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# Health issues in Artisanal and Small-Scale gold mining - UNIDO's journey and position



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## Health issues – the basis for early interventions

### **1994 – UNIDO 1<sup>st</sup> ASGM project (Tanzania)**

- Focused on technology transfer.
- Project concluded that more needed to be done to raise awareness on the health effects of mercury use

### **1998 – UNIDO 2<sup>nd</sup> ASGM project in the Philippines**

- Specifically developed to assess health and environment contamination

### **2002 – UNIDO 3<sup>rd</sup> ASGM project in Ghana**

- Assess mercury contamination and introduce technologies



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## Health issues – Results in Ghana

- Water is not contaminated but sediments are
- In all fish sample, the mercury content is higher than the WHO toxicity standards
- Other food tested (plantain, cassava, chicken) not containing much Hg
- The whole mining community is affected by mercury intoxication
- 50% of miners and 25% of non-miners are considered as heavily intoxicated





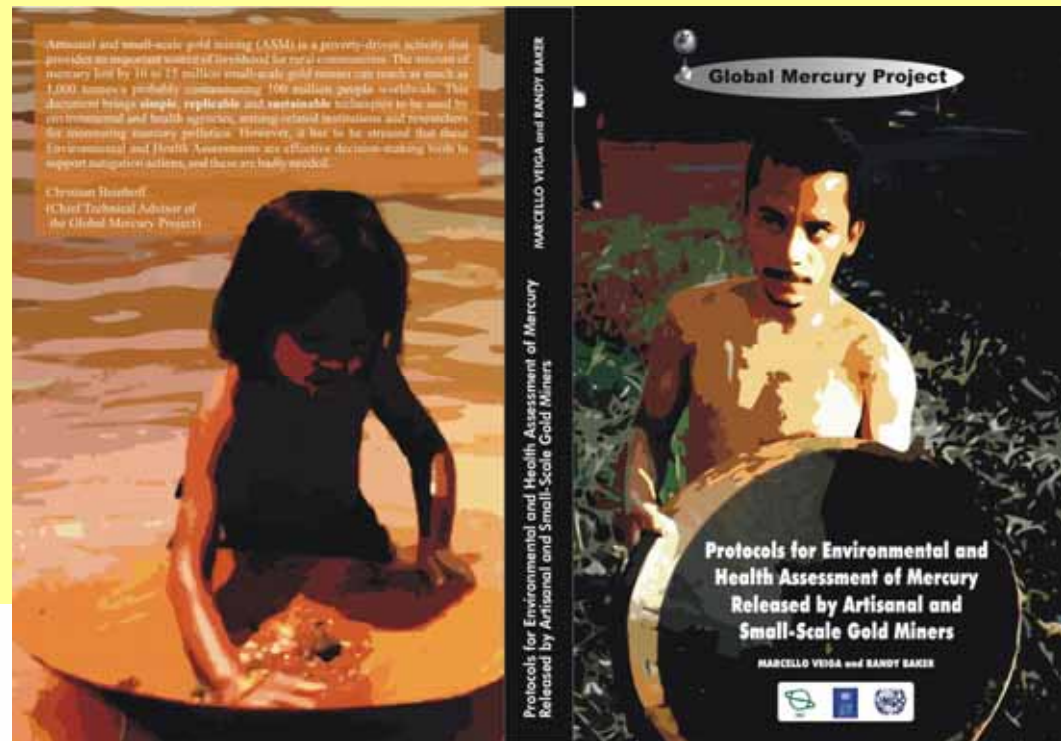
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## Health issues – a main part of the UNIDO - GMP

- One of the project's 7 components
- 20% of the total budget allocation
- Baseline information collected in 8 project sites
- Production of guidelines for Health and Environmental Assessments



[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_14629](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_14629)

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## - a reason for the Minamata Convention?

environmental) effects of mercury were the  
development of the Convention

At INC5, there was no specific article on

✓ projects on ASGM (3 approved) all contain  
elements:

• a raising campaign for Francophone Africa  
)

• information in Ecuador-Peru

• together with the Department of Health of  
lines