines and Mining Development has also set up a stand-alone department that focuses on Minerals Value Addition and Beneficiation in Zimbabwe including gold as the key mineral. Women also have an opportunity to be members of the Jewellers Council of Zimbabwe where value addition players in gold and related minerals are represented and have direct information from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and the Fidelity Printers and Refiners.

5. Environmental Considerations

Although the value addition of gold is promoted and availability of opportunities, it is critical that environmental considerations are made and aligned to in accordance to the Zimbabwean laws and regulations. Women in gold mining must also consider the adoption of mercury free gold processing so as to minimize negative health effects on their bodies.

6. Conclusions

Gold value addition and beneficiation promotes various business opportunities for women in mining. Involvement of women in gold value addition and beneficiation promotes women empowerment, creation of jobs and improved livelihoods. The implementation of the TSP programme as well as the women empowerment programs will see women in mining benefiting.

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