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BAN Toxics Progress Report:

June-December 2013

Improving the health and environment in artisanal gold mining communities in the Philippines by reducing mercury emissions



GEF Project ID: 5216
Period Cover: June - December 2013
Submission Date: 30 January 2014

BAN Toxics Report June-Dec. 2013

Improving the Health and Environment in Artisanal Gold Mining Communities in the Philippines by Reducing Mercury Emissions

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Project provides a major push in mercury reduction and elimination efforts of the Philippine government, both at the national and selected provincial levels. In the months leading to the Project, BT has been setting the stage for the project implementation by meeting with local officials and organizing activities for small-scale miners. In June 2013, BT convened a provincial mining summit in the area of Pasil, Kalinga to bring provincial, municipal, and village officials together with local miners to introduce the project and seek their support.

On August 2013 a ceremonial project launch was held in Ortigas, Pasig, Philippines participated in by various stakeholders and graced by Ludovic Bernaudat of UNIDO, Dir. Mitch Cuna of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Management Bureau, and other partners and stakeholders.

After the ceremonial project launch and inception workshop, BT and the project partners started conducting baseline studies in the project areas in September. Together with the Department of Health, and in coordination with the Department of Environment, an environment and health assessment has been started in the project area of Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley. Fifty (50) small scale miners underwent bio monitoring to assess their mercury levels, and establish a marker at the start of the project. Mercury monitoring in air was also conducted through the use of a Lumex RA 915+ mercury vapor spectrometer (Lumex), and soil and water samples were collected in the area for mercury analysis.



UNIDO's Ludovic Bernaudat and Ban Toxics' Marie Marciano

BT completed interviews with 150 small scale miners in the Compostela Valley area. The interview's aim was to gather information on the extent of knowledge of and perception of small scale miners on mercury and its alternatives, and the current situation in the community of both gold mining and mercury use.

BT also presented the project, its deliverables to the newly elected Barangay (Village) Councils, members and officials of Paraiso, Pag-asa, Lantawan Small Scale Miners Association or PPLSSMA, the small scale miner association in Mt. Diwata. The presentation was held to introduce the project to the community, explain its purpose in the reduction of mercury use in ASGM by strengthening the capacities of small scale miners in using cleaner and better alternatives, improving the capacities of the rural health workers in early recognition and identification of symptoms of mercury poisoning and awareness raising and public health intervention.

PROGRESS RESULTS

ACTIVITY 1: ESTABLISH A SUB-NATIONAL ASGM INSTITUTION

MILESTONES

1. Investigate the most optimal setting for the sub-national ASGM institution in country including the development of baseline studies for the project sites.

PROGRESS

1. Completed the data gathering for the baseline study in Compostela Valley
2. The Baseline studies included:
 - environmental assessment through the use of the Lumex collaboration with the Department of Health-Center for Health and Development
 - Community data collection in collaboration with the LGU of Compostela Valley
 - Focus group discussions and key informant interviews with 11 small scale miners, 10 School Children and 4 Health Care Workers.
3. 110 (40 female miners and 70 male miners) Small Scale Miners participated in the Kalinga, Provincial Summit held last June 2-4, 2013. The summit aimed to facilitate the organization of small scale miners into associations, provide venue for knowledge exchange on the current trends, practices on ASGM.
4. Initiated a desktop legal review of small-scale mining related laws in preparation for possible legal support for the sub-national ASGM institution

OUTCOME

- BT is able to better align the community service it will deliver based on the data gathered pertaining to community resources and needs.
- Established rapport and communication link with the project communities.
- Eased the community into accepting the project and elicit initial support for it among the various stakeholders.
- Miners from the Municipality of Pasil, Kalinga recognized the value of having an organized association.
- Opened the idea of mercury alternatives to miners and piqued their interest on the alternative methods of gold recovery.
- Enhanced understanding of the impacts of mercury to health and environment.

ACTIVITY 1: ESTABLISH A SUB-NATIONAL ASGM INSTITUTION

MILESTONES	PROGRESS	OUTCOME
<p>2. Include discussions of the sub-national ASGM institution as part of the inception workshop and technical working group agendas, topics for consideration may include but not limited to: proposed setup/status, mission statement, overall strategy, staffing, budget, location and operational sustainability.</p>	<p>1. Inception Meeting was held last August 28-29, 2013 in partnership with the Department of Environment-Environment Management Bureau.</p> <p>2. The meeting was participated by representatives from DENR-EMB, Department of Health. Local Government Unit of Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte and Pasil, Kalinga and small scale miners</p> <p>3. The discussions were focused on the project goals and projected activities, management, implementation, coordination, target outputs and outcomes and clarification of roles and responsibilities of different agencies involved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined program procedures, timely work plans developed
<p>3. Finalize discussions and formally establish the sub-national ASGM institution.</p>	<p>1. Presented the project to the Baranggay (Village) Council and the Paraiso Pag-Ibig, Lantawan Small Scale Mining Association (PPLSSMA) of Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley.</p> <p>2. Support from the Barangay Council and the Small Scale Mining Association (PILSSMA) was ensured during the meeting. NOTE: this is still very much in the preliminary stages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of the program goals and objectives and created new partnerships on the ground

ACTIVITY 2: DEVELOP HEALTH EDUCATION, TECHNIQUES, AND TECHNOLOGIES TRAINING PROGRAM(S)/MANUALS(S)

MILESTONES	PROGRESS	OUTCOME
<p>1. Complete literature and field research on mercury health education (including early recognition and identification of mercury poisoning at the community level), reduction/elimination techniques and technologies focusing on the small scale gold mining sector and include results in the baseline study.</p>	<p>1. Bio monitoring was conducted by the Department of Health-Center for Health and Development (CHD) in Compostela Valley with 50 small-scale miners.</p> <p>2. Blood and urine samples are currently assessed by East Avenue Medical Center National Reference Laboratory (EAMC-NRL) and hair samples are being assessed by National Institute for Minamata Disease (NIMD) to determine if mercury level needs repeat monitoring or management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabled DOH to return to Mt. Diwata and conduct needed mercury exposure assessment and build the trust of the miners with DOH.
<p>2. Develop health education, techniques, and technologies training materials/manual(s).</p>	<p>1. Further improvement of the content and the scope of the health manual that BT has developed with PSCOT, was raised to the DOH. An updated version will be prepared.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabled BT to align its delivery of training services in the community.
<p>3. Collaborate with UNIDO and other executing partner on the project (DENR and DOH) on the draft content of the health education, techniques, and technologies training materials/manual(s).</p>	<p>- Further improvement of the content and the scope of the health manual that BT has developed with PSCOT, was raised to the DOH. An updated version will be prepared.</p>	<p>- No measurable outcome so far</p>

ACTIVITY 2: DEVELOP HEALTH EDUCATION, TECHNIQUES, AND TECHNOLOGIES TRAINING PROGRAM(S)/MANUALS(S)

MILESTONES	PROGRESS	OUTCOME
4. Finalize the health education, techniques, and technologies training materials/manual(s).	- No progress so far	- No measurable outcome so far

ACTIVITY 3: ORGANIZE AND DELIVER TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGIES TRAINING(S), INCLUDE DEMONSTRATION AT PILOT SITES.

MILESTONES	PROGRESS	OUTCOME
1. Identify, seek availability and formulate the participants list for the techniques/technologies training workshop (include political and community representatives); draft training workshop agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented the project to the Baranggay (Village) Council and the Paraiso Pag-Ibig, Lantawan Small Scale Mining Association (PPLSSMA) of Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley and local officials of Pasil, Kalinga 	- No measurable outcome so far
2. Collaborate with UNIDO and other executing partner on the project (DENR and DOH) to finalize the techniques/technologies training workshop agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further improvement of the content and the scope of the health manual that BT has developed with PSCOT, was raised to the DOH. An updated version will be prepared. 	- No measurable outcome so far
3. Conduct the techniques/technologies training workshop.	- No progress so far	- No measurable outcome so far

ACTIVITY 3: ORGANIZE AND DELIVER TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGIES TRAINING(S), INCLUDE DEMONSTRATION AT PILOT SITES.

MILESTONES	PROGRESS	OUTCOME
4. Measure mercury usage, emission or exposure reductions in cooperation with DOH.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline lumex mercury sampling was conducted in Compostela Valley (ambient air) Soil and water sampling was done through the DOH Completed the interview with 150 small scale miners on mercury use, knowledge and perception. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness among the community on the extent of mercury pollution in the area.
5. Mainstream and publicize mercury reduction/elimination techniques and technologies by conducting at least two press or media events per project site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following media articles were released after the project inception workshop and ceremonial launch: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Business Mirror: "Campaign to Stop Mercury Use in Mining Launched" Sun Star: Groups move vs mercury in small scale mining Philippine Information agency: "Gov't advocates pursue plan to eliminate use of mercury in small scale mining" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabled BT to align its delivery of training services in the community.

OUTPUT: 2.2 Techniques and technology training programs for miners to reduce mercury in ASGM are developed and delivered at two pilot demonstration sites (e.g. low and/or non-mercury methods and how to make equipment using low-cost and locally available materials)

MILESTONES

1. Identify, seek availability and formulate the participants list for the techniques/technologies training workshop (include political and community representatives); draft training workshop agenda.

2. Collaborate with UNIDO and other executing partner on the project to finalize the techniques/technologies training workshop agenda.

4. Conduct the techniques/technologies training workshop.

PROGRESS

- Presented the project to the Baranggay (Village) Council and the Paraiso Pag-Ibig, Lantawan Small Scale Mining Association (PPLSSMA) of Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley and local officials of Pasil, Kalinga.

- BT is coordinating with UNIDO's Manila representative, Mr. Teddy Monroy on the initial meeting to discuss the content framework of the project materials and other inputs.

- No progress so far

OUTCOME

- No measurable outcome so far

- No measurable outcome so far

- No measurable outcome so far

List of media coverage:

1. Business Mirror: "Campaign to Stop Mercury Use in Mining Launched", see at: <http://businessmirror.com.ph/index.php/en/news/economy/18704-campaign-to-stop-mercury-use-in-mining-launched>
2. Sun Star: Groups move vs mercury in small scale mining, see at: <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/baguio/local-news/2013/09/23/groups-move-vs-mercury-small-scale-mining-304852>
3. Philippine Information agency: " Gov't advocates pursue plan to eliminate use of mercury in small scale mining", see at: <http://r05.pia.gov.ph/index.php?article=771378794209>



UNIDO-GEF Project

Activities

Status

WORKPLAN (January to December 2014)

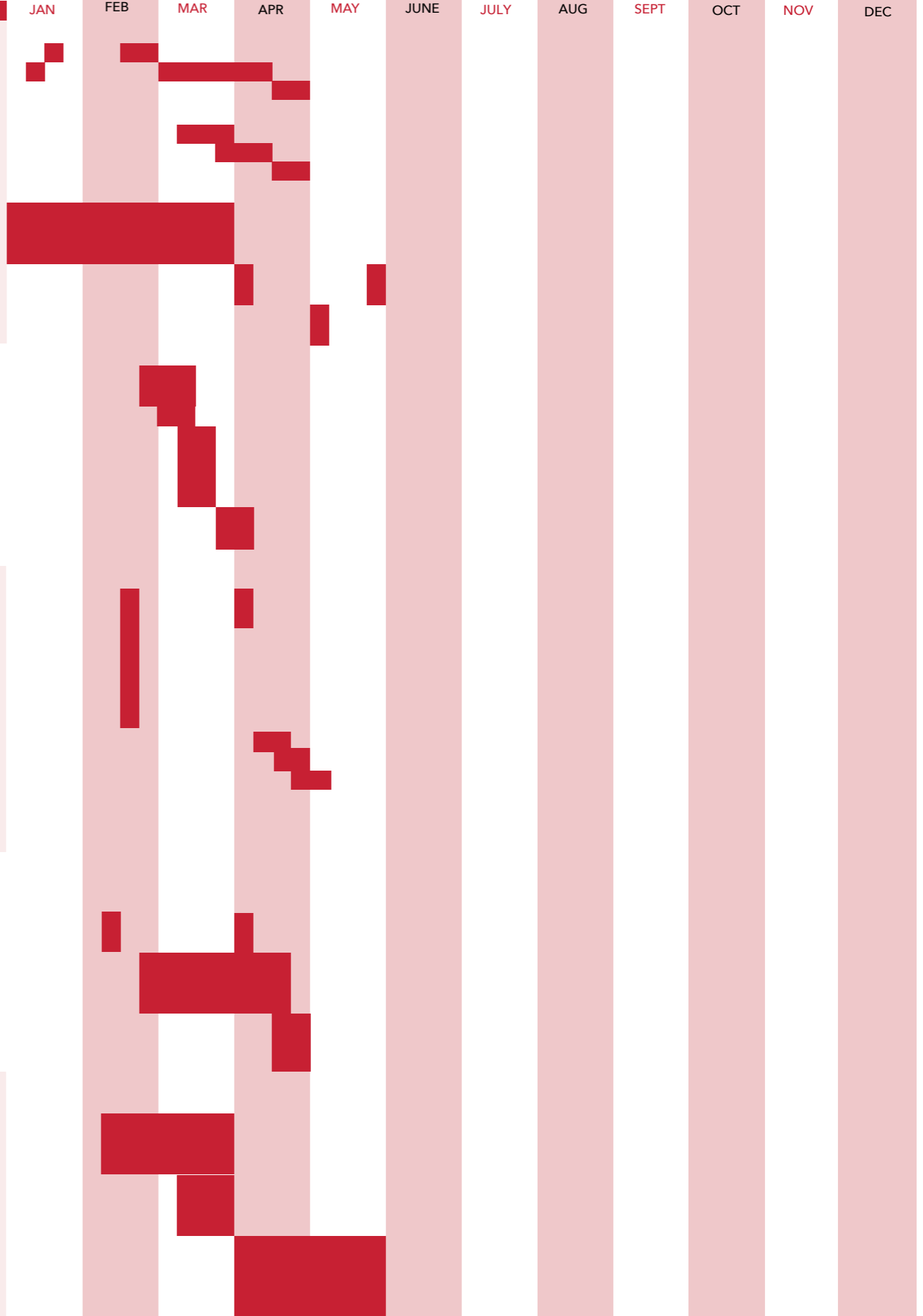
Activity 1: Establish a sub-national ASGM Institution

<p>1. Investigate the most optimal setting for the sub-national ASGM institution in country including the development of baseline studies for the project sites</p>	<p>1.1 Baseline Data Gathering in Pasil 1.1.1 Data Gathering in Pasil 1.1.2 Coordination with DOH-CHD re: bio-monitoring 1.1.3 Bio monitoring and health assessment</p> <p>1.2 Baseline data gathering in Camarines Norte 1.2.1 Data gathering in Camarines Norte 1.2.2. Coordination with DOH-CHD re bio monitoring 1.2.3 Bio monitoring and health assessment</p> <p>1.3 Legal Assessment and Counselling 1.3.1 Conduct a desktop research on laws or regulations affecting ASGM, with particular focus on laws or regulations that can impact associations or organizations devoted to mining. 1.3.2 Conduct legal workshops with miners on sub-national ASGM institution 1.3.3. Conduct quarterly organizing meetings with miner leader representatives to facilitate institution building efforts.</p>	<p>Delayed Activity: Baseline Data gathering was initially put on hold at the last quarter of 2013 due to typhoon Haiyan catastrophe. The Dept. of Health could not undertake any intervention and requested BT not to implement activities prior to the bio monitoring and health assessment of miners. Given that the DOH cannot administer the health assessment as scheduled due to their prior engagement (e.g.emergency response) , BT, upon consultation with DOH decided to push thru with the baseline data gathering 1st quarter of 2014 even without the health assessment to cope up with the schedule.</p> <p>Progress: The legal research is on time, and expect no delays in the remaining activity for the year.</p>
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<p>2. Include discussions on the sub-national ASGM institution as part of the inception workshop and technical working group agendas, topics for consideration may include but not limited to: proposed setup/status, mission statement, overall strategy, staffing, budget, location and operational sustainability</p>	<p>2.1 ASGM Technical working Group Meeting 2.1.1 Coordinate with DENR-EMB schedule for the TWG meeting 2.1.2 Finalize agenda with DENR-EMB 2.1.3 Prepare initial report on the progress of the project such as initial findings on the baseline data gathering, result of initial discussions with small scale miners, local government unit on the establishment of sub national ASGM institution. 2.1.4 ASGM Technical Working Group Meeting/ consultation</p>	<p>Progress: BT expects no delays in the remaining activity under this sub-section for the year.</p>
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<p>3. Finalize discussions and formally establish the sub-national ASGM institution</p>	<p>3.1 Establishment of an association in Pasil, Kalinga 3.1.1 Presentation of the project components to the members of the Guinaang tribe and to the members of the village governments. 3.1.2 Presentation of the proposed structure of the association using the Banao-Bodong Association experience 3.1.3 Presentation of the process of registering an association in Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) 3.1.4 Preparation of requirements for SEC registration 3.1.5 Facilitating the application of the association to SEC; SEC Registration 3.1.6 MOU Signing with BT, local government unit and Guinaang Tribe/association 3.1.7 Sub-national entity in Kalinga established.</p> <p>3.2 Integration of artisanal surface miners or "magbabanlas" in Pag-asa, Paraiso, Lantawan Small Scale Miners Association (PPLSSMA) in Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley 3.2.1 Meeting with PPLSSMA leaders to assess possibilities of integrating surface miners in the association 3.2.2 Facilitate the integration of surface miners in the association to be able to meet the necessary requirements for membership inclusion 3.2.3. MOU Signing with BT, local government unit and PPLSSMA 3.2.4 PPLSMA integration</p>	<p>Progress: BT expects no delays in the remaining activity under this sub-section</p>
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<p>3. Finalize discussions and formally establish the sub-national ASGM institution</p>	<p>3.3 Accreditation (licensing) and creation of association of small scale miners in Jose Panganiban 3.3.1 Lobbying with the local municipal council of Jose Panganiban the approval of the bill for allowing the accreditation of small scale miners and creation of an association of small scale miners 3.3.2 BT as member of the Task Force "Kabod" (pan), participates in the final reading/public hearing to push for the approval of the bill 3.3.3 Upon approval of the bill, BT as member of Task Force "Kabod" to collaborate with the local government unit in designing a systematic process for the creation of the association and setting up of requirements for the accreditation small scale miners.</p>	<p>Progress: BT expects no delays in the remaining activity under this sub-section for the year.</p> <p>Possible Delay: The local government recently banned compressor mining in Mambulao Bay, which has angered parts of the community. This could impact the proposed passage of the local ordinance.</p>
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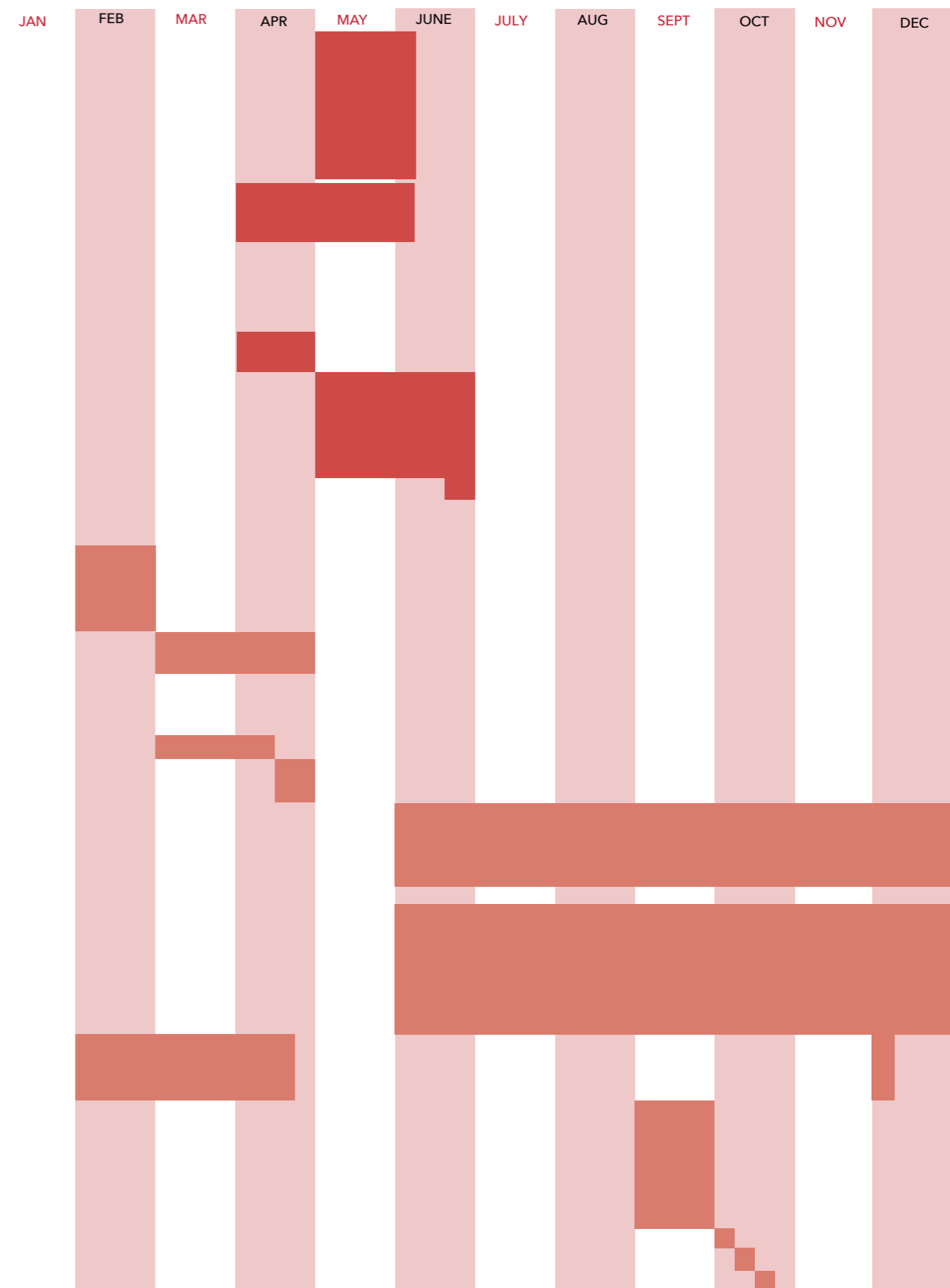


Activity 2: Develop health education, techniques, and technologies training program(s)/manual(s)

1. Complete literature and field research on mercury health education (including early recognition and identification of mercury poisoning at the community level), reduction/elimination techniques and technologies focusing on the small scale gold mining sector and include results in the baseline study.	1.1 Secure results of the bio monitoring and health assessment of small scale miners from Department of Health for its inclusion to the baseline study report 1.2 Finalization of the baseline study report
2. Develop health education, techniques, and technologies training materials/manual(s)	2.1 Coordinate with the Philippine Society of Clinical and Occupational Toxicology (PSCOT) and Dept. of Health for the improvement of the existing health care training manual
3. Collaborate with UNIDO and other executing partner on the project (DENR and DOH) on the draft content of the health education, techniques, and technologies training materials/manual(s)	2.2 Improvement of the Benguet Method training manual and training design
4. Finalize the health education, techniques, and technologies training materials/manual(s)	2.2.1 develop a training needs assessment tool for small scale miners and health care workers 2.2.2 conduct training needs assessment to further improve the strategies and training design set in the existing manual 2.2.3 Submit results of the training needs assessment to UNIDO, DENR and DOH for recommendation for further improvement based on the needs of the training audience 2.2.4 Finalize the manual

Activity 3: Organize and deliver techniques and technologies training(s), include demonstration at pilot sites

1. Identify, seek availability and formulate the participants list for the techniques/technologies training workshop (include political and community representatives); draft training workshop agenda	1.1 Establishment of Mercury Committee 1.1.1 Organize a multi stakeholder meeting to initiate the creation of mercury committee in the areas. This includes representatives from but not limited to health sector, education sector, women's sector, youth sector, local government, etc. 1.1.2 Formalize the creation of the mercury committee to complement BT's ongoing efforts in the community 1.2 Identification of the training participants in consultation with the small scale miners association and Mercury committee
2.1 Training Workshop Developed and Finalized	2.1.1 Drafting of the training agenda 2.1.1 Drafting of the training agenda 2.1.2 Submission of the training agenda to UNIDO, DENR and DOH for recommendation and approval
3. Plan, organize and make all logistical arrangements for the techniques/technologies training workshop	3.1 Coordinate with the Mercury Committee and Small scale Miners association in each project area necessary arrangement for the on site training such as food, accommodation, transportation, materials of the training participants and trainers
4. Conduct the techniques/technologies training workshop	4.1 Miner to Miner Training and Health Care Training 4.1.1 Miner To Miner Training In Pasil 4.1.2 Miner to Miner training in Compostela Valley 4.1.3 Miner to Miner Training in Camarines Norte 4.1.4 Health Care workers Training in Pasil 4.1.5 Health Care Workers Training in Compostela valley 4.1.6 Health Care Workers Training in Camarines Norte
5. Measure mercury usage, emission or exposure reductions in cooperation with the DOH.	5.1 Environmental Sampling using the lumex analyzer for measuring mercury in air, soil and water in cooperation with the Dept. of Health
6. Mainstream and publicize mercury reduction/elimination techniques and technologies by conducting at least two press or media events per project site.	6.1 Provincial/Municipal ASGM Summits held 6.1.1 Develop summit agenda 6.1.2 Organize logistical requirements of the summit 6.1.3 Develop press releases and submit it to local and national media 6.1.4 Include media representatives in the list of invitees 6.1.5 Provincial/Municipal Summit Kalinga Compostela Valley Jose Panganiban, Camarines






BANTOXICS!

26 Matalino St., Suite 332
Eagle Court Diliman,
Quezon City 1101 PHILIPPINES

Tele Fax: (+63) 2 355 7640
(+63) 2 239 4392

 www.facebook.com/bantoxics