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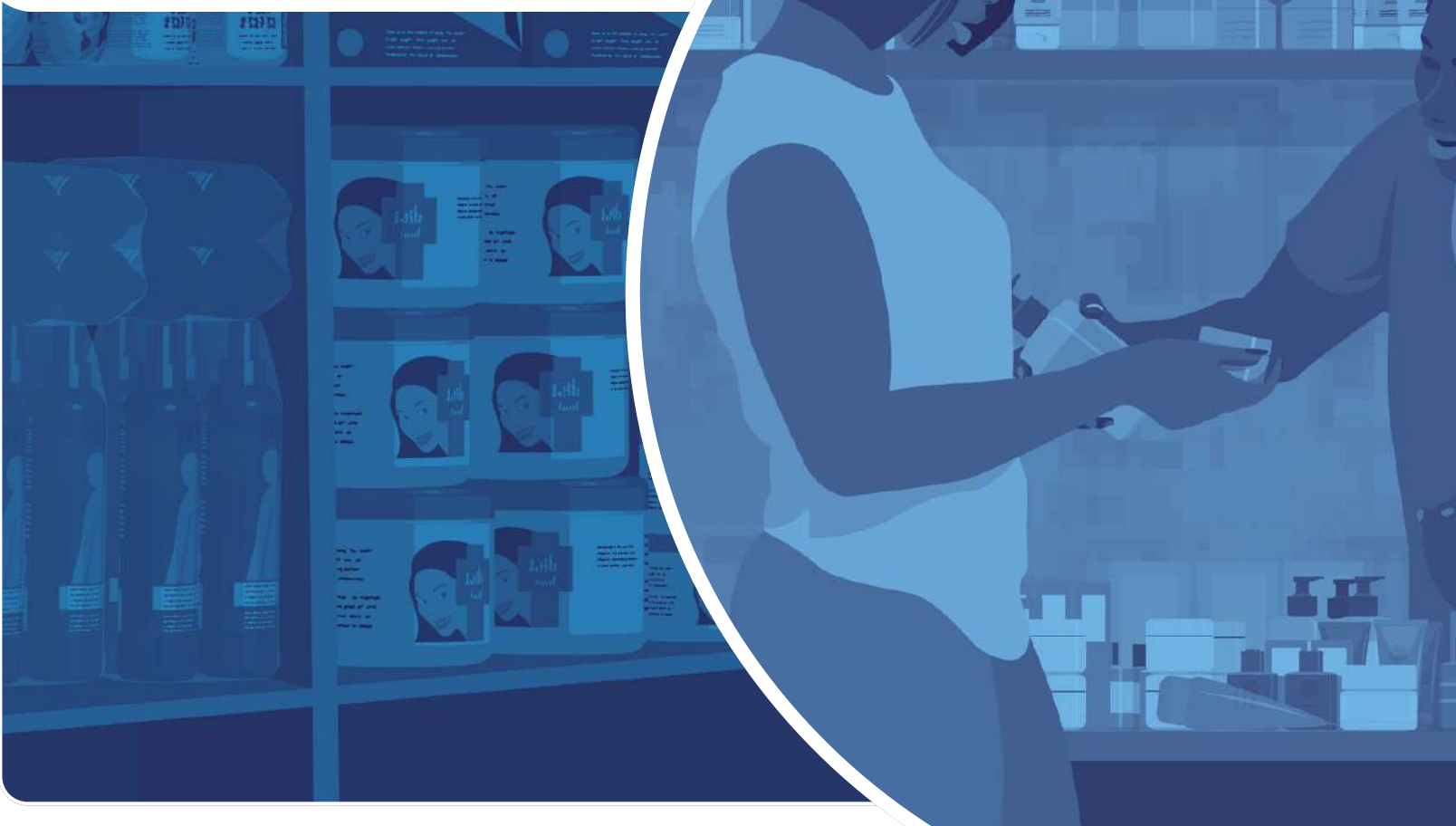


GLOBAL
MERCURY
PARTNERSHIP

ELIMINATING MERCURY-ADDED SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS

CUSTOMS AND ENFORCEMENT TRAININGS - SRI LANKA

SUMMARY NOTE



Background

The project, “Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products” (GEF 10810 Project) which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and co-executed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) in collaboration with the Governments of Gabon, Jamaica, and Sri Lanka.

The GEF 10810 project aims to eliminate mercury containing skin lightening products (SLPs) by supporting governments to develop or strengthen existing legislation and regulations to phase out SLPs in line with the Minamata Convention; engaging supply chain actors in an attempt to stop production, trade and distribution of skin lightening products; strengthening national capacities in testing and monitoring the skin lightening products and providing training of custom agents; and raising awareness about the issue in the project countries and at the regional and global levels.

Through the project work, Sri Lanka has taken several steps towards elimination of mercury-added SLPs that include stakeholder engagement and awareness raising activities, regulatory and institutional reviews to build capacity and conducting a rapid baseline study of SLPs sold in formal and informal markets in-country as well as online to understand availability of mercury-added SLPs and their distribution pathways.

For more information on the project initiatives, visit:

**[UNEP Global Mercury Partnership-
Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening
Products](#)**



Summary of Customs and Enforcement Training Sessions – Sri Lanka

This initiative aimed to strengthen the enforcement efforts for the elimination of mercury-added skin lightening products (SLPs) in trade through knowledge sharing and information exchange with Sri Lanka Customs and related stakeholders.

Through collaboration between the **GEF 10810 Project, “Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products”** and a related project, **“Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention”** which was funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNEP, the following activities were conducted with support provided by the Asian Institute of Technology:

Sri Lanka National Training on Strengthening Country-Level Inter-Agency Coordination of Trade of Mercury - 2 June 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sub-regional Customs Training to Enhance Monitoring of Trade of Mercury, Mercury Compounds and Mercury-added Skin Lightening Products - 3-4 June 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Series of Online Customs Training Webinars to Enhance Monitoring of Trade of Mercury and Mercury Compounds:

- **26 May 2025**
- **29 June 2025**
- **13 August 2025**