

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

## **WHO LAUNCH OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**



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

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

*Project completed December 2019*

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

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

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

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Stakeholders determined 4 priorities for public health strategies:

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

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

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

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

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Conditions for success include:

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

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## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

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

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

**THANK YOU**



World Health  
Organization