

UNDP Guidance Document: Gender and Chemicals

# MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO UNDP-GEF PROJECTS ON CHEMICALS AND WASTE

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## About this document

This Guide to Mainstreaming Gender into UNDP-GEF Projects on Chemicals and Wastes was developed in February 2017 to support the chemicals and waste programmes and projects in countries at the national and regional levels. It is intended to guide UNDP MPU/Chemicals Regional Technical Advisors, UNDP Country Offices, project teams, consultants, and implementing partners by describing the steps that should be taken to ensure that gender considerations are an integral part of projects on chemicals and wastes.

### Scope of the Guide

The Guide is consistent with existing gender mainstreaming policies, including those highlighted in the Rio Declaration on environment and development<sup>1</sup>, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants<sup>2</sup>, the Minamata Convention on Mercury<sup>3</sup>, the Dubai Declaration of SAICM<sup>4</sup>, the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>5</sup>, the GEF policy on gender mainstreaming guidelines and processes<sup>6</sup>, and the Guide to Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP Supported GEF Financed Projects of October 2016. However, it is considered to be a living tool and subject for update if new requirements are introduced by UNDP or GEF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992) Rio Declaration on environment and development,

http://www.unep.org/documents.multilingual/default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Stockholm Convention preamble, http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/2232/Default.aspx <sup>3</sup> Minamata Convention on Mercury

http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/conventionText/Minamata%20Convention%20Aercury\_e.pdf <sup>4</sup> UNEP - WHO (2006) Dubai Declaration, para 18, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

http://www.saicm.org/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=475

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly, A/RES/70/1 http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Gender\_Mainstreaming\_Policy-2012\_0.pdf

## Introduction

This Guide has been prepared as a supplement to the Guide to Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP Supported GEF Financed Projects of October 2016. Both documents were commissioned to provide guidance on how gender should be mainstreamed into projects supported by UNDP and financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). This Guide specifically identifies the gender considerations that should be integrated into projects on sound chemicals and waste management and builds upon the UNDP MPU/Chemicals publication on Chemicals and Gender<sup>7</sup> of 2011, which describes the important linkages between development, gender, and chemicals management.

Understanding the relationship between gender and sound chemicals management is important for the overall effectiveness of any project on chemicals and wastes. Women and men are impacted differently by chemicals and through different routes. They have different experiences of dealing with sources of exposure, and different priorities, responsibilities and needs relating to the reduction of toxic chemicals and wastes. In many developing countries, women and men also often have different levels of access to participation, decision-making, information, education or justice, and face different constraints in their efforts to improve their environment and living conditions. They can also play different roles in making decisions about pollution prevention, waste management, identification of sources of chemical exposure, and building a safer environment for communities.

Gender mainstreaming in projects on chemicals and waste is a relatively new strategy. It is aimed at making female and male views and concerns over toxic chemicals exposure an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on chemicals and waste so that women and men benefit equally from the outcomes with the goal to achieve gender equality in sound chemicals management.

The Guide focuses on the requirements of the GEF that are aimed at advancing gender equality at the national level. It is largely based on the review and assessment of the current UNDP-GEF projects on chemicals and waste. This document provides guidance for the following activities, resulting in a gender action plan, described in five Chapters below:

- 1. Considering gender dimensions during project design;
- 2. Developing specific gender-related activities during project design;
- 3. Developing gender-specific indicators during project design;
- 4. Developing gender-specific activities to support project outcomes within the context of a gender action plan; and
- 5. Considering gender issues during project evaluations (midterm and final).

Seven Annexes with concrete examples and suggestions for gender-related activities, indicators and budgets, as well as the Terms of Reference for consultants on gender and chemicals and an example of the Gender Workshop agenda are included.

In general, the Guide includes the following recommendations for UNDP-GEF projects on chemicals and wastes:

- Conduct gender analysis, collect sex-disaggregated data, and conduct gender trainings for involved staff and project participants for all chemicals and waste projects;
- Develop quantitative and qualitative gender indicators (including considerations such as education, social aspects, and religion) for projects on chemicals and waste to better understand gender and social class implications related to chemicals and waste topics, which will further lead to improved conditions for women and men equally, and empower women to play an active role as agents of change; and

 $<sup>^{7}\</sup> http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/chemicals_management/chemicals-and-gender.html$ 

• Strengthen existing sections on gender-related outputs and outcomes contained in project documentation<sup>8</sup> for UNDP-GEF projects on chemicals and wastes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> GEF Project Identification Form (PIF), CEO-Endorsement document and UNDP project document

## Chapter 1: Gender dimensions to be considered during project design

One of the lessons learned from past chemicals and waste projects is that a lack of gender analysis at the project design stage results in a low level of women participating and involved during project implementation. Another lesson that has been learned is that considering gender issues at the design stage could have helped to overcome certain cultural, social and religious norms and influences in some countries. To ensure the participation of women, project designers must first conduct a gender analysis and determine which gender considerations are relevant to the project. These considerations depend on a number of factors, including the chemicals and/or waste targeted within the project; the availability of information on their health effects; project goals and objectives; project location; project stakeholders; and planned activities; among others.

Typically, activities on chemicals and wastes ignore gender aspects, which is the result of a lack of understanding of the differences in gender susceptibility to chemical exposure as well as the different roles women and men play in chemicals and waste management and the various responsibilities they have at different levels, including the household level.

#### Key challenges to including gender aspects in UNDP-GEF projects on chemicals and wastes

- Funding levels and funding rules for gender-specific activities
- Lack of knowledge about gender aspects
- Difficulties in identification of valuable gender-specific indicators and activities
- Difficulties in finding gender activities in the project field
- Difficulties in finding a key expert/consultant specialized in gender and chemicals
- Difficulties in measuring impact of project outcomes on women who are not directly involved in project activities
- Difficulties in identification of social groups of women to be targeted (waste pickers, students, housewives, others)
- Difficulties in measuring direct impacts
- Cultural aspects / Reluctance towards gender mainstreaming

Including gender considerations at the project design stage will help to ensure that separate budget lines are included to:

- Implement gender-specific activities within the project;
- Hire a gender and chemicals expert;
- Conduct gender-related trainings for project coordinators and staff;
- Hold gender-focused meetings for project stakeholders;
- Collect sex disaggregated data; and
- Develop gender-specific recommendations.

# Chapter 2: Gender-related activities to be considered during project design

Projects on chemicals and wastes have clear links to Agenda 2030 and contribute to achieving relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>910</sup>. Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is included in SDG 5 with the following major targets:

5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

5a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

5c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

To contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to SDG 5 in particular, UNDP-GEF projects on chemicals and wastes should have gender-specific activities that will make gender and chemical safety components an integral part of the whole project cycle. Special attention should be paid to collecting sex-disaggregated data. However, these projects usually lack gender-specific activities, including collecting of sex-disaggregated data, which may undermine the differences between gender susceptibility to chemical exposure.

The following gender-specific activities could be considered:

- Assess gender-related national legislation (brief desk review);
- Analyze the link between gender-related national legislation and project goals and objectives;
- Collect baseline gender information and sex-disaggregated data;
- Assess risk reduction measures (for example, reduce the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers; use traditional knowledge and agroecology; introduce safer chemical and non-chemicals alternatives; promote the use of protective measures, etc.) within the project to better prevent the adverse effects of chemicals on the health of men and women;
- Organize gender-specific technical and capacity-building trainings for project managerial staff and project implementing partners;
- Assess the participation of women and men in decision-making;
- Develop gender-specific quantitative and qualitative indicators to facilitate project monitoring and assessment;
- Develop a Gender Action Plan with outputs and activities that respond to the gender analysis. Please see the UNDP-GEF Gender Mainstreaming Guidance Document for instructions on how to develop a Gender Action Plan as well as a template with examples.
- Hold a gender-specific outreach campaign for project stakeholders;
- Define gender-specific recommendations as part of project outcomes;
- Conduct regular project monitoring using gender-specific indicators; andConduct project evaluation using gender-specific indicators.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly, A/RES/70/1 http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

 $<sup>\</sup>label{eq:linear} \end{tabular} \end{tabular} $$ \end{t$ 

#### Steps in collecting baseline gender information and sex-disaggregated data

Collecting gender-disaggregated data is important to better identify routes of exposure and chemicals' impacts on the health of women and men. Lack of such data results in poor exposure standards that are "usually based on an assumed average male height and body weight and this reduces protection for both women and children"<sup>11</sup>. Baseline gender-disaggregated data provides the foundation for a better understanding of gender-dependent hazards that, in turn, will improve the design and implementation of protective and preventive measures. While collecting sex-disaggregated data it is important to focus on men and women rather than on one gender only. Having comparable data for men and women will facilitate the evaluation of the project's effectiveness in benefiting women and men equally.

To collect sex-disaggregated data, it is possible to utilize both quantitative and qualitative methods while using available resources such as national statistics, reports, surveys, stakeholder interviews and outcomes of the relevant round table discussions, brainstorming, and in depth personal interviews. While using these and other methods to collect sex-disaggregated data, it is important that women's views are equally represented to avoid a situation where surveys and interviews present men's opinions only.

For projects on chemicals and wastes, the following baseline gender information and sex-disaggregated data could be considered:

#### • Define chemicals' health effects on women and men

The following information could be utilized: Literature review, available statistics data, and interviews with health providers and patients. Ensure that interviewees represent females and males equally. Consider organizing individual interviews as well as group interviews, both by gender and mixed groups. In some countries women are not used to discussing their health problems with men and may be more willing to speak openly in women only groups.

#### • Define gender-specific routes of exposure

The following information could be utilized: Results of national human biomonitoring, literature review, reports from global human biomonitoring projects, and interviews with project stakeholders and community leaders. Collecting this type of gender information and sex-disaggregated data could also require field trips to the communities. Ensure that the project field team consists of men and women. This is specifically important in countries where females do not interact freely with males and where male fieldworkers will not be allowed to interview females in the community.

• Assess the economic conditions of the women related to the project

The following information could be utilized: Statistic data national conarts on accommis

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