



Mercury and Gender



InforMEA
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS



Course Syllabus

Learning Objectives

All people are exposed to mercury at some level, but the greatest concern revolves around the exposure of women of child-bearing age because of its impact on future generations.

This course focuses on the health effects of mercury exposure on women and children, the description of the main sources of exposure to this toxic metal, and its main risks. Finally, it emphasizes the actions the Minamata Convention is taking to advance gender equity in the implementation process.

The Minamata Convention pays specific attention to these effects on women and mentions the need to establish strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations to mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), as well as addressing exposure through seafood, dental amalgam, skin whiteners, and emissions from coal-fired power plants and other industries.

The Convention is currently preparing an action plan to support and advance a gender-responsive implementation of the Minamata Convention. Through this course, you will discover how.

Content & Duration

This online course is composed of 3 lessons which are organized in interactive modules and combine the course theory with exercises and interactions to facilitate the learning process. The core content of the lessons is complemented with numerous references to primary sources and additional resources on external websites.

It will take you approximately 1.5 hours to complete the full course, excluding additional materials. This is a self-paced course that allows you to manage your time as you wish. You can navigate the lessons at your convenience and retake them whenever you wish.

Completion Certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress.

You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new courses and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

Course Outline & Content

Lesson 1: Gender aspects of mercury contamination

Describing health effects of mercury exposure in women and children and identifying major time trends on human contamination.

Lesson 2: Sources of exposure

Exploring the main sources of mercury exposure and identifying the main risks.

Lesson 3: The Minamata Convention and gender

Explaining relevant provisions, programmes and activities of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and uncovering how a gender action plan can advance gender equity in the implementation of the Convention.