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

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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
Field Findings

Lolgorian
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 et al. 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

Our contacts
Email: info@cejadkenya.org/cejadkenya@gmail.com
Web: www.cejadkenya.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION