



Peru has a long history of mining practices. Mineral revenues count as a major component of the country's economy representing approximately half of the country's total exports. A significant part of the population depends on Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) for their livelihood and incomes. However, in the current context, there are concerns regarding the social and environmental costs associated with the sector.

#### ASM Production in Peru :

- **2012** : Estimated that ASM produced around 20% of Peru's gold, which is equivalent to **USD 3 billion**.
- ASM accounts for 50% of Peru's total exports.

#### Employment in Peru's ASM sector :

- **100,000** people directly & **500,000** people indirectly engaged.
- ASM Informality estimate > 80% informal.

#### Gender Participation in ASM industry Peru :

- **Women: 15,000** directly engaged in ASM.

### Environnemental Impacts

- The rate of deforestation from gold mining went from 21.6 km<sup>2</sup> per year before 2008 to 62.56 km<sup>2</sup> per year after the 2008 in Madre de Dios.
- Mercury and cyanide contamination of the environment and food chain. Estimated 50,400 kg of mercury released annually in Madre de Dios region. High levels of Mercury concentration found in water samples (1.56 – 235.9 µg/L).
- Contamination of the air through fumes and carbon dioxide produced by machineries and ASM sites which contributes to climate change.

### Social Impacts

- Most workers working illegally.
- Waste of ASM directly discharged in lakes and rivers.
- Serious repercussions on health, including Mercury and Cyanide poisoning.
- Increases in waterborne diseases and infections, and general illness due to unsanitary working conditions.
- Child labor.
- Increases in school and college dropouts in ASM communities as children and young adults go into mining.
- Women's poor working conditions (dropping out of education, facing a greater risk of sexually transmitted infections and diseases, and suffering acts of gender-based violence).

# MEGAM's work is geared towards addressing the challenges caused by ASM in Peru

MEGAM has Strengthened Environmental Governance of ASM including:

- Regional regulations for monitoring and supervision developed and enacted in the 5 project regions.
- Monitoring and supervision equipment provided to regional governments.
- Training and technical assistance delivered to improve regional governments capacities in monitoring and supervision - capacities improved for close to 200 public servants.

**OVER 6000 MINERS INCLUDING 1204 FEMALES & 4857 MALES WERE TRAINED IN THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS**



MEGAM supported the creation of a National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining aimed at reducing health risks and environmental degradation.

MEGAM strengthens the capacity of key actors to address socio-environmental problems generated by ASM while considering the needs and requirements of women.

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