Background
Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is a source of employment for 10-20 million miners in over 80 countries, producing roughly 20% of the world’s gold. ASGM represents a development opportunity for rural populations who often do not have other alternatives for livelihoods. However, the sector is also the largest source of global mercury pollution in the world, accounting for over a third of global anthropogenic emissions. The Minamata Convention on Mercury requires countries with significant ASGM to take steps to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in the sector.

The GEF GOLD Programme
The Global Environment Facility Programme: Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of ASGM Sector (“GEF GOLD”) aims to eliminate mercury from the supply chain of gold produced from the artisanal and small-scale mining sector by:

- Supporting formalization, including the regulatory and policy environment,
- Piloting models for access to finance and investment for artisanal and small-scale miners and their communities,
- Facilitating access to formal gold supply chains, in partnership with gold buyers and industrial users,
- Introducing and facilitating access to mercury-free technologies and best practices, emphasizing the benefits of more efficient, cleaner, non-mercury techniques.

GEF GOLD Implementing Agencies

Financial Resources
- GEF Grant - $45 M
- Co-financing - $135 M

Locations
GEF GOLD works in eight countries, and includes a global component for knowledge management, communication and outreach:

- Burkina Faso
- Colombia
- Guyana
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Mongolia
- Philippines
- Peru