Defining the road ahead

Lessons learned from the National Action Plans on ASGM
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.
Mercury Releases
ASGM
2010


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

1.5
175.00 tones

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

Key steps

- Establish Coordinating Body
- Develop a National ASGM Overview
- Set Goals and Objectives
- Develop Implementation Strategy
- Formulate Evaluation Strategy
- Endorse and Submit
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
Strategic Content according to Annex C

Strategies for involving the stakeholders

- Market-based mechanisms
- Eliminate worst practices
- Formalization
- Baseline estimates
- Managing trade
- Providing information
- Public health strategy
- Vulnerable populations
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
Go to www.menti.com and use the code 15139

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 and use the code 15 13 9

1. Grab your phone

2. Go to www.menti.com

3. Enter the code 15 13 9 and vote!
"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 = 15,000 kg/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
• 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
National Action Plan (NAP): for the use of mercury in the artisanal and small scale mining sector (ASGM) in Ecuador
NAP: National Action Plan (NAP) for the use of mercury in the artisanal and small scale mining sector (ASGM) in Ecuador

- At least 11,500 people working directly in the ASGM.
- Up to 20,000 people working directly and indirectly in ASGM.

25 ASGM sites identified

- 10,1 tons of ASGM gold produced per year

13 sites were identified with Hg use

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
NAP: National Action Plan - Ecuador

Lessons learned:

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. 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.
¡Thank you!
Addressing health when developing national action plans on ASGM under the Minamata Convention on Mercury

WHO LAUNCH OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Ellen Rosskam, 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.
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
Defining the road ahead: Lessons learned from the National Action Plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining
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.
Thank you!

Milene Pacheco
Artisanal Gold Council (AGC)
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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.

- 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.

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

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

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