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PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD[1]: January to December 2025

Signed and endorsed by:

DocuSigned by:
Ashish Chaturvedi
FC837FD25D5E462...

Team Leader, Action for Climate and Environment

Project Summary Information	
Project Title	Global Elimination of Mercury in Non-ferrous Metals Initiative (GEMINI) - India
Project ID	01004669
Project Duration	6 June 2025 to 6 December 2026
Location	Pan India
CPD Outcome and Outputs	Output 3.1. Institutional and policy frameworks developed and strengthened to address climate change, enhance green recovery, prevent environmental degradation and Promote conservation and circular economy
Gender marker	GEN 1
Implementing Partner	UNDP
Total Project Budget (USD)	USD 300,000
Donors (funding sources)	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Annual Budget (USD)	169,000
Funds received during the reporting period (USD & INR)	USD 300,000
Expenditure recorded for the reporting period (USD)	USD 36,071.15
Expenditure recorded for the total project (USD)	USD 36,071.15
Project Manager name:	Neha Pai

[1] Periodicity of this project progress report will be determined based on online input; it can be used quarterly, half-yearly, or annually. The minimum requirement for Project Board to meet at least once to review progress and risks is annual - per policy.

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1. Executive Summary

- *Prepare a **standardized and concise project introduction** including the project objective, key outputs, and geographic landscapes **that can be reused** across all progress reports for the project in each reporting cycle.*
- *Provide a **1–2 paragraph summary of key achievements** during the reporting period.*
- *Briefly mention **any major challenges** encountered.*
- *Tip: Keep this section **crisp and high-level, and absolutely results-oriented (NOT activity oriented);** details will follow in later sections.*

The Global Elimination of Mercury in Non-ferrous Metals Initiative (GEMINI) aims to promote a mercury-free production and supply of nonferrous metals while disseminating knowledge to facilitate the transition to mercury-free safe alternatives and responsible practices in the non-ferrous metal production industry. The GEF programme is being led by UNIDO in association with UNEP and UNDP across six countries. In India, UNDP serves as the designated GEF agency responsible for implementing the project. The GEMINI India child project aims to control, reduce and where feasible eliminate mercury emissions from India's primary non-ferrous metal production by implementing innovative best practices, demonstrating suitable technologies, capacity building, and disseminating lessons learned and knowledge through a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach, thereby supporting the country in meeting its obligations under the Minamata Convention and reducing the adverse impacts of mercury on human health and the environment.

The project received approval from GEF on 6 June 2025 and the Initiation Plan was signed on 21 August 2025. The project represents the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, focused on the formulation of a comprehensive project document and other supporting documentation essential for the full project implementation. The project development team comprising of six consultants has been engaged for developing the project document and GEF CEO Endorsement Request. The inception meeting has been scheduled for 22 December 2025. The meeting will be attended by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Mines, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and the project development team.

2. Progress Review

a) Narrative Reporting

- *Highlight concrete **output-wise (Outcome-wise in case of Vertical Funds) results** to maintain a logical flow. This should be linked to the indicators as outlined in the project results framework in the project document and as per the activities mentioned in the approved AWP.*
- *Include progress towards **gender equality and women's empowerment** in the reporting period. If applicable, highlight achievements in digitalization and innovation.*

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The project represents the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase and focused on the formulation of a comprehensive project document, CEO endorsement and other supporting documentation essential for the full project implementation.

The project will undertake the following components:

Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews

Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes

Component C: Validation Workshop and Report

During the reporting period, the project development team comprising six consultants (national and international) were engaged, and work was initiated on conducting baseline studies. The consultants are in the process of gathering secondary information and data required to develop the baseline for the project.

Additionally, preliminary stakeholder consultations were conducted with a few experts to obtain insights into mercury management in India. The consultations revealed that there are no policies or emissions standards on mercury in the NFM sector. The Minamata Initial Assessment report developed under the GEF-6 project - Improve Mercury Management in India could provide the initial data required for developing the project.

a) Indicator and Expenditure Reporting

Output statement	Indicator	Baseline Value	End of the project tar	Actuals achieved against target for the indicator[2]	Evidence[3]	Budget as per AWP (USD)	Actual Expenditure (USD)	Remarks (if any)

[2] Please report cumulative actuals.

[3] Means of verification will require evidence, links, reference, photos, transcripts from exit interviews, feedback surveys, call center reports, phone verification, etc. All methods and means used to collect and report on the results should be described, and links prepared for future reference, spot checking, and verification by independent teams when necessary. It also means that the same expectation will apply when third-party monitors are used.

If the data source involved meetings, then details of meeting participants and matters discussed and agreed actions should be documented as part of the evidence/data source.

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Finalize the UNDP-GEF project document for project--Accelerating Transition to a Circular Economy in India's Electrical and Electronic Sector through Sustainable integrated approaches--for submission and endorsement by GEF Secretariat	Preparation and submission of project document package for GEF's approval	No	No	The project development team has initiated work on developing the baseline for the project.	zToR for baseline studies developed by UNIDO for the GEMINI programme.	USD 169,000	USD 36071.15	
Total AWP Budget and and Actual Expenditure (USD)						USD 169,000	USD 36071.15	
Co-financing Materialized for VFs (USD)						NIl		

3. Challenges encountered, project risks and mitigation measures

- *Define key challenges and risks noted/materialized, whether new/recurrent/persistent.*
- *Describe new risks identified and propose ways to correct a course of action and agreed with responsible members to address these and the timelines. Describe if escalation is required for Project Board or other mechanisms. Update the project risk register accordingly.*
- *Latest version of Offline* ***Project Risk register must be attached as an annex*** *to the report.*

Risk 1: Delay in approvals from the Government and change in incumbency of Government officials

Mitigation: Constant engagement with the Government counterparts to keep them informed on the status of the project design process.

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Risk 2: Lack of interest from industries – There are no mercury emission standards for the NFM sector in India, therefore, there is limited motivation for industry to engage with the project. This might be a major challenge for obtaining key inputs for the project as well as for receiving co-financing letters.

Mitigation: The Government, especially the Ministry of Mines will be leveraged to bring the industries to the table and for obtaining crucial data and information required for the project from them.

4. Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Reporting (Applicable for moderate, substantial, and high risk projects)

- *Describe the SES risks (existing and new) identified for the project via the SESP.*
- *Has the SESP been updated during the reporting period? If yes, provide a brief description of new risks added and proposed mitigation measures.*
- *Provide an update on the SES risk assessment and management plans recommended as per the SESP.*
- *Provide an update on the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) under the project*
- *Has any issue been reported under the project during the reporting period through GRM or any other reporting mechanism? Provide status update.*

During the ongoing **Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase**, the **SESP for the project will be conducted**. Based on the **pre-SESP undertaken at the PIF stage**, the project was assigned a **moderate risk rating**, which triggered the requirement for a **gender analysis and stakeholder analysis**. Accordingly, a **Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)** will be confirmed and developed in parallel with the SESP during the PPG phase. These assessment and management plans will form part of the **Project Document package** to be submitted to the **GEF for approval**.

5. Communications and Visibility

Please provide URLs specific to this project (for example, project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.) as far as this is applicable. Note that some of these links would be the evidence and data sources for point no. 3 above.

UNDP Press Release: https://www.undp.org/press-releases/gef-approves-523m-undp-projects-catalyze-292m-co-financing

6. Partnerships

Provide details of new partnerships (financial/non-financial) realized during the reporting period.

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The CSIR - National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML) is being engaged as the national technical agency for the development of the GEMINI India child project through a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with UNDP. NML is a leading metallurgical research institution in India, located in Jamshedpur. They will support the project in providing specialized technical expertise on the non-ferrous metals (NFM) sector - specifically mercury use, emissions, and management. NML will generate robust technical evidence, identify applicable BAT/BEP, and support private sector engagement to inform project design and piloting.

7. Lessons Learned and Way Forward

Document any lessons that will be applied to address challenges or improve the implementation pace. Outline any good practices, as applicable. Based on the above, mention key issues which need to be addressed/prioritized for next reporting period

Additional efforts will be made in consultation with the government on improving engagement with the private sector. The project development team will be systematically working on developing on the prodoc and CEO endorsement documents. The prodoc and CEO ER package is scheduled to be finalize and submitted for UNDP internal clearance by 6 April 2026 and for GEF CEO endorsement by 6 June 2026.

8. Annexures

*Provide **CO SharePoint/public website links** to the sources of evidence.*