# Annex 4. Rapid health assessment: key informant informed consent

# Assessment of public health challenges in artisanal and small-scale gold mining communities and the local health system’s readiness to respond in [enter country name]

My name is [name] and I am a local researcher from [enter organization]. You are invited to participate in a study on health issues and behaviours in your community. The study is done in collaboration between [enter ministry or ministries, research and international organizations].

The goal of the study is to assess the health situation of artisanal small-scale gold miners, their families and other community members, and to find out about individuals’ actions when they think they have a health problem or feel ill. We are also assessing the preparedness and capacities of the local health facilities and of their staff to respond to the health needs of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) communities. As a result of this study, recommendations for the federal ministry of health will be developed to improve the current health situation of ASGM communities.

The study activities include (a) interviews with professionals working with the ASGM, health or environmental sectors, authorities, or individuals that are well informed about the local communities; (b) focus group discussions with artisanal and small-scale gold miners, family members and other ASGM community members; and (c) visits to the local health facilities to obtain information and to assess the capacity of the facility and its staff to work on ASGM-related health issues. You are invited to participate in an interview [and a health facility assessment]. The interview will take about 30–45 minutes [with health facility assessment: 60–120 minutes].

## Voluntary participation

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You can freely decide whether or not to participate and you are free to stop the interview at any time without further obligation. If you decide to stop directly after the start of the interview, you will not lose any benefits and data collected will be kept confidential.

## Risks

There are no physical risks linked with the present study. The current study has received all necessary approval. You are not exposed to any harm or disadvantage. Importantly, the current study is a research study and all information you are sharing with us is kept strictly confidential and is only used for research objectives. The overall objective of the study is to understand the health challenges of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and their communities and how the health system can best work together with the study community to address and respond to their health needs. The research team cannot however foresee with certitude or control which actions the government will take as a follow-up to this study. To address some of these risks from the beginning of the project, the project team will work together with identified civil society organizations to collect valuable information on how to approach the communities and how to conduct the study in a way in which potential harms can be reduced.

## Benefits

Your participation in this research will contribute to finding solutions on how to improve the health and health care situation of ASGM communities. In [name of country], the study findings will be used to inform a wider political process. This political process is planned to support the government in taking steps to ensure the health and well-being of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and their communities.

## Remuneration for participation

Participation in this study does not involve any costs for you. You will not receive a salary for participating in this study, but you will receive compensation in the form of a lunch meal if the interview takes place during the lunch break [value of lunch: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ], and a cash payment to compensate for your transport costs [value of transport: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ]. Even if you decide to no longer participate in this study, you will receive partial compensation based on your contribution.

## Data management and confidentiality

The confidentiality of your data is important to the study team. You will be asked for your name and signature in order to ensure that you have understood all the information on the study and that the risks and benefits of your participation are clear. Your name (and the name of your facility) will be noted on this form only. Your name and signature will not be shared or used any further. All data will be kept strictly private and will be stored on a secure server at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, which is only accessible to the study team.

## Community feedback

The study team holds the responsibility to share the results with you. They will be shared with the support of the federal ministry of health and civil society organizations in community meetings or local events where the study took place. Educational and communication materials will be developed and made available to openly discuss the ASGM survey results.

**Contact person:** If you have any questions regarding this study, you may contact: [enter contact]

## Certificate of consent

I have read and understood the informed consent form and I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study by signing this form.

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