



MINISTERIO  
DEL AMBIENTE



World Health  
Organization




ARTISANAL  
GOLD COUNCIL

# Defining the road ahead

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Lessons learned from the  
**National Action Plans**  
on ASGM

A person wearing a white t-shirt with black text on the back, standing in a mining area. The t-shirt text reads: "The voice of miners, mining to promote a green economy". The person is wearing a black hood and has their hands on their hips, looking out over a landscape of brown earth and sparse green vegetation.

**The voice of miners,  
mining to promote a  
green economy**

# PROGRAMME

Opening remarks and  
presentation of the global progress

UNEP

UNIDO

Sharing national experience  
and lessons learned

Uganda

Ecuador

WHO

Artisanal Gold Council

*Throughout the event, the audience will have an opportunity to share their experiences and questions through an online polling tool.*



## ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING



Produces up to **20% of world's gold**



Employs **15 million people** typically in remote **rural areas**



Involves **4 to 5 million women and children**



Takes place in **70 countries** and often in areas where there is **limited economic opportunity**



Releases **35% of all mercury** pollution to the environment



Is often considered as **informal sector**

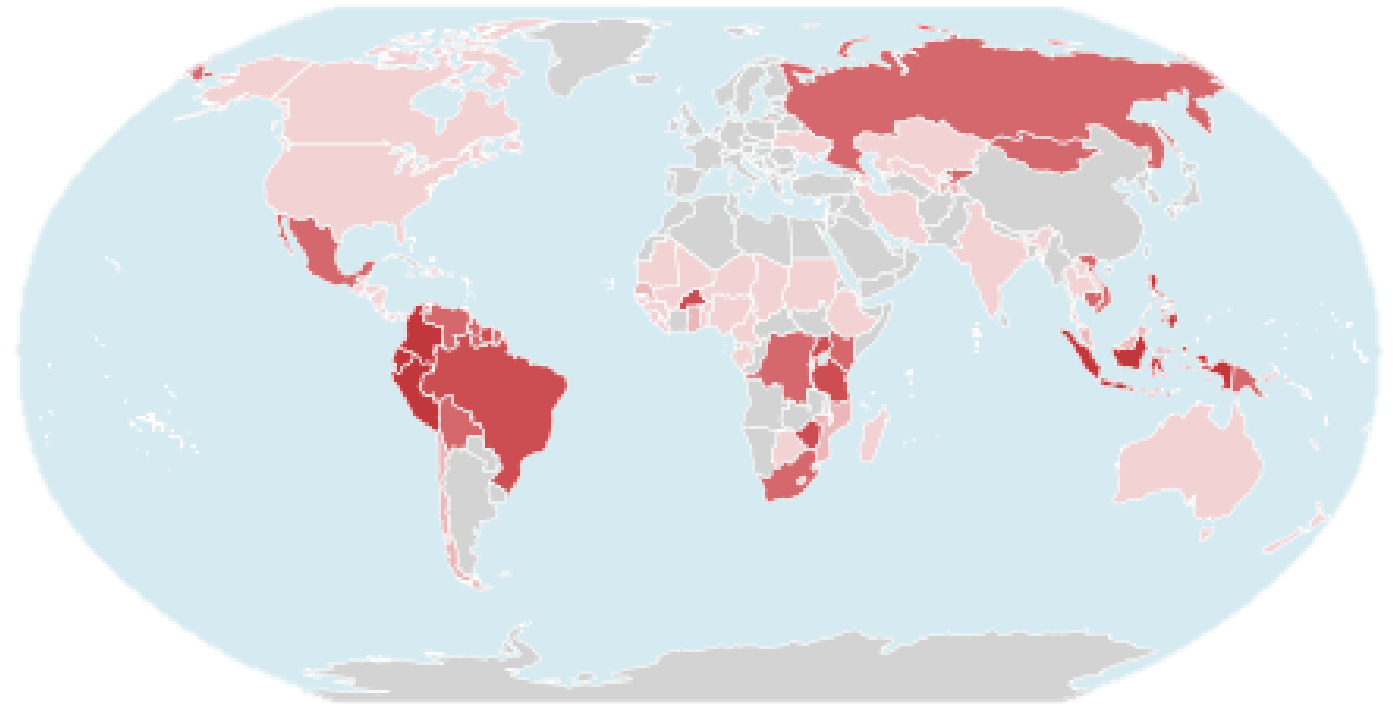
## Mercury Releases ASGM

1.5 175.00 *tones*



2010

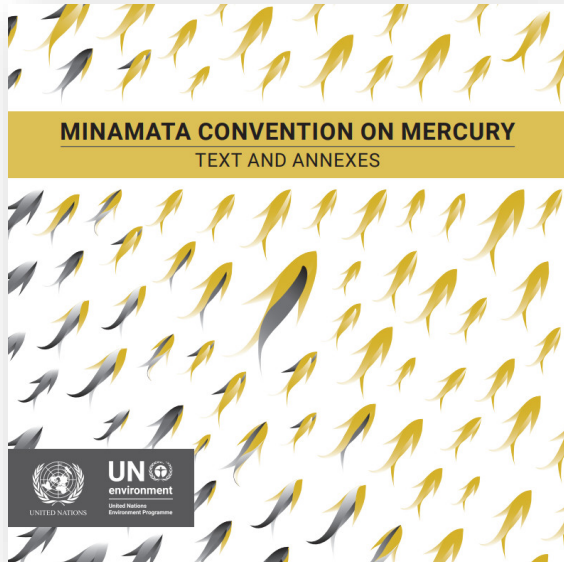
● NO ESTIMATE MADE



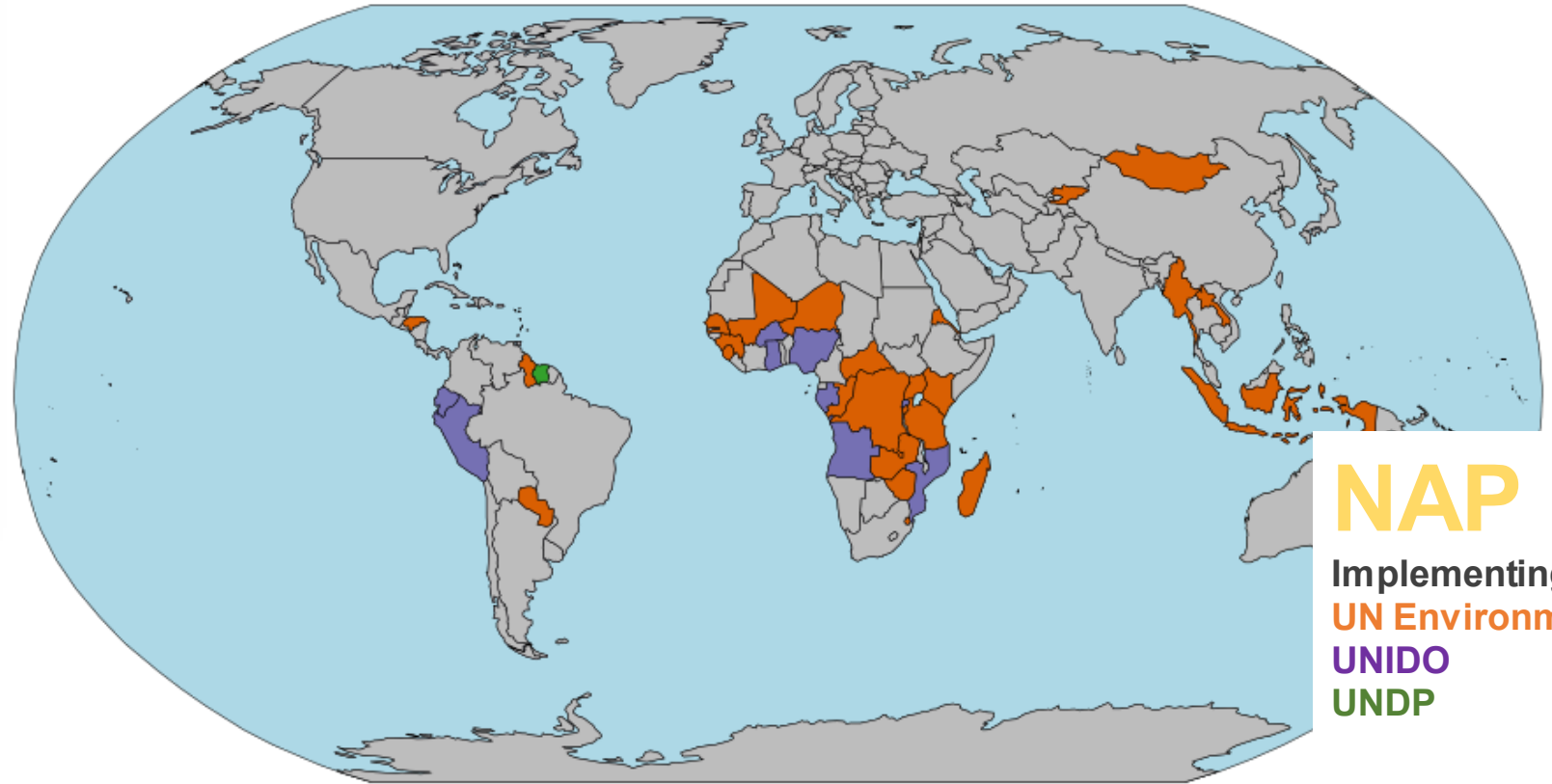
<http://www.amap.no/documents/doc/global-mercury-assessment-2013-sources-emissions-releases-and-environmental-transport/847>

# NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

## NAP projects



Under the Minamata Convention, development of NAP is an obligation for each country that determines that **ASGM** in its territory is more than insignificant



# NAP

Implementing agency:

UN Environment

UNIDO

UNDP

[https://unephg.carto.com/viz/c34f3748-8970-11e5-8e0b-0ea31932ec1d/public\\_map](https://unephg.carto.com/viz/c34f3748-8970-11e5-8e0b-0ea31932ec1d/public_map)

# NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

## Key steps

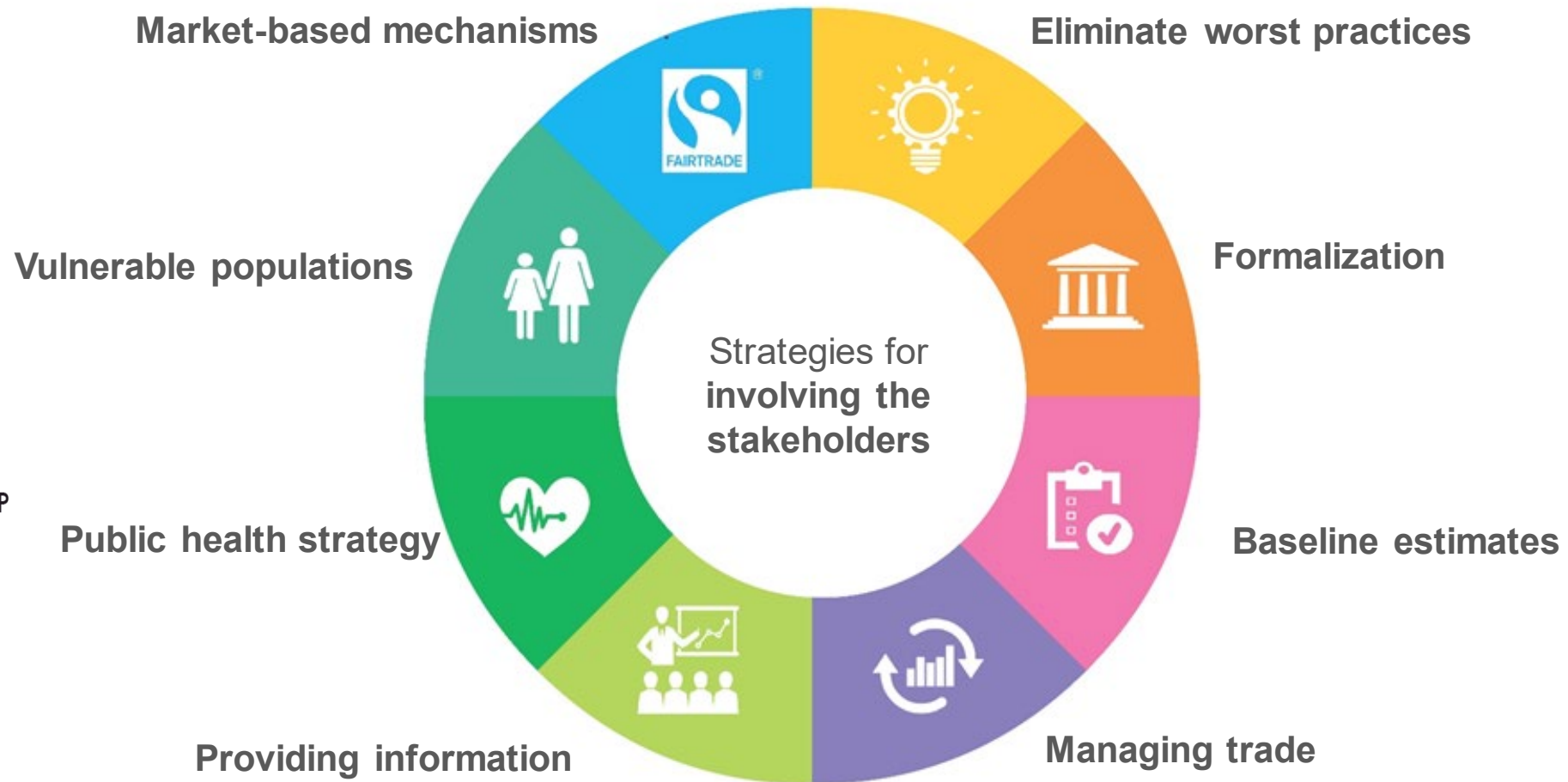


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# NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

## Strategic Content according to Annex C

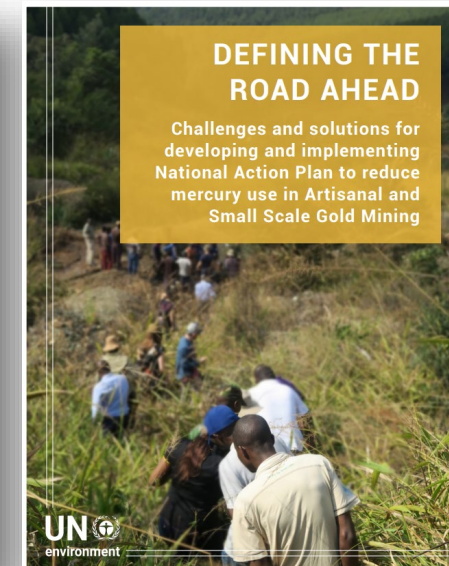
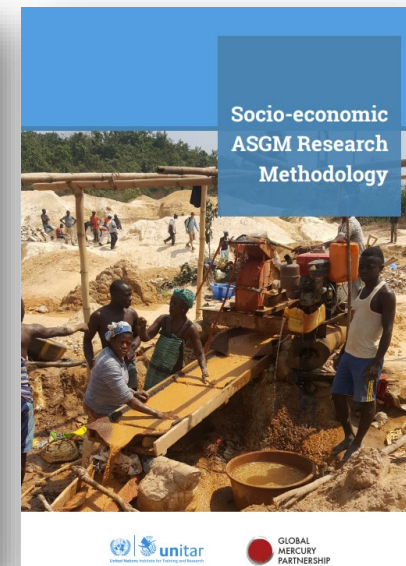
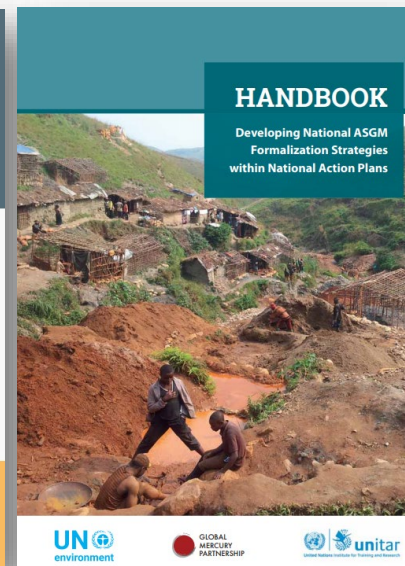
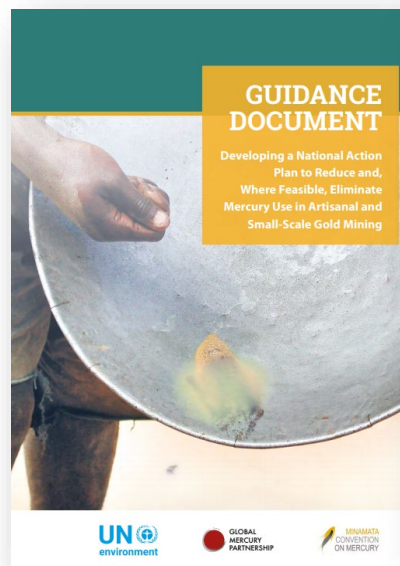
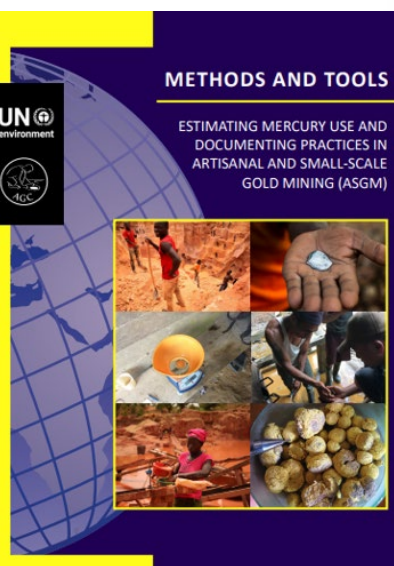


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# Guidelines and materials for NAP development

## Ways to move forward



<https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/>

<https://www.unido.org/mercury/resources>

<https://unitar.org/media/2376>



## MENTI

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code **15 13 9**

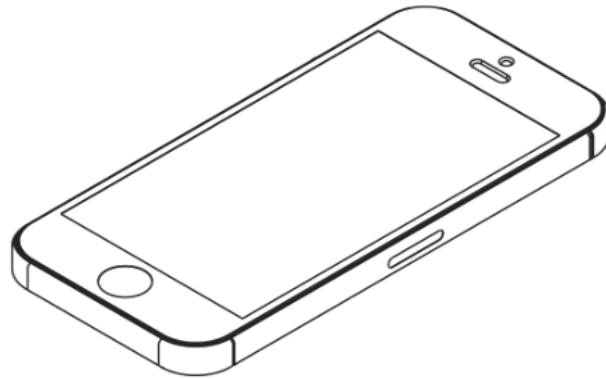
An online polling tool available throughout the event

- ✓ In one sentence, **what advice/lessons learned would you share with a country that is about to start its NAP?**
- ✓ **Share your question** to the panel members or regarding the NAP in general.





Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code **15 13 9**



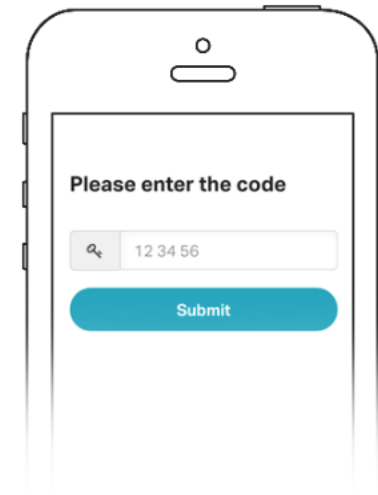
1

Grab your phone

[www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)

2

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)



3

Enter the code **15 13 9** and vote!

Uganda



# "DEFINING THE ROAD AHEAD: UGANDA'S LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING"



A PRESENTATION MADE BY THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY DURING COP3 SIDE EVENT HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE (CICG), GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

## LESSON 1. Occupational health safety and environmental concerns in ASGM



- Estimated **mercury used** in gold processing in Uganda = **15,000kg/yr**
- **Low awareness about dangers of mercury use**
- **Injury/death** of miners in mine
- Limited mercury emissions and containment methods at ASGM sites
- ASGM sites are catalysts of **deforestation**

## LESSON 2. Gender and minority groups concerns in the ASGM



- About **5% children & 45% are women** work in gold mines
- Prostitution (females) in exchange for mercury (1kg of Hg costs USD 135-189)
- Child labor has not been differentiated from child work
- Existence of **minority groups** (e.g Dodoth & Iks in Karamoja region)
- Women ASGM site leadership is minimal

## LESSON 3. Existence of conflicts

- Conflicts between custodians of **protected areas and ASGMs**
- Conflicts between **license holders and ASGMs**



## LESSON 4. Mercury supply and trade

- Gold buyers greatly influence mercury use at ASGM sites (need to hold them accountable at gold refinery centers)
- Mercury traders running Jewelry shops, mining companies are suppliers of mercury



## LESSON 5. Informal ASGM sector impedes development



- Royalties in mining sector divided
- Previously formed **ASGM associations are not functional** -Category of relevant members isn't clear
- **Lack of field tools** for detecting mercury, **lack of accredited labs** for testing mercury
- **Limited availability of social services** (electricity, water supply) at camps due to informal sector/nature of activity...affects use of mercury alternatives

Uganda



Thank you





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# National Action Plan (NAP): for the use of mercury in the artisanal and small scale mining sector (ASGM) in Ecuador

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UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



# NAP: National Action Plan (NAP)

for the use of mercury in the artisanal and small scale mining sector (ASGM) in Ecuador



25 ASGM sites identified



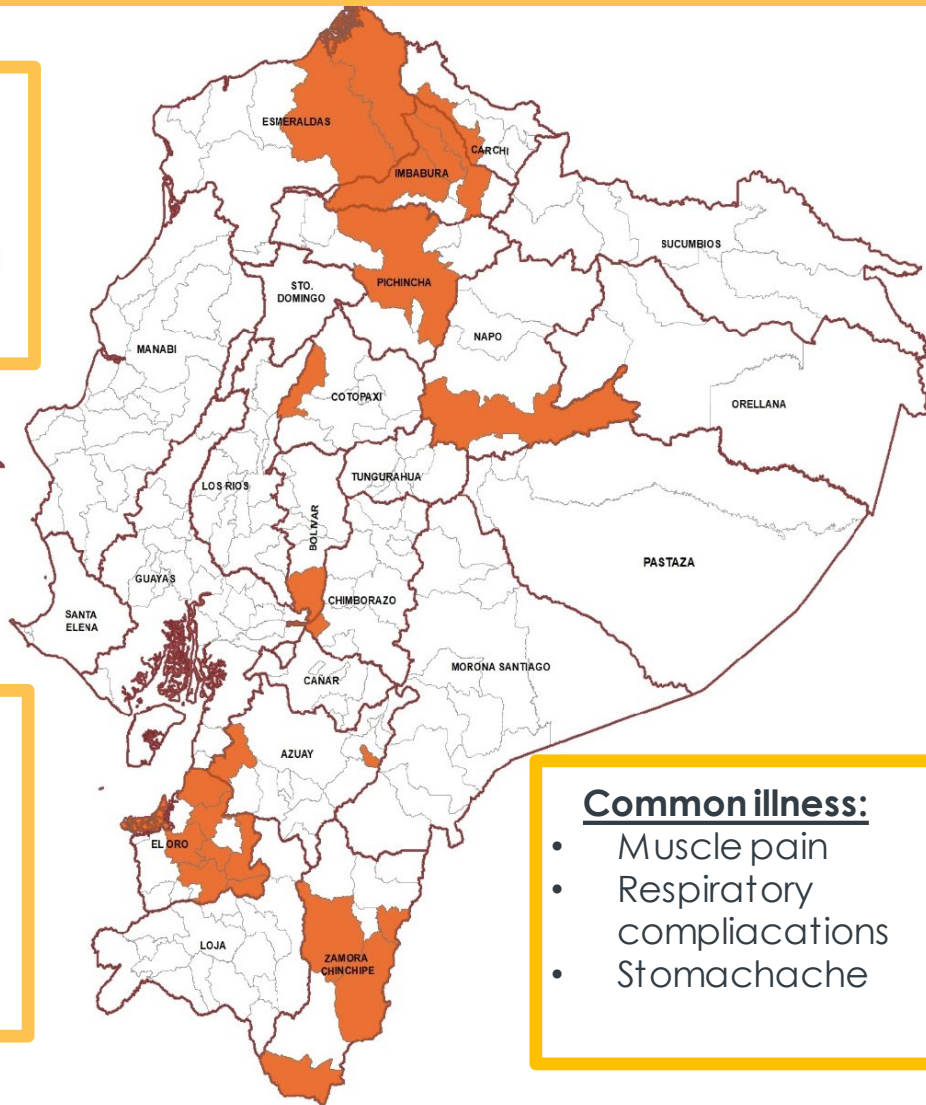
13 sites were identified with Hg use



10,1 tons of ASGM gold produced per year



- At least 11.500 people working directly in the ASGM
- Up to 20.000 people working directly and indirectly in ASGM



Mercury /Gold ratio: 0,45/ 11,79 kgHg/kgAu



30 tons of mercury are released by ASGM activities per year



**Common illness:**

- Muscle pain
- Respiratory complications
- Stomachache

**Severe diseases:**

- Visual and hearing impairment
- Body tremor
- Stomachache
- Mental retardation



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# NAP: National Action Plan - Ecuador

## Lessons learned:

1

Engage with key actors during the whole process of NAP elaboration.  
Example: Project Steering Committee



Collect as much as possible information to prepare an adequate field work  
and lately to elaborate the NAP

2

3

Identify the main ASGM sites, location, accessibility, routes, risks, in order  
to plan an adequate field work. Allocate appropriate budget for the  
expenses



Engage with leaders or managers of ASGM communities. Group meetings  
are a plus and create a friendly atmosphere

4



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# NAP: National Action Plan - Ecuador

## Lessons learned:

5

Keep continuous meetings and workshops with key actors to share project progress and to formulate the NAP



Define the main goals and the specific strategies to achieve during the NAP formulation

6

7

Be completely open to the opinions of ASGM communities and engage them as much as possible in the NAP formulation



Do not forget that the use and especially the eradication of this substance within ASGM activities is the main goal to achieve with the NAP implementation

8



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¡Thank you!



# Addressing health when developing national action plans on ASGM under the Minamata Convention on Mercury

## WHO LAUNCH OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT



**Ellen Roskam, PhD, MPH**

International Programme on Chemical Safety,  
Department of Public Health, Environmental &  
Social Determinants of Health, WHO

Published 2019 and Available here:  
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/chemical-safety>

# Lessons Learned from UNIDO/WHO Project National Action Plan on Mercury in the ASGM sector in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

- Technical assistance through health assessments, institutional capacity assessments, & workshops to improve national capacity for management of mercury, through preparation of a NAP for ASGM sector.
- Specifically: Develop a public health strategy as required under the Convention to feed into the NAP.
- Conducted health assessments and institutional capacity assessments.

*Project completed December 2019*

*Mozambique workshop in 1-2 weeks (fire under the feet 😊)*

# Lessons Learned from UNIDO/WHO Project National Action Plan on Mercury in the ASGM sector in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

- Nigeria and Ghana: Multi-stakeholder, intra-sectoral working groups used the research findings to *successfully* develop public health strategy during 2-day workshop!!
- Involved:
  - Various ministries (health, environment, mining, etc.)
  - Various federal agencies
  - International organizations
  - Miners' associations
  - Security services, etc.



# Lessons Learned from UNIDO/WHO Project National Action Plan on Mercury in the ASGM sector in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

Stakeholders determined 4 priorities for public health strategies:

1. Direct health impacts of mining
2. Health system capacities
3. Indirect health impacts of mining
4. Other institutional capacities

In 3.5 hours working groups developed 5 strategy sections for each priority:

1. Activities
2. Target group / level of focus of activities
3. Who is involved
4. What are their responsibilities
5. Monitoring indicators

***Ghana: 3 minutes coverage on prime time national news!***

# Lessons Learned from UNIDO/WHO Project National Action Plan on Mercury in the ASGM sector in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

Conditions for success include:

- High level commitment: MoH (Ghana); MoH + MoE (Nigeria)
- Good intra-ministerial cooperation / collaboration
- NAPs advanced (not completed)
- NAP focal point
- Process country-led & owned
- Strategies: people-centered, implementable, contribute towards UHC & SDGs
- MoH acceptance implementation involves all levels of health system
- Broad public health strategies needed (Hg, WASH, employment, regulations, health system readiness and responsiveness, occupational hazards beyond Hg exposure, migrant workers, poverty-based issues)

# Lessons Learned from UNIDO/WHO Project National Action Plan on Mercury in the ASGM sector in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- All ASGM countries can use these research findings & recommendations to develop public health strategies – adapt for national context as needed (e.g. if WASH not relevant, leave out)
- Can be done in a few days

*Ghana will meet March 2020 NAP submission date  
Nigeria soon after*




**THANK YOU**



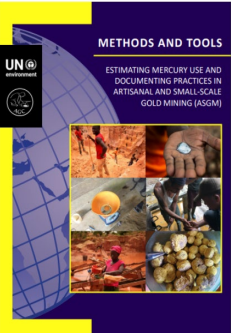
World Health  
Organization

Defining the road ahead:  
Lessons learned from the  
National Action Plans on  
artisanal and small-scale gold  
mining



-  Completed
-  In Progress
-  Training

# AGC's NAP work



# Engagement & Coordination

- Strong leadership & good workplan
- Engage stakeholders in the whole process (e.g. Ministries of Mines and Health, & ASGM community)
- Create a strong coordinating mechanism to follow up on the NAP development and implementation after project completion
- Hold NAP formulation workshops in ASGM regions & events dedicated to women



# Data Collection on ASGM & Hg

- Strengthen training on methodology to collect data; field & analysis support
- Site selection is an important step. Selected sites need to be representative
- Hire local ASGM practitioners to be part of the team to facilitate access to sites & communication with miners





# Health Component

- Prioritize focus group discussions in:
  - Countries where mercury use is forbidden
  - Places where women are not free to speak up
- Prioritize interviews with actors who have good knowledge of ASGM & related health issues.
- Integrate health strategies within the already existing health programs that reach ASGM communities.





ARTISANAL  
GOLD COUNCIL

# Thank you!

Milene Pacheco

Artisanal Gold Council (AGC)

[mpacheco@artisanalgold.org](mailto:mpacheco@artisanalgold.org)

**Rocío Fernández**

UNIDO

[r.fernandezgarcia@unido.org](mailto:r.fernandezgarcia@unido.org)

**Malgorzata Stylo**

UN Environment

[Malgorzata.stylo@un.org](mailto:Malgorzata.stylo@un.org)



# THANK YOU

for your attention



# In one sentence, what advice/lessons learned would you share with a country that is about to start its NAP?

It is very critical to have multi-stakeholder approach. It is needed to form basis of implementing the Minamata Convention.

Stop demonizing ASGM and start acknowledging as a legitimate livelihood and rural development opportunity. If this doesn't happen, NAPs will spectacularly fail.

Figure out which organizations will need to approve and be involved in implementing the NAP, and involve them as early as possible in the NAP development process

Base the NAP on national and regional development frameworks and engage stakeholders (incl. govt agencies, miners, traders, local leaders, etc.) to develop a NATIONAL VISION for the ASGM sector which can guide the NAP's strategies and objectives

Ensure that the NAP is based on national and regional development frameworks and engage stakeholders (incl. govt agencies, miners, traders, local leaders, etc.) to develop a NATIONAL VISION for ASGM which can guide the NAP's strategies and objectives

Create a simple, lean but well defined supply chain with international/national traders to collect and pay fairly hg-free gold

Each country should take into consideration endogenous knowledge on artisanal miners for better understanding of the mercury perception; consider the working seasons to update the project timeline, always confront miners needs to government will

# Please type here your question to the panel members or regarding the NAP in general.

what would you have done differently in developing your NAP?

How can the NAP development include some physical, biological and chemical parameters measurements of mercury contamination in the data collection in order to better elaborate the national overview of ASGM sector?

