

## Recycled glass bead production in Ghana



Various clay moulds used for beads. Moulds are coated with kaolin to prevent fused glass from sticking to the surface. Some have cassava stalks put into them. The stalks burn during the fusion leaving holes for threading the beads.



Filling of a mould with glass



Beads are cooked in traditional kilns made of



Translucent beads require cooking 35-45 minutes at a temperature of 850-1000 deg.Celsius

Powder glass beads require cooking 20-30 minutes at 650-800 deg. Celsius. Painted beads are decorated with a paste made of coloured glass powder and water, which is applied using a thin wooden stalk. They are cooked a second time to fix the decor



Beads are left to cool slowly in the moulds to prevent from cracking.



After cooling down at least an hour, beads are removed from the moulds



The last step consists in washing and polishing the beads by rubbing them forcefully