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### **Background:**

- ASM is active in more than 50 countries
- More than 100 million people are affected
- Mercury amalgamation is the most common method used with an estimated 650 to 1,000 tonnes used annually
- Current practices result in the discharge of most of the Mercury used directly into the environment.
- the effects are far reaching and long term
- Environmental regulations are generally not adapted to ASM and consequently, mercury is generally unaddressed

#### Aims:

Assist governments in the development of legislation and regulation to:

- (1) reduce ASM-related mercury emissions into the environment
- (2) reduce occupational and second-hand exposure to mercury
- (3) eliminate the major inefficient and unsafe practices of mercury use
- (4) reduce unsafe storage and disposal of mercury

#### **Technical Measures:**

- 1. Responsibility of employers of mining/processing plants/gold shop operations
- 2. License to work with mercury
- 3. No whole ore mercury amalgamation





Photos Bernd Klein, Global Mercury Project, UNIDO

#### **Technical Measures:**

- 4. Mercury amalgam burning
- 5. No mercury / cyanide interaction
- 6. Amalgam barrel





#### **Technical Measures:**

- 7. Centralised amalgamation sites
- 8. Protection of water bodies
- 9. Protection of residential areas



Tanzania, 2000



Indonesia, 2006 (photo Kevin Telmer)

#### **Technical Measures:**

- 10. Disposal of mercury contaminated tailings
- 11. Extracting residual gold from such tailings

12. Condensers for gold shops



Zimbabwe, 2001

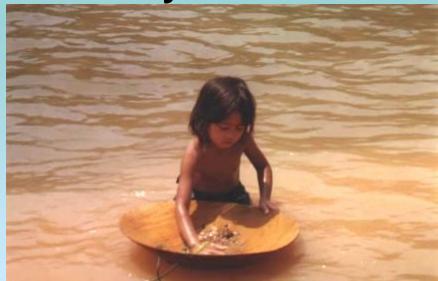


Brazil, 2007
US EPA fume hood for gold shops

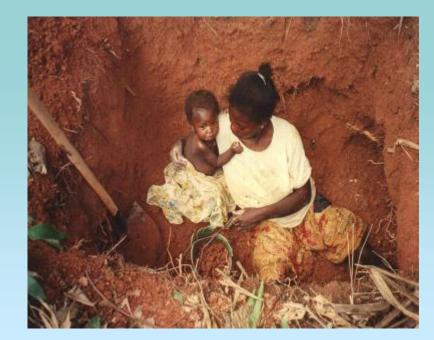
#### **Technical Measures:**

- 13. Storage of mercury
- 14. Protection of pregnant women and children

15. Mercury-free methods



Laos



Tanzania, 2000

Thank you!