

Case Study

Improving the Lives of Women and Children in West Africa

In West Africa, where Kinross operates its Chirano mine in Ghana and Tasiast mine in Mauritania, helping women develop income-generating abilities, supporting maternal and paediatric health, and providing access to valuable mentorship is all part of Kinross' approach to mining responsibly and contributing to long-term community well-being.

In Benichab, Mauritania, Kinross is helping local women establish economic opportunities through small business training and funding for micro-projects with its Programme D'appui aux Initiatives Locales (PAIL) initiative, implemented by a Mauritanian NGO. PAIL 1 started in 2012 with 49 micro-projects, of which 71% were run by women and 26% were dedicated to unemployed youth. Of these, 25 micro-projects were located in Benichab and Asma. A detailed assessment in 2016 found that 40% had become sustainable and that the financial capital of at least six of the projects had increased. The businesses include carpentry, butchery, and bakery shops, and women's co-operatives selling consumer goods. Positive outcomes reported by program beneficiaries include growth in their business; in particular, the increase in working capital allowing them to expand their activities. Recommendations for improvement to the program include more continuous accompaniment by experts, broad communication about the program and provision



of better quality machinery with the development program funds. Seven micro-projects, including five PAIL 1 beneficiaries, have been assessed for implementation in the second phase of the local development plan.

In Ghana, the Chirano Women's Club is dedicated to empowering women through support, advice and mentorship. Made up of approximately 180 women, including employees and contractors at Chirano, and women and students from the local community, the Club encourages women to advance their skills and ideas, discuss women's health issues and further establish

their independence. Local children are mentored and encouraged to pursue their education. Through Kinross' donation of meeting space, transportation and human resources, and the commitment of the leaders of the Chirano Women's Club, local children will continue to be encouraged to pursue their dreams – whatever they may be.

These initiatives contribute to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 3 (Community Health and Well-Being), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

[Watch the video.](#) 

"We realize that women are few in this organization, and therefore in order for us to be visible and effective, we needed to go an extra mile, so we decided to come together to share best practices and also encourage each other to strive for excellence." **Founder and President, Chirano Gold Mine Women's Club**

"This is the first co-operative that has succeeded in the Inchiri region. Kinross is the only company here which provides grants and interest-free loans to Benichab women." **President, El Vows Women's Co-operative (Benichab, Mauritania)**

"I arrived in this commune three months ago I am new like you, but I appreciated the emancipation and the determination of the women of Benichab by their actions. They are the ones who supply the city with vegetables, fish and various businesses." **The Harem of Benichab**