UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Roadmap to mercury-free healthcare

A country-led roadmap from commitment to safe, sustained management of mercury-containing medical measuring devices.

SIX CONNECTED STAGES: MANDATE - EVIDENCE - PLAN - PROCUREMENT - PRACTICE - MANAGEMENT

LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

01 Create the national mandate

- Link health and environment priorities
- Convene ministries, procurement, facilities and waste authorities.

FOCAL INSTITUTIONS
Health and environment ministries; Minamata focal point

ASSESSMENT AND EVIDENCE

02 Map devices, risks and current practice

- Count devices in use, stock and retirement.
- Assess alternatives, service capacities, spills and waste routes.

FOCAL INSTITUTIONS
Facility managers; biomedical teams; waste officers

STRATEGY, TARGETS AND FINANCE

03 Set the phase-out plan

- Define policy actions, milestones, responsibilities and budget.
- Align health plans with Minamata commitments and waste rules.

FOCAL INSTITUTIONS
National steering group; regulators; finance and planning

ALTERNATIVES, SERVICE AND SPECIFICATIONS

04 Procure for quality care

- Select validated, fit-for-purpose mercury-free devices.
- Require training, calibration, maintenance and supplier support.

FOCAL INSTITUTIONS
Procurement authority; clinicians; biomedical engineers

FACILITY IMPLEMENTATION

05 Pilot, train and protect

- Test procedures and train teams in spill response, recordkeeping and feedback to build confidence.
- Exchange of devices, packaging, labelling, collection and interim storage of Hg containing devices

FOCAL INSTITUTIONS
Pilot facilities; clinical users; trainers; IPC teams

SAFE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND LEARNING

06 Manage legacy devices and scale

- Standardize and scale: plan for scaling up of activities on national level and implement proven processes to phase out and identify disposal routes.
- Confirm an authorized route; report results and improve.

FOCAL INSTITUTIONS
Waste authority; authorized operator; Basel contacts

The route is adaptable to national context. It connects health leadership, clinical quality, procurement and safe mercury-waste management.

Photo sequence: Uganda strategydevelopment; Montenegro device inventory; India inception coordination; mercury-free device education; Albania packaging and labelling training; Uganda Luwero candidate-site assessment.

Source: WHO project photo library and WHO/GEF public resources. Country images are illustrative; Luwero is shown as a candidate-site assessment, not completed storage or disposal.