

nebibetolewa nengeri endala ezomulembe (ngojeko okukozesa mercury) eziyinda okukozesebwa okwawula zzaabu kunjazi. Ebkwata ku nsibuko, enkozesa, entereka nengeri mercury amaze okukozesa jasuribwamu bimanyidwako kytiono ddala.

### Akabi Akelembwa Mercury

Obutundutundu bwa mercury, bumanyidwa okumalila ddala ebanga dene okuba owobutwari abantu ne bitonde ebilala era busobola okwonona empewo gyetusa, emmere, ebyokunywa na mazzi akabi kano kamanyi nyo mubifo ebililande ddala ebilombe bya zzabu nebiffo zzaabu we bamulongoseza. Mungeri endala mercury naddala oyo asobola okumulungurwa mu mazzi ayinza okutambuzibwa amazzi genkuba, amayengo, okutemwa kwe bibira nengeri endala. Omuka oguva mu mercury gutekebwa ku ttaka elyetolodewo nebimera oba okuyingizibwa abantu ne bisolomungeri eyokusa, abasimi ba zzaabu, ababalilanye nebibetolodde bafuna omuka ogwobutwa oguva mu mercury.

### Akabi ka Mercury ku Bulamu bwa Bantu

Okusinzila ku kytongole kyensi yonna ekyobulamu (WHO) mercury asobola okwonona enkola yemisiwa omuntu newaba amulilanyeko katonu. Mercury asobola okuyingila omubiiri gwomuntu ngayita mu lususu, enkola yekyenda, ekyitundu ekyikola okusa (okusa omuka oguva mu mercury oba enfufu etabikidwamu mercury). Okuyingiza omuka oguva mu mercury kysisobola okubera ekyobulabe eri enkola yemisiwa, enkola emulungula emmere mu lubuto nenkola eziyinda endwade, amawugwe nensigo ekyiyina oku-

vako okufa. Mububonero murimu okukankana, okuburwa otulo, okwerabirarabira, ebinywa okwesiba okulumwa omutwe, enkola ybwongo no mubiri obutakola bulungi.

### Ani Mercury gwa Kossa

Akabi akaretebwa mercury tekasosola katwalilamu abakyala, abaana, abaami, abakyala abazito abagaga na baavu abasimi bazzaabu nabatamusima bona bakosebwa kyenkanyi newankubade kumitendera ejenjawulo.

Twetanile enkola endala ngogyeko okukozesa mercury eziyinda okukendeza mu kusasana kwa mercury.



A miner in Tira gold-mining site (Busia) holding plastic bottle containing mercury

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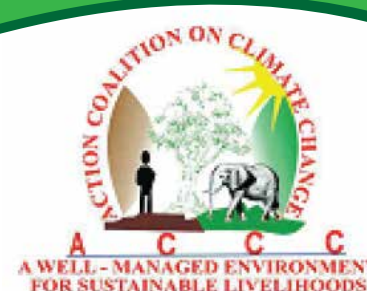
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## About Mercury in Artisanal Small Gold Miners (ASGM) in Uganda

In Uganda, at least 50,000 artisanal and small scale miners are engaged in gold mining, which has become a relatively important economic activity, mostly in the regions of Busia and Karamoja, Mubende, Kigezi and Buhweju goldfields. Elemental mercury destined for use in ASGM is largely uncontrolled and unregulated. ASGM use mercury in gold amalgamation. Men, women and children use their bare hands and feet in washing crushed rocks mixed with mercury to get gold. The miners and their agents have no or little knowledge on the dangers that mercury poses to their health and environment and alternative technologies to mercury use that can be used to separate gold from the ore-bearing rocks. Little has been known about the status of mercury sources, use, storage and current disposal mechanisms in the country.

The study conducted by ACCC on the *Status, extent, sources, Knowledge, perceptions, storage and disposal practices on mercury-use among small-scale gold miners in Mubende and Busia gold mining sites*, reveals that all miners in visited sites use mercury in Gold amalgamation without any protective gear and knowledge about its dangers. **Action Coalition on Climate Change (ACCC)** carried out the study with support from the **Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA)**. The primary objective of the study was to give an insight into the knowledge, perceptions, sources and the extent of mercury-use by the artisanal gold miners in the Mubende and Busia gold mining sites in Uganda. This information is important when it comes to designing policies that have a lasting

effect on the reduction and eventual elimination of mercury-use in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sub-sector

## Dangers of Mercury

Mercury compounds have long been known to be toxic to humans and other organisms and can contaminate the atmosphere, food, drinks and water at every distance. Contamination is particularly severe in the immediate vicinity of gold extraction and refining operations; however, mercury, especially in the form of water-soluble methyl mercury, may be transported to pristine areas by rainwater, water currents, deforestation, volatilization, and other vectors. The mercury vapour is either deposited on the surrounding soils and vegetation or is inhaled by people and animals. The miners, surrounding communities and the immediate environment are thus exposed to the very toxic mercury vapour.

## Specific health dangers that Mercury poses to people

According to WHO, mercury can cause damage to the nervous system at even relatively low levels of exposure. Mercury may enter the body through the skin, gastrointestinal tract, and the respiratory tract (by breathing of mercury vapour or mercury-contaminated dust). The inhalation of mercury vapour can produce harmful effects on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, lungs and kidneys, and may be fatal. Symptoms include tremors, insomnia, memory loss, neuromuscular effects, headaches and cognitive and motor dysfunction.

## Who is affected by Mercury

The dangers that mercury poses, does not discriminate, women, children, men, pregnant mothers, rich and the poor, miners and non-miners, all are equally affected though at different intensities/rates.

Let us embrace the alternatives to mercury use that would actually reduce its release into the environment and reduce its harmful effects to human life and bio-diversity.

*LET US ALL NOW SAY NO TO MERCURY USE IN GOLD MINING*

## Ebikwata ku Mercury ku Basima Zzaabu ku Mutendera Ogwa Wansi mu Yuganda

Mu yuganda abantu nga emitwalo etaano (50,000) benyigila mu kusima zzaabu ku mutendera ogwa wansi ekyifuse omulimu omukulu mwe baggya ensimbi ngakyino okusingira ddala kyili mubitundu bye Busia, Karamoja, Mubende, Kigezi ne Buhweju awali ebirombe bya zzaabu (UNEP 2012). Mercury agenda okukozesebwa kumutendera ogwa wansi taliiko kukugirwa era tewali ateeka malambulukufu gagobelerwa. Abasima zzaabu kumutendera gwa wansi beyambisa mercury mu kugatta ebitundutundu bya zzaabu. Abaami, abakyala na abaana beyambisa emikono ne bigele ebyere mu kwoza ebitundutundu byenjazi ezimerenguddwa nga bitabikidwamu mercury okufuna zzaabu.

Abasima zzaabu nabo ababayambako tebaalina kyebamanyi oba bamanyi kytono ddala ku kabi mercury kaleta eri obulamu bwabwe