Mercury Pollution and Contaminated Sites: Case of ASGM and Other Hotspots in Kenya

IPEN Side Event
Minamata COP 3, Geneva, Switzerland
Tuesday, 26th November 2019,

By
Griffins Ochieng, Programs Coordinator, CEJAD
About CEJAD

CEJAD public interest NGO based in Nairobi, Kenya
• Plastics and Waste Management

• POPs Elimination

• Lead in Paint Elimination

• Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) Elimination

• Mercury and Minamata Convention on mercury
ASGM - Background

• Gold mining dates back to 1920s (largely industrial mines)

• ASGM mostly in old sites where industrial mining occurred.

• Key areas include Migori–Transmara, Kakamega, Vihiga in Western Kenya region,

• More people joining ASGM due to variety of push and pull factors- key livelihood source in the region
Minerals Occurrence and ASGM Hotspots
CEJAD Work on Mercury Use in ASGM

• Situational Studies of ASGM in Kenya and Developed a mercury hotspot profile of the ASGM sites in Migori
• User friendly web-based interactive map on the hotspots
• Produced a video documentary on documentary on prevailing conditions in ASGM for media outreach
• Implemented Sensitization programmes on Environmental and Health impacts of mercury use in ASGM in liaison with local miner groups
• Participated in Project for Sampling Human Hair to test for Mercury poisoning among women of Child bearing age in ASGM Areas
Lolgorian

Field Findings
POLLUTION

• Various studies in Migori–Transmara region revealed high levels of Mercury contamination in soils, water bodies, and plant matter.

• High Hg contents quantified in soil, sediment and tailings in the Migori–Transmara gold mining areas.

• A study by Odumo etal 2014, revealed a mean Hg concentration of 140 μg kg$^{-1}$. Concentration in soils ranged between 20 and 1,100 μg kg$^{-1}$.

• Hg concentrations in the sediments collected from the bottom of rivers ranged from 30 to 2,380 μg kg$^{-1}$, with the lowest and the highest levels recorded from the Migori River and the Lolgorien River.
REFERENCE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION