

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2025
Reporting from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 10086	Umoja WBS:SB-012768
SMA IPMR ID:40294	Grant ID:S1-32GFL-000632
Project Short Title: GEF-CW.10086.Mexico Mercury Mining	
Project Title: Reducing Global Environmental Risks through the Monitoring and Development of Alternative Livelihood for the Primary Mercury Mining Sector	
Duration months planned:	60
Duration months age:	54
Project Type:	Full Sized Project (FSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	Global
Region:	Latin America and Caribbean
Countries:	Mexico
GEF Focal Area(s):	Chemicals and Waste
GEF financing amount:	\$ 7,035,000.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 51,068,844.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2020-12-07
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2021-02-19
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2021-06-07
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2021-06-25
Date of First Disbursement:	2021-07-02
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2025:	\$ 1,428,747.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 544,015.00

Midterm undertaken?:	Yes
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	2025-06-30
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2026-12-31
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2026-12-31
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2026-12-31
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2027-06-30

1.2 Project Description

The project's main objective is to prevent the risks to environment and human health from mercury through the control of primary mercury mining and enabled environmentally and socially sound alternative economic activities and livelihoods in Sierra Gorda Region in the state of Queretaro. The project consists of 2 main components:

Component 1: Characterization of primary mercury mining and reinforcement of control mechanisms. This component aims to improve the capacity of regulators to better characterize the primary mercury mining sector in Queretaro, including its releases and emissions. It also intends to cultivate a regulatory environment that will result in the generation of conditions that allow the permanent closure of the mercury mines in 2032 without affecting the situation of the miners and their families (who are expected to have already transitioned to an alternative way of life by that date), and the effective ending of new mercury mine development in accordance with the stated by the Minamata Convention.

Component 2: Introduction of alternative livelihood. This component will be informed by the results of assessment work carried on the feasibility of viable and sustainable alternatives in the Sierra Gorda region.

The project executing agency is the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC). Also, other main partners involved for this project are the Global Mercury Partnership, General Direction of Integral Management of Materials and Risky Activities of the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (DGGIMAR-SEMARNAT), SEMARNAT regional office in Querétaro (SEMARNAT-QRO) and the Secretariat of Sustainable Development of the state of Querétaro (SEDESU). Likewise, there is additional support from other federal, state and local agencies in areas of education, health, infrastructure, such as the following: the Autonomous University of Querétaro, the National Institute of Social Economy, the National Water Commission, the Agrarian Attorney's Office, the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas, the Health Secretariat of the State of Querétaro, the Querétaro Institute of Women, among others.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Industry and Economy Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	N/A
Executing Agency (ies)	National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC)
names of Other Project Partners	Global Mercury Partnership, General Direction of Integral Management of Materials and Risky Activities of the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (DGGIMAR-SEMARNAT), SEMARNAT regional office in Querétaro (SEMARNAT-QRO), Government of Querétaro, Mexican Geological Survey (SGM), Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), Municipal Governments of the Sierra Gorda, University of Querétaro, University of San Luis Potosí, Ecological Group Sierra Gorda, Autonomous University of Querétaro (UAQ) Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí (UASLP).
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Kevin Helps
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Ramon Jimenez Galicia
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Edward Aput
UNEP Support Assistants	N/A
Manager/Representative	José Abraham Ortínez Álvarez
Project Manager	Ania Mendoza
Finance Manager	Jaime Estanislao Perez Martinez
Communications Lead, if relevant	N/A

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Chemicals and pollution action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	Chemicals and Pollution Action
PoW Indicator(s):	• Pollution: (i) Number of Governments that, with UNEP support, are developing or implementing policies, strategies, legislation or action plans that promote sound chemicals and waste management and/or the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the existing framework on chemicals and waste • Pollution: (iii) Number of policy, regulatory, financial and technical measures developed with UNEP support to reduce pollution in air, water, soil and the ocean • Pollution: (iv) Reduction in releases of pollutants to the environment achieved with UNEP support
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	UNSDCF México 2020-2025 Cooperation area III which refers to climate change and green economy. The project contributes to the UNSDCF. Environmental sustainability and resilience, by supporting mercury risk reduction and promoting sustainable livelihoods in vulnerable communities.
Link to relevant SDG Goals	• Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages • Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all • Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns • Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	• 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination • 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally • 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
4- Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)	1000	2000	2000		Monitoring studies and for the identification of the most contaminated sites (hot spots) for which the remediation proposal will be developed are underway, but hectares restored have not yet been quantified. This information will be confirmed once we these activities take place later this year.
9- Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced	70	140	140	50	50 tons since last PIR. Complementary information regarding the quantity of mercury

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
					reduced is described under indicator 9.2. While this does not yet represent a confirmed reduction (as livelihood transitions are still pending), it establishes the preliminary scope of impact that will materialize—and potentially increase—once alternative livelihood activities begin in the coming months.
11.1- Male	23500	47000	47000	40000	Since last PIR, 331 miners contacted to alternative livelihoods workshops,

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
					equivalent to 40,000 men indirectly impacted in communities in the Sierra Gorda region. The figures will receive an update once the alternative livelihoods begin implementation in the next months
11.2- Female	26500	53000	53000	17000	Since last PIR, 83 women related to primary mercury mining contacted to alternative livelihoods workshops, equivalent to 17,000 women indirectly impacted in the

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
					communities in the Sierra Gorda region. The figures will receive an update once the alternative livelihoods begin implementation in the next months
9.2- Quantity of mercury reduced	70	140	140	50	In progress.50 tons since last PIR. For the strategic achievement of this indicator, an assessment of the communities related to the 19 mines initially identified has been developed. The assessment allowed the

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
					selection of 3 locations to develop the initial work (Camargo, Bucareli and San Joaquin), which together represent the avoidance of 50 tons of mercury.
9.4- Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste	3	6	6	3	Since last PIR, 3 new policies to the mining law have been generated. This includes the modification to the mexican mining law that forbids mercury as an exploitable mineral.

Implementation Status 2025: 4º PIR

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2025	4th PIR	MS	MS	L
FY 2024	3rd PIR	MU	MU	L
FY 2023	2nd PIR	MS	MS	L
FY 2022	1st PIR	MU	MU	M
FY 2021				
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities

During this fourth PIR reporting year (July 2024–June 2025), implementation advanced despite a nearly ten-month delay caused by the national procurement freeze during the electoral transition. Following the resumption of administrative processes in early 2025, the project regained momentum, prioritizing critical field activities and stakeholder engagement. Under Component 1, progress included finalizing Terms of Reference for health risk assessments and identifying contaminated hotspots, alongside training medical personnel in clinical toxicology related to heavy metals. These efforts aim to strengthen local health systems and inform evidence-based risk mitigation. Component 2 focused on socioeconomic transition, launching preparatory work for flagship alternative livelihood projects in mining communities. Integration and training workshops were conducted with miners, women, and youth in Camargo, San Joaquín, Cadereyta de Montes, and Pinal de Amoles. Additionally, the National Institute of Social Economy (INAES) delivered targeted sessions on social economy and business model development in Bucareli, Cadereyta de Montes, and Camargo, reinforcing capacity for entrepreneurial initiatives tailored to local contexts. Institutional engagement was another key achievement during the reporting cycle. Coordination with the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), and the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) was strengthened, ensuring technical alignment and regulatory support across both components. These partnerships are instrumental in advancing cross-sector collaboration for environmental monitoring and socioeconomic resilience. While feasibility studies and mineral reserve assessments remain ongoing, their completion in Q3 will inform the design and rollout of seed projects planned for Q4. Furthermore, progress in gender inclusion was notable, with targeted training opportunities for women and youth embedded in all community-level activities. Institutional coordination has been strengthened with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), local governments, and other stakeholders. In response to the Midterm Review (MTR) recommendations—issued after the project was rated Moderately Unsatisfactory—safety protocols were updated, socio-economic monitoring frameworks developed, and budget reallocations prioritized to accelerate field implementation. Financially, the project disbursed USD 185,581, representing 96.8% of the annual forecast of USD 192,000. With administrative bottlenecks resolved

in March 2025, pending consultancies and activities resumed in Q3. While the implementation of pilot activities remains delayed, progress has been made in gender inclusion, knowledge management, and preparatory work for Q4 deliverables.

Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

During the reporting period, the project faced a series of interconnected challenges that significantly affected implementation timelines and outcomes. The most critical issue was the suspension of public procurement and contracting processes by the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP) during Mexico’s national electoral transition. This administrative restriction, in effect from March through December 2024, resulted in a prolonged freeze on national bidding and recruitment procedures, halting most field activities and technical consultancies under both components. Consequently, the logical sequencing of deliverables was disrupted, and the implementation of key activities—such as health risk assessments, hotspot identification, and feasibility studies for alternative livelihoods—remained pending for nearly 10 months. Operational downtime also reduced coordination momentum with national counterparts, creating gaps in internal approvals and responsiveness. This situation was further compounded by delays in receiving timely inputs from some stakeholder institutions, largely due to administrative bottlenecks and institutional adjustments during the electoral transition. In response, the project team is developing an updated stakeholder engagement schedule and reinforcing coordination through periodic planning meetings and targeted bilateral follow-ups to align with the new authorities and restore continuity of support. Field-level challenges were equally significant. Security risks associated with organized crime in certain mining zones restricted access to some communities, limiting stakeholder outreach and full participation in priority areas. To mitigate these risks, the project has adopted a flexible, risk-sensitive approach that prioritizes engagement in lower-risk areas, leverages trusted local actors and community-based organizations for outreach, and coordinates with local authorities to assess safety conditions before field missions. When necessary, remote engagement tools will be deployed to maintain communication while ensuring the safety of project staff and beneficiaries. In addition, social dynamics in mining communities introduced another layer of complexity. Some community members who are not directly engaged in mining expressed concerns about exclusion from project benefits and potential environmental risks—such as the use of contaminated water for irrigation. While the project’s primary focus remains on miners and their families, identified through a participatory and transparent registration process, measures are being put in place to address these concerns. Individuals outside the mining sector who demonstrate interest in productive alternatives will be referred to state and federal institutions for possible support through existing government programs. This approach seeks to maintain inclusiveness while preserving alignment with the project’s core objectives. Finally, findings from the Mid-Term Review (MTR) underscored systemic issues in implementation capacity and adaptive management, rating the project as Moderately Unsatisfactory. While this provides a roadmap for corrective action—including improved financial tracking, enhanced field methodologies, and streamlined reporting—the recommendations also reflect the urgent need to strengthen project management structures to prevent further delays. Despite these obstacles, the project is moving forward with renewed momentum following the lifting of the procurement freeze in early 2025. Corrective actions, re-engagement with stakeholders, and planned field activities in Q3 and Q4 are expected to accelerate progress and mitigate the impact of these challenges on overall outcome delivery. Special Note: The figure of USD 9,448,269 previously reported as co-financing is incorrect; the amount was recorded in Mexican Pesos (MXP).

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-	\$ 51,068,844
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finance:	
Actual to date:	600,221
Progress	Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: The project has achieved approximately 1.18% of the planned co-financing. It is necessary to reconsider the co-financing commitments and implementation mechanisms from the group of federal and state government entities (INECC, SEMARNAT–Querétaro, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Health) as well as academic institutions (UAQ; UASLP). To date, the co-financing from these entities has been modest. However, the reactivation of technical activities in the field and the strengthening of coordination with local stakeholders are expected to accelerate co-financing materialization in the upcoming quarters. In addition, during the Mid-Term Review (MTR), the need for a more robust and transparent co-financing reporting framework was highlighted. The Executing Agency is currently working on amending the tracking model and methodology for calculating co-financing, in line with the MTR recommendations. This revised approach will include indicators and metrics that more accurately reflect the actual contributions made by partners. The updated and consolidated co-financing figures will therefore be available later this year, ensuring a sound and reliable reporting framework for the remainder of the project cycle. It is important to note that a correction has been made to previously reported figures: the amount of USD 9,448,269, included in earlier reports, was incorrect because the original figure was recorded in Mexican Pesos (MXP) rather than U.S. dollars. This discrepancy is being addressed in the revised co-financing tracking model to ensure accuracy in future reporting.

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2024-08-06
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	During this reporting period, the project successfully engaged a diverse group of stakeholders across federal, state, and local levels. These included the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (federal and regional offices), the National Institute of Social Economy, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, and several other governmental and technical institutions. Engagement also extended to local communities and civil society actors in priority mining areas. Key activities focused on capacity building and coordination. Training workshops were conducted with miners, women, and youth in Camargo, San Joaquín, Cadereyta de Montes, and Pinal de Amoles, while medical personnel received specialized training in clinical toxicology related to heavy metal exposure. Additionally, the National Institute of Social Economy delivered sessions on social economy and business model development in Bucareli, Cadereyta de Montes, and Camargo. Institutional engagement was reinforced through

	collaboration with agencies such as the National Water Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection, helping to align regulatory and technical support with project objectives. The project has also ensured active participation from national counterparts in reporting and monitoring, with 15 technical reports delivered, including three Project Implementation Reports, and six meetings of the Project Steering Committee completed. Stakeholder mapping was conducted early in the project and is regularly updated to reflect institutional changes. Despite these achievements, the project faced several challenges. Delays in stakeholder inputs—primarily due to administrative bottlenecks and the national electoral transition—affected timely implementation. To address this, an updated engagement schedule is being developed to ensure early coordination and alignment with new authorities. Security risks in some mining zones also limited outreach, requiring the project to adopt flexible, risk-sensitive approaches such as prioritizing safer areas, leveraging trusted local actors, and using remote engagement tools when necessary. Additionally, concerns were raised by some community members not directly involved in mining, who feared exclusion from project benefits and expressed worries about environmental risks such as water contamination. To mitigate these concerns, the project is adopting an inclusive approach by referring interested individuals to state and federal programs while maintaining a focus on miners and their families as primary beneficiaries. A Grievance Redress Mechanism will also be established as part of the Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy, including the creation of a complaints log to address concerns transparently. To protect personal data, a public version of stakeholder mapping will report participation figures by sector rather than disclosing individual details. Outcomes of these engagement efforts include strengthened coordination among consultancies and reinforced institutional partnerships. This has facilitated preparations for pilot projects expected to deliver tangible results by September 2025 and fostered technical and financial collaboration between key institutions, such as the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, and the National Institute of Social Economy
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2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	No
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	The project does not have a standalone gender action plan, and this will be corrected in the reporting system. However, gender considerations have been integrated into the project design and implementation from the outset, and gender-sensitive indicators were included in the results framework. The project applies a gender-responsive approach across its components, with a strong focus on empowering women in mercury-affected communities. Women have actively participated in stakeholder consultations, training sessions, and workshops in areas such as Bucareli, Camargo, Cadereyta de Montes, and Pinal de Amoles. Efforts include promoting inclusive decision-making and supporting alternative livelihoods tailored to women's roles in the local economy. The Midterm Review rated gender integration as Moderately Satisfactory and recommended formalizing these efforts in a dedicated document. In response, the project team is preparing a summary on women's participation and gender-related actions to date, as well as upcoming measures for the second half of the project. This document will consolidate gender-responsive activities, including the design of seed projects where women and men will have equal opportunities to develop business ventures and strengthen socio-economic resilience. Further details on gender-sensitive strategies are reflected in the publication <i>"Development of a long-term strategy for the implementation of economic alternatives with a social economy approach in primary mercury mining communities in the Sierra Gorda of Querétaro."</i> (February 2025), which highlights actions that incorporate women's needs and contributions into alternative livelihood models.

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? Yes If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN? The use of mercury in the sector and its impact on health and the environment
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New social and/or environmental risks	Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? Yes If yes, describe the new risks or changes? During this period, social and environmental risk identified during PIR3 are still valid, including community concerns over mercury exposure, limited access to potable and water and unequal distribution of project benefits
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period? Yes If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken? Field-level challenges included security risks in certain mining zones, restricting access to communities. The project adopted a risk-sensitive approach, prioritizing engagement in lower-risk areas, leveraging trusted local actors and community-based organizations, and coordinating with local authorities. Remote engagement tools are also used where needed. Social dynamics added further complexity. Some community members not directly engaged in mining expressed concerns about exclusion from project benefits and potential environmental risks, such as irrigation with contaminated water. While the project focuses primarily on miners and their families (identified through a participatory registration process), measures are being put in place to address these concerns. Interested individuals outside the mining sector are referred to state and federal institutions for possible support via existing programs, ensuring inclusiveness while maintaining alignment with project objectives. Grievances and Response: Some community members not directly engaged in mining raised concerns about exclusion, particularly regarding access to project benefits and environmental risks, including the use of contaminated water for irrigation. To address this grievance the project is conducting a comprehensive environmental risk assessment, including monitoring of surface water bodies and sources of human use and consumption to detect mercury presence. The assessment will propose technologies for purification and water collection in areas with limited water resources, directly addressing concerns over contaminated water. Additionally, individuals outside the mining sector who demonstrate interest in productive alternatives are referred to relevant government programs for support. This approach ensures that community concerns are acknowledged and mitigated, while maintaining the project's focus on its core beneficiaries—miners and their families—without excluding other interested stakeholders from potential benefits.

Environmental and social safeguards management	During the reporting period, social and environmental risks identified during PIR 3 are still valid, including community concerns over mercury exposure, limited access to potable water, and unequal distribution of project benefits. In the process of identifying activities for mining reconversion, it has been considered from the outset that seed projects be aligned with the suitability of the territory and available natural resources, respecting the interests and knowledge of the communities, to avoid social and environmental impacts. The document developed on the aforementioned process has been shared in step 5 (included as supportive document during this PIR cycle). As part of the environmental risk assessment, water, soil, and air monitoring are planned to identify priority contaminated sites. These activities have already begun, and results will be available for reporting during next PIR.
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2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	During the reporting period, the project produced technical reports, stakeholder consultation summaries, and strategic planning documents. These include feasibility assessments for alternative livelihoods (included as supportive documents during this PIR cycle).
Main learning during the period	The project has learned that community engagement is most effective when tailored to local contexts and when women are actively involved in decision-making. The delay in consultancies highlighted the need for flexible planning and stronger coordination mechanisms. Regional workshops and PSC meetings have served as platforms for peer learning, allowing stakeholders to exchange experiences on mercury risk reduction and sustainable development. These interactions have strengthened local ownership and informed the design of pilot interventions.

Reflows

Reflows (for NGIs only)	n / a
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2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	Title: Activity report on the Education Program for community organization in the transition to economic activities alternative to mercury mining in Bucareli, Sierra Gorda, Querétaro. This report summarizes the 2023 activities carried out with the mining community of Bucareli, in Sierra Gorda, Querétaro, as part of an educational program aimed at supporting the transition to alternative economic activities beyond mercury mining. The initiative, coordinated by INECC, involved community leaders and women through informational sessions, workshops, and participatory exercises. The outcomes were systematized and analyzed using descriptive statistics to highlight key factors for a successful transition. The document has been uploaded as part of the supportive documents.
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3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Prevent the risks to environment and human health from mercury through the control of primary mercury mining and enabled environmentally and socially sound alternative economic activities and livelihoods in the state of Queretaro	Number of tons of reduced emissions from primary mercury mining	104 tons of Hg emitted or produced from 19 assessed mines annually. Baseline to be revised following monitoring data from activity 1.2.2 and 1.2.3	70 tons Hg production reduced	140 tons Hg production reduced over the life of the project	50	During this period, three priority localities—Camargo, Bucareli, and San Joaquín—were identified for the initial phase of intervention. In these sites, awareness-raising workshops were conducted with miners and their families on the health and environmental risks of mercury. Based on participation lists and estimated production factors, these activities have engaged miners responsible for approximately 50 tons of mercury production annually. While this does not yet represent a confirmed reduction (as livelihood transitions are still pending), it establishes the preliminary scope of impact that will materialize—and potentially increase—once alternative livelihood activities begin in the coming months. Work is also underway to refine production factors per miner,	MU

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						considering local conditions, to strengthen monitoring and improve accuracy in quantifying reductions as miners transition.	
Prevent the risks to environment and human health from mercury through the control of primary mercury mining and enabled environmentally and socially sound alternative economic activities and livelihoods in the state of Queretaro	Number of people benefiting from the alternative economic activities and livelihoods	None. Alternative livelihoods have not yet been introduced	50,000 ; 51 % female	100,000; 51 % female	414	The project has initiated a series of workshops with miners and their families to raise awareness of the health and environmental risks of mercury and introduce the concept of alternative livelihoods. A total of 414 individuals have been directly engaged so far (331 men and 83 women). Attendance lists provide the basis for this figure. In addition, the Execution Agency has prepared a preliminary estimation of indirect reach in the Sierra Gorda region: approximately 57,000 people (40,000 men and 17,000 women). This figure was derived from population data in communities where miners are active, using the known household size and local demographic distribution to approximate the number of people indirectly exposed to project messages and benefits through their family and community networks. While this remains an estimation, it provides a realistic picture of the potential scope of impact once alternative livelihoods are formally	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						implemented.To ensure robust monitoring moving forward, a registry of miners is being developed for each locality. This will allow the project to more accurately track both direct beneficiaries and those indirectly reached, as livelihood activities expand beyond the pilot phase. In addition, medical personnel in the region received specialized training in clinical toxicology related to heavy metal exposure, further broadening the project's immediate community-level benefits.	
The Government monitors primary mercury mining and adopts an adequate regulatory framework	Number of new regulations and enforcement protocols adopted to implement article 3	The current regulatory and legal frameworks are incongruent with the Minamata Convention	At least 3 regulations or protocols adopted	At least one revision to existing laws and 5 new regulations or protocols adopted	1	The legal analysis has been completed, and proposals for legislative amendments have been developed. However, stakeholder consultations—including national and regional workshops—are still pending due to the ongoing recruitment process for coordination support. These workshops are essential to validate the proposed changes and to follow up with the relevant decision-makers.	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
The Government monitors primary mercury mining and adopts an adequate regulatory framework	Monitoring system operational	There are several inconsistent though disconnected efforts by researchers. No regular monitoring by government is conducted	Draft system developed	Monitoring system fully operational	1	Draft system designedThe monitoring framework developed incorporates a broader approach that includes health risk assessment, water quality monitoring, and follow-up on both the identification of contaminated sites and those where alternative economic activities are being implemented. Conditions are in place for consultants to begin work and for the implementation of activities on the ground. Integration with territorial coordination mechanisms—led by the territorial coordination support consultancy—is expected to take place starting in the third quarter of the year.	MS
Miners in Queretaro adopt alternative income generation activities	Percent of targeted miners adopting alternative livelihoods	Miners are not currently leaving the practice. There is a robust regional economy in which miners can be integrated	50,000 ; 51% female	100,000 ; 51% female	414	The pilot phase of livelihood transition has begun, including feasibility studies, business plans, and mechanisms for resource allocation to support alternative economic projects. While no miners have fully transitioned yet, 414 individuals directly linked to mercury mining have already been engaged in preparatory workshops. Based on participation data and demographic information, the Execution Agency has also developed a preliminary estimate of indirect reach: up to 57,000 people in	MU

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						the Sierra Gorda region who may be positively affected through household and community-level spillovers. This estimation reflects the potential scope of impact already initiated through awareness-raising, which will be consolidated and the figures may increase once actual livelihood alternatives are rolled out in the coming months. By laying this groundwork, the project is aligning with its targets and ensuring that the adoption of alternative livelihoods can be scaled to meet the broader regional economy.	

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Characterisation of primary mercury mining and reinforcement of control mechanisms	Output 1.1: Modifications to the existing legislative and regulatory frameworks on mercury production, management, use and trade, are developed with relevant government experts and representatives from NGOs and key stakeholders	2026-07-31	60%	60%	National and regional stakeholder consultation workshops will be conducted once the coordination consultancy is formally contracted. The implementation of consultation activities, workshops, and follow-up with key stakeholders is contingent upon this contracting.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Characterisation of primary mercury mining and reinforcement of control mechanisms	Output 1.2: Relevant agencies' capacity to identify and quantify mercury sources, including ongoing monitoring of mercury emissions and releases in the primary mining sector is enhanced	2026-04-30	25%	40%	The project has initiated the assessment of available laboratory and monitoring capacities. Preliminary soil monitoring activities have also been carried out in the municipalities of Cadereyta and San Joaquín, and the results will be consolidated in technical reports. Comprehensive monitoring activities are expected to begin in the third quarter, following the formal contracting of the consultancy specialized in environmental liabilities, health risk assessment, and water quality monitoring.	MS
1 Characterisation of primary mercury mining and reinforcement of control mechanisms	Output 1.3: Site specific remediation mapping and planning are undertaken	2026-04-30	0%	15%	A consultancy has been contracted to identify mining environmental liabilities resulting from primary mercury mining. Among the planned activities is the development of a geodatabase integrated into a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform to enable the visualization of maps showing the identified environmental liabilities, including information on their location, extent, and magnitude. The information generated will be key to the development of the environmental remediation proposal.	U
2 Introduction of alternative livelihood	Output 2.1: Alternative economic activities and livelihoods for miners and local communities identified	2026-07-31	35%	50%	Preliminary identification of potential alternative economic activities has been carried out in the target communities.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					In the next phase, the feasibility of these initiatives will be confirmed, and technical support will be provided to guide necessary adjustments and incorporate new proposals for the development of action plans for strategic alternative economic activities.	
2 Introduction of alternative livelihood	Output 2.2: Awareness of miners and local communities of the Minamata Convention obligations enhanced	2026-07-31	65%	75%	The project has conducted awareness workshops, distributed educational materials, and facilitated community dialogues in Bucareli, Camargo, and San Joaquín. These activities have increased understanding of mercury-related health risks and the obligations under the Minamata Convention. Continued outreach is planned to reach remaining communities and reinforce behavioral change.	S

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Moderate	Moderate
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Moderate	Moderate
3 Implementation schedule	Moderate	Moderate
4 Budget	Moderate	Moderate
5 Financial Management	Low	Moderate
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Moderate	Moderate

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Risk 1: Political instability and shifting priorities	Outcome 1 Outputs 1.1. 1.2	M	L	L	M	M	N/A	M	=	Electoral transitions have delayed coordination and slowed regulatory progress. Engagement with new authorities is ongoing.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Risk 2: Local support is not provided or is not adequate for project needs	Outcome 2Outputs 1.2. 1.3. 2.1 and 2.2	M	M	L	L	M	N/A	M	↑	While electoral transitions caused delays in coordination efforts and slowed progress on regulatory processes, engagement with the newly appointed authorities is ongoing, and the transition has resulted in stronger institutional commitment.
Risk 3: Lack of transparency in financial management and distribution	All outcomes and outputs	L	L	L	L	L	N/A	L	=	Financial systems are in place. No major issues reported. Monitoring continues.
Risk 4: Limited mobility of project team due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic inhibits project execution	Outcome 2Outputs 1.2. 1.3. 2.1 and 2.2	H	S	L	L	L	N/A	L	=	COVID-related restrictions have eased. Field activities resumed
Risk 5: Environmental assessment inadequately characterizes site	Outputs 1.2 and 1.3	L	L	L	L	L	N/A	L	=	Baseline studies are underway. Technical validation pending
Risk 6: Accident or spill during the field waste operation	Output 1.3	L	L	L	L	M	N/A	M	↑	Field protocols are being developed. Risk remains moderate until implementation.
Risk 7: Injury resulting to investigators during site visits	Outputs 1.2. 1.3	H	S	M	M	M	N/A	M	=	Safety measures are being reinforced. Risk remains moderate.
Risk 8: Increased COVID-19 exposure risk to project staff and targeted communities	Outcome 2Outputs 1.2. 1.3. 2.1 and 2.2	M	L	L	L	L	N/A	L	=	COVID exposure risk is low. Preventive protocols remain in place.
Risk 9 : Disregard for the environmental and health impacts of the mercury mines	Outputs 1.2 and 1.3	M	M	M	M	M	N/A	M	=	Awareness campaigns and pilot planning are addressing this risk.
Risk 10: Poor uptake of alternative livelihoods	Outcome 2Output 2.1	M	M	M	M	M	N/A	M	=	Community interest is growing, but uptake depends on technical validation and support.
Risk 11: Increases in the Price paid for	Outcome 2Outputs 2.1 and 2.2	M	L	M	H	H	N/A	H	↑	Market volatility continues. Project is

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
mercury resulting from external or internal forces affects adoption of alternatives livelihood										promoting alternatives to reduce dependency.
Risk 12: Climate change adversely impacts tourism (e.g. through forest fires) reducing employment in this sector	Outcome 2Output 2.1	L	L	M	H	H	N/A	H	=	Climate risks remain high. Project is exploring diversified livelihood options.
SS 1: Biodiversity. natural habitat and Sustainable Management of Living Resources (M)	Objective	M	M	L	L	M	N/A	M	↑	Biodiversity risks are being addressed through remediation planning.
SS 2: Resource Efficiency. Pollution Prevention and Management of Chemicals and Wastes (M)	Objective	M	M	M	M	M	N/A	M	=	Mercury management remains central. Risk mitigation is ongoing.
SS 5: Indigenous peoples (M)	Objective	M	M	L	L	L	N/A	L	=	Indigenous engagement is limited but improving. Inclusion strategies are being developed
Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	All outcomes and outputs	N/A	N/A	L	L	M	N/A	M	↑	Territorial follow-up strategy developed to improve project management and community presence
Governance structure - Oversight	All outcomes and outputs	N/A	N/A	M	M	M	N/A	M	=	Development of a set of factors complementary to the original project indicators to evaluate its progress
Implementation schedule	All outcomes and outputs	N/A	N/A	M	M	M	N/A	M	=	Priority recruitment of multidisciplinary experts to ensure an approach that incorporates legal, economic, financial, market, technical, social and gender dimensions

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Budget	All outcomes and outputs	N/A	N/A	L	L	M	N/A	M	↑	Improve expense accounting
Capacity to deliver	All outcomes and outputs	N/A	N/A	M	M	M	N/A	M	=	Introduction of enhanced reporting requirements under the consultancy responsible for territorial coordination support
Consolidated project risk	Objective ,all outcomes and outputs	M	M	L	L	M	N/A	M	↑	

4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Risk 1: Political instability and shifting priorities	Maintain engagement with federal and state authorities; reinforce PSC coordination	PSC meetings held; outreach initiated with new authorities post-election	Institutional coordination	Q3–Q4 2025	INECC, SEMARNAT (IMTA, CONANP)
Risk 2: Limited community support for pilot activities	Expand outreach and include non-mining populations in planning	Consultations held in Bucareli, Camargo, and San Joaquín; pilot designs adjusted	Inclusive planning	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, Consultants
Risk 6: Accident or spill during field waste operations	Develop safety protocols and train field teams	Safety planning initiated; protocols under review by technical team	Field safety protocols	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, Consultants
Risk 7: Injury resulting to investigators during site visits	Reinforced safety measures	Mercury-specific safety measures identified to be included in INECC's field	Specific safety measures identified	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
		sampling protocols			
Risk 9: Disregard for the environmental and health impact of the mercury mines	Raising awareness about mercury exposure associated with health and environmental assessments	Mercury level results in the population and the environment encourage awareness	Awareness reinforced by biomonitoring results	Q3-Q4 2025	Consultants
Risk 10: Poor uptake of alternative livelihoods	Implementation of a flagship project	Flagship project will serve as a model to show miners the benefits of alternative activities.	Conviction through a successful mining reconversion experience	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, Consultants, miners
Risk 11: Mercury price increase affects adoption of alternatives	Promote diversified livelihoods and reduce dependency	Feasibility studies initiated; alternative options identified	Livelihood diversification	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, Consultants, Local NGOs
Risk 12: Climate change impacts tourism-based livelihoods	Assess climate vulnerability and promote resilient alternatives	Risk mapping initiated; agroforestry and artisanal options under consideration	Climate-resilient livelihoods	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, UAQ, Community Leaders, Consultants
SS 1: Biodiversity. natural habitat and Sustainable Management of Living Resources (M)	Biodiversity risks are being addressed through environmental risk assessment	Guidance on mercury limit values for biota will be developed	Guidance to protecting biota from mercury	Q1-Q2 2026	INECC, Consultants, International experts
SS 2: Resource Efficiency. Pollution Prevention and Management of Chemicals and Wastes (M)	Mercury management remains central. Risk mitigation is ongoing	The mining reconversion implies a significant step for the country in eliminating the production of one of the main toxic substances (mercury).	Implementation of mining reconversion projects	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, Consultants, miners, collaborating agencies
1. Management structures - Roles and responsibilities	Territorial follow-up strategy developed to improve project	Strategy includes hiring experts to fill specific roles according to the needs of	Project-specific roles and functions covered by experts	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, Consultants

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	management and community presence	the project.			
2. Governance structure - Oversight	Development of a set of factors complementary to the original project indicators to evaluate its progress	Factors provide a more accurate technical basis for estimating potential mercury emissions and their reduction	Complementary factors to evaluate project performance	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, Consultants
3. Implementation schedule	Priority recruitment of multidisciplinary experts to ensure an approach that incorporates legal, economic, financial, market, technical, social and gender dimensions	This approach maximizes cost-efficiency and promotes cross-sectoral integration, rather than allocating resources to stand-alone assessments with limited operational value.	Multidimensional approach that maximizes the results of project implementation	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, Consultants
4. Budget	Improve expense accounting	Strengthen expense accounting practices, with particular emphasis on co-financing contributions	Best practices for accounting and reporting co-financing figures	Q3 2025	INECC, Administrative consultant
7. Capacity to deliver	Introduction of enhanced reporting requirements under the consultancy responsible for territorial coordination support	Measures aimed at ensuring that all project documentation is clear, traceable, and useful for technical teams and decision-makers	Reports with complete and quality information for decision-making	Q3-Q4 2025	INECC, terrytoy coordination Consultant

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of

between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	Yes

Minor amendments

During the reporting period, the project adjusted the implementation schedule of geospatial activities to align with updated site prioritization needs. This included the integration of new mapping tools and coordination with the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC, as the EA), Consultants and Autonomous University of Queretaro (UAQ) to refine remediation zones. The amendment does not affect the overall scope or objectives of the project.

Additionally, due to the unexpected delays posed since last PIR cycle and the current reporting period, a 1-year no-cost extension to the legal agreement will be requested during next year (2026) to conclude project activities.

5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original Legal Instrument	Amendment & Extension	2021-06-07	2021-06-07	2026-12-31	Project Cooperation Agreement with INECC
Original Legal Instrument	Amendment & Extension	2023-04-24	2023-04-24	2026-06-30	Internal Agreement with UNEP Knowledge and Risk Unit

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Pinal de Amoles	21.13448	-99.6259	3521440 Pinal de Amoles	Pinal de Amoles occupies 6.08% of the state surface. has 219 localities with a mainly semi-warm sub-humid climate (INEGI. 2010). The total population registered in 2020 was 27.365 inhabitants (INEGI. 2021). https://www.geonames.org/8583263/pinal-de-amoles.html	Pilot site prioritization and community consultations
San Joaquín	20.95754	-99.53221	8583276 San Joaquín	San Joaquin occupies 2.37% of the surface of the state. with 74 localities with a predominantly semi-warm sub-humid	Pilot site prioritization and community

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
				climate (INEGI. 2010) and a registered population of 8.359 inhabitants (INEGI. 2021). https://www.geonames.org/8583276/san-joaquin.html	consultations
Cadereyta de Montes	20.78238	-99.65621	8583265 Cadereyta de Montes	Cadereyta de Montes occupies 11.52% of the state surface. has 285 localities in a mostly semi-dry temperate climate (INEGI. 2010). It has a registered population of 69.075 inhabitants (INEGI. 2021). https://www.geonames.org/8583265/cadereyta-de-montes.html	Baseline mapping and stakeholder engagement
Peñamiller	21.09568	-99.83628	8583274 Peñamiller	Municipality of 694.9 km2 (5.9% of the extension of Querétaro). where 69.7% of its extension belongs to the Sierra Gorda Queretana. Its population is 19.141 inhabitants. equivalent to 0.8% of the state population (INEGI. 2021). https://www.geonames.org/8583274/penamiller.html	Environmental assessment and remediation planning

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. *

https://public.tableau.com/shared/X4PD6DNBK?:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

Additional Supporting Documents:

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
Informe ECONAM final.pdf	Executing Agency	2025-08-12 23:20:49	<u>Download</u>
021_2024_Informe_de_actividades_econ_micas_Bucareli.pdf	Executing Agency	2025-07-22 17:49:13	<u>Download</u>