

The Baseline Survey targeting the Artisanal Diamond Diggers in
Weasua, Gbarpolu County, Liberia



January 2020

Diamonds for Peace

The Baseline Survey targeting the Artisanal Diamond Diggers in Weasua, Gbarpolu County, Liberia

Front Cover Image:

The artisanal diamond mining in Weasua, Liberia (photo by Diamonds for Peace)

Acknowledgement:

Diamonds for Peace would like to express its gratitude to the artisanal diamond diggers in Weasua who were willing to take their time and answer the questions.

Diamonds for Peace would like to extend its appreciation to the staffs who conducted the interviews and volunteers who helped compile/publish this report.

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Diamonds for Peace is an NGO working towards the world in which all the diamonds are mined, cut and processed with humanitarian and environmental considerations.

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Definition of Terms

In this report, the authors use the below terms, as per the stated definitions.

Miner

A miner is a person who possesses (or is supposed to possess) a Class C License which allows him/her to carry out artisanal mining. Some miners dig the land on their own, while others hire teams of diggers to dig his/her mining claim.

Digger

People refer to diggers as “diamond boys” in the field. A digger is a person who digs the land in a quest for diamonds.

Broker

A broker is a middleperson who buys diamonds from miners or supporters and sells them to a dealer. A broker needs a license from the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) to officially operate.

Dealer

A dealer is an exporter who exports diamonds abroad. In order to officially operate, a dealer needs a license from the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME). Dealers are not allowed to visit diamond mining areas.

Supporter

A supporter is a person who provides miners and diggers with tools/meals/overall up-front costs needed to run the mining activities. In return, a supporter claims his ownership of a diamond mined in a mining claim he supports. Some supporters are brokers.

Background

We, Diamonds for Peace (DFP), have selected Weasua, one of the oldest artisanal diamond mining communities in Liberia, as its first partner community after conducting the situation analysis and having dialogues with shortlisted communities.

By our encouragement, the artisanal diamond miners organized themselves into a mining and agricultural cooperative and the diggers organized themselves into a diggers' association. DFP's intention is to provide them with technical assistance/training/coaching and to set up a traceable supply chain of diamonds so that they can sustain themselves through circulating responsible mined diamonds.

Weasua

Weasua is located in Gbarma District of Gbarpolu County in Liberia. Gbarpolu County situates in the western region of Liberia where the artisanal diamond mining is one of the major sources of income for local people.

It takes about 6 hours to drive from Monrovia, the capital, to Weasua. The road is paved between Monrovia and Tubmanburg, the capital town of Bomi County. The road is not paved after Tubmanburg. It is difficult to travel during the rainy season between May to October.

Liberia is covered with rain forests called Guinean forest. Weasua is located in the border area of Lofa-Mano National Park.



Purpose of the Survey

The purpose of this survey is to collect baseline numbers of the working and living conditions of the artisanal diamond miners and diggers in our partner community to understand their current conditions and needs.

Methodology

We developed the questionnaires for diggers. Local staff interviewed the artisanal diamond diggers in May 2019 with local assistants. The majority of diggers interviewed are the members of the diggers' association that we intend to strengthen. We followed up some unclear answers and then compiled the results.

Note

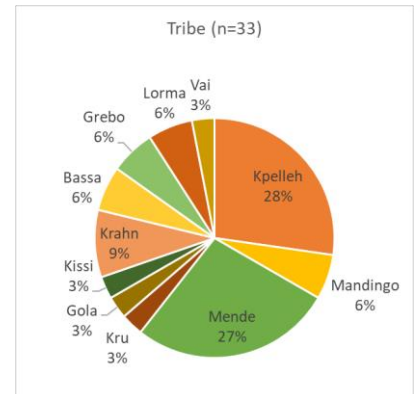
We have observed in this survey that Liberian people have tendency to say that they are satisfied in an environment where there is no other option for them to take even when they are not actually satisfied.

The Survey targeting the Artisanal Diamond Diggers in Weasua

Basic Information

i) Tribe

28% of the respondents answered they are Kpelleh, 27% answered Mende, and 9% answered Krahn. 6% answered Mandingo, Bassa, Grebo, Lorma respectively and 3% answered Kru, Gola, Kissi, and Vai respectively.

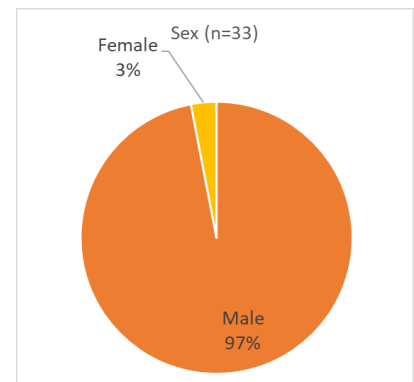


ii) Sex

97% of the respondents answered they are male and 3% answered they are female.

One digger is found to be female, which is a rare case in Liberia.

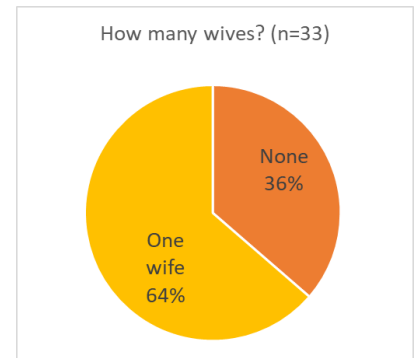
The job to mine diamonds is considered as man's job although there are many female gold miners in Liberia.



iii) How many wives do you have?

64% of the respondents answered they have one wife and 36% answered they do not have a wife.

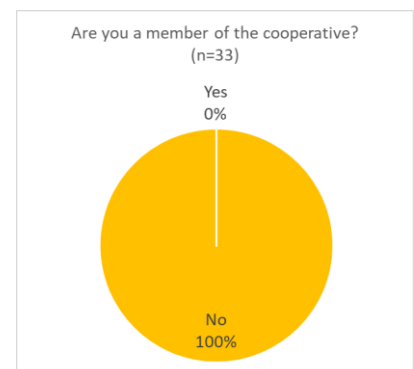
About half of the diggers are observed to be Muslim but they do not practice having multiple wives in this community. One of the respondents answered in Q31 that he does not have money and that's why he cannot get married. Since diggers are the most exploited group of people in the community, it may be difficult for them to find someone to marry.



iv) Are you a member of the cooperative?

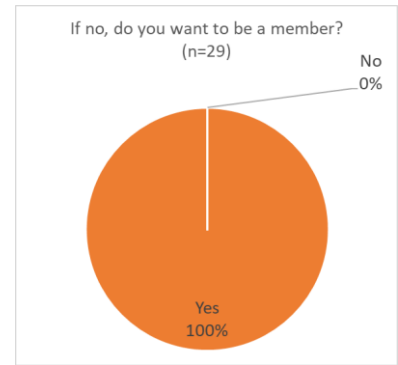
All of the respondents answered they are not.

Please note that Diamonds for Peace is encouraging the diggers' association to be a member of the cooperative instead of each digger registering with the cooperative. This is because diggers are too poor to pay the registration fees and dues that the cooperative has set.



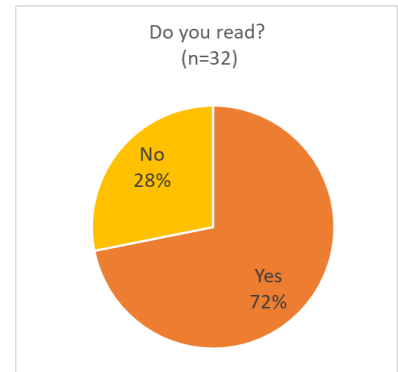
v) If no, do you want to be a member?

All of the respondents answered they want to be members.



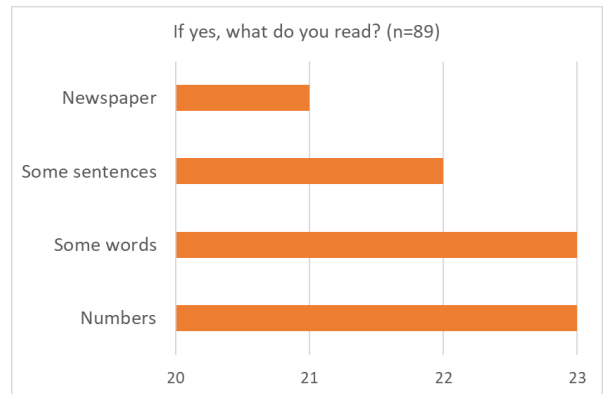
vi) Do you read?

72% of the respondents answered they read and 28% answered they do not.



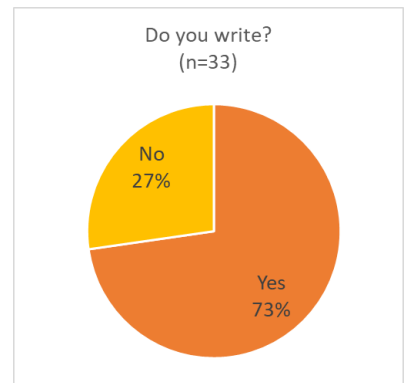
vii) If yes, what do you read?

All of the respondents who answered yes (23 respondents) read numbers and some words, 22 respondents read some sentences and 21 read newspaper.



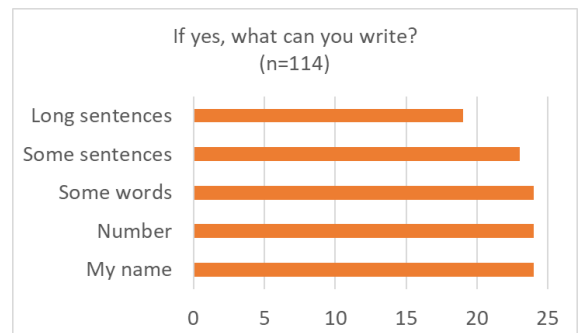
viii) Do you write?

73% of the respondents answered they write and 27% answered they do not.



ix) If yes, what can you write?

All of the 24 respondents who answered yes in the previous question can write their names, numbers and some words, 23 respondents can write some sentences and 19 can write long sentences.



x) If you don't write, what do you do when you have to write?

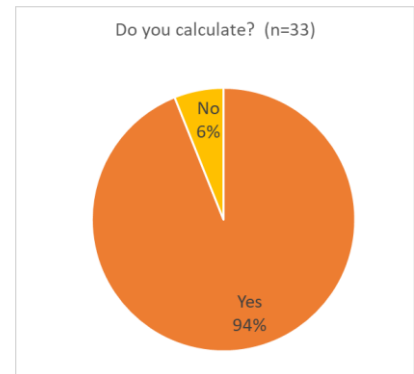
Answers

- I ask people to help me write what I want to.
- I can ask my friends to help me.
- I can ask someone to help write what I want.
- I ask someone who is able to write to help me

All the respondents who answered they couldn't write answered that they can ask someone to help them write.

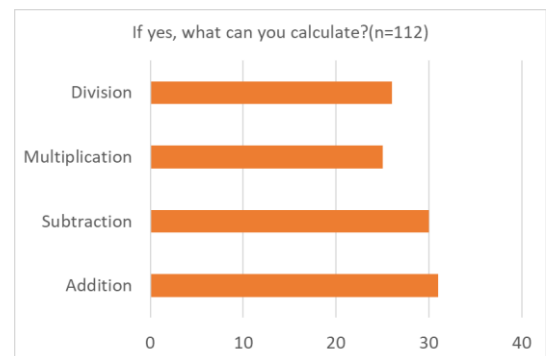
xi) Do you calculate?

94% of the respondents answered they calculate and 6% answered they do not.



xii) If yes, what can you calculate?

All of the respondents who answered yes (31 respondents) can do addition, 30 respondents can do subtraction, 26 can do division and 25 can do multiplication.



Questions about their diamond mining work

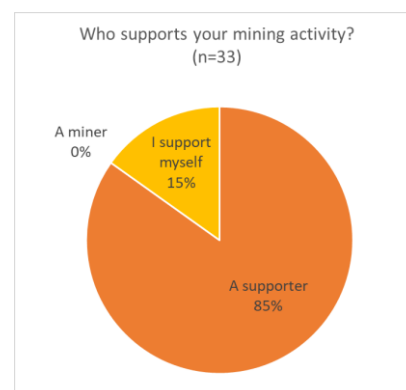
1. Why did you become a diamond digger?

Respondents gave different answers as shown in the table below.

The number of respondents	The answer
6	I became a digger because I didn't have any other work to do.
6	After high school I never had money to further my education, so I decided to dig diamonds.
5	I dropped from (high) school because I never had money, so I decided to dig diamond.
5	I was encouraged by friends.
2	I became a diamond digger because I understood diamond makes a lot of money.
2	Because I live in a community where diamond mining is the major source of income.
2	I grew up and saw my family doing diamond working so I started digging diamond as well.
1	My eyes opened on diamond work.
1	Because diamond digging is the only kind of work I am exposed to.
1	I wanted to get money to start my own business.
1	Diamond mining is the major source of income in the community where I find myself; when I decided to get involved I never had anyone to help me so I became dig diamond despite being a female. I found the job easy to do because I also do agriculture work which requires digging as well.

2. Who supports your mining activity?

85% of the respondents answered a supporter supports them, 15% answered they support themselves and nobody answered a miner supports them.

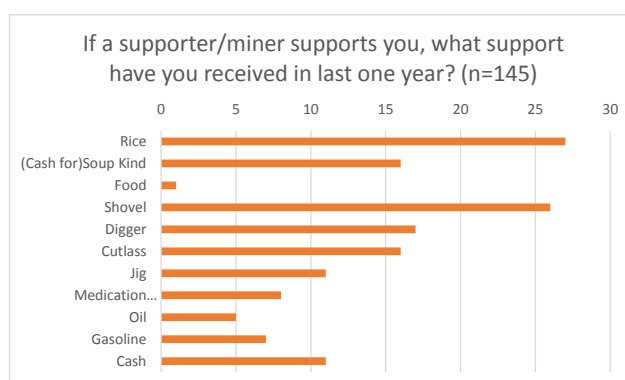


3. If a supporter or miner supports you, what support have you received in last one year?

We did not give options for the respondents to choose from for this question. However, the answers given are 11 items.

27 respondents out of 33 interviewed answered their supporters provide them with rice, 26 respondents answered they have received shovels,

17 respondents answered they receive diggers which is a tool for digging, 16 respondents answered



cutlasses, 11 answered jigs and cash respectively, 8 respondents answered medication, 7 respondents answered gasoline for machines, 5 respondents answered jigs, one respondent answered food.

Many of them said cash are for soup kind. One answer “food” seems to mean “rice and soup kind” which are typical Liberian meal in the partner community. Some said cash is also for medication. Cash amount varies from LD7,500 (about 45 USD) to LD37,100 (about 225 USD).¹

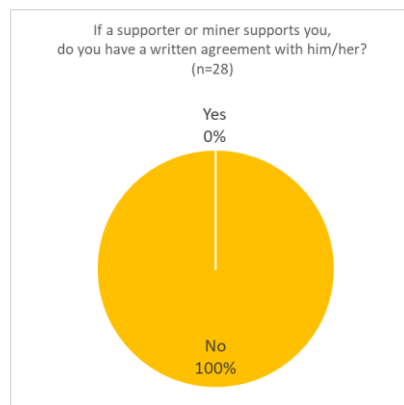
Here are common tools for the artisanal diamond mining in Weasua.



4. If a supporter or miner supports you, do you have a written agreement with him/her?

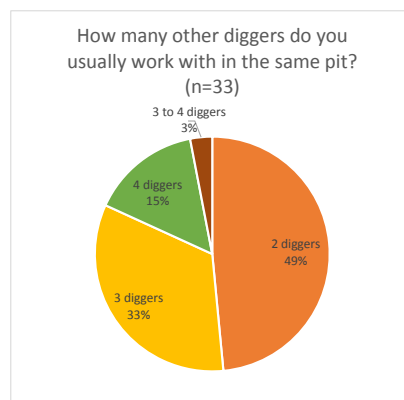
All of the respondents answered they do not have a written agreement with him/her.

It is very common that people in the artisanal diamond supply chain such as diggers, miners, supporters do not keep any record including the agreement.



5. How many other diggers do you usually work in the same pit?

49% of the respondents answered they work with two diggers, 33% of the respondents answered three diggers, 15% of the respondents answered four diggers, 3% of the respondents answered three to four diggers.



6. How many diamonds did you find in the last one year and for how much did you sell them (from June 2018 to May 2019)?

Carat weight of the diamonds found	The number of pieces found
Average: 2.60 ct	Average: 6.64 pieces
Median: 2.00 ct	Median: 5 pieces

¹ These USD amounts were calculated based on the exchange rate on 17th April 2019, LD165 for USD1 provided by the Central Bank of Liberia.

Price you sold them (USD)	The number of times of recovery
Average: 198.29 USD	Average: 2.33 times
Median: 160.00 USD	Median: 2.00 times

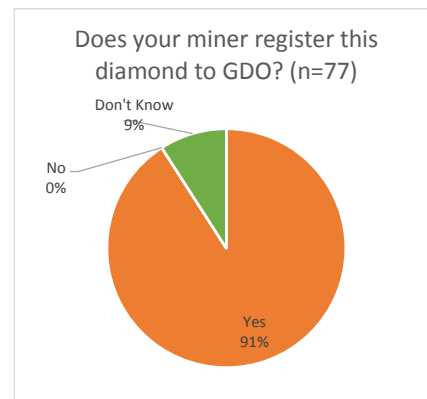
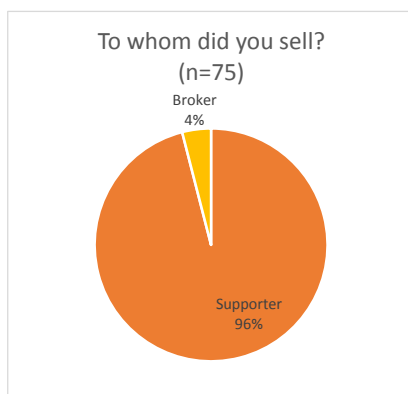
Diggers always complain to Diamonds for Peace that their supporters do not buy the recovered diamonds at fair price. Some of the diamonds that seem to be very low prices given as answers are the following:

Some of the diamonds that seem to be very low prices
- One piece of diamond of 0.98ct: 60 USD
- One piece of diamond of 0.98ct: 50 USD
- One piece of diamond of 0.80ct: 30 USD
- One piece of diamond of 0.75ct: 25 USD

It should be noted that the selling price is not what one digger earns. Their miner and the group of diggers who recover the diamond share the profit. When they sell a diamond to their supporter, the miner gets 50% and the group of diggers get the other 50%.

For example, if they sell one at 60USD, the miner gets 30USD and the group of diggers get 30USD. And then diggers divide it by the number of diggers.

To whom did you sell?



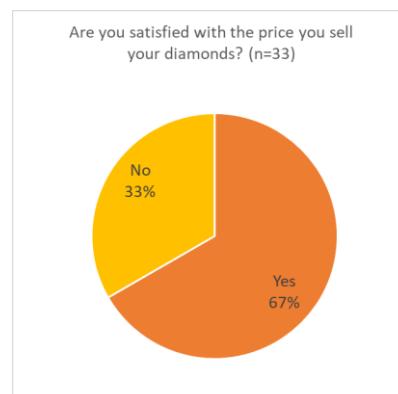
To the question “to whom did you sell?” 96% of the respondents answered they sold diamonds to supporters, and 4% answered they sold diamonds to brokers. As explained in the Definition of Terms, supporters are the people who provides diggers/miners with tools/food/cash for mining projects. Some supporters are licensed brokers who are allowed to buy/sell diamonds by Liberian government. However, we have observed that the majority of supporters are not licensed brokers who are not supposed to buy and/or sell diamonds.

To the question “does your miner register this diamond to GDO (Government Diamond Office)?” 91% of the respondents answered yes and 9% answered they didn’t know. 91% is high number given that many miners in the community do not have valid Class C mining license. For formality, mining license holders can only register their diamonds to GDO, which is the starting point of the chain of custody

in Liberia. In reality, MME is encouraging miners regardless of they have valid mining license or not to register their diamonds to GDO to prevent them from being smuggled to neighboring countries, which has been a huge problem for Liberian government.

7. Are you satisfied with the price you sell your diamonds?

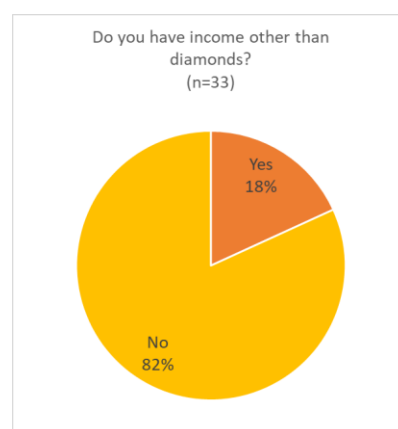
67% of the respondents answered they are satisfied with the price and 33% answered they are not.



Diamonds for Peace assumes that the answer does not reflect the real voices of diggers. Even though Diamonds for Peace always hear their complaining about the low price of diamonds, diggers tend to say they are satisfied when they have no other option.

8. Do you have income other than diamonds?

82% of the respondents answered they do not have income other than diamonds and 18% answered they do.



9. If yes, what was your income other than diamonds last one year (from June 2018 to May 2019)?

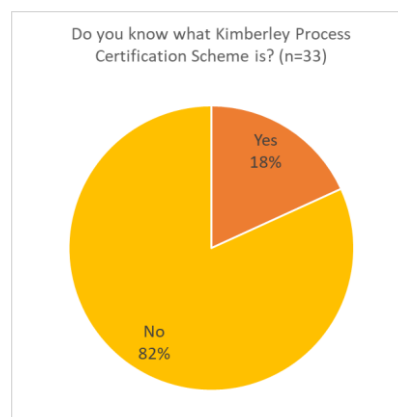
6 respondents out of 33 answered “yes” in the previous question. Out of the 6, the income other than diamonds varies from LD20,000 (about USD121) to LD115,000 (about USD697).

Two out of the six earned through small business and the other two earned through farming. The average income other than diamonds per respondent is LD 59,223 (about USD 359), the median is LD 45,000 (about USD 272)².

Income other than diamond mining	Means of earning other income
The average: LD 59,223 (about USD 359)	- Small business (4 respondents)
The median: LD 45,000 (about USD 272)	- Farming (2 respondents)

10. Do you know what Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is?

82% of the respondents answered they do not know and 18% answered they do.



11. If yes, please explain what Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is.

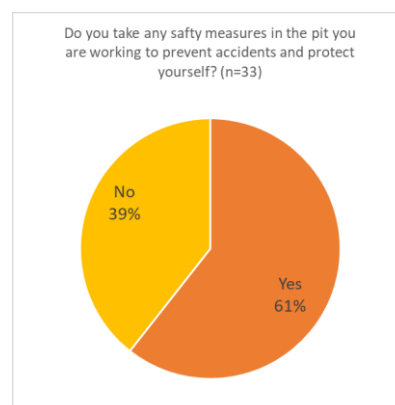
Although 18% of the respondents answered they knew what Kimberley Process Certification Scheme was in the previous

² These USD amounts were calculated based on the exchange rate on 17th April 2019, LD165 for USD1 provided by the Central Bank of Liberia.

question, none of them could explain what it was.

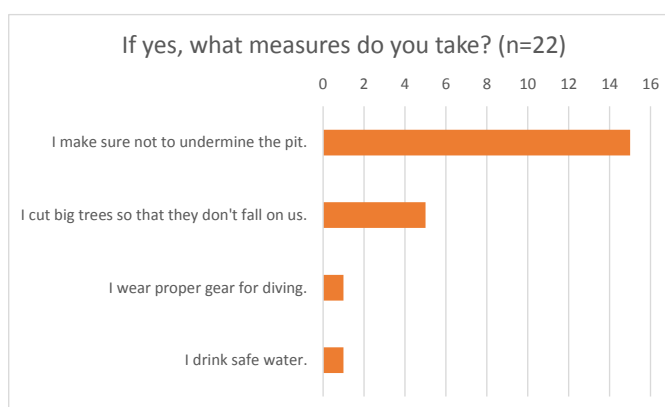
12. Do you take any safety measures in the pit you are working to prevent accidents and to protect yourself?

61% of the respondents answered they take safety measures and 39% answered they do not.



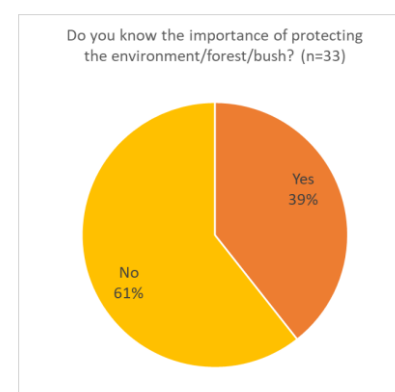
13. If yes, what measures do you take?

Out of 20 respondents who answered “yes” in the previous question, 15 answered “I make sure not to undermine the pit,” 5 answered “I cut big trees so that they don’t fall on us,” and one answered “I wear proper gear for diving³” and “I drink safe water” respectively.



14. Do you know the importance of protecting the environment/ forest/ bush?

39% of the respondents answered they know the importance and 61% answered they do not.



15. If yes, please explain the importance.

The respondents who answered yes in the previous question gave various explanations as follows.

The number of respondents	The explanation
5	The forest provides fresh air.
2	The forest is a resource that helps to develop the country and the forest also give us fresh air.
1	We use the forest trees for medicine and the animals are helpful to us as well.
1	Trees provide shelter; digging pits without covering them destroys the land for agriculture purpose.

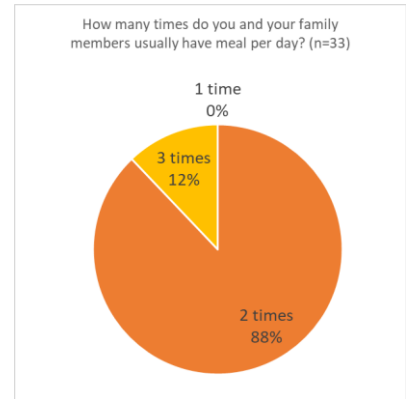
³ There are some mining claims in rivers. Diggers dive and grab some soil on the river beds by their hands and bring it back. They keep diving all day searching for diamonds.

1	The forest trees help to prevent the wind from destroying houses.
1	The forest is a resource that helps to develop the country.
1	The forest play host to many different wild lives and it is very important to preserve them. The forest trees give human being fresh air.
1	The forest and the bush host wide animals that are good for human consumption; the forest give us oxygen.

16. How many times do you and your family members usually have meal per day?

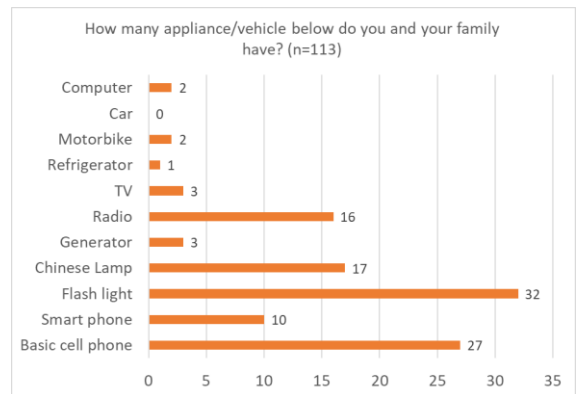
88% of the respondents answered they have two meals a day, 12% answered they have three meals, and none answered they have one meal.

Diamonds for Peace wonders if these answers reflect the real situation of diggers. This is because Diamonds for Peace heard some diggers saying they have only one meal a day outside this survey.



17. How many appliance/vehicles below do you and your family have?

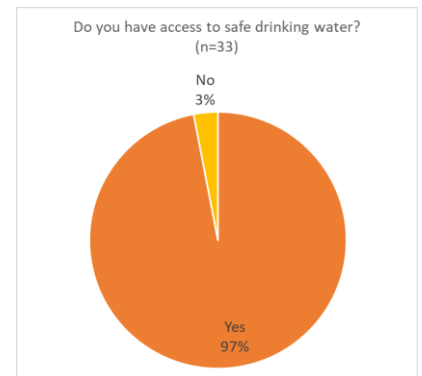
32 respondents have flashlights, 27 have basic cell phones, 17 have Chinese lamps, 16 have radios, 10 have smart phones, 3 have TVs and generators respectively, 2 have computers and one has a refrigerator.



18. Do you have access to safe drinking water?

97% of the respondents answered they have access to safe drinking water and 3% answered they do not.

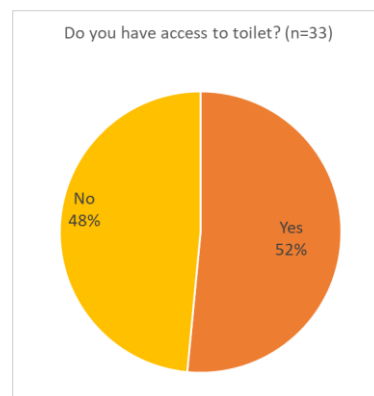
There are some places in this community where safe water is not available and people fetch water from creeks/streams. Diggers who answered these questions may have been from the places with wells which provides with safe drinking water.



19. Do you have access to a toilet?

52% of the respondents answered they have access to a toilet and 48% answered they do not.

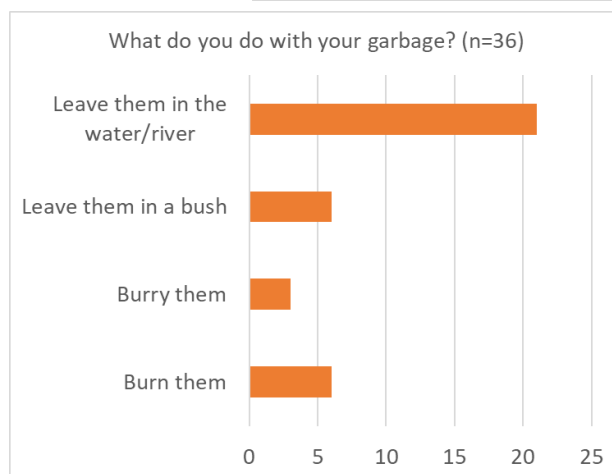
There is no public toilet in the community. People defecate in bush and/or rivers unless they have private toilets at their residence.



20. What do you do with your garbage?

21 respondents answered that they leave the garbage in the water/river, 6 answered they leave them in a bush, 6 answered they burn them and 3 answered burry them.

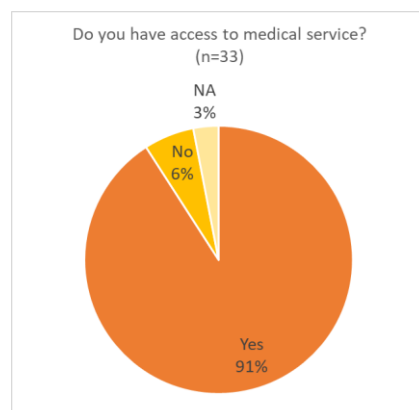
There is no garbage collection system in this community.



21. Do you have access to medical service?

92% of the respondents answered they have access to medical service, 6% answered they do not and 3% did not answer.

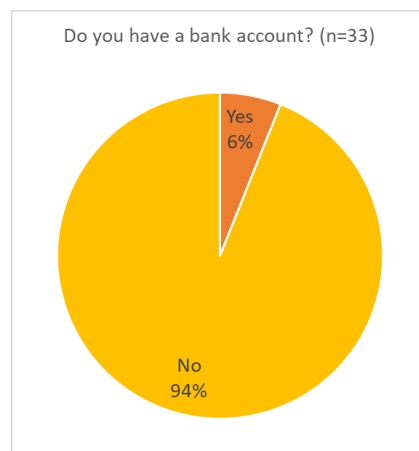
However, we have observed that if people become very sick, they need to be transported to Monrovia, the capital city. Almost all the diggers cannot afford this.



22. Do you have a bank account?

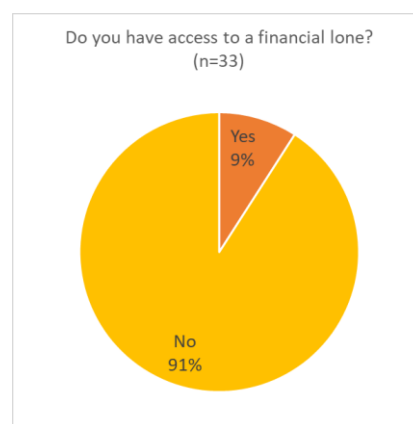
94% of the respondents answered they do not have a bank account and 6% answered they do.

There is no bank in this community. It takes more than 2 hours by motorbike to get to the nearest bank.



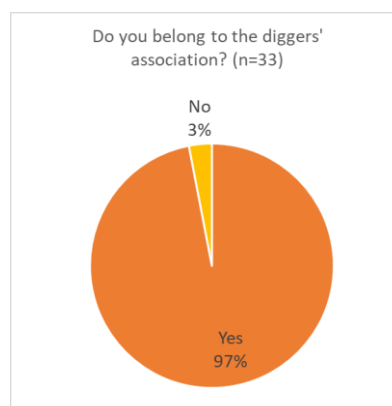
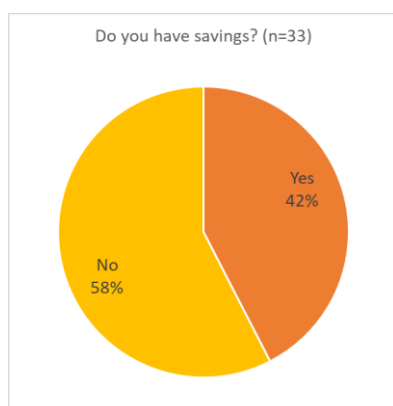
23. Do you have access to a financial loan?

91% of the respondents answered they do not have access to a financial loan and 9% answered they do.



24. Do you have savings?

56% of the respondents answered they have savings and 42% answered they do not.



25. Do you belong to the diggers' association?

97% of the respondents answered they belong to the diggers' association and 3% answered they do not. Reasons for their belonging/not belonging the association are follows.

Number of respondents	Reasons for their belonging the diggers' association
5	Because I believe that the diggers' association can positively change the ugly things that are happening to the diggers in the mine through advocacies.
5	I joined the group in order to get the opportunity to learn how to evaluate diamonds.
4	The association helps diggers to come together and discuss issues and jointly finds the solutions; this helps diggers get their rights respected.
2	Because the group membership is open to all diggers and because I understood that the association would speak on my behalf.
2	I feel that being part of the diggers' association will help me understand and fight for my rights along with my colleagues.
2	Because I feel that being a member of the association will positively affect my work as digger.
2	Because I want the association to help sell my diamonds for better price.
2	I joined the diggers' association because I believe the association will provide a considerable level of protection for me.

1	I want to know my rights as digger.
1	I want to work together with my friends so that we can achieve our common goals.
1	I joined the diggers' association because group members can help each other.
1	I found that the only way I can get the right benefits for my work is by joining the diggers' association.
1	I joined the group because the association is for diggers.
1	Because I want to learn whatever the association members will have the opportunity to learn.
1	I believe by being member of the group it will help me in many ways for example, I believe I will have the opportunity to learn new ideas like the team building training.
1	Because many of my friends in the association so I was encouraged to join.

Number of respondents	Reasons for their not belonging the diggers' association
1	I want to be part of the association, but I have been able to attend any of the meetings.

26. If you belong to the diggers' association, what do you think are the strength and weakness of the association?

The respondents raised the strength and weakness as follows.

The strength	The weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members are serious about progress. - The members are committed to due payment; the group cares for each other. (3) - The association is constantly keeping hope of success. - I think the leaders are always working to ensure the success of the association. - The association is determined to succeed. - The members of the association believe that they can succeed as a group and the leaders are working to ensure that happens. (3) - I think as an association we are working together; we care for each other; we can identify with our colleagues in times of needs. - Holding meetings and paying dues - The group is working hard in terms of building relationship with the miners. - I think the group leaders have the desire to mobilize other diggers to join the group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the association's members don't like to come to meeting. (12) - Many of our friends are working in far distances so they don't have the time to attend meeting regularly. - The group doesn't have regular meetings (8) - We discuss issues and reach action points but we don't make efforts to implement the actions. (3) - I think many of the members are still having doubt about what benefit they would get from the association, so they are reluctant about the association's activities.

Note: The number in a parenthesis is the number of respondents who gave the same answer.

27. How many people (family members and non-family members) do you support financially?

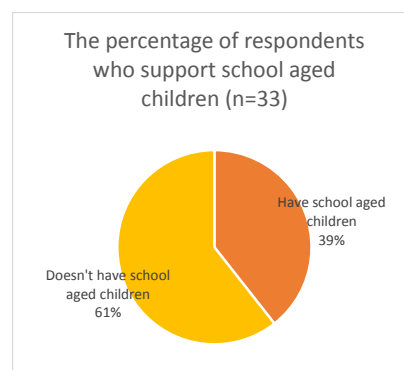
The number of people the respondents support financially varies from 0 to 15. The average number is 2.91 persons and the median number is 2.00 persons.

The average number of people the respondents support financially	The Median number of people the respondents support financially
2.91 persons	2.00 persons

Diamonds for Peace has observed that diggers send their children whom they cannot financially support to their relatives who can take care of their children.

28. Please list school aged children you support financially and if they actually go to school (Primary, secondary and college/university). If s/he does not go to school, please indicate what grade s/he finished.

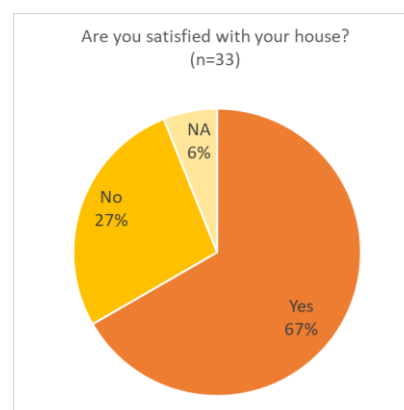
39% of the respondents support school aged children and 61% don't. The average number of children they support is 2.54 children, and the median is 2.00 children.



The ages of the school going children varies from 5 (kindergarten) to 26 (11th grade). It is not unusual that people in 20's are in high school in Liberia.

29. Are you satisfied with your house?

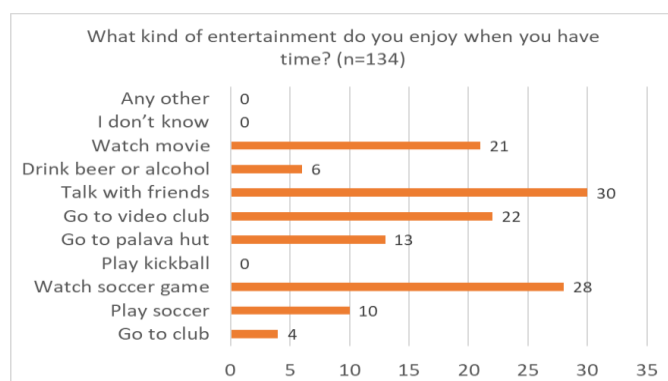
67% of the respondents answered they are satisfied with their house, 27% answered they are not and 6% did not answer.



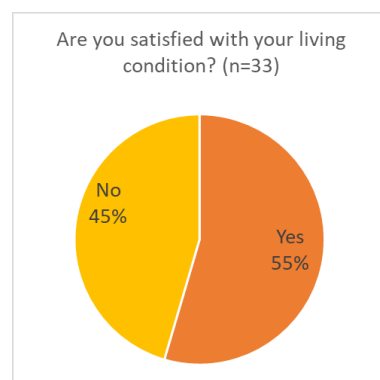
30. What kind of entertainment do you enjoy when you have time?

30 people enjoy talking with friends, 28 enjoy watching soccer games, 22 enjoy going to video clubs, 21 enjoy watching movies, 13 enjoy going to a palava hut, 6 enjoy drinking beer or alcohol and 4 enjoy going to a club.

Q30



Q31



31. Are you satisfied with your living condition?

55% of the respondents answered they are satisfied with their living life and 45% answered they are not. The reasons they raised are the following. 3 respondents answered “yes,” although they are not satisfied.

The number of respondents	Reasons for satisfaction
1	I am living freely, and I am not in problem with anyone
3	Because God is blessing me and my family with our daily needs
4	I am satisfied for now, because at least I can get my daily bread.
3	Because this is where I find myself, so I thank God for the position he has placed me.
1	Because I am not indebted to anyone; (I have the power to decide what I do with money)
1	My house is not in a good condition, but I have to be satisfied because I don't have any other option
3	My living condition is not alright, but I don't have options, so I am compelled to be satisfied.
1	I am able to get food for my family every day; all my children are going to school
1	Though things are very hard on me, but I am satisfied at least I can get food.
The number of respondents	Reasons for dissatisfaction
4	I don't have money to take care of my family responsibilities.
4	Because I don't have my own house.
2	I have to work very hard just to get food for my family to eat.
1	I cannot get my wish accomplished. I don't have my basic needs.
1	Because I am not financially strong.
2	I am working too hard and not getting what I expect.

32. What is the biggest challenge you are facing in terms of your mining work and your living condition?

The respondents raised various challenges as follows.

The number of respondents	Your biggest challenge in your mining work
17	Poor support system and the lack of the needed material for my work.
9	The supporters don't buy diamonds with good price.
8	Sometimes the supporters even delay the supports they give.
8	The biggest challenge I have is working in partnership with other diggers; often my colleagues don't like to go to work on time (not serious about the job).
5	I don't get (find) diamonds as I expect (I don't know when I find diamonds).

2	The work is very difficult, it takes 3 to 4 months to complete one project and one is never guaranteed of finding diamonds.
1	The issue of not getting buyers who would buy my diamonds with better price is my major challenge
1	My inability to sponsor my own project; the people who claim to be supporters do give the needed supports.
1	I don't have a good working condition; my rights are not respected.
1	It always difficult for me to get partners to work with because people underestimate my strength as a woman.

The number of respondents	Your biggest challenge in living condition
7	No money to take care of my family.
6	I work hard but cannot find enough money to take care of all my responsibilities.
4	I don't have my own house.
3	I don't the needed finance to educate my children the way I want to.
1	Difficulty in finding food for my family.
2	I don't have toilet facility; we have to go to the bush every time, even if it is raining.
2	I am working very hard and cannot get enough money to solve my problems.
2	I am always renting in other people house; this condition causes lots of embarrassment for me and my family.
1	Getting my own house and finding my family daily bread.
1	I am lonely; I need a wife but cannot find one. I think the reason is because I don't have money.
1	The diamond digging job I am doing is very hard.
1	I have to depend on digging diamond throughout just to have food for my family and I and it is more challenging to even find diamond.
1	My work is very hard, and I don't get what I want from it.
1	I cannot afford my basic needs.
1	I don't have money to do all that I want.

33. Did you participate in the team building training conducted by Diamonds for Peace Liberia in May 2019?

76% of the respondents answered they participated in the team building training and 24% answered they did not.

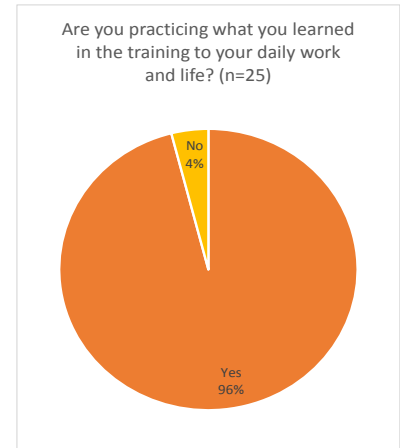


34. If yes, what did you learn in the training?

The number of respondents	Answer
1	The human knot game; it helped me to understand the importance of working together with other to overcome difficult situations.
1	I learned working with friends and understanding them is very important.
1	I learned that working together in a team helps group of people achieve their collective goals.
1	I learned meeting a new friend and knowing what they like and dislike.
2	I learned about togetherness and how to build a good team.
1	I learned that diamond is used for many different purposes. I also learned that team members need to trust each other.
1	I learned that when group of people work together, they can achieve a lot.
1	I learned about the importance of communication, trust working together with love.
1	I learned that in order for a team to be successful, its members need to trust each other and work together strongly.
2	I learned how to work together with others, how to make new friends. I also learned that trust amongst team members is very important.
1	I learned how to work with other people in a team to achieve common goals.
1	I learned that truth telling helps a team to be strong. I also learned that people in a team need to listen to each other in order to be successful.
1	I learned that communication is very important in teamwork; if people work together and don't communicate well, it would difficult to achieve success.
1	I learned how to build good working relationship with team members.
2	I learned how to build trust in my teammates; I also learned that communication is very important in teamwork.
1	I learned how to work together with other in a team; I also learned that there will always be challenge in life, but one needs to keep trying.
1	I learned that it is important for team members to respect each other views; people should learn how to trust each other.
2	I learned how to work as a team, I learned that as a team member, I need to communicate with my colleagues always to ensure success.
1	I also learned that diamonds are used to make jewelries.
1	I learned that working together in a team with is good; it helps the members to collectively overcome their individual challenges. I also learned that people need to know their team mates very well.
1	I learned that working with other people in a team can help the members to overcome many challenges; when the group is having challenges, it is important to keep trying.

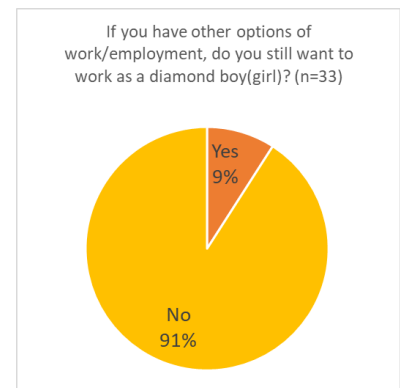
35. If you participated in the team building training, are you practicing what you learned in the training to your daily work and life?

96% of the respondents answered they are practicing, and 4% answered they are not.



36. If you have other options of work/employment, do you still want to work as a diamond boy (girl)?

91% of the respondents answered they do not want to work as a diamond boy (girl) and 9% answered they want to.



37. What is your dream?

Respondents answered their dreams as follows.

The number of respondents	His/her dream
4	My dream is to get enough money and stay away from diamond business.
4	I want to get enough money and be able to give my family the needed supports.
3	I want to give my children quality education.
3	I want to become a successful businessman.
2	I want to have a life complete with all its necessities.
2	I want to become a miner and broker.
2	To go back to school and complete secondary education.
2	I want to money and have my own house.
1	I have a dream to give my children good education and have the opportunity to live an improved life.
1	I want to see my children become great in the future, so I want to give them the required education.
1	My dream is to go back to school and get college education.
1	I have a dream to 1) have my own house, 2) complete high school and 3) get a skill that will be beneficial to my family.
1	I want to get more money.
1	My biggest dream is to get a very big diamond.

1	My dream is to get money and go back to school.
1	I want to become an international businessman.
1	I have a dream do mining and agriculture at an advanced level.
1	I want to have many houses for myself.

Conclusion

Diamond mining is considered to be a man's job in Liberia. Through the field visits, we have observed that almost all the diggers are men in Liberia. There are some communities in Liberia which do not even allow women just to enter diamond mining claims. It is interesting to find a female digger in Weasua, who is very rare in Liberia. We have observed that people in Weasua are open to new ideas and it may be the reason that Weasua has a female digger.

The artisanal diamond diggers are a group of people who are most marginalized in the artisanal diamond supply chain. They are vulnerable to other actors such as miners, supporters and brokers. Since they cannot earn enough money to take care of their family responsibilities and needs, 91% of diggers answered that they did not want to work as diggers if they have another option of work/employment. The reason they are still digging looking for diamonds is that there is no other job in Weasua just like many other communities in Liberia.

In the artisanal diamond mining scene, diggers never know when they will find diamond. This is because miners cannot afford the costly exploration before starting mining. In the current circumstances, it is difficult for them to sustain themselves. It is easy to say that they need to receive a daily wage. However, nobody in the supply chain wants to pay them daily wage.

By our encouragement, the artisanal diamond diggers organized themselves into a diggers' association, which is different from the miners' cooperative. Diamonds for Peace has been supporting the association by encouraging them to hold a democratic election, regular meetings, and keep records.

We have conducted this baseline survey to compare the results in the future. We hope this report will help you understand what is going on in the rural mining community in Liberia.

Photos of the Interviews



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The Baseline Survey targeting the Artisanal Diamond Diggers in Weasua, Gbarpolu County, Liberia

January 2020

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