Addressing health when developing national action plans on ASGM under the Minamata Convention on Mercury

WHO LAUNCH OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Ellen Rosskam, PhD, MPH
International Programme on Chemical Safety, Department of Public Health, Environmental & Social Determinants of Health, WHO

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Lessons Learned from UNIDO/WHO Project
National Action Plan on Mercury in the ASGM sector in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

• Technical assistance through health assessments, institutional capacity assessments, & workshops to improve national capacity for management of mercury, through preparation of a NAP for ASGM sector.

• Specifically: Develop a public health strategy as required under the Convention to feed into the NAP.

• Conducted health assessments and institutional capacity assessments.

Project completed December 2019

Mozambique workshop in 1-2 weeks (fire under the feet 😊)
Lessons Learned from UNIDO/WHO Project
National Action Plan on Mercury in the ASGM sector
in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

• Nigeria and Ghana: Multi-stakeholder, intra-sectoral working groups used
the research findings to successfully develop public health strategy during
2-day workshop!!

• Involved:
  • Various ministries (health, environment, mining, etc.)
  • Various federal agencies
  • International organizations
  • Miners’ associations
  • Security services, etc.
Lessons Learned from UNIDO/WHO Project
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in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

Stakeholders determined 4 priorities for public health strategies:

1. Direct health impacts of mining
2. Health system capacities
3. Indirect health impacts of mining
4. Other institutional capacities

In 3.5 hours working groups developed 5 strategy sections for each priority:

1. Activities
2. Target group / level of focus of activities
3. Who is involved
4. What are their responsibilities
5. Monitoring indicators

Ghana: 3 minutes coverage on prime time national news!
Lessons Learned from UNIDO/WHO Project National Action Plan on Mercury in the ASGM sector in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

Conditions for success include:

- High level commitment: MoH (Ghana); MoH + MoE (Nigeria)
- Good intra-ministerial cooperation / collaboration
- NAPs advanced (not completed)
- NAP focal point
- Process country-led & owned
- Strategies: people-centered, implementable, contribute towards UHC & SDGs
- MoH acceptance implementation involves all levels of health system
- Broad public health strategies needed (Hg, WASH, employment, regulations, health system readiness and responsiveness, occupational hazards beyond Hg exposure, migrant workers, poverty-based issues)
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in Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

• All ASGM countries can use these research findings &
  recommendations to develop public health strategies – adapt for
  national context as needed (e.g. if WASH not relevant, leave out)

• Can be done in a few days

Ghana will meet March 2020 NAP submission date
Nigeria soon after
THANK YOU