



## Enabling Activity Project Implementation Report

(01 July 2022 – 30 June 2023)

Project Title:	National Action Plan on Mercury in the Cameroon Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining sector
GEF ID:	10440
UNIDO ID:	160198
GEF Replenishment Cycle:	<i>GEF-7</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Cameroon</i>
Region:	<i>AFR - Africa</i>
GEF Focal Area:	<i>Chemicals and Waste (CW)</i>
Implementing Department/Division:	Choose an item. <i>TCS/CCM/RMC</i>
Executing Agency(ies):	MINEPDED (Ministry of Environment) MINMIDT (Ministry of Industry and Mines) MINSANTE (Ministry of Health)
Project Duration (months):	<i>24</i>
Extension(s):	<i>1</i>
GEF Project Financing:	USD 500,000
Agency Fee:	USD 47,500
Co-financing Amount:	USD 46,500
Date of EA Approval:	2/26/2020
UNIDO Approval Date:	6/16/2020
Actual Implementation Start Date:	8/10/2020
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2023:	<i>USD 466,970</i>
Original Project Completion Date:	5/31/2022
Project Completion Date as reported in FY22:	5/31/2023
Current SAP Completion Date:	5/31/2023
Expected Project Completion Date:	6/30/2024

	<i>Justification under section III.2</i>
<b>Expected Financial Closure Date:</b>	12/31/2024
<b>UNIDO Project Manager<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<i>Rodica Ella Ivan</i>

## I. Overview of project status

Please refer to the explanatory note at the end of the document and select corresponding ratings for the current reporting period, i.e. FY23. Please also provide a short justification for the selected ratings for FY23.

In view of the GEF Secretariat's intent to start following the ability of projects to adopt the concept of adaptive management<sup>2</sup>, Agencies are expected to closely monitor changes that occur from year to year and demonstrate that they are not simply implementing plans but modifying them in response to developments and circumstances. In order to facilitate with this assessment, please introduce the ratings as reported in the previous reporting cycle, i.e. FY22, in the last column.

<b>Overall Ratings<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY22</b>
Global Environmental Objectives ( <b>GEOs</b> ) / Development Objectives ( <b>DOs</b> ) Rating	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>	<i>Satisfactory (S)</i>
<i>Moderate progress achieved</i>		
Implementation Progress (IP) Rating	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>
<p>The project field execution is 6 months additionally delayed due to unfortunate loss of the project team leader at Ministry of Mines, in charge of core activities for baseline data establishment. Alternate responsible team leader was appointed; the project team is currently complete and fully operational.</p> <p>The execution agreement between UNIDO and Ministry of Mines had to be amended accordingly upon change in team composition, as the lost team member had financial clearance responsibilities on counterpart side.</p> <p>Relevant progress was achieved under contractual arrangements with all three responsible national executing entities MINEPDED (Ministry of Environment) MINMIDT (Ministry of Industry and Mines)</p>		
Overall Risk Rating	<i>Low Risk (L)</i>	<i>Low Risk (L)</i>
<i>Relevant field activities progress is noted</i>		

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please elaborate on progress, challenges and outcomes of **project implementation activities**.

<sup>1</sup> Person responsible for report content

<sup>2</sup> Adaptive management in the context of an intentional approach to decision-making and adjustments in response to new available information, evidence gathered from monitoring, evaluation or research, and experience acquired from implementation, to ensure that the goals of the activity are being reached efficiently

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to the explanatory note at the end of the document and assure that the indicated ratings correspond to the narrative of the report

#### Activities carried out under MINEPDED execution agreement

Inte period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023, MINEPDED conducted activities related to validation of information dissemination and communication tools strategy and stakeholder engagement strategy; and organizing awareness activities in line with the quoted adopted strategies.

The validation workshop of information dissemination and communication tools strategy was held on 05th July 2022 at United Hotel of Mbankomo, Mefou and Akono in Center Region.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) members were involved in the validation meetings. It should be noted that a list of topics to be disseminated are proposed and specific communication tools are taking into account the impacts of mercury on human health and environment are developed.

Terms of Reference of recruiting an NGO for organization and conducting the 1st and 2nd information sharing and dissemination workshops adapted to different gender groups' needs was developed.

#### Activities carried out under MINEPDED execution agreement

##### Project Output 1.1. Organise Consultation Meetings on Drafting the NATIONAL SYNOPSIS on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASSGM) in Cameroon

In October 2022, MINMIDT organized the kick-off meeting for developing and drafting the NATIONAL SYNOPSIS on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in Cameroon at Hôtel Départemental Mbalmayo. The meeting marked the start of activities to develop and implement a roadmap for understanding and assessing initial estimates of mercury use and current practices at project mining sites. Some thirty participants from MINMIDT and MINEPDED were involved. The meeting focused on the following items:

- Ownership of the objectives of the data collection missions in the field;
- Preparation of the work plan
- Identification of all the components involved in collecting data and information from various available or potential sources;
- The feasibility and consistency of field survey sites and sampling campaigns;
- Reviewing and adopting the field questionnaire and the technical and financial proposals from the sample analysis laboratories;
- The search for nationally approved and certified analysis laboratories;
- Assessment and evaluation of exogenous parameters (mobility of artisan miners, length of existence of a logging site, climate change and land disputes between artisan miners and semi-mechanised companies).
- The choice of parameters for the project sites with the greatest impact (Burkinabé artisanal mining sites, smelting units, semi-mechanised sites and artisanal mining pools)
- Practical preparations for visits to artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASSGM) sites and areas hosting related activities.

The gender aspect was discussed at length and incorporated into the questionnaire. Institutional assessment has been carried out and completed.

##### Project Output 1.2. Organisation and Implementation of the Data Collection and Awareness Campaign

A series of field trips was authorized by MINMIDT in September 2022. This led to the creation of three teams which worked with the local administrations, the devolved services of MINMIDT, SNPK and SONAMINE. The teams visited mining sites in the Adamawa and East Regions to collect data on the geology of the sites, the methods and tools used for exploration and mining, the legal and institutional framework. They also gathered data on mercury and cyanide trade, the demography of the mining sites, the economy, health and the environment.

During the visit, a working session was organized with FODER in Bertoua, in the East Region, to exchange experiences and finalize the field survey sheets, avoid collected data from overlapping spatially. The session also enabled to make better use of the information collected from the various players in the gold mining sector (artisans, burkinabés, collectors, smelter units and semi-mechanised companies). The table below shows the sites surveyed:

Table 1: Mining sites chosen for the project

Division	SubDivision	Mining Site	GPS Coordinates
Kadey	Batouri	Batouri ville	04°59'53.5" 014°22'19.2"
		Kambele	04°27'13.3" 014°25'00.9"
		Kambele 1	04°27'13.5" 014°25'01.0"
		Kambele 3	04°26'39.00" 014°24'24.9"
		Camp prison	04°23'25.8" 014°21'54.6"
	Kette	Dangota	04°55'50.3" 014°39'23.2"
		Zopane tibo	04°47'57.1" 014°35'59.5"
		Beke village	04°46'27.0" 014°40'30.9"
Lom and Djerem	Ngoura	Camp bleu	04°99'33.6" 014°35'43.3"
Division	SubDivision	localities	Coordinates
LOM AND DJEREM	BERTOUA 1	BAKOMBO	N0465933 E01370329
	BETARE-OYA	NARKOYO	N0554380 E01406756
		CHALOUPE	N0563467 E01406695
		MBAL	N0563557 E01404936
		FAMBELE	N0557559 E01402370
		BOYO	N0552850 E01396830
		BABOUANG	N0552815 E01396802
		BESSELD0	N0552815 E01396802
		BEHIND GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL SCHOOL OF BETARE - OYA	N0553933 E01406226
	NGOURA	COLOMINE	N0499336 E01435433
	Ngoura	Camp bleu	04°99'33.6" 014°35'43.3"
	GAROUA BOULAI	BINDIBA (YASSA)	N : 06.08713 E : 014.40543 h : 849 m
		Bindiba ( NDADI)	N : 06.00500 E : 014.37294 h : 840 m
Division	SubDivision	Mining site	Coordinates
		DOUZAME	N : 06.22.884 E : 014.41.773

MBERE	MEIGANGA		h : 883m
		WANTIA	N : 06.43337 E : 014.64423 h : 940 m
		ZIKONY	N : 06.23106 E : 014.4176 h : 888 m
		MBALE	N : 06.18558 E : 014.42004 h : 866 m
		WAKASSO	N : 06.30236 E : 014.48911 h : 894m
		MBALE –GBATA	N06.12.168 E014.39.95 H :908
		DOUZAME SEDIMENTS	N : 06.23.252 E : 014.41.780 h : 939m
		BANAMOUFECK	N : 06.51955 E : 014.66402 h : 909m

During field visits, it was clearly c that mercury and other chemical substances are widely used in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASSGM) sector in Cameroon.

#### Project Output 1.1.4. Organise and Carry out the Sample Collection Campaign in the Field

A team of investigators from MINMIDT associated with experts from the company Hydrocarbures Analyses Contrôles (HYDRAC) carried out sampling of concentrated gold-bearing sands, washing water from sluices, soil/other solid matter, aqua cultural or halieutic species and surface water within our structures and mining sites during the period from 1 to 19 April 2023 in accordance with the technical and financial offers adopted.

Item	Compounds	Number	Type of analysis
Surface waters	Mercury Cyanide Others	Min 50	Atomic Fluorescence Spectrometry (AFS) in accordance with standard NF EN ISO 17852
Aquaculture or fishing species (fish)	Mercury Cyanide Others	Min. 25	Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS), in accordance with DIN EN ISO 15763
Soil/solids	Mercury Cyanide Others	Min. 25	Optical ICP

The table above gives a summary of the number of samples and the type of analyses envisaged. A breakdown was given in the technical offer from HYDARAC SA.

Table 2: Quantitative breakdown by department of the number of samples taken to date

Elément	Compounds	Mbere	Lom and Djerem	Kadey
Surface waters	Mercury Cyanide Others	16	16	18
Aquaculture or fishing species (fish)	Mercury Cyanide Others	8	8	9
Soil/solids	Mercury Cyanide	8	8	9

	Others			
TOTAL		32	32	36

Draft of NATIONAL SYNOPSIS (ASGM baseline data) is under development, analysis report on soil, water and fish samples is in progress and the results will enable completion of the document.

The initial quantities of mercury used in production are currently cross-checked with the evidence of contamination (pools and grinding bowls of semi-mechanized companies, pools of artisanal miners, the riparian rivers, the waste land from the operations and the roofs of the smelting units) is under assessment.

**Activities carried out under Ministry of Health (MINSANTE) execution agreement**

Activities carried out in the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 focused on the assessment of the various institutions readiness to detect, address and prevent health issues associated with ASGM and aims to provide inputs to the MOH on how to best define key priorities in the Public Health Strategy on ASGM. MINSANTE collaborated with the various stakeholders concerned with ASGM-related health issues. The institutional capacity strengths, challenges in the public health sector were assessed, and key stakeholders who can clearly contribute in the elaboration and implementation of public health strategy within the ASGM sector were identified.

MINSANTE organized 3 days consultative meetings on March 12 - 14, 2023, Mbamalyo, addressing the identification, review and validation of questions formulated for data collection surveys / questionnaires during field visits. Also, it has been agreed on the awareness raising messages to be used during awareness campaigns by the Public Health authorities

The following sites were retained for the ASGM rapid health assessment analysis:

**East Region**

Region	Division	Sub-Division	Work Sites	Elements
ADAMAOUA	Kadey	Batouri	Batouri ville	04°59'53.5" 014°22'19.2"
			Kambele	04°27'13.3" 014°25'00.9"
			Kambele 1	04°27'13.5" 014°25'01.0"
			Kambele 3	04°26'39.00" 014°24'24.9"
			Camp prison	04°23'25.8" 014°21'54.6"
		Kette	Dangota	04°55'50.3" 014°39'23.2"
			Zopane tibo	04°47'57.1" 014°35'59.5"
			Beke village	04°46'27.0" 014°40'30.9"

		Ngoura	Camp bleu	04°99'33.6" 014°35'43.3"
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### Adamawa region

REGION	Division	Sub-division	Cheifdom	Elements	Work sites	Eléments
	MBERE	MEIGANGA	FELL	N : 06.41898 E : 014.62880 h : 927m	FELL	N : 06.41712 E : 014.6266 h : 912m
WANTIA					N : 06.43337 E : 014.64423 h : 940 m	
DJOUZAMI			N : 06.22159 E : 014.30009 h : 920 m	ZIKONY	N : 06.23106 E : 014.4176 h : 888 m	
MBALE				MBALE	N : 06.18558 E : 014.42004 h : 866 m	
				WAKASSO	N : 06.30236 E : 014.48911 h : 894m	
				WANKORO		
				MBEL		
				BANAMOUFE CK	N : 06.51955 E : 014.66402 h : 939m	

The rapid assessment and the national draft of the Health Strategy are currently in consultations

The existence of the National Public Health Laboratory in Cameroon with different regional public laboratories offer a good option of intervention, but the knowledge on the analysis of ASGM related health conditions are unknown. This strategy suggests implementing three-tier laboratory capacities in accordance with the health care system approach and in line with established standard operating procedures for the diagnosis and treatment of related ASGM health conditions.

At the time of developing this strategy, many ASGM sites are located in very remote areas, which typically do not have access to Primary Health Care Facilities equipped with technical and laboratory equipment for diagnosis of heavy metal poisons, and ASGM related illnesses. Mercury specific diagnosis or related other symptoms possibly occurring amongst ASGM communities are conducted at teaching hospitals or state general hospitals with such diagnostic capacities.

2. Please elaborate on progress, challenges and outcomes of **stakeholder engagement**, using the previous reporting period as a basis.

The list of stakeholders included all relevant field partners, such as industry organisations, leaders, ministries, local authorities, NGOs and experts. The stakeholders were mobilized by the 3 executing entities and are actively participating throughout the project implementation.

Capacity building activities are addressing the various stakeholders' categories.

**Challenges and Actions Taken during field visits, sampling and data collection exercise**

Issues identified	Measures taken	By whom?	Future actions for planning purposes
Limited funding to train interviewers and data analyzers	Exchange on best practices between investigators and the FODER	MINMIDT Project Team	Workshops and meetings
Lack of security for interviewers on the sites	Working with law enforcement agencies	Ministry of Defence	Site visits and awareness
Difficulty in communicating with Chinese operators	Requesting translators from Chinese	Chinese translator	Involvement of local communities
Difficulty discussing with artisan miners	Use local languages to explain the NAP to stakeholders	Investigators and heads of mine sites	Field visit and awareness missions
Inflation in the price of goods and services	Cameroon's budget policy	MINMIDT Project Team	NA
Limited budget to finance the drafting of the six strategies in the financial and technical proposals validated by MINMIDT/UNIDO.	Re-budgeting of deliverables	MINMIDT Project Teams	Workshops and meetings
Limited statistical data on the quantities of mercury, critical information for the completion of the national synopsis (baseline).	Bibliographic review	MINMIDT Project Team	Consultation meetings
Mobility or migration of artisans and semi-mechanized companies	Setting up monitoring teams by department	MINMIDT Project Team	Consultation meetings
Taking charge of support staff	Refocusing the budget	MINMIDT Project Team	Consultation meetings
Local language difficulties	Engagement of local community representatives	MINSANTE Project Team MINMIDT Project Team	Engagement of local community representatives

3. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please report on the progress **achieved on implementing gender-responsive measures**, as documented in the project document.



Gender mainstreaming was considered during field activities and data collected are taken into account during NAP development and review

4. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please elaborate on any **knowledge activities / products**, as outlined in the project document.

*Developed and adopted strategies:*  
*NAP Engagement of Stakeholders national strategy*  
*NAP ASGM Communication Strategy*  
*Awareness national messages to be distributed through Media*  
*7 Posters*

## II. Minor Amendments

1. Please briefly elaborate on any **minor amendments**<sup>4</sup> to the approved project that may have been introduced during the reporting period or indicate as not applicable (NA).

Please tick each category for which a change has occurred and provide a description of the change in the related textbox. You may attach supporting documentation, as appropriate.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Results Framework	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Components and Cost	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Institutional and Implementation Arrangements	<i>Amended Execution UNIDO – MINMIDT due to change in project team composition</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial Management	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implementation Schedule	<i>Delayed implementation schedule until 30 June 2024 (against 31 Dec 2023)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity Category	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor Project Objective Change	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safeguards	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Analysis	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase of GEF Project Financing Up to 5%	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Co-Financing	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of Project Activities	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others	

<sup>4</sup> As described in Annex 9 of the *GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines*, **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%.

### III. Project Risk Management

1. Please indicate any implication of the **COVID-19** pandemic on the progress of the project.

*COVID 19 risks were mitigated appropriate during field visits and did not impact the project in the period July 2022 – 30 June 2023*

2. Please clarify if the project is facing delays and is expected to request an **extension**.

*The project requires extension until 30 June 2024 against current planned completion date 31 December 2023.*

*The additional delay was caused by required Amendment to the execution agreement between UNIDO and Ministry of Mines, due to change in team composition (death of team leader) and nomination of another representative holding field financial responsibilities. This caused delay of 3<sup>rd</sup> contract payment and affected the completion of site visits.*

### IV. 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](#)

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location and Activity Description
<i>Yaoundé, Cameroon</i>	<i>3.866</i>	<i>11.51667</i>	<i>2220957</i>	<i>Industrial hotspot site – OHIS former lindane production facility</i>

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. **Timing & duration:** Each report covers a twelve-month period, i.e. 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.
2. **Responsibility:** The responsibility for preparing the report lies with the project manager in consultation with the division chief and director.
3. **Evaluation:** For the report to be used effectively as a tool for annual self-evaluation, project counterparts need to be fully involved. The (main) counterpart can provide any additional information considered essential, including a simple rating of project progress.
4. **Results-based management:** The annual project/programme progress reports are required by the RBM programme component focal points to obtain information on outcomes observed.

Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) ratings	
<b>Highly Satisfactory (HS)</b>	Project is expected to achieve or exceed <u>all</u> its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
<b>Satisfactory (S)</b>	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its <u>major</u> global environmental objectives, and yields satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.
<b>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</b>	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its major <u>relevant</u> objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modes overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environmental benefits.
<b>Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)</b>	Project is expected to achieve <u>some</u> of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to <u>achieve only some</u> of its major global environmental objectives.
<b>Unsatisfactory (U)</b>	Project is expected <u>not</u> to achieve <u>most</u> of its major global environmental objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.
<b>Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)</b>	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, <u>any</u> of its major global environmental objectives with no worthwhile benefits.

Implementation Progress (IP)	
<b>Highly Satisfactory (HS)</b>	Implementation of <u>all</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
<b>Satisfactory (S)</b>	Implementation of <u>most</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
<b>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</b>	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.
<b>Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)</b>	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
<b>Unsatisfactory (U)</b>	Implementation of <u>most</u> components in <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
<b>Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)</b>	Implementation of <u>none</u> of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Risk ratings	
Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
<b>High Risk (H)</b>	There is a probability of greater than <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
<b>Substantial Risk (S)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>51%</b> and <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks.
<b>Moderate Risk (M)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>26%</b> and <b>50%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk.
<b>Low Risk (L)</b>	There is a probability of up to <b>25%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks.