

## Country-Report Ruanda

1. What is life like as a miner's wife in your country?

\*ANSWER: We don't have many comforts of life or much happiness like the local miners because of the low income and financial support, materials, but for sure we have many comforts and efforts.

2. Do your children go to school or work in the mines?

\*ANSWER: Our children should go to school, not in the mine, but because of the low income or financial ability, unable to support 6 children in school, I as a parent decided to send 3 children to school for one year, and the other 3 children I go to the mine with them to help me pay the school fees for their siblings; but if we had a good income or financial support, all the children could attend school on time and in good condition.

3. Do you live in the mining company's house or somewhere else?

\*ANSWER: As a local miner, I don't have a company because it is very hard to afford a company without financial support and you need registration and other financial support, so I always camp near my local mining site where I make my bricks and break the local bricks in our community so I can live somewhere else.

4. How are the women provided for when the husband can no longer work or is dead?

\*ANSWER: Any woman who has lived such a bitter life must not think negatively and undermine herself: She must trust herself because she is a hard-working woman, because all the bills are on her responsibility, including the school fees for her children; she must be very smart, very perceptive and very active everywhere she has ever played a role of << I CAN DO IT >>, and promote her efforts and her energy, her personality and always be firm in what she does, trust herself. Because a woman can do what a man can do.

5. How do the miners' wives organize themselves and how do they stick together?

\* ANSWER: They must be free and open in their communication, work as a team and be a family , respect their traditional roles, work well together and have good knowledge to make themselves a good leader and develop in their mining system. Example: create a financial cooperative (SACO) that can help someone in urgent cases.

- Stay united and mutual, work as a team, support each other specially, physically and financially.

(...)

9. With our forum we want to make demands for our life and future.

What are your demands?

\* ANSWER: my demands are to recognize this opportunity for the community or people and influence their lives for a better future.