

National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Ethiopia

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID 11975
Countries Ethiopia
Project Name National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Ethiopia
Agencies UNDP
Date received by PM 7/28/2025
Review completed by PM 8/4/2025
Program Manager Jewel Batchasingh
Focal Area Chemicals and Waste
Project Type EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

Funding elements.

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

There is no implementation start date nor date for reporting to the Convention. Please clarify as it is in the word document that is included in attachments noting that a start date of 01/08/2025 is not feasible.

Agency's Comments

The project shall be implemented within a 24-month period

New Start date: 1st January 2025

End date for reporting to the Convention: 31st December 2027

Cost Ranges.

If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?

Secretariat's Comments There is a cost deviation of 50,000 that was not explained but was aligned to PMC. Please clarify. Noting that a NAP is to a value of 500,000 unless an explanation is afforded.

Agency's Comments Cost is revised to a total of 500,000 GEF finance, including PMC.

Enabling activity summary.

Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?

Secretariat's Comments No. Clarification is needed on whether a legislative assessment will be conducted.

Agency's Comments Yes, there will be legislative assessment on current legislations on mercury management in Ethiopia. This will be part of Output 1.2: *National comprehensive analysis of ASGM sector completed to support the development and implementation of a road map to prevent and reduce mercury use, emissions and releases*

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's CommentsYes.

Agency's Comments

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's CommentsYes.

Agency's Comments
Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments

Yes and it is funded via the PMC. Please clarify.

We would like to request the Agency, as per GEF Guidance, to please ensure under M&E, that gender-specific results are monitored and reported on, such as number of women or women?s organization meaningfully participating in the events, coordination unit, committee, etc

Agency's Comments

A dedicated budget for M&E (10,000 USD) has been created and removed from PMC.

The overall M&E plan includes quarterly reporting, annual reporting and end of project reporting to be undertaken internally by PMU with oversight from UNDP.

Additionally, an inception meeting is envisaged to ensure that all stakeholders are systematically engaged for project implementation. An allocation of \$10,000 has been made for the inception meeting from GEF resources under M&E budget.

Gender equality and women?s empowerment are integral to the project design and implementation. The Monitoring and Evaluation framework will include specific indicators to track gender-related outcomes, such as:

1. Number and percentage of women participating in stakeholder consultations, workshops, and training sessions.
2. Representation of women?s organizations in the National Steering Group and other coordination mechanisms.
3. Engagement of gender-focused institutions in project activities.
4. Documentation of gender-disaggregated data in baseline assessments and final reports.

Additionally, a National Gender Consultant will be recruited to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout the NAP process.

These measures will ensure that gender-specific results are systematically monitored and reported, in line with GEF guidance and UNDP's Gender guidelines.

Section 3. Information Tables

GEF resource availability.

Is the proposed GEF financing in Table F (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
The letter of endorsement and the Table F values are different. Please clarify.

Agency Response

Total budget has been revised to 500,000 USD GEF finance, including PMC. GEF OFP Endorsement letter has been updated to harmonise with this revised budget. Please see new budget table according to the GEF guidelines. The revised GEF OFP Endorsement letter is also attached.

**Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):
STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments
Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments Yes

Agency's Comments
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments
SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments
Rio Markers.
Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD presented?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments
Country endorsement.

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal

Secretariat's Comments Yes.

Agency's Comments
Response to Comments

**Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)
Gef Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
Council comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
STAP comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
CSOs comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
Project Budget Table.

Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

Secretariat's Comments Yes, the budget table is attached but please provide a budget table in compliance with the GEF Guidelines budget template. In addition, the allocations to PMC and M&E need to be clarified

Agency's Comments GEF budget attached, with budget notes on PMC and M and E
Environmental and Social Safeguards.

If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached? (only as applicable)

Secretariat's Comments

- a. If there is an ESS from UNDP, please upload it in the system, just as additional information.
- b. The project is a national project and small-scale mining affects population often considered 'vulnerable', these include Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Ensure how these groups in vulnerable situation, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities will be included meaningfully through all the projects, e.g. stakeholder engagement plan and that include socio cultural considerations.
- c. Also, Ethiopia falls in the list of List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations, indicate how this situation might affect the project and what preventive/grievance measures will be set in place.

Agency's Comments

- a) As this is a report development document, SES has been waived. Attached is an approved note to file.
- b) The project shall ensure that vulnerable communities are systematically engaged in the project implementation through the following approaches. (i) The project has identified mining associations as key part of the Project Steering Committee to ensure that most affected populations are mainstreamed in the NAP implementation process. (ii) The steering committee shall ensure the representation of women groups, youth groups as well as NGOs that work with vulnerable communities to ensure that their needs and vulnerabilities are taken into high account during the NAP implementation process (iii) The project shall ensure equitable representation of women and men in consultations during baseline data collection, inception and closure workshops, awareness creation and capacity building sessions, to ensure equal access to information (iv) A National Gender Consultant will be recruited as part of the technical team to ensure that the needs of women, youth other vulnerable groups are mainstreamed in the NAP process

C. Ethiopia is currently considered a fragile country due to ongoing conflict in some parts of the country. Some of the mining communities are currently located in the conflict zones, which may be a risk. As a mitigation measure, the EPA shall rely on regional and local EPA representatives for the collection of community level data, where security risks do not permit project experts to travel to such locations.

During the inception, the Ethiopia EPA supported by UNDP shall conduct training for the regional and local officers located in these few communities, to enable them coordinate data collection within their communities when needed.

Secondly, In case of escalation of the security risks across the country, UNDP shall activate the Business Continuity Plan which provides security risk mitigation measures.

**GEFSEC DECISION
RECOMMENDATION.**

Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?

Secretariat's Comments Clarifications must be made prior to approval.

REVIEW DATE(S)

**Secretariat Comment at CEO
Endorsement**

**Response to Secretariat
comments**

First Review

**Additional Review (as
necessary)**

**Additional Review (as
necessary)**

**Additional Review (as
necessary)**

**Additional Review (as
necessary)**