



planet**GOLD**  
Mongolia

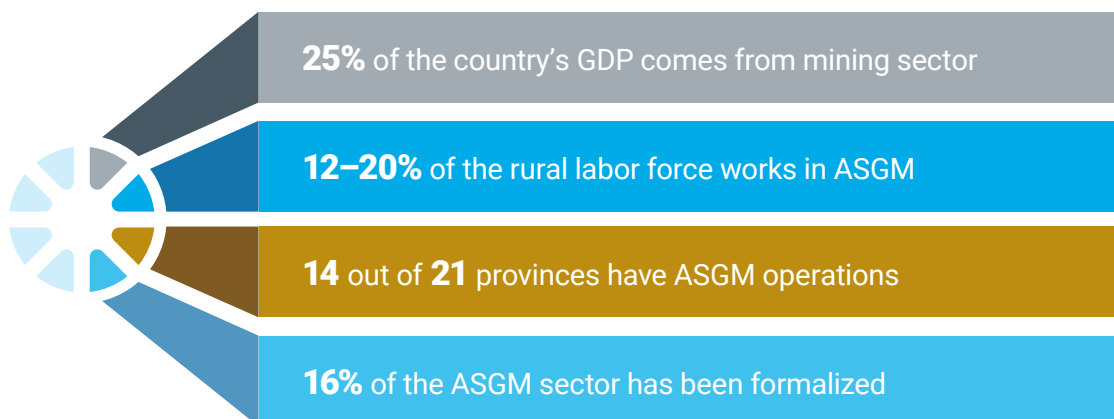


## Improving practice toward a more responsible ASGM sector

Sparsely populated but rich in minerals, Mongolia is among the world's most dependent countries on natural resource extraction. Over the last three decades as Mongolians have transitioned away from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented economy, the mining sector has become a significant driver of the country's economy and wealth—accounting for 80 percent of Mongolian exports and over 70 percent of foreign investment in the country.

In addition to herding and livestock production, mining is also a significant source of livelihoods in rural areas. Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) takes place in most provinces in the country, employing 40,000-60,000 people. A third of these individuals are women, and it is estimated that ASGM indirectly supports another 120,000–180,000 people.

Despite legislative efforts to formalize and regulate the ASGM sector and banning the use of mercury, the sector is still largely informal and clandestine use of mercury continues to exist. In order to make the sector sustainable and mercury-free, however, more needs to be done to speed up and reinforce existing efforts to support formalization, financing options, technology enhancement, and information dissemination.



# Mongolia's Approach

The planetGOLD Mongolia project is working toward eliminating mercury in the ASGM sector by using a bottom-up approach, involving members of the ASGM sector directly in the creation and implementation of policies and practices to sustainably improve mining operations and livelihoods. In partnership with the national government, the project team is working to create an enabling environment for a formalized ASGM sector that enhances community development, improves productivity, and eliminates the use of mercury.

## Key Strategies:



Support formalization of the ASGM sector



Reduce mercury releases in mining communities



Help miners access financing and international gold markets



Educate and raise awareness

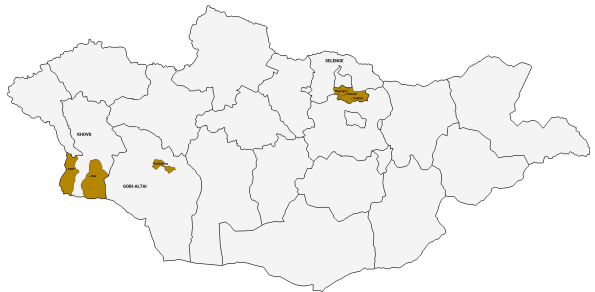
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