

For immediate release

Press Release
Video of early identification of mercury intoxication for 71 health agencies
in several provinces of Indonesia

Denpasar, 18 August 2016 - In conjunction with the celebration of the 71th Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, BaliFokus Foundation distributed an animated video to identify early symptoms of mercury intoxication using the Human Bio-Monitoring (HBM) method. The animated video has been distributed to 71 local health agencies that have artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) practices in several provinces throughout the territory of Indonesia.

The animated video, that was a result of collaboration between the BaliFokus Foundation and 4Life OHS Services, have been distributed and packed in the USB flash disk that contains the following materials: an animated video to identify the Hg intoxication symptoms using the HBM method in Bahasa Indonesia; the transcript of the video in Bahasa Indonesia; the form and checklist to perform the HBM method in Bahasa Indonesia (pdf and word documents formats); and a booklet regarding mercury and its impact on health and the environment.

The ASGM practices with mercury used in its process to extract gold can be found almost in all provinces of Indonesia. The use of mercury in gold extraction process has significant impact on public and environment health around the ASGM areas. Beside discovered various “strange” diseases in adults living in ASGM areas, BaliFokus also found many cases of birth defects in the ASGM hotspots suspected due to the chronic exposure of mercury used in gold extraction in the respective villages. The poor conditions of health services due to mercury pollution affected the quality of life of the next generation in the ASGM hotspots and potentially threaten the national resilience.

The distribution of the animated video is expected to be used by the local governments, especially the health agencies, community health centers and local academics as one of the approaches to increase the public health surveillance and monitoring especially in mercury-polluted ASGM hotspots in Indonesia.

This animated video is adapted from an assessment method using the Human Bio-Monitoring schemes for mercury intoxication, developed by a health expert team led by PD Dr. med. Stephan Böse-O'Reilly, MPH., Team Leader of Pediatric Environmental Epidemiology Working Group of Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational, Environmental and Social Medicine, University Hospital of Munich, LMU. This method has been used in many countries that have ASGM practices since 2003.

The video production and dissemination has been made possible through the pilot grant support from the Goldman Environmental Foundation & Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties, California, USA.

[BaliFokus Foundation](#) is a non-governmental organization working to improve community's capacity, quality of life and advocating a toxics-free environment together with all stakeholders in sustainable way

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List of HBM Video USB Flash Disk Recipients:

1. Health Agency of Pidie Regency, NAD Province
2. Health Agency of Pidie Jaya Regency, NAD Province
3. Health Agency of Aceh Besar Regency, NAD Province
4. Health Agency of Aceh Jaya Regency, NAD Province
5. Health Agency of North Aceh Regency, NAD Province
6. Health Agency of West Aceh Regency, NAD Province
7. Health Agency of Southwest Aceh Regency, NAD Province
8. Health Agency of Central Aceh Regency, NAD Province
9. Health Agency of South Aceh Regency, NAD Province
10. Health Agency of Aceh Singkil Regency, NAD Province
11. Health Agency of Gayo Lues Regency, NAD Province
12. Health Agency of Subussalam Regency, NAD Province
13. Health Agency of Nagan Raya Regency, NAD Province
14. Health Agency of Mandailing Natal Regency, North Sumatera Province
15. Health Agency of Pasaman Regency, West Sumatera Province
16. Health Agency of Solok Regency, West Sumatera Province
17. Health Agency of South Solok Regency, West Sumatera Province
18. Health Agency of Rejang Lebong Regency, Bengkulu Province
19. Health Agency of North Bengkulu Regency, Bengkulu Province
20. Health Agency of Kampar Regency, Riau Province
21. Health Agency of Ogan Komering Ulu Regency, South Sumatera Province
22. Health Agency of Bungo Regency, Jambi Province
23. Health Agency of Sarolangun Regency, Jambi Province
24. Health Agency of South Lampung Regency, Lampung Province
25. Health Agency of Lebak Regency, Banten Province
26. Health Agency of Bogor Regency, West Java Province
27. Health Agency of Tasikmalaya Regency, West Java Province
28. Health Agency of Sukabumi Regency, West Java Province
29. Health Agency of Banyumas Regency, Central Java Province
30. Health Agency of Wonogiri Regency, Central Java Province
31. Health Agency of Pacitan Regency, East Java Province
32. Health Agency of Trenggalek Regency, East Java Province
33. Health Agency of Bulungan Regency, North Kalimantan Province
34. Health Agency of Malinau Regency, North Kalimantan Province
35. Health Agency of Sambas Regency, West Kalimantan Province
36. Health Agency of Landak Regency, West Kalimantan Province
37. Health Agency of Ketapang Regency, West Kalimantan Province
38. Health Agency of Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan Province
39. Health Agency of Murung Raya Regency, Central Kalimantan Province
40. Health Agency of North Barito Regency, Central Kalimantan Province
41. Health Agency of Kapuas Regency, Central Kalimantan Province
42. Health Agency of West Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province
43. Health Agency of East Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province
44. Health Agency of West Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan Province
45. Health Agency of Berau Regency, East Kalimantan Province
46. Health Agency of Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province
47. Health Agency of Tanah Laut Regency, South Kalimantan Province
48. Health Agency of Kota Baru Regency, South Kalimantan Province
49. Health Agency of Bitung City, North Sulawesi Province

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50. Health Agency of Minahasa Regency, North Sulawesi Province
51. Health Agency of Mamuju Regency, West Sulawesi Province
52. Health Agency of Gorontalo Regency, Gorontalo Province
53. Health Agency of Palu City, Central Sulawesi Province
54. Health Agency of Poso Regency, Central Sulawesi Province
55. Health Agency of Luwu Regency, South Sulawesi Province
56. Health Agency of Bombana Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province
57. Health Agency of Konawe Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province
58. Health Agency of West Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province
59. Health Agency of Central Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province
60. Health Agency of East Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province
61. Health Agency of West Sumbawa Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province
62. Health Agency of Sumbawa Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province
63. Health Agency of East Flores Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province
64. Health Agency of South Central Timor Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province
65. Health Agency of Lembata Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province
66. Health Agency of North Halmahera Regency, North Maluku Province
67. Health Agency of Buru Regency, Maluku Province
68. Health Agency of Manokwari Regency, West Papua Province
69. Health Agency of Mimika Regency, Papua Province
70. Health Agency of Nabire Regency, Papua Province
71. Health Agency of Jayapura Regency, Papua Province