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Yellowfin Tuna, Courtesy NOAA Fisheries, © Photo by Jeff Muir

Thursday 17 June 2021  
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm CEST



**Integrating Gender Dimensions into  
National Action Plans for Artisanal  
and Small-scale Gold Mining  
Webinar on Gender mainstreaming**

# Smooth running of the meeting - Few tips

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- All participants are now muted
- Participants can also use the “Chat” to ask technical questions or share your views with panelists and participants (select the option to “everyone” if you wish to send a chat to all attendees, including panelists)
- The meeting will be recorded, presentation slides and recorded video will be available after the event on the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership website



## Opening remarks and scene-setting

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**Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn**  
*Ministry of Natural Resources and  
Environment, Co-chair of the Global Mercury  
Partnership Advisory Group*

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# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP



## AGENDA

### Opening remarks and scene-setting (3:00 pm – 3:10 pm)

*Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn*, Director of Hazardous Substance Sub-division, Waste and Hazardous Substance Management Division, Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Co-chair of the Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group

*Susan Keane*, Senior Director, Global Advocacy International Program, Natural Resources Defense Council, Co-lead of the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Partnership Area

*Lara Ognibene*, Legal Programme officer, Minamata Convention Secretariat

### Overview of Guidance and tools for mainstreaming Gender dimensions into National Action Plans

(3:10 pm – 3:45 pm)

- ❖ *Gender Dimensions into National Action Plans and Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining sector*, Nellie Mutemeri, Mining Practice Lead, Mutemeri Consulting, Associate Professor, University of Witwatersrand and Patience Singo, Mining and Environment Associate, Mutemeri Consulting
- ❖ *Introduction to the UNEP Quick Start Guide on integrating gender into NAPs*, Malgorzata Stylo, Associate Programme Management Officer, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP

### Questions and Answers Session

### Experiences sharing and lessons learned from countries (3:45 pm – 4:25 pm)

- ❖ *Gender in NAP project design, process, and implementation in Guyana*, Mariscia Charles, Policy Analyst, Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana
- ❖ *Women's empowerment in the ASGM sector in Uganda*, Anne Nakafeero, Senior District Support Officer, National Environment Management Authority and Minamata Convention National Focal Point, Uganda
- ❖ *Gender mainstreaming in the access to health services in Chad*, Chérif Sow, International Consultant on ASGM

### Questions and Answers Session

### Closure (4:25 pm – 4:30 pm)

- ❖ *Ludovic Bernaudat*, Senior Task Manager, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP, Co-lead of the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Partnership Area



**Susan Keane**

*Natural Resources Defense Council, Co-Lead of the Partnership Area on Mercury in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining*

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**Lara Ognibene**  
*Legal Programme officer, Minamata  
Convention Secretariat*

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# Overview of guidance and tools for mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into National Action Plans

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**Nellie Mutemerie**

*Mining Practice Lead, Mutemerie Consulting,  
Associate Professor, University of Witwatersrand*

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**Integrating Gender Dimensions into  
National Action Plans for Artisanal  
and Small-scale Gold Mining  
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**

Overview of Gender in ASGM and NAPs

**Prof. Nellie Mutemeri**, Independent consultant  
and Assoc. Prof. Wits University

**Patience Singo**, ASM Expert

*Webinar on Gender and ASGM - #1. June 17, 2021.*

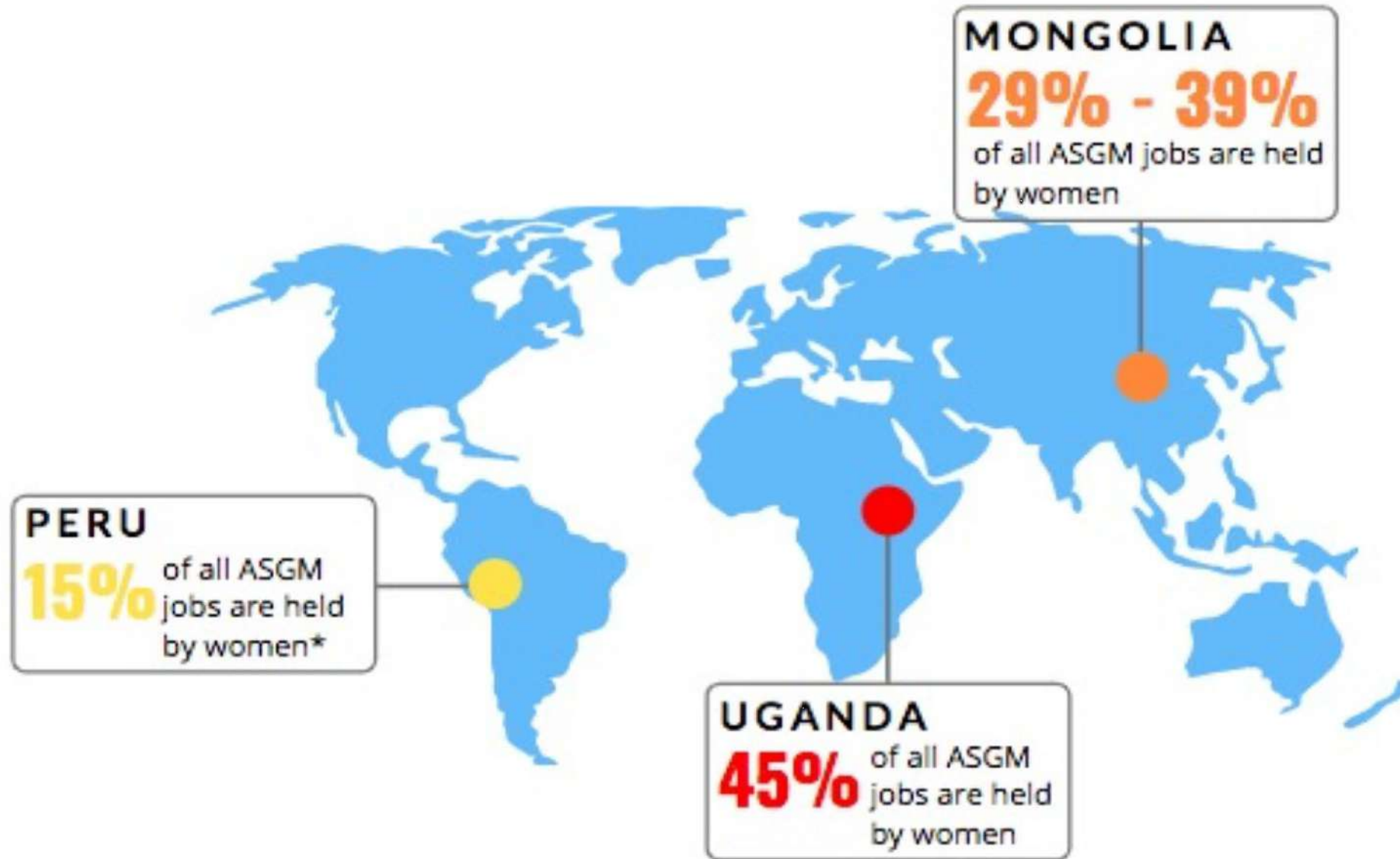
# Outline

- Profile of the ASGM sector
- Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in the ASGM sector and National Action Plans (NAPs)
  - Evidence gathering
  - Planning and execution
- Gender dimensions in the legal and institutional frameworks
  - Facilitation of ASGM formalisation through appropriate policies and legal instruments
  - Management of mercury trade to limit diversion to ASGM
  - Stakeholder involvement in NAP implementation
- Gender dimensions in socio-economic, health and environmental aspects – strategies for:
  - Reducing emissions and releases
  - Reducing exposure
  - Preventing exposure

# Profile of the ASGM Sector

- Global figures (ASGM Infographic)
- Distribution of roles and their impacts in the ASGM value chain
- Challenges associated with gender inequality in the sector
- Opportunities and importance of gender mainstreaming for sector development

# ASGM Key facts and figures



# ASGM Key facts and figures

## PERU<sup>1</sup>

**250,000** artisanal and small-scale miners operate in the country

**38.7 tonnes** of gold are produced annually by the ASGM sector (20%<sup>4</sup> of the national output)

**145 tonnes** of mercury emitted from ASGM annually

## UGANDA<sup>2</sup>

**31,622** artisanal and small-scale gold miners operate in the country

**7 tonnes** of gold are produced annually by the ASGM sector

**15 tonnes** of mercury emitted from ASGM annually

## MONGOLIA<sup>3</sup>

**40-60,000** artisanal and small-scale gold miners operate in the country

**7.4 tonnes** of ASGM gold were bought by the Central Bank of Mongolia in 2019 (48% of its purchases)

**Mercury is banned** in Mongolia, limiting official statistics, but it is still used in the sector as only 16%<sup>5</sup> of the sector is formalized

<sup>1</sup> PlanetGold. 2019. "Peru". Available at: <https://www.planetgold.org/peru>

<sup>2</sup> NEMA, 2019. "The National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Uganda" (Draft)

<sup>3</sup> Tsegmid, N and Mijiddor, D. 2020. "[MONGOLIA: Impacts of COVID-19 are currently low, but uncertainty in Artisanal Gold Mining Communities remains high](#)".

<sup>4</sup> World Bank. 2019. "2019 State of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Sector". Washington, D.C.

<sup>5</sup> PlanetGold. 2019. "Mongolia". Available at: <https://www.planetgold.org/mongolia>

# ASGM Value Chain Roles and impacts

## Prospecting and Exploration

### Women Roles

Few women are involved at this stage

### Men Roles

- Finding deposits
- Obtaining licenses and exploration permits

### Reasons and Impacts

#### Reasons

- Limited access to financial resources and equipment
- Difficulty in attaining ownership of land and mineral rights

#### Impact

- Marginalisation at this stage has knock-on effects down the rest of the value chain:  
women have no ownership, women cannot influence work conditions, are poorly compensated and exploited (bonded labour at worst)

## Mining/ Extraction

### Women Roles

- Work in shallow pits, recent alluvial deposits in riverbeds and banks
- Scavenging from waste rock and tailings e.g. 'Pallaqueras'<sup>1,2</sup>

### Men Roles

- Work in shafts and open pit excavations
- Dredging and hydraulicking
- Management (equipment, labour & finance)
- Installing underground supports
- Blasting and rock breaking

### Reasons and Impacts

#### Reasons

- Women are perceived as physically weak and in need of protection
- Risk of harassment or assault makes it undesirable and unsafe for many women to participate in roles that require going underground
- Superstitions e.g. women going underground makes the gold disappear

#### Impact

- Women are pushed to more dangerous work of mercury amalgamation
- Men are more exposed to underground hazards, such as rock falls, poor ventilation, poor sanitation etc.<sup>3</sup>



# ASGM Value Chain Roles and impacts

## Transportation (Ore, waste, water)

### Women Roles

- Manual hauling of water and ore
- Providing sacks and buckets for dewatering and ore haulage

### Men Roles

- Manual hauling of bags from mine sites (including underground) to processing area
- Pit bosses provide equipment for ore transportation

### Reasons and Impacts

#### Reasons

- Women are perceived as physically weak and in need of protection from the most physically taxing work

#### Impact

- Women are less likely to suffer underground injuries
- Higher numbers of injuries and fatalities amongst men

## Mineral processing

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.solidaridadnetwork.org/news/female-miners-in-peru-gain-landmark-recognition-of-key-role-in-gold-value-chain>

<sup>2</sup> In Ecuador they are called 'Jancheras'. Learn more about their work here on the [planetGold website](#).

<sup>3</sup> In Mongolia, men were found to be involved in 2.4 times more accidents than women. See: UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) and School of public Health. 2007. "Socio-Economic Situation of Artisanal Miners in Mongolia. Ulaanbaatar".



# Gender Challenges in the ASGM Sector

- Low literacy limits women's opportunities for training and skill acquisition, as well as awareness of their rights.
- Gender norms and values perpetuate power imbalance, e.g., women are excluded from governing bodies and institutions.
- Differential access to finance and land rights means the ability to accumulate capital.
- Women are excluded from the most profitable areas of the mining value chain because they are deemed physically or intellectually incapable.
- Specific health and safety challenges, e.g., gender-based violence, or women's higher risk of mercury exposure

# Importance of Gender Mainstreaming in the ASGM Sector

## **Enabling Collective Action**

“We have to be united. We always think about doing things for ourselves, but if we work like that we won't get anywhere. We have to join forces and work in partnership.”

- Senides Lucumi, a Mineral selector from Suárez, Colombia

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## **Providing Services and Resources**

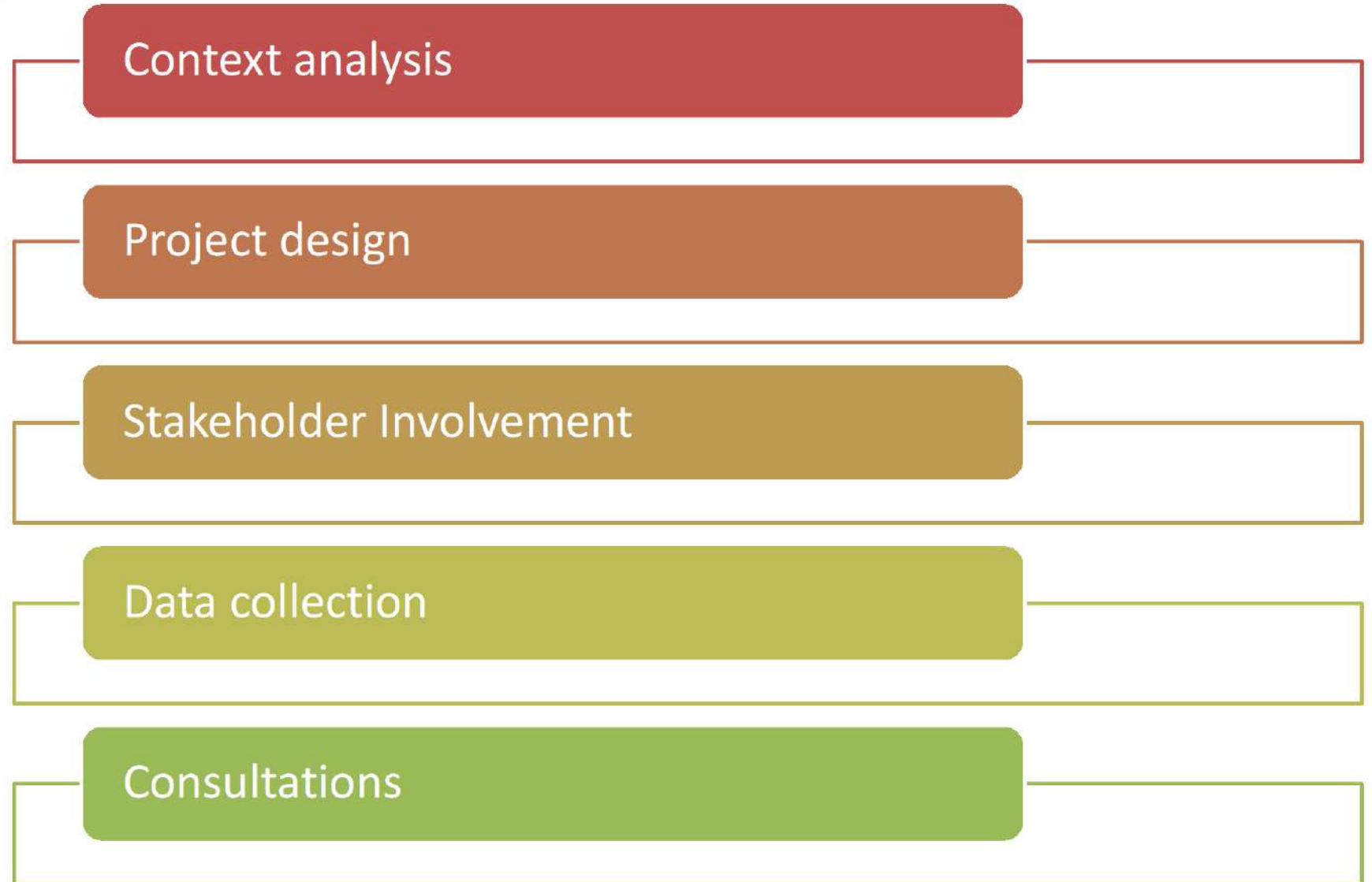
Women in ASGM lack more than just individual financial resources. Providing community level resources is also important and can be an effective tool to bridge the gender divide in ASGM.

## **Design and Implementation of Interventions and Policies with a Gender Perspective**

From a national policy perspective, some success has been found by setting targets for the desired number of women in mining.

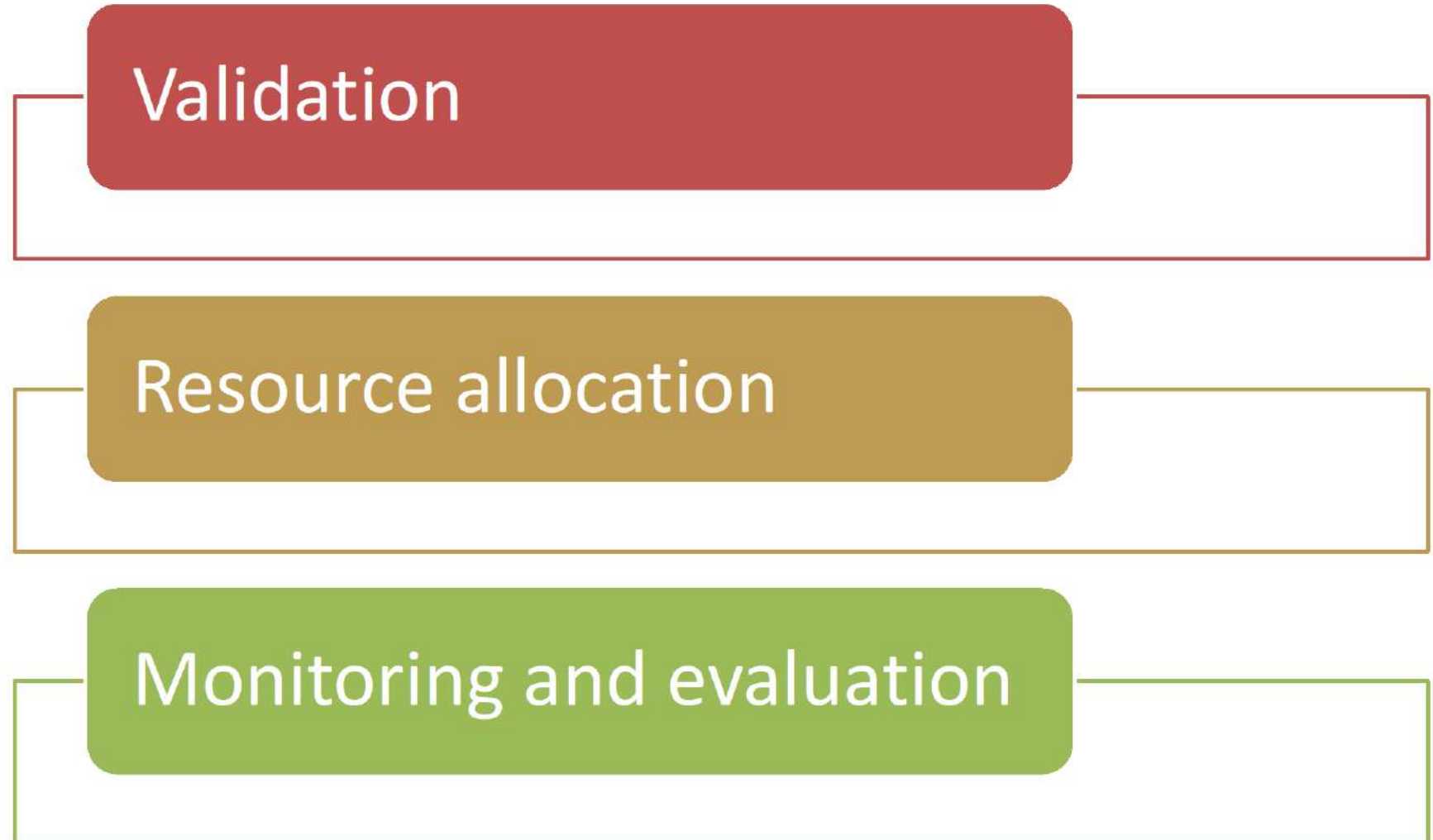
## Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in the ASGM sector and National Action Plans (NAPs)

- ***Evidence gathering***



## Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in the ASGM sector and National Action Plans (NAPs)

- ***Planning and execution***



# Gender dimensions in the legal and institutional frameworks

- Facilitation of ASGM formalisation through appropriate policies and legal instruments
  - Ensure that the capacity building of institutional frameworks includes gender competencies and caters for inclusivity..
  - Ensure that women and men are involved in the development of adequate policies, regulations and programs on understanding environmental hazards and how to prevent them.



# Gender dimensions in the legal and institutional frameworks

- Stakeholder involvement in NAP implementation
  - Consider interventions that support capacity building of good governance in women's organisations to give them a voice. This will improve their capacity to advocate for their own needs
  - The national NAP coordination group should provide a safe space for women to voice their opinions and enhance capacity.





Strategies for reducing emissions and releases




Strategies for reducing exposure



Strategies for preventing exposure

## Strategies for reducing emissions and releases

- 
- ✓ Ensure that both women and men participate fully in activities to reduce mercury emissions and releases. For example, ensure equal access to equipment and training on mercury free methods.
  - ✓ Identification and promotion of mercury free processing technologies
  - ✓ With respect to eliminating the worst practices, ensure that both women and men receive the correct training suited to adaptation of methods for responsible mercury use.
  - ✓ Development and dissemination of improved OHS practices, e.g. by considering the needs of both men and women in upgrading OHS practices. This should also consider the special needs of women, for example, personal protective equipment (e.g. one piece overalls are not suited to women).
  - ✓ Development of trainings to improve miner's skills and capacity in using appropriate technologies, e.g. gender sensitivity, disincentives and incentives for behaviour change
  - ✓ Improvements in mechanisation for efficient and viable ASGM operations, e.g. ensuring that options for technical advancement are accompanied by financing solutions accessible to both women and men.
  - ✓ Dissemination of information on efficient processing technologies, e.g. ensuring that the needs of both women and men are considered in designing incentives to transition to mercury-free methods.





- Strategies for reducing exposure
  - ✓ Reducing exposure of ASGM miners and communities to mercury, e.g. by ensuring that both women and men are supported to use cleaner gold extraction methods, and that women (as primary caregivers) are aware of the dangers of mercury exposure, and are supported behaviour change and taking necessary precautions.
  - ✓ A public health strategy including health data on impacts of ASGM and mercury exposure on miners and communities, e.g. the public health strategy has clear objectives that address the strategic needs of both women and men.
  - ✓ Promote greater use of mercury-free technologies, by ensuring that women are made aware of the improved efficiencies of new processing methods which can result in better gold
  - ✓ Training of health care workers to improve health services delivery to miners and host communities, e.g. improving the competencies of health workers to deal with detection of mercury poisoning in both women and men.
  - ✓ Developing programs to raise awareness about health impacts of mercury and limit exposure, e.g. by ensuring that both women and men miners and their communities are involved in designing and implementing these awareness raising programs.



- Strategies for preventing exposure
  - ✓ Activities for the prevention of exposure to mercury of vulnerable populations, e.g. Ensuring that child-bearing women are assigned low risk roles in the mining operations; developing community outreach programs that have messaging that is gender inclusive.
  - ✓ Provide information to ASGM miners and affected communities, e.g. through messaging that is gender inclusive
  - ✓ Build the resilience of miners and host communities to economic shocks that might drive risky behaviour, e.g. by supporting the provision, to both women and men, of technical services to improve mining and processing efficiencies and therefore viability of ASGM operations.
  - ✓ Strategies for accessing finance and alternative livelihoods, e.g. ensuring that both women and men benefit equally from access to finance interventions.



Thank you



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**Malgorzata Stylo**

*Associate Programme Management Officer,  
Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP*

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# Incorporating Gender Dimensions into Minamata NAPs

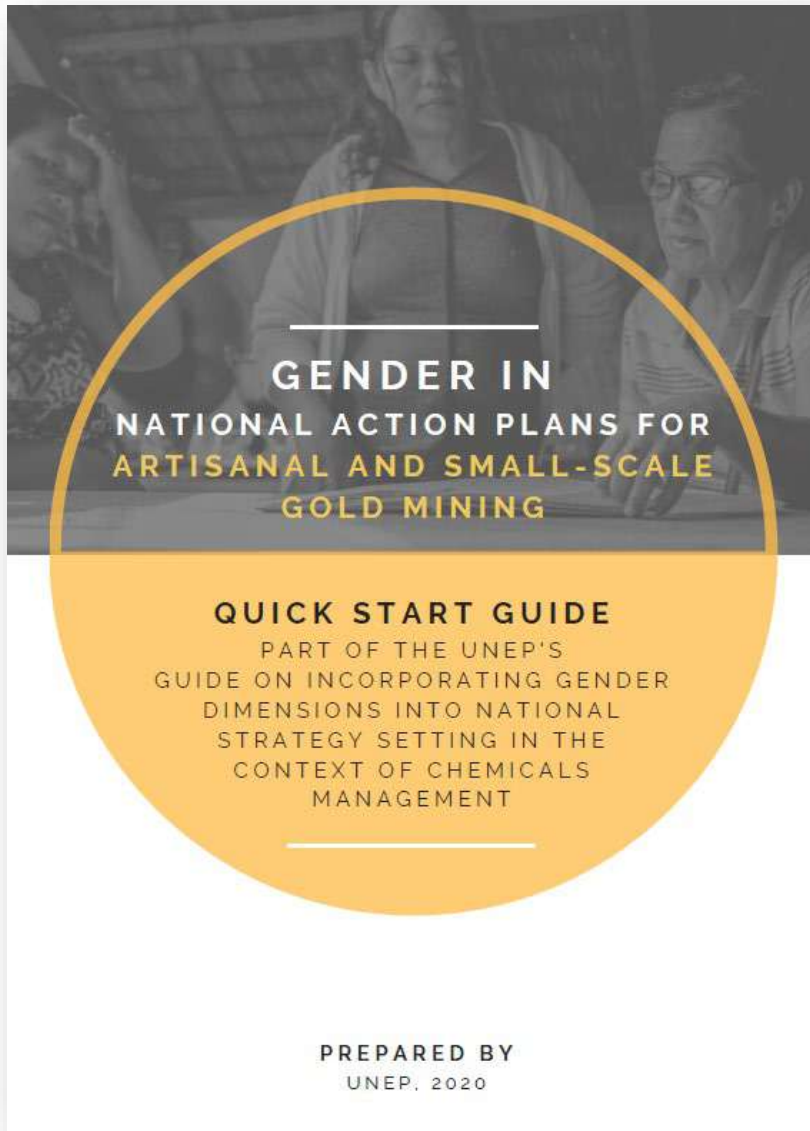
## UNEP guidance and Quick Start Guide

Malgorzata Stylo  
UNEP

**NAP** National Action Plan

**UN**   
environment





*Publication – available soon*

A guide to integrating the gender dimension as part of the national strategy in the context of chemical management:

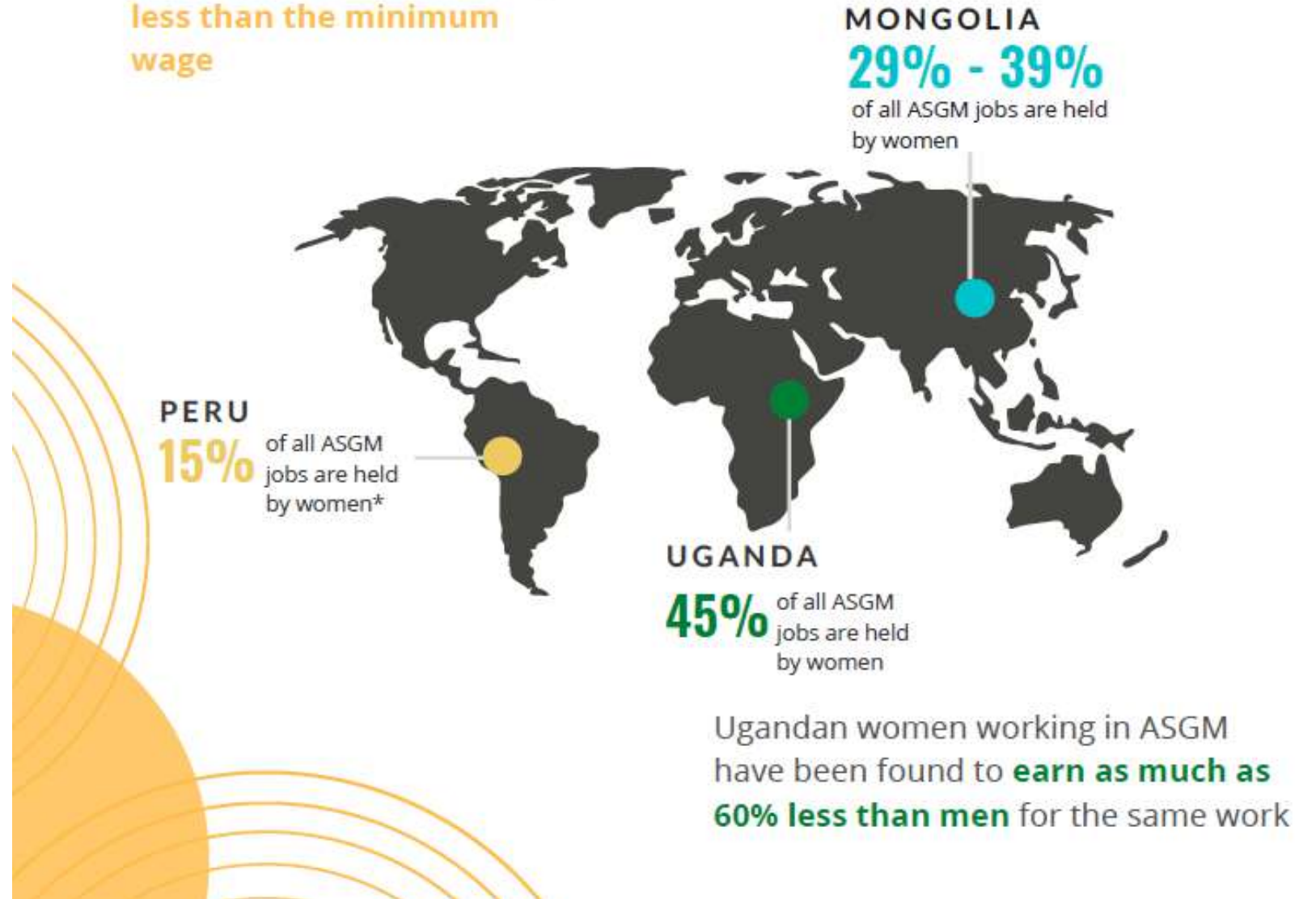
- Minamata Convention's national action plans for small-scale artisanal and gold mining and
- National implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention

# GENDER IN ASGM

Facts about the  
ASGM sector of  
selected countries

In Peru's ASGM sector, men often only allow women to work as 'Pallaqueras' (gold pickers) that earn on average **less than the minimum wage**

In Mongolia, women do equal work to men but also carry the **additional burden of all domestic work**





# THE VALUE CHAIN OF ASGM AND GENDER

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Women are discriminated against at all stages of the ASGM value chain

## ROLE

### Prospecting and Exploration

Few women are ever involved at this stage as they have limited access to resources and difficult in attaining land and mineral rights

### Mining and extraction

Superstitions and perceptions of women as physically weak lead to them being relegated to mostly working in shallow pits and scavenging from waste rock dumps and tailings i.e. 'Pallaqueras'

### Transportation

'Manual hauling of water and ore (above ground)  
Carrying sacks and buckets for dewatering and ore haulage'

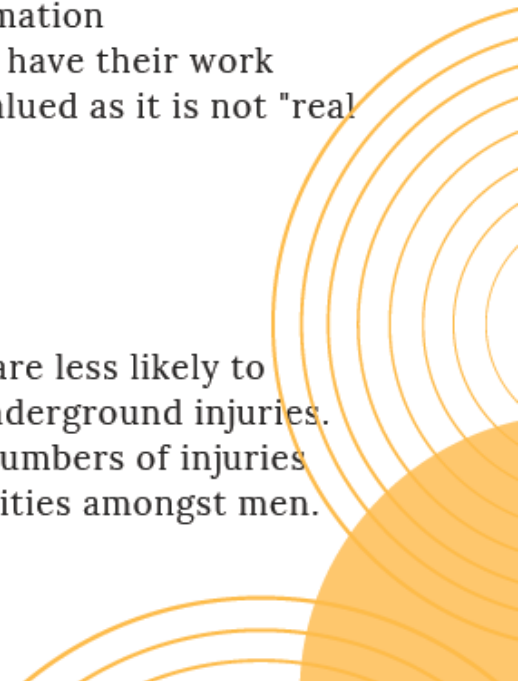


## IMPACT

Marginalisation at this stage has knock-on effects down the rest of the value chain: women cannot influence work conditions, are poorly compensated and exploited (bonded labour in the worst cases)

Women pushed to more dangerous work of mercury amalgamation  
Women have their work undervalued as it is not "real mining"

Women are less likely to suffer underground injuries. Higher numbers of injuries and fatalities amongst men.



# THE VALUE CHAIN OF ASGM AND GENDER

---

Women are discriminated against at all stages of the ASGM value chain

## ROLE

### Mineral Processing

Collecting rocks  
Sorting by hand  
Rock crushing  
Panning and sluicing  
Re-rewashing tailings  
Amalgamation and burning

### Value addition

Not common for women to be involved in refining gold as they are deemed not intellectually able'

### Mineral trading

Buying and selling gold (usually at the mine site and in a very limited way) as they lack access to finance which limits production power & access to gold'



## IMPACT

Women are not taught to operate equipment and are **deemed not intellectually able** for all jobs  
**High mercury exposure** for women and their children and increased risks of musculoskeletal disorders exacerbated by manual work

Women are **left out of this more valuable work** and as a result their earning potential is limited

Without the ability to finance operations and increase their trade volume, women are **stuck trading at a small scale** which prevents accumulation of resources.

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO INTEGRATE GENDER IN THE NAP

## Recommendations for the NAP development process



## Recommendations for the development of the strategic content of the NAP



# VOICES

## ASGM WOMEN MINERS

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**Furaha, DRC**

### IMPACT

*Furaha is an artisanal gold miner in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She shares how access to loans allowed her to invest in her business—a restaurant at the mine site—and ensure she had stable income over the year.*

*watch video [here](#), learn more [here](#).*

**Mariam, Uganda**

### IDRC

*Read the story of Mariam, ASGM miner in Uganda, who managed to break away from the roles generally ascribed to her gender to become a part-owner of a mine shaft..*

*watch video [here](#), learn more [here](#).*





Thank you for your  
attention!

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## Question and Answer Session

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# Experiences sharing and lessons learned from countries

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**Mariscia Charles**

*Policy Analyst, Ministry of Natural Resources,  
Guyana*

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# **Gender in National Action Plans. Project design, process, and implementation in Guyana**

**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership webinar on  
Integrating Gender Dimensions in ASGM NAPs**

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**Presenter: Mariscia Charles, Policy Analyst,  
Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana**



# Mining in Guyana



# The Gender Discourse in Mining – NAP Development (Design)

- ❑ Persons between the ages of 25- and 54-years account for a significant share of the country's population (38.17%) (Bureau of Statistics, 2012).
- ❑ During the MIA, it was found that there exists a wealth of material on various components of the sector, especially on its operations and environmental/health impacts.
- ❑ Overall, the socio-economic context of ASGM activity has not been sufficiently studied with depth as it relates to the key areas/themes



# Gendered Components for data collection and analysis under the NAP

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- ❑ **The social organisation of miners and mining communities**
- ❑ **Labour Arrangements**
- ❑ **Gender Dynamics, Differentiation and Discrimination**
- ❑ **Women's experiences in mining communities**





# The Gender Discourse in Mining – NAP Development (Process)

**The identified key priorities following the literature review included:**

- barriers to women's participation in ASGM
- Power dynamics between men and women at the operation level
- Women's experiences in ASGM and mining communities

**Women's roles aimed at answering questions related to:**

- What roles do women occupy within the ASGM sector?
- What social and economic barriers limit women's involvement in ASGM?
- What hazards are women involved in the ASGM sector exposed to?

## The Gender Discourse in Mining – NAP Development (Implementation)

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The NAP's Socio-economic data collection and analysis study identified five common barriers to women's participation in ASGM:

- 1) access to finance and land
- 2) limited opportunities for gaining experience
- 3) low awareness of opportunities for women in ASGM
- 4) prevailing stereotypes on women's ability to become involved in the sector
- 5) discriminatory site-level policies preventing women's employment.



# The Gender Discourse in Mining – NAP Development (Implementation)

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The NAP Socio-economic strategies will have solutions to address these barriers to ensure the increased participation of women for a more gender-equal ASGM. The NAP will be implemented through the use of a multistakeholder, multisectoral framework with a human rights approach.

The Socio-economic Strategic Objectives are:

**Socio-Economic Strategic Objective One:** Reduce the risk of mercury exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women, to emissions and releases caused by the ASGM sector.

**Socio-Economic Strategic Objective Two:** Raise the awareness of small- and medium-scale gold miners and mining communities on the detrimental effects and safe use of mercury.

# **The Gender Discourse in Mining – NAP Development (Implementation)**

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**Socio-Economic Strategic Objective Three:** Build the economic resilience of men and women involved in ASGM and mining communities by facilitating their access to alternative or complementary livelihood options.

**Socio-Economic Strategic Objective Four:** Facilitate small- and medium-scale miners' access to finance to support their transition to mercury-free gold mining.



**THANK YOU!**  
**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

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**Anne Nakafeero**

*Senior District Support Officer, National  
Environment Management Authority and  
Minamata Convention National Focal Point,  
Uganda*

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## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN THE ASGM SECTOR IN UGANDA



A PRESENTATION MADE BY ANNE L. NAKAFEERO (SDSO/NFP-MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY-NEMA)  
DURING THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP WEBINAR "INTEGRATING GENDER DIMENSIONS INTO ASGM NAPS"  
17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021

# INTRODUCTION

1.0 Drivers of women into the ASGM sector in Uganda

2.0 Challenges faced by women in the ASGM sector

3.0 Prerequisites for women's empowerment in the ASGM sector

4.0 Conclusion

# 1.0 DRIVERS OF WOMEN INTO THE ASGM SECTOR IN UGANDA

## Women population

- 45% of ASGM population (31,622) are women

## Roles

- Women mainly crush and dry ore including panning ore concentrate with Hg
- Female teenagers/youth burn amalgam
- Women and the girls carry out the extraction of ore (if alluvial)

## Women drivers to mining

- Low agricultural yields/crop failures
- The search for quick money
- Domestic violence
- Failure by men to fulfil household needs
- Widowed

# 2.0 CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN THE ASGM SECTOR

## i. Mercury use

- ✓ High cost of mercury (female prostitution in exchange for mercury-1 kg of Hg costs USD 135-189)
- ✓ Male gold buyers greatly influence mercury use at ASGM sites

## ii. Leadership

- ✓ Women ASGM site leadership is minimal & limited to treasurer, Secretary

## iii. Disparities in wages for similar work/benefit sharing

- ✓ A woman is paid UGX 2,000/USD 0.53 for transporting a sack of ore from the extraction site to the processing site, a man will be paid UGX 5,000/USD 1.33
- ✓ Widows and benefit sharing in the ASGM sector



# CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN THE ASGM SECTOR CONT.

## iv. Alternatives to mercury use are labor & capital intensive for women

- ✓ Gravitation method with use of Borax (High cost of Liquid Petroleum Gas LPG, rainy seasons, big ball mills, time factor)

## v. Limited to no access to information, inputs, credit & capacity building

- ✓ Limited extension/ rural advisory services to women especially those outside groups
- ✓ Lack of access to markets and market information
- ✓ Lack of access to credit if request is based on gold mining investment
- ✓ Limited issuance of mineral licenses to women ..limited land rights

## vi. Limited adaptation to climate change

- ✓ Erratic rainfall affecting extraction and processing activities
- ✓ Competing uses for timber (fuel wood, construction of shafts)



## CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN THE ASGM SECTOR CONT.

- **vii. Accessing and supervising male labor** (non-transparency, sexual abuse) by women pit owners
- **viii. Encroachment on women's lucrative work/less labor intense work like gold processing**
- **ix. Sexual abuse vs. assignment of tasks to women miners**



# CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN THE ASGM SECTOR CONT.



**xi. Respect for female miners by their spouses**

**xii. Balancing household tasks and mining**

**xiii. Cultural beliefs (menstrual cycle)**

### **3.0 PREREQUISITES FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN THE ASGM SECTOR**

#### **i. Technologies & Innovation**

- ✓ Need for labor-saving technologies and practices (tools and equipment which reduce drudgery and/or improve efficiency of performing various gold extraction and processing activities)
- ✓ Identification of differences in the technology needs of female and male gold miners
- ✓ Inclusive approaches/innovations such as or ASGM-led innovation, could be scalable as opposed to Individual innovations

# PREREQUISITES FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN THE ASGM SECTOR

## ii. Rural investment

- Microfinance institutions and rotating savings and credit groups provide a viable alternative for many women

## iii. Insurance

- A local group or network probably cannot provide adequate insurance, because all members will be affected

## iv. Policy considerations

- Securing women miner groups to acquire mineral licenses
- Female miners' share of the benefits and control of assets and resources

#### **v. Research**

- Need for social analysis to influence policies, projects, and other interventions aimed at achieving sustainable gold mining specifically focusing on women empowerment

#### **vi. Awareness & Advocacy**

- Need for behavioral change among women and men
- women's awareness, knowledge, and access to information about sustainable mining and mineralogy data needs to be enhanced

## **PREREQUISITES FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN THE ASGM SECTOR CONT.**

## 4.0 CONCLUSION

Formalisation of the ASGM sector also focusing on empowerment of women is key

A holistic approach that addresses the drivers to women engagement in the ASGM sector and pre-requisites to their empowerment in the sector is critical

***THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION***



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Yellowfin Tuna, Courtesy NOAA Fisheries, © Photo by Jeff Muir

# **Cherif Sow**

*International Consultant on ASGM, Chad*

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# **INTEGRATING GENDER DIMENSIONS INTO NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING**

Gender mainstreaming in the access to health services in Chad

By Cherif SOW & Fayçal A-K GARDIA

International consultant on ASGM





# INTRODUCTION

- One of the aims of the Convention of Minamata is to improve health of the mining communities
- The general observation is that the population around ASM sites is mostly very young between 15 and 44 years old
- Women and young people encounter many health challenges in gold mining sites because of their role



- These include:
  - ❖ malaria
  - ❖ diarrheal diseases
  - ❖ respiratory infections
  - ❖ sexually transmitted infections
  - ❖ intestinal parasitoses
  - ❖ traumatic injuries
  - ❖ dermatosis



# HEALTH VULNERABILITY FACTORS IN WOMEN

- Poor hygienic conditions in the sites
- Lack of latrine
- leading the population to defecate in the open
- Lack of drinking water in the sites for the consumption of the population
- Lack of protective equipment during gold panning activities
- Lack of health facilities near the sites



# **PRESENCE OF HEALTH STRUCTURES IN THE SITES**

- No presence is in place around the sites to support this needy population
- No health facility is near the sites for the curative care of patients
- Even less a health education program



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote chemo-prevention among pregnant women as part of the fight against malaria
- Set up a network of community health workers in ASM sites and equip them to promote ongoing awareness of the population (especially women ) sites for the prevention of various pathologies and the effective use of the health facilities that will be set up;
- Ensure the distribution of mosquito nets in mining camps and ensure their effective use;
- Promote the optimal use of collective and / or individual means of protection for amalgam burning (retorts, adapted masks, etc.



**Thank you for your attention !**





## Question and Answer Session

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# Closure

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**Ludovic Bernaudat**

*Senior Task manager, Chemicals and Health  
Branch, UNEP, Co-Lead of the Partnership  
Area on Mercury in Artisanal and Small-  
scale Gold Mining*

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