

‘UPDATE ON THE LEAD POISONING INCIDENT IN ZAMFARA STATE, NIGERIA’.

A PRESENTATION BY

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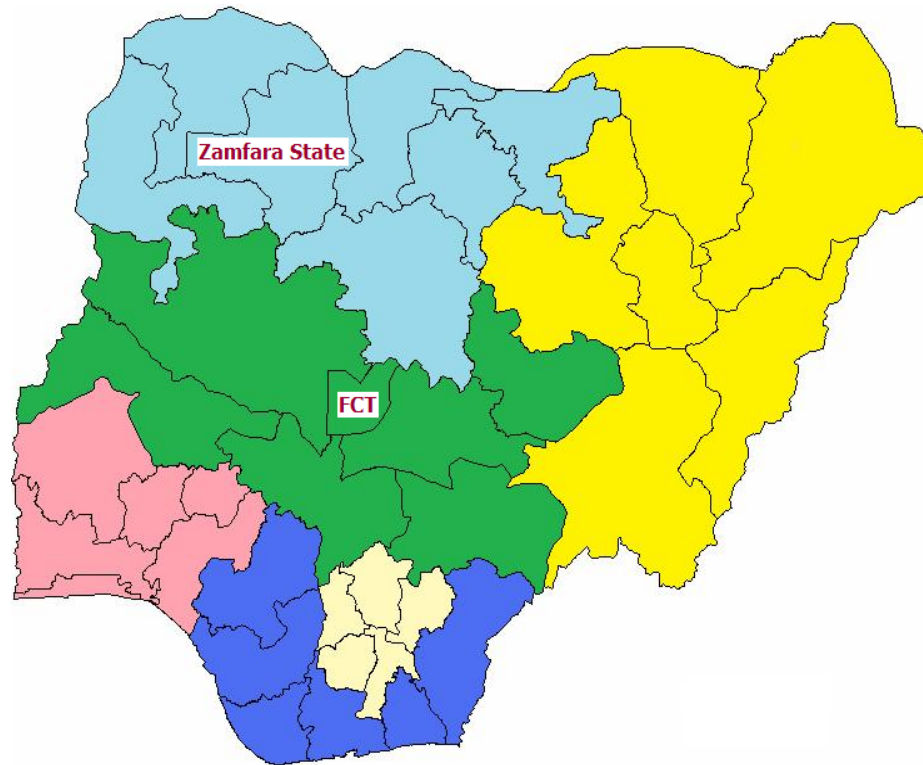
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**REGIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS’ WORKSHOP: ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICA SUB-
REGIONAL ACTION PLANNING ON MERCURY USE IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE
GOLD MINING.**

ORGANIZED BY THE

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME.

8th – 10th JUNE, 2011.



MAP OF NIGERIA SHOWING POSITION OF ZAMFARA STATE.

Update on the Lead Poisoning Incident in Zamfara State.

- The unfortunate incident started in Anka and Bukkuyum Local Government Areas of Zamfara State in March 2010.
- It was during routine immunization that the strange death among children was discovered.
- The deaths were attributed to lead poisoning from blood tests conducted in Germany.

Causes of the Lead Poisoning.

- Use of grinding machines, pestle and mortars to process the gold ore and for domestic purposes.
- The miners and children were exposed to lead laden dust during the milling and processing of gold ore in houses and village squares.

Environmental Remediation and Treatment of Victims.

The Ministry of Mines and Steel Development.

- “Stop work order” on mining activities in Zamfara State imposed.
- Chair for the Inter-Ministerial Committee on lead poisoning in Zamfara State.
- Rocks and ores samples analysis.
- Provided 15 nos. water boreholes for the affected communities.
- Sensitization programmes on sustainable mining in the local dialects in both print and electronic media.

The Ministry of Mines and Steel Development (cont'd)

- Commenced Extension Services.

Federal Ministries of Environment, Health, Water Resources, Zamfara State Government, UNICEF, World Health Organization, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (USA), Blacksmith Institute/TerraGraphics and Medicins Sans Frontieres of Holland.

- Treatment: Drugs, medical supplies and laboratory consumables.
- Environmental remediation.
- Groundwater assessment.
- Sensitization activities.

The US Embassy/UNICEF Systems in Nigeria Accomplished the Following Results:

- Provision of chelation drugs to treat Lead poisoned patients.
- Assessment of water sources for Lead contamination,
- Environmental remediation of 5 villages in Anka and Bukkuyum LGAs,
- Training of local personnel on case management and environmental remediation.
- Creation of public awareness and sensitization of communities.

Current Situation of the Lead Poisoning Incident.

- Withdrawal of support from the international agencies.
- Federal/State Governments to ensure successful completion of the remediation and treatment of affected individuals and communities.
- Remediation of Bagega village.

Lessons Learned From the Lead Poisoning Incidence in Zamfara State.

The Need for:

- Formalization (Cooperatization).
- Mine Sites Surveillance: Security agencies, Community leaders, Ministries and State Government.
- Extension services.
- Enlightenment.
- Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Enforcement of the Minerals and Mining Act 2007.

THANK YOU.