Reducing Mercury in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining

**WHY MERCURY IS USED IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING**

1. Investors view the sector as high risk.
2. Establish inventory of the sector.
3. Establish strategy for formalizing the sector.
4. Set targets for reducing mercury pollution.

**CHALLENGES OF THE SECTOR**

1. Difficult to put in place due diligence across the supply chain because gold is a fungible commodity and difficult to trace.
2. Miners have limited or no access to international gold market.
3. Gold buyers do not know how to buy gold directly from the sector.

**ALTERNATIVES TO MERCURY**

- **GRAVIMETRIC SEPARATION**
  - Separating the gold from the ore using panning, sluicing, centrifuges.

- **CHEMICAL EXTRACTION**
  - Extracting gold through external service providers.

**WHY IS IT HARD TO FORMALIZE THE SECTOR?**

1. Miners operate in remote areas.
2. Mining legislation is not adapted to this sector.
3. Land ownership is a source of conflict with mining companies.
4. Little or no enforcement of legislation because of Governments' lack of capacity.
5. Land use is a source of conflict with farmers.

**Article 7 and annex C of the convention provide binding obligations on ASGM Countries with "more than insignificant ASGM" have the obligation to develop and implement National Action Plans which:**

1. Produces up to 20% of world's gold.
2. Employs 15 million people typically in remote rural areas.
3. Involves 4 to 5 million women and children.
4. Takes place in 70 countries and often in areas where there is limited economic opportunity.
5. Is often considered as informal sector.

- Miners are not aware of sources of financing.
- Investors are not aware of miners' unique needs.

**Releases 35% of all mercury pollution to the environment**

**GEF GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT (GEF GOLD)**

1. Show the benefits of more efficient and cleaner non-mercury techniques.
2. Provide mining communities with direct access to international gold markets and/or remove barriers across the value chains.
3. Pilot access-to-finance options.
4. Demonstrate and share best practices on formalization.
5. Educate gold consumers on the social and environmental benefit of cleaner gold.

**REDUCING MERCURY USE IN ARTISANAL SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING**

**Reduction of mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining**

1. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining.
3. Health impacts of mercury.

**Why it is hard to formalize the sector?**

1. Lack of access to finance.
2. Difficult to put in place due diligence across the supply chain because gold is a fungible commodity - and difficult to trace.
3. Miners have limited or no access to international gold market.
4. Gold buyers do not know how to buy gold directly from the sector.

**Alternatives to mercury**

- **Gravity separation**
  - Separating the gold from the ore using panning, sluicing, centrifuges.

- **Chemical extraction**
  - Extracting gold through external service providers.

**Governments to ban worst practices**

1. Governments to promote best practices.
2. Alternatives involve increased technical knowledge of the gold deposit and mineral processing.

**How will GEF Global Opportunities for Long-term Development (GEF GOLD) transform artisanal small-scale gold mining?**

1. Show the benefits of more efficient and cleaner non-mercury techniques.
2. Provide mining communities with direct access to international gold markets and/or remove barriers across the value chains.
3. Pilot access-to-finance options.
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