Practical approaches to public health in ASGM communities

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What is the role of health systems in ASGM?

Disease Surveillance/ Program Monitoring: Prompt response

Treatment: Interventions, Policies

Research & Diagnosis: Understanding
What is the global health response in ASGM?
What is the global health response in ASGM?

Better Health

Surveillance/ Monitoring

Treatment

Research & Diagnosis
Health Interventions in the Field
What is being done?

- Community Training & Education
- Retort distribution
- Media campaigns
- Professional Training and Education
- Awareness raising
Retort Introduction: Is it working?
Health Field Interventions - Common Pitfalls

DOES KNOWLEDGE = BEHAVIOUR CHANGE?
Health Field Interventions - Common Pitfalls

↑ KNOWLEDGE ≠ ↑ BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

For a variety of behavioral changes:
- Smoking
- Dieting
- Exercising
- Mercury use
- Open burning amalgam
Health Field Interventions - Common Pitfalls

Perception: As seen from the outside...

- **Mercury Exposure**
- Unsafe Practices (Mine Shafts, etc)
- Dust Exposure
- Chemical Exposure (Cyanide, Acids...)
- Alcohol/Drug Abuse
- Child Labour
- Prostitution
- Access to Clean Water
- Household Waste Disposal
- Infectious Diseases
- Precarious Financial Situation
Health Field Interventions- Common Pitfalls

Perception: As seen from the inside...

PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL SITUATION
INFECTIOUS DISEASES
ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER
HOUSEHOLD WASTE DISPOSAL
UNSAFE PRACTICES (SHAFTS...)
DUST EXPOSURE
ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE
CHILD LABOUR
PROSTITUTION
CHEMICAL EXPOSURE (CYANIDE, ACIDS...)
MERCURY EXPOSURE
Health Field Interventions- Common Pitfalls

Message without solutions
Health Field Interventions- Common Pitfalls

Sustainability: High Population Migration
Health Field Interventions- Common Pitfalls

Relationships and Social/Legal Conditions
Changing the entire context for sustainable interventions
Sustainable Intervention: Changing the Conditions

- Adapting the National Policy and Messaging

“Increased **incomes** of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and **protection of human health** and the **environment** from toxic harm through **mercury-free** gold extraction methods.”

- NSP-Philippines, 2011
Sustainable Intervention: Changing the Conditions

- Increasing Social Pressure

Source: Daily Climate

Source: Venezuelaanalysis.com
Sustainable Intervention: Changing the Conditions

- Providing alternatives
Sustainable Intervention: Changing the Conditions

- Harnessing ASGM to be a Community Health Driver

Rolling Fund
Community Tax
Specific Instrument Tax
Coop membership
...

Source: http://www.toilettwinning.org
Sustainable Intervention: Changing the Conditions

- Investing in sustainability

Training health professionals and community workers

Source: http://www.hindustantimes.com

Sustainable Intervention: Changing the Conditions

- Work together towards improving health

Ministry of Mines
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Health
Donor Agency
IGOs
NGOs
Summary: Making it easy to choose well

1. Political Context
2. Social Context
3. Technical Context
4. Financial Context
5. Sustainability
6. Collaboration
Thank you!

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