



Fourth meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholder group

18 September 2025

2 pm - 4 pm CET



Before we start, please:



Keep microphones off unless when making an intervention, cameras are optional



Use the **“Chat”** to ask technical questions or share views



The **meeting will be recorded**. Please indicate if you have any objection



Opening and Moderation

Elena Lymberidi-Settimo ,
European Environmental Bureau/ ZMWG,
UNEP GMP Products Area Co-lead

AGENDA

14:05 Scene setting: WHO Behavioral Insights research and tools –
WHO

Updates from the GEF project

14:15 updates from the GEF project - Key takeaways from national efforts to understand and reduce demand for skin-lightening products through behavioral research, national communication campaigns, and public health interventions – **Sri Lanka, Jamaica and Gabon**

14:45 Global Communication Campaign – UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Updates from the stakeholders

14:55 National Demand Reduction Strategies for Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products **Zero Mercury Working Group**

15:15 Community-based voices and experience, **Nigeria - Asali project**

15:30 **Q&A**

15:45 Looking ahead to COP6, expectations, opportunities – **Minamata Convention Secretariat**

15:55 Closing, **BRI**

Scene setting: WHO Behavioral Insights research and tools

*Ammaarah Martinus, Elena Altieri,
WHO*



Understanding the use of skin lightening products globally – a behavioural science approach

Fourth meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholders' group

18 September 2025

Elena Altieri /Ammaarah Martinus
Behavioural Insights Unit

WHO



35,000



Human behaviour is an essential component of any social change – including reducing use of SLPs



Reason 1: Behaviours are important for public health



Reason 2: There is a gap between what people think and what they do



Reason 3: Since behaviours are important, we need to understand them well... and what it takes to change them



For this, WHO uses evidence, theory and data



Latest evidence on skin lightening behaviours:

- **Widespread, but uneven**, use across Africa, Middle-East, Asia, Caribbean, Americas and Europe
- **Lifetime prevalence of use 27.7%** - but considerable variation between countries (Range: 89.1% Thai women – 0.0% Turkish women)
- **Women** more likely to be SLP users than men
- **Younger adult women** more likely to use SLPs than older women
- Some studies show associations between **use** and **education** but inconsistent

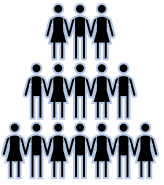
Source: Williams et al, 2025 – unpublished manuscript



Behavioural insights collection in countries



A **WHO behaviour change tool to be used** by local and regional teams leading SLP reduction efforts.



Engage local SLP users and stakeholders to gather data and evidence about SLP use (**activities to Dec 2025**)



Tool is a **package of 3 elements**:

1. Quantitative data collection instrument
2. Qualitative data collection instrument
3. SLP user journey template



Survey - quantitative instrument

Module A: Using skin lightening products

Skin lightening products are products that some people use to help manage skin issues like acne, dark spots, hyperpigmentation and melasma. They are often in the form of creams, soaps, lotions, and serums. In [Sri Lanka] common brands include: [Olay Natural White; Lotus white Glow; Gluta White; Dr Rashel Whitening Cream; Glow & Lovely].

A1. Do you currently use skin lightening products?

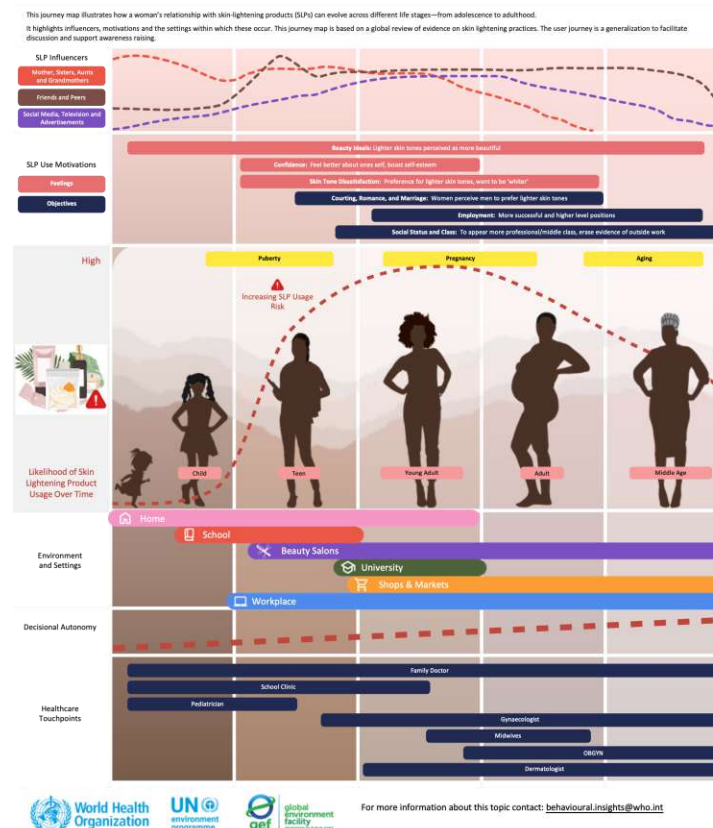
1. Yes
2. No [route to A8.]

A2. How often do you use skin lightening products?

1. Daily
2. Weekly
3. Monthly
4. Less than monthly

A3. What is the main reason you currently use skin lightening products? [Open ended]

Journey mapping tool



Package of tools for use in countries

Qualitative instrument

Appendix B: Discussion guide

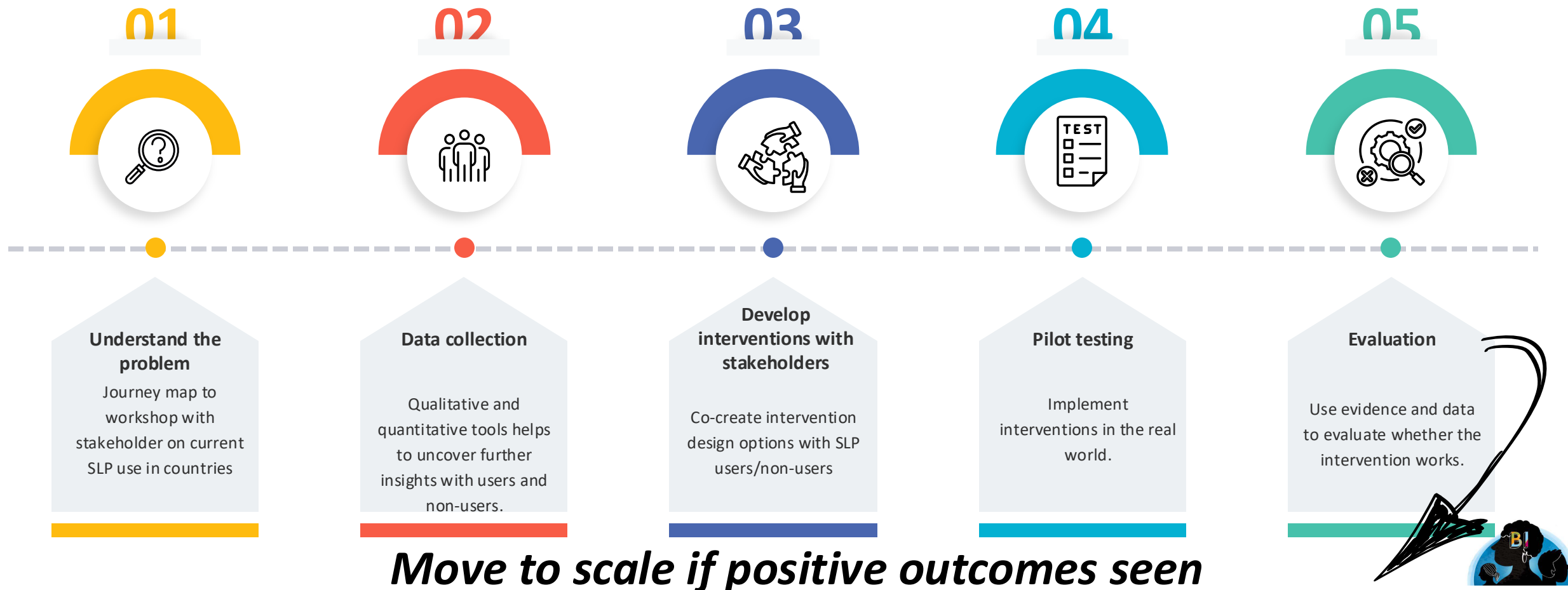
1. Introduction

- Welcome participants and introduce yourself and any others present (e.g. facilitators, notetakers).
- Explain the purpose of the focus group or interview.
- Ask participants to read the information sheet and sign the consent form.
- Once completed re-iterate:
 - The discussion is confidential, and results will not be attributed to individuals
 - They are free to withdraw from the focus group/interview at any time or choose not to respond to specific questions
 - The focus group discussion or interview will be audio recorded to assist with data analysis.

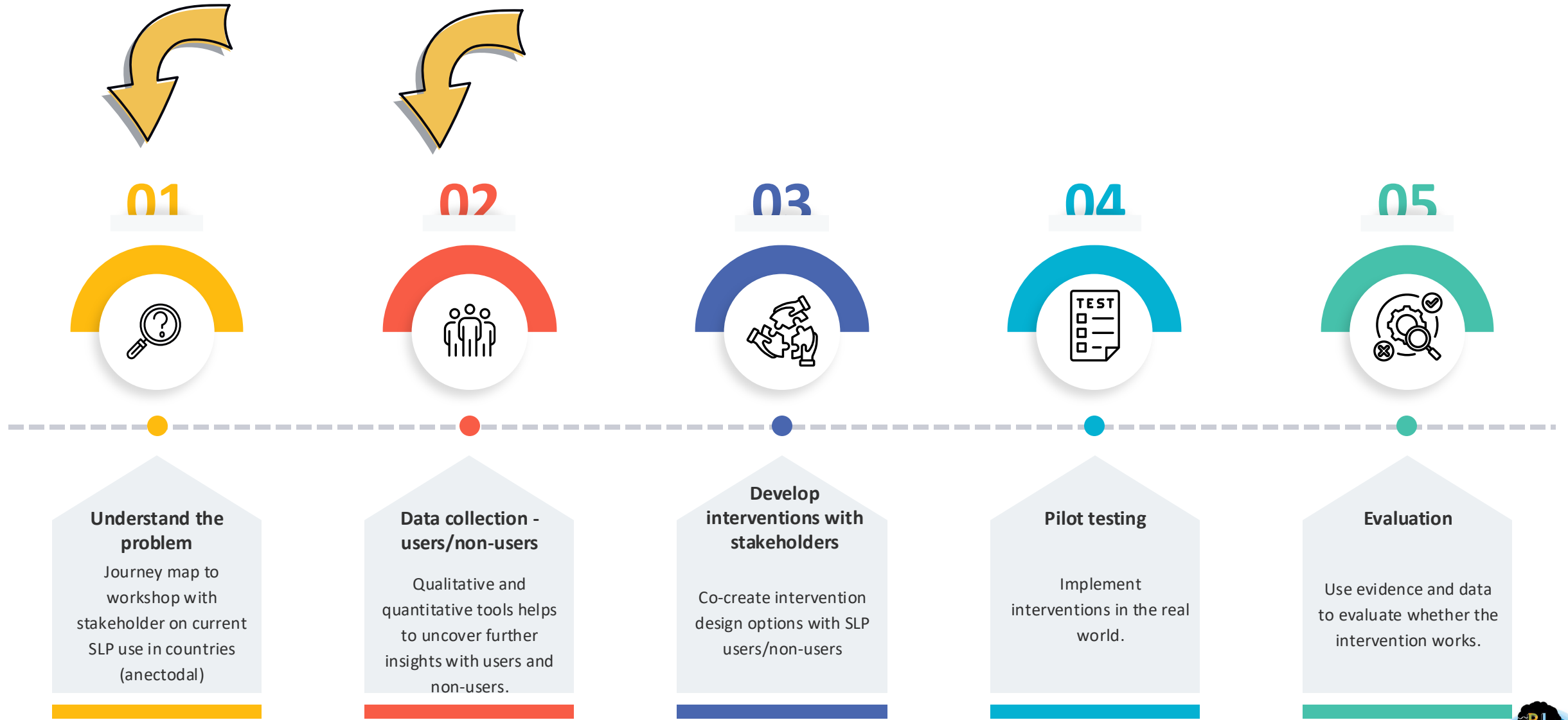
2. General attitudes towards skin care and use of skin products

- I want to start the discussion by hearing about how you care for your skin? What is your daily routine? What sort of products do you use?
- What are you seeking to achieve with the products you use?
- Do you use soap or particular cleansers? Why?
- Do you use any moisturisers? Sunscreen? Why?

Roadmap for BI SLP global work



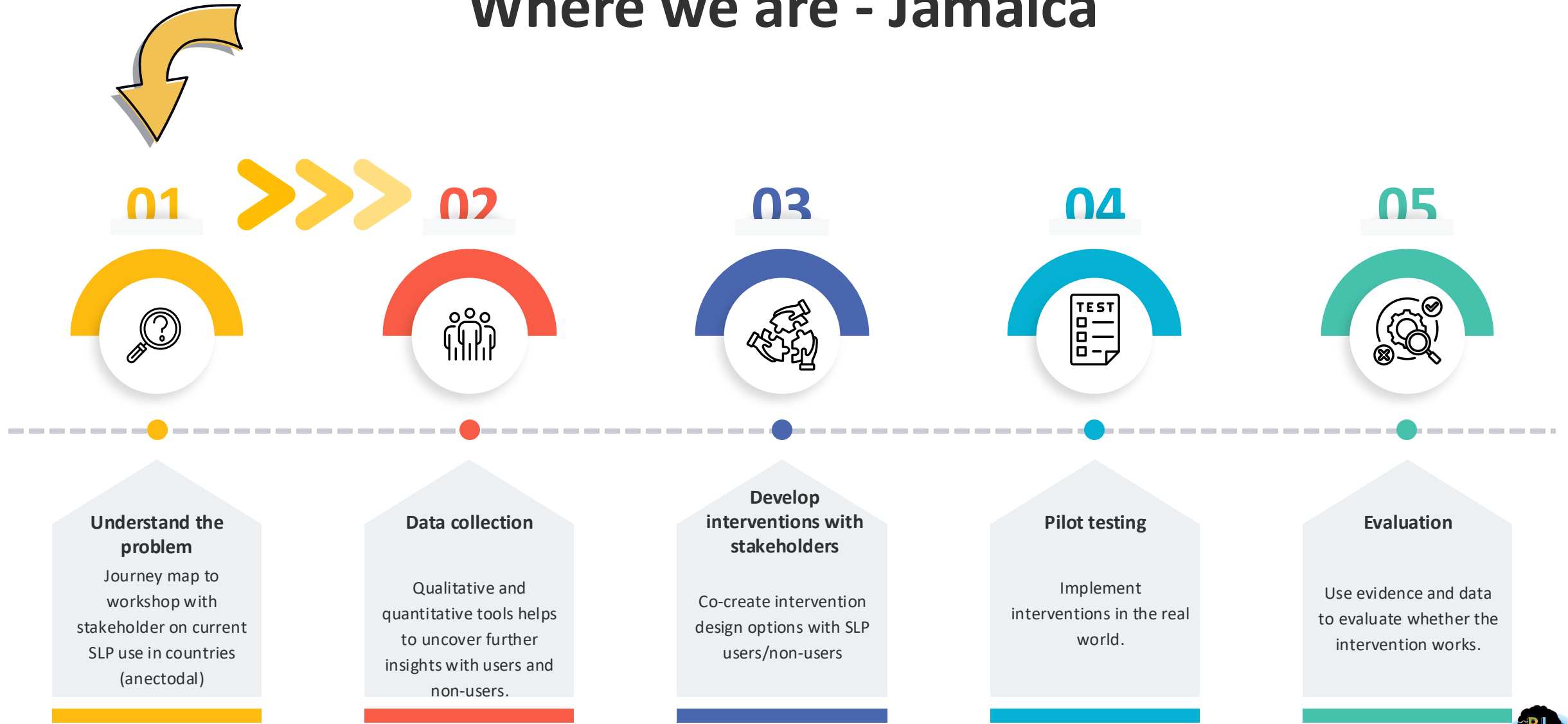
Where we are - Gabon



Where we are - Sri Lanka



Where we are - Jamaica



Key takeaways

1

SLP use is complex: **prioritise** based on data, not assumptions.

2

Focus on the **system level interventions** (e.g. access, ideals and colorism) **while** adopting a **targeted approach** in the immediate term to change individual behaviours.

3

Aim at concrete focused **interventions** (change should be measurable).

4

We need more evidence - must be country and context specific.

5

Simple awareness raising is **not enough to change behaviours**.



Thank you!



UPDATES FROM THE PROJECT

Chalani Rubesinghe, Sri Lanka

Alecia Hamilton Campbell, Jamaica

Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o, Dr. Inoua, Gabon





Ministry of Health & Mass Media
Ministry of Environment



KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM NATIONAL EFFORTS TO UNDERSTAND AND REDUCE DEMAND FOR SKIN- LIGHTENING PRODUCTS

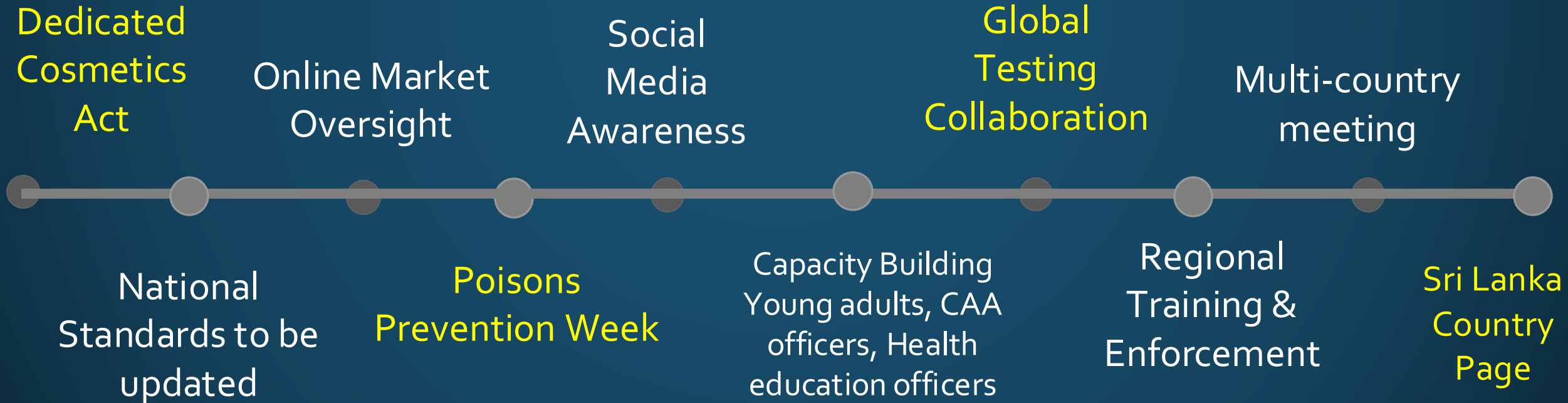
SRI LANKA



MILESTONES

Getting the stakeholders agreement to formulate the Act on Cosmetics is one of the major achievements of the project.

A timeline of the actions leading up to the project goal



Dedicated Cosmetics Act:

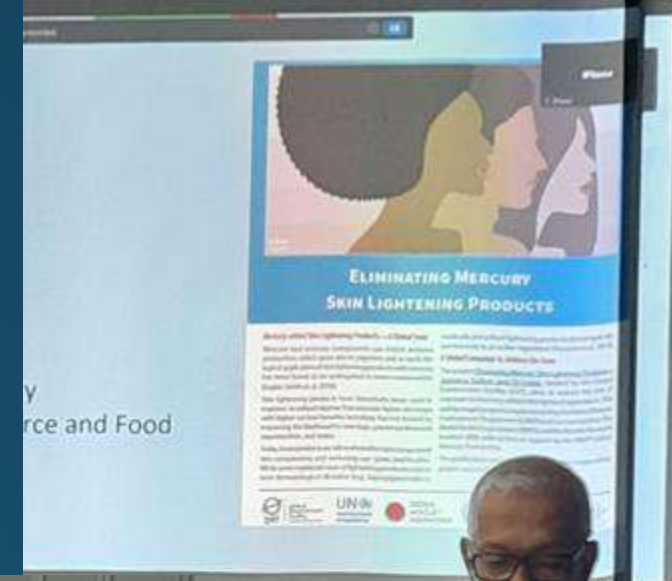
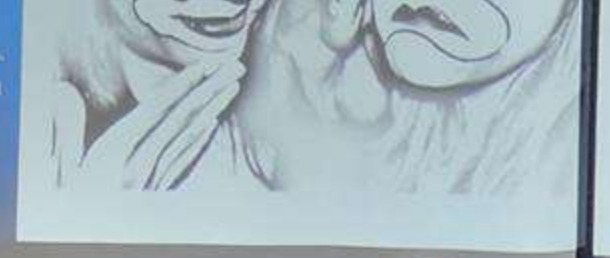
NMRA is exploring the Act to strengthen product regulation.

National Standards to be updated: SLSI held a dialogue with labs to revise mercury limits in cosmetics to align with Minamata Convention amendments.

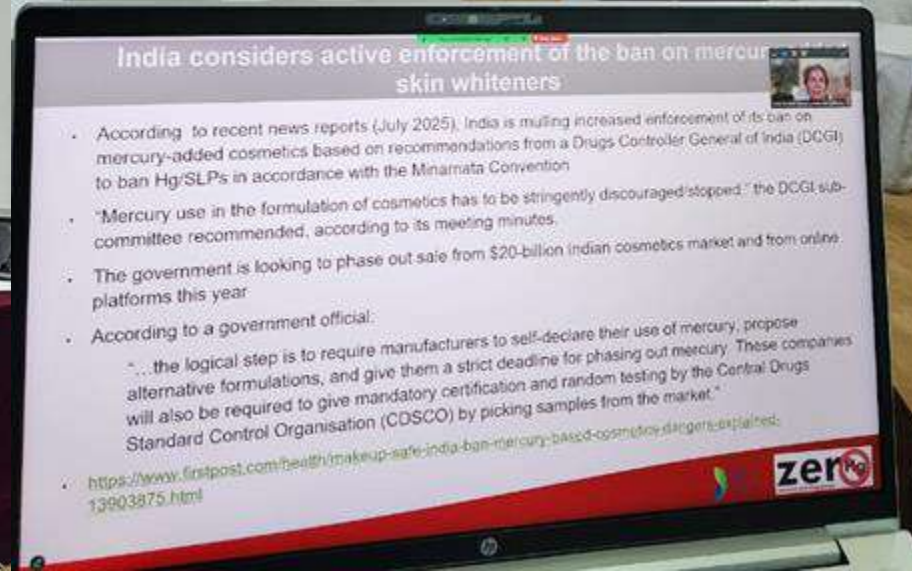
Online Market Oversight: CAA engages e-commerce platforms and

publishes the first mercury data since 2013.





Dialogue with online platforms on voluntary initiatives to control the sale of mercury-containing skin-lightening products in online marketplaces.



Initiatives by the Consumer Affairs Authority aligned with project activities.



CAA/CP/01/Pub.Notice/01/2025
22/05/2025

Hazardous Skin Products Containing Mercury

S/N	Name of the Product	Batch no	Hg content detected/ ppm
1	Arena Gold	No batch number on label.	30080
2	Athisayam	No batch number on label.	Peroxide Value and Mesophilic Bacteria do not comply with the Specifications of Sri Lanka Standards for Skin Creams & Lotions. (SLS 743)
3	B Black Magic Beauty Cream	D712B235	14520
4	Beauty Booster Beauty Cream	No batch number on label.	32980
5	Beauty Care Day Cream	No batch number on label.	5.1
6	Carotone Natural Glow Clarifying	1053387	312
7	Every Way Beauty Cream	No batch number on label.	37250
8	Fiona Anti Aging	No batch number on label.	4265
9	Fresh & Clear	786010	31540
10	Fresh & White	No batch number on label.	8.1
11	Fresh & White	No batch number on label.	28340
12	Fresh & White Body Butter	No batch number on label.	1.7
13	Fresh White	No batch number on label.	17632
14	Glow	No batch number on label.	7845

Warning Issued: 49 Skin Creams Found Harmful and Unsafe for Skin by CAA | Check-out the list!



On May 20, 2025 - 8:50 am



The Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) has issued a public warning after laboratory tests revealed dangerously high levels of heavy metals in several skin creams and lotions available in the Sri Lankan market.

According to the CAA, the tested products exceeded the approved safety limits for heavy metals, posing serious health risks to consumers.

The authority has published a list of the affected products and their respective brand names, along with a copy of the gazette that outlines permissible metal concentrations.

Consumers are strongly advised not to purchase or use creams and lotions that exceed



[hazardous skin.pdf](#)

Consumer warning : CAA lists 49 Skin Creams to avoid

May 27, 2025 at 4:41 PM



CAA LISTS 49 CREAMS PUBLIC SHOULD AVOID



The Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) has issued a public warning after laboratory tests revealed dangerously high levels of heavy metals in several skin creams and lotions available in the Sri Lankan market.

According to the CAA, the tested products exceeded the approved safety limits for heavy metals, posing serious health risks to consumers.

The authority has published a list of the affected products and their respective brand names, along with a copy of the gazette that outlines permissible metal concentrations.

Consumers are strongly advised not to purchase or use creams and lotions that exceed the approved safety thresholds.

Legal action has already been initiated against vendors selling these products, and stricter enforcement will follow, the CAA added. (NewsWeb)

Consumer Affairs Authority's post

Don't Risk Your Life for the Sake of Beauty!

According to reports obtained by the Consumer Affairs Authority after testing samples of skin creams and lotions collected from the market, the levels of heavy metals found in some products have been confirmed to be significantly higher than the approved limits.

The brand names of the tested creams and lotions, along with the detected heavy metal content, are listed below.

A copy of the gazette notification specifying the approved heavy metal limits is also provided.

Accordingly, the Consumer Affairs Authority urges all consumers to refrain from purchasing creams and lotions that exceed the approved safety limits. Legal action has already been taken against vendors selling such products, and the law will be strictly enforced against any future violators.

Subscribe on YouTube:
<https://youtube.com/@consumeraffairsauthority>

Like our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1AkQM5Zh7b/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Visit our official website:
<https://www.caa.gov.lk/>

#ConsumerProtection #SriLanka
#ConsumerRightsSL #Whitening
#ConsumerAffairsAuthority #CAA
#HeavyMetals #SkinCreamWarning
#HealthHazard #Awareness #LegalAction
#BeautyProducts #ToxicIngredients
#WhiteningCream #cosmetics #gogofan
#Media #ConsumerRights #SkinWhitening
#raids

See translation

S/N	Name of the Product	Batch no	Hg content detected/ ppm
1	Arena Gold	No batch number on label.	30080
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13	Fresh White	No batch number on label.	17632
14	Glow	No batch number on label.	7845



Elena Jordan

Annex C: Processes to follow for BRI-UN

1. **Acknowledgment text:** Use the text below for acknowledgment. It can be as part of the content, or it can also be a separate page.
"A project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and co-executed by the World Health Organization (WHO) with targeted technical assistance by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)."
a WHO-UNEP-GEF:
2. **Approved co-logo usage:** Need to follow a standard visual weight in size and position, in relevant documents.

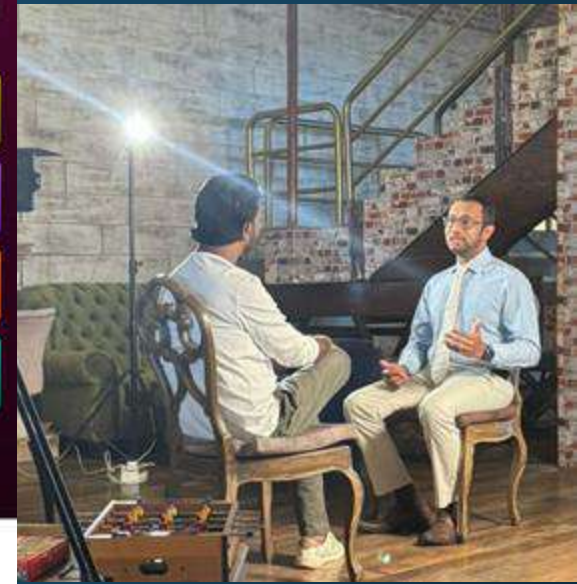
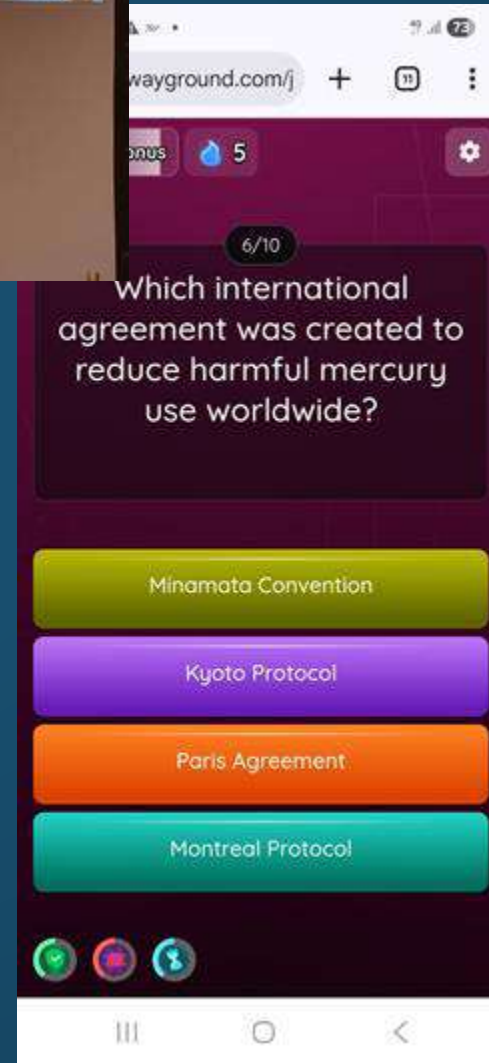
Health effects of mercury exposure



ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH UNIT



HEALTH PROMOTION BUREAU





02 JUN 2025 | STORY | CHEMICALS & WASTE

A Week of Action: Countries unite to manage mercury trade and eliminate mercury-added Skin Lightening Products

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2 June 2025 — In an effort to strengthen global efforts on mercury monitoring and control, a weeklong series of technical trainings and coordination events is underway from 2–6 June 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The initiative brings together customs and enforcement authorities, government representatives, health and environment experts, and international partners to support the effective implementation of the [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#).

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and funded by the Government of Japan and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the initiative merges two UNEP-led projects to reinforce mercury trade controls and promote the elimination of mercury-added skin lightening products.

The week kicks off with national training for Sri Lankan customs and enforcement officials, enhancing the country's capacity to identify, track, and regulate mercury trade. This training is led in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the Minamata Convention focal

Further Resources

[Read the original article](#)[Eliminating Mercury Skin
Lightening Products Project](#)[Customs Training Workshop](#)[Multi-country Meeting on the
Elimination of Mercury-Added
Skin Lightening Products](#)

Regional and National Training on Mercury Product Controls



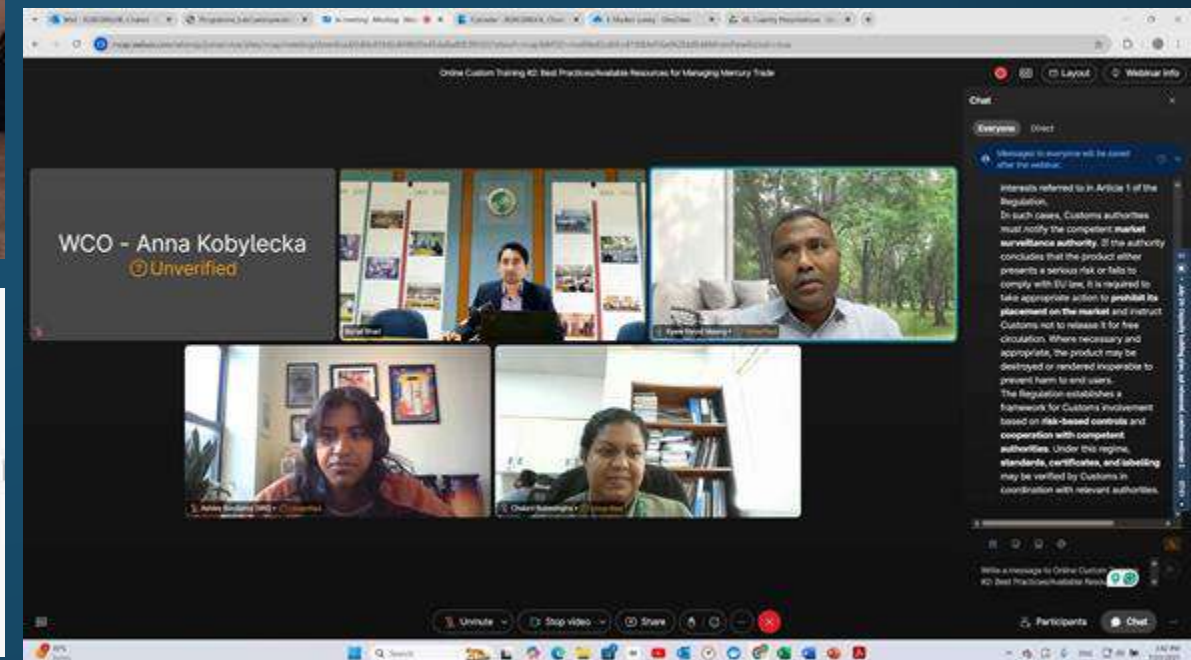
Table 12: Global mercury consumption by sector

Sector	2009	2010	2011
Small-scale artisanal and mining	150 - 170	150 - 170	150 - 170
Vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) production	400 - 800	400 - 800	400 - 800
Chlor-alkali production	450 - 550	450 - 550	450 - 550
Batteries	300 - 400	300 - 400	300 - 400
Dental applications	140 - 200	140 - 200	140 - 200
Measuring and control devices	150 - 200	150 - 200	150 - 200
Lamps	100 - 150	100 - 150	100 - 150
Electrical and electronic devices	150 - 200	150 - 200	150 - 200
Other (plastics, laboratory, pharmaceutical, cultural/traditional uses, etc.)	50 - 100	50 - 100	50 - 100
Total	3 300 - 5 300	3 300 - 5 300	3 400 - 5 400

UNEP's Global Mercury Justice, Health and Environment Report



- Webinar #1: 26th May 2025
- Webinar #2: 29th July 2025
- Webinar #3: 13th August 2025
- 📌 Presentations: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1axTGBn_AF3T3wwZvxt7Rk6Lhw7PGiweH



Multi-Country Meeting on Elimination of Mercury-Added Skin Lightening Products

Conducted successfully on 5th and 6th at Cinnamon Life Colombo.

The participants of 8 countries (Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Nepal, Maldives, and Pakistan) representing 19 females and 30 males from ministries and institutions responsible for Health and Environment.





ADVANCING GLOBAL TESTING COLLABORATION

The Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), USA, has completed the first phase of screening selected cosmetic products. Sri Lanka's Steering Committee is exploring the legal framework for data sharing and public disclosure.

During their visit to Sri Lanka in June, BRI experts engaged with the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) to strengthen technical collaboration, with a vision of developing regional testing capacity.



POISONS PREVENTION WEEK BY THE POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE



National Poisons Prevention Week 2025



11th – 17th August 2025

📌 Theme: "The Frightening Side of Whitening Cream"

The National Poisons Information Centre is raising awareness about hidden toxic risks in skin-lightening products.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZJ7KIsINDo>

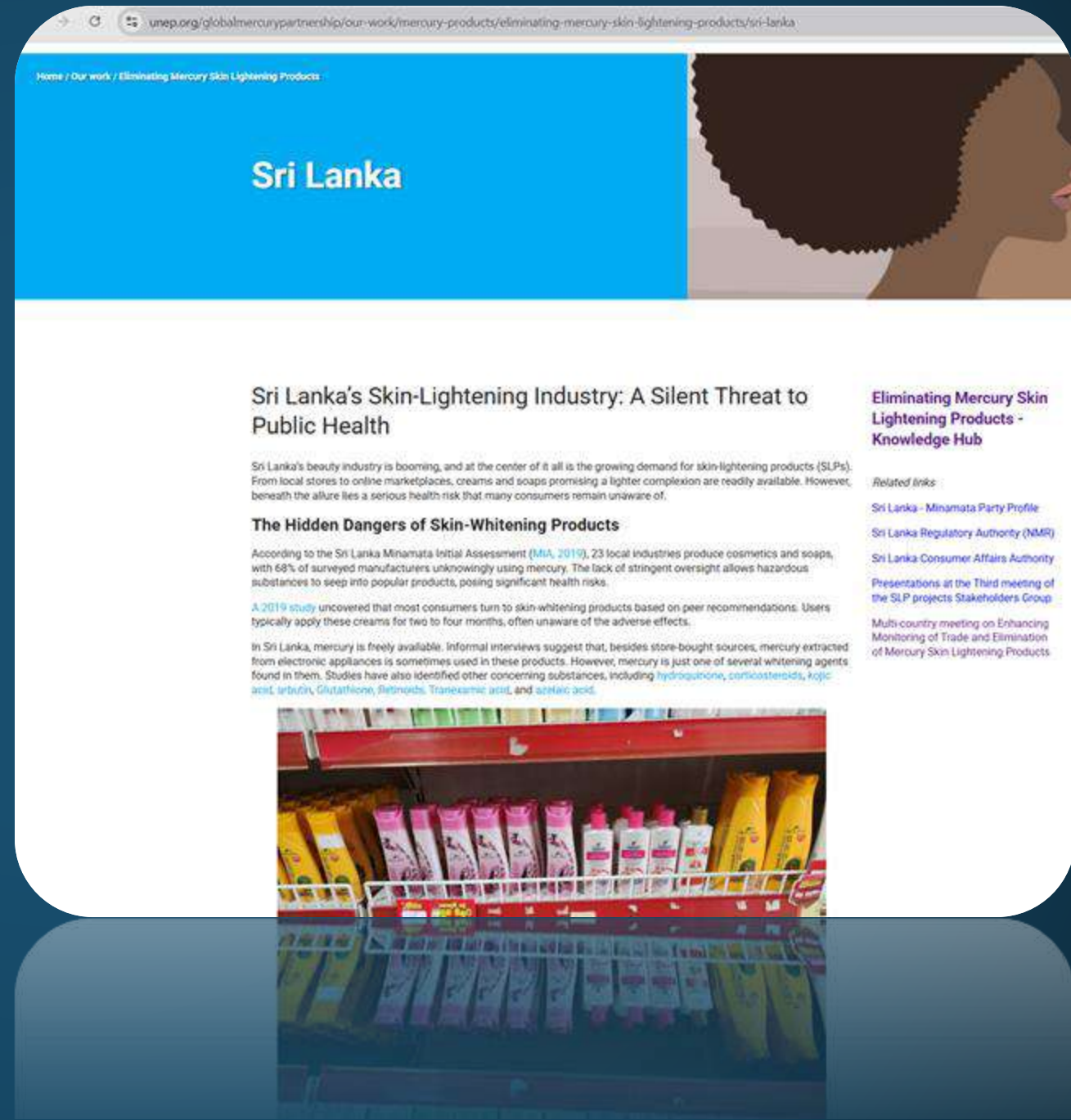
POISONS PREVENTION WEEK BY THE POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/dxIJojcidIA>



SRI LANKA COUNTRY PAGE IS NOW LIVE

Stay updated on developments.



College of Dermatologists:

- One of the resource personnel recognized by SLBC as an Iconic woman for her dedicated work, extending beyond clinical practice, in raising awareness and empowering communities on skin health
- The Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine, Announced an art exhibition

Sri Lanka Iconic Woman 2025

TOP C
Organized by

SLBC
Powered by



29th August 2025 at BMICH

Art and Video competitions announced by the College of Dermatologists:

<https://www.facebook.com/srilankacollegeofdermatologyandaestheticmedicine/posts/pfbid02fhF9fYFNBREYPxBHUbCMbc4WWUJAJfcv6ugZf9qqrDk27xrKcgWbs9M63R4aQxI>

Video production:

<https://www.facebook.com/srilankacollegeofdermatologyandaestheticmedicine/posts/pfbid02jZZXzt7oPfrp4Vuf5Qs6U8p5yrvXKfMRksUVb9PA7cgZKSjofeyEN4tPZgBpV2I>

සජිව්තා නිර්මාණ තරඟය

තේමාව: සේවාලාභීන්ගේ ආරක්ෂාව සහතික කරන රසදායකයකර සේවකයා

සහභාගීත්වයේ සුදුසුකම්:

NVQ සුදුසුකම් ලත් රසදායකයන් සිල්වික් හෝ NVQ සාධනලාභී සඳාරය ප්‍රසිද්ධ රසදායකයන් සිල්වික්

ආයතනික සඳහා ආදායම:

- ✓ ස්ටරොයිඩ් (Steroids) පරිච්ඡේදය සහිත සෞඛ්‍ය සේවකයන්
- ✓ Bleaching/ වර්ණය සහිත දූෂිත සහිත සෞඛ්‍ය සේවකයන්
- ✓ NVQ විධිවිධාන සහතිකය සිල්වික් සහතික සහතිකය

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සේවකයන් සඳහා සඳහා:

1 ප්‍රථම ස්ථානය	රු. 30,000/-
2 දෙවන ස්ථානය	රු. 20,000/-
3 තෙවන ස්ථානය	රු. 15,000/-

ආරම්භක දිනය: 15/10/2025

විමසී සඳහා: 0712616377 සංදේශය: slcds40thyear@gmail.com

Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine
September 10 to 14 2025

Inter-school Art Competition 2025
Celebrating 40 years of Excellence of Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine (SLCDM)

SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGY AND AESTHETIC MEDICINE
40th Anniversary Celebration

Inter - School Art Competition 2025
THEME: FAIR, DARK OR BROWN - WE ARE ALL BEAUTIFUL
(සුදු-තද-කහපුදු, අපි සියල්ලම උතුරු)

Competition Guidelines:

- Age Categories: Junior: grade 8-11 Senior: grade 12-13
- Paper size: A3
- Medium: Any medium
- Each artwork must be accompanied by a duly completed application form, certified by the Principal and the Teacher-in-Charge, which should be affixed to the back of the artwork
- One child can submit up to a maximum of two drawings
- Drawings must be your own creation not copied from the internet
- All drawings need to be sent only by registered post delivered to: Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine, No. 6, Weyanama Road, Colombo 7

Deadline: 20th October 2025

Prizes and recognition:

Cash prizes: 1st place: Rs. 25000 2nd place: Rs. 15000 3rd place: Rs. 10000	10 merit awards in each category - certificate
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Selected Artists will be displayed at the Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine

40th Anniversary
SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGY AND AESTHETIC MEDICINE

VIDEO COMPETITION
Theme: Beyond the Skin: Break the Myth and Heal with Truth

Eligibility: Open to all current medical undergraduate students from any University in Sri Lanka (Bachelor of Science participation is allowed)

Competition Guidelines:

- Topic: Beyond the Skin: Break the Myth and Heal with Truth
- Video Length: 1-3 minutes
- Language: English, Sinhala, or Tamil
- Format: Video must be submitted in MP4 format
- Submission: All videos must be submitted by email to: info@slcdm.lk
- Deadline: 15th October 2025

Prizes and recognition:

Best Video Award: Rs. 25,000/-	Popular Video Award: Rs. 10,000/-
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For more details: info@slcdm.lk

Thank you

PROJECT ON ELIMINATING MERCURY IN SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS

SRI LANKA



Ministry of Health & Mass Media
Ministry of Environment



Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products Project : Jamaica , Highlights and Key Takeaways

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products Project : Jamaica , Key Takeaways

- Strengthening Regulation and surveillance mechanisms.
- Policy development ; through understanding national behaviors, attitude and knowledge on skin lightening through research

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products Project : Jamaica , Key Takeaways

- Public Health Interventions
- National Campaigns : Public Awareness Initiatives and Media Outreach.

Jamaica: Current Legislation, Regulations and Surveillance Mechanisms

- Food and Drug Act ,
- Trade Act
- Regulation of cosmetics and raw materials. (S&R)
- Regulation and monitoring of import and export of finished products. (S&R and JCA)
- Surveillance of products on shelf (S&R –PHI)
- Testing and monitoring wastewater (NEPA) .

Jamaica :Strengthening Legislation, Regulations and Systems.

- Gaps in Legislation and recommendations.
- Contribute to global legislation frameworks under the GEF Eliminating Mercury SLPs project.

Jamaica :Strengthening Legislation, Regulations and Systems.

- Improved surveillance of local manufacturers and shelf products.
- Expansion of prohibition list and strengthening of reporting and detainment procedures at the ports.
- Global stakeholder collaboration on internet platform surveillance and notification.

Jamaica :Strengthening Legislation, Regulations and Systems.

- Strategic collaboration with MOHW stakeholders, private sector groups and manufacturers through national working groups.
- Public advisory on prohibited products.

Jamaica :Strengthening Legislation, Regulations and Systems.

- National testing of skin lightening products*.
- Identification and notification of manufacturers in breach with increased monitoring and regulation among other deterrents.

Behaviour Insight Study and Policy Development.



Public Health Interventions Highlights

AIMS:

- Strategic Use of Public Health networks ; health centers , community health intervention and visitation systems.
- Improve community-based healthcare worker awareness and interventional led programs
- Establish collaborations in the family health unit to support surveillance and awareness health education intervention

Public Health Interventions Highlights

- 2025
- Island wide healthcare worker Awareness workshop on Mercury Skin Lightening products adverse health effects and environmental impacts.
- Fast Facts:
- 132 healthcare workers trained.
- 14 Parishes, 4 Regional Health Authorities; urban and rural public health systems
- 62 – Montego Bay
- 70 –Kingston

Workshops enhance healthcare workers' awareness of mercury skin lightening products

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Published: Wednesday | August 13, 2025 | 12:06 AM

Previous

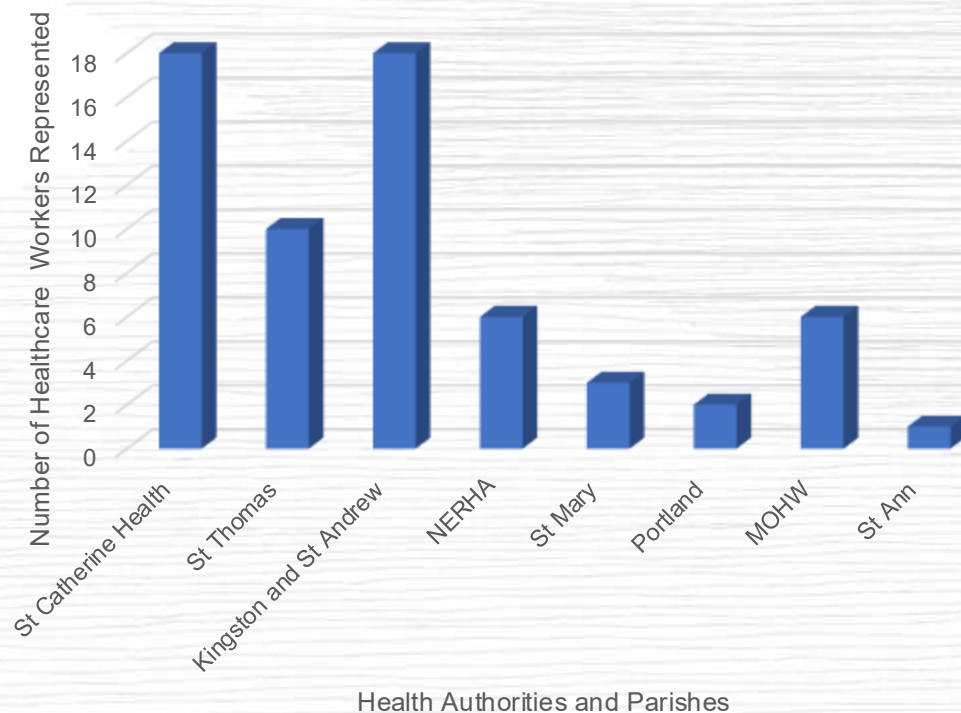
Next



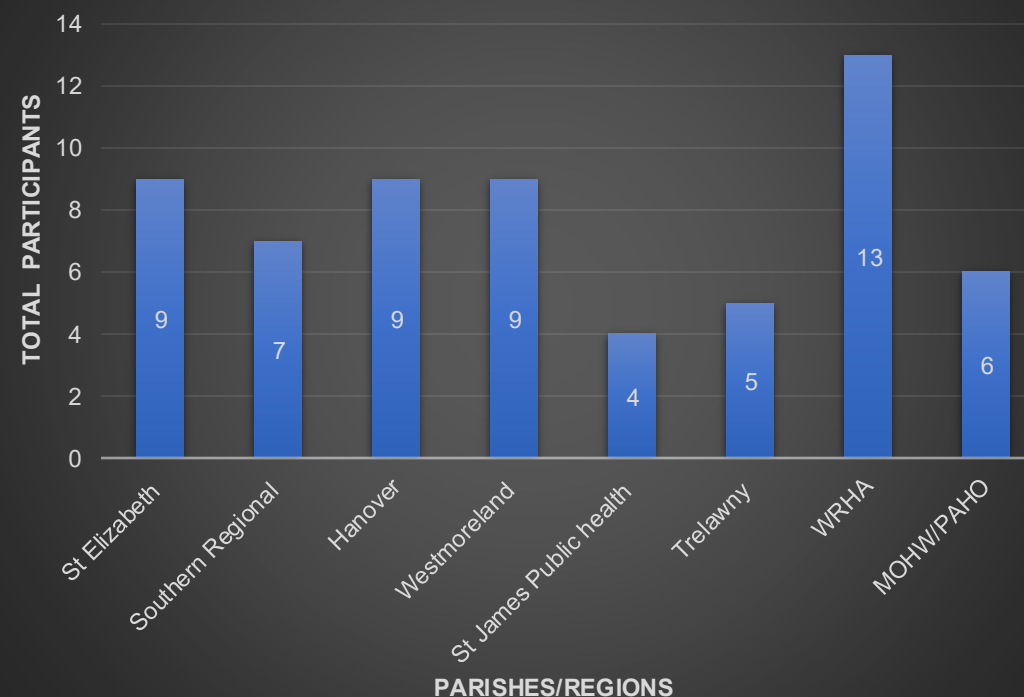
Healthcare participants in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organization workshops, addressing the harmful effects of mercury in skin lightening products.

Public Health Interventions Highlights

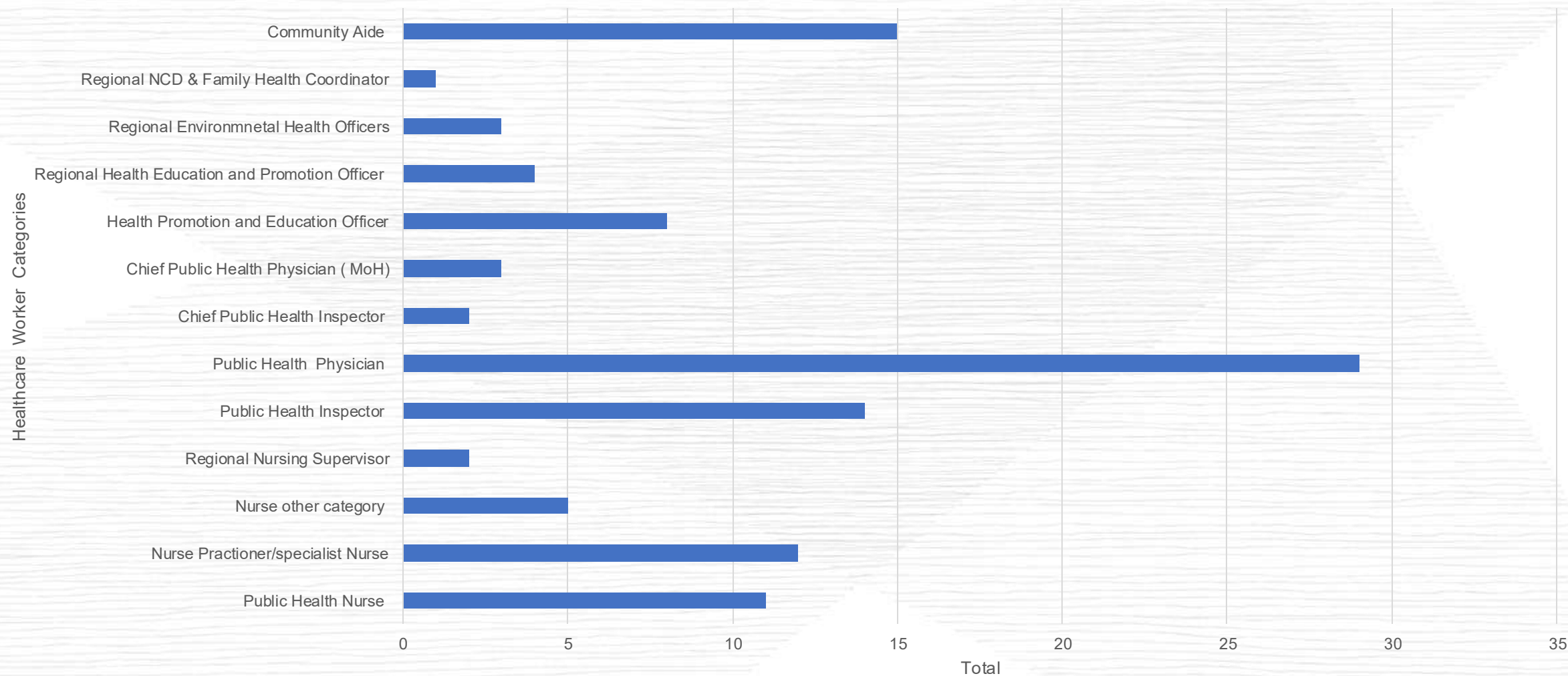
Health Authorities and Parishes represented at the Mercury Awareness Workshop



Workshop Participants by Health Regions and Parishes



Healthcare Worker categories Trained 2025



Gender Demographic of HCWs Trained





Outcomes of HCW Training

- 95% HCW respondents reported **increased confidence in counseling skin lightening patients and at-risk groups** on mercury SLPs use, adverse health and environmental outcomes.
- Participants could identify at risk groups such as pregnant women and fetus.
- Describe health impacts on the CNS, fetal brain development etc.
- Describe perceived and potential environmental impact esp. the impacts of mercury in wastewater, bioaccumulation and biomagnification in marine life.

Outcomes of HCW Training

- Calls for continued learning and training to be integrated into public health Continued Medical Learning initiatives.
- *PAHO Virtual Campus :
Mercury effects in human health and the environment and considerations under the Minamata Convention

Outcomes of HCW Training

- Next Steps : integration of counseling and health awareness intervention in primary care clinics, community outreach programs and infographics on skin lightening in the community

Health Care Provider Awareness

2023 Snap Shots

- Mercury SLP and GEF project awareness engagement with over 200 General / Family Physicians annual Medical Association of Jamaica
- Nationwide symposium with national stakeholders Jamaica Customs, MOHW , Bureau of Standards.
- Calls for increased interventions and continued practitioner awareness on the matter.





Eliminating Mercury SLPs project and the hazards of mercury SLP use delivered at the Medical Association of Jamaica .

Ms. Lesley Onyon , WHO.

Public Awareness and Media Outreach Initiatives

Social Media Awareness Campaign:

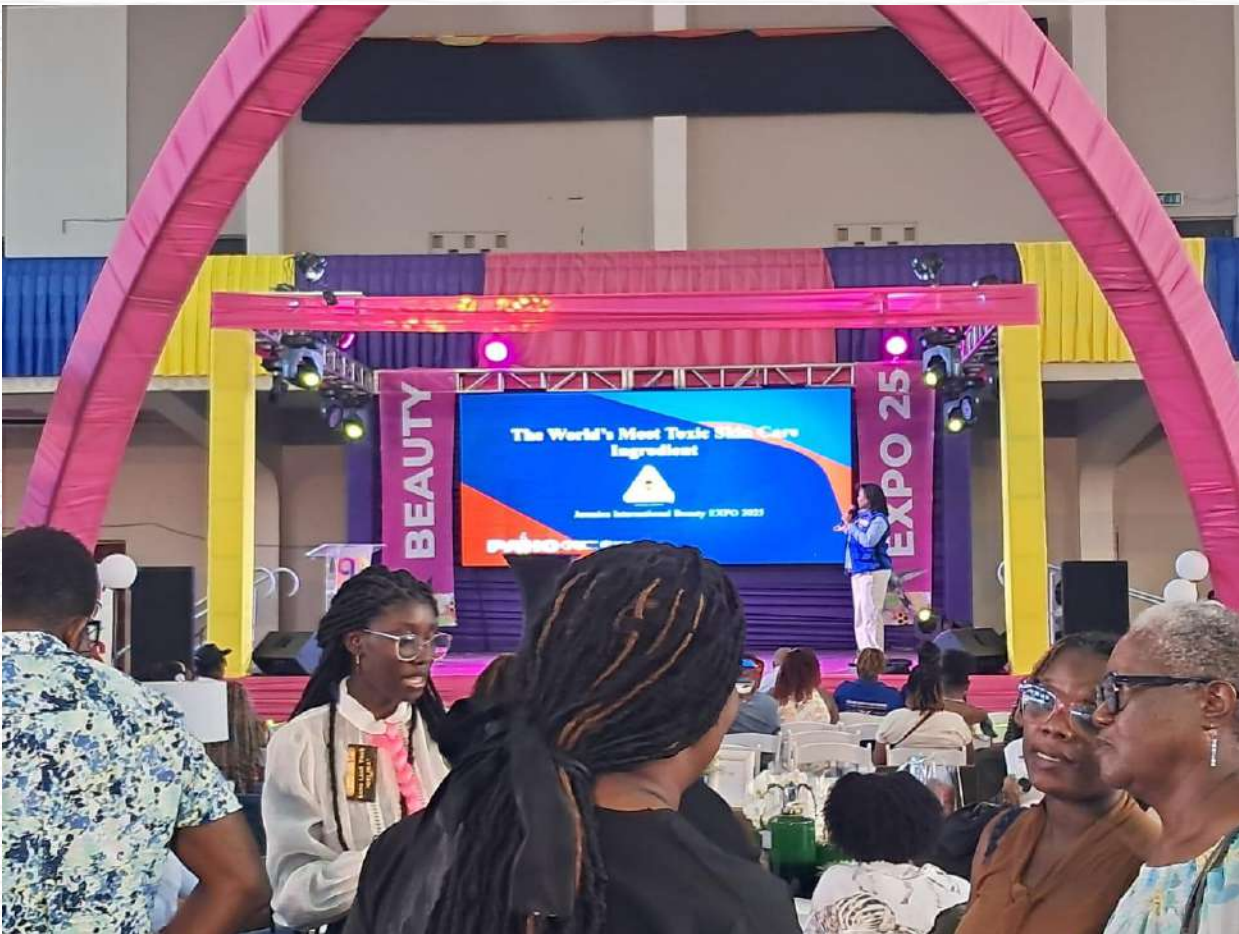
2025

- MOHW led radio interview in Western Jamaica on adverse health outcomes of Mercury SLPs.

2025

- Jamaica International Beauty Expo
 - Engagement of cottage industry cosmetic cream developers and distributors.
 - Vocational and cosmetic training institutions : pledges to include lectures on mercury SLPs
 - Public Awareness drive with multimedia, infographics, public lecture and table discussions.







Public Awareness and Media Outreach Initiatives

Social Media Awareness Campaign:

2023

- Twitter (X) Space discourse with over 100 participants with the MOHW focal point.
 - There is a knowledge gap in young adults age group and media spaces create an opportunity to bridge knowledge gaps.

2023

- Community Discussions VOX POX
- Eastern based radio discussion on adverse health outcomes of mercury SLPs.
- COP 5 Side event Panel Discussion.



"Local Voices"



The End

Thank you for listening !

Contact information

Dr Alecia Hamilton Campbell

Email :hamiltoale@paho.org



Galaxy S21+ 5G



4th meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project

Stakeholders group

18 September 2025, from 14:00–16:00 CET.

Content



1. Public health awareness campaigns
2. Lessons learned from ongoing behavioral insights research
 - a) KAP Survey findings
 - b) KAP Survey Conclusion
3. Other outcome

1. Public health awareness campaigns

- **Publicizing the regulations on SLPs in 7 of Gabon's 9 provinces:** over 200 participants: authorities (provincial governors, prefects, mayors, regional health directors,..), vendors, NGOs

- **Extensive publication** of relevant outcome in the media (radio, TV and newspapers) for general public coverage.

<https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/our-work/mercury-products/eliminating-mercury-skin-lightening-products/gabon>

- **Policy and strategy in Africa:** road map to eliminate SLPs in the African region: *Libreville commitment on the elimination of mercury-containing skin-lightening cosmetics in Africa*

<https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/node/28167/>

- **Publication of the list of cosmetics banned in Gabon** (57 products to date) with support of EEB. <https://anmaps.ga/communique-de-presse>



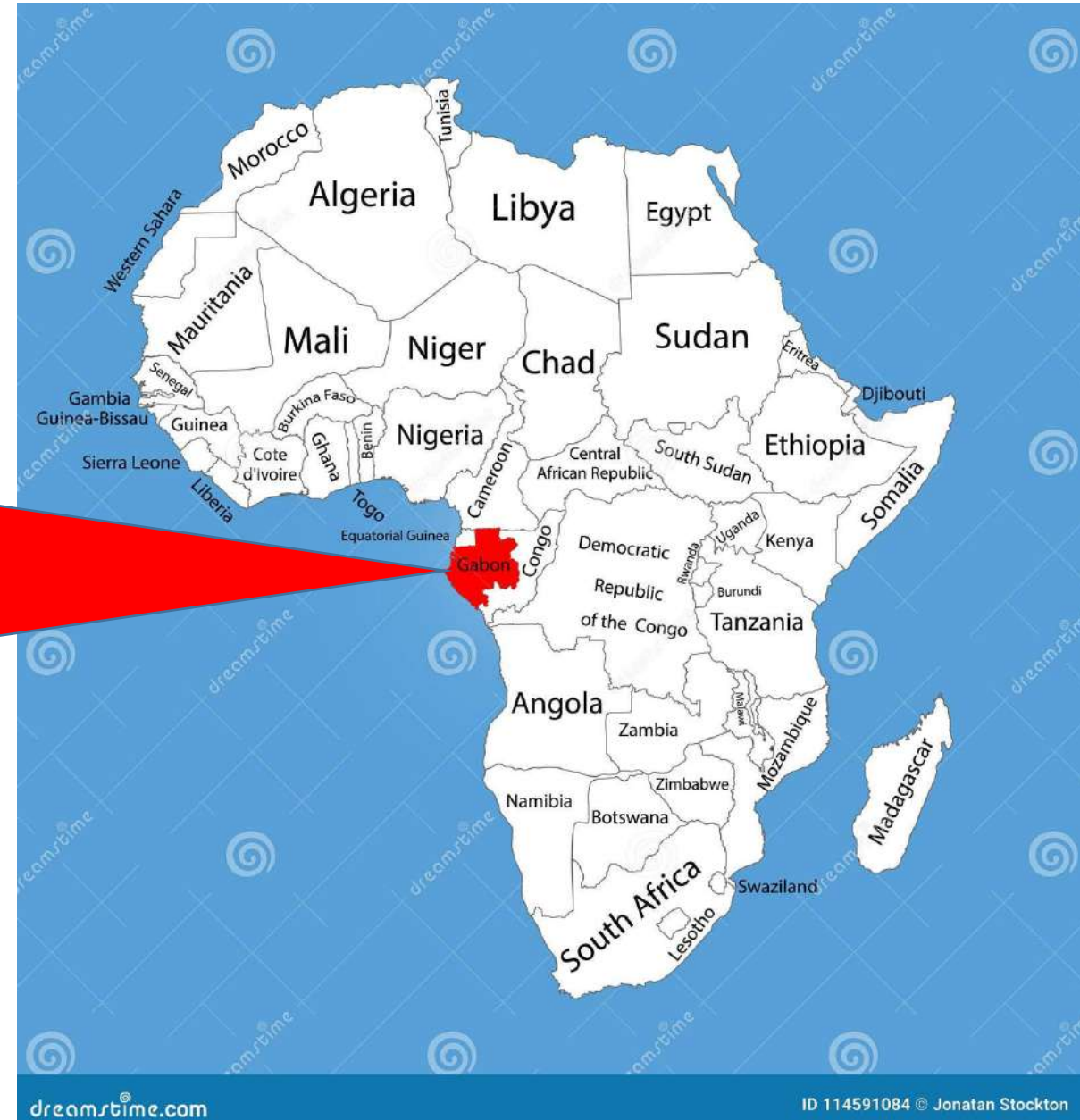
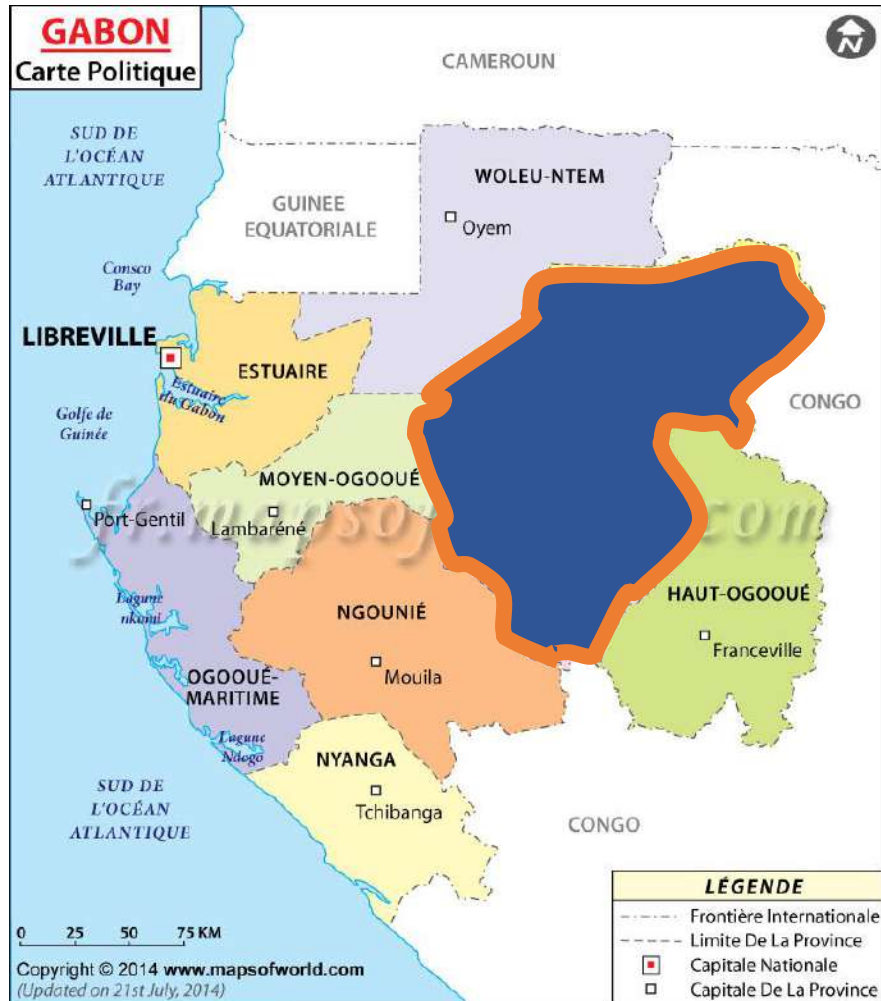
Des experts en santé et en environnement, des dermatologues, des représentants gouvernementaux et des organisations internationales telles que l'OMS, le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) se sont réunis du 30 au 31 janvier à Libreville dans le cadre d'un atelier régional. Au sujet de l'élimination des produits cosmétiques éclaircissants sur la peau contenant du mercure et d'autres produits dangereux, a été organisé autour du thème «Les produits cosmétiques éclaircissants pour la peau, une préoccupation de la Santé publique en Afrique». Le Premier ministre, Raymond Ndong Sima, a ouvert les travaux, insistant sur l'urgence de lutter contre ces produits nocifs.



Des membres de la table ronde de haut niveau ont pris part à l'atelier régional, Raymond Ndong Sima, le Premier ministre.



Provinces already covered by awareness-raising and dissemination of regulations



2. Lessons learned from ongoing behavioral insights research



Basic information:

- KAP was a cross-sectional, non-parity study conducted in Grand Libreville (Libreville, Owendo, Akanda, Ntoum).
- 604 respondents were approached, 444 of whom agreed to take part, i.e. a refusal rate of 26.5%.

a. KAP Survey findings :



- The results reveal a **high rate of use (86.9%) of lightning products, particularly among women (91.0%)** and 9% of men.
- The use of cosmetics was highest among people aged between 15 and 44, who accounted for 92.12% of respondents.
- The **main reasons for using cosmetics are to beautify (21.6%) and lighten (9.7%) the skin.**
- The survey was **most favorably received by the 26-35 age group, i.e. 46.40%** of the sample.
- According data collected in relation to “*Level of education*”, “*Breakdown by gender*” and “*Breakdown by professional category (occupation of respondents)*”, the majority of respondents had a secondary or higher level of education.
- The striking fact is that the «unemployed», who should normally have a reduced purchasing power, constitute an equally important fraction (12.39%). The skin-lightening cosmetics occupy in the spending priorities of the populations surveyed.



- «*Aesthetics and beautification*» remains the predominant motive with 86.5% against 62.5% who say they nourish the skin.
- **28.4% of respondents say they depigmented their skin to lighten it.**
- 64.9% of users are unaware of the composition of the products they use.
- Diversity of use is dominated by aesthetic considerations, which are amplified by the social and family pressure exerted by images (advertising, media) on individuals, particularly young women.
- Social discourse on the popularity of “*fair-skinned*” women on the matrimonial market is driving young women to the practice.
- **However, identified social determinants such as educational attainment and low purchasing power, particularly among school and university students, do not constitute obstacles to the acquisition of lightening cosmetics.**
- The Survey therefore underlines the urgent need for targeted educational interventions to combat the practice of voluntary skin whitening, in order to protect health and the environment from its harmful effects.

b. KAP Survey conclusion



- **Use:** High use among women, with more frequent use in the 15-44 age group.
- **Main reasons:** beautification and lightening (aesthetic considerations).
- **Knowledge:** ignorance of the composition of the products used.
- **Determinants:** social and family pressure exerted by images (advertising and/or other media)
- **Target groups:** young people, especially women (schoolchildren and students).

- ❖ **General comments:** Over-the-counter products that are easy to access for little money;
- ❖ **Suggestions:** Targeted educational/awareness-raising measures to combat the problem effectively.

3. Other outcome

- The **relevant elements of the Libreville Commitment** were taken up by the African Ministerial Conference of the Environment held in Nairobi (Kenya) on July 16 and 17, 2025 (AMCEN/20/Dec.7).
- **Monitoring of the availability of the products from the Internet platforms:** SLPs are sourced via social networks such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Tik Tok. Conventional online sales platforms are less relevant.
- **Process to strengthening the analytical capabilities** of the Agency for Medicinal and Other Health Products.
- Preparatory process to present SLPs project outcome at COP-6:
 - Working to sponsor **Conference Room Paper on Future Actions Regarding Mercury-Added Cosmetics (need support from stakeholders to influence future COP decisions on cosmetic)**
 - Working to disseminate SLPs project findings during COP 6 (**booth with GMP**)



Distr.: General
31 July 2025

Original: English
English and French Only

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment Twentieth Session

Ministerial Segment
Nairobi, Kenya 16 and 17 July
2025

Decision AMCEN/20/Dec.7: Africa's participation at the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

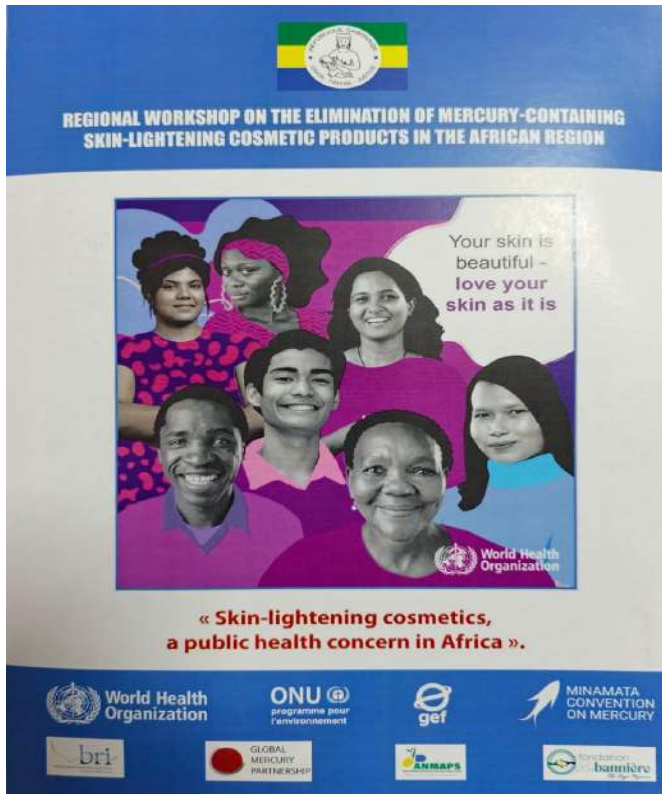
We, the African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Nairobi on 16 and 17 July 2025 at the twentieth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Highlighting the regional project addressing mercury-added skin-lightening cosmetics in thirteen countries in Africa, implemented by United Nations Environmental Programme, recently approved under eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility,

Decide:

1. To call upon African member States that are Parties to the Minamata Convention to fully implement Decision MC-5/4 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, including the phase-out of all listed mercury-added products within the stipulated timelines, and to prevent any further importation of such products into the continent and phase out of the use of dental amalgam for
5. To request the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, to accelerate the elimination of mercury-added skin-lightening products and strengthen regional collaboration to strengthen regulations, enhance enforcement measures, and raise public awareness to combat these harmful products.
18. To request African member States that are Parties to the Minamata Convention to promote synergies and coordinated implementation across related international chemicals and waste conventions, ensuring coherence at national and regional levels.



Contacts:

- **Dr INOUA, Aboubacar**
NPO Health Promotion
AF/ACO/SRC/GAB/GA3
- **Serge Molly ALLO'O ALLO'O**
National Project Officer GEF 10810: Eliminating Mercury Skin-Lightening Products
WHO Gabon
Email: alloos@who.int
WhatsApp: (+241) 77708528
GPN: 34814

Thank you.



GLOBAL COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

*Malgorzata Stylo, UNEP/ Secretariat of the
Global Mercury Partnership*

Detoxifying cosmetics and beauty ideals Global Campaign 2025



RATIONALE

HEALTH



ENVIRONNEMENT



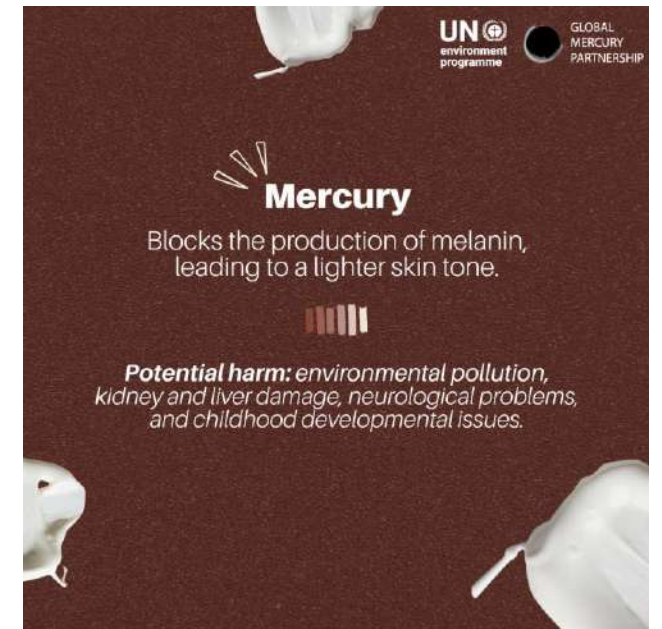
CULTURE



Example

Key Messaging

ingredients



Example

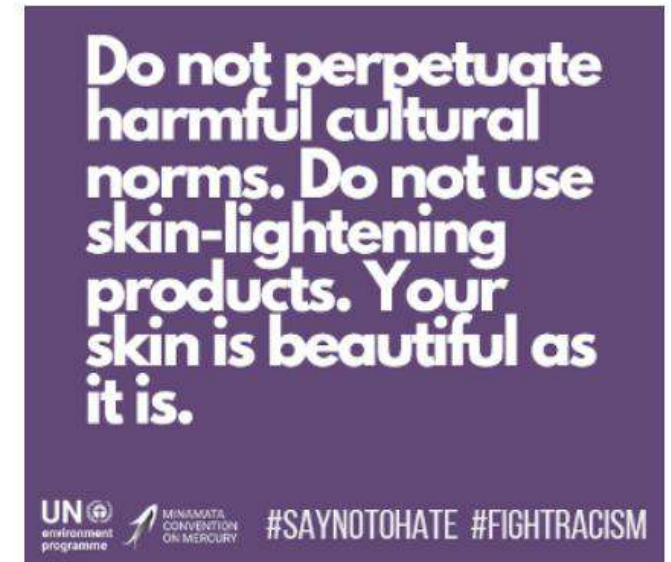
Key Messaging

exposure



Example Key Messaging culture

Hashtags: #SayNoToBleaching
#MercuryFreeCosmetics
#SeeMyComplexion #EndColorism
#JeSuisBelle





Home / News, Stories & Speeches / story

15 AUG 2025 | STORY | CHEMICALS & POLLUTION ACTION

Advocates hope new ban will temper market for toxic skin-lightening cosmetics

Credit: AFP/Simon Maine





Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics North America

165,204 followers

1w • 🌐

...

Mercury has no place in cosmetics.

🌐 Millions worldwide use skin lightening products — frequently marketed as skin whitening or bleaching — to alter their appearance. However, these products often contain harmful ingredients like steroids, hydroquinone and mercury.

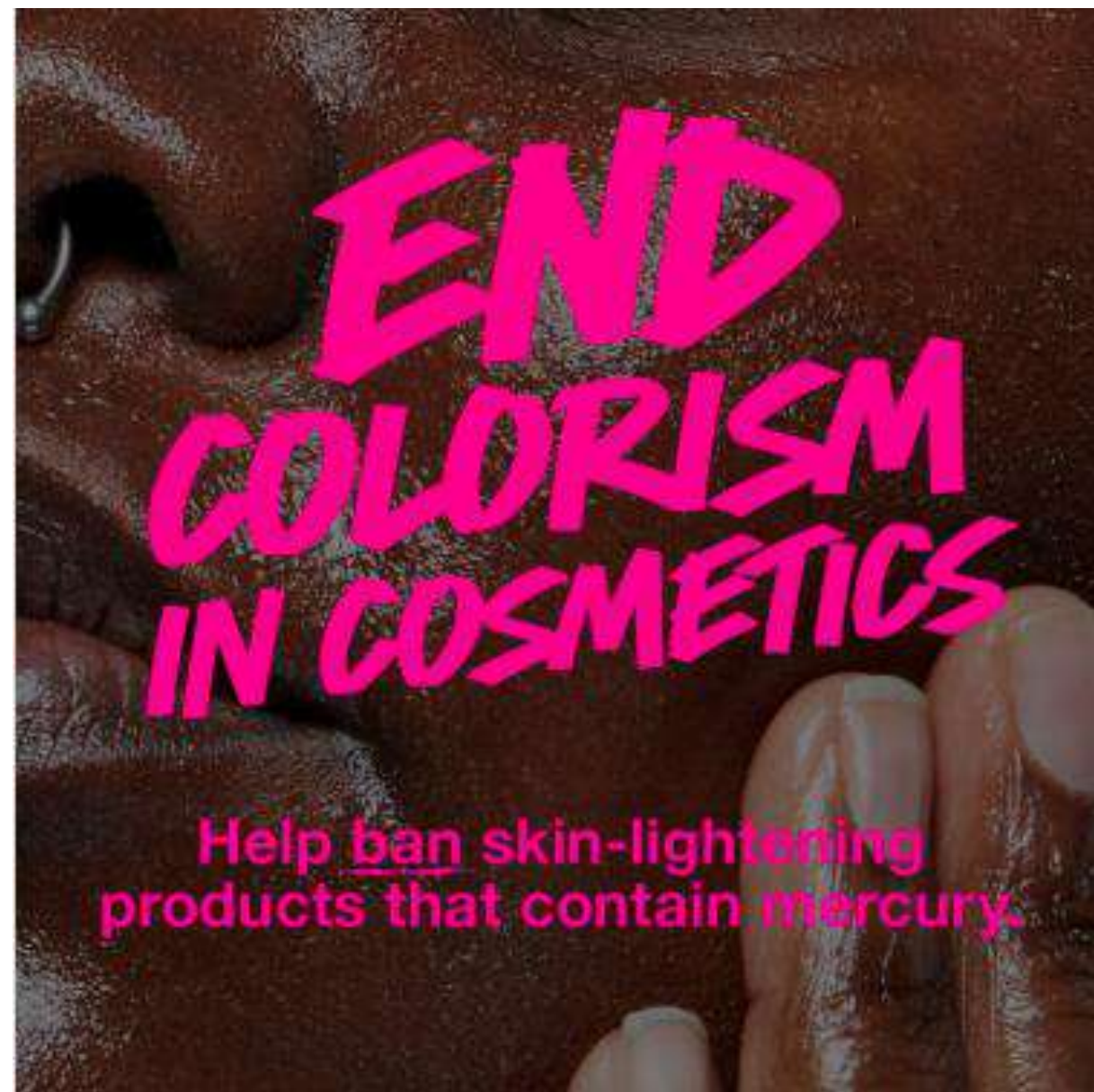
Beyond the health risks, they also fuel colorism by promoting the discriminatory belief that lighter skin is more beautiful. Despite these products violating both national laws and international regulations, they are still widely sold, increasingly online, often with little or no regulatory enforcement.

🚫 As a result, many people are unknowingly putting themselves and others at risk. It's time to stop these dangerous products from being sold and end colorism in cosmetics.

★ Together, let's call for an end to colorism in cosmetics and eliminate dangerous mercury in skin lightening products.

✅ Take action from Canada at <https://lnkd.in/gYPPr5wm>

✅ Take action from the U.S. at https://lnkd.in/gZCD_v7z



Minamata COP6, November 3-7, 2025, Geneva



Exhibition on the shore of
Lake Geneva
27 October - 16 November



COP 6 event with
policymakers and advocates
5th November



Public discussion and
movie screening
6th November



UPDATES FROM THE STAKEHOLDERS



National Demand Reduction Strategies for Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products

Michael Bender

*-Mercury Policy Project/Tides Center/Zero
Mercury Working Group*

National Demand Reduction Strategies for Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Event
**Fourth meeting of the Eliminating
Mercury Skin Lightening Products
Project Stakeholders Group**
18 September 2025

Michael Bender

--Director

Mercury Policy Project/Tides Center

--International Co-coordinator

Zero Mercury Working Group

--Co-lead

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Products Area



Picture credit, BRI 20

**Mercury
Policy Project**

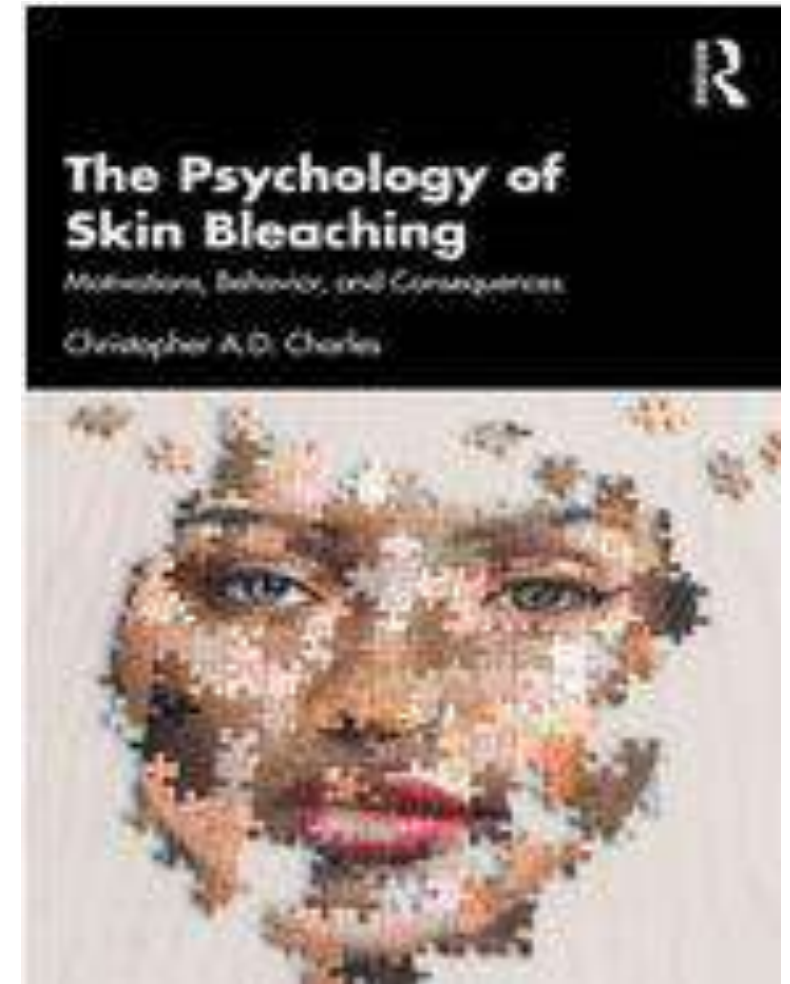
zero Hg
mercury working group



- Coalition of 110 public interest NGOs from 55 countries
- Supports the Minamata Convention with the goal of reducing mercury in the global environment to a minimum.

Professor Christopher Charles' Book Inspired this Talk

- **Professor of political & social psychology in the Department of Government, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.**
- **One of the world's leading experts—**
Researching skin bleaching for **25 years**
- Published **over 50 journal articles** and book chapters on skin bleaching, etc.
- Regular contributor to **Jamaican media and other Caribbean media.**



Additional Acknowledgements

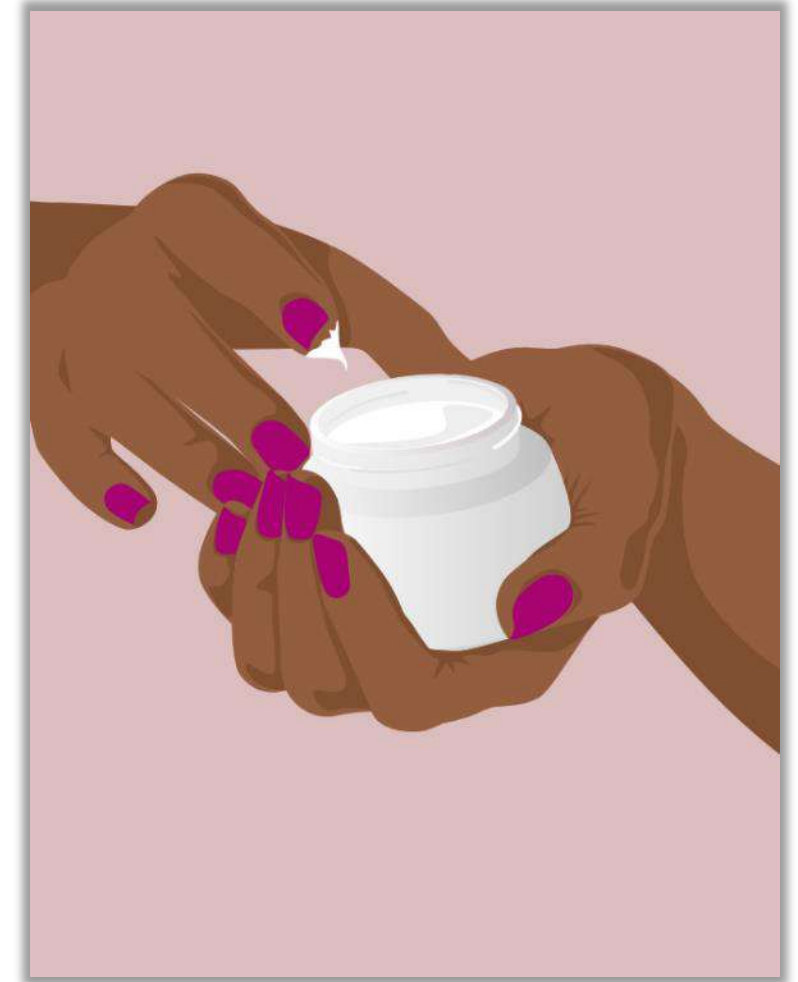
- **Paromita Hore, PhD, MPH**, Director of Environmental Exposure Assessment & Education, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- **Lori Copan, MPH, PharmD**, Chief, Exposure Prevention & Ed., California Depart. of Public Health
- **Anya Cross-James, MS**, Senior Env Scientist Supervisor, California Depart. of Public Health
- **Suzanne Sergile, MD, MPH**, Lead, Los Angeles County Depart. of Public Health, California
- **Maia Fitzstevens, MS**, Env Health Scientist, New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
- **John Gilkeson**, Toxics Reduction Policy Analyst, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- **Micaela Martinez, PhD**, Community Resilience Officer, Commission on Environmental Cooperation
- **Seth Laxman**, Advocacy & Activism Campaigner, Lush Cosmetics

Demand Side Reduction Strategy

Top down/bottom-up demand reduction elements:

- 1) Supporting public education
- 2) Focusing on schools
- 3) Enhancing curriculum for stakeholders
- 4) Developing media campaigns
- 5) Engaging influencers & de-influencers
- 6) Engaging the private sector
- 7) Phasing out sales and advertising

Before discussing these elements, let's start with a brief background



Background

- Consensus reached during Convention negotiations **to reduce both supply & demand** of mercury-added products.
- Yet **reducing demand is very challenging**
- Growing recognition **health risk warnings are not enough.**
- Even when dangers are known, **studies show that many continue to use***
- Colorism, ads, profiteers drive demand



*<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/995144?form=fpf>

Colorism isn't new, it's generational, inherited & deeply rooted



Source: <https://marieclaire.ng/shifting-the-narrative-around-skin-bleaching-among-women/>

Ads on Billboards, Magazines, Internet Plaster the Globe



A poster promoting skin whitening beauty products displayed along a street in Bangkok, Thailand. Photo: Getty

Amazon.com : fair n pink Faiza Beauty Cream (Pink, 50 g) : Beauty ...

fair n pink Faiza Beauty Cream (Pink, 50 g) Brand: fair n pink \$19.99\$19.99(\$11.11\$11.11/ Ounce) Enhance your purchase About this item **Faiza Poonia Herbal Beauty Cream** (30 g) To remove pimples, freckles and blackness of the face. **Faiza Beauty Cream** is used for spotless, beautiful and white color face.

Images for fair n pink faiza



I want these roses to see how lovely you are Bob

Wonderful things happen when your complexion is clear, bright, Nadinola-light

Give romance a chance! Don't let a dull, dark complexion deprive you of popularity. Don't let oiliness, big pores, blackheads about you of charm. Chase away those bad-complexion blues with NADINOLA Bleaching Cream. Nothing—absolutely nothing—will improve your skin faster, in more different ways! Contains wonder-working **A-M!** This remarkable medicated ingredient of NADINOLA works deep down *within* the skin to brighten and lighten it, combat blackheads and externally caused pimples. Soon your skin feels cleansed and cleared, smoother and softer, glowing and glamorous. Effective but oh, so gentle! NADINOLA acts so positively yet is so kind to your skin that we guarantee you will be delighted with its results. There are two types—one for oily skin and the other for dry skin. Choose the type that is right for you. Buy it confidently, use it happily. NADINOLA, Paris, Tennessee.

NADINOLA
BLEACHING CREAM

Just one jar will make your complexion brighter, clearer, lighter and lovelier.



FOR OILY SKIN
Nadinola Cream is
non-oily. Brightens skin,
removes shine or the
same skin. 2oz to \$2

FOR DRY SKIN
The original Nadinola
is enriched with fine
glycerine oil to relieve
dryness. 2oz to \$1.25





DAY & NIGHT
BEAUTY CREAM
OIL FREE
Total Fairness System



DAY & NIGHT
BEAUTY CREAM
OIL FREE
Total Fairness System

Sponsored ⓘ

Original Face day & night beauty Cream, External use only
Original Ayurvedic glow Skin...

★★★★☆ 25

Sponsored ⓘ

Original day night face beauty cream for remove pimples, dark spot, dark circles, freckle &...

★★★★☆ 14

bai 400001

All ▼ goree beauty cream

M.R.P: ₹699 (36% off)
Up to 5% back with Amazon Pay IC...

FREE delivery Fri, 12 Sept

Add to cart



FAWIZA Beauty Cream
Whitening Day and Night Cream
Anti-Aging Ultimate Beauty...



Original Beauty Cream
Whitening Cream Anti-Aging
Ultimate Beauty Cream Help...

Online platforms and store shelves are lined with skin-lightening products and some contain dangerously high levels of mercury.

Image Sources: NYC Health Department, Amazon India



Clinical Evidence: review of 551 published mercury toxicity cases

- Neurological and renal impairment is the most common manifestation of chronic mercury toxicity
- Users, non-users (e.g. children) may exhibit no symptoms
- Delayed diagnosis and treatment from:
 1. Non-specific clinical signs and symptoms,
 2. Clinical presentation similar to diseases that may be caused by other etiology, and
 3. Lack of knowledge, awareness on chronic mercury intoxication.

* [Ramli, 2021: Clinical management of chronic mercury intoxication secondary to skin lightening products: A proposed algorithm - PubMed](#)

Minnesota Mother loses peripheral vision from apparent exposure to mercury in beauty creams

333 Shares [Facebook](#) [Facebook messenger](#) [Twitter](#) [WhatsApp](#) [LinkedIn](#)

[Telegram](#) [Email](#)



Wednesday November 30, 2022
By Meera Senthilingam



<https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/29/health/skin-whitening-beauty-creams-mercury-vision-loss-mother-families-as-equals-intl-cmd/index.html>

1st Element: Supporting Public Education

BASED ON RECENT RESEARCH:

“The domains that shape skin bleachers’ behavior are the legacies of colonialism, gendered and racialized representations and social relations, powerful media that influence people’s imaginations, the social construction of beauty, femininities, masculinities, the body, consumerism, and capital (Garner & Bibi, 2022).”



alamy

Image ID: JF000A
www.alamy.com

“Public education [is] an important first step in addressing this global public health problem.”

*--The Psychology of Skin Bleaching: Motivations, Behavior, and Consequences -
28 April 2025 by Christopher A.D. Charles (Author)*

2nd Element: Focusing on Schools—Engaging Teenagers

Goal is to advocate for skin health, decrease number of young people using SLPs

- **Ministries of Education, Boards of Education, dermatologists and public health officials** should lead the anti-skin-bleaching program in the high schools and communities.
- **Guidance counsellors and psychologists** should engage students who are bleaching.
- **Teachers** who are bleaching should also be reeducated.
- Engage **parents** by inviting them to school to discuss the harmful effects of SLPs and encourage their support in reducing such practices among children.
- A part of the policy response in schools should involve **quizzes** about the dangers of skin bleaching and **prizes** awarded to the winners.

The Psychology of Skin Bleaching: Motivations, Behavior, and Consequences Paperback - 28 April 2025 by Christopher A.D. Charles (Author)

3rd Element: Enhancing Curriculum for Stakeholders

Medical Community

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Dermatologists

Schools

- Teachers
- Students
- Guidance Counselors

Beauty Industry

- Beauticians
- Retail outlets
- Wholesale markets

- **Train medical providers to be aware of symptoms** related to exposure to toxic SLP use and incorporated into patient evaluations.
- **Address social, cultural drivers** and discourage individuals from using SLPs
- Provide **understanding of colorism impacts** on mental and physical health
- Improve **multiethnic and cultural humility**

4th Element: Developing Media Campaigns

US State of Minnesota Department of Health

CHOOSE HEALTH, AVOID SKIN LIGHTENING

 **LOVE YOUR SKIN**

Some skin lightening products have **mercury** in them and are not healthy. They are **poisonous**. Mercury cannot be seen, felt, smelled or tasted, and often the skin product ingredient list is not complete.

HEALTHY TIPS

- Know what's in your skin products
- Protect your skin with safe sunscreen
- Keep your skin moisturized and hydrated

PROTECT

YOUR BABY



When breastfeeding, your baby takes in anything that is on your skin.

YOURSELF



Mercury from skin products is absorbed through your skin.

YOUR HOME



Using these products puts mercury into the air you and your family breathe.



Anti-bleaching Campaign Targeted at Secondary School Students in South-East Nigeria with the Help of the Film Industry



Dr. Chinwe Onyekonwu
Nigeria

Inspire Skin Confidence



World Skin Health Day
skin health for all

HOME

ABOUT

ACTIVITIES

GET INVOLVED

GALLERY

CONTACT

8 July is World Skin Health Day

This year's theme, 'No Health Without Skin Health', highlights our global effort to ensure that everyone, everywhere, can benefit from greater awareness, education, and equal access to dermatological care. Be part of the movement this year on 8 July!

GET INVOLVED

<https://worldskinday.org/>

Skin Facts! What You Need to Know About Skin Lightening Products



Awareness Raising on SLP through
Social Media in Sri Lanka

Multi Country Meeting on Elimination of
Mercury Added Skin Lightening Products
5-6 June 2025, Colombo

Dr. Ranjith Batuwanthudawe
Director (Health Education & Publicity)
Health Promotion Bureau
Ministry of Health
Sri Lanka

HEALTH PROMOTION BUREAU



zero Hg
mercury working group

Harnessing the Power of the Media



“The Pitt” - Season 1, Episode 7

<https://watch.plex.tv/show/the-pitt/season/1/episode/7>

Recent US State of California Case:

- **Mercury poisoning was recently recognized by a Medical Doctor after watching “The Pitt” - a tv medical drama.**
- Only then was the poisoned patient’s SLP use discussed and urine testing ordered.
- “The Pitt” initiated social media discussions and posts by SLP users and medical providers

5th Element: Engaging Influencers & (De-)Influencers



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJHZFQupMpw/>



Ad sparks debate over Pakistan's 'obsession' with 'fair' skin*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy eOE8mgnig>

The Psychology of Skin Bleaching: Motivations, Behavior, and Consequences Paperback - 28 April 2025 by Christopher A.D. Charles (Author)

- Spread message on danger of mercury-added SLPs:
 - Recruit popular **performers, celebrities, elite athletes, and fashion models.**
 - Highlight in **social media campaigns.**
 - Support skin color-related distress through **psycho-education**
- **Gen Z “de-influencers”** remind followers that clear skin shouldn't cost much; a basic cleanser and moisturizer will do just fine.

6th Element: Engaging the Private Sector

- Cosmetic, Toiletry & Fragrance Association of South Africa
“...condemns the proliferation of illegal SLPs” ([source](#))
- Recently, Lush Cosmetics issued a call for its customers in Canada & U.S. to advocate for a ban on mercury in cosmetics
- Lush’s retail staff across 260+ stores in Canada and the U.S. were trained to engage customers, invited to send an email to their Minister/Secretary of Health:
 - Take action from Canada at <https://lnkd.in/gYPrR5wm>
 - Take action from the U.S. at https://lnkd.in/gZCD_v7z



7th Element: Legislation to Ban Sales & Advertising



- In June, France passed a law to address fast fashion, which includes an **Ad and influencer ban**:
- *“Advertising and influencer promotion of ultra-fast fashion will be banned...**especially among youth.**”*
- This law could serve as a **model for legislation to ban advertising and influencer promotion** of Hg/SLPs
- Law provides governments with leverage to **hold online platforms accountable**, since they have **restricted product policies in place**—just need to enforce them

* <https://esgnews.com/france-targets-ultra-fast-fashion-with-eco-tax-ad-ban-and-transparency-rules/>

Blocking Illegal Sales & Advertising

Social media is rife with skin-whitening products. But little is being done to regulate the market

Skin-lightening products have exploded in their availability on major social media platforms where there are few rules about how they are promoted or sold. With some products containing potentially toxic ingredients, consumers could be at risk.

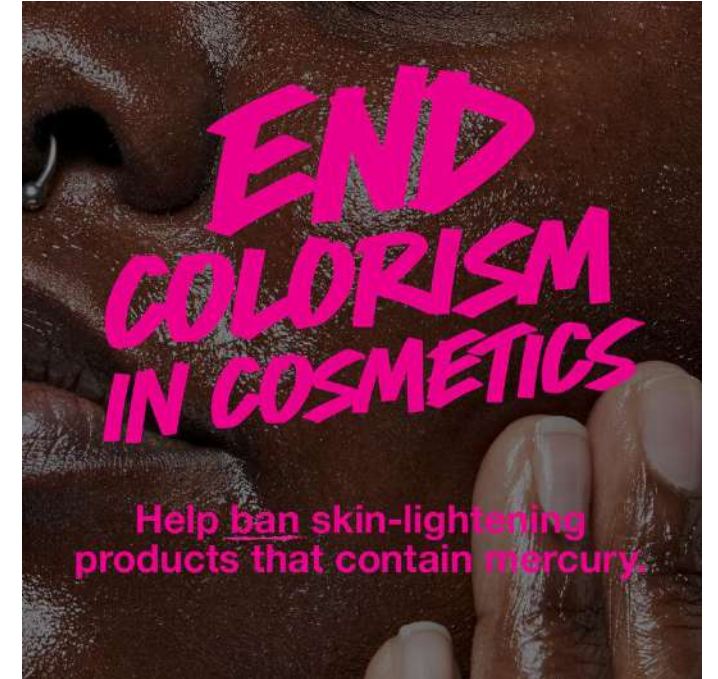
CNN style

<https://www.cnn.com/style/article/skin-whitening-products-social-media-as-equals-intl-cmd/index.html>

- Set national objectives to phase out toxic SLP sales
- Develop strategies to discourage marketing
- Post advisories and prohibited substances lists
- Focus on phase out initiatives inter-ministerially and regionally

Summary

- Consensus reached during treaty negotiations to reduce both supply & demand of mercury added products
- Health risk warnings are not enough to reduce demand for hazardous skin lightening products
- Developing Hg/SLP demand reduction strategy could assist Parties, engage various sectors
- Finally, enforcing bans on mercury added SLPs could also contribute to curtailing colorism



Thank you!



For more information: <https://www.zeromercury.org/mercury-added-skin-lightening-creams-campaign/>



**Community-based voices
and experience -Colorism: A
key player in influencing the
use of mercury containing
SLP's amongst Nigerian**

Zainab Bashir Yau, Nigeria , Asali project

Questions?





Looking ahead to COP6,
expectations, opportunities

Eisaku Toda, Minamata Secretariat



- ***Most COP documents are already available.***
- ***Budget-related documents since 5th August 2025.***
- ***COP-6 documents must be available on the website by 22 September according to the ROP.***

<https://minamataconvention.org/en/meetings/cop6>



Sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-6)

Geneva, Switzerland, 03 Nov 2025 - 07 Nov 2025

Meeting Information Documents Regional Meetings Newsroom International Work Information for participants
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Tentative Schedule of Work (INF/4)

COP-6	Monday, 3 November 2025	Tuesday, 4 November 2025	Wednesday, 5 November 2025	Thursday, 6 November 2025	Friday, 7 November 2025
10:00-13:00 Morning session	Item 1: Opening of the meeting Item 2: Organizational matters (a) Adoption of the agenda (b) Organization of work (c) Election of officers (d) Report on the credentials Item 3: Rules of procedure and financial rules Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (e) Financial resources and mechanism (i) Global Environment Facility (ii) Specific International Programme (iii) Review of the financial mechanism	<i>Reports of contact groups</i> Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (c) ASGM (d) Waste (f) Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer Item 6: Programme of work and budget	<i>Consideration of outcomes and reports of contact groups</i> Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (j) Cross-cutting matters: (i) Implementation of decision MC-5/1 (ii) Implementation of decision MC-5/15 (k) Knowledge management (l) Mercury and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Item 5: International cooperation and coordination	<i>Consideration of outcomes, adoption of report on credentials and adoption of decisions</i> Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (cont.)	<i>Consideration of remaining outcomes and adoption of remaining decisions</i> Item 6: Programme of work and budget (cont.) Adoption of the budget decision Item 7: Venue and dates of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties Item 8: Other matters
13:00-15:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
15:00-18:00 Afternoon session	Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (b) Mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used: (i) Amendments to annex A (iii) Vinyl chloride monomer (ii) Cosmetics (iv) Extensions for exemptions (a) Mercury supply sources and trade	Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (g) Implementation and Compliance Committee (h) National reporting (i) Effectiveness evaluation	<i>Consideration of outcomes</i> Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (cont.)	<i>Consideration of outcomes and adoption of remaining decisions</i>	Item 9: Adoption of the report of the meeting Item 10: Closure of the meeting

Item 4(b): Mercury-added products and manufacturing processes:

ii. Cosmetics listed in part I of annex A

- ❖ 6/6/Add.1: Cosmetics in Part I of Annex A
- ❖ INF/8: Report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

6/6/Add.1: Cosmetics listed in Part I of Annex A

- Contains **information on and a summary of the report on challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of cosmetics** listed in Part I of Annex A prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to decision MC-5/5.
- In line with that decision, the report addresses **topics** including:
 - Phasing out sales and offers of sales of mercury-added cosmetics;
 - Strategies for discouraging the marketing, advertising and display of mercury-added cosmetics;
 - Advisories, detention lists and prohibited substances lists concerning mercury-added cosmetics;
 - Licensing and product ingredient approvals for cosmetics manufacturing facilities;
 - Developing and implementing product safety pledges for online platforms;
 - Raising awareness of the hazards of skin-lightening product use among physicians, dermatologists and beauty centre staff, as well as consumers and family members.
- The **full report** is set out in **INF/8**.

Item 4(b): Mercury-added products and manufacturing processes:

ii. Cosmetics listed in part I of annex A (cont.)

- ❖ **6/6/Add.1: Cosmetics in Part I of Annex A**
- ❖ **INF/8: Report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

6/6/Add.1: Cosmetics listed in Part I of Annex A (cont.)

- The report was drafted compiling and synthesizing submissions from 23 parties and 8 organizations, in cooperation with WHO and the Global Mercury Partnership.
- The draft report was posted on the website for review and was finalized taking into account comments received from 5 parties and 8 organizations.

INF/8: Report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

- Provides the full **report on cosmetics listed in Part I of Annex A** to the Convention, prepared by the Secretariat.
- Also sets out as an annex a document submitted by Gabon entitled “**Libreville Commitment on the Elimination of Mercury-Containing Skin-Lightening Cosmetics in Africa**”, adopted at a high-level regional meeting of African ministers, international experts and civil society leaders held in Libreville, Gabon (20-22 January 2025).

The COP may wish to consider the final report contained in INF/8 with a view to adopting a decision as appropriate.



Closing remarks

Tahlia Ali Shah, BRI

THANK YOU

