



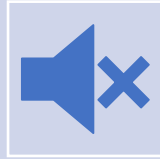
Fifth meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholder group

26 March 2026

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

Tahlia Ali Shah

Biodiversity Research Institute



AGENDA

14:05 Scene setting: **Global achievements -WHO**

Updates from the GEF project

14:15 Key achievements and lessons learned from eliminating mercury in **Gabon, Jamaica and Sri Lanka**

Updates from the stakeholders

15:00 Minamata COP6 take aways and intersessional work - –
Minamata Convention Secretariat

15:15 Interactive session: Sustainability and linkages with
actions across broader cosmetics sector

15:55 Closing, **UNEP**

Scene setting

Global achievements under the GEF-funded project to eliminate mercury-added cosmetics in Gabon, Jamaica and Sri Lanka

Elena Jordan
WHO



GEF7 10810 Overview and major achievements

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products in Gabon, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka

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

**26th March 2026,
Virtual setting**

**Dr. Elena Jordan
World Health Organization (WHO)**



GEF 10810: ELIMINATING MERCURY SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS: GENERAL OVERVIEW



Project objective

To reduce the risk of exposure to mercury-added skin lightening products



Timeline:

August 2022 – August 2025

No cost extension granted 31 March 2026



Multisectoral collaboration between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment in project countries



Co-financing partners include WHO, UNEP/GMP, civil society (6), Ministries (6), and private sector (1)

GEF 10810: ELIMINATING MERCURY SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS: PROJECT OVERVIEW – COMPONENTS AND OUTPUTS

1 National capacity building on legislation, enforcement, compliance, and awareness raising strategies



Project countries have established, or improved legislation based on developed model regulations



Project countries have strengthened capacity to develop enforcement and compliance strategies to support legislation on SLPs



Health professionals and the general public in target countries have increased awareness of health risks associated with mercury SLPs

Project countries regulate mercury SLPs in line with the Minamata Convention

2 Reduce or stop production, trade, distribution of SLPs in project countries



Ministries of Health in project countries demonstrate increased awareness of local markets for SLPs, including production, distribution and usage



Manufacturers, traders, and distributors in target countries demonstrate increased awareness of the danger associated with mercury SLPs



Authorities in target countries have increased capacity to identify, monitor and report on the market for SLPs

Target countries have reduced local production, trade and distribution of mercury SLPs

3 Knowledge management



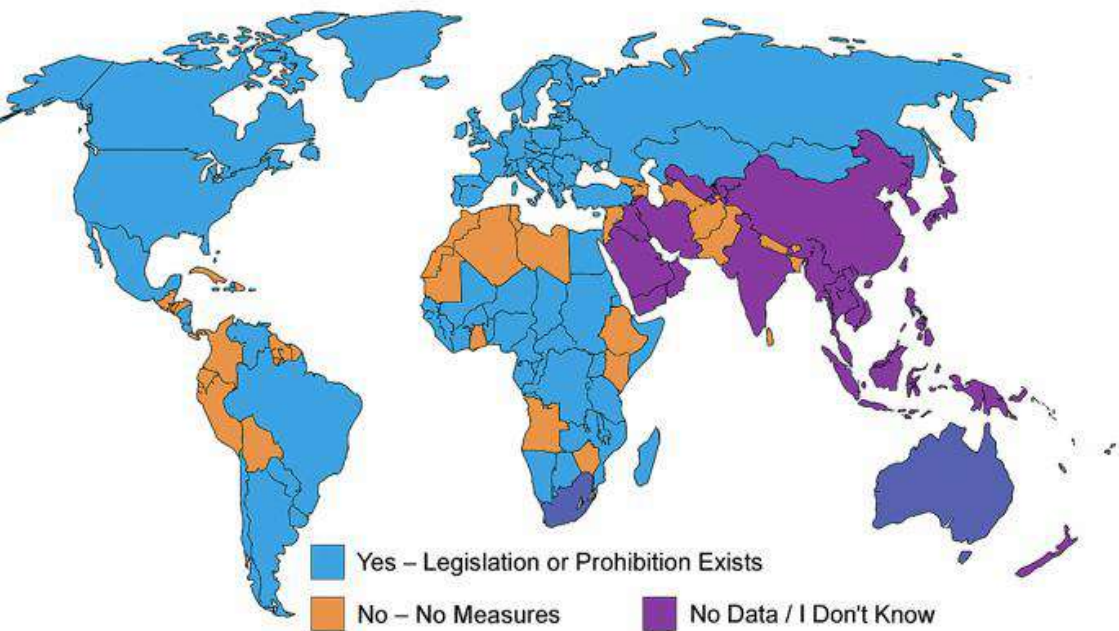
Outcome: Global manufacturing and trade of mercury SLPs reduced



Global awareness increased through policy support



Global awareness increased through advocacy campaign and international meetings



Targeted Technical Assistance - WHO

Model Regulatory Toolkit (rationale, model law, global repository/map//report on reg regimes)

- Built on the WHO survey to enrich the information on the survey from MC (75 respondents – 59 MC Parties)
- Cosmetics legislation is largely mandate of the Ministry of Health/Medicines NRAs
- Regulatory depends on national context

Behavioral insights

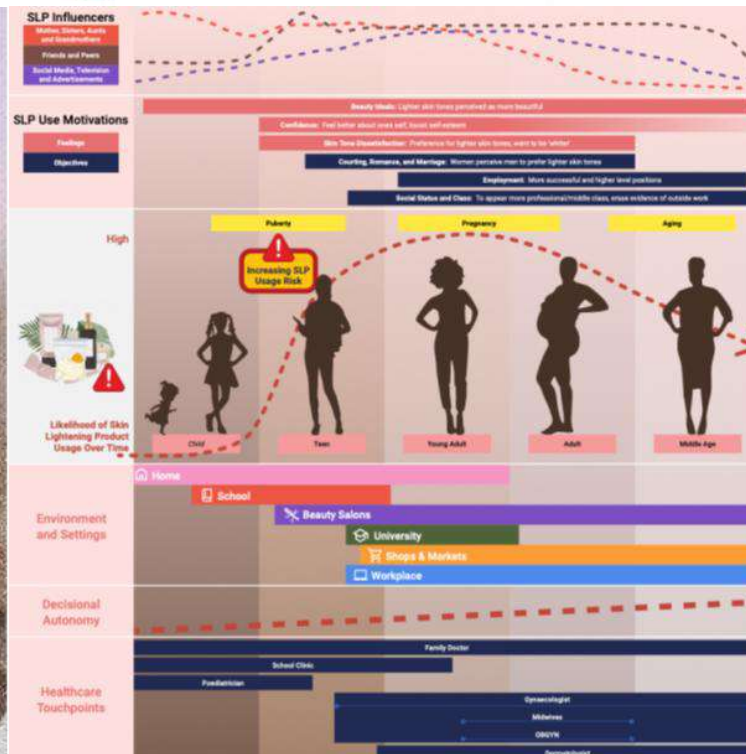
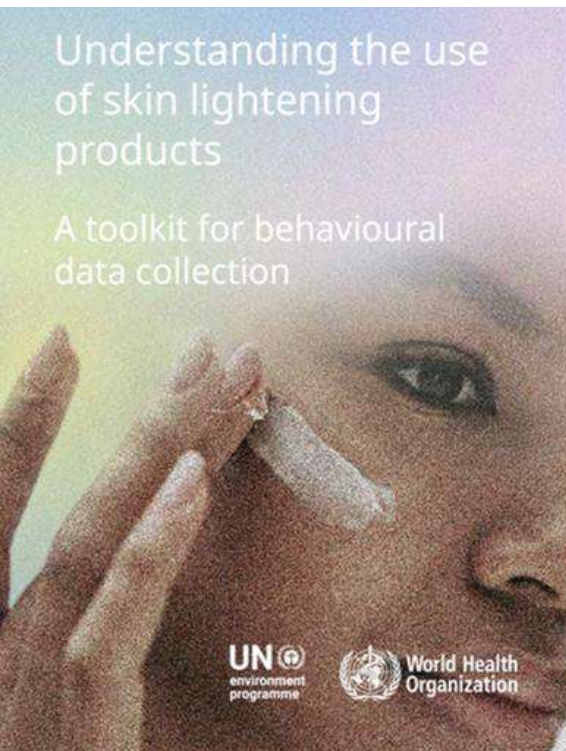
- what is the problem in terms of behaviors
- what are the barriers/drivers
- what are the interventions to address the barriers

Project deliverables

- ❖ Survey tool and template for behavioural data collection
- ❖ Tool for mapping/understanding user journeys
- ❖ Country support for crafting communication messages

Online sales

- Mapped regulatory frameworks in three countries and used findings to engage major online marketplaces.
- Identified Hg/SLPs available online and confirmed sales across multiple e-commerce platforms
- Published national prohibited-product lists (Sri Lanka CAA; Gabon ANMAPS) and initiated direct engagement with online platforms
- Developed voluntary and hybrid cooperation models informed by Product Safety Pledges, and drafted guidance on voluntary approaches and best practices to phase out online sales of Hg/SLPs



Lessons Learnt

- Continuing capacity building for establishing legally-binding controls, enforcement, labs, and customs is critical.
- Advocating for eliminating mercury-added products and mobilizing multisectoral action. Leveraging the global platform to commitment.
- Enhance discussion with dermatologists, environment officers and understanding how to engage dermatologist
- Understanding how to engage consumers through expanded behavioural insights and influence reduction in demand
- The need to strengthen market surveillance systems, address both online and informal markets.
- Leverage high-level political leadership, to drive regulatory and regional action.
- Further work needs to be done to engage stakeholders such as:
 - Manufacturers
 - Informal/Cottage Industry
 - E-Commerce Platforms and online sales
- The need for strengthening cross-agency collaboration (enhance discussion with dermatologists, environment officers, civil societies, etc).
- Improving knowledge management and multilingual access, scaling up influencer-supported awareness campaigns.



SUMMARY

- The GEF 10810 project has established a strong foundation for continued global efforts to eliminate mercury-added skin lightening products, provided a model approach for a targeted technical assistance at country level.
- Multistakeholder cooperation and engagement with health sector are critically important when taking measures to address mercury thread
- WHO has a mandate to support health-related articles under the Minamata Convention and continues to work closely with the Secretariat (a written report was published on COP6 as UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/31)
- Parties to the Minamata Convention requested to share lessons learnt on the elimination of mercury-added cosmetics and prepare a national public health, system-wide strategy focused on elimination of these products – an outline to be presented to the MC Sec in Dec 25.





Key achievements per country

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

Alecia Hamilton Campbell, **Jamaica**

Chalani Rubesinghe, Dr. Inoka, **Sri Lanka**



Aperçu de la prestation culturelle autour de la dépigmentation volontaire de la peau



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

Key achievements and Lessons learned on the GEF Project 10810 in Gabon

26th March 2026, from 2 pm to 4 pm CET

Virtual setting

Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o
National Project Coordinator, SLPs



Aperçu de la prestation culturelle autour de la dépigmentation volontaire de la peau



Plan

1. Regulatory Action
2. Regional & International Leadership
3. Public Awareness Campaigns
4. Global & local collaboration
5. Lessons Learned
6. Strategic Impact
- Conclusion

1. Regulatory Action

Gabon banned mercury-containing skin-lightening products, aligning with the Minamata Convention on Mercury. This created a legal framework to protect consumers. The orders taken entrance into force from October 2023.

Order No. 0002/MSAS/CAB of October 11, 2023 prohibiting the manufacture, import, export, use, and marketing of cosmetic and personal hygiene products containing mercury, mercury compounds, and other substances hazardous to health in the Gabonese Republic.

- ❖ It notably defines cosmetic products, cosmetic waste, and other specific terms. It also sets out the conditions for managing mercury waste in health facilities

Order No. 0007/MSAS/CAB of October 24, 2023 establishing, assigning, organizing, and regulating the functioning of the National Technical Committee on the elimination of skin-lightening cosmetic products containing mercury in the Gabonese Republic.

Order No. 0006/MSAS/CAB of October 24, 2023 prohibiting the manufacture, import, export, marketing, and use of dental amalgams, mercury thermometers, and mercury sphygmomanometers in the Gabonese Republic.

- ❖ It defines dental amalgam, as well as the conditions for managing obsolete stocks and the resulting waste, including mercury sphygmomanometers and thermometers, within health facilities.

List of cosmetics banned in Gabon (57 products to date) with support of EEB.

<https://anmaps.ga/communiqué-de-presse> = **withdrawal of non-compliant products**



DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE
N° 008387 ANMAPS/DG

REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE
Unité - Travail - Justice

Liste des produits éclaircissants identifiés contenant du mercure interdits au Gabon

N.B : Il s'agit d'une liste non exhaustive qui sera mise à jour de façon continue

Item	Marque/Nom du produit	Visual	Teneur en Mercure (ppm)
1	Aneza Gold Beauty Cream with Avocado & Aloe Vera		12.400

Le médicament de qualité pour un avenir serein

Site D'Obtention
BP 10 413 - Tel : 0664 10 349
Courriel : anmaps@anmaps.ga - anmaps@anmaps.ga
Site web : www.anmaps.ga

AGENCE NATIONALE DU MÉDICAMENT
ET DES AUTRES PRODUITS DE SANTÉ
Directeur Général

- Natural Face Beauty Cream = 7,151 ppm Hg



- Ujooba Beauty Cream with
multivitamin Extra white magical
formula = 15,311 ppm Hg



2.Regional & International Leadership

Des experts en santé et en environnement, des dermatologues, des toxicologues, des représentants gouvernementaux et des organisations internationales telles que l'OMS, le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) se sont retrouvés du 20 au 22 janvier à Libreville dans le cadre d'un atelier régional. Axé sur l'élimination des produits cosmétiques éclaircissants sur la peau contenant du mercure et d'autres produits dangereux, il a été articulé 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 clôturé les travaux, insistant sur l'urgence de lutter contre ces produits nocifs.



Des membres de la table ronde de haut niveau auquel a pris part le Premier ministre, Raymond Ndong Sima. © Presse Primature

- **Gabon hosted a major regional workshop** in January 2025 with WHO, UNEP, BRI, GEF and partners, gathering over 200 experts to discuss mercury risks and strategies: Adoption of the Libreville Commitment on the Elimination of the mercury-containing Skin-Lightening Cosmetics 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/>
- Participate in relevant discussion:
 - **Detoxifying Cosmetics and Beauty Ideals:** Global voices and solutions to reduce demand for mercury and skin lightening (5 november)
 - **Detoxifying cosmetics and beauty ideals** (6 November 2025 at the Geneva Graduate Institute),
- Attend relevant discussion and meetings: Panama, PPG Cosmetics project,...
- **Gabon mandated by the African region** to serve as the **lead advocate** for the elimination of mercury-containing skin-lightening cosmetics at COP-6 of the Minamata Convention: **Decision MC-6/4: Advancing work related to mercury-added cosmetics.**

3.Public Awareness Campaigns

National campaigns informed citizens (policy makers, shopkeepers, schoolchildren, college students,...) about the sanitary and environmental impacts of mercury in cosmetics, especially targeting women and youth who are the most frequent users.





Aperçu de la prestation culturelle autour de la dépigmentation volontaire de la peau



4. Global & local collaboration

- Gabon participated in the GEF-UNEP project alongside Jamaica and Sri Lanka, **sharing experiences and benefiting** from international technical support. cf. **Outcome from KAP Survey**
- Conducting a **behavioral survey to better** understand the practice of voluntary skin lightening at the local level.
- support with BRI, **compile a comprehensive inventory of cosmetic products available on the market**, providing a detailed overview of product flows, origins, and distribution channels.
- **Authorities improved surveillance of local markets and online platforms** where SLPs were easily accessible.
- **Several mercury-added skin-lightening products** were identified are **progressively removed** from circulation.

5. Lessons Learned

- **Community engagement is essential**

- ✓ The direct involvement of students, teachers, and local leaders has proven more effective than top-down messaging.
- ✓ Testimonials from young women have shed light on the social pressures driving the use of cosmetics, highlighting the need for culturally sensitive approaches.

- **Cross-sectoral collaboration**

- ✓ Success depended on coordination among health authorities, customs, academic institutions, and international partners.
- ✓ This multi-sectoral involvement helped both enforce regulations and raise awareness among the local population.

- **Persistent market challenges**

- ✓ Despite progress, online sales and informal markets remain a major source of mercury-containing products.
- ✓ Continuous monitoring and regional cooperation are necessary to combat cross-border trade.

- **Sustainability through capacity building**

- ✓ Keeping local market surveillance officers on the job ensures compliance with regulations.
- ✓ Empowering schools and universities to act as permanent awareness-raising centers ensures continuity beyond the pilot phase.



Aperçu de la prestation culturelle autour de la dépigmentation volontaire de la peau



6.Strategic Impact

- **Health Protection:** Reduced exposure to mercury among vulnerable populations, particularly women and youth.
- **Environmental Safeguards:** Lower risk of mercury contamination in soils and waterways.
- **Global Alignment:** Strengthened Gabon's role in the global mercury elimination strategy under the Minamata Convention.
- **Regional Leadership:** Gabon's experience serves as a model for neighboring countries facing similar challenges.

Conclusion:

The key lesson is that sustained success to eliminate SLPs requires continuous monitoring, regional cooperation, and culturally sensitive awareness campaigns to counteract persistent social and market pressures.



Aperçu de la prestation culturelle autour de la dépigmentation volontaire de la peau

Thank you!

« Your skin tells a powerful story, keep it safe from mercury »



Contacts:

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NPO Health Promotion
AF/ACO/SRC/GAB/GA3
- Serge Molly ALLO'O ALLO'O
National Project Officer GEF 10810: Eliminating Mercury Skin-Lightening Products
Gabon
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WhatsApp: (+241) 77708528

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products

A GEF Project

Jamaica

Global Stakeholder Group Meeting

March 26, 2026

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

Presentation Outline



Country Introduction

Tropical island located in the greater Antilles of the Caribbean.

Population : 2, 734, 092

Male: 1,352,109

Female : 1,381,983

Statin 2019



Country Introduction

Economy is sustained on tourism and remittances sector with additional income from industries in agriculture and bauxite exports.



Jamaica and Mercury SLPs Background

Signature to the Minamata Treaty since October 10, 2013. Ratified July 19, 2017.

One of 3 country participants in the GEF 101810 Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening SLPs Project 2023-2025

National and regional scholars published social and scientific articles on skin bleaching as well as mercury in skin lightening products. 2017-2024

Current scope of Skin lightening products in Jamaica and the region

- *A review of research/ publications on Mercury SLPs in Jamaica and the region.*
- The following are publications of research on hazardous SLPs containing mercury greater than 1ppm in Jamaica and the Caribbean.
- 2017- Trinidad and Tobago
- 2020 - Jamaica
- 2024 - Trinidad and Tobago

Jamaica Health and Lifestyle Survey 2016-2017

Results:

- 11% of the participants used SLPs
- Men: 12.5%
- Women: 8.8%
- Lifetime prevalence was highest 15-34yr old

JHLSIII | JAMAICA HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE SURVEY III (2016-2017) PRELIMINARY KEY FINDINGS JAMAICA 2018

Community and Neighbourhood Characteristics

- Questionnaires were administered to obtain perception of whether crime and safety, physical disorder, and social disorder were a problem in their neighbourhoods.
- A larger proportion of women (39.2%) compared with men (33.1%) perceived their neighbourhoods to have high levels of crime and safety problems but there were no sex differences in the perception of physical or social disorder.
- There were no urban-rural differences in neighbourhood perception.
- Depression was more common among those who perceived that their neighbourhoods had high levels of crime and safety problems, compared with those who perceived low levels, there was a higher prevalence (19.5% vs 11.1%).
- Among men, obesity was associated with physical disorder and hypertension with social disorder
- Among urban residents, diabetes was associated with low levels of social disorder.

Lifestyle (Continued)

Physical Activity

- Jamaicans' physical activity levels were assessed using the International Physical Activity Questionnaire.
- 82% of Jamaicans were engaged in low physical activity, 16% engaged in moderate activity (minimum WHO recommendations) and 2% in high level activity. This did not differ significantly by age or sex.
- 52% of Jamaicans had made no attempt to increase their level of physical activity in the last year. Younger persons (under 60 years) living in urban communities were more likely to report attempting to do more exercise.

Skin Bleaching

- Participants were asked whether they had ever bleached their skin.
- Approximately 11% of Jamaicans reported skin bleaching (Men - 12.5%, Women - 8.8%) and 3% were using these products at the time of interview (Men - 3.4%, Women - 3.3%)
- Lifetime prevalence was highest in 15-34 year olds
- All skin bleaching products reported were imported (i.e., not locally produced mixtures).

Skin Lightening in the public eye 2007 – 2024 (17yrs)

Doctors refuse to have skin bleachers as patients

Medical practitioners take drastic action to avoid risk of complications

Share this Story: [Like 66](#) [Post](#) [WhatsApp](#) [+](#)

Published: Sunday | July 24, 2022 | 12:06 AM | Mark Titus - Sunday Gleaner Writer



Locally, the sale of skin bleaching products is currently free for all, with the products being sold in haberdasheries and cosmetic stores, as well as roadside vendors in the business districts of major towns across Jamaica. Some vendors even offer homemade concoctions in smaller portions.

1 2 3 4 5 6

Several Jamaicans who have used chemicals to lighten their skin are now caught in a quandary as some medical practitioners are flatly refusing to treat them – regardless of their health concern – because of the heightened risk of developing life...

Skin-bleaching blamed for low sperm counts among young Jamaican men

Share this Story: [Like 27](#) [Post](#) [WhatsApp](#) [+](#)

Published: Monday | March 18, 2024 | 12:08 AM | Ainsworth Morris/Staff Reporter



Contributed

From left to right: Dr Kamali Carroll, senior embryologist at the Caribbean Fertility Center; Dr Sharifa Frederick, senior fertility consultant at the Caribbean Fertility Center; Dr Jordan Hardie, chairman of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) West Indies Section and Dr Jody Jarrett, vice-chair of the ACOG West Indies during the Infertility Update, held at the Summit Kingston hotel in

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products Project Jamaica 2023-2025

Meet the core Country Project Team



Dr Heather Brown

Head, Dermatology and Leprosy. Focal Point,

Ministry of Health and Wellness



Dr Kwame Emmanuel

Director, Projects and Enforcement, Minamata Focal Point-

Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation



Lesley Onyon

Head of the Chemical Safety and Health Unit of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health.

World Health Organization



Dr Elena Jardan

Technical officer Chemical Safety and Health Unit Environment, Climate Change and Health Department.

World Health Organization



Mark Burton

Senior Ecological Analyst; Geospatial Scientist

Biodiversity Research Institute



Tahlia Ali Shah

International Environmental Specialist

Biodiversity Research Institute

Meet the core Country Project Team- PAHO



Dr. Evelise Pereira Barboza

Advisor, Health Promotion and Social and Environmental Determinants



Dr. Serene Joseph

Advisor, Health Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control



Dr. Luis Francisco , Sanchez Otero

Regional Advisor Chemical Safety Climate Change and Environmental Determinants of Health Unit



Dr. Ana Boischio

Regional advisor in chemical safety Social and Environmental Determinants for Health Equity (DHE) Department (now retired)



Dr. Alecia Hamilton Campbell

National Project Consultant and coordinator

Meet the National Steering Committee



- L-R Dr Alecia Hamilton Campbell (PAHO observer)
- Dr Evelise Barboza (PAHO observer)
- Ms Alicia Smith, Standards and Regulation MOHW
- Dr Serene Josephs (PAHO observer)
- Dr Heather Brown, MOHW FP and Chair,
- Dr Kwame Emmanuel, Minamata Focal Point MEGJC,
- Mr Dave Hanson, Mngr. Contraband and Enforcement , Jamaica Customs Agency.
- Mr Otmar Richards, Mngr. Valuation and Classification Risk Management, Jamaica Customs Agency
- Ms Leslie Hoo Fung , Scientist ICENS
- Mr Richard Nelson , National Environment and Planning Agency.
- Men : 6
- Women: 5 + 2* (* os)

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements



Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements

National Inception 8-9 June 2023: Seminar 8 June 2023 and June 9, National Technical Expert Workshop



Participants listen in to presentations at the June 8 National Inception Seminar



Experts engage in a panel discussion, 8 June 2023

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



Outcome of	Activity	Progress Updates
Established, or improved legislation and reduced demand at national level.	1.1.3.2 - 1.1.3.3 Organize awareness raising campaigns on SLPs and facilitate media outreach and awareness events.	8 June 2023 Radio Panel Discussion on Nationwide News Network 90 FM -Live broadcast (radio, Facebook and YouTube) Public Forum: Tackling the Problem of the Use of Skin Bleaching Products in Jamaica. Western Radio interview 2025

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



Photograph of participants at the media awareness outreach in collaboration with the National Medical Doctors Association June 8, 2023.

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



Outcome of	Activity	Progress Updates
Established, or improved legislation and reduced demand at national level.	1.1.3.2 – 1.1.3.3 Organize awareness raising campaigns on SLPs and facilitate media outreach and awareness events	June 2023 Twitter Community Engagement. MOHW-FP led discussions on adverse effects of Hg SLP on women, men and pregnancy and circulation of Hg from use .

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



X (Formally Twitter) community forum on Skin Lightening and the adverse effect of Mercury Added SLPs.

The live feed had 956 views.

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Established, or improved legislation and reduced demand at national level.	1.1.3.2 – 1.1.3.3 Organize awareness raising campaigns on SLPs and facilitate media outreach and awareness events	11 June 2023 Public Lecture hosted by the Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ) Presenter: WHO-Geneva Rep. Topic: “The Environmental Impact of the Use of Mercury in Skin Lightening Products”. Reach: ~ 100 national physicians (f2f) and > 900 virtually.

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



“The Environmental Impact of the Use of Mercury in Skin Lightening Products”.

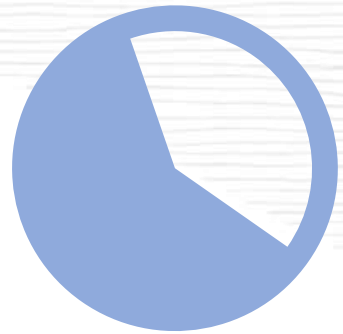
By: Lesley Onyon –WHO

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Established, or improved legislation and reduced demand at national level.	1.1.3.2 – 1.1.3.3 Organize awareness raising campaigns on SLPs and facilitate media outreach and awareness events	Video interviews termed VOX POPs previously conducted by radio journalists in a local market, captured local perspectives from users and non-users

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



**"Local
Voices"**



**"Local
Voices"**



Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1

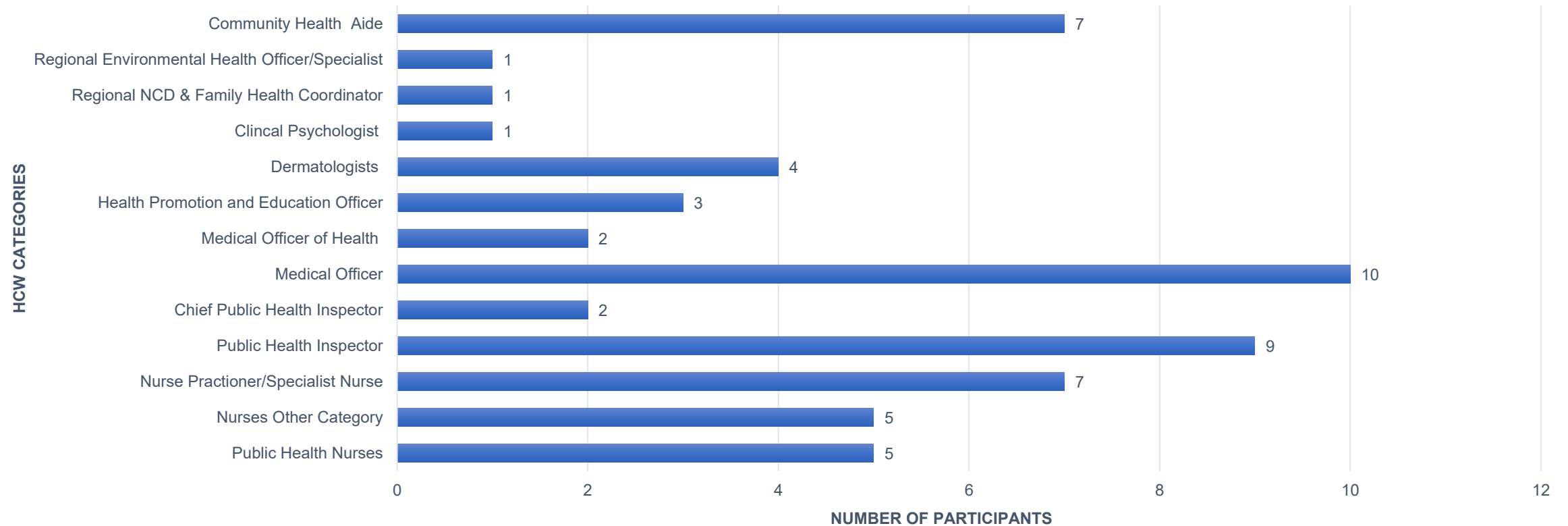


Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Established, or improved legislation and reduced demand at national level.	1.1.3.2 – 1.1.3.3 Organize awareness raising campaigns on SLPs and facilitate media outreach and awareness events	2025 135 Healthcare workers trained 118 Female 17 males

National Healthcare Worker Training



Healthcare Worker Categories Represented at the Workshop



Healthcare Worker categories present at the workshop- MBJ.

National Healthcare Worker Training



Photograph Ministry of Health and Wellness participants and Project team from PAHO at The Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products Healthcare Worker Awareness Workshop in Montego Bay Jamaica.

Total Participants: 62

National Healthcare Worker Training

...



Ministry of Health and Wellness participants and Project team from PAHO at The Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products Healthcare Worker Awareness Workshop in Kingston Jamaica.

Total Participants: 73

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1

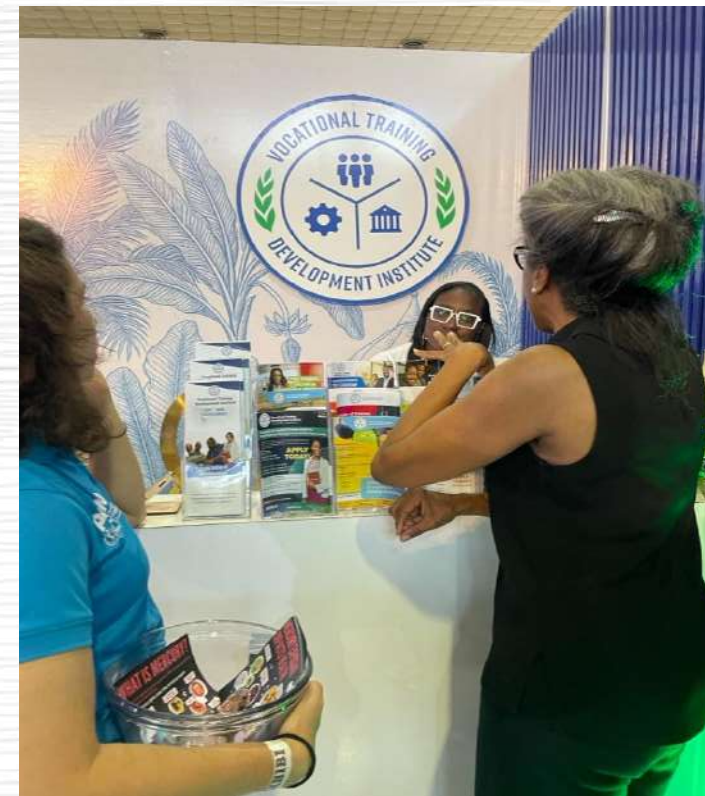


Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Established, or improved legislation and reduced demand at national level.	1.1.3.2 – 1.1.3.3 Organize awareness raising campaigns on SLPs and facilitate media outreach and awareness events	2025 3-day national Public Health Awareness campaign at the Jamaica International Beauty Expo June 27-29 2025. Attendees' breakdown courtesy of registration by The Plug : 10, 000 registered participants 82.42% female (8242) 17.58% male. (1758)

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



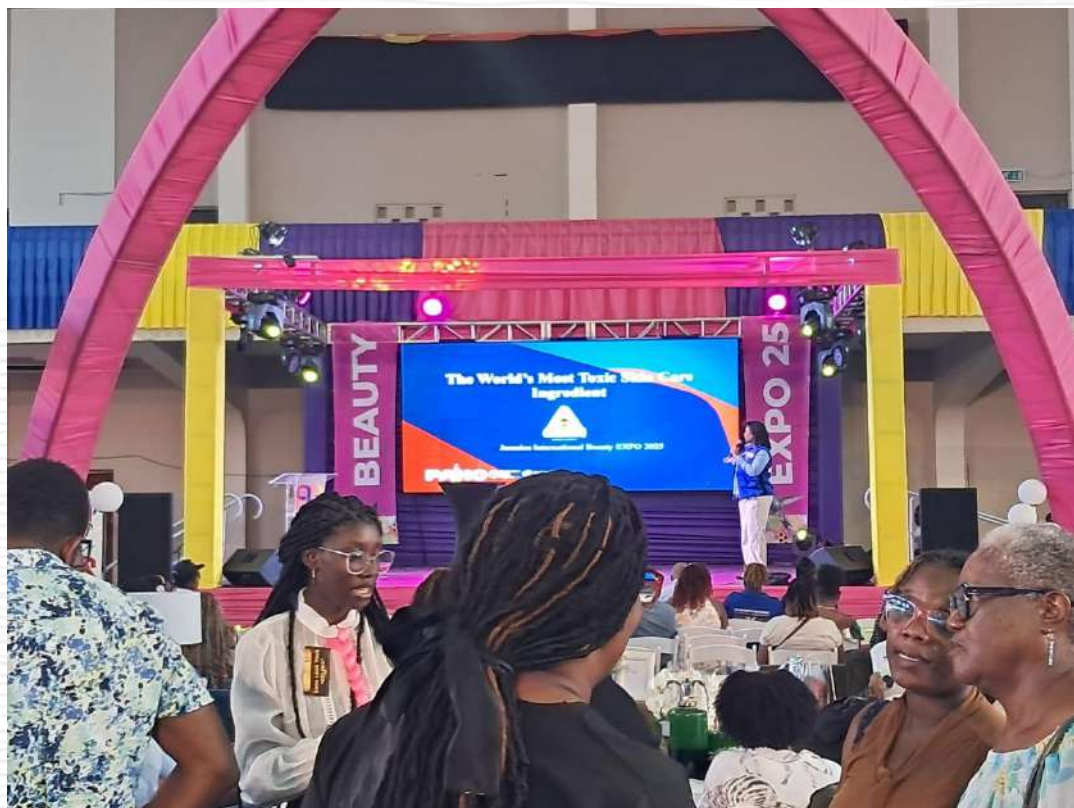
Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 1



Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 2



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Reduction in global and local production, trade and distribution.	2.1.1.1 Identify SLP products available on the market with mercury concentration over 1 ppm.	2025 National Internet Surveillance conducted 25 Products and 6 E-commerce Platforms selected

Summary of the Internet Surveillance Completed June/July 2025

1	Jamaica Online monitoring of SLPs June/July 2025						
2	Each platform to browse is a different column, please indicate each time if the cream is available or not: Available/ Not available. And don't forget the screenshot! Please refer to the instructions.						
3	Name of SLP	Walmart	Ebay	Ubuy.com.jm	https://jamaica.desertcar.com/	Shein.com	AllExpress.com
4	Silken Bleaching Cream - non-oily deluxe, Ammoniated Mercury 3%	Not Available	Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
5							
6	7 days Magic Brightening Cream	Available	Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
7	Sandal Beauty cream	Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
8	Ravima's beauty discoloration defense	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
9	Movate cream	Not Available	Not Available	Available	Available	Not Available	Not Available
10	Skin White	Not Available	Available	Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
11	Fair and White Cream	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
12	Trin Brite	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
13	Kojic Acid Collagen Whitening Facial Serum	Available	Available	Available	Available	Not Available	Available
14							
15	Aneeza Gold Beauty Cream with Avocado & Aloe Vera	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
16	New Face Beauty Cream	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
17	La Tia Mana Crema Limpiadora Y Curativa	Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
18							
19	Collagen Plus - Vit E Night Cream	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
20	Nunn Care Crema Limpiadora*	Available	Not Available	Available	Available	Not Available	Not Available
21	La Crema de Rebeca	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
22	O White Extra Whitening Cream	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
23	Kim Whitening Pearl and Snow Lotus Cream	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
24	Goree Beauty Cream with Lycopene	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
25							
26	H2O Jours Lightening Cream Fast Action	Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
27	Nadinola Vanishing Cream (Silken)	Cream"	Available	Available	Available	Not Available	Not Available
28	Veet Gold Facial Whitening & Spot Removing Cream	Not Available	Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
29	Cream	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
30							
31	Crema Blanqueadora Whitening Cream Liso	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
32							
33	4k plus whitening Whitening Night Cream	Not Available	Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
34	Faiza (or it seems available also as Fawiza)	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
35							
36							

13 of 25 Mercury SLPs were found across 6 internet platforms that promote/permit the sale or distribution of cosmetic products to Jamaica .

PAHO/WHO

National Internet Market Surveillance and E-Market Notification Next Steps

Ministry of
Health and
Wellness
MOHW

Pan
American
Health
Organization
PAHO/WHO

European
Environment
Bureau

Zero
Mercury
Working
Group



Mercury
Policy Project

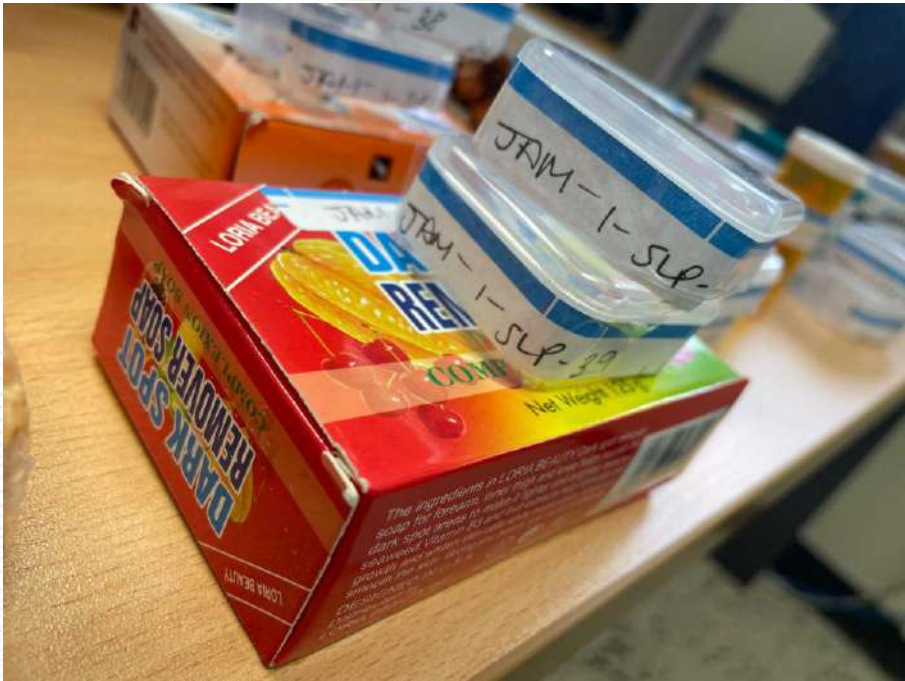


Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 2



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Reduction in global and local production, trade and distribution.	2.1.1.1	Total tested : 83 products
		2023
	Identify SLP products available on the market with mercury concentration over 1 ppm.	52 products collected and analysed. Collection site: Capital, Kingston Jamaica
		2025 31 products collected in the second city Montego Bay Jamaica.

Results of Phase 1 Testing Conducted in Kingston Jamaica



4 products had elevated mercury concentrations > 1ppm.

One formal product manufactured/ made in Jamaica
Avg Hg conc 9550.

3 homemade products sourced from street vendors
Avg Hg Conc:

- a. 243.66
- b. 202
- c. 129

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 2



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Reduction in global and local production, trade and distribution.	2.1.1.4 Analyse and identify key hubs for production, patterns of distribution, and level of use in different regions.	Q4 2024 MOHW stakeholders commenced investigative proceeding and inspection on local manufacture suspected to be in breach of Minamata convention and MOHW cosmetics regulations. Investigation remains ongoing.

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 3



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Global Knowledge management .	3.1.2.4 Present the project at relevant global / regional meetings.	Q4 2023 MOHW Focal Point presented national perspectives at the showcase of GEF-UNEP-WHO projects on mercury-added products”. Webex Event: “Reinforcing the health sector's commitment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 3



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Global Knowledge management .	3.1.2.4 Present the project at relevant global / regional meetings.	Q4 2023 November 1 Participation and representation of Jamaica at the UNEP-GEF side event, COP5 Minamata Convention.



Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 3



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Global Knowledge management .	3.1.1.4 to 3.1.2.2 Global awareness increased Through partnerships and collaboration on information exchange, etc through WHO, GMP and other appropriate channels	Q4 2023 National Core Team Stakeholders supported global mercury awareness initiatives Reinforcing the health sector's commitment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php?MTID=mac3efad43c0bbb706786a9f00309ae32 Addressing the Global Mercury Crisis in Skin Lightening Products https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php?MTID=m5508f8fbafb040dc5623806cbe0f4f10 .

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 3



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Global Knowledge management .	3.1.1.4 to 3.1.2.2 Global awareness increased Through partnerships and collaboration on information exchange, etc through WHO, GMP and other appropriate channels	Q4 2023 National Core Team Stakeholders supported global mercury awareness initiatives Reinforcing the health sector's commitment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php?MTID=mac3efad43c0bbb706786a9f00309ae32 Addressing the Global Mercury Crisis in Skin Lightening Products https://unep.webex.com/unep/j.php?MTID=m5508f8fbafb040dc5623806cbe0f4f10 .

Jamaica Project Updates and Achievements Component 3



Outcome	Activity	Progress Updates
Global Knowledge management .	3.1.1.4 to 3.1.2.2 Global awareness increased Through partnerships and collaboration on information exchange, etc through WHO, GMP and other appropriate channels	Q2 2024 National stakeholders attended the second meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholders group took place online .

Synopsis of Sustained Initiatives



**Training of
Enforcement
agents**

**Improve
surveillance
and
regulatory
SOP**

**Improved
manufacturer
surveillance
and regulation**

**Foundational
Behaviour
Research**

Synopsis of Regional and National Meetings



**CARIBBEAN SUB-
REGIONAL
MEETING**
Panama

**END OF PROJECT
MEETING**
Jamaica

Jamaica, challenges and lessons learnt



Challenge/ incident	Risk analysis	Mitigation Action
National Dengue outbreak and epidemic. July-September 2023.	Dengue outbreaks and other mosquito born illnesses remain a reasonable annual risk to the island. Epidemics requires a national response and with potential risk of exacerbating the operational capacity of the MOHW.	Build in alternative activities and dates where feasible. Ensure quick situational assessment with stakeholder input to develop a navigational chart. Remain vigilant and flexible to pivot across activities.

Jamaica, challenges and lessons learnt



Challenge/ incident	Risk analysis	Mitigation Response
2023- 2024 project implementation had significant exposure to operational impediments	Competing priorities, national emergencies and stakeholder capacity proves to be significant risks to implementation of activities in line with project timeline.	Forecast quarterly risks, continue to ensure transparent and timely communication among stakeholders. Remain vigilant and flexible to pivot across activities. Where feasible secure early Political buy in and support

Jamaica, challenges and lessons learnt



Challenge/ incident	Risk analysis	Mitigation Response
2024 Hurricane season. July 3, Hurricane Beryl made near landfall, with Jamaica declared a disaster area for 7 days.	The Hurricane season begins June 1 and continues through to November each year. Activity within the season pose significant risk to implementation within the timeline	Forecast quarterly risks, continue to ensure transparent and timely communication among stakeholders. Remain vigilant and flexible to pivot across activities.

Jamaica, challenges and lessons learnt



Challenge/ incident	Risk analysis	Mitigation Response
2025 General Election Season April – September	The election season represents a transitional period in government and governmental agencies. This transitional period resulted in delayed implementation within the project timeline.	Forecast quarterly risks, continue to ensure transparent and timely communication among stakeholders. Remain vigilant and flexible to pivot across activities. Collaborate with national stakeholders and employ buffer systems in activity planning and logistics.

Jamaica, challenges and lessons learnt



Challenge/ incident	Risk analysis	Mitigation Response
2025 Category 5 Hurricane Melissa	Profound human devastation , infrastructural loss and consumption of national resources and re-direction of national and international priorities,	Remain vigilant and flexible to pivot across activities and manage expectations.

-End-

Thank you for your attention !

Dr. Alecia Hamilton Campbell

email: hamiltoale@paho.org

tel: 1-876-999-0852 (Mobile)



Ministry of Health & Mass Media
Ministry of Environment



World Health
Organization



COUNTRY UPDATE

National Efforts To Understand And Reduce Demand For Skin-lightening Products

SRI LANKA



MILESTONES



Legislation- Progress Achieved

- NMRA (National Medicines Regulatory Authority) was given the authority to process preparation of the Act with a committee appointed by the DGHS. The draft Amendments was circulated for stakeholder comments in November 2025. In December 2025, the NMRA communicated that it is in the process of incorporating the comments and will subsequently publish the draft for public consultation.
- Following the interventions of the project team, the permissible mercury limit in standards for lotions and creams and the SLS standard for baby creams, were revised from 1 ppm to 0.5 ppm.

lankanewsweb.net/archives/160696/new-cosmetics-bill-to-reshape-sri-lanka-s-consumer-economy

Home / News / New Cosmetics Bill to Reshape Sri Lanka's Consumer Economy

New Cosmetics Bill to Reshape Sri Lanka's Consumer Economy

By CN - December 28, 2025 1671 0



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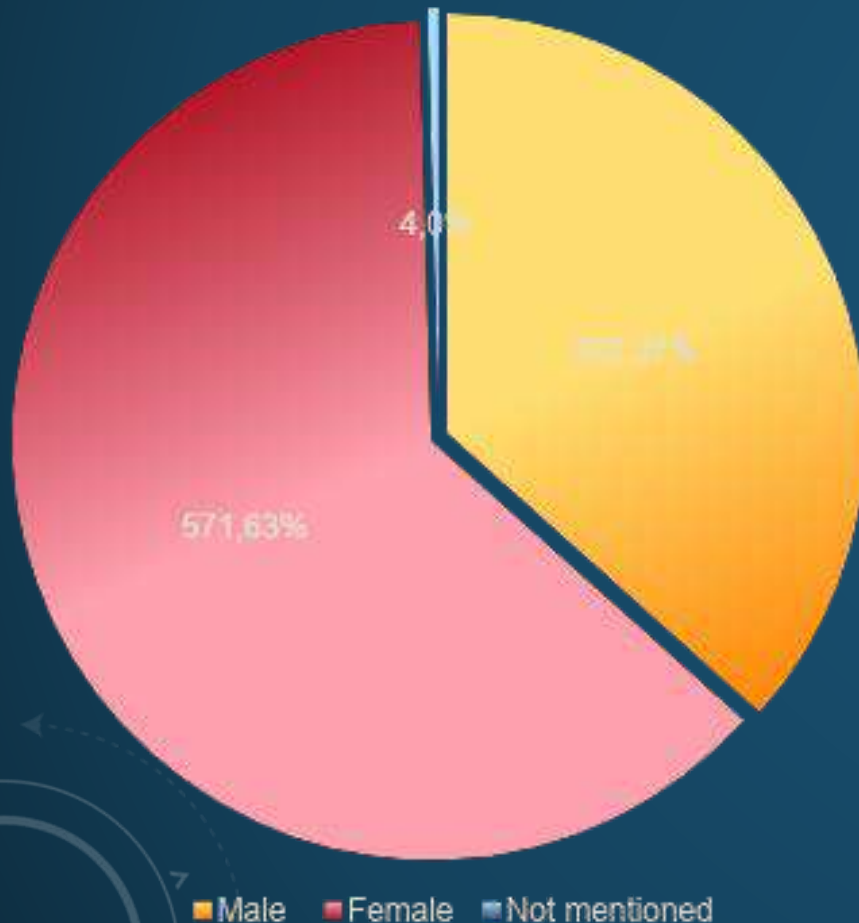
Sri Lanka's proposed legislation to regulate cosmetics marks a significant but overdue policy intervention with far-reaching implications for public health, trade, and the wider economy. The draft Cosmetics Regulation Bill, expected to be opened for public consultation in January 2026, reflects growing concern over the unregulated influx of cosmetic products into the country, particularly through informal and illicit channels.

According to National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) Chairperson Dr. Ananda Wijewickrema, the Bill was prepared by a committee appointed by the Director General of Health Services and has already undergone stakeholder consultation. A formal review of submissions is currently underway, with the public expected to gain access to the draft early next year.

The economic relevance of the legislation extends beyond consumer safety. Sri Lanka's cosmetics market has expanded rapidly, driven by social media marketing, rising imports, and informal cottage-level production. Yet regulatory oversight has lagged behind market growth. This regulatory gap has allowed substandard and potentially harmful products to circulate freely, undermining legitimate businesses and eroding consumer confidence.

Awareness raising and capacity building

Number of participants



The groups were engaged through training-of-trainers programmes, district-level sessions, media engagements, and outreach to **health professionals, educators, youth, and industry stakeholders.**

Media and social media activities further amplified public awareness.



Ministry of Health & Mass Media
Ministry of Environment



Discussion on the Regulatory Framework for Skin Lightening Products and Other Cosmetics – Day 01



Technical meetings for legislation –
Eliminating Mercury in SLPs



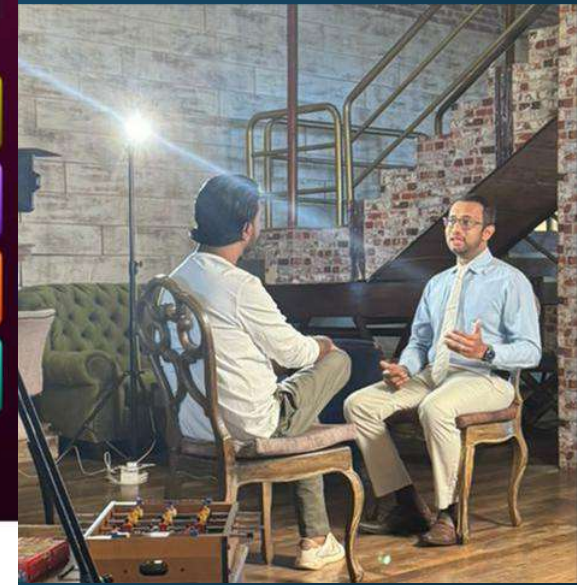


Technical meetings on Capacity building – Eliminating Mercury in SLPs



Awareness raising among Public Health Midwives, Mother Support Group Members, Medical Officers of Health







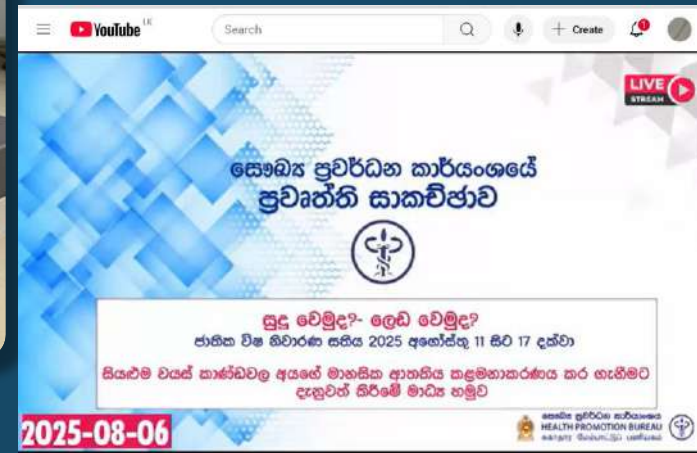
Media Briefing conducted by
the Health Promotion Bureau

Poisons prevention week (11th – 17th August 2025) by the Poisons Information Centre



“The Frightening Side of Whitening Cream”

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



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZJ7KlslINDo>

IEC materials



12t



12s



11t



11s



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10s



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9s



8t



8s



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 You, Indira Kahawita and 7.3K others

203 comments

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 Health Promotion Bureau

February 17 · 🌐

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more

 16K

182

414

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Most relevant

 Nilu Silva

Not only cream but also
glutathione injection. Need to
educate for that also

5w Like Reply 4

View 1 reply

 Wangeesha Karunaratna

Can you write something about
grey hair covering during
pregnancy

5w Like Reply 2

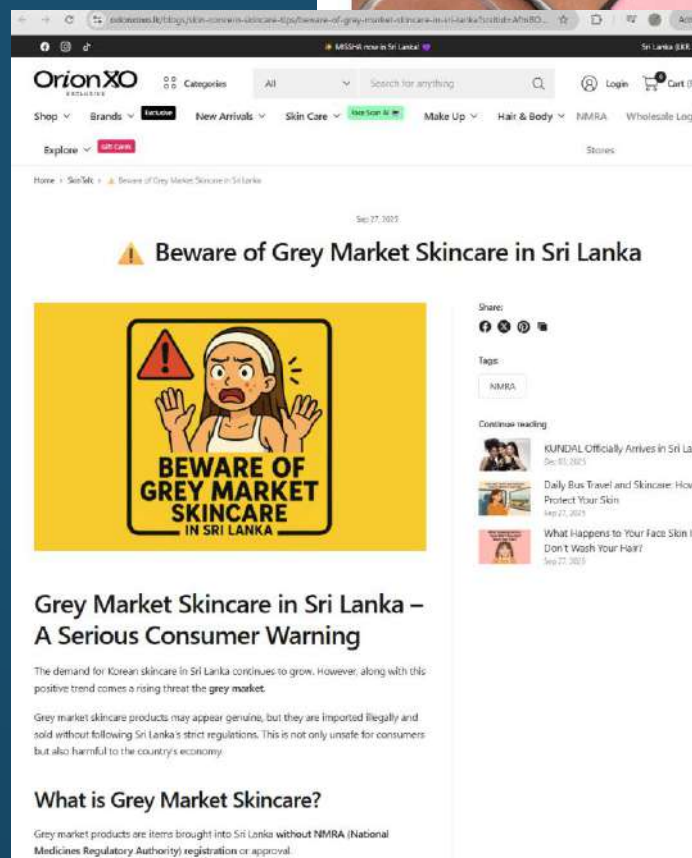
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 Bartholamus Siripala

Every one having got wonderful
skin don't be stupid your to.....
nice... skin...

Comment as Chalani Harshini Rubesin...

Awareness continues:



g markets or online stores, I've often reached for that affordable lipstick or inking it's a steal. But a nagging doubt creeps in: is this the real deal, or a routines blend tradition with modern trends, cosmetic products are part of glow, men grooming for work, or teens experimenting with skincare. Yet, raises alarms. Statistics show that more than half of cosmetics used by posing real health risks.

Behavioral study Implementation

1. Behavioral study to understand "Skin-Lightening Product Usage Among Hospital Health Assistants in Selected Tertiary Care Hospitals in Sri Lanka"
1. Study design – mixed methods (quant and qual). Sample size, n=470 in 4 Districts. Data collection completed Jan 2026 – final results in March 2026.
1. Rationale: lack of data in this area, under-researched in Sri Lanka.
1. BIU training of research team and govt, academia, 29-30 Oct with 40 participants in Colombo.
1. Partners – MoH, clinicians, epidemiologists, specialists in community medicine (senior to junior), WHO

470 People





Two-Day Training Program on Tools for Studying Behavioral Aspects of Skin-Lightening Product Use in Sri Lanka | 29–30 October 2025

Organized by: Environmental & Occupational Health Unit, Ministry of Health, and WHO Sri Lanka

Resource Person: Ms. Ammaarah Martinus, Behavioral Insights Consultant, WHO Headquarters



Examples of Qualitative Findings

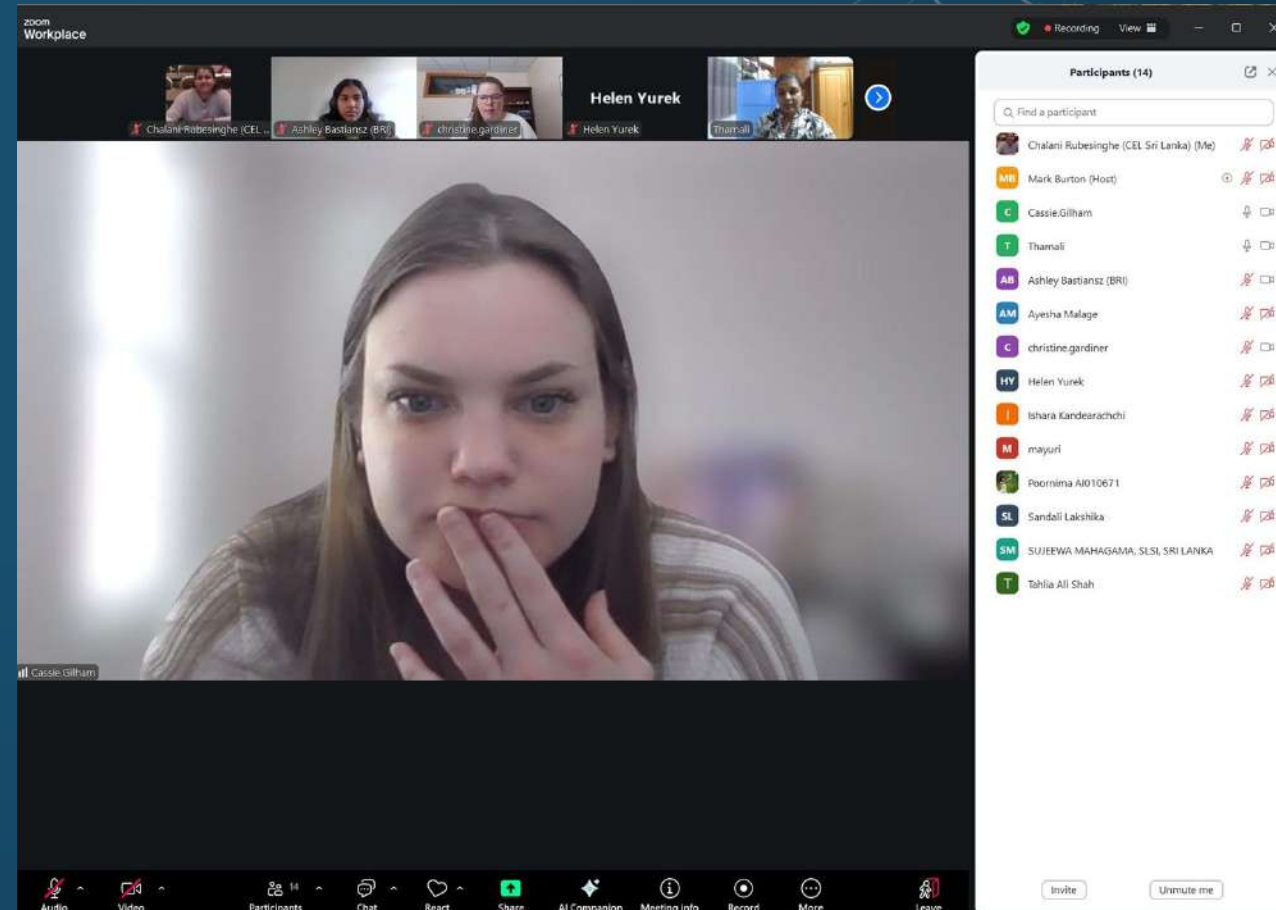
1. **Mothers influence daughters** to use SLPs to **attract spouses** and to have a better marriage in Sri Lanka, fairness = beauty (social).
1. **SLP users know the risks** of use for their unborn baby but **continue to use them during pregnancy** (psychological).
1. Despite some assistants **spending almost half of their salary on purchasing SLPs**, they still pay higher fees for couriers on Sundays and public holidays just to obtain them (environ)



"They would hardly stop even if they are told about the impact on children. Even pregnant mothers use these products. They think of staying better until they live."

Testing

- Phase 2 completed: 116 samples purchased and tested.
- 70% (81 samples) contained mercury, ranging from 700 to 41,569 ppm.
- The project strengthened the testing capacity of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution through knowledge and technical exchanges, with the aim of promoting it as a regional hub for testing mercury in skin-lightening creams



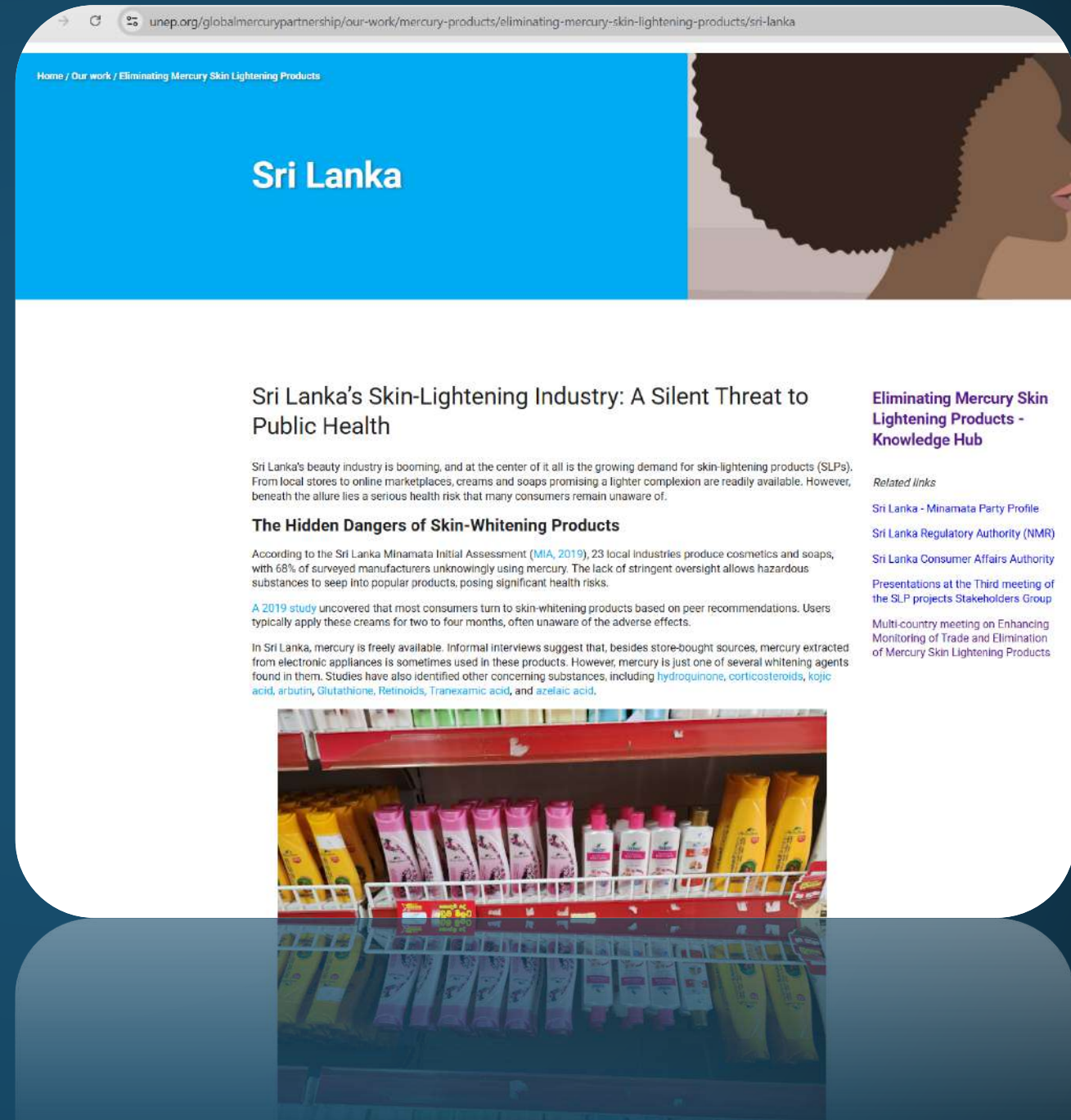
Online market

- With the project support, the Consumer Affairs Authority strengthened the oversight of mercury-containing SLPs sold through online platforms.
- Two platforms confirmed non-listing of identified products, and another three major operators removed most flagged product links following official notification. These actions demonstrate improved cooperation and increased voluntary compliance by online marketers, even in the absence of an explicit regulatory ban.
- Activities also included presentations at COPs and the initiative taken to registration of online platforms.
- CAA also announced (March 2026) an island wide surveillance of saloons for products not complying to the regulated heavy metal limits, awareness among salons and schoolchildren, especially female students, as well as the testing of products.



SRI LANKA COUNTRY PAGE IS NOW LIVE

Stay updated on developments.



Lessons learnt

- Stick, carrot and tambourine approach is needed.
- There's a shift in the concept of what is perceived as "beauty" that need to be addressed.
- Even males should be targeted in awareness, not only females.
- Interventions be grounded on evidence.
- Incorporate awareness creation through other established systems under Ministry of Health (e.g. Healthy aging, Family Health Bureau).

Thank you

PROJECT ON ELIMINATING MERCURY IN SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS

SRI LANKA

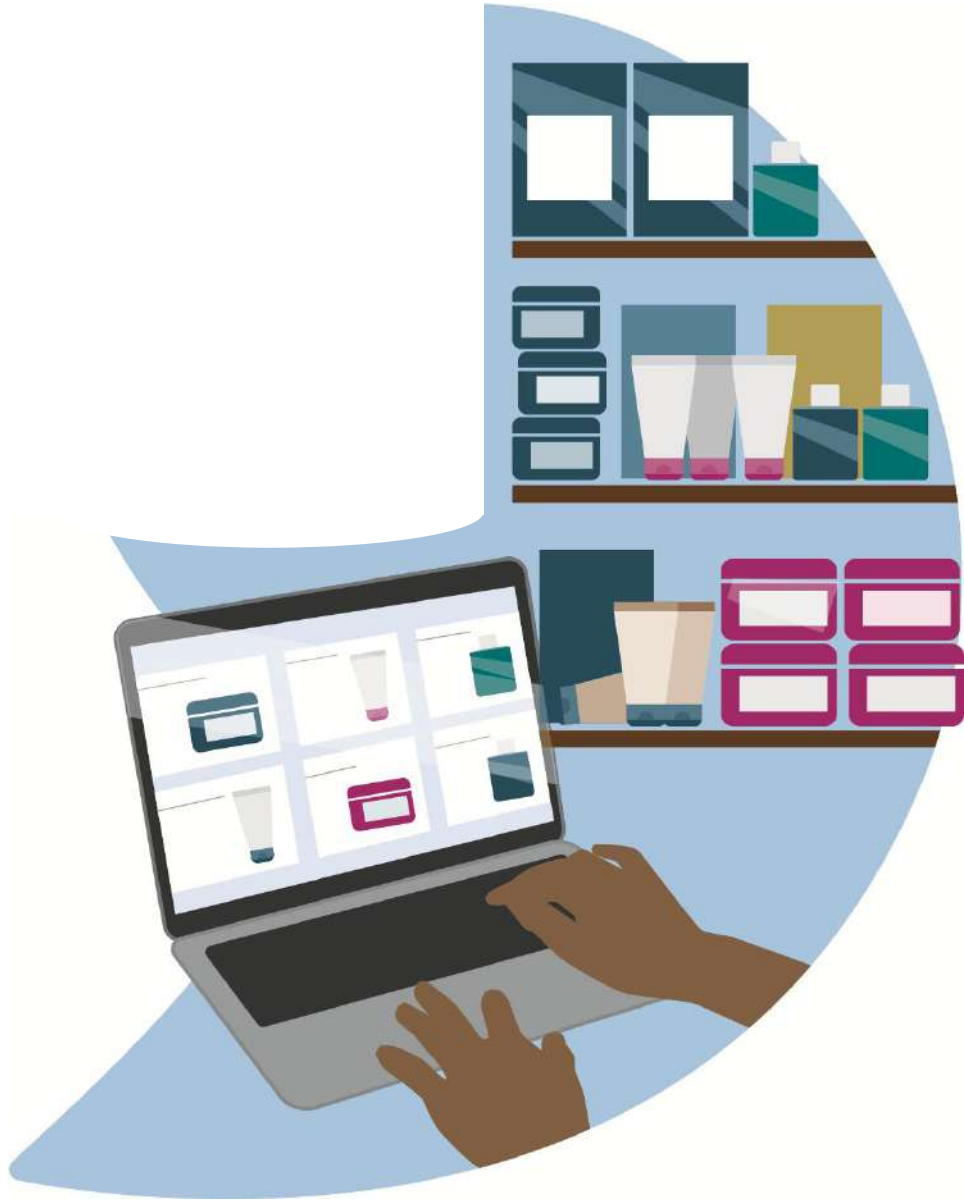


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Minamata COP6 take aways and intersessional work

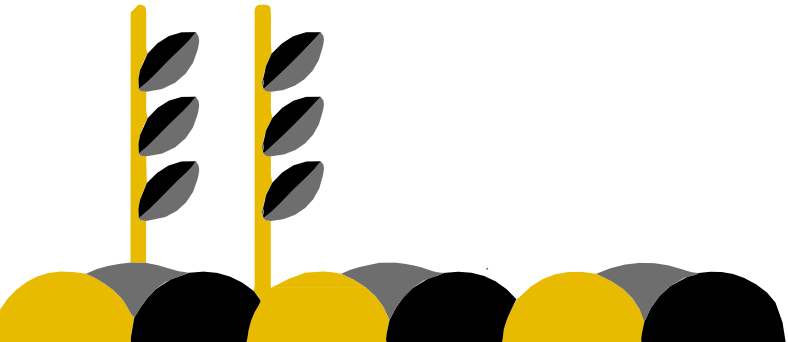
Eisaku Toda
Minamata Secretariat

Minamata COP-6 take aways and intersessional work

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

26 March 2026 Panama

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury



Minamata Convention on Mercury

- ▶ Global legally-binding treaty addressing mercury pollution.
- ▶ Objective: to **protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds**.
- ▶ Adopted in October 2013, entered into force in August 2017.
- ▶ 153 Parties, as of March 2026

ARTICLE 4

Mercury-added products

Parties shall:

Not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A

- after the specified phase out date
- unless the Party registered exemption.
- Parties may choose, when becoming a Party to the Convention, to take other measures and report those measures to Conference of the Parties (COP). (Paragraph 2)

Annex A Part I
(**Amended** at COP-5, 2023)

Mercury-added products	phase out date
Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), <u>including</u> skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available ^{1/}	2020
Cosmetics, including skin-lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available ^{1/}	2025

¹ The intention is not to cover cosmetics, soaps or creams with trace contaminants of mercury.

COP-6 took place from 3-7 November in Geneva

More than 800
in-person
participants and
4,000 online viewers

22 decisions
adopted - phase
out of dental
amalgam,
accelerating the
elimination of
mercury-added
cosmetics, etc

Special events
bringing together
science, art and
advocacy.

Web
streaming in
6 UN
languages

135 Parties
represented

19
knowledge
labs and
exhibition
space



COP-6 Decisions See [UNEP/MC/COP.6/25/Add.1](https:// UNEP/MC/COP.6/25/Add.1)



- ❖ Decision MC-6/1: Supply sources and trade
- ❖ Decision MC-6/2: Advancing work related to potential restrictions on the trade of mercury compounds
- ❖ Decision MC-6/3: Amendments to annex A
- ❖ **Decision MC-6/4: Advancing work related to mercury added cosmetics**
- ❖ Decision MC-6/5: Consideration of the feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for manufacturing vinyl chloride monomer
- ❖ Decision MC-6/6: Timeline for considering requests by Parties for extensions of exemptions
- ❖ Decision MC-6/7: Extensions of exemptions
- ❖ Decision MC-6/8: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining: review of the implementation of article 7
- ❖ Decision MC-6/9: Advancing work related to mercury waste
- ❖ Decision MC-6/10: Financial mechanism
- ❖ Decision MC-6/11: Third review of the financial mechanism
- ❖ Decision MC-6/12: Implementation of article 14 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, on capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer
- ❖ Decision MC-6/13: National reporting (article 21): second short national reports
- ❖ Decision MC-6/14: Progress in the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- ❖ Decision MC-6/15: Strengthening effective engagement with Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities
- ❖ Decision MC-6/16: Addressing health concerns of women and children
- ❖ Decision MC-6/17: Knowledge management and implementation of the digital strategy
- ❖ Decision MC-6/18: Road map for enhancing co-benefits from implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- ❖ Decision MC-6/19: International cooperation and coordination
- ❖ Decision MC-6/20: Cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- ❖ Decision MC-6/21: Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027
- ❖ Decision MC-6/22: Venue and dates of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Decision MC-6/4: Advancing work related to mercury added cosmetics

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A;
2. Encourages parties without national legislation or other measures, or otherwise facing challenges in implementing their obligations regarding mercury-added cosmetics, to inform the secretariat and to consider the application of article 14 and/or 15 to their situation;
3. Encourages the Global Mercury Partnership to continue its efforts, in consultation with interested parties, to compile and disseminate information related to the presence of mercury in cosmetics;
4. Invites the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with the Global Mercury Partnership, to gather and provide to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting available information on mechanisms for supporting enforcement and the identification of the presence of mercury in cosmetics, including field sampling and analysis equipment;
5. Also invites the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to compile and synthesize the information provided by parties in their national reports, or submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 above, related to the challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of mercury-added cosmetics, including enforcement challenges, and to report on the matter to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;
6. Further invites the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to work with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization and other relevant international organizations with expertise related to the illegal trade of products to further investigate the major sources of manufacture, import and export of mercury-added cosmetics with greater than trace amounts or, for some parties, no more than 1 part per million of mercury that are no longer allowed under article 4, and to report on the matter to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, including in its report any specific proposals from the relevant international organizations;
7. Invites the World Health Organization to:
 - (a) Consult with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Biodiversity Research Institute to provide **lessons learned** from the Global Environment Facility pilot project on the elimination of mercury-added cosmetics in Gabon, Jamaica and Sri Lanka;
 - (b) Prepare, with support from the Global Mercury Partnership, an illustrative **national public health system-wide strategy** focused on reduction measures for mercury-added cosmetics, and for skin-lightening products that may not contain mercury, that parties may utilize domestically;
 - (c) Share the lessons learned and an outline of the strategy with the secretariat by 31 December 2026.

Decision MC-6/4 para 1:

Welcomes the report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A

[UNEP/MS/COP.6/INF/8](#): Report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

- The report put together **information on and a summary of the report on challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of mercury-added cosmetics**, pursuant to decision MC-5/5.
- The report concludes that eliminating mercury-added skin-lightening products is a multifaceted challenge that includes addressing:
 - ✓ Lack of national implementing legislation and/or measures
 - ✓ Inadequate enforcement
 - ✓ Lack of capacity
 - ✓ Lack of awareness
 - ✓ Need for global cooperation
- 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).

Decision MC-6/4 para 2:

Encourages parties without national legislation or other measures, or otherwise facing implementation challenges, to inform the Secretariat and to consider the application of article 14 and/or 15 to their situation

- Parties without national legislation or other measures, or otherwise facing implementation challenges are to **inform the Secretariat**.

Article 14 (Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer)

- Parties are to cooperate to provide timely and appropriate capacity building and technical assistance to developing country parties to assist them in implementing their obligations.
- Capacity building and technical assistance may be delivered through regional, subregional and national arrangements and through partnerships.
- Developed country parties are to promote development, transfer and diffusion of alternative technologies.

Article 15 (Implementation and Compliance Committee)

- ICC is to promote implementation of, and review compliance with, the provision of the Convention.
- ICC may consider issues on the basis of (a) written submissions from any Party with respect to its compliance, (b) national reports and (c) request from COP.

Decision MC-6/4 para 3:

Encourages the Global Mercury Partnership to continue its efforts, in consultation with interested parties, to compile and disseminate information related to the presence of mercury in cosmetics

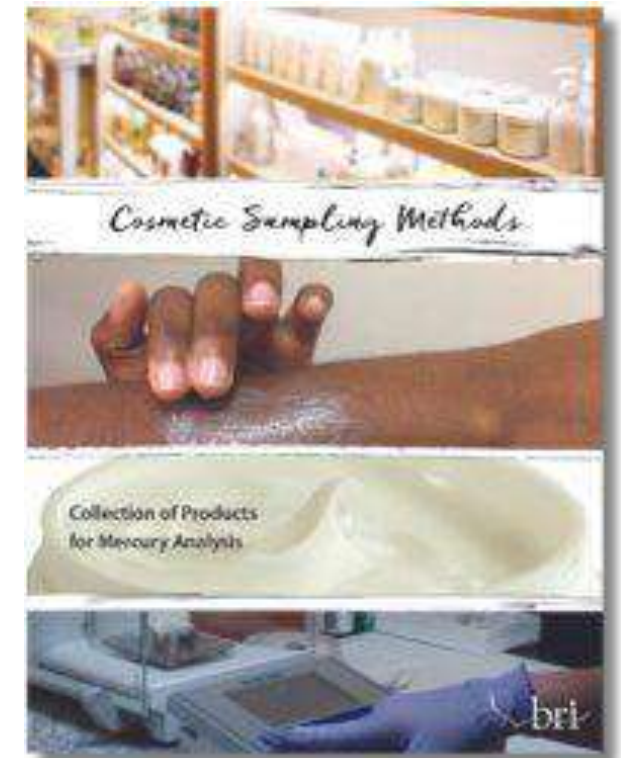
- Efforts in GEF 10810 project countries to identify mercury-added skin-lightening products and the global database developed under the project may provide a good basis.



Decision MC-6/4 para 4:

Invites the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Mercury Partnership, to gather and provide to COP-7 information on mechanisms for supporting enforcement and the identification of the presence of mercury in cosmetics

- GEF project 11877 in 13 African countries includes a component to understand mercury-added SLP manufacturing and trading patterns through the mapping of mercury SLPs supply chain, including formal and informal channels, and sampling and analysis of suspected mercury added SLPs available in local markets, including confirmed results from global database
- Forthcoming regional project in Latin America and Asia will also serve as an example.



Decision MC-6/4 para 5:

Invites the Secretariat to compile and synthesize the information provided by Parties in their national reports or submitted pursuant to para 2 above and to report to COP-7

- The Secretariat issued a [letter](#) on 9 February 2026 to follow up on the COP-6 decisions. In that letter, Parties were informed that information received by 30 June 2026 will be compiled and synthesized for COP-7.
- The Secretariat further plans to:
 - ✓ Analyse the information included in the second full national report due by 31 December 2025 (*Will wait until 6 March 2026*); and
 - ✓ Issue a targeted letter on the submission of information by 30 June 2025.

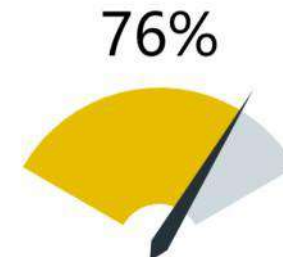


[The Convention](#) ▾ [Meetings](#) ▾ [Parties](#) ▾ [Implementation](#) ▾ [Focus areas](#) ▾ [Resources](#) ▾ [News](#) ▾

Join the First Nine!

Be among the leaders! We celebrate the first nine countries who have submitted their Second Full National Report (Mongolia, Dominican Republic, Togo, Burundi, Comoros, Austria, Denmark, Uganda and Sweden). Submitting early is essential. Early reports give us time to prepare accurate assessments for the Implementation and Compliance Committee and the Effectiveness Evaluation Group, making your voice heard in the process.

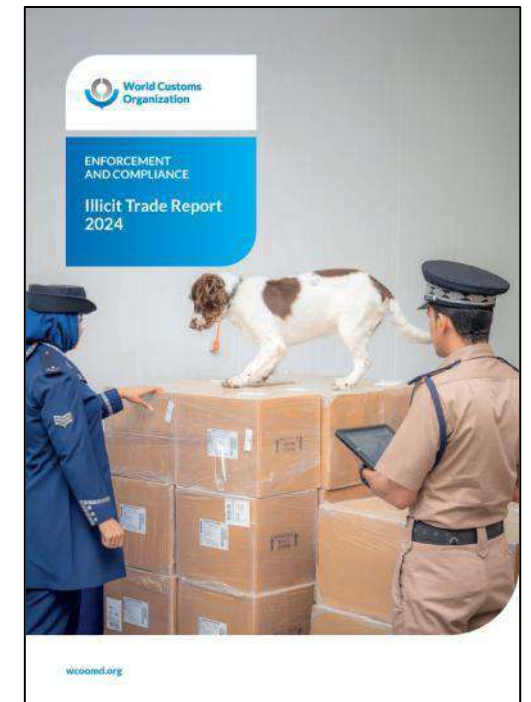
Second full national reports - Reporting rate (12/2/2026)



Decision MC-6/4 para 6:

Invites the Secretariat to work with INTERPOL, WCO and other relevant organizations to further investigate the major sources of manufacture, import and export of mercury-added cosmetics, and to report to COP-7

- The Secretariat cooperates with INTERPOL, World Customs Organization and UN Office of Drugs and Crime on broader issues of illegal, informal and illicit supply and trade including elemental mercury, mercury-added products and mercury waste.
- GEF regional projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia may also provide insight on the sources of mercury-added cosmetics.



Decision MC-6/4 para 7:

Invites WHO to:
Provide, with UNEP and BRI, lessons learned from GEF project 10810; and
Prepare, with GMP, an illustrative national public health strategy focused on mercury-added cosmetics;
By 31 December 2026

Lessons learned from GEF Project 10810

- To be discussed at the project closure workshop and terminal evaluation.

Illustrative national public health system-wide strategy focused on mercury-added cosmetics that parties may utilize domestically

- Global legislation guide, best practices, advocacy materials developed under GEF project 10810 may provide a good basis for such strategy.



Looking ahead to COP-7

- ❖ To take place from 6-10 September 2027 in Geneva.
- ❖ Marie-Claire Lhenry (France) elected President of COP-7.
- ❖ 2027 marks the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention.



The Convention ▾ Meetings ▾ Parties ▾ Implementation ▾ Focus areas ▾ Resources ▾ News ▾

Intersessional work and Submissions for COP-7



The Conference of the Parties held its [sixth meeting](#) from 3 to 7 November 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, and agreed on several action items. The Executive Secretary [sent a letter](#) to Parties and observers on 9 February 2026 to **call for information** to follow up on these action items.

The progress on these action items can be found on the individual pages linked below. Links will be added as information becomes available.



Thank you for your attention

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[#MakeMercuryHistory](#)



MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY

Closing remarks

Grace Halla
UNEP



THANK YOU

