



Gender Chemicals & Waste Recommendations

Cooperation Project with the UN Secretariat
of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
on gender dimensions of chemicals and wastes

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Supported by:



BASEL CONVENTION



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



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The project

The scoping study looked at 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 in government, NGOs and private sector?







Priority action areas

- 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 informal workers are a public health risk from contamination of air, soil, water and food.

Products likely to contain or emit harmful chemicals:

Product	Examples	Photo Example	Related Substances	Exposure Type
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	PVC bottles, flooring, rainwear, toys		Dioxin (UPOP) when burned	Air pollution from waste burning
Meat	Smoked meat from cows eating waste or near burning sites		UPOPs from burning old tires in abattoirs	Eating meat
Milk	From cows near waste dumps		UPOPs (e.g. dioxins)	Drinking milk
Fish	From inland lagoons		PCBs, mercury	Eating fish
Eggs	From chicken on waste dumps		Dioxins from UPOPs	Eating eggs
Pulses, grains	Residues of POPs pesticides		DDT, chlordane, dieldrin	Eating pulses, grains
Cooking pots, pans	Non-stick Teflon, recycled lead		PFOS, lead	Cooking
Tooth fillings	Amalgam		Mercury	When put in or taken out, or worker exposures in dentistry
Gold mining	Amalgamation process		Mercury, lead	Working with mercury or lead without protection
Skin cream	Skin bleaching creams (some)		Mercury	Absorption from skin

Figure 6. Hazardous chemicals and related exposures in consumer & industrial products and waste. Source: WECF

Product	Example	Photo Example	Related Substances	Exposure Type
Electronics	Refurbished electronics; industrial products used in electrical equipment (coolants, insulating materials and lubricants)(Manhart et al., 2011)		PCBs; lead, cadmium, mercury and other heavy metals; phthalates; PBDEs; toner chemicals; dioxins and furans from burning (Manhart et al., 2011)	Workplace exposures for refurbishers, collectors and recyclers; indirect exposure via environmental pollution
Recycled e-waste plastic	Imported products made from recycled plastics (e.g., toys)		May contain recycled POPs such as OctaDBE, DecaDBE and HBCD	Through skin and inhalation from abrasion, wear and tear of the product
Refrigerants and foaming agents	Old refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners (Manhart et al., 2011)		CFCs, HFCs, hydrocarbons, mercury switches, PCB-containing capacitors, PVC, ammonia, hexavalent chromium (Manhart et al., 2011)	Workplace exposures for refurbishers, collectors and recyclers; indirect exposure via environmental pollution
Industrial equipment	Transformers, capacitors, hydraulic fluids, plasticizers, surface coatings, adhesives, pesticides, carbonless copy, dyes, waxes		PCBs	Workplace exposures for refurbishers, collectors and recyclers; indirect exposure via environmental pollution
Waste products	Industrial waste, municipal and solid waste, electrical and electronic equipment waste (e-waste)		PCB-contaminated oils and equipment	Workplace exposures for refurbishers, collectors and recyclers; indirect exposure via environmental pollution
Pesticides	Herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides, imported POPs pesticides (Nigeria Federal Ministry of Environment, 2009)		Aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, toxaphene, endosulfan (Nigeria Federal Ministry of Environment, 2009)	Agricultural exposure of workers, farmers and local residents via pesticide applications and unsecured pesticide stockpiles; indirect exposure via environmental pollution

Good Practices by Nigerian Government

Nigeria has already identified gender dimensions as a specific focus area in her updated **National 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	FME, 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 for possible Next Steps in 4 focus areas

POLICIES

Gender Action Plan, Gender budgetting

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

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

January meeting in Abuja on gender actions:

- Gender Chemicals Awards

- ...

DATA

Sex disaggregated data

Gender assessments

Norms, standards

Verification

Actions which do not require new and additional funding

- Each staff in Government/Agencies makes their plan for gender responsive implementation
- Annual award
- Incentives to promote more women in decision making
- Specific actions – e.g. commit to end ‘all male’ committees panels, or commit to prevent all sexual harassment
- Gender budgeting – ministry and local level
- Increase gender disaggregated data

Actions which do require funds

- Training of all ministry / agency staff on integrating gender responsive actions into their work

- Train (local) women skills to be in boards and decision making positions (law-making, companies)
- Develop joint funding proposals integrating gender, chemicals and climate change actions
 - PCB oil containment and shipment for destruction in EU
 - Local production of alternatives to plastics e.g. bamboo grown on waste water
 - Community waste collection and recycling schemes, women entrepreneurs
 - Production of alternative pesticides from Neem with women farmers
 - Briquette production & biogas from agricultural waste, instead of burning
- TV shows about chemicals in products, avoiding contamination

Thank you