



Making a world of difference
in small-scale gold mining.

A GEF Initiative

2019/2020

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



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FOREWORD

By Ludovic Bernaudat

In more than 80 countries around the world, an estimated 10-20 million people rely directly on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) for their livelihood, with over 100 million engaged in the secondary economy that supports the sector. Unfortunately, ASGM is also often associated with serious social and environmental impacts, including mercury contamination. Collectively, artisanal and small-scale gold mining is now considered the largest source of mercury pollution in the world, using an estimated 1,800 tonnes of mercury per year. Most of this mercury ends up in the air, soils, rivers and oceans, where it contaminates fish, a critical source of protein for millions of people.

The planetGOLD programme is an innovative initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) designed tackle some of the root causes of the harms caused by small-scale gold mining, including mercury pollution, while also promoting its development potential. The programme is currently working with nine countries across South America, Africa and Asia, and within the next year will expand to an additional eight countries. The programme aims not only to help small-scale gold miners eliminate the use of mercury, but to create more sustainable livelihoods through their participation in the formal economy. Recognizing that lasting change requires addressing root economic and social drivers of mercury use, planetGOLD is working to accelerate formalization, increase access to formal finance and open avenues to formal gold markets, creating the enabling conditions for the uptake of more efficient, mercury-free technology.

This report provides an overview of the progress made since the launch of the planetGOLD programme in early 2019 and includes data from the initiation of each of the national projects through June 2020.

The programme's accomplishments result from the strong collaboration and commitment of the many partners of planetGOLD, including national and subnational governments, executing and implementing agencies, the GEF secretariat, private sector partners from the finance community and downstream gold buyers, and of course, the miners themselves. While COVID-19 posed many challenges to the ASGM global community, and limited field activities across the programme, the planetGOLD team nonetheless was able to make progress on key activities that will pave the way for effective action when we are able to return to the field.

I want to extend thanks to all of the staff, partners, advisors, and allies that are behind the accomplishments reflected in this report, and look forward to productive times ahead.



Ludovic Bernaudat, Programme Manager for planetGOLD.
Senior Task Manager, Chemicals and Health Branch, United Nations Environment Programme

By Dr. Priya Bala-Miller

Tragedy of the commons. Wicked problems. Systemic shocks. Eco-grief. The vernacular of sustainability professionals today is peppered with such phrases. Phrases we are using in an effort to make sense of the multi-layered social, economic and environmental problems holding back progress on the global sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress on Agenda 2030 is not only at risk of stalling, but regressing. In this context, our evolving

discourse not only reflects a more diffuse understanding that the present times call for more than simplistic linear thinking that abstracts problems from the context they are embedded in - cultures, ecosystems, norms, institutions, stakeholders and rights-holders. This language also reflects a growing sense of urgency that we need new and innovative ways to cope with complexity in an increasingly constricted timeframe.

The planetGOLD programme tackles the wicked challenge of ensuring a clean and fair artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector. The tragedy here is not so much that alternatives, tools and solutions are absent, but that they remain out of reach for ASGM communities. With meaningful change in its sights, and guided by the Minamata Convention, planetGOLD has set ambitious targets to transform the ASGM sector.

As former Chair of the Programme Advisory Group, I have had the privilege of witnessing first-hand how the program's secretariat, country managers, advisors, partners and miners have created a community of practice that explicitly recognizes and embraces the diversity and complexity involved in meeting these ambitious targets. The program is implementing a suite of progressive interventions in key systemic leverage points in nine countries, working to close the financing gap, supporting sector formalization, raising awareness of the risks involved with continued use of mercury in gold processing, and connecting mining communities with mercury-free technology and formal markets.

The report that follows presents ample evidence of positive impacts generated through the program's activities, such as the design of a mercury-free processing plant in Burkina Faso and creation of a secure grievance mechanism database for social impacts in mining communities in Guyana in line with the OECD Guidelines, to the design of eight micro-grant mechanisms in Indonesia. Gains have also been made through the deployment of new digital solutions to support formalization of artisanal miners in Colombia.

Such outcomes have been particularly impressive given the operational, financial and logistical challenges incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Country teams were quickly supported by the project secretariat to strategically deploy awareness-raising materials around health and safety precautions to limit transmission of the virus and their adaptability and continued commitment to program delivery is especially noteworthy. Through adaptive management practices, the program's network has also affirmed the need to ensure inclusive benefits through the increased adoption of a gender-lens in activity design and delivery in the remainder of the program.

In reviewing this annual report, it is my hope that readers reflecting on the planetGOLD programme's progress to date will see much cause for optimism that at least one of the world's wicked problems – that of a clean, safe and profitable ASGM supply chain – is being tackled by a group of thoughtful and committed global citizens, united by a common passion to “Make Mercury History.” I wish the team continued success and support in this important endeavour.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Priya Bala-Miller'.

Dr. Priya Bala-Miller, *Former Chair, planetGOLD Programme Advisory Group; CEO, Palmyra Partners*



CHAPTER

1

INTRODUCTION

ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINERS ARE RESPONSIBLE for producing about 20 percent of the world's gold each year. Due to limited economic opportunities or a lack of awareness about the dangers, many of these small-scale mining operations use the highly toxic chemical mercury to extract their gold. In fact, artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is now the largest source of mercury pollution in the world.

This ancient method for processing gold can lead to grievous environmental and health consequences.

Despite the prevalence of mercury use, techniques for extracting gold without mercury are available and can yield higher recovery rates for miners. The Global Environment Facility-supported planetGOLD programme is working to upgrade the practices of 10-20 million small-scale miners—sustainably boosting their productivity while improving the gold supply chain and significantly reducing global mercury pollution.

“Mining is a really profitable activity, but with the new global awareness of toxic substances like mercury we have to change with the times. Yes, you need to feed your family, but you also need to leave your family clean water and clean air and a clean planet so that we can keep on living here. Keep mining gold, but do it responsibly.”



— **Fernando Gobles**, small-scale miner in Segovia, Colombia*

*Interviewed by the Global Environment Facility for the film “Make Mercury History”

Transforming the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector has the potential to enhance the lives of more than 100 million people, who rely on this industry directly or indirectly for their livelihoods. The planetGOLD programme aims to slash harmful mercury emissions while improving conditions for miners—recognizing that when miners operate responsibly in the formal economy, artisanal and small-scale gold mining can provide decent, well-paying jobs, reduce poverty, and promote sustainable development.

ASGM IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

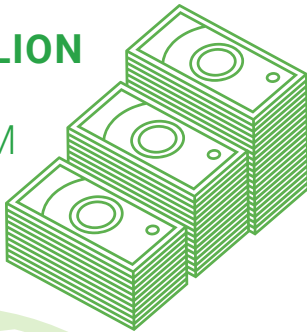
The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic caused unprecedented challenges throughout the world in 2020, including in the ASGM sector globally. At the time of this publication, the ASGM sector around the world is still being affected by COVID-19 to varying degrees. These mining communities already tend to be marginalized and underserved, and they are particularly vulnerable to financial shocks and instability. The economic turmoil caused by the pandemic will require extraordinary levels of global collaboration and partnership to help artisanal and small-scale gold mining communities recover and build back in ways that are better and more sustainable for themselves, the environment, and the broader global community.

ASGM BY THE NUMBERS

20%

OF THE WORLD'S
GOLD COMES
FROM ARTISANAL
& SMALL-SCALE
MINERS

\$28-34 **BILLION**
is generated
by the ASGM
sector
each year*

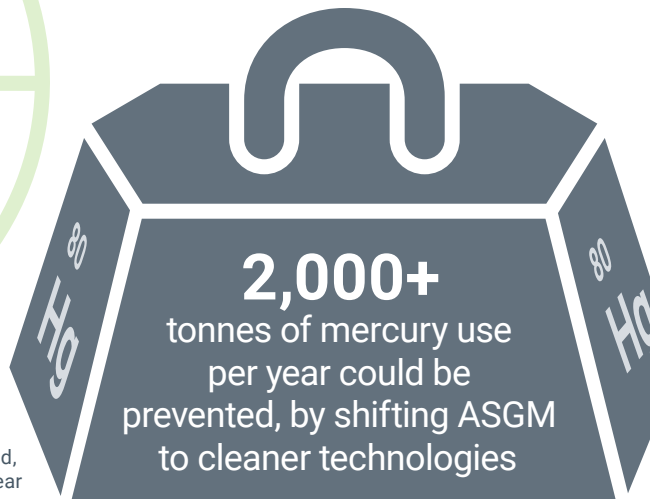


10-20 million **miners** work
in ASGM, including 4-5 million
women and children

70+
COUNTRIES HAVE
ASGM
OPERATIONS



2,000+
tonnes of mercury use
per year could be
prevented, by shifting ASGM
to cleaner technologies



* Based on the 2020 average closing price of gold,
assuming production of 500-600 tonnes per year



CHAPTER

2

Photo: Artisanal Gold Council

PLANETGOLD PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

THE PLANETGOLD PROGRAMME PARTNERS WITH governments, the private sector, and ASGM communities in nine countries to significantly improve the production practices and work environment of artisanal and small-scale miners. By working to close the financing gap, supporting formalization, raising awareness, and connecting mining

communities with mercury-free technology and formal markets, planetGOLD aims to demonstrate a pathway to cleaner and more efficient small-scale gold mining practices that benefit everyone, from the mine to the marketplace.

With funding from the Global Environment Facility, planetGOLD is led by the United Nations Environment Programme and implemented together with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Development Programme, and Conservation International. Supporting countries' commitments under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the planetGOLD programme is currently executed by 19 government agencies and other organizations in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, Peru, and the Philippines.





"From smartphones to wedding rings gold passes through our hands every day. For most of us the source of that gold, and its real cost, remains a mystery. Introducing safe, mercury-free technologies into the ASGM sector will help provide a safe transition to job formality and dignified work for millions, while

putting an end to the environmental impacts that can pave the way to responsibly produced gold."

— Gustavo Fonseca, GEF Director of Programs

The programme also includes a global knowledge management and communications project, which facilitates the dissemination of information from planetGOLD to mining stakeholders and communities, government, the private sector, and civil society. The global project emphasizes outreach to the finance community, with the aim to improve their understanding of the ASGM sector and to create more willingness to provide access to finance. This global project is executed by the Natural Resources Defense Council with technical assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

A person is shown from the side, wearing a light-colored shirt, panning for gold in a shallow, dark-colored pan filled with water. The background is a blurred, light-colored surface, possibly a riverbed or a large body of water. The overall image has a blue tint.

OUR MISSION:

To make small-scale gold mining
safer, cleaner, and more profitable

OUR VISION:

A clean global supply of gold from
small-scale miners

CORE PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGIES

The planetGOLD programme is working to eliminate mercury from the supply chain of gold produced by artisanal and small-scale miners by focusing on four core strategic areas:



Formalization

Supporting efforts to integrate the ASGM sector into the formal economy, society, and regulatory system



Technical Solutions

Introducing and facilitating access to mercury-free technologies and best practices in ASGM



Access to Formal Markets

Facilitating miners' access to formal gold supply chains, in partnership with gold buyers and industrial users



Access to Finance

Piloting a range of models for access to investment and finance for small-scale miners and their communities



[Watch the 2-minute planetGOLD explainer video](#)

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

SUPPORTED BY



LED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



GLOBAL PROJECT EXECUTING AGENCIES

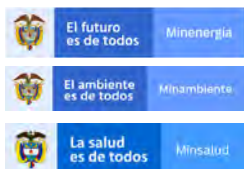


COUNTRY EXECUTING PARTNERS

BURKINA FASO



COLOMBIA



ECUADOR

**MINISTERIO DEL
AMBIENTE Y AGUA**

MINISTERIO
DE ENERGÍA Y RECURSOS
NATURALES NO RENOVABLES

GUYANA



INDONESIA



KENYA



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

MONGOLIA



PERU



PHILIPPINES



FINANCIAL RESOURCES

More than \$45 million (U.S. dollars) in GEF funds have been allocated to planetGOLD. The programme additionally is leveraging co-financing of over \$135 million from national governments, GEF agencies, international and national civil society organizations, bilateral development agencies and multilateral finance institutions, and the private sector.



FUNDING ALLOCATED

● GEF	\$ 45,262,294
● CO-FINANCING	\$135,174,956
TOTAL:	\$180,437,250



SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING

● GOVERNMENT	19%
● DONORS	35%
● GEF AGENCIES	7%
● PRIVATE SECTOR	26%
● OTHERS	13%
TOTAL:	\$135,174,956



CHAPTER

3

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

T HROUGHOUT 2020, THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 HAS touched artisanal and small-scale gold mining operations to some extent in every corner of the globe, creating economic hardship and serious health concerns. A significant portion of the ASGM sector globally operates outside of the formal economic system, largely unable to benefit from the social protections those systems provide. Miners are also already vulnerable to the effects of



planetGOLD Philippines presenter with group wearing face masks.

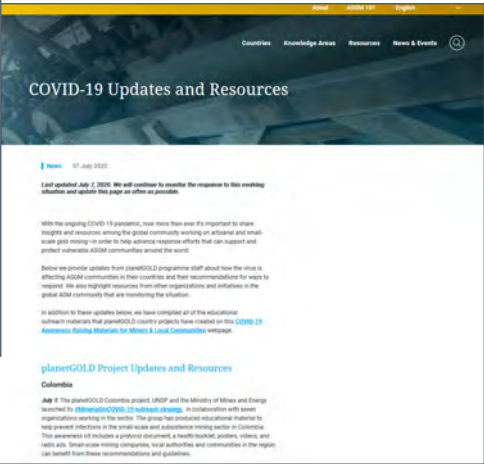
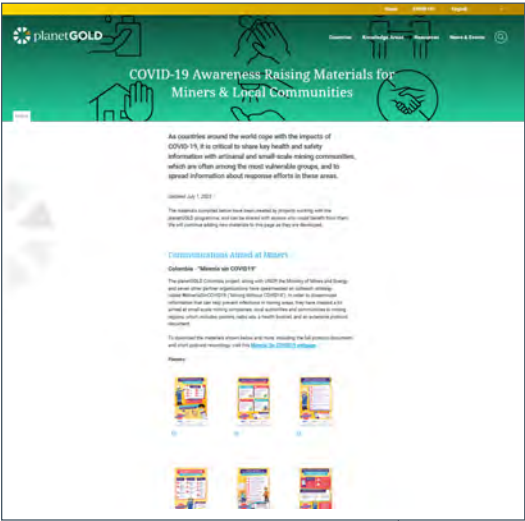
respiratory infections, as they are often chronically exposed to dust and mercury vapor, and health facilities are typically a long distance away from remote mining operations.

Despite significant increases in gold prices in international markets throughout 2020 as investors flocked to gold as a safe-haven asset, the buying price of gold at many artisanal mining sites also crashed in the wake of travel restrictions and border closures that curtailed supply and trade routes. As a result, many subsistence miners were reportedly forced to sell their gold at steep discounts in an attempt to make ends meet.

Projects in the planetGOLD programme faced considerable challenges, uncertainty, and disruptions to implementation as a result of this health emergency. Travel restrictions prevented most project teams

from carrying out planned activities in mining regions, and many mining organizations had to paralyze their operations for some time. This impacted multiple projects' plans related to the selection of mining sites and beneficiary groups, and the initiation of pilot projects. Procurement processes were also impacted, as imports and exports into some countries were delayed or shut down, and some hiring processes were delayed.

Despite these unprecedented challenges, project teams were nimble in adjusting work plans to adapt to changing situations on the ground and react in a timely manner to the health emergency. Several of the projects prioritized disseminating health and safety messages to miners and their local communities through awareness campaigns aimed at preventing spread of the virus in these regions. Many also issued recommendations for safely and responsibly reactivating ASGM activities and collected data and observations on the effects of the pandemic to share with stakeholders in the global ASGM community.



To view these materials, click the images above.



Miners in West Lombok, Indonesia use Personal Protective Equipment provided by the planetGOLD Indonesia project



planetGOLD Philippines staff & stakeholders wearing face masks



A small training with miners in Ecuador



Participants in a train-the-trainer field day with technicians from the Ecuador Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Energy and Non-Renewable Resources, Central Bank and SGS



CHAPTER

4

COUNTRY PROJECTS

THE PLANETGOLD PROGRAMME INCLUDES NATIONAL projects in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, Peru, and the Philippines—nine countries that collectively account for approximately 1,145 tonnes of mercury released by ASGM activities per year, according to recent estimates. These teams are working to protect millions of men, women, and children from exposure to toxic levels of mercury through artisanal and small-scale gold production every year.

CURRENT COUNTRIES



Burkina Faso



Colombia



Ecuador



Guyana



Indonesia



Kenya



Mongolia



Peru



Philippines

By supporting the regulatory and policy reforms needed to formalize the work of artisanal and small-scale miners across the nine programme countries, planetGOLD projects aim to secure miners' livelihoods, through opening up access to markets and the finance needed to increase incomes and enable the uptake of mercury-free technology. This work also assists countries to meet their commitments under the [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#) to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in the sector

PROGRESS ON CORE PROGRAMME STRATEGIES

The charts below show progress on the programme's four key programmatic strategies, made by country projects that were under implementation during the reporting period. Due to delays detailed further on page 78, the launch of the planetGOLD project in Kenya occurred in the third quarter of 2020 and, as such, that project is not reflected in the charts below.










Formalization

One of the most fundamental activities for all planetGOLD projects to support formalization is the review of the legal framework and, where appropriate, make recommendations for changes. All projects have initiated or completed this process. Further, most teams have identified miner organizations to assist, and some have already rolled out training and sensitization activities or have provided support with permitting.

	Review of legal framework & recommendation of changes either initiated or completed	Identified miner organizations for assistance	Training/ sensitization and/ or assistance with permitting
 BURKINA FASO			
 COLOMBIA			
 ECUADOR			
 GUYANA			
 INDONESIA			
 MONGOLIA			
 PERU			
 PHILIPPINES			

Finance

Nearly all projects have initiated or completed an evaluation of existing finance mechanisms that could be adapted to support ASGM and conducted outreach to various financial entities, both private and government-supported. Some have advanced to designing preliminary finance mechanisms and creating agreements with identified institutions for implementing such mechanisms. The Ecuador project, which has been in the implementation phase the longest, has additionally provided miners with assistance on loan applications under their planned mechanism.

	Analysis of existing financial mechanisms / Outreach to finance entities	Financial mechanisms designed / Agreement with institutions developed/ underway	Loan application assistance provided
 BURKINA FASO	●		
 COLOMBIA	●	●	
 ECUADOR	●	●	●
 GUYANA	●		
 INDONESIA	●	●	
 MONGOLIA	●		
 PERU	●	●	
 PHILIPPINES	●		










Technical Solutions

Country projects have made significant progress in preparing for the introduction of mercury-free technologies. All country teams have carried out site assessments, undertaken technical evaluations of ore, and/or hired technical experts. Most of the countries have also conducted focus group discussions or technology trainings with miners; and over half are already advancing in identifying specific locations, reviewing applications for the design and installation of mercury-free systems, or identifying manufacturers and suppliers.

			
	Experts hired / Site assessments (ore, mercury, land) conducted	Focus group discussions / mercury-free technology trainings conducted for miners	Land/plants identified &/ or applications in process / Mercury free system designed / Manufacturers, concessionaires, suppliers identified
 BURKINA FASO	●	●	●
 COLOMBIA	●	●	
 ECUADOR	●	●	●
 GUYANA	●	●	●
 INDONESIA	●	●	●
 MONGOLIA	●	●	●
 PERU	●	●	
 PHILIPPINES	●		

Access to Formal Markets

Country projects across the programme have made notable progress on developing tools and capacity-building for due diligence to prepare and support miners to eventually access formal gold markets. In a few countries, teams have been working with the government to review gold trade regulations and suggest revisions and changes to support the sale of responsible gold. Nearly all countries have done supply chain mapping and identified potential downstream buyers.

	Tools/capacity building for due diligence (DD) and/or gold branding	Review of gold trade policies / Recommendations for reform	Supply chain mapping & identification of potential downstream buyers
 BURKINA FASO	●		●
 COLOMBIA	●		●
 ECUADOR	●		●
 GUYANA	●		●
 INDONESIA	●		●
 MONGOLIA	●	●	
 PERU	●	●	●
 PHILIPPINES	●	●	

The following section provides more details on the accomplishments of each of the country projects.

BURKINA FASO



The fourth largest gold producer in Africa, Burkina Faso's ASGM sector has steadily grown over the last decade. Artisanal and small-scale mining is the primary source of income for a large part of the country's population, with over 550,000 people directly employed at more than 440 mine sites. The vast majority lack formal education as well as alternative employment options. When done responsibly, ASGM can provide a decent livelihood and support sustainable rural development for a large population of Burkinabes.

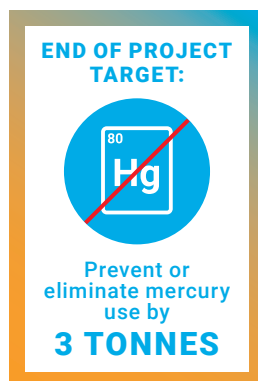
Mercury use is common among artisanal and small-scale miners in Burkina Faso, with many unaware of the negative health and environmental impacts of this practice. Other issues keeping miners from shifting to mercury-free methods are that most are not aware of alternative options, they do not have the initial financial investment



needed to purchase better technologies, and they lack training on how to operate and maintain them.

The planetGOLD Burkina Faso project is working toward eliminating mercury in the ASGM sector through 4 strategically linked components:

- ▶ Supporting formalization of the ASGM sector
- ▶ Helping miners access financing and international gold markets
- ▶ Training national ASGM specialists on implementation and scaling of best practices
- ▶ Educating, raising awareness, and transferring knowledge to the global ASGM community



"Burkina Faso will benefit greatly from the introduction of clean and efficient mercury free processing technologies and access to finance to make these technologies viable. Collaboration across the planetGOLD country teams has facilitated shared learning and established a supportive and motivational environment. The national team is very passionate and committed to delivering positive change to the mining communities via the successful implementation of the project."

—Kenneth Porter, planetGOLD Burkina Faso Project Manager,
Artisanal Gold Council

PROJECT SITES

The project will support ASGM communities in the following areas:

- ▶ Tonka-la Mine
- ▶ Gnikpiere Mine (South-West)



EXECUTING PARTNER



IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Core Programmatic Strategies



Formalization

- ▶ Laid groundwork for review of existing ASGM policy framework and institutional capacity assessment
- ▶ Identified an estimated 3,000 artisanal miners eligible for support



Access to Finance

- ▶ Initiated work on loan application criteria
- ▶ Began review of the types of financing available for ASM, analyzing successes/failures for existing financial mechanisms and in de-risking and validation



Technical Solutions

- ▶ Gathered extensive data to assess viability and parameters for introducing mercury free ore processing technology, such as local water supply, and current processing methods
- ▶ Sampled and analyzed local ores in a laboratory to ensure technology is adapted to local context
- ▶ Designed a mercury free processing plant taking into consideration unique characteristics of the region's ore, cultural adoption, and economic replicability



Access to Formal Markets

- ▶ Developed training on OECD Due Diligence Guidance and the planetGOLD verification tool
- ▶ Partnered with Better Chain (a due diligence innovation lab), training local permanently based entities to gather data for due diligence
- ▶ Conducted local gold market analysis to understand typical average prices
- ▶ Fully mapped out traceable supply chain from the mine site to export location in capital city
- ▶ Began identifying potential logistics providers and international refiners

FEATURED COMMUNICATIONS



Introducing Clean and Efficient Mercury Free Gold Processing to South West Burkina Faso

In the South Western and Cascades regions of Burkina Faso, artisanal & small-scale gold mining is a fundamentally important feature of the economy — and one that has provided key support during the economic turbulence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The planetGOLD Burkina Faso project team is working to install a mercury free gold processing system in the region, to showcase innovative & affordable technologies while creating a socio-economic enabling environment to facilitate adoption & replication throughout the country.

[Learn more in this article.](#)



Challenges and Opportunities for Women at Artisanal Gold Mining Sites

During focus group discussions at mine sites in Burkina Faso on a proposed mercury-free treatment unit, men welcomed the technology, but women miners expressed concerns that the unit would perform all operations of ore processing, eliminating the need for their labor. They worried that if they subsequently lost access to tailings that contain gold this would obliterate their only source of income.

[This article](#) from planetGOLD Burkina Faso looks at the responsibilities women miners in Burkina Faso juggle, their specific roles and needs, and the project's plans to ensure that men and women are provided equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from a mercury-free processing system & other project activities.



KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PLANETGOLD BURKINA FASO

For the upcoming year, the Burkina Faso team will complete a baseline assessment of the mine site as part of the due diligence process, create a gender disaggregated value distribution map showing the roles of all actors and how the new technology can impact them, create a business model for the processing plant, and set up the mercury-free processing system as proof of concept that it is investable. The project will also provide training for banks and miners, designing their training tools with technical institutions and the Ministry of Education, and it will investigate the opportunity to incorporate new curriculum in six institutions' mineral processing programs for ASGM.

COLOMBIA

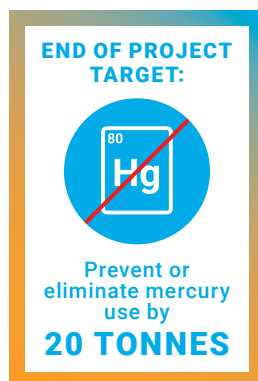


Roughly 350,000 people in Colombia work directly in the ASGM sector and rely on it for their livelihood, primarily in remote areas. Sixty-three percent of these mining operations are informal, and 87% of the country's gold is produced by these informal miners. Despite a government ban on mercury use in mining in July 2018, the practice is still common in some regions—placing the country's ASGM sector among the top emitters in the world.



Transforming ASGM in Colombia into a responsible sector has significant potential to contribute to sustainable poverty alleviation that benefits local communities while protecting the country's biodiversity and the global environment more broadly.

The planetGOLD Colombia project's objective is to eliminate/avoid mercury use from the Colombian ASGM sector by:



- ▶ Improving mining communities' access to finance
- ▶ Strengthening institutions and regulatory frameworks
- ▶ Providing training, technical assistance, and formalization support
- ▶ Raising awareness and disseminating lessons-learned on phasing out mercury in the ASGM sector

"The project team has followed very closely the formalization direction of the Ministry of Mines, achieving an adequate articulation of actions, facilitating linkages with partner institutions, and giving coherence to the support provided by the project for the elimination of the use of mercury in the AGSM sector, considering the progress and lessons learned from actions carried out by the Ministry of Mines. This relationship has helped us to avoid repeating strategies and just focus on the real needs."



—Liliana Alvarado Flórez, planetGOLD Colombia National Coordinator, UNDP


PROJECT SITES

The project will support ASGM communities in the following areas:

- ▶ CAUCA REGION: Suarez, Buenos Aires, Guapi, Timbiquí
- ▶ ANTIOQUIA REGION: Bajo Cauca (Tarazá, Cáceres, El Bagre), Segovia, Remedios, San Roque.
- ▶ SUR DE BOLÍVAR REGION: San Martin, Barranco de Loba, Hatillo de Loba, Tiquisio, Rio Viejo




EXECUTING PARTNERS




El futuro
es de todos

Minenergía



El ambiente
es de todos

Minambiente



La salud
es de todos

Minsalud

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Core Programmatic Strategies



Formalization

- ▶ Contributed comments on 3 new regulatory rules to promote formalization, including regulation of mobile plants, definition of ASM, and the establishment of special areas
- ▶ Planned evaluation of 22 entities involved in the management of the ASGM sector
- ▶ Formed agreement with the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) to carry out formalization activities in the Cauca region



Access to Finance

- ▶ Conducted study on existing financial services and entities available to the ASGM sector
- ▶ Developed draft agreement with the financial cooperative CONFIAR to provide loans to small scale miners
- ▶ Began developing a protocol with the Ministry of Mines and Energy to clarify understanding about the legitimacy of miners and mining companies



Technical Solutions

- ▶ Completed preliminary selection of miners and their locations
- ▶ Established agreement with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and national training service SENA to provide training for planetGOLD miners and sites
- ▶ Commissioned 4 reports characterizing the ASGM sector in the municipalities of Suarez, Buenos Aires, Guapi and Timbiquí in the department of Cauca
- ▶ Built a GIS platform to compile 18 layers of baseline data and other key information on project sites
- ▶ Partnered with Pure Earth to assess the potential for reprocessing mercury-contaminated tailings and the site decontamination process



Access to Formal Markets

- ▶ Initiated development of a blockchain pilot project with ARM, building on traceability advances already made through the Fairmined Connect platform
- ▶ Formed a partnership agreement with ARM, to help certify miners and small-scale mining cooperatives in the Cauca region to facilitate their access to the formal gold market

ADDITIONAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES:



Awareness Raising & Communications

- ▶ Designed a communications action plan under the mercury-free Colombia strategy, identifying target and audience, good communication practices in mining projects in Colombia, and analysis of the best actions to raise awareness about the dangers of mercury
- ▶ Held 3 virtual socialization workshops for the project in the prioritized regions with the participation of 180 people, and held a webinar on “Challenges and opportunities for a mercury-free Colombia”
- ▶ Produced 8 audiovisual materials for a virtual training and awareness course on the impacts of mercury on health and the environment, launched with the institutions SENA, Comunica and the Ministry of Mines and Energy for 80 registered participants
- ▶ Provided certification, awareness raising, and training for 48 apprentices via a classroom course in El Bagre, Antioquia
- ▶ Created a [photo story](#) about women mineral selectors in Cauca and campaigns for special dates and other strategies



Gender Equity

- ▶ Prepared gender action plan aiming to integrate gender perspectives into each component of the project
- ▶ Supported the integration of gender perspectives in the Ministry of Mines' mining development policy, the Ministry of Environment's gender policy, and the Ministry of Health's pathway for persons contaminated with mercury
- ▶ Initiated series of 10 webinars titled "Learning plan on gender equality" aimed at strengthening the capacity of the project's technical team, government partners, and other actors in the area
- ▶ Facilitated a workshop on mercury toxicity with women association miners in Suárez, Cauca



"This project will help the women of Cauca to continue in this process of making visible and recovering ancestral practices such as clean and traditional mining that helps the environment, protects our rivers that are a source of life, and takes care of the health of our women."

—Teófila Betancurth, Woman leader in Guapi, Cauca

FEATURED COMMUNICATIONS



[Watch the video](#)

UNITED FOR NATURE: Toward a Mercury-free Colombia

With the second-highest biodiversity in the world, Colombia became the epicenter of global celebrations for World Environment Day on June 5, 2020, which revolved around the protection of biodiversity. Yet in addition to hosting the most species of orchids and birds in the world, the country also finds itself ranked fourth in the world for mercury emissions, 94% of which are emitted by the small-scale mining sector.



To read article, click the image above.

MINING WITHOUT COVID19 CAMPAIGN



[Watch the video](#)

The planetGOLD Colombia project, UNDP, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and 6 other organizations developed a comprehensive COVID-19 awareness kit that included a biosecurity protocol for self-care for workers in small-scale and subsistence mining.

Through a campaign called #MineríaSinCOVID19 (“Mining Without COVID19”), the coalition disseminated a series of videos, radio ads, posters, and other awareness raising materials to guide mining communities in preventing virus

spread in mining operations and activities. The initiative included a launch event and a webinar led by the Vice Minister of Mines of Colombia, Carolina Rojas Hayes.

To learn more, visit the [#MineríaSinCOVID19 campaign page \(in Spanish\)](#).



To read article, click the image above.



KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PLANETGOLD COLOMBIA

Starting in 2021, the project plans to grant an initial set of loans to miners in Bajo Cauca via the financial mechanism set up with financial cooperative CONFIAR, and to create a second alliance with another financial entity. The team will provide technical education to financial entities about the ASGM sector, as well as training in financial education for mining communities.

The project will support environmental impact studies to obtain the environmental licenses required for the small mining associations it has selected, and it plans to build alliances with large-scale mining companies to advance formalization subcontracts. It will also support subsistence miners in its 11 municipalities to learn how to use the new Genesis registration system created by the National Mining Agency.

Over the next year the project will spearhead a mobile processing plant pilot program to train miners on small-scale, mercury-free alluvial and hard-rock gold mining techniques. It also plans to develop technology, cost and financial cost-benefit models, and to develop a pilot project for remediation of contaminated sites, water, and soil.



“Antioquia is a region rich in biodiversity. My job as a woman miner is to promote good practices in small miners to do clean mining that takes care of our rivers and animals.”

—María Fernanda López,

Woman leader in Puerto Berrío, Antioquia

ECUADOR



More than 32,000 people in Ecuador work in mining, which has historically been exclusively small-scale and artisanal. The biggest advantage of Ecuador's productive artisanal sector is its contributions to regional development and toward mitigating the exodus of workers from rural areas to city centers. Yet it is associated with dangerous mercury pollution, and many miners have limited access to technology, precarious working conditions, lack of technical knowledge, low production performance, and poor legal and institutional formalization.

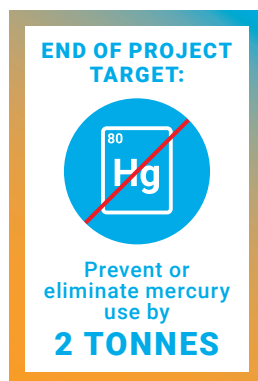
The National Program for Chemical Management, a planetGOLD partner project, is promoting the creation of financial opportunities for the ASGM sector that allow recognition and promotion of good, mercury-free practices, through the implementation of tools and



technical knowledge that enable the production of gold in an appropriate manner. The program also seeks to change cultural patterns linked to the ASGM sector that negatively affect women.

The Ecuador project aims to reduce the use and release of mercury by:

- ▶ **Strengthening national institutional capacity and the regulatory framework for the sound management of chemicals**
- ▶ **Reducing the use and releases of mercury from ASGM and from products containing mercury**
- ▶ **Raising awareness on the sound management of chemicals in their life-cycle, ensuring project monitoring and disseminating project results and experiences**



"Mining should not be understood only as a job, but as a structure of symbolic, political and economic relationships. For this reason the proposed intervention seeks to promote gender equality and the generation of sustainable livelihoods; also, the deployment of actions to promote the use of alternative technology, and, through inter-institutional strategies, facilitates formalization and strengthens the sector's access to financial credits. The project implements actions that respond to the needs of the sector in a comprehensive manner, directly reducing the use of mercury in the gold recovery process."

—**Mario Rodas**, planetGOLD Ecuador Coordinator, UNDP

PROJECT SITES

The project is supporting ASGM communities in the following areas:

- ▶ Camilo Ponce Enríquez, Azuay Province
- ▶ Zaruma-Portovelo, El Oro Province
- ▶ Chinapintza, Zaruma Province



EXECUTING PARTNERS



MINISTERIO
DE ENERGÍA Y RECURSOS
NATURALES NO RENOVABLES

MINISTERIO DEL
AMBIENTE Y AGUA

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Core Programmatic Strategies



Formalization

- ▶ Supported 3 mining groups in “pre-formalization” process, including 1 women’s group
- ▶ Provided training for miners on the formalization process
- ▶ Developed 4 sets of guidelines for formalization of artisanal miners



Access to Finance

- ▶ Loan facility developed between Central Bank of Ecuador, BanEcuador and miners. Document ready for Inter-institutional Cooperation Agreement between the Central Bank of Ecuador and BanEcuador.
- ▶ Through a competitive grant mechanism, funded projects for: strengthening capacities and provision of tools and equipment for a goldsmithing workshop run by women miners; and strengthening of food security and diversification of the economic model, through community gardens; and, two research projects aimed to the removal of mercury and heavy metals from rivers impacted by mining.



Technical Solutions

- ▶ Trained more than 70 women miners in mercury-free techniques, resulting in estimated mercury reduction of around 350 kilograms
- ▶ Evaluated 3 mineral analysis laboratories and 5 processing plants located in prioritized mining areas, to identify needs and costs of strengthening, and identify ASM beneficiaries with gender sensitive criteria
- ▶ Conducted train-the-trainer workshops to strengthen capacities of control authorities and reach more miners over a longer period of time
- ▶ Conducted a Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) finding the project model to support laboratories and processing plants will increase miner incomes, generate USD 65,000 / year in taxes, and that average sales for international reserves would exceed USD 4 million / year



Access to Formal Markets

- ▶ Worked with the Central Bank to use their due diligence systems, socialize processes, and develop best practices
- ▶ Made contact with key actors such as Fairmined and Fairtrade to better understand their certification systems

ADDITIONAL PROJECT STRATEGIES:



Awareness Raising & Communications

- ▶ Educated 126,612 people (59,452 women and 67,159 men) on the sound management of chemical products, hazardous waste and its risks, through capacity building activities and by implementing the “Allies of the Environment” publicity campaign
- ▶ Produced quarterly news bulletins detailing relevant results of the Program and information on managing chemical substances for key stakeholders



“I have lived for 32 years in this sector and have rarely entered the mine. My work is out here, picking up the trash that comes out of the mine. If it’s a good month we take out \$200 and in a bad month \$100, that pays for the studies and the children’s food. We work from Monday to Sunday and thanks to the association that allows us to organize ourselves we have been able to access more dumps.”

—Magdalena, female mineral selector from Camilo Ponce Enríquez

FEATURED COMMUNICATIONS



[Watch the video](#)

Women with a Golden Will

She climbs a mountain of stones with her eyes fixed on the surface. In the middle of the dumpsite, she squats, throws a handful of water and moves her head slightly from side to side to identify the shine on stones. She lifts a rock, feel its weight, smells it, and places it in a bag. Luisa* repeats this process for more than eight hours every day, she says, selecting rocks (known locally as Janche) from the mine's dumpsites.

Like Luisa, most female miners in Camilo Ponce (Azuay province) are known as jancheras, women who sort through the mineral left over from larger mining operations in order to pick out rocks with residual gold, placing them in the least profitable section of the supply chain. The National Program for Chemical Management in Ecuador has identified alternatives to reduce the overload of work, poverty and the barriers that prevent and diminish the development and rights of these 1,300 women. [Read the article to learn more.](#)



Peru and Colombia teams visit Ecuador to share good practices

With the aim of promoting safe, clean and profitable small-scale gold mining in the Andes region, the project teams working on planetGOLD in Peru and Colombia traveled to Ecuador in January 2020 to meet with the Ecuador project team, plan joint activities, and share good practices.

The Ecuador team shared about the progress they have made and the efficient alliances they have formed with the country's Central Bank to promote financial opportunities that take into account the unique dynamics of the small-scale mining business. The group also visited Camilo Ponce Enríquez to speak with jancheras and to exchange ideas on improving working and processing conditions for the women. For more on this exchange [read the article](#).



KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR ECUADOR

In 2021, the project will focus on socializing and communicating the credit mechanisms in project areas and will provide technical support for people/associations who access credit. The project will also seek to strengthening of financial capacities for the recipients of the funds supporting women's enterprises.

The project will also support reopening of the mining cadaster and provide additional training for more mining groups to achieve their formalization. The project will also work on a proposal to formalize the activity of jancheras (women mineral collectors), who are not currently recognized by mining law.

The next year will also focus on the strengthening of laboratories and plants, as well as conducting communication campaign to attract new ASM groups.

The project will also perform research on reducing mercury in rivers, and help to set a regulation for permissible limits for discharges of effluents; as well as work on trainings, knowledge sharing on tailings management, and recovery of Hg in contaminated tailing site.

GUYANA



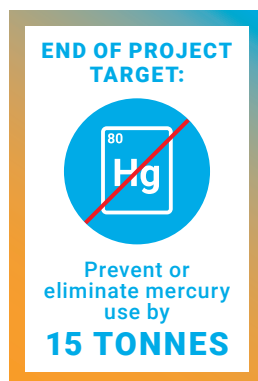
The artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector in Guyana is robust, accounting for 70% of its gold production, and it is fully legalized—a unique distinction among gold producing countries. It is also the primary source of employment and revenue for more than 15,000 people in Guyana’s hinterland, including members of local indigenous communities.

Yet challenges remain. Small-scale gold mining is a significant driver of deforestation, and the country’s largest source of mercury emissions. Many ASGM miners use mercury in the final stage of gold extraction, directly exposing themselves to hazardous fumes.



In partnership with the national government, planetGOLD Guyana is utilizing a supply chain approach to achieve 100% mercury-free mining by 2025, by:

- ▶ Transferring mercury-free technology
- ▶ Developing functional financial mechanisms
- ▶ Institutionalizing a chain of custody process, verification mechanism, and an El Dorado Gold branding scheme
- ▶ Refining national policy on responsible gold production and regulations to support a responsible gold commodity chain
- ▶ Implementing strategic communications aimed at miners, decision makers, and other actors within the supply chain



"Our team can attribute much of the progress made so far, to partnerships established with stakeholders, including those who are working on other local interventions towards the shared goal of reducing the use of mercury in Guyana's ASGM sector. That, with the opportunities facilitated by the Global Project for the child projects to interact, share ideas and experiences has proven that collaboration at all levels will continue to be invaluable."

—Ingrid Sarabo, planetGOLD Guyana Project Manager,
Conservation International

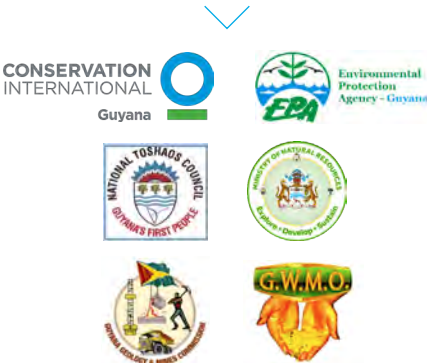
PROJECT SITES

The project is supporting ASGM communities in the following areas:

- ▶ REGION 1: Barima Waini
- ▶ REGION 7: Cuyuni Mazaruni
- ▶ REGION 8: Potaro Siparuni



EXECUTING PARTNERS



IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Core Programmatic Strategies



Formalization

- ▶ Held initial discussions with Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on the identification of laws/policies to be revised towards a more enabling environment for the ASGM sector and building capacity of national systems to implement mercury-free interventions
- ▶ Initiated process of comprehensive assessment of local legal regulatory context.



Access to Finance

- ▶ Hired consultant to develop long-term financing mechanisms for mercury-free technology suited to Guyana's ASGM sector
- ▶ Facilitated recommendations on updated Legal Framework needed to support the mechanism
- ▶ Developed proposals on tax concessions for mining operations and government guaranteed loans.



Technical Solutions

- ▶ Began developing training curricula and protocols for mercury-free mining practices within the ASGM sector in partnership with Mercer University
- ▶ Identified mercury-free mining practices and appropriate technology. The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) committed its equipment for use in at least one mercury-free demonstration.
- ▶ Established training for partners in techniques for conducting effective training on the use of new technologies, and for personnel in calibration, use and maintenance of air testing instruments.



Access to Formal Markets

- ▶ Obtained certification for “El Dorado Gold” as a brand trademark for mercury-free gold produced in Guyana
- ▶ Began identifying concessionaries and mining operations willing to collaborate with the project in producing mercury-free gold, taking into consideration planetGOLD criteria and CI safeguard requirements

FEATURED COMMUNICATIONS



[Watch the video](#)

A Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana’s ASGM Sector

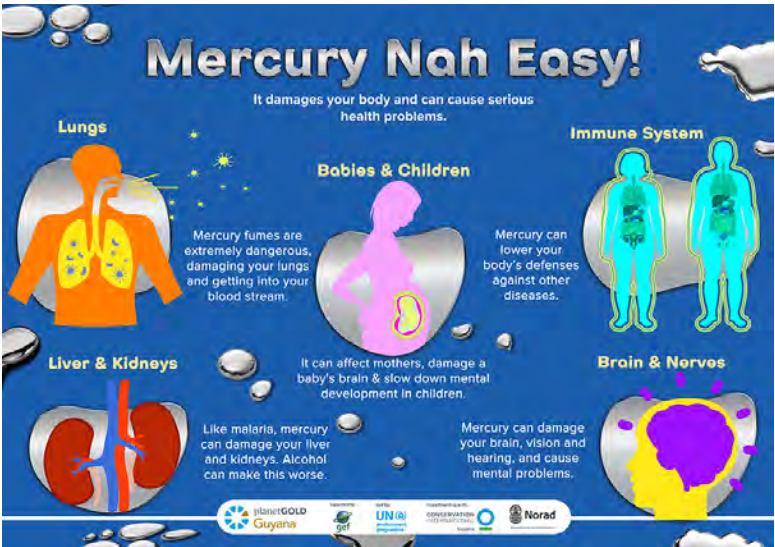
Since September 2018, the planetGOLD Guyana project has been forging new partnerships between civil society and members of the public and private sectors to coordinate efforts to reduce mercury use in the country’s ASGM sector. Get a glimpse of the project’s progress throughout its first year of implementation [in this video](#).

“I do appreciate the initiative being taken by the authorities to move away from mercury mining so that we could be mercury free and also environmentally friendly. I hope this will happen sooner than later.”

– John Phillips, Medium Scale Miner, Region 1

Mercury Awareness Raising Posters

This set of posters created by planetGOLD Guyana project provides information about the dangers of mercury exposure, health problems it can cause, and practical tips miners can take to reduce the risk of exposure for themselves and their families.





KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PLANETGOLD GUYANA

The project will conduct capacity building for the ASM sector on utilizing the ‘best-fit’ financing mechanisms. The team will engage government officials in the process of creating an enabling environment through policy revision and facilitate collaboration between financial institutions and intended beneficiaries of the mechanism.

Demonstrations of technologies designed to reduce or eliminate mercury use will be conducted, as well as demonstrations of operating instruments for monitoring mercury emissions. The project will develop practical sessions on collection and interpretation of data, equipment calibration, and maintenance. Once the activities can be carried on in the field, the team will work on the establishment of standards for Mercury Capture Systems and facilitate options for appropriate and effective Mercury Capture Systems in gold shops. The project will seek to have public health assessments conducted based on air testing, water quality testing, and community engagement.

INDONESIA



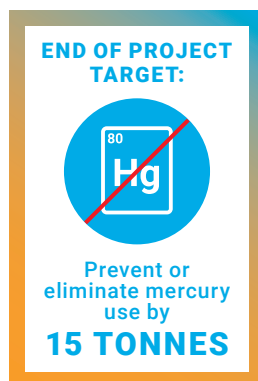
Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) has been practiced throughout Indonesia for hundreds of years, but the sector has seen exponential growth over the last two decades. Widespread use of mercury has accompanied the ASGM sector's growth, placing Indonesia among the top three global emitters of the pollutant and posing serious health risks to miners and members of their local communities.

On the other hand, ASGM and gold processing are significant sources of income for as many as 300,000 to 500,000 people in Indonesia—most of whom are miners working with informal operations in remote areas. This informality makes it difficult for the miners to access financing and cleaner technologies that could transform their operations.



In the above context, and to protect human health and the environment, planetGOLD Indonesia is working to reduce and, where possible, eliminate mercury use in the ASGM sector by:

- ▶ Strengthening institutions and policy/regulatory frameworks for mercury-free ASGM
- ▶ Establishing financing lending arrangements to provide loans for mercury-free processing technologies
- ▶ Increasing capacity for mercury-free ASGM through provision of technical assistance, technology transfer and support for formalization
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation, raising awareness and disseminating lessons learned on phasing out mercury in the ASGM sector



"One of the most important lessons we have learned so far is to consider partnership as an important way to achieve results. This can help build trust among miners and other beneficiaries, and it can accelerate results. Another invaluable lesson is to take the time to organize previous information to understand the project baseline."

—Baiq Dewi Krisnayanti, planetGOLD Indonesia Project Manager, UNDP

PROJECT SITES

The project, known locally as GOLD ISMIA, is supporting ASGM communities in:

- ▶ Kuantan Singingi District (Riau Province)
- ▶ Kulonprogo District (D.I Yogyakarta Province)
- ▶ West Lombok District (West Nusa Tenggara Province)
- ▶ North Gorontalo District (Gorontalo Province)
- ▶ North Minahasa District (North Sulawesi Province)
- ▶ South Halmahera District (North Maluku Province).



EXECUTING PARTNERS



IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Core Programmatic Strategies



Formalization

- ▶ Supported 7 mining groups to obtain the establishment permit of miners' cooperative, one of the requirements to attain a small-scale mining permit
- ▶ Established a Guideline for Development of Sub-National Action Plan on Mercury Reduction and Elimination in Indonesia and subsequently provided assistance to 6 provinces and 8 districts within the project locations in development of the Action Plan
- ▶ Submitted 13 recommendations to ministries addressing policy/regulatory needs and gaps, including a policy change allowing mining at depths up to 100 meters rather than 25 meters, a development that will benefit ASGM miners all over the country
- ▶ Trained 279 government staff (of whom 48% were females) in 6 project areas on formalization issues

I hope that GOLD-ISMIA could support the ASGM miners through training and guidance on how to use mercury-free gold processing techniques.

—Gangsar Purwo Widodo, Head of Miner Group in Kulonprogo



Access to Finance

- ▶ Made contact with 7 banks and 2 government financial institutions
- ▶ Developed 8 finance access models for consideration, involving several potential arrangements among miners' cooperatives, banks and state-owned financial entities
- ▶ Developed guidebook for financial entities to support financial access for ASGM
- ▶ Developed guidebook on business and financial management for gold miners and gold mining cooperatives
- ▶ Provided a consultant to each project site to train and assist miners for preparing loan applications

The use of mercury for gold processing is less profitable. Mercury only captures 30% of gold which is not comparable with its dangers. Not only the impacts from the mercury use on miner health but also impacts from the amalgamation tailing to the environment and global community. So please do not use mercury, there are a lot of mercury-free techniques available which are more profitable and less harmful.

—Tukiman, miner from Kulonprogo



Technical Solutions

- ▶ Documented the shifting of miners in 3 villages located in project sites (Tatelu Village, Buwun Mas Village and Obi Village) from mercury-based technology to cyanide technology that has led to an avoidance of 2.69 tonnes of mercury released per year and potential production of 440 kg of gold.
- ▶ Developed a micro-scale non-mercury gold processing prototype with capacity of 150 kg of ore, of which the initial Detail Engineering Design (DED) has been approved by the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT)
- ▶ Trained 62 miners at existing plants on non-mercury gold processing techniques, including practical on-site liberation tests



Access to Formal Markets

- ▶ Initiated partnership with PT. ANTAM (formal gold buyer in Indonesia) to buy mercury-free gold from ASGM Cooperatives supported by the project
- ▶ Initiated collaboration with the National Standardization Agency of Indonesia (BSN) in development of a national standard and certification system for mercury-free gold mined from the ASGM sector.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES:



Awareness Raising & Communications

- ▶ Conducted 15 raising awareness events for 5,890 people (3487 men, 2403 women) with information on the danger of mercury and its impact on human health and the environment
- ▶ Produced raising awareness materials that have been distributed through online and offline media
- ▶ Produced or participated in webinars on topics including gold certification, ASGM challenges in small islands, gender, more responsible mining practices, and regional project implementation
- ▶ Established a project website (goldismia.org) as a tool to disseminate project reports, publications, news items, events, photos, and video.





Gender Equity

- ▶ Finalized gender mapping at 6 project sites
- ▶ Finalized a policy brief (vol 1) to increase gender awareness in mercury reduction and elimination in the ASGM sector
- ▶ Provided gender & inclusion strategy issues on the development of Regional Action Plan for Mercury Reduction and Elimination
- ▶ Empowered artisanal women miners to eliminate mercury use and established women miners cooperative in Kuantan Singingi, Riau
- ▶ Conducted training on gender equality and related issues for relevant government entities related to ASGM (including Gender Responsive Budget, etc)
- ▶ Designed a curriculum for gender training based on appropriate technical resources based on project components
- ▶ Produced an [animated video](#) about gender concepts in ASGM

FEATURED COMMUNICATIONS

Progress Update Video

For a quick recap of the planetGOLD Indonesia project’s activities and milestones reached over the last year, view their project update video.



[Watch the video](#)

“Knowing About Gold” Video

This video depicts the impact of mercury from ASGM on human health and the environment, and the government’s support including GOLD-ISMIA project on reducing and elimination mercury from ASGM sector.



[Watch the video](#)

Comic Books

What is mercury, and what can happen if you are exposed to it? In a series of 3 comic books created by the planetGOLD Indonesia project, these topics and more are explored through animated characters teaching young audiences fundamental truths about the dangers of mercury in ASGM and how they can avoid it.



Toward Gender Equality in Indonesia

Women miners are an important part of small-scale gold mining in North Gorontalo District. Rosna, 52 years old, came from a neighboring district to find a job at a gold mining area in Hulawa. She has worked in gold mining for more than ten years using the traditional method of gold panning, Rosna pans the tailings left behind by other small-scale gold miners and ore processors, who dump their mercury-contaminated mining waste into the rivers.



[Read about Rosna](#) and other women miners' experiences in an article published for International Women's Day.



KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PLANETGOLD INDONESIA

In 2021, the project will build on the work to date, to accelerate access to finance and markets. The project will sign an agreement with the Financial Services Authority of Indonesia to formalize several of the proposed financial models developed and will begin helping miners to submit loan applications to financial entities. The project will also assist with issuing mining permits for 10 additional mining groups, and establish more miners' cooperatives including women cooperatives.

To improve the enabling environment for mercury free production the project will work on the issuance of 14 regional regulations on mercury reduction and elimination and will initiate mercury-free gold certification.

Technical training for miners will continue, and the project will work to procure a small-scale plant for miners. The project will also work on the EIA for one additional small-scale plant. The project team will continue with awareness activities at its six project sites, and will plan a media visit to an ASGM community and mercury-free gold processing plant.

Finally, the project will continue to promote gender issues within the sector, for example by launching a Guideline for Gender Mainstreaming in ASGM Management; engaging in further policy discussion on gender mainstreaming in ASGM sector, conducting gender leadership training, and carrying out health and hygiene campaigns for women miners.

KENYA



Most of Kenya's ASGM activities are carried out in rural areas near Lake Victoria, where mining and subsistence agriculture are the major ways of earning a living. There are more than 250,000 ASGM miners in the country—a number that is continually increasing as more people are recruited into gold mining as a main livelihood source. Yet miners often work in dangerous conditions with technologies for micro-scale operations that include the use of toxic substances like

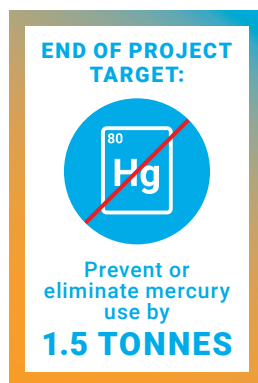


mercury. This has considerable impacts on their health and releases hazardous pollution to the environment.

With significant gold reserves that remain underexplored, Kenya's ASGM industry has the potential to become a driver of socially and environmentally responsible economic development in the western areas, promoting alternative technologies that are safe for the environment and the miners, and profitable when in use by bigger and better organized groupings.

The planetGOLD Kenya project's objective is to support the development of responsible mining, by:

- ▶ **Supporting formalization of the ASGM sector**
- ▶ **Helping miners access financing for mercury-free technologies**
- ▶ **Providing technical assistance and training on alternative technologies**
- ▶ **Raising awareness and disseminating best practices**



"I have interacted with small scale miners and seen them use toxic chemicals without protecting themselves in an effort to provide for their families. The informal state of ASGM, makes the miners get the least benefits from a very intense labor and toil. Formalization of the ASGM, Awareness on the on the health and environmental hazards of mercury needs to be addresses and provision of technology would present a great opportunity for economic development."

— **Mayiani Saino**, *planetGOLD Kenya Project Manager, UNDP*

PROJECT SITES

The project will support ASGM communities in the following proposed sites:

- ▶ Roasterman ▶ Osiri ▶ Kehancha
- ▶ Ikolomani ▶ Masara ▶ Lolgor



EXECUTING PARTNER



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTRY

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There were delays regarding the approval of the project document in 2019, to ensure all requirements related to development assistance project implementation would be included. In 2020, new logistical requirements delayed the launch of the activities and recruitments until the middle of the year, along with the COVID-19 specific situation. This was eventually solved for a launch of the project in the 3rd quarter of 2020, with a full national team on board.

Core Programmatic Strategies



Formalization

- ▶ Developing draft terms of reference for conducting a needs assessment for institutions involved in the management of ASGM and /or responsible for providing ASGM extension services to the project's priority ASGM sites.
- ▶ Developing draft terms of reference to facilitate the development of an Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF).



Access to Finance

- ▶ Developing criteria for selection of finance entities.



Technical Solutions

- ▶ Developing draft terms of reference to undertaking a socioeconomic baseline surveys and mercury/gold mass balance inventories in the priority project sites.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

- ▶ Conducted a stakeholder consultation in Lolgorian mining site
- ▶ Developed an interim work plan for use in quarter 4 of 2020
- ▶ Conducted a national inception workshop.
- ▶ Constituted steering committee and technical advisory committee





KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PLANETGOLD KENYA

Scheduled to carry out a staff induction to enable the PMU to understand their roles and responsibilities and the government and donor implementation and reporting modalities.

Planning to have an inaugural project steering committee and technical advisory committee meetings to prepare the 2021 annual work plan.

“Getting partners, support in the formalization of ASGM, access to information, financial support and technology in ASGM will improve mining safety and secure our source of income. This will enable us to afford food, health, education and even start business that will make our lives better.”

– Jeremy Moonka, miner

MONGOLIA



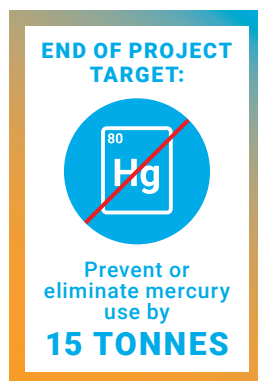
As Mongolians have transitioned to a market-oriented economy, the mining sector has become a significant driver of the country's economy and wealth—accounting for 80 percent of Mongolian exports and over 70 percent of foreign investment in the country. Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) takes place in most provinces in the country, employing 40,000-60,000 people. A third of these individuals are women, and it is estimated that ASGM indirectly supports another 120,000-180,000 people.

Despite legislative efforts to formalize and regulate the ASGM sector and banning the use of mercury, the sector is still largely informal and clandestine use of mercury continues to exist. Additional steps are needed to speed up and reinforce existing efforts to support formalization, financing options, technology enhancement, and information dissemination to facilitate sustainable development and a mercury-free ASGM sector.



The planetGOLD Mongolia project's objective is to contribute toward the elimination of mercury in the ASGM sector by applying a supply chain approach from the miners to refiners:

- ▶ Supporting formalization of the sector
- ▶ Reducing mercury releases in mining communities through improved practices
- ▶ Helping miners access financing and international gold markets
- ▶ Educating and raising awareness



"On the heels of the 10-year Sustainable Artisanal Mining project, the planetGOLD Mongolia project is poised to complement past efforts and introduce new approaches in eliminating mercury-use in ASGM. Introduction of better practices and technology, coupled with supply chain and market-based approaches that are tempered with the socio-economic realities of the ground, are key strategies under planetGOLD Mongolia. We are keen on blending the Mongolian government's experience in working with ASGM miners with the key strategies of the project to produce outcomes that benefit both the communities and environment in Mongolia."

—Richard Gutierrez, planetGOLD Mongolia Project Manager,
Artisanal Gold Council

PROJECT SITES

The project is supporting ASGM communities in the following areas:

- ▶ Gobi-Altai Province: Yusunbulag soum
- ▶ Khovd Province: Altai soum (for piloting mercury-free processing system)
- ▶ Selenge Province: Bayangol soum
- ▶ Selenge Province: Mandal soum
- ▶ Selenge Province: Tunkhel village of Mandal soum (for piloting mercury-free processing system)



EXECUTING PARTNERS



IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Core Programmatic Strategies



Formalization

- ▶ Conducted training on the Minamata Convention obligations, particularly the development of the ASGM National Action Plan for Mongolia, for 69 local government and ASGM stakeholders in Khovd and Selenge provinces.
- ▶ Conducted a combined assessment of the legal and policy framework and illicit financial flows in the ASGM sector to identify gaps and overlaps in the laws, regulations, policy, and standards.

"I have worked to formalize the ASGM community in my village for the last decade and we finally obtained the permits to mine in 2019. When it comes to processing ore, we face a challenge that the community does not have a modern mercury-free processing facility. Since I encourage and push the miners in our community to understand and instill the responsible mining practices, it will affect our years long efforts if we use outdated technology with low-recovery rates. I am hoping that our community will be a leading example of responsible mining nationwide with the support from the project."

—Ms. Myagmarsuren Dali,
Executive Director, "Baatar Vangiin Khishig Kholboo" ASM NGO



Access to Finance

- ▶ Provided technical inputs to two new regulations which were approved by the Financial Regulatory Commission (FRC) on registering and regulating gold traders and their activities (focused on supply chain, formalization, transparency, and traceability). Following approval of the new regulations, FRC has started registering and providing special licenses to gold traders. As of September 30, 2020, 389 traders have received special licenses.
- ▶ Translated and adapted the Access to Finance handbook and brochure developed by the Global project to local conditions and disseminated to the project stakeholders. The materials will assist in advocating how sustainable funding and investment can enable responsible ASM.





Technical Solutions

- ▶ Completed assessment of current gold processing technologies.
- ▶ Explored local conditions and infrastructure to build mercury-free gold processing plants and analyzed samples of ore and gold processing technology.
- ▶ Selected two project sites for the installation and piloting of mercury-free gold processing technologies and three sites for capacity building activities.
- ▶ Established a Mongolian entity, Rock Solid LLC, for equipment importation and obtaining permits for mercury-free processing technologies.



Access to Formal Markets

- ▶ Facilitated engagement between the FRC and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in developing the regulations on registering, monitoring, and control of the gold traders' activities.
- ▶ Translated the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES:



Awareness Raising & Communications

- ▶ Co-organized a photo exhibition with the Fresh Water Resource and Nature Conservancy featuring photos on the “Silent Threat of Mercury & Minamata Convention” in Khovd and Selenge provinces which gained over 1,200 visitors.
- ▶ Developed communications materials such as the planetGOLD Mongolia brochure, Access to Finance Factsheet, and the Chemical Hazards brief.
- ▶ Collaborated with the Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry (MMIH) of Mongolia to share project news, updates, promotional materials, and knowledge products to its knowledge hub.



FEATURED COMMUNICATIONS

The village of Tunkhel is leading the development of a more responsible artisanal gold mining sector in Mongolia

After many of Mongolia’s state-owned timber factories closed in the 1990s, people in the village of Tunkhel looking for new employment moved into

informal artisanal and small-scale gold mining. Following a lengthy formalization process, the leader of the local mining organization now hopes that a high-recovery mercury-free processing facility, which the planetGOLD Mongolia project is poised to pilot, will offer opportunities to all local ASGM communities and discourage clandestine use of mercury.

[Read the article to learn more.](#)



Reflecting on COVID-19 in Mongolia

Mongolia authorities took immediate action to prevent the virus entering the country by closing border crossings, suspending universities, public institutions, and public events for nearly six weeks starting in January 2020. Because of the tight restrictions the virus did not impact the artisanal mining communities as hard as other countries were impacted. Miners were at one point prohibited from traveling to their mine sites, however mining operations continued as normal and local gold prices in Mongolia were not strongly affected.

The closure of all educational institutions at all levels created a risk to women miners’ productivity. Women miners carry the double burden of caring for the children and families along with earning an income. With schools closed, female miners are faced with the choice of foregoing income to stay home and care for their children, or bringing their children to the mine site and potentially placing them at risk. [Read more reflections](#) on early impacts of COVID-19 in the blog article.





KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PLANETGOLD MONGOLIA

After completion of all preparatory work, a mercury-free gold processing system will be constructed and installed in the Tunkhel region in 2021. The team will review an alternative to cyanidation to increase further gold yield, but this is dependent on the pace of change of the regulations and acceptance of government to other lixiviation processes.

The project will develop toolkits for an ASGM investor and a business plan, within the country context. The project will conduct training and workshops to introduce and build capacity on how to use these tools.

In 2021 the project also plans to participate in the Annual Mongolia Gold Forum where they will broadcast project results to a greater audience.



3d circuit design

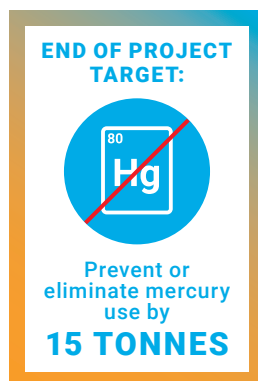
PERU



As many as 250,000 artisanal and small-scale miners operate in Peru, producing roughly one quarter of the country's gold exports. This mining activity provides critical income and immediate livelihoods for the poorest and most marginalized in several rural areas, but mercury use in their activities pollutes the environment and affects human health. Informality in the sector forces many miners to sell their gold through long and inefficient supply chains for as little as 70% of the real value.



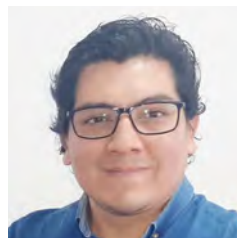
Reforming the ASGM industry in Peru is critical to protecting livelihoods while preserving the country's biodiversity and the global environment. Broad transformational change will require capacity building among miners to utilize more responsible mercury-free methods, removing barriers to formalization, and improving access to financing and responsible markets.



The planetGOLD Peru project's objective is to reduce, eliminate and/or avoid mercury use from the country's ASGM sector through:

- ▶ Strengthening institutions and the regulatory framework for mercury-free ASGM
- ▶ Establishing financing lending arrangements to provide loans for mercury free processing equipment
- ▶ Providing technical assistance, technology transfer and support for formalization
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation, awareness raising, capturing and disseminating experiences, lessons-learned and best practices

"Introducing the project to senior beneficiaries in our project regions has led to a collaboratively constructed work plan that is tailored to the realities of each region. Given the situation with COVID-19, this fluid communication with key stakeholders has enabled us to gather critical information at this early stage of the project, even despite not having a presence in the field."



—**Franco Arista Rivera**, planetGOLD Peru National Coordinator, UNDP

PROJECT SITES

The project will support ASGM communities in the following regions:

- ▶ AREQUIPA REGION: Condesuyos (Yanaquihua), Caravelí (Huanuhuanu, Cháparra)
- ▶ PUNO REGION: San Antonio de Putina (Ananea)
- ▶ PIURA REGION: Ayabaca (Paimas, Suyu, Sapollica)



EXECUTING PARTNERS



IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Core Programmatic Strategies



Formalization

- ▶ Selected 4 mining groups and 1 women's group in the Puno region; selected 1 women's group in the Arequipa region
- ▶ Trained 476 miners in formalization topics
- ▶ Provided support to local governments in the formalization process



Access to Finance

- ▶ Began a study on the development of financial mechanisms for the ASM sector and barriers to accessing credit
- ▶ Met with officials from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Social Inclusion and Development, COFIDE development bank, the Association of Banks (ASBANC), the Superintendence of Banking, Insurance and Pension Fund Administrators (SBS) and the National Savings and Credit Cooperatives Federation (FENACREP) to develop financial strategy



Technical Solutions

- ▶ Conducted research about national and international providers of mercury-free technology
- ▶ Provided support to optimize the processing plant for some alluvial mining organizations
- ▶ Trained project team on topics related to mercury management



Access to Formal Markets

- ▶ Started work to support the development of a gold traceability system, with the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MINEM)
- ▶ Contacted key actors (Fairmined, Fairtrade, and Better Gold Initiative) to understand conditions for certified ASGM gold
- ▶ Supported 6 government institutions in the formulation, development and implementation of political initiatives for greater control and traceability of gold from ASGM
- ▶ Trained project team on the planetGOLD criteria for socially and environmentally responsible operations and on fair trade of gold

ADDITIONAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES:



Awareness Raising & Communications

- ▶ Supported the national government in conducting 10 socialization workshops on the National Action Plan for ASGM, with a total of approximately 570 participants in the cities of Piura, Nasca, Arequipa, Chala, Puno, Juliaca, Puerto Maldonado, and Lima
- ▶ Initiated process to develop a study for sensitization and awareness raising about mercury use in ASGM, identifying target audiences, their existing knowledge and attitudes, the most promising strategies to persuade actors to reduce mercury use, and a tailored outreach plan
- ▶ Organized webinars and virtual workshops to improve knowledge of ASM and highlight current gaps and opportunities in the sector



FEATURED COMMUNICATIONS

“ASGM without COVID19” Campaign & Analysis

In June 2020, the planetGOLD Peru project and a coalition of other organizations launched a campaign called [“MAPE sin COVID-19”](#) (ASGM without COVID-19) aimed at spreading information about health and safety precautions to miners during the gradual reactivation of mining activities in the country. Campaign materials include a health booklet, a series of posters and banners, a video, radio ads, and sticker packs for WhatsApp messages.

The project team also produced an article and fact sheet analyzing the economic impacts of the health emergency on the ASGM sector, and issuing recommendations for the responsible restarting of mining activity. Read the article in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)



[Watch the video](#)



[View all materials on the campaign webpage](#)



During the pandemic, planetGOLD Peru supported the women miner organization “Four Hour” in Arequipa with the elaboration of a work plan that includes prevention protocols against COVID-19 so they could restart their activities.

Virtual workshops on ASGM

Throughout 2020 the planetGOLD Peru project produced and participated in webinars and virtual workshops to improve knowledge of ASM, to draw attention to its main productive, economic, financial, and social gaps, and to present opportunities for the sector.

Topics covered include:

- ▶ [Fair trade of gold](#)
- ▶ [A focus on gender in ASGM during COVID19](#)
- ▶ [Certification seals for ASGM](#)
- ▶ [Fairtrade gold in small-scale mining](#)
- ▶ [OECD due diligence in supply chains](#)



[Watch the recording on fair trade gold](#)



"For five years the cooperative has been working as a formal ASGM, we hope that other mining organizations can also formalize. Our vision is to keep improving, for the well-being of our workers and associates, also conducting a responsible mine closure. In this sense, it would be good for us to have knowledge of mercury-free technologies to avoid polluting the environment."

—Bruno Flores, Oro Sur miner (Puno-Peru)

KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PLANETGOLD PERU

Over the next reporting period, the planetGOLD Peru team will complete a study on supply and demand of credit for the development of financial mechanisms—the first financial study in the Peruvian ASGM sector. Based on the results, the project will sign MOUs with financial entities, create financial products and services, implementing pilots with some mining organizations.

Likewise, the diagnosis of awareness for the project and the socioeconomic study with a gender perspective will begin. In October the project will release a national awareness campaign about mercury and an international symposium in commemoration of the Minamata Convention signed by Peru in 2013.

At the regional level, the project plans to support the government with ASGM economic reactivation and formalization processes, providing technical assistance and strengthening capacities of functionaries and miners. At the national level, the project will support the development of regulations, ASGM formalization, and certification process. Also, planetGOLD Peru will share relevant information with miners using technological tools.

The project will develop a digital platform to integrate with the Ministry of Energy and Mines' RECPO database (Special registration of gold traders and processors) to identify in real time information such as sellers, buyers, type of gold, and resources or methods used in production of the gold. The project will support the normative and legal frame to make this tool a requirement for selling.

With a focus on adapting technology to mineral deposits, the project will first carry out geological studies and metallurgical analysis. This will assist in the optimization of the mining operation and can guide the development of business plans to increase production with mercury-free technology.

PHILIPPINES



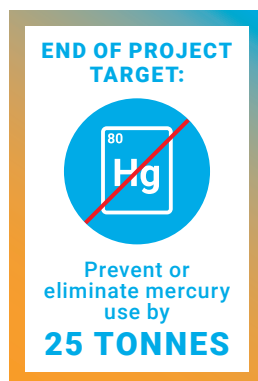
The artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector employs about 300,000-500,000 miners in more than 30 provinces across the country. The Philippines is among the top 20 producers of gold worldwide with seventy percent of its gold produced by artisanal and small-scale miners. In addition, the ASGM sector indirectly supports the livelihood of 2 million people by setting up complementary businesses that support mining operations which have allowed local communities to flourish.

However, many artisanal and small-scale miners still use mercury in the gold extraction process—generating the country’s largest source of mercury emissions while directly exposing themselves, their families, and communities to the highly toxic substance.



The objective of planetGOLD Philippines is to contribute toward the elimination of mercury in the ASGM sector by applying a value chain approach from the miners to refiners:

- ▶ Supporting formalization of the sector
- ▶ Reducing mercury releases in mining communities through improved practices
- ▶ Helping miners access financing and international gold markets
- ▶ Educating and raising awareness



"The Philippine government has taken strong strides in addressing mercury pollution. From its pioneering work in piloting the UNEP National Plan on Mercury Reduction in ASGM guidance to prohibiting the use of dental amalgam on children and women of childbearing age.

The planetGOLD project continues in this trajectory and presents an opportunity for the country to push the development envelope and address the issues of mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining utilizing supply chain and market-based tools. planetGOLD highlights the culmination of the best ideas in addressing mercury-use in ASGM, and we are honoured to partner with the Philippine government in tackling mercury-use and professionalizing the ASGM sector."



**—Richard Gutierrez, planetGOLD Philippines Project Manager,
Artisanal Gold Council**

PROJECT SITES

The project is validating sites in the following areas:

- ▶ Baranggay Loacan, Itogon, Benguet
- ▶ Baranggay Bayugan 3, Rosario, Agusan Del Sur
- ▶ Baranggay Sta. Cruz, Rosario, Agusan del Sur
- ▶ Baranggay Bulo, Buenavista Quezon
- ▶ Baranggay Casalugan, Paracale, Camarines Norte



EXECUTING PARTNERS



IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Core Programmatic Strategies



Formalization

- ▶ Proceeding with activities leading to the assessment of the legal framework governing the ASGM sector in the country, including the compilation of relevant national and local policies
- ▶ Participated in the 1st National Assembly of Philippine National Coalition for ASGM where the draft ASGM National Action Plan and proposed amendments to RA 7076 (Philippine Small-Scale Mining Law) were presented
- ▶ Prepared the agreement with the Philippine government on the issuance of legal bases for the formalization of the planetGOLD project implementation in the country

"We look forward to the different kinds of assistance the project can provide especially in terms of resources and conduct of awareness campaigns. Establishing a centralized processing facility will also definitely empower small scale miners in terms of technological advances and financial management."

- Panfilo Dobluis, *President of BSCSSMARADS and Agusan Del Sur Small-Scale Miners Federation President*



Access to Finance

- ▶ Conducted preliminary assessment and discussions with stakeholders on a model business plan template that would be applicable to the Philippines
- ▶ Capacity-building activities for small scale mining organizations and government officials will commence once project sites are finalized by the Project Steering Committee



Technical Solutions

- ▶ Conducted 5 site assessment activities and developed analytical reports for each site
- ▶ Developed preliminary design of the processing facility considering the mineralogy of the sites and prevailing practices, notably the prevalence of cyanide use in the Philippines
- ▶ Accomplished preparatory activities for the conduct of contextual studies in project sites



Access to Formal Markets

- ▶ Coordinated with the Central Bank of the Philippines, known as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), on revisions in BSP policies and regulations for gold trading
- ▶ Conducted preparatory work to translate and simplify the CRAFT Code guide local government officials and stakeholders

"We hope the project can help in modernizing our current practices and technologies to further reduce health risks and employ a more efficient and profitable gold production. Rest assured that we are willing to cooperate and work with your organization"

- Ms. Nancy, Pollution Control Officer from Buenavista, Quezon

ADDITIONAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES:



Awareness Raising & Communications

- ▶ Gained 415 followers on the project Facebook page, with 28,366 people reached and 2,716 engagements from 30 posts since November 2019
- ▶ Published 3 articles on the planetGOLD.org website regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the Philippine ASGM sector, gendered impact of the pandemic in a specific small-scale mining community, and how ASGM operations can help develop rural communities
- ▶ Developed a comprehensive communications plan identifying appropriate key messages, approaches, and mediums for various target audiences
- ▶ Developed and disseminated brochures and fact sheets to local stakeholders during site assessment activities

“Partnering with the planetGOLD project will help our association advance in the field of small-scale gold mining especially with the project’s assistance in identifying better ore processing techniques and facilitation to formal markets.”

Edwin Villaflores, Vice President, Samahan ng Maralitang
Magkakabod ng Camarines Norte

FEATURED COMMUNICATIONS

Women and COVID-19 in an artisanal gold mining community: Gender impacts in the Philippines

Although small-scale mining (SSM) is considered a male-dominated industry, many women also participate in this sector by taking informal, part-time, seasonal, and low-paying roles. The women who work in the SSM industry in Itogon are normally in charge of ore processing. However, due to the threat of COVID-19, the local government followed the national directive to implement the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) starting mid-March 2020.



Women miners sack ore at Itogon Benguet processing plant

While necessary, the ECQ had a major impact on gold production which then affected family income. Many women did not have alternative options outside of mineral processing. And while farming is sometimes an alternative livelihood option, costs associated with transporting and selling produce make it difficult for women to earn a profit. [Read more reflections](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on women miners in the Philippines.



COVID-19 Preventive Measures for the Artisanal Gold Sector

This set of posters developed by the Artisanal Gold Council was translated to Filipino by the planetGOLD Philippines project team to raise awareness on COVID-19 among artisanal and small-scale gold miners. One poster focuses on preventive measures at the mining site, while the other poster provides general information about COVID-19.

[View the posters in Filipino.](#)



KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR PLANETGOLD PHILIPPINES

The team will conduct capacity building activities on the Minamata Convention, OECD Due Diligence Guidelines, and gender-responsive policies to national and local government officials

The project also aims to develop an appropriate social enterprise business model for the ASGM community in selected project areas.

In 2021 the project aims to introduce efficient mercury-free processing facilities in at least one of the project sites.



CHAPTER

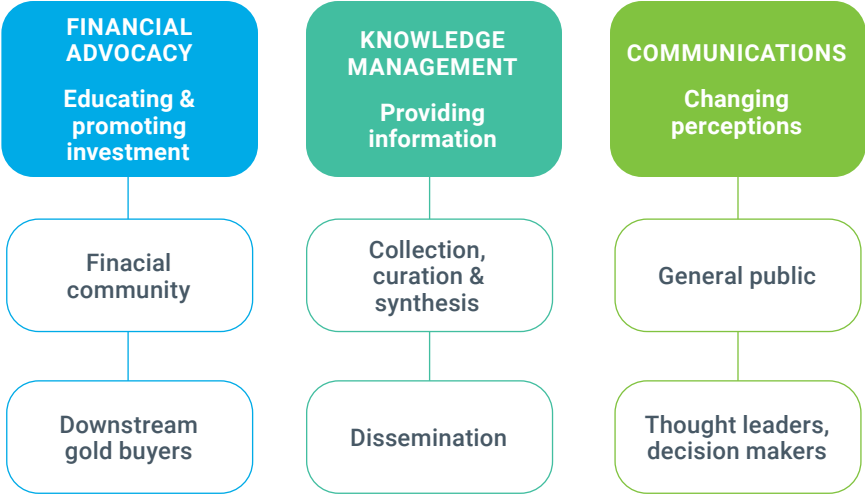
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GLOBAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

P

LANETGOLD'S GLOBAL PROJECT HAS THREE PRIMARY AIMS:

(1) promoting investment in ASGM through education and connection with the international finance community; (2) disseminating relevant information about the program and about ASGM issues generally to the global community of practice; and (3) communicating about ASGM with the goal of improving public perceptions of the sector.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Promoting Financing and Investment

- ▶ Hosted an informational booth at the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference in both 2019 and 2020, to network, provide education on the ASGM sector, and introduce planetGOLD to potential investors and to a broader finance community.



Promoting Financing and Investment

- ▶ Organized a session on ASGM at the 2019 SOCAP (Social Capital Markets) Global Annual Conference, a major gathering of social entrepreneurs, investors, foundations, nonprofits, government, academia and the private sector.
- ▶ Conducted research on access to finance, including a review of past efforts to increase access to ASGM, and research on existing barriers to finance. Two reports and one issue brief synthesizing this research were disseminated widely and published on the planetGOLD website.



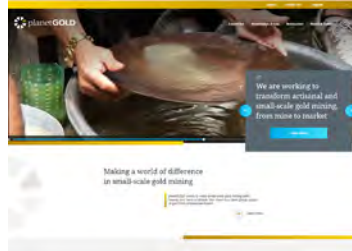
- ▶ Designed a financial assessment model for ASGM operations and a business plan template.
- ▶ Initiated the Finance Access Network (FAN), a collective of finance experts within the planetGOLD programme to refine and pilot tools, and exchange information and experiences.



Developing and Sharing Knowledge

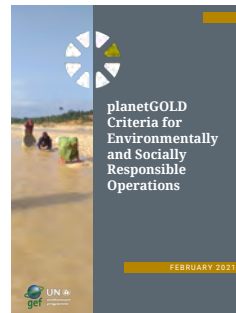
planetGOLD.org website

- ▶ Launched the planetGOLD website, the key mechanism for knowledge sharing (see planetgold.org) in November 2019. As of October 2020, the site had over 14,000 visitors, more than 270 curated resources (and growing) about finance, technology and formalization, and 55+ News items and “Voices” articles published.



Due diligence criteria and supply chain

- ▶ Created the [planetGOLD Criteria for Environmentally and Socially Responsible Operations](#) to help position the planetGOLD programme participants to meet relevant environmental and social standards. These criteria are aligned with OECD Due Diligence Guidance and the Code of Risk-mitigation for ASM engaging in Formal Trade (CRAFT).
- ▶ Hosted two trainings conducted by the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) on the CRAFT Code with planetGOLD country project managers.



Developing and Sharing Knowledge

- ▶ Co-hosted “ASGM and the Jewelry Sector” workshop with Ethical Metalsmiths in Chicago, attended by jewelers, NGOs and miner representatives to discuss implementation approaches and collaboration.
- ▶ Created a webpage dedicated to due diligence resources for downstream and upstream actors.

Program Meetings

- ▶ Organized monthly calls among project managers for information sharing and exchange.
- ▶ Organized Annual Programme Meetings in 2019 (in person) and 2020 (virtually) among all where country project managers shared their past accomplishments and elaborated on their plans for the coming year.



“Reducing mercury use in ASGM requires bringing people together from very different spheres – miners, local communities, gold buyers, engineers, financiers, governments – and providing a space for effective collaboration. The global component of planetGOLD has been working to create such a space, through enhanced communication and sharing of experience, forging a common purpose of making ASGM responsible, professional, and profitable.”

—Susan Egan Keane, planetGOLD Global Coordinator, Natural Resources Defense Council



Communicating and Raising Awareness

- ▶ Created a suite of brand assets that were widely taken up across all participants in the programme, including logos, icon graphics, a style guide, and customizable templates for materials such as fact sheets, reports, event banners, and presentation slides.



- ▶ Created additional assets including: a live action overview video, an animated “explainer” video, brochures for the programme and each country project.





[Watch the 3-minute overview](#)

- ▶ Produced quarterly email newsletters and announcements, as well as social media kits for dissemination to programme participants and partners.
- ▶ Published original content on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube accounts managed by the global project.
- ▶ Published an [issue brief](#) and [case studies](#) based on a report commissioned on best practices in communicating about ASGM.



Communicating and Raising Awareness

- ▶ Commissioned and published dozens of updates and commentary on the programme website, including guest articles from the [Minamata Convention on Mercury Secretariat](#) and the [GEF Secretariat](#), several reflections on the impacts of COVID-19 in planetGOLD countries, and posts on relevant topics for [International Women's Day](#), [International Day for Biological Diversity](#), and [World Environment Day](#).
- ▶ Supported a [side event](#) at the 3rd Conference of Parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, organized by the GEF on key issues related to formalization, finance, and mercury-free technologies. Through a set of videos, the event brought miners' voices to the COP to identify practical issues and barriers in reducing or eliminating mercury in ASGM.
- ▶ Sponsored an exhibit to introduce planetGOLD to the more than 500 delegates from over 160 countries present at the COP.

PROGRAMME ADVISORY GROUP

The global project convenes a Programme Advisory Group (PAG) composed of external advisors working in: financial services or investment; academia; downstream buying; and government/ intergovernmental organizations. The PAG provides an outside perspective on relevant areas of planetGOLD activities and suggests constructive approaches for shaping programme activities in the future. The PAG also acts as a coordination mechanism by identifying where common efforts are being undertaken in the global community and suggesting how such efforts could be leveraged. A full list of PAG members is found in the Appendix.



FUTURA

JEWELRY

"As a jewelry industry leader, once I discovered the truth about mercury emissions and small scale gold mining, I was overcome with an overwhelming desire to get involved and contribute to solving the problem."

—Robert Donofrio,
Futura Jewelry



ITALPREZIOSI®

"Collaboration and synergy with all the entities involved in the supply chain is the key for achieving a more sustainable and equal supply chain."

—Alice Vanni, Italpreziosi



MWAMBA

The PAG provides Mwamba the opportunity to develop a mutually beneficial model of collaboration between large-scale mining and ASGM that creates positive outcomes for people and the environment."

—Ed Cornew, Mwamba



LEVIN SOURCES

"planetGOLD holds tremendous potential to contribute not only to reduction of mercury pollution but to the wider formalization and sustainability of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector. Our participation in the planetGOLD PAG aligns with our own agenda to contribute to positive social and environmental outcomes across the sector."

—Adam Rolfe, Levin Sources

SBGA SWISS BETTERGOLD ASSOCIATION

"The SBGA and the PAG are focusing on the same objective and goal – to make small-scale gold mining safer, cleaner, and more profitable. We are delighted to contribute to this collective effort toward upgrading the practices of 10-20 million small-scale gold miners, boosting their productivity and significantly reducing global mercury pollution."

—Diana Culillas,
Swiss Better Gold Association



"Pact's experience supporting development in ASM around the world for more than a decade brings evidence based experience to the PAG. Responding effectively to challenges present in ASM requires a multitude of skills and perspectives, and the PAG helps to provide this."

—Daniel Stapper, Pact

KEY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR THE GLOBAL PROJECT

Over the next reporting period, the planetGOLD global project will continue to work toward all project goals, including:

Promoting Financing and Investment

- ▶ Refine financial and business planning tools to suit full range of country circumstances
- ▶ Continue outreach to the financial sector, targeting partnerships with impact investors, as well as with refiners and other downstream gold buyers
- ▶ Create training about ASGM fundamentals aimed at finance professionals
- ▶ Help roll out implementation of due diligence, to help de-risk investment and improve access to formal markets

Developing and Sharing Knowledge

- ▶ Continue to curate and synthesize the latest knowledge and global experience on the ASGM sector, and provide platform for exchange, through the planetGOLD website
- ▶ Host webinars and in-person global forum (assuming COVID-19 restrictions are lifted) for direct discussion and exchange of knowledge on finance, supply chains and mercury free technology transfer

Communicating and Raising Awareness

- ▶ Provide a more balanced public narrative on ASGM and its positive development potential, through multimedia website stories, social media, and earned media



CHAPTER

6

LOOKING AHEAD

AS THE WORLD PREPARES TO EMERGE FROM THE COVID-19 pandemic emergency in the coming year, the planetGOLD programme will focus on assisting the ASGM sector to re-activate, by identifying needed mercury-free technology, brokering finance mechanisms and working with governments to create more favorable regulations, while still holding ASGM operations accountable to the high planetGOLD environmentally and socially responsible operating criteria.

Our private sector partners, both those in upstream finance as well as those in the downstream gold supply chain, will continue to play a vital role in providing relevant stakeholder perspectives and helping to open avenues to the formal gold markets in the long run.

A NEW PHASE FOR PLANETGOLD

In June 2020 at the GEF 58th Council Meeting, the GEF Council approved the concept for a new programme that will add eight countries and nearly \$44 million USD to planetGOLD. The programme will additionally leverage co-financing of over \$202 million USD from national governments, GEF agencies, international and national civil society organizations, bilateral development agencies and multilateral finance institutions, and the private sector.





BOLIVIA

\$6,583,500



GHANA

\$6,350,000



HONDURAS

\$4,000,000



MADAGASCAR

\$4,971,750



NIGERIA

\$3,850,000



REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO

\$2,700,000



SURINAME

\$5,250,000



UGANDA

\$5,500,000





Bolivia, Congo, Ghana, Honduras, Madagascar, Nigeria, Suriname, and Uganda will join the current set of nine countries in planetGOLD working to make artisanal and small-scale gold mining safer, cleaner, and more profitable from the mine to the market. This second phase of planetGOLD will continue to work within the four knowledge areas of the programme, with a particular focus on promoting holistic, multisectoral, and integrated approaches to formalization. It will pilot place-based approaches to sustainability known as jurisdictional approaches, which focus on areas defined by local administrative boundaries, and that reconcile social, economic and environmental objectives through multi-stakeholder participation and government engagement.

This second phase of planetGOLD is expected to start within the next year and run through 2025. The programme will be led by Conservation International and implemented together with UN Environment Programme, UN Industrial Development Organization, and UN Development Programme.

Details on this upcoming expansion of planetGOLD can be found in the GEF project database: [Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector Plus - GEF GOLD+](#)

PLANETGOLD ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT APPENDIX

THE PLANETGOLD GLOBAL TEAM & PARTNERS

The planetGOLD programme is implemented thanks to the commitment, creativity, and efforts of a large group of individuals in the implementing and executing agencies, as well as in the national government agencies. The lists of people shown in the following pages include the names of the core individuals, teams, and partners that are officially involved with the programme. We also acknowledge and extend sincere gratitude to all others who may not be named here, but who have had a helping hand in planetGOLD's activities and achievements thus far.

In alphabetical order

GEF Secretariat – Anil Sookdeo, Evelyn Swain

Implementing Partners:

UNEP—Lead Agency Core Team: Ludovic Bernaudat, Kenneth Davis, Malgorzata Stylo

Conservation International Implementing Agency Core Team: Free de Koning, Courtney McGeachy

UNIDO Implementing Agency Core Team: Rocío Fernández García, Hedy Roversi, Jérôme Stucki

UNDP Implementing Agency Core Team: Anderson Alves, Etienne Gonin, Monica Gaba Kapadia, Kasper Koefoed, Paloma Somohano

External Programme Advisory Group:

Miranda Werstiuk, OCIM Precious Metals (Chair): Rodges Ankrah, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership; Priya Bala-Miller, Palmyra Partners; Yves Bertran, Alliance for Responsible Mining; Eduard Cornew, Mwamba Mining; Diana Culillas, Swiss Better Gold Association; Jane Dennison, US Department of State; Bob Donofrio, Futura Jewelry; Luis Fernandez, CINCIA/Wake Forest University; Anna Loucah, Anna Loucah Jewelry; Louis Maréchal; Adam Rolfe, Levin Sources; Daniel Stapper, Pact; Phaedon Stamatopoulos, Argor Heraeus; Alice Vanni, Italtrepreziosi

Executing Partners:

GLOBAL PROJECT:

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – Mona Avalos, Susan Egan Keane, Marilyn Martinez, Jennifer Wilmore Scroggins; **Communications Subcontractor**

Arrowhead Films: Max Anderson, Mita Hernandez, Cheryl Fries, Patrick Fries;

Financial Outreach Subcontractor Artisanal Gold Council: Firas Abbasi, Kevin Telmer

COUNTRIES

BURKINA FASO

Project management team:

Moussa Bouboucari - National Project Coordinator

Adama Ouedraogo – Mineral Processing Engineer and Field Coordinator

Janvier Dabire – National Finance Specialist

Anna Bugmann – National Policy and Supply Chain Analyst

Sadraki Yabre – National Policy Analyst

Kenneth Porter – Project Manager – Artisanal Gold Council

National stakeholders:

Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change:

- Minister: M. Batio BASSIERE
- General Secretary: Joseph YOUMA
- General Directorate of Environmental Preservation: Désiré OUEDRAOGO
- Director of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Risks: Roger BARO (focal point for the Minamata Convention on Mercury)

Ministry of Mines and Quarries:

- Minister: Oumarou IDANI
- General Secretary: Sétou COMPAORE
- National Supervisory Agency of Artisanal and Semi-Mechanized Exploitation (ANEEMAS): Salfo Trahoré



COLOMBIA

Project management team:

Jimena Puyana Erazo - Focal point and Project Director, UNDP

Diego Olarte - Monitoring and follow up advisor, UNDP

UNDP and planetGOLD Team:

Liliana Alvarado Flórez - National Project Coordinator

Manuel Hurtado González - Specialist in financial inclusion strategy

Germán Marquínez Casas - Specialist in clean technologies strategy and ASGM

Mónica Galeano Velasco - Specialist in gender mainstream

Karen Álvarez Riascos - Professional - Regional liaison in Cauca

Aslam Maday Real González - Administrative and financial assistant

Juan Manuel Chavarría - Specialist in communication and knowledge management

Main government partners:

Ministry of Mines and Energy (Executing Partner):

Sandra Rocío Sandoval - Vice Minister of Mines and Project Manager

Libia Fernanda Polanía - Technical focal point

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Supporting partner):

Alex José Saer - Director of environmental affairs

Elías Pinto - Technical focal point

Ministry of Health and Social Protection (Supporting partner):

Jairo Hernández - Deputy Director of Environmental Health (In charge)

Yady González - Technical focal point



ECUADOR

Project management team:

Isabel Garzón, Coordinator National Program for Chemical Management, UNDP
Luis Tapia, Mining Expert, National Program for Chemical Management, UNDP
Carolina Moncayo, Communication Technician, National Program for Chemical Management, UNDP

Diana Cabrera, Monitoring Technician, National Program for Chemical Management, UNDP

Gabriela Albuja, Project Monitoring Specialist, UNDP

Mario Rodas, Programme Officer at UNDP Ecuador and planetGOLD Coordinator

Main government partners:

Ministry of Environment and Water (MAAE)

Ministry of Energy and Non Renewable Natural Resources (MERNNR)

Geology and Energy Research Institute (IIGE)

Central Bank of Ecuador (BCE)



Mario Rodas (far left) and Luis Tapia (far right) with a mining leader and Liliana Alvarado, planetGOLD Colombia Project Manager (second from right)

GUYANA

Project management team:

Ingrid Sarabo – Project Director

Dayshawn Billingy – Technical Officer

Kazia Watson – Safeguards Coordinator

Kristia Ramlagan – Communications Coordinator

Main government partners:

Ministry of Natural Resources

Guyana Geology & Mines Commission

Environmental Protection Agency



Kazia Watson, Kristia Ramlagan, and Dayshawn Billingy

INDONESIA

Project management team:

- National Project Director (NPD): Ir. Yun Insiani, M.Sc.
- Deputy National Project Director (DNPD): Dr. Ir. Rudi Nugroho, M.Eng
- National Project Manager: Baiq Dewi Krisnayanti
- Working Group 1 and 3 Coordinator: Jatu Arum Sari
- Working Group 2 Coordinator: Singgih Seno Aji
- Working Group 4 Coordinator: Harti Ningsih
- Gender and Community Development Associate: Dzul Afifah Arifin
- Project Associate: Khairul Amri
- Procurement Assistant: Agneta Silvia
- Field Facilitators: Ria Camelia, Anggit Priadmodjo, Yusrin Afandi, Muslim Nur Widodo, Teuku Yunansah, Stephanie Natalia Mapeliey
- Project Clerks: Mochamad Rulli Munajat, Irma Widiastari, Witari Astriani

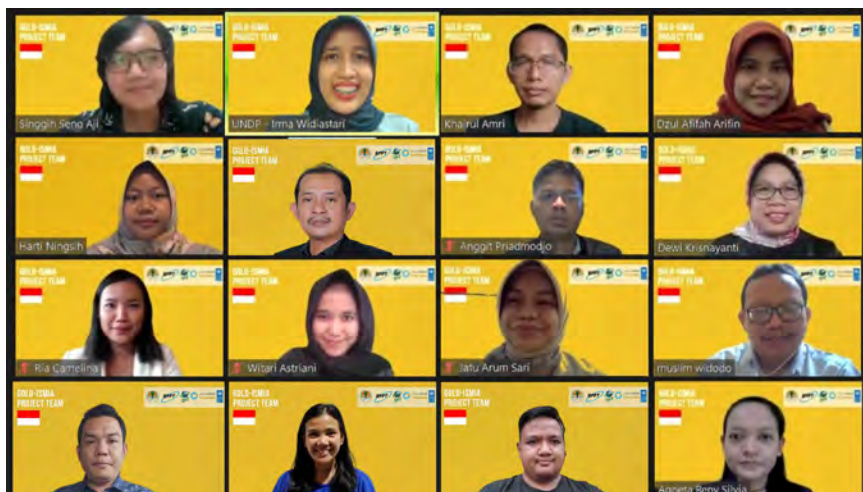
Other key individuals and teams:

- Rosa Vivien Ratnawati, SH., MSD., Director General of Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Substance Management, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia
- Agus Prabowo, Head of Environment Unit, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Anton Sri Probiyantono, Senior Programme Manager, UNDP
- Prof. Christopher Anderson, GOLD-ISMIA Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) Consultant from Massey University in New Zealand
- Yayasan Tambuhak Shinta (YTS) Team
- PACT Institute Team
- LAPI ITB Team
- Sucofindo Indonesia Team
- TEKMIIRA Team
- Kiroyan Partner Team
- All Individual Consultants GOLD-ISMIA Project

Main government partners:

- Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF): Engaged in management area as project board and National Project Director (NPD). All implementation activities are under MOEF coordination and approval. MoEF is also the leading Government agency on mercury elimination and reduction in Indonesia.
- Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT): is leading the implementation of Component 3 related to mercury phase-out from ASGM and establishment of mercury-free technology
- Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MoEMR): responsible for reviewing existing regulations on ASGM in Indonesia and also the leading Government agency for formalization process of ASGM.
- Ministry of Health: Engaged with project as a resource agency for awareness raising activities on the impacts of mercury to human health.

- Ministry of Cooperatives and Small-Scale and Medium Enterprises: responsible for the facilitation, and support for partnership between the project and miners' cooperatives and financial entities i.e. Village Fund (BumDes) and PIP.
- National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS)
- Ministry of Finance (Directorate of loans and grants)



KENYA

Project Management Team:

Saino Mayiani, Project Manager
 John Mumbo, National Technical Advisor
 Convine Nyamwea, Project Regional Officer, Migori
 Henry Ngilu, Project Regional Officer, Kakamega
 Patrick Kiprono, Finance Officer
 Sharon Chelengat Assistant Project Manager
 Ruth Epwoka, Communication Officer

Main government partners:

Ministry of Petroleum and Mining
 Ministry of Health
 Ministry of National Treasury and Planning
 Council of Governors
 Counties of Kakamega, Vihiga, Migori, Narok



Dr. John Mumbo (Technical Advisor), Sharon Chelangat (Program Assistant), Henry Nyamai (Regional Project Officer), Maiyani Saino (Program Manager), Cyrus Mageria (Ag. Director MEAs), Convine Omondi (Regional Project Officer), Ruth Epwoka (Communications Officer), Dr. Lucy Ng'ang'a (Deputy Director MEAs) and Patrick Kiprono (Finance Officer)

MONGOLIA

Project Management Team:

Altanbagana Bayarsaikhan, National Project Manager
 Chimedregzen Sanduijav, Project Manager Assistant
 Khishgee Dondov, Field Coordinator & Community Relations Specialist
 Dulguun Mijiddorj, Investment Specialist
 Khishigsuren Lkhagva, M&E Specialist
 Enkhbileg Sandag, Gender Specialist
 Byambasuren Odgerel, Technologist Engineer
 Namuun Tsegmid, Communications Assistant
 Urankhaich Khishigjargal, Finance Expert
 Munkhtseren Togtokhsuren, Finance Assistant

Main Government Partners:

Ministry of Environment and Tourism
 Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry
 Ministry of Finance
 Ministry of Health
 Bank of Mongolia
 Mineral Resources and Petroleum Agency
 Financial Regulatory Committee
 Artisanal and Small-scale Mining National Federation

Governor's offices of Selenge, Khovd, Gobi-Altai provinces
Governor's offices of Mandal, Bayangol, Altai and Yusunbulag soums and
Tunkhel village



PERU

Project management team:

Franco Arista – National Coordinator

Jonatan Soto – Regional Coordinator Puno

Javier Yrigoyen – Regional Coordinator Arequipa

William Quea – Regional Coordinator Piura

Janeth Lazarte – Communication Specialist

Sandra Guzmán - Gender Specialist

Nicolás Chávez - Project Administrator

Main government partners:

Ministry of Environment

Ministry of Energy and Mines

United Nations Development Programme

Regional Directorate of Energy and Mines Puno

Regional Management of Energy and Mines Arequipa

Regional Directorate of Energy and Mines Piura

National Institute of Health



Janeth Lazarte (Communications Specialist), Sandra Guzmán (Gender Specialist), Holger Ccari (DREM Puno Regional Director), Franco Arista (National Coordinator), Jonatan Soto (Puno Regional Coordinator)

PHILIPPINES

Project team:

Abigail Ocate, National Project Manager

Henry Salvado, Field Coordinator and Community Relations Specialist

Michelle Manza, National Project Manager Assistant

Emmaleeh Pequit, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Louie Bedes, Mining Technologist

Kristal Jaylo, Investment Specialist

Jacklyn Belo-Enricoso, Gender Specialist

Albert Aserios, Finance Expert

Peter Espiritu, Finance Assistant

Government partners:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Analiza Rebutla-Teh, GEF Operational Focal Point

DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau Acting Director Atty. Wilfredo Moncano





Cover photo: Participants in a train-the-trainer field day at a mine site in Ecuador



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