

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Mercury Honduras**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5229 |
| GEF ID | 5484 |
| Title | Environmental Sound Management of Mercury and Mercury Containing Products and their wastes in Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining and Healthcare. |
| Country(ies) | Honduras, Honduras |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Chemicals |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Medium Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| Protect human health and the environment from Mercury releases originating from the intentional use of mercury in artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM), as well as the unsound management and disposal of Mercury containing products from the healthcare sector. Protect human health and the environment from Mercury releases originating from the intentional use of mercury in artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM), as well as the unsound management and disposal of Mercury containing products from the healthcare sector. |

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| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

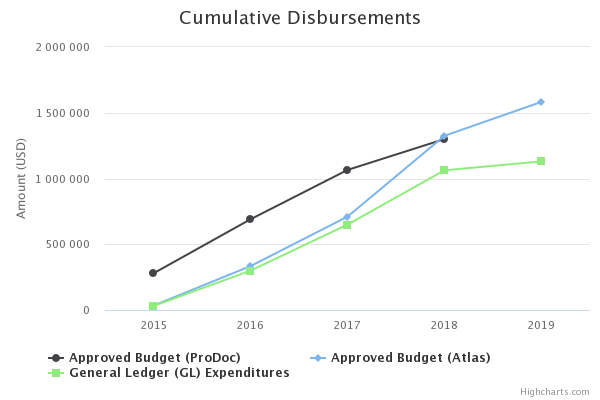
# Overall Ratings

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| --- | --- |
| Overall DO Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **Protect human health and the environment from Mercury releases originating from the intentional use of mercury in artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM), as well as the unsound management and disposal of Mercury containing products from the healthcare sector.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1,000 kg of Mercury releases reduced/year from ASGM. | 5,000 kg/yr of Mercury is released from ASGM activities in El Corpus. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1,000 kg of Mercury release reduction/year achieved through introduction of BEP/BAT in ASGM. | In the ASGM sector, important progress has been made, 4.4 t of mercury releases have been avoided, mainly by enforcement of a presidential decree from 2016 for that mining community which states the miners must legalize the gold value chain.    After formalizing the pilot mining group with the support of INHGEOMIN, achieving the creation of the first gold mining community company, belonging to the Social Sector of the Economy in 2017. Currently, the project supports "Miners 02 de Julio "(name of the company) in legalizing the value chain with the support of the Honduran Institute of Geology and Mines (INHGEOMIN) to obtain the mining concession for small mining, gold benefit concession, as well as other relevant permits such as the Environmental License and local operating permits.  Currently, the project technically supports the development of a mine exploitation plan, to be presented to the mining authority.  The project presents a gap in this matter mainly in the introduction of BAT not so for the adoption of BEP, since the bidding processes for the purchase of the gravimetric plant have been declared twice unsuccessful. The signing of a letter of agreement between MIAMBIENTE and an international foundation for the acquisition of the plant based on a comparative advantage is projected for the second semester of 2018.  In order to reduce the current releases (660 kg) of mercury, in April and May there were exchanges of experiences of Honduran miners in Colombia, a National Forum on ASGM and a Local BEP and BAT Workshop in El Corpus (as reported in Outcome 4). | The reduction of 4.4 metric tons of mercury is maintained for the pilot mining community (El Corpus) where approximately 37 artisanal mills operate (base line reported 172 mills operating broadly in the region) with the incorporation of mercury in the process. The project has carried out intense campaigns to raise awareness about mercury risk to miners, during the different phases of the Mercury Exposure Assessment developed by the project in the community, specifically during the sample collection phase and socialization of results process in January 2019.    A complex situation has resulted in the pilot mining community that hinders the process of legalization of the Gold value chain, since the owners of the land where the mine operates, do not reach a consensus with the Company "02 de Julio" in achieving a lease, which is a legal condition for obtaining small-scale mining permits and environmental licenses in Honduras.  The above, blocks the purchase/rent of the gravimetric plant that would serve as Best Available Technique to demonstrate the most efficient recovery of gold without mercury use. Currently, a new strategy to achieve this result is under discussion at the level of the Project Board, where a decision will be taken in this regard (i.e. a plant of smaller capacity - 3 metric tons, instead of a 10 tons plant originally conceived, to comply with the demonstration principle pursued by the project, could be an option).  On the other hand, with the support of the Lundin Foundation http://www.lundinfoundation.org/ and Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) http://www.responsiblemines.org/ the installation of the first gold recovery gravimetric plant was achieved in the second pilot community (replica) in Macuelizo, in western Honduras. Approximately 300 miners have been organized and legally constituted and in process of legalization of their value chain. This facility was inaugurated by the Minister of Environment, Director of the Mining Authority, local Mayor, and Congressmen among others. Currently, they are waiting for permits for small-scale mining and environmental licensing (the process of Environmental Impact Assessment in Honduras, allows the temporary operation while obtaining the final permits).  The competitive process for the development of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA Document) and the National Implementation Plan was launched in the first half of 2019. It also initiated the development of the National Action Plan for the ASGM sector (NAP), which will provide a rout map for the development and sustainability of the ASGM sector including the project pilot community; both processes are being conducted by the project in synergy with UN Environment. |
| 14.8 kg of Mercury reduction achieved/year from Healthcare (4.3 kg/yr from medical devices and 10.5 kg from dental amalgam) | 16.9 kg/yr of Mercury is released from the health sector (medical devices). | *(not set or not applicable)* | 14.8 kg of Mercury release reduction/year achieved through introduction of BEP/BAT in health care. | In terms of reducing releases in the health sector, 46 kg of mercury (14.8 kg, is the project goal ) are reported to have been avoided to the environment by replacing medical devices and safer handling and storage of discarded mercury devices in 4 hospitals in Honduras (2 pilot + 2 replica hospitals)    Currently, All project hospitals have their Mercury Substitution and Elimination Programs which contain four plans each: A Hospital Waste Management Plan, a Mercury Management Plan, a Mercury Substitution and Elimination Plan and a Temporary Storage Plan of mercury waste. All hospitals have temporary storage of mercury waste and a joint final disposal is being prepared by the project with implementing partners. A Guide to Best Environmental Practices for Mercury Management in Health Facilities will also be a contribution of the project, based on the experience developed in the pilot hospitals, which will strengthen the current national regulation for health care facilities (see Outcome 3.2). | By June 2019, the project has avoided the release/emission of 74 kilograms of mercury. This reduction obeys to an executive mandate taken from the top management level of the 4 pilot hospitals to stop purchases of mercury added products since 2016 and 2017, mainly medical devices such as thermometers and sphygmomanometers have been stopped from entering in the hospital waste streams.  Of these 74 kilograms, 55.2 correspond to mercury added products that have been avoided from being purchased, and 19 kilograms correspond to mercury wastes being managed and stored properly from the phase out program. 16.5 kilograms of elemental mercury of the 19 kilograms being stored, were drained and stored in a larger facility where a cooperation agreement (sponsored by the project) between the Secretary of Environment (MIAMBIENTE) and a Large Scale Gold Mining Company (MINOSA) exists in order to give temporarily storage and environmentally sound disposal overseas.    It is important to mentioned that within the scope of this cooperation agreement, MINOSA has committed to give environmentally sound disposal of 4 metric tonnes of elemental mercury coming from as by-product of their operations, this is an additional contribution of mercury releases/emissions being avoided and promoted by the GEF project. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Improved capacity at institutional level to assess and monitor Hg releases, Hg levels in populations, and generate data and scientific information in order to take action on priority issues.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| National Mercury Release Inventory Report finalized | A National Assessment of the Use of Mercury in Honduras was conducted in 2011, however the assessment did not provide a detailed national Mercury release inventory. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • National Mercury Release Inventory (level 1) completed | The National Inventory of Mercury Releases (Level 1 and 2) were completed in 2017 in synergy with the UNEP-GEF Minamata Initial Assessment and Development of the National Action Plan (MIA NAP) Project. The L1 inventory was socialized at the central level to the National Commission for Chemical Management, where there was representation from the government, private sectors, NGOs, Civil Society, municipal governments, academia, among others. The L2 Inventory is in the process of being reviewed by the private sector and waiting to be socialized in 2018.  The layout and publication of both inventories is projected in the second semester of 2018.  The information on mercury releases of the L2 inventory will serve as basis for the formulation of the Initial Evaluation Document of the Minamata Agreement and for the National Implementation Plan for Minamata to be generated by the project in 2018 and 2019 respectively. | This output has been achieved in 2016 and 2017 in sinergy with the UNEP GEF Project 000PCA862 Minamata Initial Assessment and Development of the National Action Plan (MIA NAP). By the end of 2019, both inventories will be published following the institutional graphic image of MIAMBIENTE and recognition of GEF contribution, UNDP and UN Environment. |
| National Laboratory able to undertake Mercury analysis. Laboratory staff trained. | There is no national capacity to analyze Mercury in environmental or biological samples. · The National Surveillance Laboratory (SESAL) does not dispose of a laboratory that can analyze metals. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • CESCCO’s laboratory able to determine Mercury in environmental matrices such as soil and water as well as biological samples (blood and urine). | The laboratories of the National Institute of Geology and Mines (INHGEOMIN) and the Center for Studies and Control of Contaminants (CESCCO) both from MIAMBIENTE were strengthened in the last reporting period with the provision of laboratory equipment and supplies.  However, in the current reporting period, the DMA 80 equipment provided to CESCCO, has been used in the analysis of biological samples (urine and hair) in the framework of the human exposure and mercury poisoning study of El Corpus mining pilot community (Outcome 1) currently in the process of statistical analysis of results.  As for INHGEOMIN, the analysis of mercury in water matrix has been reactivated, which strengthens the application of the normative framework.  In the reporting period, the project has contributed in the purchase of reference material to CESCCO and INHGEOMIN for the determination of mercury in matrices of water, soil and sediment. | This output has been achieved in the reporting period, the DMA 80 equipment has been installed and currently active in the Center of Study and Control of Pollutants (CESCCO) laboratories. Also, equipment and Reference Material has been given to CESCCO and to the laboratory of INHGEOMIN. The project gave support to one representative of INHGEOMIN to be trained in Germany in gold and other precious metals determination techniques in order to meet with international standardized technical requirements during the export of gold. |
| Hg population risk assessment(s) completed | The country has no experience in conducting Mercury risk population studies | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Hg population risk assessment(s) completed in the mining community of El Corpus, Choluteca.  • Stakeholders informed about population groups of high risk to Mercury. | The Risk Assessment started in the second half of 2017 and involved the evaluation of exposure and intoxication of mercury-exposed population in the community of El Corpus, where a sample of 182 people were evaluated under an informed consent procedure (samples of hair and urine ) were collected for the determination of mercury.  The large population segments studied were miners as a population exposed to mercury, the general population (environmentally exposed population), housewives, children and adults not involved in ASGM activities.  The project has received technical assistance from the Artisanal Gold Council (AGC) and the Faculty of Medicine for study analysis. A joint interpretation of results with the Health Surveillance Unit of the Ministry of Health is planned, a strategy of socialization of results to the community under study in the second semester of 2018 is also planned. | This output has been developed since 2017 and in the reporting period the project effort has focused on the socialization of the results of mercury analysis in urine and hair of the 182 people subject to study in the mining community of El Corpus.    The socialization was developed in January fulfilling the Socialization Strategy defined in conjunction with the Secretary of Health. The drafting of the final report of the Study continues to be developed in conjunction with the Center for Research and Development in Health, Labor and Environment (CIDSTA-SALTRA). The writing of scientific article and its publication is projected for the last quarter of 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Capacity of the National Commission for SMC (CNG) strengthened to meet future commitments under the Global Hg treaty.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| • CNG aware of the Convention’s requirements as they relate to the focus of the project (Mercury added products and ASGM).  • CNG assumes role as national coordination mechanism on Mercury. | • As part of a SAICM project, a National Commission on the Environmentally Sound  Management of Chemicals (CNG) was created in 2013.  • Honduras does not dispose of a coordination mechanism on Mercury management. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • CNG members trained on the Minamata Convention’s requirements.  • CNG members reviewed and validated the results of the Mercury Release Inventory and the Hg population risk assessment. | The results of the Inventory of Mercury releases L1 were socialized to the General Assembly of the National Commission of Chemical Management in 2017, as well as an advance of the mercury Human Exposure and Intoxication Study was presented to the Assembly in April 2018 where 70 representatives of the Assembly were present. | Project is still pending of presenting the results of the Human Exposure and Mercury Intoxication Study to the National Commission, however, the project aims to support the development of the National Assembly of the National Commission in the month of November, where the study and the article will be presented. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Stengthened policy and regulatory framework to reduce reliance on Mercury, and Mercury added-products and improve the environmental sound management of Mercury** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| • National Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Mercury developed. | • A policy for the Sound Management of Chemicals exists.  • A National Plan on Mercury was developed in the past (2011) and requires updating.  • SESAL does not dispose of policies, strategies and plans for addressing mercury removal. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • National Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Mercury developed. | The diagnostic information that corresponds to the initial evaluation of the Minamata Agreement (MIA) under the UNEP-GEF project is partially completed; currently the evaluation of the regulatory frame, the Overview on ASGM, L2 inventory have been concluded, on the other hand, the mapping of key actors and evaluation of national capacities are in the process of being concluded.  This will allow the initiation of the National Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Mercury in the last quarter of 2018. | This output is developed in conjunction with the GEF-UN Environment and MIAMBIENTE Project for the development of the Minamata Initial Assessment. The Terms of Reference of the consultancy were published in March, the evaluation of proposals in the month of April and still awaiting the award of the contract (even in June a contract signature has not been achieved). The National Implementation Plan of the Minamata convention is a second output of the consultancy once the national priorities are defined. The Project will provide advice and technical guidance during the process of establishing national priorities and strategies.  It is important to mention that the National Action Plan (NAP) of Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) will also be developed, the consultancy began in April, 2019 where INHGEOMIN has a preponderant role. In July, a training project is planned with the General Coordination Office of the Government link both Plans to the National Planning System and the SDGs . |
| • Number of regulatory instruments drafted. | • No standard, risks assessment or monitoring protocol available for Mercury in products or food.  • A new Mining Law was enacted in 2013 with provisions on ASGM. However BAT and BEP manuals/guidelines, specifically on ASGM, were not developed. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Draft regulation and monitoring standard on the use of Mercury in products developed  • BAT and BEP manual for use in the ASGM sector.  • Draft national (import) standards on maximum Mercury content in products prepared. | The Project has contributed to the strengthening of the regulatory frame on Mercury and has closely participated in the Legal Assessment process conducted by the UNEP - GEF MIA NAP project.  The Regulation of Occupational Health and Safety in Mining Activities was finally published in the National Gazette in 2017 (Executive Decree 002-2017), and the Mercury Management Regulation has been drafted (it has been socialized in 6 national workshops) and to date with feedbacks from the mining, private, sanitary, economic development and the environmental sectors.  The regulation has provisions on the thresholds of mercury in products, the adoption of technical guidelines for the management and final disposal of mercury, among others. | This output has been achieved in the reporting period. Four regulatory instruments were generated in the timeframe of the project: 1) Regulation (Executive Agreement) for Health and Occupational Safety in Mining Activities, published in the Official Gazette 2) Proposal of Regulation (Executive Agreement) for the Sound Management of Mercury and Mercury Wastes, this regulation was socialized in 2018 and submitted by the Minister of Environment in the first half of 2019 to the General Coordination Office of the Government to be endorsed by the President 3) The Tax Instruction of the Harmonized Codes for Mercury Added Products listed in Annex A of the Minamata Convention, approved by the Ministry of Finance, and published in the Official Gazette on April, 2019. 4) Regulation for the ASGM of Honduras (this regulation was formulated by the Project initially in conjunction with INHGEOMIN, subsequently the formulation process and momentum for approval was led by INHGEOMIN) where it was approved and published in the Official Gazette in April 2019. |
| • National tariff codes for Mercury containing products alligned with WTO guidelines. | • Classification codes for Mercury containing products are not alligned with WTO guidelines which makes it challening for DEI to monitor trade in Mercury and Mercury added products. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Mercury-containing products identified.  • Classification of mercury-added products defined.  • National tariff codes proposed. | On the other hand, the project continues working on the socialization of the Classification Codes of Mercury added products established in Annex A of the Minamata agreement to the customs enforcements of the country.  97 custom officials (gauging agent and dispatch) have received the induction, in order to prepare Honduras for the import ban that will come into force in 2020 globally of specific mercury added products.  Once the socialization has been completed, the Ministry of Finance will publish the tax instruction that contains the classification codes for its national application based on the request made by MIAMBIENTE (Ministry of Environment) to Finance Authority. | This output has been achieved in the reporting period. The Tax Instruction of the Harmonized Codes of Mercury Added Products listed in Annex A of the Minamata Convention was prepared by the project in 2017 - 2018, submitted by the Minister of the Environment in 2018 for approval of the Ministry of Finance, where it was approved in the first quarter of 2019. The instruction was published in the official gazette in the month of April, 2019 where it is binding compliance throughout the national territory.    It is important to mention that the Health Regulation Agency (ARSA) also issued an Institutional Communication in the reporting period (second quarter 2019) related to the differentiated registry that exists for Mercury added products of health interest (e.g. medical devices and medicines), also ratifies the year of prohibition (2020) of the Minamata agreement on the manufacture and trade (import / export) of products listed in its Annex A. |
| • Draft standards and technical guidelines for the safe storage, packaging, transportation, data management, inspection and monitoring of Mercury containing wastes available. | • Management of mercury-contaminated waste was included in the Regulations for the Management of Hazardous Waste Generated in Health Facilities (No. 07 Agreement, February 28, 2008). The regulation is currently under revision by the Ministry of Health.  • No standards or technical guidelines are available for the management of Mercury in the ASGM sector. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Draft standards and technical guidelines for the safe storage, packaging, transportation, data management, inspection and monitoring of Mercury containing wastes prepared. | After carrying out the evaluation study of the regulatory frame for the application of Minamata, as well as the process led by the project for the temporary storage of mercury waste in the pilot healthcare facilities (Outcome 4), the need to develop technical guidelines was identified around the handling of mercury as a byproduct from large-scale gold mining activities, as well as the mercury recovered from recycling processes.  The consultancy for the development of the Technical Guidelines for the Management of Mercury, Mercury compounds and mercury wasted began in May 2018 and will end in August 2018. | This output was achieved in the reporting period. The project has generated two drafts of Technical Guidelines for compliance once the Regulation for the Environmental Management of Mercury is approved: 1) Technical guide for the Environmentally Sound Management of mercury (has a life cycle and intersectoral approach, including thresholds) 2) Technical Guide for Best Environmental Practices of Mercury in Health Care Facilities. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**  **Reduced Hg releases from priority mining communities as a result of the adoption of BAT/BEP practices and the phase-out of unsound mining practices.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| • Representative surveys and participants lists created.  • Survey team hired and trained.  • Percentage of miners surveyed.  • Percentage of milling operations analyzed for mercury use.  • Survey completed covering 50% of the primary target mining community and 15% of secondary replication project communities.  • Baseline report available. | • No Mercury baseline is available for the mining community of El Corpus, Choluteca. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Team of locals that understand ASGM practices, Mercury use and gold production build.  • Baseline survey planned and executed.  • Baseline survey report drafted and published. | The Socioeconomic Baseline Study was concluded and socialized in 2017. | This output was achieved in 2016 and socialized in the month of January 2017. This study was officially presented by the Project to the Municipality of El Corpus, where the Honduran Institute of Geology and Mines (INHGEOMIN) actively participated in its development. |
| • % of Corpus ore processed with less mercury or mercury free techniques.  • Training curriculum available  • 5 trainers trained in mercury free techniques  • 200 of miners trained in BEP/BAT at primary site.  • Training video available.  • % of gold shops in the priority community have adopted mercury filters and PPE and have been trained on their use. | • All gold ore in El Corpus is processed with Mercury. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Mercury free processing facilities built or rent  • Colllaboration on training programme established with one organization/institution.  • Training program on BAT/BEP for miners developed and miners trained.  • Video shot of local miners being trained in clean techniques.  • Personal protection measures introduced at gold shops.  • Filters installed and PPE introduced in gold shops  • Gold shops trained on use of filters and PPE. | The Mining Company "02 de Julio" advances in the process of legalizing the Gold Value Chain, the Project together with INHGEOMIN supported the development of the General Assembly of the company to select new representatives of the board of directors (3 of June, 2018) as a requirement to apply to the Environmental License of the activity as well as the Small Mining permit (extraction, process and trade) to be given by INHGEOMIN.  On two occasions (July and December 2017) the bidding process for the acquisition of a gold gravimetric plant was launched in the UNDP Procurement Notices, however, in both experiences the process was declared unsuccessful due to the fact that the bids submitted were beyond the scope of the project budget.  Together with the UNDP CO and the Project, it is intended to respond to this situation by means of a Letter of Agreement between the Lundin Foundation / Alliance for Responsible Mining - ARM and MIAMBIENTE (Ministry of the Environment) for the purchase of the plant since Lundin foundation is buying the same plant to another mining community in the western part of the country for the company "Minas y Cuevas", a project replica.  Three capacity building events have been developed around the BAT / BEP in coordination with INHGEOMIN with benefit to the project communities: A National Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining Forum (3-day workshop in Tegucigalpa) that featured the 90 assistants and the presence of international experts from Bolivia, Mexico, Colombia and Canada; an International visit to the Community of Pasto in Colombia of six representatives of the Company 02 de Julio and Minas y Cuevas and; a Training of 2 days on gold production techniques and use of retorts for the recovery of mercury after the amalgamation process that was developed in El Corpus with the presence of 35 attendees. | The reduction of 4.4 metric tons of mercury is maintained for the pilot mining community (El Corpus) where approximately 37 artisanal mills operate (base line reported 172 mills operating broadly in the region) with the incorporation of mercury in the process. The project has carried out intense campaigns to raise awareness about mercury risk to miners, during the different phases of the Mercury Exposure Assessment developed by the project in the community, specifically during the sample collection phase and socialization of results process in January 2019.    A complex situation has resulted in the pilot mining community that hinders the process of legalization of the Gold value chain, since the owners of the land where the mine operates, do not reach a consensus with the Company "02 de Julio" in achieving a lease, which is a legal condition for obtaining small-scale mining permits and environmental licenses in Honduras.  The above, blocks the purchase/rent of the gravimetric plant that would serve as Best Available Technique to demonstrate the most efficient recovery of gold without mercury use. Currently, a new strategy to achieve this result is under discussion at the level of the Project Board, where a decision will be taken in this regard (i.e. a plant of smaller capacity - 3 metric tons, instead of a 10 tons plant originally conceived, to comply with the demonstration principle pursued by the project, could be an option).  On the other hand, with the support of the Lundin Foundation http://www.lundinfoundation.org/ and Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) http://www.responsiblemines.org/ the installation of the first gold recovery gravimetric plant was achieved in the second pilot community (replica) in Macuelizo, in western Honduras. Approximately 300 miners have been organized and legally constituted and in process of legalization of their value chain. This facility was inaugurated by the Minister of Environment, Director of the Mining Authority, local Mayor, and Congressmen among others. Currently, they are waiting for permits for small-scale mining and environmental licensing (the process of Environmental Impact Assessment in Honduras, allows the temporary operation while obtaining the final permits).    30 miners were trained in BAT and BEP procedures related to mercury free tecniques and use of retorts. A video of the training activities was shot where an international and recognized trainer gave specific topics on this regard.    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlABy1DEkTM |
| • Negotiation center operational or partnership with an existing negotiation center operational.  • Training curriculum available.  • # negotiation center staff and miners trained.  • # of service agreements with equipment providers negotiated.  • Lending/saving fund established/facilitated  • # of customs agreements btw national government and governments where large refiners are located developed.  • # of purchasing/ exchange deals with large refiners.  • % of miners of cooperatives make use of premiums.  • 1 set of 100% Hondurian jewellery figures in publicity campaign. | • Miners sell their ore or gold to middle men. As a result most of the profits end up with the middle men. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Negotiation center established or partnership with an existing negotiation center established.  • Training programmes and guidance documentation for all relevant negotation center business issues developed.  • Negotiation center staff and miners trained.  • Access to financing for local miners to (existing) lending and savings structures established.  • Customs agreements btw. national government and governments where large refiners are located negotaited.  • Purchasing/ exchange deals with large refiners negotiated.  • Premiums for sustainably sourced gold introduced.  • Awareness created on sustainably sourced gold from Honduras. | Initially, with support from the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany and Heimerle and Meule, the adaptation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas for Honduras was planned. However, after a joint analysis with the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) and Heimerle and Meule theres a chance for Honduras to apply the CRAFT Code (a Code of Risk-mitigation for ASGM engaging in Formal Trade) - http://www.responsiblemines.org/en/our-work/standards-and-certification/craft/ The CRAFT will assume the OECD Due Diligence Guidance Annex II risks mitigation as a starting point but will also consider other elements of key importance identified in consultation with stakeholders.  Despite of this, the project continues to support the development of the Certificate of Origin according to the General Mining Law in order to validate the Gold Supply Chain.  Within the framework of the project for the second semester of 2018, a consultancy will be developed for the design and implementation of a business scheme of “ 02 de Julio”, using a UNDP methodology for small and medium enterprises where the methodology would be coordinated with Regional Business Centers and UNDP CO. | Product developed in 2016, 2017 and 2018 with more than 100 miners trained in issues of national regulation for the process of environmental licensing, permits and obtaining mining titles, Best Environmental Practices for the recovery of mercury with the use of retorts and three exchanges of experiences, two of local character among mining communities, a first National Forum of Small Scale Mining and an International Exchange of experiences in Colombia, in coordination with the Alliance of Responsible Mining (ARM).    The project fostered the convergence of national and international actors to strengthen the value chain of the Company "02 de Julio" through the development of a First Forum of Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining held in May, 2018. It is intended in the second half of 2019 the connection or membership to the AMAPEH-Association of Artisanal and Small Miners of Honduras https://www.facebook.com/AMAPEH-Asociaci%C3%B3n-de-Mineros-Artesanales-y-Peque%C3%B1os- from-Honduras-2168258873198793 /  and with the Mining Chamber of Honduras https://www.facebook.com/caminhohn/ (CAMINHO). Also derived from this output, the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between a German Refinery and INHGEOMIN was achieved, as well as letters of purchase - sale of gold between the Refinery and the two companies linked to the project: "Minas y Cuevas" and "02 de Julio". |
| • Priority ASGM communities identified for replication purposes.  • 2 clean mining workshops established in the priority communities.  • 120 miners trained.  • 30 miners participated in clean mining course in El Corpus, using its pilot facilities. | • All gold ore in El Corpus in ASGM priority sites is processed with Mercury. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Priority ASGM sites for replication of project identified.  • Mining workshops established in the priority communities.  • Miners trained on BAT/BEP. | Work continues on joint actions between the two communities of Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM): Macuelizo and El Corpus through the companies "Minas y Cuevas" and "02 de Julio.  On this occasion a visit to Colombia was made (described above) with representatives of both companies to learn about the experiences of Colombian companies and similar cooperatives that have good practices associated with the ASGM to be replicated in Honduras.  A First National Forum on ASGM developed with 90 representatives including the two main ASGM companies was developed in May 2018 with international ASGM experts. Also, a workshop of Best Available Techniques and Best Practices in El Corpus with presence of the replica community was made also in May, 2018.  A technical visit is pending to the third replica ASGM community (Santa Cruz MInas) in the second semester of 2018. | Despite the gold gravimetric recovery plant has not been installed in the pilot community at El Corpus in Choluteca, on February 2019 the replica community located in Macuelizo, Santa Bárbara inaugurated its plant with the presence of local Mayor and authorities, Minister of MIAMBIENTE, Director of the Mining Authority (INHGEOMIN), Ambassador of Germany in Honduras and representatives of the company Minas y Cuevas (company that owns the plant). Currently Minas y Cuevas is pending of its mining right, which previously was of a large scale Gold Mining company (GEOMAQUE) the first of its kind situation in Honduras where a large company transfers mining rights with the technical and legal permission of INHGEOMIN.    In the second semester, a technical visit to the gravimetric plant will be carried out by other mining communities in order to learn about the mercury-free gold recovery process and the company's experience of obtaining the permits for the legalization of the gold value chain. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 5**  **Reduced Hg releases from priority Healthcare Facilities through the adoption of BAT/BEP practices and the phase-out of Mercury containing devices.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| • 2 HCWM committees established.  • # of staff trained on conducting a Mercury assessment  • 2 Mercury baseline assessments completed. | • HMCR conducted a simplified baseline in 2013.  • HMCR disposes of a Biosafety Disaster/Emergency Committee  • HEU disposes of an Epidemiological Surveillance Committee.  • UNAH has a Reagents Committee which handles expired reagents for the school and is constructing a temporary storage facility for this type of waste. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • HCWM committees operations in each HCF.  • Healthcare facility staff trained on conducting Hg baseline assessments.  • 2 Hg baseline assessments completed. | The baseline was completed in 2017 using the methodology of the Global UNDP GEF Project and guidelines of the Health Without Harm Coalition of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for four hospitals. 1. Hospital Escuela Universitario (HEU) 2. Mario Catarino Rivas National Hospital 3. Maria Hospital of Pediatric Specialties and 4. San Felipe Specialties Hospital.  The first two hospitals represent the largest health facilities in Honduras, the other hospitals are replica hospitals.    The baseline information served for the development of Hospital Waste Management Plans for the 4 hospitals.  Despite the project managed to jointly carry out mercury inventories in 4 hospitals in 2016, some hospitals have updated their inventories in 2017, such as Hospital Escuela with 97 Esophageal Probes containing mercury and Hospital María with 8.5 kg of mercury from sphygmomanometers that area safely stored within the hospital facility. | Output developed and completed in 2017, a baseline that has allowed the development and implementation of a Health Care Waste Management Plans and, Mercury Management Plans in 4 pilot hospitals.    In the process, the Biosafety committees of the hospitals were strengthened to conduct the process of formulating the plans, and they were trained in the baseline survey methodology. Currently, in compliance of the Project´s Exit and Sustainability strategy, the four hospitals are updating their Mercury inventories and monitoring their plans with project technical guidance. |
| • # of staff trained on conducting a HCWM assessment  • a HCWM plan developed for each project HCF. | • In August 2014, SESAL adopted the WHO/PAHO Handbook for developing waste management plans for healthcare facilities.  • HEU/UNAH and HMCR have not yet developed waste management plans.  • SESAL does not dispose of policies, strategies and plans for addressing mercury removal. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Healthcare facility staff trained on conducting HCWM baseline assessments.  • 2 HCWM baseline assessments completed. | The Project in coordination with the 4 hospitals (2 pilot and 2 replica) developed baselines around hospital waste in 2016 and 2017. The baseline assessment allowed the development of 4 Health Care Waste Management Plans and their consultation and socialization process was held in the first semester of 2018.  A typical Health Care Waste Management Plan contains:  an Action Plan for HC Solid Wastes, a Mercury Elimination and Replacement Plan, a Mercury Management Plan and a Mercury Temporary Storage Plan.  Also, in the process of developing the plans, a draft Technical Guide for Mercury Management in Health Care facilities was prepared.  In the second semester of 2018, the developed Plans will be delivered by MiAmbiente to each of the pilot and replica health care facilities. | This output was fulfilled in the current reporting period (December 2018). Officially, the programs were presented to the general directors of the hospitals in 2019 to begin the reporting process (monitoring and evaluation as well as validation and verification) within the framework of the Project´s Exit and Sustainability Strategy.    The programs consist of three important strategies where the biosafety committees of the hospitals were strengthened for their application and monitoring:  1. Waste Baseline (including Mercury Added Products, Compounds and Wastes)  2. Health Care Waste Management Plan  3. Mercury Management Plan |
| • # of staff trained on Mercury management.  • One Hg management manual. | • There is some experience among the staff of the Department for Hospital Management and Health Regulations; Secretariat for Integrated Networks and Health Services in conducting inventories, spill management and disposal of mercury waste, as a result of the San Felipe General Hospital pilot project (2008-2012).  • HCF personnel is not aware of the risks of Hg and has not been trained in proper Hg management practices.  • Manuals for BAT and BEP for the management of mercury waste in health facilities is not available. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • HCF staff trained on management of Mercury and mercury containing wastes.  • Interim storage facilities set up at project HCF level.  • Manual for Hg management in HCF setting developed. | The Health Care Solid Waste Management Plans were concluded in 2018 as described above.    In the process of developing the plans and the Technical Guide for mercury management in health care facilities, 17 Training Courses were developed, where hospital staff were sensitized. Also Anti spill kits were delivered to hospital staff in case of mercury spills from medical devices and temporary storage sites. | Output completed in 2018 with more than 100 staff trained from four hospitals on issues of mercury risk, mercury spill response, mercury-free procurement processes, mercury replacement and disposal plans. The above in synergy with the WHO Health without Harm representation in Costa Rica for the region.    Within the framework of the development of the Hospital Waste Management Plans, the Proposal for a Guide to Best Environmental Practices for Mercury Management in Health Establishments was generated.    The Project will send this guide to the Ministry of Health for consideration in order to be applied at the national level by health facilities. |
| • 2 comparative study reports on Hg-free devices.  • # of Mercury-free devices procured for the project HCFs.  • # of Hospital Mercury-free at the end of project implementation. | • In both project hospitals, medical supplies and medical added products such as thermometers, sphygmomanometers, lab reagents, vaccines and dental amalgams are being used. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Comparative study on Hg-free devices concluded and report finalized.  • Preferred Mercury-free devices selected for each project HCF.  • Mercury-free devices procured for HCFs.  • Procurement processes of 2 project HCFs adjusted. | The Project provided to pilot hospitals a Catalog of Alternatives to Mercury-free Medical Devices to be implemented as a guide document to administrative and procurement staff.    In addition, hospitals continue to work on compliance with the Letter of Intent to replace and eliminate mercury, since the purchase of devices with mercury is blocked at the institutional level following project technical assistance.  In the reporting period, the project has supported the application of the Mercury Substitution and Elimination Plan identified above through the purchase of mercury-free medical devices, consisting of sphygmomanometers, thermometers and esophageal probes for delivery in the third quarter of 2018 to 4 hospitals within the project frame. | The comparative study was not necessary in view of the fact that hospitals did the substitution of mercury medical devices without a comparative evaluation of alternatives. In this process, the Project acquired batches of mercury-free medical devices to the pilot hospitals in 2018. In addition, the largest of the four hospitals (Hospital Escuela) through the project substituted mercury esophageal probes, waste stream that led the mercury inventory.    All of the project's hospitals have blocked the purchase and donation of mercury medical devices and have mercury-free purchasing policies, one of the hospitals has gone one step further (Hospital Maria) to become a Healthy Hospital with an integrated environmental practices in its routine operations. |
| • 2 Mercury baseline assessments completed.  • 2 Hg management and phase-out plans drafted.  • # of staff trained on Mercury management and use of Mercury-free alternatives.  • Procurement processes of 2 replication HCFs adjusted. | • It is assumed that in the replication HCFs medical supplies and medical added products such as thermometers, sphygmomanometers, lab reagents, vaccines and dental amalgams are being used. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Mercury baseline assessments completed for each replication HCF.  • Staff trained on Mercury management and use of Mercury-free alternatives.  • Procurement processes of replication HCFs adjusted. | The actions with the replica (Hospital María and Hospital San Felipe) have been carried out in parallel with Hospital Escuela Universitario and Hospital Nacional Mario Catarino Rivas, which are the pilot hospitals having the outputs described in Outcome 3.2.    The distinction that exists within the hospitals, is that Hospital Maria raised the Letter of Intent to Phase Out mercury to an Institutional Policy to Replace and Eliminate Mercury in their facilities, the hospital does not have medical devices with mercury in use, all are in discard condition for temporary storage with project assistance. | This process was applied from the beginning of the project, benefiting the Maria Hospital of Pediatric Specialties and the San Felipe Hospital. The Maria Hospital of Pediatric Specialties was selected as a model hospital to share its experiences in the framework of the Regional Workshop (May, 2019) of GEF chemicals and waste funded projects in Cali, Colombia with the leadership of the GEF-UNDP Regional Technical Advisor team. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 6**  **Interim financially sustainable storage options for Hg-containing wastes established and long-term storage/disposal options identified.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| • Assessment report. | • No project partners/stakeholders have access to a temporary storage site for Mercury (containing) waste.  • UNAH’s Reagent Committee handles expired reagents and is in the process of constructing a temporary storage facility for reagents.  • San Felipe Hospital, designed and constructed a temporary storage site for Mercury as part of a pilot project (2008 – 2012). | *(not set or not applicable)* | • An assessment conducted and report prepared, summarizing:  - Storage and disposal options for Mercury containing wastes.  - Potential Cost-Recovery Approaches (CRAs).  - Capacity of various actors and stakeholders in the collection, transport, and interim storage of hazardous wastes.  - Recommendations to address identifed capacity needs/gaps | Through a procurement process with UNDP CO, a national consultancy was developed for the definition of the Post-Consumption Management Strategy of Mercury Added Products with a Cost Recovery approach, based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility. A pilot proposal was also developed for the final disposal of Mercury lamps (LFL – CFL) to be implemented with the private sector in the third quarter of 2018. | This process was developed in 2018 jointly with the GEF UN Environment Project on the Initial Evaluation of the Minamata Convention (NAP).    In this process, the key stakeholders involved in the treatment and temporary storage of mercury wastes were identified. National Strategies related to the temporary storage of mercury wastes will be integrated into the Minamata National Implementation Plan (NIP) described in Outcome 2.    In 2018 a Post Consumption Program of Mercury added Products was developed, with a Cost Recovery Approach, as well as the design of a pilot related to the differentiated collection and final disposal of Compact Fluorescent Lamps and Lineal Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs and LFLs).  The pilot worked with two companies of national importance, a chain of supermarkets (La Colonia) and the largest hardware store (Larach & Co.). They were placed 14 clean points or waste collection points (12 in supermarkets and 2 hardware stores) so that the population will place disuse lamps followed by awareness messages on social networks such as Facebook and Instagram.    The final disposal of 2 metric tons of lamps with project financing is foreseen in the second semester of 2019 that will allow to analyze the real cost of the environmentally sound disposal and internalize the cost in the price of the product. |
| • # of people trained on the LCM of Hg  • # of CRA put in place. | • No existing capacity for the LCM of Mercury.  • No Cost Recovery Mechanisms are in place for Mercury management. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Private sector operators and national entities involved in the management of wastes trained in the various stages of the Life-Cycle Management (LCM) of Mercury added products and their wastes.  • CRAs for the LCM of Mercury put in place at national level. | The Pilot Activity based on a Cost Recovery and Extended Producer Responsibility (described in the previous product) considers working with importing companies and managers of hazardous waste to demonstrate a collection and final disposal scheme of mercury lamps in Tegucigalpa.  For the final disposal process, the project will work with two companies that handle mercury waste located in the north of Honduras and that will be trained in September by a company from the United Kingdom (Veolia) hired by the Project to adopt best practices in the process of handling and shipping for final disposal outside of Honduras. | Output completed in the last quarter of 2018 with the assessment of national capacities of three mercury waste managers and the development of training provided by SARPI VEOLIA (UK company) to 30 people representing hazardous waste management companies: Recycle, Desechos Especializados (Specialized Waste) and Servicios Ambientales de Honduras (Environmental Services of Honduras). |
| • # of interim storage spaces/rooms established.  • # of people trained on the management of Hg storage spaces  • Operational procedures for management of Hg storage spaces available. | • Project partners/stakeholders do not have access to interim storage spaces/rooms for Mercury (containing) waste at facility level. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Interim storage speces/rooms set up at project HCF level.  • Operational procedures for the management of Hg storage spaces drafted and implemented.  • Facility staff trained in the safe management of Hg storage spaces. | In the 4 health facilities and with logistical and technical support of the project, the temporary storage of mercury waste has been installed, in which stainless steel cabinets, personal protection equipment, spill containment kits and containers were provided for the primary and secondary containment of mercury from discarded medical devices. This activity was complementary to Outcome 3.2.  3 workshops in 2017 and 2018 where 53 hospital staff including biomedical personnel from the pilot and replica hospitals have been trained in mercury management.  This activity has been developed closely with the outputs developed with the health sector in order to address the whole life cycle of mercury in the pilot and replica hospitals. | This output was reached in the second semester of 2018. Four (4) mercury storage sites were established, mainly to store medical devices, one per hospital. Internal procedures were designed where biomedical staff will be responsible for segregation and safe storage of phase out of mercury added devices.  30 personnel from the Biomedical area were trained on the health and environmental risks of mercury, the procedure for responding to mercury spills, mercury drainage of devices and internal controls for the temporary storage of mercury.  In this process, the Project supported the acquisition of metal cabinets for the storage of mercury, labels for mercury waste and personal protective equipment, as well as the provision of two air conditioning units for temperature control to reduce mercury vapors.    16.5 kilograms of mercury waste from medical devices, mainly sphygmomanometers, were transferred as mercury waste (to MINOSA´s storage center that is sheltered together with 4 metric tons of mercury as a by-product of the large scale mining activity). |
| • Centralized storage facility operational.  • # of people trained on the management of the centralized Hg storage facility.  • Operational procedures for management of the centralized Hg storage facility. | • No centralized faiclity for the collection and storage of Mercury containing wastes exists at national level. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Storage facility for of mercury containing waste designed and operational.  • Operational procedures for the management of the Hg storage facility drafted and implemented.  • Facility staff trained in the safe management of the Hg storage facility. | The national approach for the temporary and long-term storage of mercury will be described within the strategic guidelines of the National Plan for Mercury Management (in compliance of the Mnamata Convention), accordingly to Outcome 2.  However, the project promoted a cooperation agreement between MINOSA (Minerals de Occidente – a large scale gold production company) and MIAMBIENTE that was signed in March of 2018, with the aim of giving final disposal of 4 Mt of mercury derivative as a by-product of its mining activity.  In this framework, a provision was reached to store and dispose 19 -30 kg of mercury from the pilot health facilities.  The final disposal of this mercury will be carried out by a company that manages hazardous waste (Veolia) in Europe, whose costs will be borne by MINOSA and transboundary shipments notifications will be leaded by MiAmbiente. | This output started in 2018 that included the signing of an agreement between MIAMBIENTE and a large-scale gold mining company (MINOSA) to provide safe storage under controlled conditions of elemental mercury, especially mercury, as a by-product of the processing of gold and mercury drained from the discarded medical devices of the four pilot hospitals. In the first semester of 2019, the storage of 16.5 kilograms of mercury from the pilot hospitals was achieved in MINOSA´s temporary storage center where 4 tons of mercury are stored by the company and its final disposal abroad is intended through stabilization and long-term storage in 2019 or 2020.    As described in Result 2, the project generated a proposal for a Technical Guide for the management of mercury, which has a comprehensive mercury life cycle orientation, including technical guidelines for temporary storage.    Staff of the management companies and MINOSA were trained in this subject. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 7**  **Project results sustained and replicated** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| • Number of high quality monitoring and evaluation documents prepared during project implementation. | Not applicable | *(not set or not applicable)* | • 4 Quarterly Operational Reports submitted to UNDP each year  • 1 annual APR/PIR submitted to UNDP each year.  • 1 Mid-term project review. M&E results and insights are applied to provide feedback to the project coordination process, and have informed/redirected the design and implementation of the second phase of the project.  • 1 Final evaluation.  • MTE and FE must include a lessons learned section and a strategy for dissemination of project results. | 3 Quaterly Reports submitted to the Atlas platform for the 2017 – 2018 period.    The 2017 PIR submitted to UNDP.    Mid term Project review starts July 2018. | Preparation of three quarterly reports to UNDP, MIAMBIENTE (Q3 - Q4 of 2018 and Q1 of 2019). Preparation of the PIR. Development of the Half Year and Annual Project Board. Conducted the Mid Term Evaluation. Feedback to the Management Response derived from the Mid Term Evaluation. Communication of the emerging risks associated with the project and the Preparation of the Output and Sustainability Strategy of the Project. Final Evaluation is projected in the las quarter of 2019. |
| • 1 comprehensive lessons-learned report.  • 1 project website/Facebook page/Twitter account containing all published project reports, training materials and videos for easy dissemination and sharing. | • In Honduras there are currently no best practices for Mercury management easily accessible. | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Project website/Facebook and twitter account designed/set-up and regularly updated.  • Lessons learned and best practices are accumulated in reports/documents/videos.  • Lessons-learned and experiences are presented at national, regional and international events. | Project web site has been launched within the UNDP GEF funded projects common website executed by MIAMBIENTE:  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/garmercurio/  Project activities and news are reported to UNDP CO and MIAMBIENTE´s communication contact points to tweet and post project info and achievements. | Two systematizations were prepared, one for the process of phase out mercury in the health care facilities and the second associated to the process of legalization of the pilot mining community.    In May, The Project participated in the Regional Workshop on Chemical and Waste Projects funded by the GEF and implemented by the UNDP in Cali, Colombia, where it presented the successful cases of Honduras related to the substitution of mercury in Health Care Facilities. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 86.93% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 86.93% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,130,128 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 70,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 1,300,000 |
| Co-financing | 3,960,000 |

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| --- | --- |
| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Nov 18, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Dec 15, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Apr 22, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 31, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Aug 17, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Dec 1, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Apr 22, 2019 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Mar 31, 2020 |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-09-03 |
| 2018-12-19 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| --- | --- |
| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| N/A | N/A |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Not applicable. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Inception Workshop was developed on September, 2016. Mid Term Review was done in the Period of May - October 2018. Terminal Evaluation is foreseen to initiate in November, 2019. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The Mid-Term review was finalized in August of 2018 with very good results. No mayor adjustments in the project implementation will be needed and the project is well on track to achieve all of its targets. The project requested an extension during the reporting period and it is mainly due to delays that took place the first year of implementation where the first project Coordinator resigned and the subsequent (current) started from scratch in June of 2016.Therefore, effective implementation as of today has been 3 years. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project has achieved mostly all of its Outputs and Outcomes in the present year, with important reduction of mercury releases from the Environmental Sector (2 tonnes of CFL and LFL) by the development and execution of a public awareness campaign (in social media mainly) in Tegucigalpa and a cost recovery approach pilot whith participation of the private sector (large supermarket chain and hardware stores) for the collection of lamps and a pending final disposal in the second half of 2019. 4 tonnes of Mercury as a by product also have been agreed to be temporarily stored from a large scale gold mining company where additional 17 kilograms of mercury have been stored in 2019 from the 4 pilot hospitals, having a reduction of mercury releases from the Health Sector of 72 kilograms. In the Mining sector 4.4 tonnes/year have been reduced related to a reduction of the number of artisanal mills present in the pilot community, from 172 mills operating in 2014 to 37 mills operating in 2018 specifically when the Executive Power decreed an instruction to govermental bodies including local municipality to organize and legalize miners.  The challenge remains for this year to contribute to the acquisition of the gravimetric plant to ensure that there is a technique that does not use mercury in the country, defining a governance mechanism with the participation of the mining authority, the academy and an association of artisanal miners and small miners.  Regarding environmental legislation, the project achieved the development of the Artisanal Mining and Small Mining Regulations (approved in 2019), the Mercury Management Regulations (pending approval in 2019), a Tax Instruction (approved in 2019) with codes of precision for mercury added products listed in Annex A of the Minamata Convention and the issuance of a Communicatio by the Sanitary Regulatory Agency on national control mechanisms for the registration and import of mercury added products with sanitary interest. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The objective of the Project is to protect human health and the environment from releases of mercury from artisanal and small-scale gold mining (MAPE).    The assessed period is qualified with a satisfactory execution considering the significant advances in the 4 proposed results and their expected impacts.    The project has managed to strengthen the National Capacities for the Environmental Management of Mercury, managing to influence the institutional ones for the adequate control of the releases of Mercury and the decision-making based on valuable inputs generated by the project, such as, four public hospitals have already made the decision to prepare their Mercury Management Plans and the formation of their Biosafety Committees.    It is expected that, as a result of the project interventions, these processes will be sustainable until the total elimination of devices that use mercury, as well as regulations throughout the health sector at a national level, as well as in the artisanal mining sector    The project has managed to generate political advocacy with the government with the support of its counterparts to generate legal instruments, technical instruments and important agreements that are generating an enabling framework for decision-making in the proper management of mercury. These instruments represent the basis for the government to make gradual changes, for which the project has achieved to develop awareness and education mechanisms as conditions to these processes.    The project has developed an important empowerment of counterpart institutions, which are expected to take an active role in the preparation and implementation of the National Plan of Gar de Mercurio and the National Plan of Action (NAP) of Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (MAPE), these two plans are contemplated by the project and it is considered that the country through the efforts made by the project already has progress in its enabling conditions to build these plans, as well as their implementation.    As part of its satisfactory qualification, an important result of this project is the reduction of mercury releases in the artisanal mining sector and the reduction of risks due to mercury exposure of people with low economic resources engaged in the artisanal exploitation of gold.    Other important aspects in which the project has contributed are the strengthening of micro-enterprises of the artisanal gold industry and training processes, to get institutional capacities for adequate storage of waste containing mercury, all these aspects are guiding the path towards the generation of impacts with an environmentally sustainable industry that at the same time generate profitability for its beneficiaries.    The project had challenges regarding the approval of legal instruments and guides to good practices for the management of mercury, as well as in the area of local governance, following complications with land tenure (litigation in extractive areas) and occupational risks of beneficiary organizations, which limited the progress of some key actions, including the establishment of a small-scale gold beneficiary plant and the progress in the implementation of good practices aimed at reducing mercury releases in artisanal mining and Small Gold Scale (MAPE); However, as part of the empowerment of the authorities and contributions of the technical team, strategies have been established in the last year to promote the regulation of ASM in Honduras, as well as instructions at national level taking as reference the guidelines of the Minamata Convention regarding to the registration and imports of products with mercury.  A general contribution of the project has been to empower key actors throughout the chain (suppliers, users, regulators) on the importance of reducing and eliminating devices containing mercury. The project has managed to raise a sensitization campaign in several sectors, which together with alliances with private companies and added to the implementation of technical guides and legal instruments generated by the project, have charted the route to continue the path towards an Environmental Management of Mercury in Honduras. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project has carried out intense campaigns to raise awareness about mercury risk to miners, during the different phases of the Mercury Exposure Assessment developed by the project in the community, specifically during the sample collection phase and socialization of results process in January 2019.A complex situation has resulted in the pilot mining community that hinders the process of legalization of the Gold value chain, since the owners of the land where the mine operates, do not reach a consensus with the Company "02 de Julio" in achieving a lease, which is a legal condition for obtaining small-scale mining permits and environmental licenses in Honduras. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project has met most all of its outcomes in the timeframe of the project, though that the project had delays in its beginning, the project team has done an important effort to comply and exceed project outputs and indicators.  We are still facing the challenge to have the gravimetric plant in terrain, where an alternative technique can be shown to demonstrate more efficient gold recovery to the main artisanal gold mining community (El Corpus). Recently in August, the Project Board agreed on procure a small scale mobile plant (2 tonnes/day) to operate locally to show local miners the operating principles behind the plant and to eliminate milling the whole ore with mercury amalgamation and to focus to concentrate ore without mercury use.  MIAMBIENTE has driven also in this reporting period two regulatory instruments, one related to ban mercury added products listed in the Minamata Convention by 2020 (approved on April 2019) and the second one is related to control Mercury and mercury added products and wastes with a Life Cycle Approach. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The PIR for the Mercury Project in Honduras provides a very good picture of the current status of the implementation of the project. The RTA DO rating is (S) Satisfactory, which is fully aligned with the rating provided by all other PIR contributors. The RTA DO rating for 2018 was also (S) Satisfactory, whereas UNDP Country Office and the Project Manager provided a (MS) Marginally Satisfactory DO rating in 2018. The Midterm Review that was completed in August 2018 and presented in October 2018 had a very positive rating of the project and had actually listed the “Progress towards the achievement of Results” for the Objective of the project as Highly Satisfactory. The status of progress indicate that the project is on track to achieve its overall objective. 5 of the 7 project outcomes are on track to be achieved whereas the project has already achieved the remaining two outcomes. There is no doubt that the overall project implementation is progressing very well, and more details will be provided below to justify that the DO ratings and Status of Progress reflect well the current status of the implementation.    The IP rating for this project is also (S) satisfactory and the RTA rating is in line with the rating provided by UNDP Honduras. The IP rating for the 2018 PIR was (MS) Moderately Satisfactory for both RTA and Country Office and was mainly due to the low disbursement rate in the previous reporting period. The project has implemented many activities in the current reporting period and the expenditure level is at the expected level. The work plan was fully implemented except for the procurement of the gravimetrical plant. This issue was already raised in last years PIRs and it has so far not been possible to procure the plant with the available resources. However, the project team has looked for options in other countries to procure a smaller plant for the pilot site and have also partnered with the Lundin foundation for the Second Pilot site in Honduras, and this constitutes full co-finance for the project.    The overall objective of the project is to 1) reduce annually 1000 kg of Mercury or 5000 kg from the ASGM sector in El Corpus over a 5-year period. The Project has already achieved a 4.4 MT reduction in Mercury use in the 37 artisanal mills that are operating and will achieve / surpass the full reductions by the end of the project, 2) reduce 14.8 kg Mercury reduction per year from health care in the 4 pilot hospitals where the project is operating. By June 2019, the project had already achieved avoided release/emissions of 74 kg of Mercury mainly from medical devices such as thermometers and sphygmomanometers (avoided purchase and mercury waste being managed and stored properly). On top of that, a cooperation agreement was signed with MINOSA where they commit to give environmentally sound disposal of 4 MT of elemental mercury coming from by-product of their operations and this is an additional contribution promoted by the UNDP GEF project.    Outcome 1.1 Improved capacity at institutional level to assess and monitor Hg releases, Hg levels in populations, and generate data and scientific information in order to take action on priority issues is on track to be achieved. This is being implemented jointly with the GEF funded Minamata Initial Assessment that is being implemented by UNEP. The target was to develop a level 1 inventory. However, the project is developing both a level 1 and 2 inventory and both will be published in the second half of 2019. In the reporting period CESCCOS lab was upgraded with the DMA 80 equipment that has been installed and reference material was purchased. A technician was trained in Germany in gold and other precious metals determination techniques according to international standards. The project also conducted a mercury population risk assessment in El Corpus (ASGM community). The results were presented to the community in line with the socialization strategy that had been developed jointly with the Ministry of Health.    Outcome 1.2 Capacity of the National Commission for SMC (CNG) strengthened to meet future commitments under the Global Hg treaty, is on track to be achieved. The CNG members have been trained on the Minamata Convention requirements and they have validated the results of the Mercury release inventory and the mercury population risk assessment. The only pending action is the presentation of the Human Exposure and Mercury Intoxication Study to the National Commission.    Outcome 2. Strengthened policy and regulatory framework to reduce reliance on Mercury, and Mercury added products and improve the environmental sound management of Mercury is on track to be achieved. The project is providing advice and technical guidance for the process to establish the national priorities and strategies. The Minamata Initial Assessment is being developed jointly with UNEP. The project has finalized the development of four regulatory instruments in the reporting period, surpassing the project target of 3. This includes 1) the Health and Occupational Safety in Mining Activities, 2) Proposal of regulation for the Sound Management of Mercury and Mercury Wastes, 3) The Tax instruction of the Harmonized Codes for Mercury Added Products list in Annex A of the Minamata Convention, and 4) The regulation for the ASGM of Honduras. The National Tariffs codes for Mercury products are now aligned with WTO guidelines. The Health regulation agency also issued an Institutional Communication in the reporting period related to the differentiated registry that exists for Mercury added products of health interest (medical devices and medicines), which also ratifies the year of prohibition (2020) on the manufacture and trade of products listed in Annex A of the Minamata Convention. Finally, the project has generated the expected two drafts of Technical Guidelines, 1) Technical guide for the Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury, 2) Technical guide for Best Environmental Practices (BEP) of Mercury in Health Care Facilities.    Outcome 3.1 Reduced Hg releases from priority mining communities as a result of the adoption of BAT/BEP practices and the phase-out of unsound mining practices is on track to be achieved. The baseline survey report was presented by El Corpus Municipality in 2017. 4.4 MT of Mercury has been reduced in ASGM in El Corpus so far through the adoption of a presidential decree. The project has implemented a strong awareness raising campaign for miners to inform them about risk of Mercury exposure. The process of legalizing the mining community company (02 de Julio) has faced challenges due to a conflict with the land owners on the legal lease of the land. This is a legal condition for obtaining small scale mining permits and environmental licenses. This also blocks the purchase / rent of the gravimetric plant that would serve as Best Available Technique (BAT) to demonstrate the most efficient recovery of mercury without mercury use. In the whole project, this is the only real challenge that is left for the project team to solve and it is expected that it will happen before the end of the project implementation. The project has in parallel partnered with the Lundin Foundation in another ASGM community to carry out similar activities successfully (replication in Macuelizo community). Here, 300 miners have been organized and legally constituted and are in the process of legalizing the value chain. 30 miners have been trained in BEP / BAT. A video of training activities was developed by an international expert. The project has trained more than 100 miners in issues like national regulation for environmental licensing, permits and obtaining mining titles. The second pilot community in Macuelizo inaugurated its gravimetrical plant in February 2019 (co-finance from Lundin Foundation). This pilot has been very successful.    Outcome 3.2 Reduced Hg releases from priority Healthcare facilities through the adoption of BAT/BEP practices and the phase-out of Mercury containing devices has already been achieved. All outputs have been developed. Health Care Waste Management Plans and Mercury Management Plans were developed and implemented in the 4 pilot hospitals. The Biosafety committees were strengthened in the process and the projects exit and sustainability strategy was put in place. In total more than 100 staff has been trained in the four hospitals on issues of mercury risk, mercury spill response, mercury-free procurement processes, mercury replacement and disposal plans. It was done in collaboration with Health Care without Harm in Costa Rica. A guide to Best Environmental Practices for Mercury Management in Health establishments was generated and socialized. The guide was sent to the Ministry of Health in order to be applied at the national level. All the pilot hospitals have blocked the purchase and donation of mercury medical devices and have mercury-free purchasing policies in place.    Outcomes 4. Interim financially sustainable storage options for Hg-containing wastes established and long-term storage/disposal options identified has also been achieved. Key stakeholders in treatment and temporary storage of Mercury were identified. A post consumption Programme for Mercury added products was developed with a Cost Recovery Approach. A pilot related to differentiated collection and final disposal of compact Fluorescent lamps and Lineal Fluorescent Lamps was developed. A supermarked chain (La Colonia) and the largest hardware store (Larach and CO) both participated in the pilot with 14 clean collection points accompanied with an awareness message on social media. 2 MT of lamps have been recollected. An assessment of three mercury waste managers was conducted and training to 30 people representing hazardous waste management companies was provided by SAPRI VEOLIA from the UK. Four Mercury storage sites were established, mainly to store medical devices in each pilot hospital. 30 people from the biomedical area were trained on the health and environmental risks of mercury, the procedure for responding to mercury spills, mercury drainage of devices and internal controls for the temporary storage of mercury. 16.5 kg of mercury waste from medical devices were transferred to MINOSA storage center. MINOSA also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Environment to provide safe storage under controlled conditions of elemental mercury. 4 MT of Mercury are stored by the company.    Outcome 5. Project results sustained and replicated is on track to be achieved. The project completed the Mid Term Review with very good results in the reporting period. There are no major observations in the report, and the project is well on track to achieve its objectives. The Project Steering Committee meets regularly, and standard monitoring reports are prepared on time with good quality. Two systematizations were prepared, one for the process of phase out mercury in the health care facilities and the second associated to the process of legalization of the pilot mining community.    As described above, the IP rating for this year is (S) Satisfactory. Many activities have been implementing this year and the level of expenditure is at the expected level. The project has advanced on all activities except for the purchase of the gravimetrical plant and subsequent training of technicians. This was described above and is beyond the control of the project team. The project team has in parallel partnered with a second mining community and worked closely with the Lundin Foundation and Alliance for Responsible Mining, which counts as co-finance for the project. The project has been excellent in partnering with partners to optimize the use of GEF resources. Therefore, the Annual Work Plan was almost fully implemented. The project has identified a strategy to overcome the challenge with the gravimetrical plant in el Corpus, and it will be implemented in the remaining part of the project implementation.    No critical risks have been identified in this project. The project team has been good at adaptive management to overcome the obstacles that always occur during project implementation. There are no major risks that must be addressed in the remaining part of the project implementation. The project identified one risk related to the mining site in el Corpus. The Mining Authority, Ministry of Environment , the Municipality of el Corpus as well as the mining company “02 de julio) have been informed about the risk and the mitigation actions that must be adhered to (Environmental ssessment of a level 3 project).    It is worth noting that the project has developed a gender strategy that is being implemented successfully in the project.    The project is being very well implemented and the results have been remarkable. This the first group of mercury projects that were approved in the pilot window in GEF V. Many important lessons have been learned and have been shared with other countries. This project is well on track for a successful completion in March 2020. The RTA strongly believes that this PIR describes very accurately the current state of the implementation of the project as well as the ratings. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| [Estrategia Genero MIAMBIENTE.zip](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5229/213946/1727612/1741574/Estrategia%20Genero%20MIAMBIENTE.zip)  [Plan de Accion Incorporacion de Genero-Mercurio JUL2018.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5229/213946/1727612/1741574/Plan%20de%20Accion%20Incorporacion%20de%20Genero-Mercurio%20JUL2018.docx) |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN0:** no noticeable contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| In the life cycle of the project, no gender violence has been reported. |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| Three General Directors of the 4 pilot hospitals are women, who participated during the entire planning and implementation process of the phase down and elimination of mercury in medical devices. Recently, in June 2019, the project delivered to two hospitals, the Hospital Waste Management Plans and the Mercury Management Plan. These plans identify women as the key people exposed to the risks of mercury and for this, the project sensitized more than 100 women of the cleaning company that give services to the health facilities.    On the other hand, in the mining issue, the results of the mercury analysis in urine and hair were socialized, but mainly the most exposed groups were selected, such as men and women miners, as well as housewives, who were sensitized about the results and its link in the gold value chain. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| Recognizing the health risks of mercury, it has been the women who ensure the monitoring of the strategic solid waste and mercury plans built in hospitals, which were provided by the project during the reporting period.  In Artisanal Mining there is greater awareness among miners' homes, the practice of burning amalgam has been reduced and has been limited to burning by gold buyers by reducing burning at the level of homes where women and children are the most vulnerable population. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| N/A |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| The risk: Following a technical evaluation under judgment of a geologist hired by the project, it was identified that the area of ​​the mine (Mina Cuculmeca) site where material is extracted and where 500-600 people operate, is at risk.    Risk Management: The project made the notifications to the Mining Authority (INHGEOMIN), MIAMBIENTE and to the Municipal City Hall of El Corpus about the risk, likewise, it was notified through an informative assembly to the company 02 de Julio. |

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| **SESP:** [ESSP Nov 2014.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5229/213946/1685077/1685358/ESSP%20Nov%202014.pdf)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| However, the operation of the gravimetric plant that is foreseen to operate in the last quarter of 2019 or first of 2020 will required an Environmental Assessment for a category 3 project (Category 4 is the top of project categories with substantial environmental impacts to be assesed.) |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| N/A |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Macuelizo is a mining municipality located in western Honduras, and in the town there is a reclamation process for a large-scale gold mining project that testifies the extraction and beneficiation operations that once occurred there by a transnational Gold mining company, is also the place for the livelihood for approximately 300 miners from rural communities who extract mineral from slopes of that former mining operation. A rich gold brush is waiting to be processed, where raw amalgamation of mineral seems the only option available and known technique for the group of organized miners, which includes women in their membership.  Recognizing that gold is a source of income for that mining community, an interesting association was made between the Lundin Foundation (Canadian capital non-governmental organization) and the organized group of Macuelizo miners in order to achieve the transfer of a mining permit that would pass from a large-scale mining process to a small-scale gold mining activity, which brings benefit to local organized artisanal miners. It is a career that they have decided to do together to legalize the gold value chain, where the group has been organized with the support of the foundation to formally establish itself as a company with the name of “Minas y Cuevas” which means Mines and Caves in English, they also receive technical assistance of a global recognized organization known as Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM) to strengthen its internal governance structure, the adoption of the best practices for the establishment and development of safe tunnels for miners to extract rich mineral, in addition to other recognized standards that would allow them access to markets to sell its mineral at a fair and reasonable price.  The mining community is part of a segment of communities defined by the Honduran Institute of Geology and Mines (INHGEOMIN) as priorities sites to work closely with the GEF / UNDP Project of MiAmbiente to phase down and phase out the use of mercury in artisanal and small scale gold mining. In this sense, Minas y Cuevas became one of the communities where the Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and Best Available Techniques (BAT) are integrated into its production chain to recover gold avoiding the raw amalgamation in the milling process, the use of gravimetric techniques to produce gold without mercury use and utilization of retorts to recover mercury when amalgamation needed in the concentration process.  Today, the Minas y Cuevas company achieved the inauguration of its gravimetric plant, becoming the first community plant belonging to a small-scale gold mining value chain in Honduras, and since its genesis they have sought to obtain its environmental and small-scale mining permits to comply with the CRAFT code that will position its gold into the market as a responsible - formal chain that meets due diligence standards, currently having a marketing agreement with a prestigious European refinery located in Germany.    You can also see:    https://www.responsiblemines.org/en/2018/04/artisanal-miners-from-honduras-visit-colombia-to-exchange-experience-with-their-counterparts/ |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| UNDP CO, Mining Authority and project coordinator Tweets:  https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/1014542585422143488  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @PNUDHN: https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/1014542585422143488?s=08  [Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @PNUDHN: https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/1011695471428063238?s=08  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @PNUDHN: https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/1009985463027937281?s=08  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @PabloRiRoRu: https://twitter.com/PabloRiRoRu/status/1004604161214832640?s=08  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @PNUDHN: https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/996857949480943618?s=08  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @PNUDHN: https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/996795481941594113?s=08  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @ACRundp: https://twitter.com/ACRundp/status/996010630518886405?s=08  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @PabloRiRoRu: https://twitter.com/PabloRiRoRu/status/995901610298691584?s=08  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @Inhgeomin: https://twitter.com/Inhgeomin/status/993987136046149633?s=08  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @Inhgeomin: https://twitter.com/Inhgeomin/status/991729212586364930?s=08  Echa un vistazo al Tweet de @PNUDHN: https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/991715957587480577?s=08  2019  https://twitter.com/PabloRiRoRu/status/1139571973246394369  https://twitter.com/OPSOMS\_Honduras/status/1121112524533972992  https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/1117234095074029569  https://twitter.com/MIAMBIENTE\_HN/status/1127383136315367425  https://twitter.com/MIAMBIENTE\_HN/status/1125505009825796096  https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/1117234095074029569  https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/1105534661302857728  https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/1098304872439521281  Web site publications:  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/garmercurio/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/miambiente-sensibiliza-a-85-personas-del-hospital-maria-de-especialidades-pediatricas-hmep-sobre-los-riesgos-sanitarios-y-ambientales-del-mercurio/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/mineros-de-oro-del-municipio-de-el-corpus-choluteca-obtienen-personeria-juridica-y-se-reconoce-su-junta-directiva/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/practicas-amigables-para-reducir-el-consumo-de-mercurio-fueron-presentadas-por-miambiente-y-pnud-a-mineros-en-el-corpus-choluteca/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/miambiente-capacita-a-personal-de-enfermeria-del-hospital-escuela-universitario-sobre-los-riesgos-del-mercurio/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/personal-directivo-y-tecnico-de-la-deca-y-cescco-inician-proceso-de-evaluacion-de-sus-capacidades-para-la-implementacion-del-convenio-de-minamata/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/honduras-genera-propuesta-de-codigos-de-precision-arancelaria-para-productos-con-mercurio-anadido-que-estaran-prohibidos-en-el-ano-2020/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/preparandose-ante-el-2020-importadores-de-productos-con-mercurio-anadido-en-honduras-son-informados-acerca-de-las-implicaciones-legales-del-convenio-de-minamata/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/miambiente-reconoce-a-larach-cia-por-iniciativa-que-promueve-venta-de-energia-asequible-no-contaminante-y-el-consumo-responsable/  2019  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/personal-directivo-y-tecnico-de-la-deca-y-cescco-inician-proceso-de-evaluacion-de-sus-capacidades-para-la-implementacion-del-convenio-de-minamata/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/miambiente-sensibiliza-a-85-personas-del-hospital-maria-de-especialidades-pediatricas-hmep-sobre-los-riesgos-sanitarios-y-ambientales-del-mercurio/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/el-hospital-san-felipe-emprende-acciones-en-la-eliminacion-del-mercurio/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/hospital-maria-de-especialidades-pediatricas-hmep-el-primer-hospital-publico-del-pais-en-contar-con-una-politica-institucional-para-ser-libre-de-mercurio/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/miambiente-presenta-propuesta-de-guia-tecnica-para-el-manejo-del-mercurio-en-tegucigalpa/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/campana-pos-consumo-de-lamparas-y-tubos-fluorescentes/  http://www.ocphn.org/v1/honduras-se-prepara-para-exportar-oro-verde/  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaPzTQtQmdY&feature=youtu.be  Press Publications:  https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1af13lnt1nhpmnm/AABFLlm-wcKQlgQavtveaol\_a?dl=0  http://inhgeomin.gob.hn/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=301:salud-seguridad-ocupacional&catid=82&Itemid=562  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlABy1DEkTM  https://www.responsiblemines.org/en/2018/04/artisanal-miners-from-honduras-visit-colombia-to-exchange-experience-with-their-counterparts/ |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Request for MSP Approval:** [5229 Honduras GEF6 CEO Endorsement 1 Dec 2014.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5229/213946/1685090/1685378/5229%20Honduras%20GEF6%20CEO%20Endorsement%201%20Dec%202014.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| During Project Implementation important engagement were drive;  INHGEOMIN: Give technical and legal advise to project team and mining communities to develop pilot and replica activities.  Secretary of Health: Review, promote and adopt (if possible) legal instruments prepared by the project related to phasing down and phasin out mercury used in hospitals.  CESCCO: Give technical follow up and sustainability to project activities and scalling up if possible.  Academy: Is being assessed if a Academic Institute can give technical assistance to miners related to geology and mechanic reparations to the gravimetric plant when operating. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.