

Main Issues in the ASGM Sector

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is the largest global source of anthropogenic mercury releases into the environment. 12-15 million people are currently depending on ASGM for their livelihoods in over 70 countries worldwide, mostly informally and in rural communities.

To tackle this complex issue that goes beyond mercury elimination, UNIDO applies a sustainable ASGM value chain approach.

What UNIDO offers:

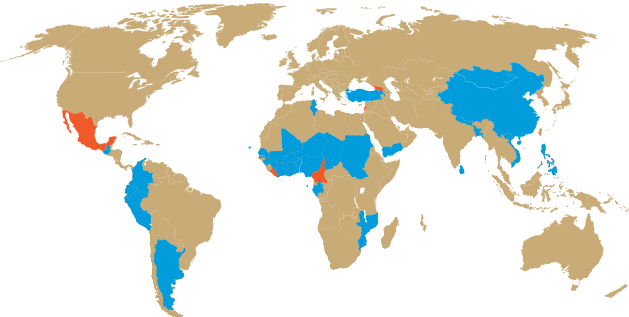
1. Institutional strengthening, policies and regulations: introduction of **sound and enforceable policies on ASGM sector as a formalized and sustainable livelihood**
2. Promotion of investment options and direct market access for artisanal miners and their communities: establishment of a **formalized gold buying operation** to reduce intermediaries and offer **better gold prices** on international gold market for artisanal miners; as well as **increased accessibility to financing** for miners in partnership with refiners such as Argor Heraeus S.A.
3. Introduction of better and more efficient technologies and practices: national capacities strengthening and awareness raising on the benefits of **mercury free technologies**, training of the trainers to improve the knowledge and the replicability of mercury free technologies in the country
4. Knowledge management, communication and outreach: **targeted material and channels to reach all ASGM communities**; dissemination of project successes and lessons learned at both national, regional and international levels

Contact

For more information on UNIDO's Mercury Programme, please contact:

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■ Ongoing projects

■ Pipeline projects

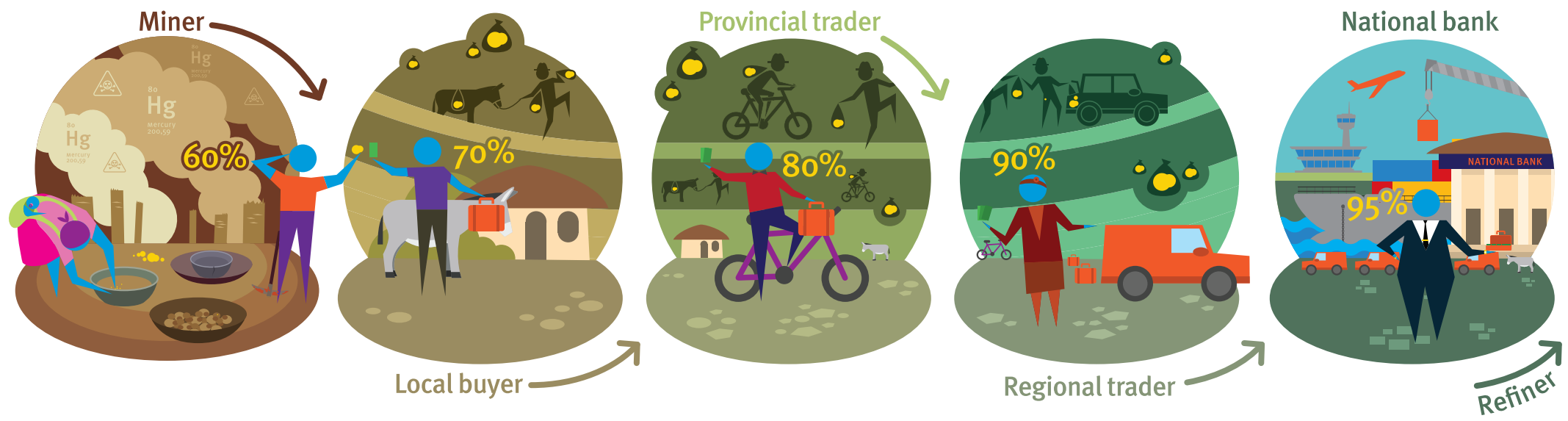


MERCURY PROGRAMME ARTISANAL & SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING



ASGM Value Chain

WITHOUT UNIDO'S HELP



SUSTAINABLE ASGM Value Chain

WITH UNIDO'S HELP

BENEFITS:
 Contribute to global mercury reduction, higher gold recovery rate, better gold prices for miners, increase access to international gold markets, improve health conditions of miners and mining communities, higher awareness and better management of the ASGM sector.



* Estimated % of the international gold price