

## TERMINAL EVALUATION

Project ID:	9751
Project Name:	Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment in El Salvador
Countr(ies):	El Salvador
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**I. OVERVIEW .....3**

**A. Description .....3**

**B. Key Dates .....3**

**C. Disbursements .....3**

**II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES .....4**

**A. Main Terminal Evaluation Findings .....4**

**B. Stakeholder Engagement .....4**

**C. Gender Equality .....4**

**D. Knowledge Management .....5**

**III. CORE INDICATORS .....5**

**IV: CO FINANCING .....5**

**V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS .....6**

**VI. ANNEX .....6**

## I. Overview

### A. Description

Project name

Development of a Minamata Initial Assessment in El Salvador

Country

El Salvador

GEF ID

9751

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

UNEP

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

EA

Objective

Ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention is facilitated by the use of scientific and technical knowledge and tools by national stakeholders in El Salvador

### B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

6/2/2017

Agency Approval

8/24/2017

Implementation Start

11/19/2018

First Disbursement

11/19/2018

Expected MTR

MTR Submission

10/16/2025

Actual MTR

Expected Completion

6/30/2023

Actual Completion

12/31/2023

Actual TE

10/2/2025

TE Submission

10/16/2025

Final Disbursement

6/29/2022

### C. Disbursements

Project Financing

219,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

200,000.00

## II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

### A. Main Terminal Evaluation Findings

The following lessons learned have been identified and could be potentially applied to any future projects within the field of Chemicals and Waste in the country:

Lesson 1: ASGM is often associated with negative views such as environmental degradation, miners' exploitation, unsafe practices, and serious public health risks. This combination of perceived views requires a holistic intervention that can tackle all intertwined factors behind the status of the ASGM sector in the country.

Lesson 2: The engagement with the local media outlets during the implementation phase of MIA project played positive role in the dissemination of information related to health and environmental risks associated with mercury. The continuous engagement with the media in promoting the safe handling of mercury in the ASGM sector, which is the biggest source of mercury in the country, has substantially contributed to reduce exposure risks associated with mercury.

Lesson 3: The implementation of the activities of the MIA project involved a wide spectrum of stakeholders including government and non-government actors that facilitated the exchange of information and the improvement of the knowledge related to the Minamata Convention. The inclusion of experienced NGOs, academia and national research institutions introduced a sense of ownership of the MIA implementation. Any future project should continue to promote participatory approaches in the implementation of any environmental policies.

### B. Stakeholder Engagement

According to the progress reports submitted and the final MIA report, the project successfully achieved its targets in terms of stakeholder engagement through the effective creation of the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM), which coordinated and engaged with all government and private sector stakeholders identified prior to the implementation phase.

The NCM played a pivotal role in guiding the PMU in the identification and engagement with stakeholders under the different technical areas covered by the MIA methodology and toolkit such as industrial waste management or medical waste management, among others.

The engagement took the form of workshops (inception and validation workshops), technical meetings (i.e. dental amalgams meeting) and regular coordination meetings between the PMU, MARN and the rest of relevant government ministries and departments involved in chemicals management and policy development. The dissemination and validation of the main findings of the MIA report build capacity in ministries such as Health, Education, Industry or government bodies such as National Customs to improve their environmental policymaking processes.

The engagement with academic institutions at the national level allowed the project to disseminate and support further research work on the topic of mercury sources and mercury waste management at the national level.

### C. Gender Equality

Following the MIA toolkit and methodology developed by UNEP (2013), the project conducted a gender-specific assessment on the effects of mercury exposure to women and vulnerable populations (El Salvador MIA Report, Chapter V; 2023).

To do so, the PMU attended a number of online capacity building trainings provided by the Global Mercury Partnership and carried out a desk-based analysis of the national gender-related legal framework. Later, the PMU described the main health issues caused by mercury poisoning and coordinated the inclusion of gender-specific information during the awareness raising events executed during the implementation phase. These actions improve the overall knowledge of mercury health issues among project stakeholders and set the foundations for further dissemination among the general public at the national level, increasing the project's impact beyond the participants in project activities.

#### D. Knowledge Management

The adoption of the MIA toolkit and methodology allowed the PMU to further disseminate the knowledge acquired with national stakeholders. In that sense, this evaluation remarks the following milestones achieved during the implementation phase.

Delivery of a capacity building training in cooperation with national academic institutions to 54 odontologist on the risk, management and alternatives to mercury use in dental amalgams.

Development and dissemination in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of an online and printed factsheets on the health-related risks of mercury exposure, with a focus on most vulnerable populations.

Support to the development of a comprehensive technical guide for professionals and policymakers on the management of electronic waste in El Salvador.

All the milestones listed above are considered good examples of knowledge management outcomes achieved beyond the initial expected intervention.

In terms of challenges related to knowledge management aspects in the project, the overall scarce experience of national professional in mercury-related issues posed a significant challenge. However, the effective engagement of the PMU with the IA and the Global Mercury Partnership improved this situation allowing El Salvador to fully participate in the global efforts spearheaded by the Minamata Convention on mercury.

### III. Core Indicators

### IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)	Materialized at TE(\$)
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Comments

## V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
			Low

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

## VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	9751 MIA EL Salvador OCR_RJ_EA_LB_JA