

7. Priority actions taken by the government to reduce mercury exposure

In Mali, there is the Ministry of Environment and Sanitation (MEA) with a National Directorate for Sanitation and Pollution Control and Nuisance (DNACPN). Within the DNACPN, there is a focal point of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). One of the missions of the SAICM focal point-Mali is to prevent the use of mercury in artisanal gold mines. It appears clear that the implementation of activities under the SAICM is essential for better management of mercury in Mali.

8. Addressing issues related to mercury management

The survey sites showed that public consultation with all stakeholders is essential to achieve a better treatment of issues related to mercury management. Actors emphasize, however, to emphasize information and education for the benefit of repression by the adoption of texts and their strict enforcement by officers.

The adoption of texts and their application is often a long and painful that can take years. This fact goes to the benefit of traders and illegal operators who currently enjoy the greatest profit and that would be against any regulation of the formal sector.

The views gathered from local stakeholders on the approach to dealing with issues relating to good management of the sale, use and risks and dangers are formulated as follows:

- Restrict use of mercury through the elaboration of specific laws and decrees to the use of mercury
- Educate, train and inform users about the principles of use of mercury
- Involve screeners and law enforcement in the enforcement,
- Provide better control of the sales channel of mercury,
- Caring for patients while enhancing the diagnostic device cases of mercury poisoning.

9. Advocacy / lobbying plan:

Note: Although not part of the report format and are not funded, the SDS think this activity will strengthen the gains of this project

The advocacy plan proposed after analyzing the results of surveys conducted during this study should focus on:

- The establishment of regulations governing the use of mercury
- Information, education and communication on the impact of mercury on the environment and health

Advocacy plan :

Advocacy Axes	Objectives	Target	Allies	Activities	Responsible	Periods
The establishment of regulations governing the use of mercury	Bring the Minister to regulate the use of mercury in Mali	The Minister of Environment and Sanitation	CSOs and National Direction of Sanitation and Pollution and Nuisance Control (DNACPN)	Request for Hearing	Sahel Development Foundation (FDS)	January 2011
Information, education and communication on the impacts of mercury on the environment and health	Get users to adopt best practices in the use of mercury	Users of mercury (traditional miners)	Decentralized technical services, civil society organizations	Sharing the results of the study, production of posters and animation tools, animation	Sahel Development Foundation (FDS)	Beginning of January 2011

V. Results of Project:

Impact on target groups:

As part of the preparation of field investigations, a meeting was made with the SAICM focal point, letters of introduction signed by the Director of Sanitation and Control of Pollution and Nuisances were sent to local authorities, health workers and those officials responsible for environmental protection.

Several missions were carried out on the field. The first task was to making contact with local authorities. This mission allowed us to clearly share the context of the project, schedule a visit to the gold-panning sites, meet the actors involved and approve a work plan.

Over the following missions, the team proceeded to the introduction of the questionnaires and interview guides developed, animation briefings and awareness about the risks and dangers associated with the use of mercury health and the environment.

Moreover, the needs of those involved have been identified to propose priority actions for their resolution.

The return of the survey results was made to all players after their validation.

Impact on policy targets:

The study has strengthened the awareness of local authorities and policy makers from the need of regulating the management of the sale and use of mercury, which increasingly constitutes a serious threat to health people and their environment.

The media covering the operating sites were asked to engage in information campaigns and outreach to the place of the actors involved, which so far do not receive any support in this direction.

Sensitization of stakeholders:

The first meetings of awareness (as they should be continued in advocacy) during this project involved the following stakeholders:

- The technical services (health, environment, agriculture, law enforcement)
- Local officials
- The organizations of civil society (associations, NGOs, GIE)
- The traditional players in mining
- The chamber of mines under development

The sectors involved were:

- Water and Environment
- Health
- Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
- Artisanal mines

Deliverables, outputs and / or products:

The products of this study focuses on this draft report with u-lobbying advocacy plan for best practice in the management of mercury in the communities of traditional gold mining.

Communication efforts:

This activity has begun communicating with stakeholders. But it must be said that true communication will be made after this project. Thus SDS think the funding of a plea which is a continuation of this support.

Advocacy and lobbying are important axes of communication efforts of the activity. For access to the general public, radio or television, meetings and public debates, publications, posters are preferred.

Prior to the effective implementation of the plan for advocacy and lobbying and awareness briefings were conducted during field missions. An incentive of media space has been initiated, but will be even more effective after the development of appropriate programs and broadcasts.

Recommendations

- To reduce and / or eliminate risks and hazards management of mercury on human health and the environment, NGOs should:
- conduct advocacy and lobbying towards authorities for regulation at national level for mercury management
- inform and educate those involved in the management of mercury on the impact of the use of mercury on human health and the environment
- help reunite miners in socio-professional organization structured
- promote the establishment of a mechanism for data collection and management of accidents involving the use of mercury

What has changed, if any since the original plans and why?

Such change is slow and complex requires an additional activity to enhance the work started. We must now note the awareness of issues surrounding the use of mercury. Thus we believe that the proposed plea will try to change existing originals. This project through its mercury study has traced the outline and the actors. After the implementation of the Plan of advocacy and lobbying activities in favor of the actors involved in the management of mercury need to be monitored and evaluated for a better appreciation of the changes.

Clearance levels and exposure to Mercury:

There is very little data stored or available on mercury in Mali. However, one can cite the following reports:

- UNEP, March 2007: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, SAICM and document resolution of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
- Report of the Sub-Regional Workshop of the West African francophone issues

related to gold mining, held in Bamako from 8 to 10 December 2009

- The Rise, March 2009: Gold Panning: THE RACE TO THE TREASURY L. Diarra

Damage caused by mercury:

As previously announced, there are no data or reliable statistics in Mali on the damage caused by mercury in people's health and the environment. However, survey results of this study show that the threats are real and that vulnerable groups are the traditional miners in particular women and children who carry out work surface and washing the ore used for extraction gold.

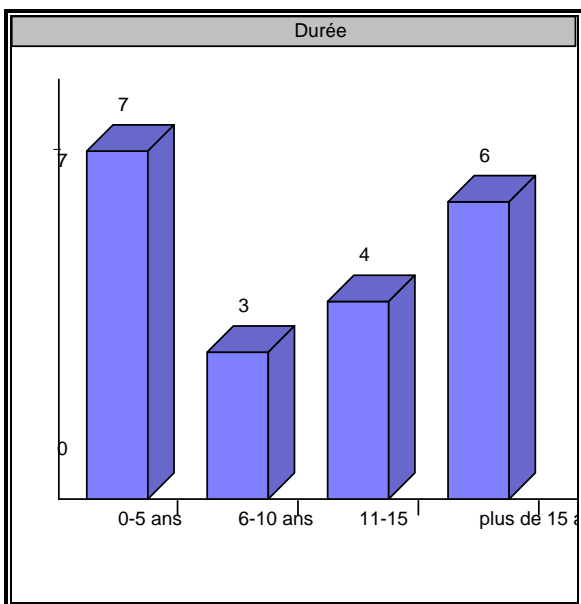
Particular attention should be paid to beneficiaries of dental filling is essentially based on mercury.

Data collection and consolidated statistics still requires further investigations and are essential for developing sound strategy for advocacy and lobbying based on reliable and verifiable bases

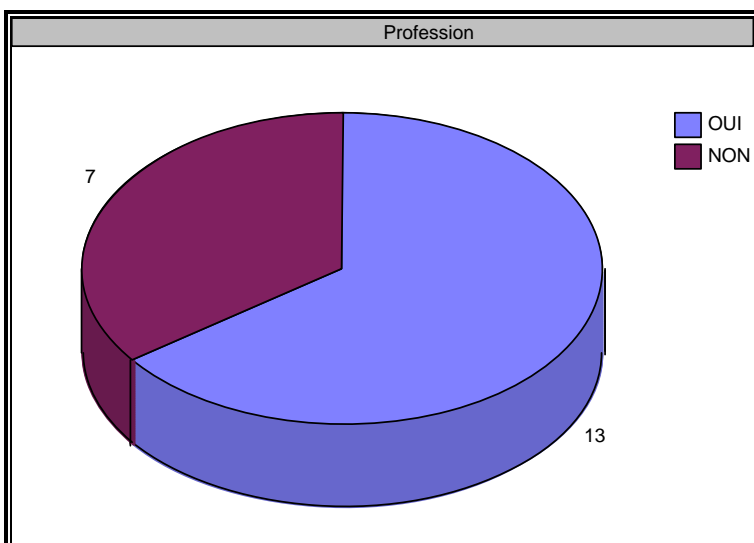
Schedule

Analysis of the results of field surveys:

1. Since when do you work in gold mining?



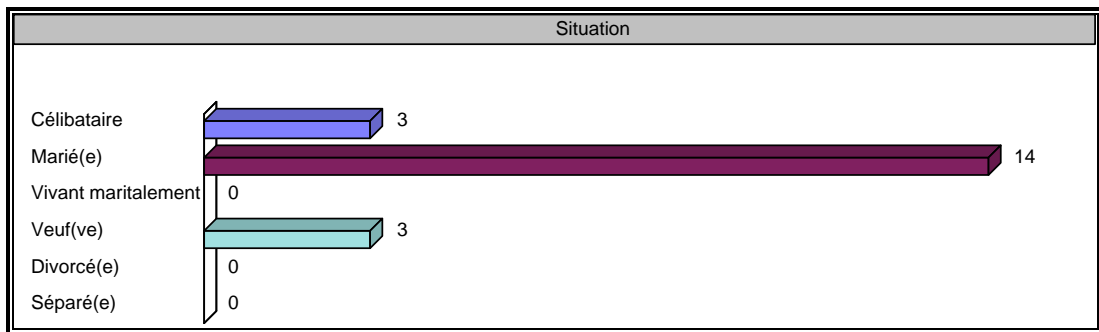
1. Do you practice other professions?



2. If yes, which?

The survey revealed that about 65% of the 20 people surveyed who practice other professions, as do farmers. Knowing that agricultural activities are periodic (3 to 4 months of the year) it would be difficult to do otherwise on this activity in the area.

3. What is your marital status? status?



In analyzing the above graph, we see that 70% of the 20 are married and only 15% are single. Similarly, 15% are widowed. This result means that the research needs of family practice motivates much of this activity.

5. Why do you practice gold panning?

Thus the question above, those surveyed reported this activity to lead fight against insecurity, poverty, solve the problem of money, Family, Pay the agricultural equipment.

Some explained by the fact that their primary activity does not earn enough to cover needs. This activity relates to agriculture.

Finally, some came as a result of information provided by other village on the opportunities offered by gold mining.

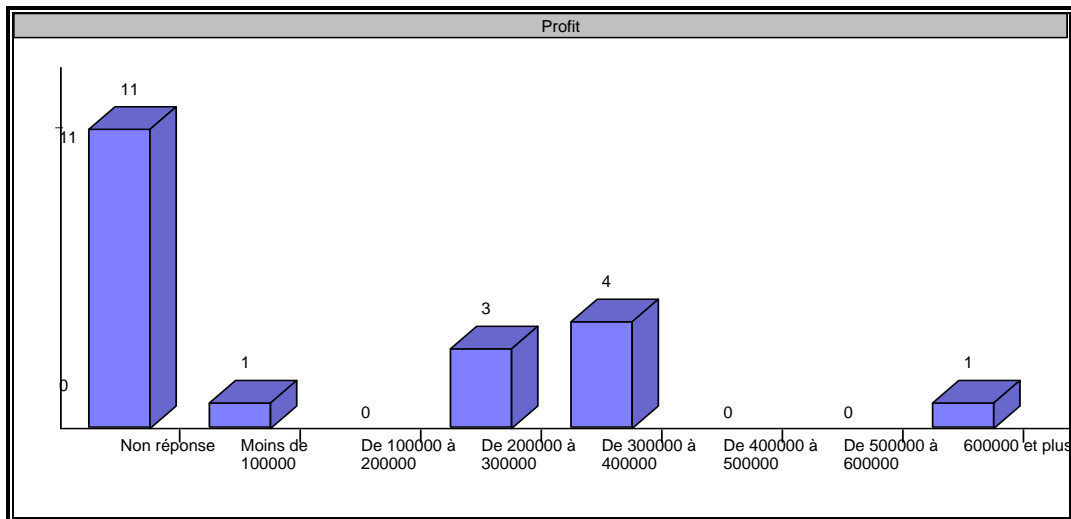
6. What interests do you draw the art of gold panning?

Through this study, it emerged that people receive some interest from gold mining.

These interests are summarized as follows: increasing family income, purchase of equipment and inputs, payment of taxes in the town hall, wedding dowries, school fees for children, medical expenses, purchase of motorcycles, crushing for gold mining, purchase of food supplements for the family to ensure food security.

In addition to these, it is reported that others may live with hope

7. How much can you earn as profit per year from the practice of gold mining?

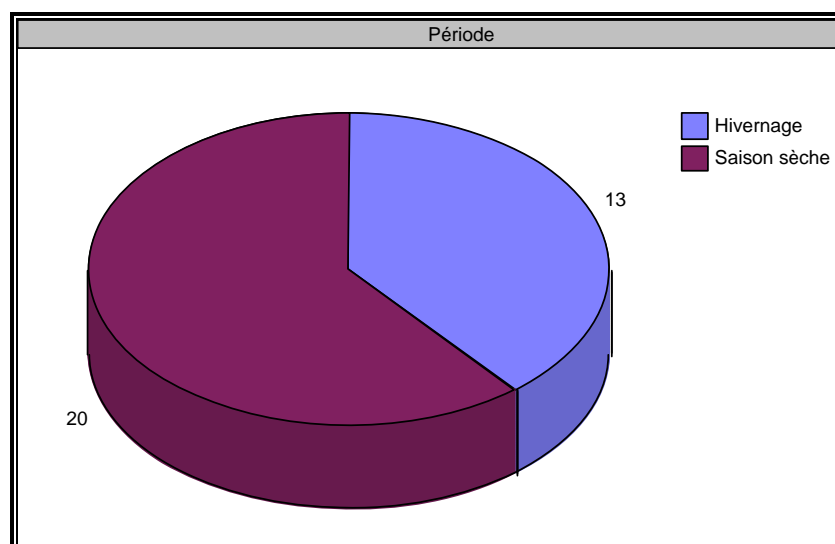


In light of this graph, we see some gain nothing from this activity is 11 people out of 20 people surveyed, cons by a person earns more than 600 000 FCFA per year. The latter distinguished by its level of investment in the area

8. Who are the actors with whom you work in gold mining?

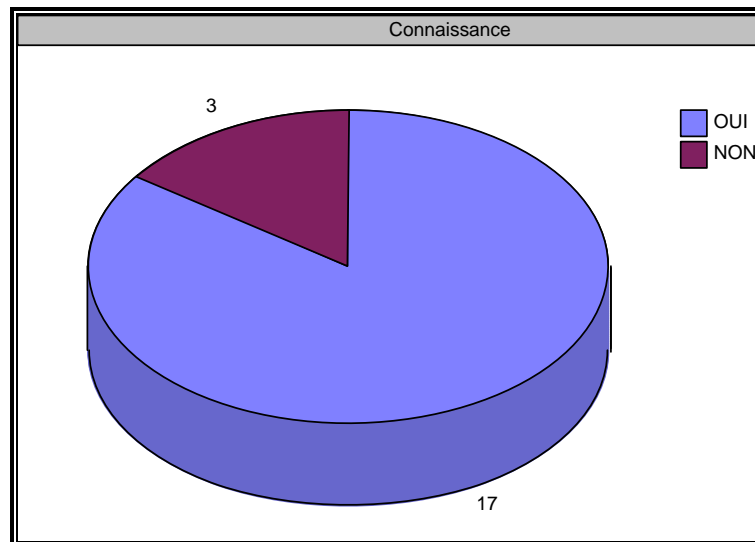
The investigation revealed that there are several players on the site. One can cite the diggers, excavators, rope pullers, clothes washers, buyers, retailers and wholesalers. Around these direct actors gravitate traders who sell all kinds of articles.

9. During what time of year people are engaged in this profession?



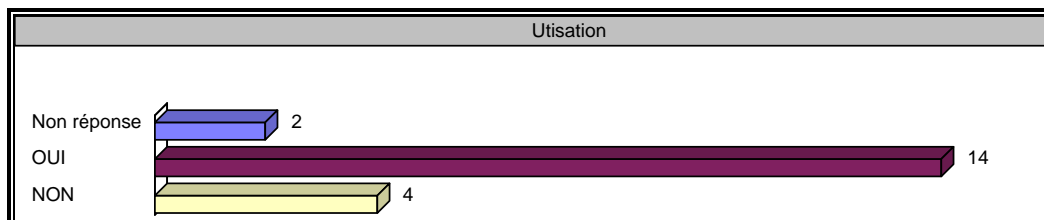
The results of this investigation show that the activity in gold mining is carried on throughout the year. Note also that although some agriculture is practiced during the rainy season, are at the same time gold panning.

10. Do you know the mercury?



In light of this graph, we see that 85% of the 20 people who have been aware of this investigation mercury. This provides sufficient evidence that mercury is widely used on the site.

11. Do you use mercury?

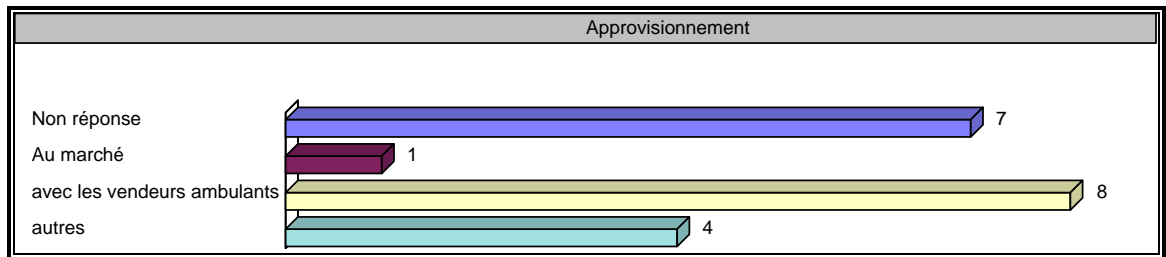


This graph confirms the results of the previous question because we find that the 20 people surveyed, 14 use mercury.

12. If yes why?

All those surveyed reported that mercury use is necessary to recover the gold from this site because this is gold powder. According to them, mercury can collect the fine particles of gold contained in the amalgam.

13. How do you get mercury?

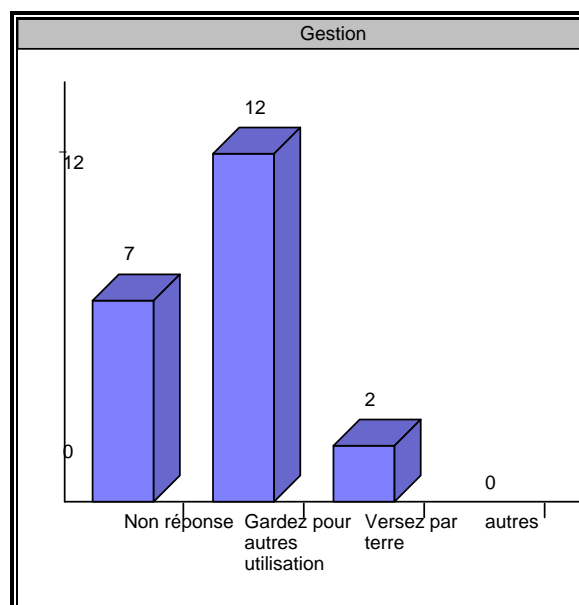


The results of this survey show that most of the mercury is 40% comes from street vendors who come from Bamako. Also note the existence of a local circuit but is very low 5%.

14. How do you use mercury?

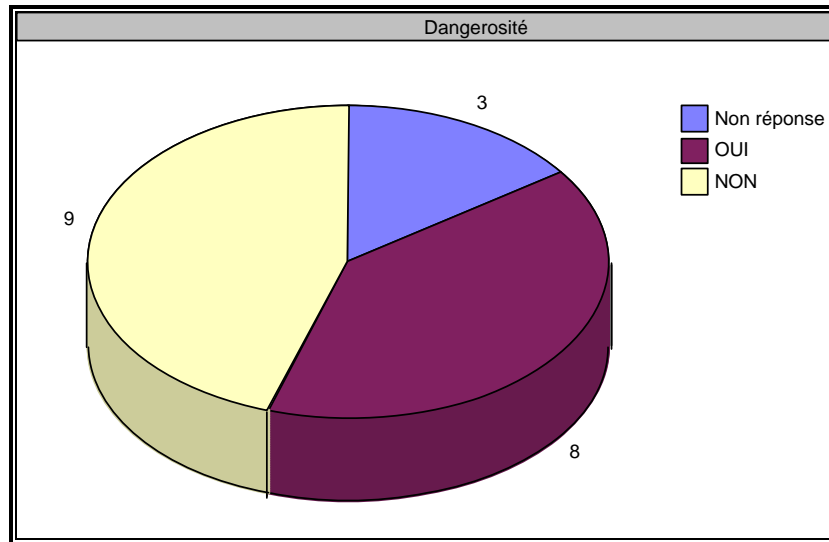
It should be noted in relation to this question that the use is as follows: the product of the search is mixed with mercury. The mixture is kneaded for a while with your hand. It is then filtered to remove water through a cloth. The mercury content in water is recovered for other uses. The rest consists of earth and heaps of mercury containing gold is sorted. Clusters of mercury is then burned to get gold.

15. What do you do with waste after use of mercury?



On analysis of the results of this survey, 60% of the 20 people surveyed keep mercury for other uses. He is recovering mercury from the water after filtering.

16. Do you know that mercury is dangerous to health and the environment?



Taking into account the results obtained and analyzed through this graph, one finds that only 40% of the 20 surveyed are aware of the dangers of mercury use.

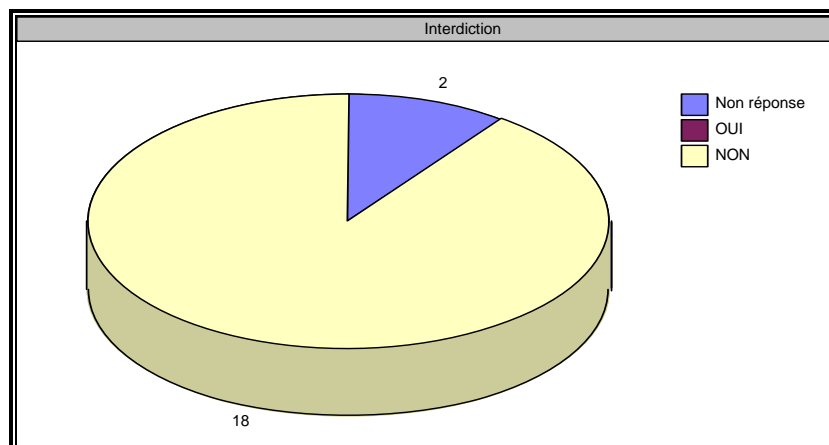
17. If YES, what are the dangers?

To the question above, 40% responded with respiratory problems, stomach aches, digestive disturbances, pollution of waters.

18. That informs you of these dangers?

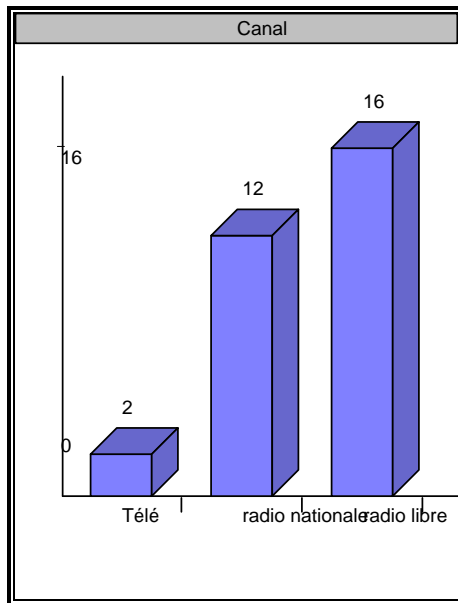
To this question only one person has claimed to have been informed by the technical services representative.

19. Did you know that the use of mercury is prohibited in Mali?



True that 10% of those surveyed did not answer this question, it is noteworthy that 100% of 20 people do not know that the use of mercury is prohibited in Mali.

20. What channels of communication in the area?



A l'analyse de ce graphe, il ressort les canaux de communication sont les radios et peu la télévision.

21. What is the channel you are listening to frequently?

Among these is the local radio channel called Benkadi "which is the most listened.

22. How many NGOs and associations involved in raising awareness in the area?

No NGO or association shall not interfere in the area on the topic.

RESULTS OF SURVEYS OF AUTHORITIES

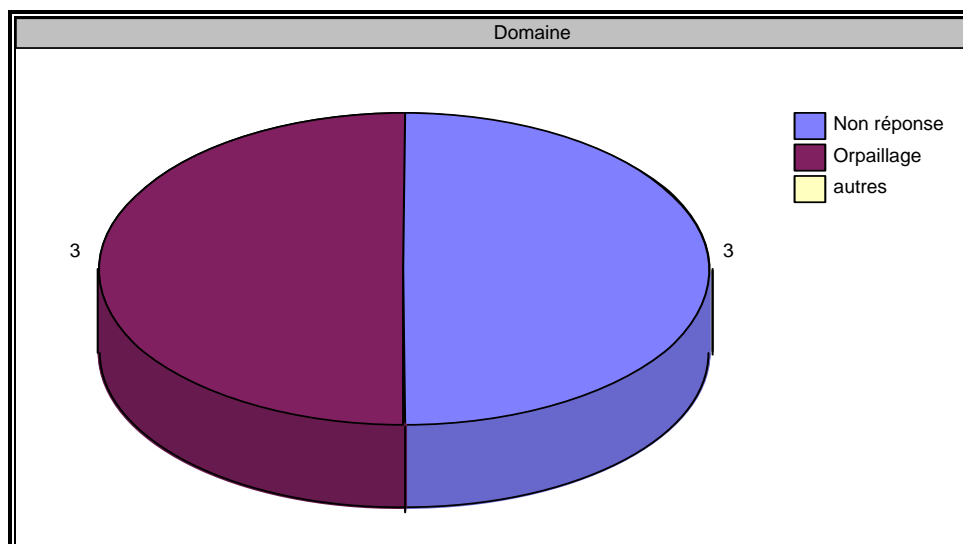
1. Does the mercury used in the area?

Tableau

USING	Number quoted	Frequency
YES	2	33,3%
NO	2	33,3%
I don't Know	2	33,3%
Total observed	6	100%

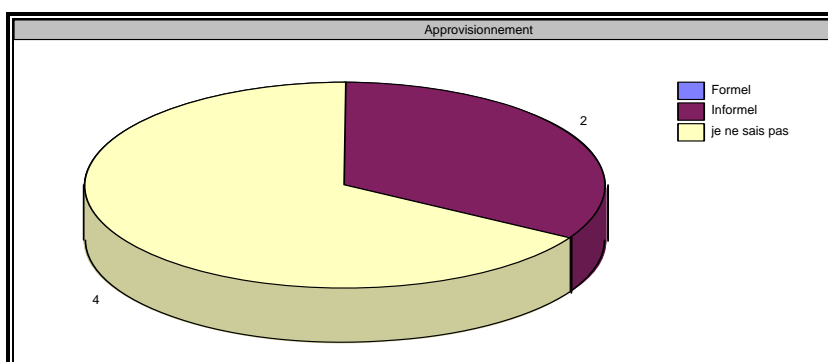
On analysis of this table shows that 33.3% of area authorities recognize the use of mercury in the survey area.

2. If yes in what field of socio-economic activity?



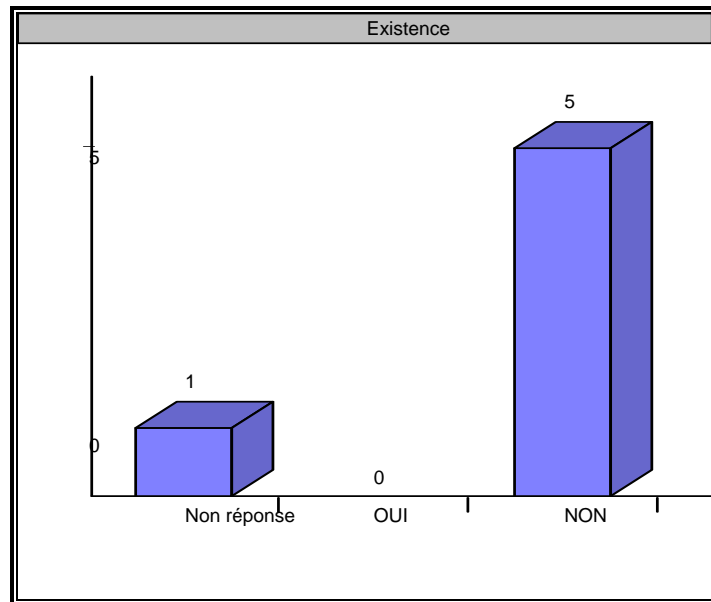
This graph indicated that mercury is only used in gold mining in the area.

3. Where comes from the mercury used in the area?



For those that confirm the use of mercury in the area, supplied through the informal sector.

4. Are there any texts (law and decree) governing the use of mercury in Mali?



With this graph, 100% of those surveyed say there is no legislation governing the use of mercury in Mali.

5. What are the means of control you have?

Respondents think that no text, no control is possible.

6. What kind of punishment do you apply in relation to the sale and uncontrolled use of Mercury?

The responses are identical to those of previous questions.

7. What are the precautions you take to minimize the impacts of mercury on human health and the environment in the area?

To this question, it was reported a few shares rare awareness of the issue of authority in the area.

8. Have there been cases of seizure of mercury in the area?

No cases of seizure of mercury has been done in the area

9. What are the activities in the area?

Activities witch hitch up populations in the area are agriculture, livestock, fisheries, trade, gold panning ...

10. Since when is the traditional gold mining practiced in the area?

The people surveyed believe that this activity dates back to antiquity.

11. What do you think should be done to eliminate or reduce use of mercury in the area?

To this question the answers were as follows: We

- Regulate,
- Involve law enforcement,
- Develop laws and decrees
- Educate, train and inform
- Monitor,
- Caring for sick

12. What are the roles and responsibilities of different actors (doctor, mayor, prefect, etc ...)?

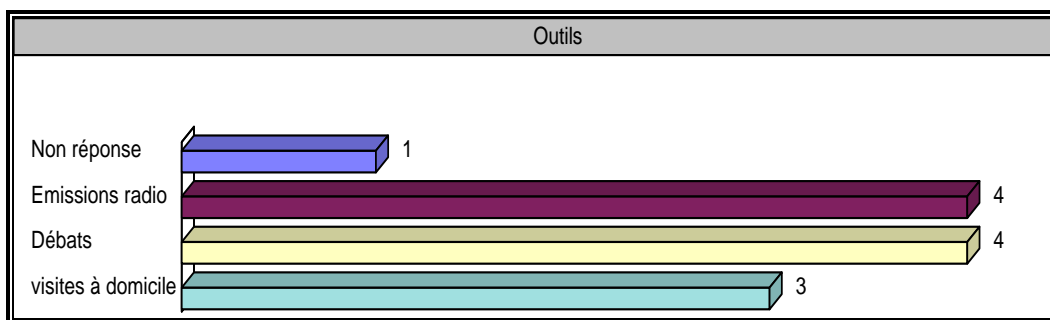
The area authorities believe their role is:

- Public awareness, training and information
- Enforce texts
- Provide support for patients and refer patients to specialized centers

13. Do you think it is possible to have a local solution?

The authorities of the area, believe that the local solution is possible. They think that it is through the development and implementation of a plan of action long term. Still according to them, this activity is to support the development of national legislation.

14. What are the tools of communication?



Among the appropriate communication tools in the area, the graph above shows that the radio broadcasts and debates on four citations each 6, constitute the most appropriate in the area.