COP-5 ONLINE EVENTS

Reinforcing the Health Sector's Commitment to the Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury: The Showcase of GEF-UNEP-WHO Projects on Mercury-added Products

Tuesday, 10 OCTOBER 2023 | 16h30-17h30 CEST

WELCOME! We will be starting shortly.
AGENDA

1. Introduction
   Gabriela Sardon, World Health Organization

2. Phasing down dental amalgam use project
   Benoit Varenne, World Health Organization

3. Eliminating mercury containing skin lightening products project
   Tahlia Ali Shah, Biodiversity Research Institute

4. Phasing out mercury measuring devices in healthcare project
   Lesley Onyon, World Health Organization

5. Multiplying the projects’ benefits through UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
   Kenneth Davis, United Nations Environment Programme

6. Panel discussion with country representatives
   Pathe Dieye, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Sénégal
   Heather Brown, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica
   Ange Mibindzou Mouelet, Medicines Agency, Gabon
   Lesley Onyon, World Health Organization

7. Closing remarks
The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty that aims to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

Source: https://minamataconvention.org/en/partysoverview
# THE MINAMATA CONVENTION AND MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

## Part I: Products subject to Article 4, paragraph 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mercury-added products</th>
<th>Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1 ppm), 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</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available:</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a) barometers;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) hygrometers;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) manometers;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(d) thermometers;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(e) sphygmomanometers.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Part II: Products subject to Article 4, paragraph 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mercury-added products</th>
<th>Provisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental amalgam</td>
<td>Measures to be taken by a Party to phase down the use of dental amalgam shall take into account the Party’s domestic circumstances and relevant international guidance and shall include two or more of the measures from the following list:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>(i) Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimizing the need for dental restoration;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(ii) Setting national objectives aiming at minimizing its use;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iii) Promoting the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration;</td>
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<tr>
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<td>(iv) Promoting research and development of quality mercury-free materials for dental restoration;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(v) Encouraging representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(vi) Discouraging insurance policies, and programmes that favour dental amalgam use over mercury-free dental restoration;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(vii) Encouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour the use of quality alternatives to dental amalgam for dental restoration;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(viii) Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form;</td>
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<td>(ix) Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, Parties shall:

(i) Exclude or not allow, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners;

(ii) Exclude or not allow, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommend against the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of patients under 15 years and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient.

Source: UNEP/MC/COP.4/Dec.3/Add.1 Annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as amended by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting
The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty that aims to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

A leading role for health ministries is envisaged in the health-related articles, including:

- **Article 4**: Mercury-added products, in particular, mercury-added thermometers, sphygmomanometers, dental amalgam, skin lightening creams and antiseptics
- **Article 6**: Health aspects
- **Article 7**: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining, in particular the development of public health strategies
- **Article 17**: Information exchange
- **Article 11**: Mercury waste
- **Article 18**: Public information, awareness and education
- **Article 12**: Contaminated sites
- **Article 19**: Research, development and monitoring

THE MINAMATA CONVENTION: WHO MANDATE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Role of ministries of public health
- Sign, ratify and implement the Convention
- Active participation
- Address the health aspects of exposure to mercury
- Close cooperation with Ministry of Environment, and other ministries
- Promote appropriate health care services for prevention, treatment and care for populations affected by the exposure to mercury

Role of WHO:
- Provide advice and technical support to Member States to support the implementation of the Convention
- Cooperate closely with COP of the Minamata Convention, other international organizations, mainly UNEP
- Develop of the technical guidance on environmentally friendly and less-invasive dentistry to support countries with their implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, including supporting preventative programmes
GEF7 PHASING DOWN DENTAL AMALGAM PROJECT

GEF ID: 10936

Dr Benoit Varenne
Oral Health Programme, NCD Department, WHO
**BACKGROUND**

- Dental caries (tooth decay) is the most common non-communicable disease worldwide and a major public health problem.

- Dental amalgam is a mercury-added filling material used to treat cavities.

*Note: Data are from GBD 2019.*
Project objective
To protect human health and the environment from harmful effects of mercury through implementation of policies and improved practices to phase down the use of dental amalgams.

Timeline:
March 2023 – February 2026

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

Establish an inventory of dental amalgam and mercury-free alternatives.

Conduct national situational assessment on regulations, insurance policies, oral health workforce model and curricula – and make improvements in line with the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Develop case studies that demonstrate the feasibility to phase down the use of dental amalgam.

Conduct a national situational assessment on the dental amalgam/mercury waste management schemes and the possibility of a health system-wide approach on mercury management.

Select dental/health facilities to demonstrate sound management practices to handle dental amalgam and their wastes.

Manage and dispose of dental amalgam waste collected in an environmentally sound manner.

Disseminate project results through the Project Knowledge Hub (UNEP Global Mercury Partnership) and WHO project webpage.

Conduct awareness raising events, present project results at national, regional and international events.

Development of global products:
1) Global database to inform project outputs/results, relevant decisions of Conference of the Parties and reporting
2) Technical guidance on environmentally friendly and less invasive dentistry.
SYNERGIES AMONGST THE THREE GEF-FUNDED PROJECTS

• Collaboration mechanism between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment.
• Awareness-raising activities of the Minamata Convention and the provisions of mercury-added products.
• Working to implement the treaty provisions on one mercury-added product can lead to the implementation of other mercury-added products’ obligations.
• Assess the possibility of a health system-wide approach to mercury waste management.
• Achieving Universal Health Coverage for all by 2030 (SDG 3.8): access to essential health care within a sustainable healthcare system.
Thank you very much for your attention

For more information, contact: varenneb@who.int

Visit the project knowledge hub: www.unep.org/phasedowndentalamalgam
GEF# 10810
Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products

Reinforcing the health sector's commitment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

COP-5 VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

Tahlia Ali Shah
Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)
PROJECT AIM

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

OVERALL TIMELINE

September 2022 – September 2025

Funding Agency:

Implementation Agency:

Co-Executed by:

Project Countries:

Technical Assistance:

and Co-Financing Partners

GEF 10810: Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products

World Health Organization

Biodiversity Research Institute

GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP
Project Components & Key Outcomes

- Build national capacity on legislation, enforcement, compliance, and awareness raising strategies
- Project countries having strengthened capacity to develop enforcement and compliance strategies to support legislation on SLPs
- Reduce or stop production, trade, distribution of SLPs in project countries
- Increased understanding of, and ability to monitor, local and online markets for SLPs, including production, distribution and usage
- Knowledge management at global level
  - Global Advocacy Campaign
  - Community of Practice – Project Stakeholder Group
  - Knowledge Hub
• All SLP mercury concentrations will be kept in a centralized database developed in coordination with UNEP GMP, and will be available to the Ministry of Health and/or other designated government ministry or agency.

• Database will include:
  • Unique ID
  • Country of Manufacture
  • Country of Purchase
  • Location of Purchase
  • Name of SLP
  • Type e.g., Lotion, Cream
  • Batch No.
  • Date
  • Notable ingredients listed
  • Photos
  • Hg results
Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products

Eliminating mercury containing skin lightening products and promoting the beauty of all skin tones.

Learn more why it matters, meet the community of practitioners, and explore the...
SYNERGIES AMONGST RELATED PROJECTS

- Article 4 (Mercury Added Products) of the Minamata Convention
- Global Mercury Partnership - Mercury in Products
- Awareness Raising Campaigns
- Similar Legislative Recommendations
- Institutional Capacity Building – Collaboration between ministries of health and environment, training of health care professionals and Customs etc..
THANK YOU!

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For more information on the project, visit:
https://www.unep.org/mercuryfreecosmetics

#mercuryfreecosmetics
Phasing-out mercury in mercury medical devices in healthcare
Lesley Onyon, Chemicals Safety & Health Unit, World Health Organization
Cardiovascular disease & temperature control

Hypertension is used to identify individuals at high risk of cardiovascular disease. More than 700 million people have untreated hypertension, one of the most important risk factors in global burden of disease and a key global target for tackling NCD.

Maintaining a core body temperature of 37°C is an important part of allowing our bodies to function normally and raised body temperature is one of the first alarms of infection or illness.

Many modern non-invasive devices are on the market to measure blood pressure.

During COVID-19 pandemic we saw a rapid increase in the use of digital temperature measuring devices.
WHO Existing technical materials supporting phase-out of mercury medical devices
## GEF Phasing-out mercury measuring devices in healthcare

**Five country project in Africa (Uganda, Burkina Faso), EURO (Montenegro, Albania) and India**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National health-system wide strategies</th>
<th>Phase-out procurement &amp; manufacture</th>
<th>Knowledge management &amp; global awareness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder engagement strategy</td>
<td>Phasing-out mercury containing thermometers and Sphygmomanometer procurement</td>
<td>Update and development of WHO technical &amp; information materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situation assessment &amp; inventory assessment</td>
<td>Identification, training, guidance and demonstration of mercury-waste management</td>
<td>UNEP technical guidance on management of mercury-containing healthcare wastes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National strategy for phase-out including waste and WASH</td>
<td>Demonstration of phase-out in 3/5 pilot countries</td>
<td>Good practice examples and lessons learned – disseminated including through WHO channels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of monitoring &amp; reporting mechanisms linked to national strategy</td>
<td>Specific focus/assistance to Indian manufacturers – bespoke information, education &amp; communication materials</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Project country context**

- Each of the project countries has relevant laws and regulations in place and in some cases local rules for procuring non-mercury containing devices.

- In Montenegro 91% of thermometers used in healthcare centres were reported to be Hg-free. In India this value was 63%. In Albania only 24% of thermometers in use as Hg-free, but also reported that > 80% of facilities have at least some Hg-free device in use.

- However a recent survey of 158 healthcare facilities in Albania, India and Montenegro – 60% used Hg thermometers and 56% Hg-sphygmomanometers. Albania reported highest use of Hg thermometers (88%) & India highest use of Hg-sphygmomanoters (83%)

- Turnover of thermometers very rapid (less than one week) and for sphygmomanometers (more than 1 year)

- Total estimated mass of Hg in thermometers in the country (1,154 kg) and in Sphygnomanometers (55,885 kg)

- India is the only country manufacturing mercury containing devices. Medical device market is one of the largest in the world. Currently most devices are imported but large number of small manufacturing facilities exist
Key barriers and challenges

- Procurement-related issues
- Perspectives of the medical profession
- Manufacturing-related challenges
- Lack of knowledge and awareness of mercury-related waste disposal of health-care facilities
- Regulatory considerations
- Coordination and cooperation between ministries
Thank you!

For further information
Please visit [Chemical safety (who.int)](https://www.who.int)

Or contact Lesley Onyon ([Onyonl@who.int](mailto:Onyonl@who.int))
The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership as a tool to support mercury elimination in the health sector

Kenneth Davis
UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch

October 2023
✓ Support implementation of the Minamata Convention
✓ Provide knowledge and science on mercury
✓ Deliver outreach and awareness raising towards global action

250 partners from: Governments, IGOs, NGOs, Industry/private sector, academia and the scientific community

www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/
Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products

Eliminating mercury-containing skin lightening products and promoting the beauty of all skin tones.

Learn more why it matters, meet the community of practitioners, and explore the library of resources, news and events.

Resources
News
Events

Spread the word and contribute to #mercuryfreecosmetics by sharing this project website widely
www.unice.org/mercuryfreecosmetics
Phasing-down the Use of Dental Amalgam

Overview

Dental amalgam is a common filling material that has been a mainstay of dental restorative care around the world for over 175 years due to its ease of placement, material strength, longevity and cost-effectiveness. However, it consists of approximately 50% mercury which is why a shift away from the restorative model and use of dental amalgam is now becoming a reality, underpinned by the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Parties to the Convention are required to implement several measures to phase down the use of dental amalgam according to Article 4, Annex A, Part II of the Convention which was recently amended in 2022 at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4) (see figure below).

Learn more why it matters; meet the community, and explore the catalogue of resources, news and events.

Resources

News

Events
Focus on mercury waste management

• Managing mercury waste, in particular from mercury-added products, is a serious challenge according to many parties to the Minamata Convention.

• Even when phasing down or phasing out products, significant stocks persist in society for many years.

• Environmental sound waste management solutions are not available in many countries and regions.

• Through the Global Mercury Partnership we explore, pilot and document waste management approaches.
PANEL DISCUSSION WITH COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Pathe Dieye, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Sénégal
*Phasing down dental amalgam project*

Heather Brown, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica
*Eliminating mercury containing skin lightening products project*

Ange Mibindzou Mouelet, Medicines Agency, Gabon
*Eliminating mercury containing skin lightening products project*