

BALIFOKUS



# Chemicals & Waste: Lessons from Nigeria

Based on the  
the scoping studies  
on gender dimensions of chemicals and wastes

Presented by:

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# About the scoping study

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The scoping study aimed to understand three gender dimensions:

- How are women and men differently impacted in their health by POPs, hazardous chemicals and waste?
- How do women and men's occupations and the roles at home and at work influence exposure to POPs, hazardous chemicals and waste?
- What best practices with women and men's leadership exist to substitute and eliminate POPs, hazardous chemicals and waste?



# About the scoping study

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- The scoping study in Nigeria took place from 9-16 January, 2017 and included visits of ministries, agencies and waste companies in both Abuja and Lagos, as well as a half-day multi-stakeholder meeting with 33 participants from different ministries, agencies, science, press and civil society organizations including women NGOs.
- The scoping study was followed by a documentary film mission from 5-13 February, 2017 in Abuja and environs as well as Lagos State.

# About the scoping study



With Nigeria's Minister of Environment, Ms Amina Mohammed during the scoping mission in Nigeria



# Key Findings

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- Uncontrolled burning of plastic waste containing POPs expose people to health risks especially women and children
- Highly toxic industrial waste being used for food preparation
- Informal “recycling” of e-waste and plastics leads to contamination of air, soil, water and pose health risks to the public

# Key findings

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Toxic dioxins and furans are emitted from open burning of municipal and plastic wastes...



# Key Findings



## High mercury levels in skin lighteners

The Tribune bought skin lightening creams throughout Chicago, sending 50 samples to Columbia Analytical Services Inc. in Kelso, Wash., to be tested for mercury. They were found to contain the toxic metal. Federal law bans mercury in skin lightening cream, though the metal is allowed in trace amounts — below 1 part per million.

MERCURY CONTENT  
OF TESTED PRODUCTS  
In parts per million



Stillman's Skin  
Bleach Cream



Top-Gel MCA  
Extra Pearl Cream



Creme Diana C.T.R.



Ling Ji Su



Lulanjina

POPs are found in breast milk, consumer products, food, water ways, meat, air ..

# Key Findings

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BRS film Nigeria...

Cooking oil found to be mixed with PCB oils in Nigeria



# Key Findings

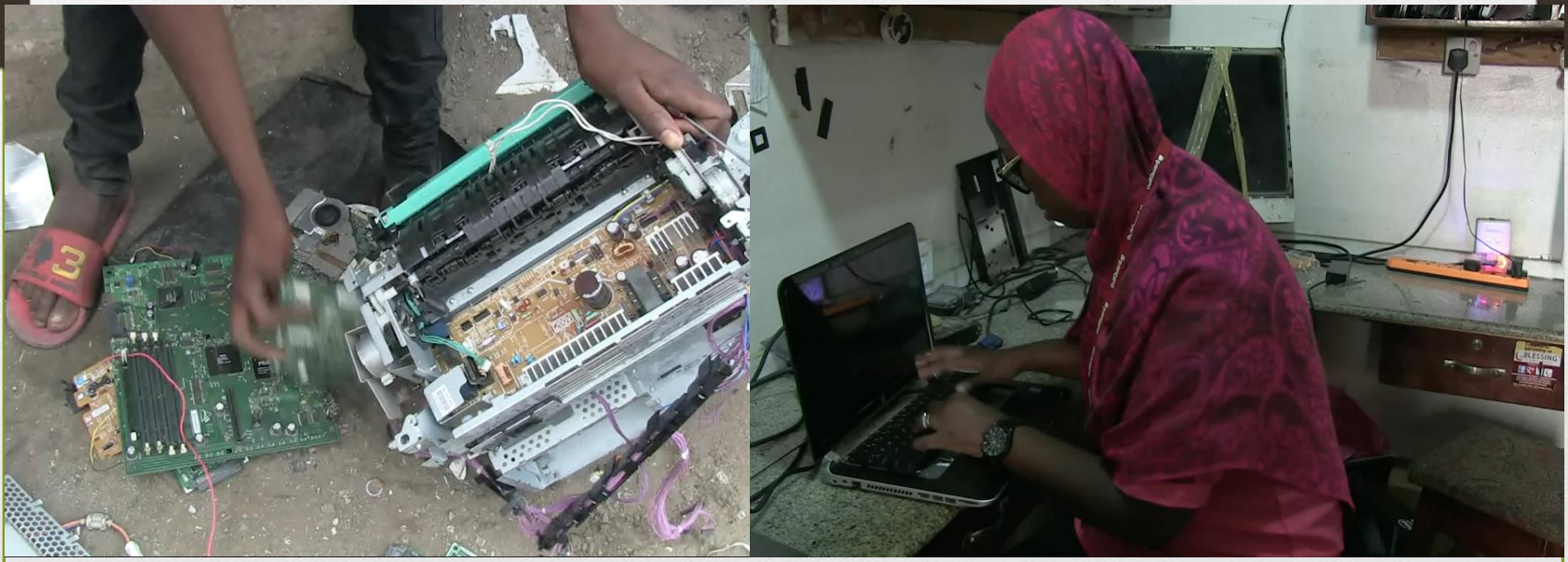


Informal electronic waste and plastic recycling is another source of POPs in Nigeria

# Key findings

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Electronic waste is one of the major sources of POPs in Nigeria





# Key findings

- Workplace exposures for **e-waste** scavengers, re-furbishers, collectors and recyclers
- **Agricultural** exposure of workers, farmers and local residents via pesticide applications, pesticide stockpiles



# Good Practices by Nigerian Government

Nigeria has already identified gender dimensions as a specific focus area in her updated implementation plan of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Activities	Action Plans	Priority Ranking	Outcomes/ Output	Performance Indicator	Responsible Institutions	Resource and needs	Cost Estimate (USD)	Funding Sources	Timeline
(1) Sensitisation and awareness raising among women to increase knowledge on POPs- exposure, its health and environmental effects	Advocacy for women farmers on minimising exposure to agricultural pesticides	4	Improved women farmers' support for minimising exposure to agricultural pesticides	Sensitised women farmers. Report of workshop / town-hall meeting.	FMENV, FMI, FME, FMA & RD, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA) and NGO	Financial Support	300,000	Nigerian Govt., GEF, Bilateral & Multilateral Donors, and Multinationals	2016-2018
	Sensitisation of rural women on traditional practices that could lead to POPs exposure e.g. using of tyre scraps for cooking and land clearance; and open burning; fossil fuel and firewood.	4	Reduced POPs exposure among rural women	Rural women sensitised on risk of POPs exposure through traditional practices	FMEnv, FMI, FMA & RD, FMWA and NGO.	Financial Support	500,000	Nigerian Govt., Bilateral and Multilateral donors	2016-2019

Figure 7. Mainstreaming Gender Perspective. Source: Nigeria Federal Ministry of Environment, 2016, Activity 3.3.11.



# Recommendations and Next Steps in 4 focus areas

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## POLICIES

Develop Gender Action Plan

Implement Extended Producer Responsibility policies

Support alternative to chemical pesticides and insecticides

## ACTORS

Inter-ministerial coordination on gender

Gender capacity building authorities waste management personnel

Partner with women's and Environmental CSOs

## ACTIONS/steps

Ban single use plastics like it has been done in Kenya and Rwanda.

12<sup>th</sup> Dec.& January meetings in Abuja on gender actions:

- Gender Chemicals Awards
- Gender Budgeting...

## DATA

Sex disaggregated data

Gender assessments

Norms, standards

Verification

# Conclusion

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- Exposure to chemicals has deleterious effects on human health and the environment. Given the biological sensitivity (hormonal systems) of women and children, exposure to chemicals affect them more adversely.
- To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) there must be a strong commitment by government to address the pollution of environment by chemicals which negatively impacts human health.



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**Thank you**