Gender and the environment: how the Special Programme supports gender mainstreaming

02 November 2023

Katherine Theotocatos and Felix Herzog
“Women are vital for the management of and sustainable use of land and biodiversity resources, transforming the balance of power and working for gender equality is key to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. This is the ask for #GenerationEquality and it involves all of us.”

– Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director.
Summary of the Special Programme

Special Programme
Established under UNEA 1/5; Extended under UNEA 5/7

Decision-making body
Executive Board

Trust Fund
US$ 35million

Application rounds
Funding 75 projects
Seventh round of applications ongoing
Scope of the Special Programme

Country-driven project

- Strong gender mainstreaming
- Improves chemicals management to mitigate negative impact
- Multi-sectoral involvement engages private sector stakeholders
- Builds long-term institutional capacity
- Sustainable financing mechanism

What is a Special Programme project?

Implementing environment for the implementation of the BRS and Minamata Conventions and SAICM

Implementation of policies, strategies and national programmes for the sound management of chemicals and waste
Guidance on the scope of the Special Programme

Useful information and links on gender in chemicals and waste and on gender mainstreaming. Examples of gender-related activities that could be included in Special Programme projects:

- Research and generating sex-disaggregated data
- Awareness raising activities that educate relevant stakeholders.
- Promoting multi-stakeholder approaches to ensure effective participation of different groups, including women, in policy development and decision making.
- Ensuring equal opportunity for women and men, and where applicable, require skills/expertise in gender.
- Monitoring benefits, participation, and feedback among women and men during project activities
Examples of how the Special Program supports the implementation of gender-focused activities through its projects
Areas of focus on gender

1. Risks
   - Sex-disaggregated data collection

2. Needs
   - Awareness raising
   - Guidance documents
   - Specific training
   - Participation management processes

3. Legislative reform

4.
Gender activities in SP projects

Examples of projects that have specific activities on gender mainstreaming:

1. **Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Vanuatu**: national database for C&W included sex-disaggregated data.

2. **Palestine**: compilation of sex-disaggregated data including for BRS reporting.

3. **Kiribati**: Database on chemicals and contaminated sites to include socio-economic factors such as gender.

4. **Georgia**: gap analysis on coordination for SMCW with gender consideration.

5. **Madagascar**: study on correlations between chemical exposure and gender-specific health effects; communication supports with gender mainstreaming.
Gender activities in SP projects

Malawi: awareness-raising

Armenia: awareness-raising campaign for vulnerable groups including pregnant women.

Cambodia: awareness raising and training including on gender issues

Peru: communication tools for sensitization and awareness

Moldova2: gender-sensitive info package for the community Right to Know Programme

Iran: guidance on gender-mainstreaming in the oil industry
Gender activities in SP projects

- **Belarus**: workshop on relationship between susceptibility to chemical exposures, health effects and gender differences.

- **Rwanda**: training on gender roles in BRS Conventions and SAICM; recommendations for a multi-stakeholder forum on gender mainstreaming strategy development.

- **Burundi**: mainstreaming of gender in C&W management.

- **Angola**: developing a gender action plan and integrating gender related issues into the new legislation on chemicals and waste.
Main objective: To strengthen the institutional capacity for the sustainable management of chemicals and wastes, with a special focus on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) taking into account national needs and emerging issues.

1. Collection of sex-disaggregated data
2. Workshops on gender mainstreaming
   • Awareness raising material on gender
   • Gender mainstreaming report

Includes as an output the promotion of gender issues in hazardous chemicals and wastes management at the national and regional levels.
Gender Fact Sheet

Looks at why gender matters in chemicals and waste management
Gives some examples of Special Programme projects that are addressing gender.

Gender factsheet is available at: https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/37842

https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/special-programme
unepchemicalsspecialprogramme@un.org
Thank you
Mainstreaming gender in Specific International Programme (SIP) projects

Thursday, 2 November 2023

Maria Irene Rizzo, Associate Expert for Capacity-building and Technical Assistance Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Gender and Convention Implementation

Gender considerations in project development, review, reporting and evaluation.

Roles of the various entities supporting the implementation of the Minamata Convention

- Gender-specific exposures and impacts
- Inclusive stakeholder engagement and awareness raising
- Recognition of differentiated impacts of mercury management decisions
- Involvement in policy development and decision-making
- Engagement in project management

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Minamata Initial Assessments, national action plans, mercury reduction and management projects

Implementing Minamata Convention obligations

Financial mechanism

Related fund
## Specific International Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Party Name</th>
<th>Economic Status</th>
<th>First Round</th>
<th>Second Round</th>
<th>Third Round</th>
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The SIP is supporting Parties in all regions.
Mainstreaming gender in SIP project applications

Applications guidelines for the Third Round of applications to the SIP

1.9 HOW CAN I ENSURE GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN MY APPLICATION?

Gender mainstreaming integrates gender perspectives across all domains of activity, from project planning, policies, participation and staffing through to specific project assessments and activities. The ultimate aim of gender mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality. This starts by making visible the activities, impacts, engagement and agency of both men and women as differentiated actors.

Applications submitted under the Specific International Programme need to explain how the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects includes a gender lens. Projects aimed at evaluating impacts of and exposures to mercury should include plans to evaluate the gender-differentiated nature of impacts and exposures. All project and development interventions should integrate the principles of equal participation and non-discrimination, including in the staffing of projects and in opportunities for public participation. Project activities should promote these issues at the national and regional levels. See section 3.4 of Chapter 3.

GENDER LENS

Project Design
Implementation
Monitoring
Evaluation

Sex-disaggregated data
Awareness-raising
Effective participation
Equal opportunity
Evaluating results
### Funding from the programme in USD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Type of activity expected at the end of the project</th>
<th>Responsible organization</th>
<th>Budget allocation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 150,000</td>
<td>Terminal review</td>
<td>Recipient Government</td>
<td>To be decided by the recipient Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>151,000 – 200,000</td>
<td>Terminal evaluation</td>
<td>UNEP Office</td>
<td>8,000 USD (retained from the approved project budget)</td>
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<tr>
<td>200,000 - 250,000</td>
<td>Terminal evaluation</td>
<td>UNEP Office</td>
<td>10,000 USD (retained from the approved project budget)</td>
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### Guidelines for conducting a SIP project terminal review/evaluation

#### Guidelines for conducting a SIP project terminal evaluation

**Terminal Evaluation of the Project under the Specific International Programme of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

**Project Title and Project Reference Number**

**Overview**

These guidelines are intended to help project partners implementing a Specific International Programme project to conduct a terminal review according to the Programme expectations and the broader UNEP Evaluation Office requirements. The project implementers should assign an individual or institution to complete an objective self-critical assessment of the project’s performance as measured by the project’s design, implementation and monitoring strategy, achievements and proposed sustainable/useful strategies against the specified evaluation criteria provided by the UNEP evaluation office. The evaluation criteria are:

1. Relevance (Did the intervention address the needs and challenges identified?)
2. Efficiency (Was the intervention fit in the country sector etc.?)
3. Effectiveness (Was the intervention work? Was it designed to achieve the intended results in a timely manner?)
4. Impact (What difference did the intervention make?)
5. Sustainability and Action (Are what exists now the net benefits of the intervention sustainable?)
6. Effectiveness (Did the intervention achieve its objectives?)

**Figure 1.** Summary of steps involved in the terminal evaluation.

Each project’s indicators will be assessed against the applicable evaluation criteria. The evaluation process is one of reviewing the process of meeting set terminal criteria.

#### Guidelines for conducting a SIP project terminal review

**1. PROJECT INFORMATION**

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<tr>
<th>Implementation Government and Implementing Government Institution</th>
<th>Implementing Government</th>
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<td>Mn</td>
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**Functional Title**

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<th>Section / Department</th>
<th>Address</th>
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SIP projects address gender – Argentina project

- SIP project “Capacity building programme for the implementation of the Minamata Convention”
- Completed in December 2021
- Report on “Mercury and gender issues” (Spanish)
  - Found that coordination with key actors is crucial to identify the populations that are potentially at risk
  - Suggested actions to advance public policies that provide women and pregnant women with the necessary care and support to avoid use of mercury dental amalgam.
SIP projects address gender – Armenia project

- SIP project “Strengthening capacity to promote phasing-out of mercury-added products (lamps)”
- Completed in November 2021
- Implementation of some activities carried out in close cooperation with the NGO “Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment” (AWHHE):
  - Gathered data to study the distribution of lamps in different regions
  - Developed awareness-raising campaigns in different regions.
SIP projects address gender – Iran project

- SIP project “Implementing of Minamata Convention on Mercury Management in Chlor-Alkali Plants in the Petrochemical Industry”
  - Completed in August 2021

- Project on decommissioning of chlor-alkali plant in the petrochemical industry:
  - Developed a Job Hazard Analysis tool for risk assessment focusing on gender-specific risk
  - Women were part of the implementing team
  - Developed guidelines on decommissioning of the plant, including environmentally sound management of its mercury wastes
SIP projects address gender – Antigua and Barbuda project

- SIP project “Facilitating Capacity-Building with Technical Assistance and Technology Transfer for Managing Mercury in the Caribbean”

- Completed in October 2023

- Established the Caribbean Region Mercury Monitoring Network to monitor mercury risks in the environment and the food chain, including studies of mercury levels in women of child-bearing age and testing of skin lightening products containing mercury
SIP projects address gender – Zambia project

- SIP project “To strengthen the institutional capacity to implement the obligations of the Minamata Convention by reducing the presence of mercury in vulnerable populations”

- Will conclude in February 2024

- Project focusing on mercury-added products, especially skin-lightening creams and soaps:
  - Evaluated the extent of mercury exposure through these products in vulnerable populations
  - Conducted public awareness activities
  - Developed a phase out strategy for mercury-added products, including skin lightening products
SIP projects address gender – Rwanda project

- SIP project “Strengthening the institutional capacities to implement the Minamata Convention”
- Will conclude in September 2025
- Gender specific activities and indicators in the project logical framework:
  - The Gender Monitoring Office will share expertise in gender mainstreaming
  - Information materials and media containing gender specific information will be produced
  - A national multi-stakeholder forum to highlight the impacts of mercury on gender will be organized
More gender-related resources

Gender webpage on the Minamata Convention website (LINK)

Minamata Online Season 2 Promoting gender equality in the implementation of the Convention (LINK)

“SIP story” Showing how SIP projects are taking full account of gender considerations (LINK)
Thank you for your attention

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme

WEB: www.mercuryconvention.org
MAIL: MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org
TWITTER: @minamataMEA
#MakeMercuryHistory
Global Environment Facility
Gender Mainstreaming
Policy and Practice

Minamata Convention
Knowledge Hub

02 November 2023
Geneva, Switzerland
GEF Policies

Environmental & Social Safeguards

Gender Equality

Stakeholder Engagement

GEF Policies & Guidelines:
https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/policies-guidelines
Gender Equality

The Policy

• Catalyst for gender-responsive approaches in environmental projects
  • Women are PARTNERS and beneficiaries
  • Gender inequalities are addressed
  • Minimum requirements in project design

MEAs

• With gender action plans; gender-specific targets and mandates

Gender Equality – Environmental action

• Mutually-supportive; win-win; co-benefits

Report

• Agencies reports on projects; GEF Sec reports to Council, Conventions
Gender Equality

PIF & PFD
✓ Incorporation of gender perspectives in the project description and relevant project components
✓ Confirmation that project will comply with gender policy requirements

CEO Endorsement
✓ Detailed gender analysis; gender action plan
✓ Gender-responsive measures for each project component
✓ Gender-sensitive indicators, sex-disaggregated targets

Reporting
✓ Information in PIRs, MTRs, TEs progress on gender-sensitive indicators, results
✓ Share good practice, methodologies; lessons learned
100% of Projects: with gender analysis / assessment

- **GEF Secretariat**
  - Policy instruments
  - Leadership, Gender specialist, thematic experts
- **Governments**
  - Guidance, mandate through the Council
  - Work of national steering committees, OFPs
- **Implementing agencies**
  - Compliance with agencies' own policies & standards, and GEF's policies
  - Building their teams' expertise over time
- **CSOs, other non-state stakeholders**
  - Proactivity
  - Active engagement throughout
- **MEAs**
  - Stronger integration of gender issues/gender action plans
  - Requests for support to the GEF in some cases
To promote gender equality means...

- Developing policies, plans, strategies with gender experts and women’s contributions
- Putting women in leadership positions and decision-making roles (in Boards, Steering Committees, etc.)
- Introducing measures, policies, regulations for women to have equal access and rights to resources
- Addressing or considering important gender inequalities that may impede women’s full participation and engagement:
  - Household duties
  - Cultural and social norms
  - Education/literacy; access to technology
  - Language barriers
  - Gender-based violence

Including women in consultations, awareness-raising activities, some training IS NOT ENOUGH!
Gender perspectives in projects on sound management of mercury waste (4 projects):

- ensuring women’s participation in decision-making and governance processes, trainings and capacity-building activities;
- developing gender-specific modules and technical guides for gender-responsive trainings on national regulations and international chemicals and waste conventions;
- strengthening institutional capacities at the professional and technical levels to ensure gender equality in decision-making processes regarding policy, strategies, and program design for the sound management of waste;
- capturing lessons learned and building knowledge and evidence through monitoring gender-related data on the use of, and exposure to, hazardous chemicals and their impacts, and documenting them to inform future projects, and preparing communication material for wide dissemination; and
- tracking and recording gender-specific results and reporting them during mid-term review of projects.
Gender perspectives in Enabling Activities (8 projects):

- targeting women as key stakeholders in key committees with decision-making roles;
- conducting gender analysis to serve as a basis for developing a gender mainstreaming strategy for the project;
- including gender-sensitive indicators in the project results framework;
- developing gender toolkits and conducting gender-specific training for project staff and others engaged in project implementation;
- developing communication and knowledge products that are gender-sensitive, e.g., highlighting the particularly vulnerability of women and children to mercury exposure, ensuring that this information reaches them through targeted awareness-raising campaigns.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEF Gender Partnership: Partners</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 implementing agencies gender focal points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender officers of the Secretariats of the 5 MEAs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other stakeholders: women, youth, IPLCs, CSOs</td>
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</table>
GENDER EQUITY PROGRESS

► Promote in all aspects of the program, especially in the areas of access to finance, licenses, formalization and cleaner technologies
► Increase capacity through trainings, workshops and discussions with miners, policymakers and other stakeholders
► Support alternatives to mining by developing safe and sustainable opportunities for women
► Improve and create new gender sensitive regulations
► Inform change on the government level
► Prevent gender-based violence
Gender mainstreaming in GEF ISLANDS

- The Coordination Communication and Knowledge Management global platform provides the global Gender Action Plan and training on gender mainstreaming to all regions.
- The ISLANDS Gender Equality Community is an online global community of practice hosted by the Green Forum.
- All project teams across regions are gender-balanced.
- All Caribbean National Working Groups are gender-balanced.
- Youth engagement (Tide Turners Challenge) activities in the Pacific region are undertaken with 4 young women and girls’ associations.
The QR Code has all the information you require on the GEF.

Or contact: vcollanteslebale@thegef.org