

Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining: Background on the Sector

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A highly variable sector

From panning...



UNIDO, Madagascar, 2008

To high volume ore processing...



UNIDO, Ecuador, 2010

And everything in between...

ASGM is not new

- 19th century gold rushes (from 1849-1929): U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa
- Gradual shift into larger, organized groups of miners and eventual industrialization: a response to organizational and technological necessity and government policies



Canada, 19th century.



Brazil, 1990s

Photos courtesy of the Artisanal Gold Council. See: <http://artisanalgold.blogspot.com/2013/04/historical-and-modern-government.html>

Complex social dimensions of ASGM

ASGM is:

- A source of employment to 10-20 million miners in over 70 countries worldwide, especially in rural areas;
- A direct benefit to local economies
- A means of transferring wealth to people in poverty

ASGM can also be :

- Informal, extralegal, or illegal
- A source of social problems:
 - Child labor and other labor issues
 - Land tenure issues
 - Migration and other social instability
 - Conflict

Health effects (1)

(session 5)

- **Mercury releases** directly affect mining communities and down-stream population
- Children at mining site (working or not) vulnerable to mercury exposures



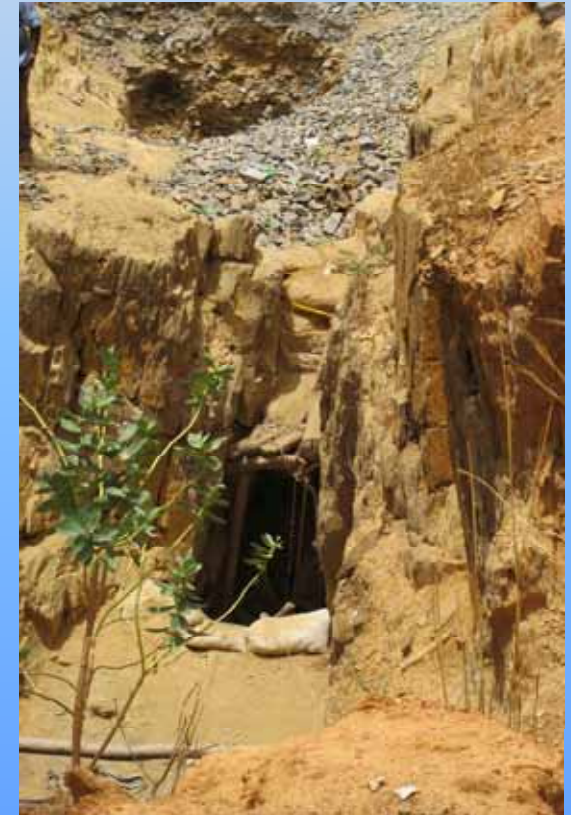
Health effects (2)

(session 5)

- **Accidents** due to poor safety conditions at mining and processing stages
- Poor **sanitation**, STDs



Sarah Pante-Avidao, Panganiban, Philippines, 2013



UNIDO, Burkina Faso, 2012

Environmental Effects (1)

- Water siltation
- Landscape degradation
- Destruction of habitats and encroachment on protected areas



UNIDO, Ghana, 2003



UNIDO, Madagascar, 2008

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_14445

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：



Environmental Effects (2)

organic soil

ation

pollution; increasingly, cyanide



, 2012



UNIDO, Mozambique, 2001