

AFRICA: REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF HARMFUL POLLUTANTS IN AFRICA REGION (P146477)

THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

The Project Development Objective is to improve a shared understanding of current trends in environmental health associated with chemical waste management in Artisanal Gold mining and unregulated waste dump sites and develop a regional collaborative platform to address it.

PROGRESS SUMMARY:

The TA aims to analyze environmental health, economic and social risks associated with chemical waste management across the Africa region. Emphasis was made on the use of mercury in Artisanal Gold mining and the disposal of chemicals in unregulated waste dump sites in large cities. The TA will also involve assessing economics of available and innovative options for minimizing and controlling the use of hazardous chemicals and support awareness raising program on Environmental health and socio-economic consequence of unregulated hazardous chemicals and waste; Build Partnership within the Africa region for elimination and reduction of harmful chemicals and waste; and develop a regional program to address the environmental health risks.

This GEF MSP was designed to assist countries under Minamata, Stockholm and Basel convention that covers hazardous chemicals and wastes. The project started engagement with several countries in Africa, that have significant exposure to hazardous chemicals associated Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM).

The project team initiated a dialogue with multiple countries and prepared several country reports focusing on environmental health implications resulting from use of mercury in ASGM, and health implications to indiscriminate disposal of electronic waste. These countries included Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, and Senegal. The MSP also supported stakeholder consultation and launch of an initiative on understanding “regional trade in mercury and its impacts on environment and health of mining communities”. Based on extensive consultation with various clients and partners, a full-scale regional program focusing on “Environmental Health and Pollution Management (EHPM)” was prepared and submitted for GEF financing and Bank Board approval. The regional EHPM proposal was endorsed by GEF CEO on July 1, 2020 and approved by the World Bank Board of Directors on July 27, 2020. The project involves 5 countries (Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, and Senegal) and a regional component (Bank executed).

The delays in implementation were due to the COVID restrictions on travel that limited engagement with regional agencies and key stakeholders. We also experienced some challenges with the migration of this project to the new portal.

PROGRESS REVIEW BY COMPONENT:

Component 1: Support Analytical Studies and Regional Strategies to address the risks associated with chemical waste management

The MSP supported the study on Mercury Trade and Use in Artisanal Small-scale Mining in Sub-Saharan Africa. The MSP supported country-level awareness-raising workshops on both e-waste and mercury in artisanal mining.

Studies focused on examining the opportunities for 'mainstreaming gender throughout the Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM), solid waste and e-waste value chains' have been initiated under this MSP and will be reinforced under the EHPM program. The studies are part of ongoing efforts to promote gender inclusiveness and gender-responsive measures throughout these value chains.

The MSP assisted with developing TORs for country-level situational analyses and for the development of a communication strategy to inform the key stakeholders on the need and opportunities for regulatory enhancements. The MSP helped us partner with the energy sector to prepare a Toolkit on Managing in e-waste associate with off-grid solar projects. The ToRs for this Toolkit have been prepared.

The MSP is helping us link to the work of the Digital Development team as they are starting to engage on the global issue of e-waste management linked to digital technology. This will strengthen the e-waste management toolkit we are preparing focused on standalone solar technologies.

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The MSP will support the finalization and dissemination of these studies and toolkit through publication and workshops to socialize them among stakeholders.

Component 2: Building Partnership within the Africa region for elimination and reduction of harmful chemicals and waste in Africa

The MSP supported efforts to build partnership with the Extractive team and other organizations working on Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) (OECD, PlanetGold Program. The MSP was used to facilitate dialogue with the West Africa Economic Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union and Southern African Development Community (SADC) on environmental health and pollution management issues and on the importance of establishing a regional partnership and knowledge exchange platform on management of hazardous chemicals and wastes.

This MSP is also helping us explore ways to integrate knowledge products into the Delve Platform, a global data and knowledge sharing platform for the artisanal and small-scale mining sector.

Component 3: Regional Program Development

The MSP supported engagement with several countries on the risks and impacts of mismanagement of harmful chemicals and wastes and on the environmental and health costs of chemical pollution. Based on extensive consultations with various clients and partners, a full-scale regional program focusing on “Environmental Health and Pollution Management (EHPM)” was prepared and submitted for GEF financing. The regional EHPM program was endorsed by GEF CEO on July 1, 2020 and approved by the Bank Board on July 27, 2020. The project involves 5 countries and a regional component (Bank executed). These countries include – Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, and Senegal.

As mentioned above, the MSP helped us partner with the energy sector to prepare a Toolkit on Managing in e-waste associate with off-grid solar projects. This led to a expanding the partnership to the Digital Development team as they are starting to engage on e-waste management linked to digital technology. This will strengthen the e-waste management toolkit we are preparing focused on standalone solar technologies.