

# U.S. Department of State Mercury Grants on Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining

## Global:

### **Resolve: Global Partnership for Formalization and Progress in ASGM**

- WHEN: September 2020 - September 2023
- WHERE: Global Beneficiaries
- WHAT: Resolve will facilitate a global dialogue addressing coordination gaps in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector governance. Resolve will convene experts and key stakeholders from around the world, collaborating with them to develop a general framework, and build on it to test a global partnership/coordination model for formalizing the ASGM sector. The model will integrate the role of conflict and illicit activities and financial flows with emphasis on fostering optimal environmental and social outcomes as communities move into the formal sector. As Resolve explores the partnership/coordination model, they will apply the framework to new and existing projects, while encouraging the joint implementation of projects among the key stakeholders.

## Sub-Saharan Africa:

### **PACT Mali: Reducing Mercury Use and Increasing Transparency in Mali's Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Sector**

- WHEN: September 2020 - September 2024
- WHERE: Mali
- WHAT: Pact will support the reduction of mercury pollution and the formalization of ASGM communities in Mali. Pact will educate miners on mercury-free mining techniques while creating more financially resilient and responsible ASGM communities. Pact will assess gold ore and grade in supported communities, procure the appropriate processing systems based on the results of those assessments, and train communities in mercury-free processing techniques. Pact will perform an in-depth supply chain assessment, engage policymakers, comptoirs and refiners on curbing gold smuggling, and support its beneficiary ASGM association in organizational strengthening, accessing land and complying with regulations, to create transparent and formal supply chains.

### **PACT Ghana: Promoting Mercury-Free Mining in Ghana**

- WHEN: September 2020 - September 2024
- WHERE: Ghana
- WHAT: This project supports the reduction of mercury pollution and the formalization of ASGM communities in Ghana. Pact will demonstrate effective and scalable mercury-free gold production techniques, educate communities on the detrimental effects of mercury, and use

business incentives to strengthen equipment supply chains. PACT will work with registered ASGM miners to develop Hg-free business plans, providing miners with business development tools and knowledge. PACT will then use those plans to attract financing opportunities and install mercury free processing equipment, strengthening the market share for Hg-free gold production.

### **FFP Ghana: Responsive Engagement and Collective Learning Approaches to Inform Mercury Substitution in ASGM**

- WHEN: September 2018 - September 2024
- WHERE: Ghana
- WHAT: The Fund for Peace (FFP) project supports Ghana as they implement the Minamata Convention and finalize their National Action Plan (NAP). FFP will improve interagency and stakeholder coordination while increasing the Ghanaian Government's capacity to adopt mercury (Hg)-alternatives. FFP will increase stakeholder buy-in through working with two licensed mine sites to showcase Hg-free technologies. FFP will engage those stakeholders to scale those technologies while concurrently reforming regulation in the ASGM sector. They will create an early warning and response system to strengthen ASGM communities against political, economic, cultural, health, environmental, and security threats.

### **Global Communities DRC: Reducing Mercury Use in ASGM Communities**

- WHEN: September 2022 - March 2025
- WHERE: The Democratic Republic of the Congo
- WHAT: This project with Global Communities (GC) will build on a USAID program working on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) to expand the implementation of mercury-free gold production technologies and increase access to sustainable financing for ASGM communities in eastern DRC. They will assess gold ore and grade in supported communities, procure the appropriate processing systems based on the results of those assessments, and install mercury-free processing centers. These centers will act as a community hub and will have the appropriate maintenance plans and financial support in place to ensure a long-lasting impact.

### **Asia:**

#### **AGC Papua New Guinea: Reducing Mercury use in Papua New Guinea's ASGM Sector**

- WHEN: September 2019 - September 2023
- WHERE: Papua New Guinea
- WHAT: This project with the Artisanal Gold Council (AGC), supports the reduction of mercury use in Papua New Guinea as they begin to develop a Minamata National Action Plan (NAP). AGC will identify knowledge gaps and build stakeholder capacity to manage mercury use. AGC will develop an ASGM inventory covering mining practices, gold production, mercury use, supply chains, and socioeconomics, which will be used as baseline data for PNG's NAP. AGC will establish

a governmental working group to manage and distribute those findings. Furthermore, AGC will test new mercury-free technologies, while simultaneously promoting mercury and health education, to deter mercury use.

### **Latin America:**

#### **Pure Earth Colombia: Promoting Responsible Recovery and Handling of Mercury from Contaminated Artisanal Gold Mining Tailings in Colombia**

- WHEN: September 2018 - June 2023
- WHERE: Colombia
- WHAT: The Pure Earth Project supports the implementation of the Minamata Convention through the responsible recovery and handling of mercury from contaminated mining tailings in Colombia. In collaboration with the Colombian government, civil society, the private sector, and affected communities, this project demonstrates a sustainable model for governments to remove mercury from the environment and ensure it is not reintroduced into the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector. This project pilots an environmentally responsible mercury recovery technique using copper plates, while developing, adopting, and implementing recommendations for improved policies, and the technical protocols needed to safely store and dispose of mercury recovered from contaminated tailings.

#### **AGC Guyana: Reducing Mercury Use in Guyana and its Neighbors**

- WHEN: 09/30/2021 - 09/30/2024
- WHERE: Guyana
- WHAT: This project with the Artisanal Gold Council supports the reduction of mercury use in Guyana, a country with high levels formalization but no restrictions on mercury use. The project will promote new mercury-free technologies while developing formal financing models. The project will also map mercury flows, sources, and transport mechanisms to help inform the Government of Guyana's plans for potential interim mercury storage facilities. This project builds upon work from a previous grant in Suriname, which focused on developing mercury-free processing equipment.