

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT



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[Instructions in gray and square parentheses to be deleted.]

I OVERVIEW

HAS Description

Project Title:	GEF GOLD+ In Madagascar: Improving Formalization and Mercury Reduction In Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Madagascar		
Fiscal Year:	FY25	Project Type:	FSP, GEF ID 10604
Country(ies)	Madagascar	UNIDO ID	200051
Executing Agency(ies)	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - MEDD	UNIDO Project Manager	Ozunimi Iti

Project Objective	The project aims to formalize the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector through a global, multi-sectoral, and integrated approach. It seeks to improve access to financing, promote the adoption of sustainable mercury-free technologies, and enhance integration into traceable gold supply chains. Core Indicators: Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas): 75,300.00. Indicator 9.2: Quantity of mercury reduced (metric tons): 20. Indicator 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (number): Female: 5,948; Male: 12,186; Total: 18,134.
Project Summary	The project seeks to formalize the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) while reducing or eliminating the use of mercury, a chemical posing serious risks to human health and the environment. The project is structured into five interconnected components, combining technical assistance with targeted investments to support lasting changes: 1. Formalization: Strengthening the legal frameworks and institutional capacities to integrate artisanal gold miners into the formal economy. 2. Financial inclusion: Facilitating access to financial services and promoting responsible, traceable gold supply chains. 3. Mercury-free technologies: Promoting the identification, demonstration, and adoption of mercury-free alternative technologies, accompanied by hands-on technical training. 4. Knowledge sharing: Enhancing awareness, strengthening capacity, and exchanging experiences through collaboration with the global planetGOLD Program and other national projects. 5. Monitoring and evaluation: Implementing tools and systems to monitor progress, collect data, and draw lessons to mitigate risks and proper project management. With GEF financing of USD 4,971,750 and co-financing commitments totaling USD 31,296,986 in cash and in-kind contributions, the project aims to shift the current practices toward responsible and sustainable ASGM operations. Expected outcomes include improved regulation of the ASGM sector, increased adoption of mercury-free technologies, and financial inclusion for artisanal gold miners.

Ratings and Disbursements

	FY24	FY25
Implementation Progress (IP) Rating:	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Satisfactory (S)
IP Rating justification:	51 out of 71 sub-activities planned for FY25 have been completed, resulting in 85% completion rate, indicating solid progress and rooms for improvement in the next years	
Development Objective (DO) Rating :	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Satisfactory (S)
DO Rating justification:	The project is expected to achieve most of its GEOs by the end of the project.	
Overall Risk Rating:	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)
Overall Risk Rating rationale:	The overall project-level risks are low and the related social and environmental risks are controlled or managed through mitigation measures.	

Project Financing:	USD 4,971,750			Cumulative Disbursement:	GEF Trust Fund: USD 4,971,750 LDCF: SCCF:
Cumulative Co-Financing mobilized up to FY25:	1,936,250.88	Original Co-financing:	USD 31,296,986	Agency Fee:	USD 447,458

C Project Milestones

UNIDO Approval Date:	2/10/2023	Implementation Start Date:	5/25/2023
CEO Endorsement/Approval Date	1/12/2023	First Disbursement Date:	11/27/2023
Expected MTR Date:	6/30/2026	Expected TE Date	12/31/2028
Expected Completion Date:	6/30/2028	Actual Completion Date:	N / A
Original Project Duration:	60 months	Expected Financial Closure Date	6/30/2029

II | PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

HAS Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities

Narrative assessment

Outcome 1. Higher degree of formalization and integration across the ASGM

Regarding this outcome, the following activities have been planned to be implemented during this reporting period. Of the eight activities planned for this period, activity 115 has been completed 100%, activities 113, 116, 117, 122 are being implemented and activities 114, 121 and 127 have not yet been launched.

Activity 111 : Carry out an inventory of the legal and regulatory framework for ASGM, assess the application of the regional approach for the identified ASGM areas and identify the appropriate approach.

Document of the regional approach appropriate for the ASGM zones of the planetGOLD Madagascar project adopted and available ;

Activity 112 : Establish a partnership framework, e.g., agreement, with ASGM stakeholders (gold miners, civil society organizations and the private sector) and a local consultation structure to expand the deployment of mercury-free technologies

- Partnership contracts with 4 municipalities concerned and a local NGO in the ASGM sector established and signed,;

In relation to activity 115 entitled “Study on geo-prospecting and identification of suitable land for ASGM gold activities”, the studies on Geo-prospecting in the 4 sites (Antanimbary, Andrafialava, Farezy, Ambalamanasa) carried out and the interim report finalized and available;

For activity 113 entitled “Develop and validate regulatory frameworks related to ASGM activities”: the draft of the legal framework relating to ASGM, resulting from a series of field visits to the 4 target sites of the project developed and available. On the other hand, the regulatory text relating to ASGM will be finalized this year by the Madagascar Gold Center and the Ministry of Mines through the support of the planetGOLD Madagascar Project;

The realization of the activity 114 concerning the Conduction of awareness campaigns at regional level for the dissemination of regulatory frameworks should be waiting for the finalization of the activity 113;

For the activity 121 entitled “Evaluate the capacities of the ASGM sector institutions (MEDD, MMRS, MEAH, MICA REGIONAL DIRECTIONS) to achieve the GOLD+ project objectives and identify their needs”: the report on the evaluation of ASGM sector institutions capacities is finalized, validated and available;

The Project Management Unit has been launched the call for expressions of interest to recruit consultants and service providers for activities 116: Conduct environmental and social assessments of the impacts of ASGM sites, 117: Develop and implement an EMAPE site closure plan, 122: Support the establishment of groups/cooperatives through a participatory approach for artisans and small gold miners and/or groups of artisans and activity 127: Train gold miners, small-scale gold miners and the community in environmental preservation and restoration.

Outcome 2: Increased financial inclusion for ASGM miners

Regarding this outcome, the following activities have been planned to be implemented during this reporting period.

Of the seven activities planned for this period, activity 212 has been completed 100%, activities 211, 213, 221, 224 are being implemented and activities 214, 215 have not yet been launched.

The activity 212, advocacy sessions with financial institutions at the national, regional and local levels were carried out for the benefit of gold miners at the four target sites, the details of the participants of which are listed in the table below:

Sites	Number of participants				Total	Observations
		National	Regional	Local		
Central	H:	2	N / A	N / A	2	02 Financial institutions such as Central Bank of Madagascar and another one
	F:	1	N / A	N / A	1	
	Total	3	N / A	N / A	3	
Antanimbary	H:	N / A	13	10	23	For Region 03 Financial institutions of five participants, For local, 01 Financial Institution with 01 participant
	F:	N / A	6	11	17	
	Total	N / A	19	21	40	
Andrafialava	H:	N / A	4	18	22	
	F:	N / A	4	8	12	
	Total	N / A	8	26	34	
Ambalamanasa	H:	N / A	10	N / A	10	Including 04 Financial Institutions present with 04 Participants
	F:	N / A	03	N / A	03	
	Total	N / A	13	N / A	13	
Farezy	H:	N / A	15	12	27	For Region 09 Financial institutions of 29 participants, For local, 00 Financial Institution for the 14 participants
	F:	N / A	14	02	16	
	Total	N / A	29	14	43	

Activities 211, 213, 221, 224 are being implemented and activities 214, 215 have not yet been launched.

Particularly for activity 213 entitled "develop and apply value chain traceability and control procedures" , the value chain traceability and control procedures document is already established and available. However, information, education and awareness sessions relating to the application of this document are currently being carried out.

For activity 221 entitled "Evaluate and strengthen the technical and material capacities of the regional ANOR, Regional and Interregional Directorate of Mines and the Environment and Rural Municipalities to support artisans and small gold miners", the document assessing the need for strengthening the technical and material capacities of institutions in the ASGM sectors (Madagascar Gold Central at regional level and four rural municipalities) is validated and available. The strengthening of technical and material capacities will remain to be carried out.

Outcome 3: Enhancing uptake of mercury-free technologies

Of the six activities planned for this period, activities 311, 312 and 314 are 100% completed. Activity 321 is currently being implemented and activities 313, 316 have not yet been launched.

For activity 311 entitled "Conducting community awareness campaigns on the risks associated with the use of Mercury":

- Awareness sessions for gold miners and small gold miners in the Betsiaka Rural Commune, Andrafiava site on the risks associated with the use of mercury were carried out. During these sessions, 47 gold miners, including 10 women and 37 men were involved ;
- Awareness sessions for gold miners and small gold miners, women and men on the risks associated with the use of mercury at the municipal level and on the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sites were carried out, and 122 peoples including 65 women and 57 men from the Ambalamanasa site, rural commune of Vohilava and in Mananjary were involved during these sessions;

For activity 312 entitled "Conduct awareness campaigns for gold miners on the benefits of using mercury-free technology " :

- Awareness-raising on the benefits of using mercury-free technologies on the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) in the site of the Ambalamanasa inside of Vohilava rural commune in Vatovavy Region was carried out. This activity was realized with the Activity 4.2.1: Organize and conduct advocacy sessions on project implementation at central, regional and municipal levels and at ASGM sites on September 2024 (Annex 19_activities 312 and 421 sensitization and advocacy sessions vohilava);
- Awareness-raising on the benefits of using mercury-free technologies on the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) in the site of the Andrafiava inside of Betsiaka rural commune in Diana Region was carried out and 47 people participated in the sessions were involved, 10 female and 37 men;

Activity 313 entitled, "Conduct applied research on mercury-free extraction methods and disseminate the results", this activity was planned to start in the first quarter of year 3. During the meeting of the members of the Project Steering Committee (COPIL) held on February, 2024, the COPIL proposed and validated bringing forward the implementation of this activity from the second quarter of year 2 of the project (2025). Consultation procedure initiated with specialized research centers.

Activity 314 entitled "Identify appropriate processing and extraction methods and validate them with artisanal gold miners and small-scale operators". The Mercury-free Extraction Methods document was validated and available after consultation with artisanal gold miners and visits to the four target sites of the Project. This document was previously validated at the local level before final validation by the Minamata National Implementation Committee at the national level. The results of this activity will provide data on the technical specificities of mercury-free technology ;

For activity 316 entitled "Acquire equipment for mercury-free technology". The realization of this activity will depend on the release of the decree of the Ministry of Mines defining the materials and tools intended for ASGM due to the change of the Mining Code of Madagascar N° 2023-007 of July 27, 2023 and the Implementing Decree N° 2024-1345 of July 2, 2024 relating to the Gold Regime. Indeed, the project is in the process of carrying out advocacy sessions at the level of the Ministry of Mines and the Central Gold of Madagascar (COM).

For Activity 321 entitled "Conduct a study on the distribution of mercury in the environment at the beginning and at the end of the project", the proposal document for a study on the distribution of mercury in the environment at the beginning, during, and at the end of the project was validated by the National Committee for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention and this document is available nowadays.

Outcome 4: Knowledge sharing, communication and local capacity building support

Of the twelve activities planned for this period, activities 413, 414, 416, 421, 424 and 425, 427 are 100% completed. Activities 417, 426 are currently being implemented and activities 415, 418, 422, 423 are not yet launched.

For activity 413 titled " Organize the steering committee meeting "

The last COPIL 2024 meeting was held only in February 2025 due to a busy schedule. During this meeting, the 2024 annual report and the 2025 annual budgeted work plan (PTBA) were validated, which is a crucial step for the continuity of the project. The importance of advance planning and precise execution was strongly emphasized by the COPIL members, particularly for activities 313 and 316, which will require a lengthy procedure for their implementation.

Activity 414 titled "Develop national communication and training strategies" was achieved. The National strategy and project communication plan document was developed and available, as well as the national strategies and training plan. These

documents have been validated by the members of the National Committee for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention and have already been applied in some of the Project's activities.

Activity 415 titled " Update the public health strategy for ASGM", This activity could not be carried out, However the Project Management Unit has been lunched the implementation of this activity during the third quarter 2025.

Activity 416, entitled "Develop and multiply training manuals"

- The training manual and learner guide documents were validated and available.
- Training of project stakeholders on the training manual and the learner guide was carried out. A trainer training session was conducted at the central level, with 20 people trained. Four training sessions on the learner guide were conducted at the four target sites of the project. There are 198 learners of which 67 women and 131 men trained during these trainings, and divided as follow :
 - In the Diana Region, 10 learners in Ambilobe and 32 in Andriafialava
 - In the Vatovavy Region 13 learners in Mananjary and 43 in Ambalamanasa
 - In the Betsiboka Region 11 learners in Maevatanana and 22 in Antanimbary
 - In the Antsimo Andrefana Region learners 20 Toliara and 47 in Farezy

For activity 417 titled " Develop and multiply advocacy, awareness-raising and training tools for all components of the project in national and local languages", two educational films were produced but not yet available:

- The first film highlights the project sites and demonstrates the strong commitment of local authorities to the project's objectives.
- The second shares the personal story of a female gold miner, capturing her reflections on the harmful impacts of mercury and her decision to transition to safer, mercury-free practices. This film was showcased during International Women's Day celebrations.

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For activity 418 titled " Establishing networks and communication on good practices in the 4 target sites of the project", this activity could not be carried out, However the Project Management Unit has been lunched the implementation of this activity during the third quarter 2025.

For activity 421 entitled "Organize and conduct advocacy sessions on the implementation of the project at the central, regional and municipal levels and on the EMAPE sites",

-Advocacy sessions for the implementation of the planetGOLD Madagascar project at the regional, municipal levels and on the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) in the site of Andriafialava such as the rural commune of Betsiaka, the District Ambilobe in Diana Region. The advocacy sessions made it possible to involve 16 Regional and Local Authorities;

- Advocacy sessions with regional and local authorities on the implementation of the planetGOLD Madagascar project and awareness-raising on the benefits of using mercury-free technologies on the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sites of the Ambalamanasa site, rural commune of Vohilava and in Mananjary were carried out for 20 people.

The Activity 422 entitled "Raise awareness among the community and health workers to facilitate access to health services for artisanal and small-scale gold miners" and Activity 423 entitled "Raise community awareness about environmental preservation and restoration and improving social well-being" do not have funds for their implementation; therefore, they will be carried out with other activities of the Project later.

For activity 424: Participate in international training workshops and meetings with other countries and other Gold Project stakeholders and the Activity 4.2.5 Participate in international forums to share project results and lessons learned, four PMU members of the planetGOLD Madagascar Project participated in the World Forum on ASGM in the Philippines and the National Project Coordinator participated in the " international conference of mercury as a global pollutant " in Capetown, South Africa Activity 426 is in the early stages of implementation.

Outcome 5: Monitoring, evaluation and learning

Activity 511 relating to the development of monitoring tools has been finalized and these tools are currently in use.

Activity 512 relating to the establishment of the Baseline has been finalized.

[In the table below, provide detailed project-level risks and the related risk management measures. The list should include all risks identified at CEO Endorsement stage, and additionally all new risks identified during implementation. Only for risks whose level has increased year-on-year, please also provide mitigation measures implemented in the current FY to control said risks]

Project Risk Assessment					
#	Description of the risk	Risk level FY24	Risk level FY25	Mitigation measures in FY25	Newly defined risk compared to CEO stage
1	COVID-19 risks	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	The pandemic is under control, and business has returned to normal, as it was before COVID.	☐
2	Lack of medical care and awareness at mining sites	Moderate Risk (M)	Moderate Risk (M)	Awareness raising sessions were conducted at mining sites.	☐
3	Land degradation and deforestation due to mining activity	Substantial Risk (S)	Substantial Risk (S)	Training and awareness raising sessions on environmental preservation and ecosystem restoration conducted. Partnership established with targeted rural municipalities.	☒
4	Degradation of water and soil resources	Moderate Risk (M)	Substantial Risk (S)	Awareness raising sessions conducted; strict enforcement of regulations governing mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) and environmental restoration activities. The Ministry of Water, Hygiene and Sanitation invited to join the implementation of the project.	☐
5	Workers' safety during mining operation	Moderate Risk (M)	Substantial Risk (S)	Awareness raising and advocacy sessions conducted at mining sites. Communication products (flyers) on this topic developed and distributed.	☐
6	Vulnerability to extreme climatic events	Low Risk (L)	Moderate Risk (M)	Ongoing monitoring	☐
7	Water shortages due to climate variability	Low Risk (L)	Moderate Risk (M)	Ongoing monitoring	☐
8	Non site rehabilitation leading to social and individual risks	Moderate Risk (M)	Moderate Risk (M)	Ongoing monitoring	☐
9	Greenhouse gas emissions grow from fossil fuel use in ASGM	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing monitoring	☐
10	Resistance of supply chain actors to formalization	High Risk (H)	High Risk (H)	Ongoing training , monitoring and awareness raising sessions	☐
11	Change in the political and/or economic situation that negatively impacts the ASGM sector	High Risk (H)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing monitoring	☐
12	Lack of coordination between key ministries, main stakeholders and various ASGM initiatives	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing communications and monitoring among partners to mobilize support	☐

				Existence of a National Committee for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention which works closely with the Project, validates the products and deliverables of the Project.	
13	Veto of local authorities, lack of commitment from local authorities	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Partnership established with targeted rural municipalities.	☐
14	Lack of accessible financial institutions / Limited interest from financial institutions.	Moderate Risk (M)	High Risk (H)	Awareness raising and advocacy sessions conducted at the regional and national financial institutions	☐
15	Conflicts within and between mining communities and native residents in the mining areas	Moderate Risk (M)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing communications and monitoring among partners to mobilize support	☐
16	Corruption	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing reporting and communications between UNIDO – MEDD and local partners	☐
17	Continued disregard for the environmental and health impacts of existing mining activities	Moderate Risk (M)	Moderate Risk (M)	Ongoing training and monitoring	☐
18	Prevailing cultural norms and practices (negative views on outsiders, resistance to change) prevent project activities	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing training and monitoring	☐
19	Displacement of women and vulnerable groups through technological changes	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Mainstream gender perspectives in all activities (events, trainings)	☐
20	Economic displacement of informal sector workers through formalization of ASGM	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing monitoring and communication with the local communities to ensure that the project's activities will not negatively impact the livelihoods of informal workers.	☐
21	Loss of jobs for intermediaries and mercury providers could lead to threats and/or criminal activities	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing monitoring	☐
22	Educational gaps such as illiteracy prevent meaningful engagement with project	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Awareness raising and advocacy sessions conducted at mining sites. Communication products (flyers) on this topic developed and distributed.	☐
23	Social conflict over the use of new equipment	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Awareness raising and advocacy sessions conducted at mining sites. Communication products (flyers) on this topic developed and distributed.	☐
24	Failure to identify an appropriate investment model ensuring sustainability post-intervention	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing communications and monitoring among partners to mobilize support	☐
25	Limited willingness of public and private financial institutions to coordinate	Low Risk (L)	High Risk (H)	Awareness raising and advocacy sessions conducted at the regional and national financial institutions. Ongoing communications and monitoring among partners to mobilize support	☐

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT



26	Lack of interest of intermediary financial institutions to implement financial products targeting ASGM	High Risk (H)	High Risk (H)	Awareness raising and advocacy sessions conducted at the regional and national financial institutions. Ongoing communications and monitoring among partners to mobilize support	☐
27	Language barrier communication/low education in the mining communities when training workshops take place	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Training was carried out in the local language by local expert	☐
28	Low absorption capacity of trainees on technical and difficult site accessibility	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing training and monitoring	☐
29	Gender-based violence (GBV)	Low Risk (L)	Low Risk (L)	Ongoing training and monitoring	☐
30	Insecurity	Moderate Risk (M)	Moderate Risk (M)	Ongoing communications and monitoring among partners to mobilize support.	☐
31	Lack of clarity on land allocation terms for ASGM operations during the geoprospecting phase		Substantial Risk (S)	Advocacy sessions conducted with the authorities and information distributed to gold miners and local communities. Delimitation of allocated lands established. Access to government information facilitated for miners.	☒

[In the table below, provide detailed assessment of the project's ESS risks and their management framework. The list should include all ESS risks identified at CEO Endorsement stage, and additionally all new risks identified during implementation. Only for ESS risks triggered during the relevant FY, please also provide mitigation measures implemented to mitigate them.]

Environmental and Social risk assessment					
#	Description of the ESS risk	Is the risk monitored?	Was the risk triggered in FY25?	If triggered in FY25, describe mitigation measures	Newly defined ESS risk compared to CEO stage
1	Discrimination against vulnerable groups (especially women, people with disabilities and illiterates) where prevailing social norms would ordinarily reduce or prevent those groups' participation in the project	Yes	No	/	☐
2	Inability of vulnerable groups to benefit in the same way from planned project activities, due to their lower education levels which may reduce their ability to use the new equipment	Yes	No	/	☐
	Social unrest and potential conflict due to poor financial management within the group of gold miners	Yes	No	/	☐
	Social conflict over the use of new equipment	Yes	No	/	☐

Increased levels of gender-based violence as a result of project activities, potentially arising due to social norms that would ordinarily reduce or prevent women's full participation in the project	Yes	No	/	☐
Increased levels of crime and insecurity	Yes	No	/	☐
Occupational accidents in mining areas while handling of toxic and hazardous substances	Yes	No	/	☐
Infections with COVID-19	Yes	No	/	☐
Child labor in mining cooperatives	Yes	No	/	☐
Increased land degradation and environmental pollution in case training on the proper implementation of site restoration activities is not or not properly conducted	Yes	No	/	☐
Failure to restore the environment, leading to social and individual risks such as poorer health incomes, social tensions	Yes	No	/	☐
River contamination from mining discharges. Emissions of pollutants into water and air from mining operations or processing plants supported through the project. Impacts on soil from mining operations. Further decrease in organic matter, reduced fertility and water infiltration capacity (likely) decrease in arable land and increase in orphan sites (likely). Increased soil erosion (likely).	Yes	No	/	☐
Increased air pollution (evaporation of Hg => inhalation (probable))	Yes	No	/	☐
Impacts on conservation values in protected areas and the loss of biodiversity	Yes	No	/	☐
Loss of access to water as a constitutional right	Yes	No	/	☐

MTR main findings and Adaptive Management strategy to address MTR recommendations

As of the date of this report, no formal mid-term review has been conducted. However, during the initial phase of implementation, the project team identified several operational challenges, which led to the adoption of an adaptive management approach.

Administrative delays—particularly the late signing of the implementing partner agreement between the Ministry of

Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and UNIDO, as well as the delayed disbursement of the first tranche of funds—required corrective actions, including:

- A revision of the project's work plan.
- Prioritization of urgent activities which are planned to begin in June 2025.
- Increased stakeholder mobilization, particularly through the Project Steering Committee meetings.

Other adaptation measures to accelerate and strengthen the execution of the project:

- Enhancing engagement with local stakeholders to support implementation at the community level.
- Conducting advocacy sessions with microfinance institutions and the Central Bank to build support for the project.
- Establishing a collaboration framework with the Central Bank of Madagascar.
- Finalizing several technical deliverables in early 2025, including those related to legal frameworks, strategic partnerships, and geo-prospecting activities.

Possible extensions

The project is experiencing delays in its implementation due to the delay in finalizing the implementing partner agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and UNIDO (the implementing agreement was signed by UNIDO on 25 May 2023 and by the Ministry on 31 August 2023) as well as the delay of the acquisition of the first funds of the project (the first installation was transferred on 27 November 2023). The Project Management Unit team plans to extend the implementation of the project until June 30, 2028.

B Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Narrative assessment

Component I: Support for the formalization of the ASGM sector

Activity 111 : Consultation of state entities and partners on the application of the regional approach for ASGM zones of the planetGOLD Madagascar project,

Activity 111 : Final validation of the consultant's work on the implementation of the inventory of the legal and regulatory framework of ASGM, the evaluation of the application of the regional approach for the identified ASGM zones and the identification of the appropriate approach;

Activity 112 : Validation of the interim report on the implementation of the partnership frameworks of the planetGOLD project with stakeholders in the ASGM sector and the establishment of local consultation structures to extend the deployment of mercury-free technologies ;

Activity 113 : Validation of draft regulatory texts relating to the gold ASGM sector;

Activity 115 : - Validation of geoprosecting tools and bibliographic study of the activity entitled "Study on geoprosecting and identification of land suitable for gold ASGM activities",

- Carrying out geoprosecting studies in the four target sites of the project;

Activity 121 : Validation meeting of the consultant's work concerning the assessment report of the capacities of the institutions in the ASGM sector to achieve the objectives of the planetGOLD Madagascar project and identify their needs; (Annex 5)

Component II:

Activity 211: Capacity assessment of financial institutions at regional and local level,

Activity 221 : Final validation of the evaluation of the strengthening of technical and material capacities of the Madagascar Gold Center at regional levels and rural community concerning the activities of the project to support artisans and small gold miners;

Component III :

Activity 314 : Final validation of appropriate processing and extraction methods, ASGM mercury free validated by the gold miners and municipalities at local level and at national level also;

Component IV :

Activity 412 : Meeting of the Project Coordination Unit ;

Activity 413 : Project steering committee meeting ;

Activity 416 : - Validation of training manual and learner guide for the planetGOLD Madagascar project;

-Training of project stakeholders in the four target sites of the project.

Challenges encountered:

Mobilization and involvement of the National Implementation Committee of Minamata, stakeholders at the National, Regional and Local levels working in the ASGM sector.

C Stakeholder Engagement

Narrative assessment

In FY 2025, a series of strategic meetings were organized to strengthen national ownership and stakeholder engagement. Highlights include:

- Two sessions of the Project Steering Committee (COPIL), bringing together key partners such as the MEDD, sectoral ministries, UNIDO, the GEF Operational Focal Point, mayors from the project's target municipalities, civil society organizations, and academic representatives.
- Several productive bilateral discussions with the Central Bank of Madagascar, leading to the finalization of a partnership agreement aimed at enhancing financial inclusion within the ASGM sector.
- Active contributions from co-financiers, who supported project implementation by providing in-kind resources aligned with their institutional mandates and project roles.
- Partnership agreements were signed with the rural municipalities of Vohilava, Lazarivo, Antanimbary, and Betsiaka, as well as with a local NGO, to ensure local collaboration and long-term commitment.
- To ensure transparency and broad participation, all technical deliverables and activity reports were reviewed and approved by the National Committee for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention, a cross-sectoral platform of experts and institutions.

D Gender Equality

Narrative assessment

The project has mainstreamed gender perspectives into all activities, encouraging the active participation of women throughout its implementation in ways that are both meaningful and context-specific . Key efforts include :

- Women's participation has been systematically integrated at all stages of the project cycle, from planning to execution.
- The Project Management Unit itself reflects this commitment , with women making up the majority—five of its eight members are women.
- Dedicated activities supporting the empowerment of women, particularly in ASGM communities. This includes awareness-raising campaigns and targeted support for women miners and local women's organizations.
- The project has actively promoted the visibility and recognition of women in the extractive sector, including through national events like the International Women's Day on 8 March 2025. On this occasion, exhibitions and interviews with women gold miners were held, providing them a platform to share their experiences, showcase their skills, and strengthen their presence in a traditionally male-dominated field.
- As part of its outreach, the project produced a video report featuring a woman gold prospector from the Antanimbary site, who spoke candidly about the health and environmental dangers of mercury use and her commitment to mercury-free mining.
- Gender considerations are fully integrated into the project's monitoring and evaluation tools to ensure sustained attention to equity and inclusion. The project uses gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data to track progress (eg, in attendance records).

E Knowledge Management

Narrative assessment *(This section is specific to GEF-7 Impact Programs and GEF-8 Integrated Programs)*

A range of communication tools, events, and outreach initiatives were developed and organized in FY 2025, specifically under Components 3 and 4, to support knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement, including:

- The project participated in the 16th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, held from 21–26 July 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa. This provided a valuable opportunity for experience-sharing between planetGOLD projects and the scientific community.
- In 2025, the team developed technical posters to facilitate local understanding of mercury pollution, promote the formalization of ASGM, and clarify related environmental responsibilities.
- Simplified informational leaflets were also produced to raise awareness among communities, traditional leaders, and gold miners about the risks of mercury use in ASGM activities.
- Two educational films were produced:
 - o The first film highlights the project sites and demonstrates the strong commitment of local authorities to the project's objectives.
 - o The second shares the personal story of a female gold miner, capturing her reflections on the harmful impacts of mercury and her decision to transition to safer, mercury-free practices. This film was showcased during International Women's Day celebrations.
- The project also took part in the Waste Management Fair held on 16–17 April 2025 in Antananarivo, where it hosted an information stand to engage with the public.
- Additionally, the project participated in the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Madagascar Mining Cadastre Office, further strengthening its visibility and collaborative efforts within the national mining sector.

D Reflows (for NGIs only)

Narrative assessment

[Exclusively for projects using non-grant instruments, provide max 250 words focusing exclusively on FY25 use of such funds. Use a bullet point format.]

III Minor Amendments

[Please, briefly elaborate on any minor amendments to the approved project that may have been introduced during the implementation period or indicate as not applicable (NA). As described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines, minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5%.

Please tick each category for which a change has occurred and provide a description of the change in the related textbox. You may attach supporting documentation, as appropriate.]

Results Framework:	N / A
Components and Cost	N / A
Financial Management:	N / A
Implementation Schedule:	A 12-month project extension is being requested, with the proposed new project end date set for 30 June 2028. Several activities were rescheduled for implementation in Year 2 instead of Year 3 due to their strategic importance. This decision was endorsed by the Project Steering Committee for Components 2 and 3 (from Activity 2.2.2 to 3.1.3).
Executing Entity:	N / A
Executing Entity Category:	N / A

Minor Project Objective Change:	N / A
Safeguards:	N / A
Risk Analysis:	N / A
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%:	N / A
Co-Financing:	N / A
Location of Project Activity:	N / A
Others:	N / A

IV Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

[Kindly replicate the table below for each location relevant to the project.

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure.

The Location & Activity Description fields are optional.

Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate.

Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](https://www.openstreetmap.org/) or [GeoNames](https://www.geonames.org/) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com>

Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#) .]

Location Name:	Antanimbary		
Latitude:	-17.186634	Longitude:	46.857504
GeoName ID:	Antanimbary rural commune office		
Location Description:	Antanimbary site- Rural Commune of Antanimbary – District of Maevatanana in the Betsiboka Region.		
Activity Description:	Location of the office of the rural commune of Antanimbary		
Location Name:	Ambalamanasa		
Latitude:	-21.130801	Longitude:	48.017980
GeoName ID:	Ambalamanasa Village		
Location Description:	Ambalamanasa site- Rural Commune of Vohilava - District of Mananjary - Vatovavy Region		
Activity Description:	Location of the fokontany of Ambalamanasa in which the site of Ambalamanasa is located		
Location Name:	Andrafialava		
Latitude:	-13.114447	Longitude:	49.341312
GeoName ID:	Andrafialava Village		
Location Description:	Andrafialava site- Rural Commune of Betsiaka- District of Ambilobe - Diana Region.		
Activity Description:	Location of the village of Andrafialava in which the Andrafialava site is located		
Location Name:	Farezy		

Latitude:	-23.909027	Longitude:	44.923388
GeoName ID:	Fokontany Farezy		
Location Description:	Farezy site- Rural Commune of Lazarivo - District of Betioky - Antsimo Andrefana Region.		
Activity Description:	Location of the fokontany Farezy in which the site of Farezy is located		

V Synergies and success stories

Synergies achieved

- At the national level, collaboration with Ministry of Mines and the Gold Center of Madagascar was established for geoprospecting and the identification of mercury-free extraction methods. Close coordination with the National Committee for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention ensured alignment with international standards.
- At the local level, partnerships were formalized with rural municipalities at the four mining sites and with the Civil Society Organization for Extractive Industries (OSCIE) in Betsiaka. These partnerships empowered local communities, enhanced ownership, and mobilized civil society for independent monitoring and advocacy for responsible extraction practices.

Success stories and communication materials

APPENDICES

Uploaded Document

[Kindly provide a bullet point list of all annexes attached to this PIR in the GEF Portal. Do not report content a second time if it has already been deliberately shared via links in the PIR itself.]

Annex to be confirmed

Financial implementation

[Provide information relating to the financial implementation progress of the project (eg, Grant Delivery Report screenshot. Annex TBC. Financial Implementation

As of the end of FY25, UNIDO has disbursed a total of USD 869,400 based on the received progress reports and deliverables submitted in March and May 2025 under the Implementing Partner Agreement, representing 18% of the total allocated amount of USD 4,891,750.

USD 80,000 is reserved by UNIDO to cover the costs of the midterm and terminal evaluations.

Workplan and budget

[Provide an updated project work plan and budget for the remaining duration of the project, as per last approved project extension Annex TBC. Workplan and Budget 2025

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. **Timing & duration:** Each report covers a twelve-month period, ie 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.
2. **Responsibility:** The responsibility for preparing the report lies with the project manager in consultation with the Division Chief and Director.
3. **Evaluation:** For the report to be used effectively as a tool for annual self-evaluation, project counterparts need to be fully involved. The (main) counterpart can provide any additional information considered essential, including a simple rating of project progress.
4. **Results-based management:** The annual project/program progress reports are required by the RBM program component focal points to obtain information on observed outcomes.

Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) ratings	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed <u>all</u> its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its <u>major</u> global environmental objectives, and yields satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its major <u>relevant</u> objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modes overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environmental benefits.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve <u>some</u> of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to <u>achieve only some</u> of its major global environmental objectives.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected <u>not</u> to achieve <u>most</u> of its major global environmental objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, <u>any</u> of its major global environmental objectives with no worthwhile benefits.
Implementation Progress (IP)	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of <u>all</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of <u>most</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of <u>most</u> components in <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of <u>none</u> of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
Risk ratings	
Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% those assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% those assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks.
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% those assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk.
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% those assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks.