Abstract

Technology, Training, and Capacity Building in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining: Using Mobile Training Units to Promote Cleaner, Safer, and More Sustainable Livelihoods in Peru and Bolivia

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is the largest source of anthropogenic global mercury emissions worldwide. Unlike other industrial uses of mercury, most of what is used by ASGM ends up in the environment. This project examines the efficacy of mobile training units as a pathway to cleaner, safer, and more sustainable ASGM-based livelihoods in selected sites in Peru and Bolivia. We apply a participatory action research framework to identify the opportunities and challenges associated with using mobile training units to reduce mercury use while introducing and improving technology, conducting trainings, and building capacity. This approach is intended to gain a comprehensive understanding of the local social, political and economic contexts, and involve community members as active participants in identifying and designing sustainable ASGM practices.