

Health in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining

Training Tool

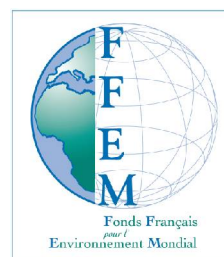
Version 1.0



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Artisanal Gold Council (2015), Richard M., Moher P., and Telmer K.; Health in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining: Training tool- Beta version 0.8, available online at: www.artisanal-gold.org

Graphic designs by Ana Guerra. Translation by Dalal Hamza.

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Who is this document for?

This document was created to support health workers who practice in communities where Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) occurs.

This guide is illustrated and contains key messages that should be conveyed to the community. This guide can be used for group information sessions or for individual sessions.

This document has 2 main objectives:

- Inform the community on the health risks associated with ASGM
- Encourage the community to prevent the main health risks using simple solutions

We encourage you to edit and customize this guide to be useful and specific to the context in which it is used.

How to use this tool?

The training tools was created so that the page containing the image faces the individual or the group.

The page containing the text will face you and serve as a memory aid.

The best way to share the information is to:

- Greet your patient or your group and sit facing them.
- Make sure that your patient can clearly see the images at all time.
- Point to the image while talking about it.
- Speak clearly and use words that the person can understand.
- Avoid reading the text directly.
- Try to involve the person by asking questions about their own experience.

Mercury is used in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) to capture gold.

This mercury is silver colored and is a heavy liquid.

It is often sold in plastic bags or small bottles.

Mercury releases toxic vapors.

These vapors are invisible and odorless.

Mercury releases vapors when the amalgam is heated.

Mercury also releases a bit of vapors when it is left in open air without being heated. Mercury releases vapors at normal room temperature.

People in close proximity to mercury will breath in these toxic vapors.

If you touch mercury with bare hands, you will also be exposed through your skin.

Mercury



**Mercury releases toxic vapors
and contaminates:**

When heating the amalgam



When touching it with bare hands



When used in open air, without heating

Mercury vapors stick to objects, walls and clothes that are close-by.

These vapors are also carried by the wind towards people and houses.

When mercury sticks to something, it contaminates it. This lasts a long time, months or even years.

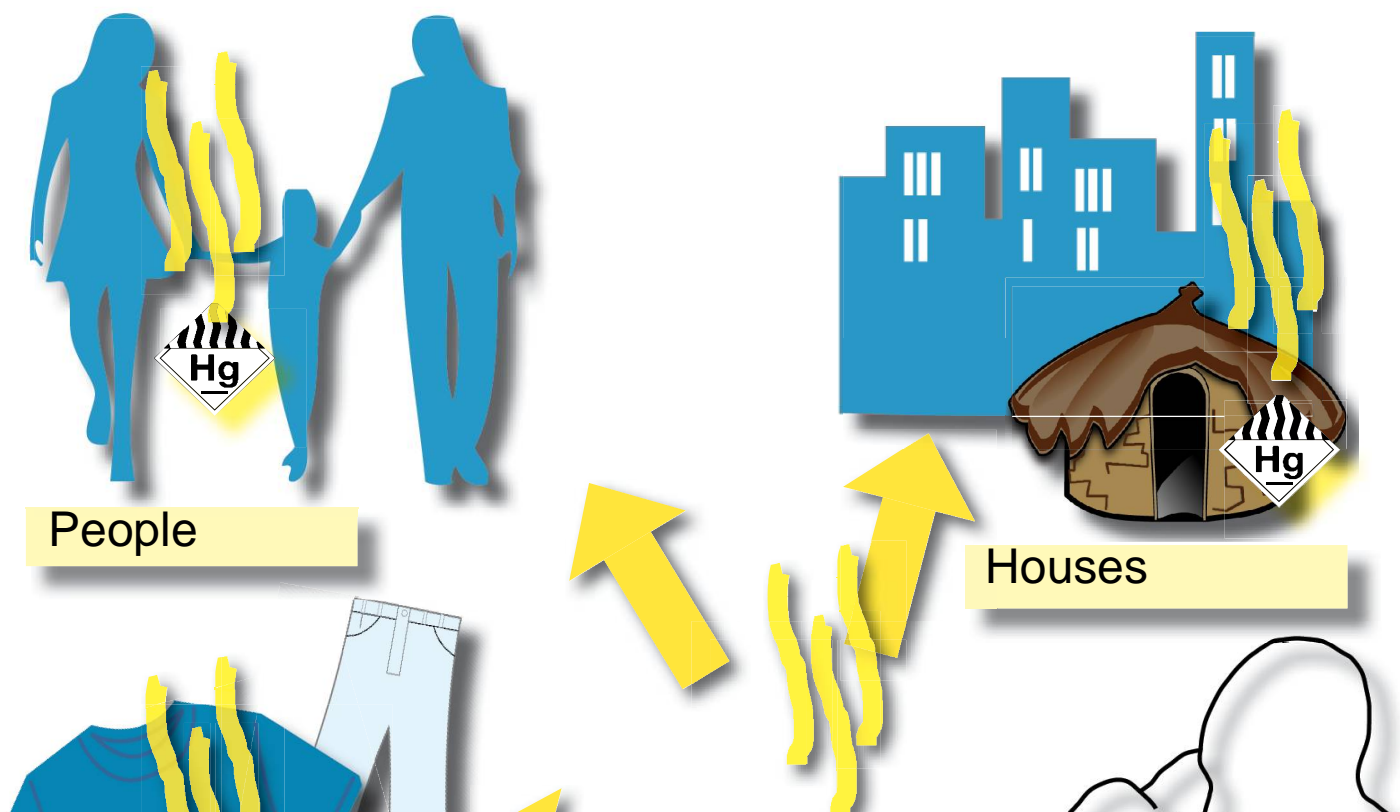
Contaminated means that the vapors are now going to be breathed in by people who are in close proximity to these objects.

We cannot see or smell mercury vapors.

Mercury



**The wind carries the vapors everywhere.
The vapors stick to objects and
people.**



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