



a toxics-free future

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International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: Awareness-raising in schools on SAICM and Chemicals

NGO: Association du Reseau Mediterranee Pour le Developpement Durable (AREMEDD)

Country: Tunisia

Date: February 2011

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Include civil society representatives in Government committees formulating, carrying out and monitoring SAICM implementation plans, or useful inputs into the process where NGOs encounter barriers to their substantive direct participation, broad and meaningful participation of stakeholders, including women, at all levels in devising responses to chemicals management challenges and in regulatory and decision-making processes that relate to chemical safety (164, 206)

Description of Stockholm Convention or SAICM implementation-related policy processes that you have participated in or contributed to:

Since July 2010, AREMEDD as a network has been the focal point of Tunisian NGOs, and participates in the implementation of SAICM in order to disseminate the content and objectives. It also organizes campaigns and targeted activities to raise children's and students' awareness,

as well as the awareness of housewives and workers in industrial or agricultural fields, to prevent and reduce the hazardous effects of chemicals and heavy metals.

AREMEDD is also working to spread the culture of the environment by focusing on the ban of mercury and lead in paint and the elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in accordance with its commitments with SAICM.

AREMEDD, as a member of IPEN, also has programs to explain relevant international declarations in these fields, particularly IPEN's Dubai Declaration and Stockholm Declaration. AREMEDD organizes in Tunis Arab and Mediterranean conferences, particularly conferences relating to a secure Mediterranean environment and the secure management of chemicals. AREMEDD signed a convention with the Executive Secretary of International Convention on Biodiversity (August, 2010) in order to create biological school gardens, over 500 in all Tunisia. This project will be linked with AREMEDD's projects of sensitization against harmful chemicals and heavy metals.

AREMEDD is member of MIO, and RAED and participates to all common meetings between the Arab Ministers council for environment and Arab NGO's (with the cooperation of the Arab League).

Description of NGO positions, priorities and concerns with the process:

- Our priority consists of helping the maximum number of Tunisian NGOs, members of our network, to enhance their capacities in implementing SAICM programs, and for giving an appropriate response to their main concerns in those fields. Our approach is based on the results of our contacts and dialogue with NGOs and stakeholders to know their concerns before organizing our common activities in their areas.
- Most of these involved NGOs are widely interested in our programs and participate in the success of the activities, sensitisation, and education, in schools and in social and economical sectors.
- We analysed our action and our partners' contributions and we drew the following ideas and proposals, mainly:
 - The need to participate in workshops for raising and improving capacities in the field of hazardous chemicals, the safe management of heavy metals (mercury and lead), implementing SAICM, and small batteries, in the spreading of the environment culture
 - Framework of SAICM implementation plans.

Project Outcomes:

Description of the activity conducted or type of participation that was organized:

1. Starting the implementation of the Program on February 4th, 2010 at the oasis of Gafsa with the active participation of 12 of NGOs from South, Central and North Tunisia, 120 students, 8 teachers, 100 citizens (male and female).
 - AREMEDD also focused its campaign on the safe use of pesticides in the oasis and organized a model demonstration for farmers as well about water protection against hazardous chemicals.





2. On February 9, 2010 in Hammam Lif (Ben Arous Governorate, south Tunis)
 - A workshop for NGOs and students for schools was illustrated by the participation of 14 NGOs, 170 students, and 12 educators, who participated in a competition on the identification of pictograms of hazardous chemicals and small batteries. Questionnaires were submitted for students to test their knowledge in the field of pesticides, 67% responded positively.



3. AREMEDD participated on the 15th and 16th of February 2010, in Tunis at the conference of the Arab Maghreb Farmers on plant health and the dangers of pesticides. AREMEDD Chairman Mohamed Mehdi Mlika delivered the speech opening the conference and developed the main points of the SAICM plan and explanations about the dangers of POPs and the need of a safe pesticides use. He explained IPEN (in which AREMEDD is a member) actions.

AREMEDD participated actively in the committee work of the conference.



4. At Hammam Sousse, 17 February 2010

A campaign to raise awareness on used batteries to the benefit pupils and students. A workshop on this theme, including heavy metals and the need to ban mercury and lead in paint, was organized for students and parents. 35 NGOs attended this campaign.



5. March 6, 2010 at Borj Cedria (Ben Arous): A training workshop for awareness (with the participation of 6 schools) on the protection of health and the environment against pesticides and used batteries: 200 students were involved in this activity as well as 70 Boy Scouts



6. At Bizerte (Ichkeul National Park): A workshop was held for 28 NGOs on the protection of biodiversity against hazardous chemicals and heavy metals. In this workshop were representatives of the national company of iron and steel industry (El Fouledh), the largest in Tunisia and whose program of work focuses on the protection of Ichkeul Lake and Park Area, which is classified as UNESCO World Heritage Site.



7. On July 23, 2010 in Monastir:

The themes of the Mediterranean Sea and biodiversity and against used batteries and hazardous chemicals were developed during a campaign with the participation of 9 schools and 330 children.

Special attention was paid to this activity by the city Municipality Council Mayor and the governor of the region, who attended the opening of the campaign.

In addition, a workshop was organized for students on the theme of Stockholm Convention and new POPs.

Participants called on Arab and African governments to adopt efficient measures against hazardous chemical waste, heavy metals and electronic waste.



8. 2 August, 2010 in Kelibia (Governorate of Nabeul): Important activities were organized:

- Starting of a campaign on the prevention of hazards of chemicals, heavy metals, and especially used batteries in the schools.
- 34 NGOs participated in this activity, which experienced a large presence of children, parents and tourists (420 persons in total).
- The first Festival of the Siren was also organized, in the framework of AREMEDD Program's «Clean Sea For All" with the main objective: to protect the marine environment against chemical pollution.

- A carnival was organized with the participation of many children and citizens: The protection of health and environment in Nabeul region against heavy metals (Zero-Zero: mercury and lead in paint).



During the Carnival, young boys walking on stilts, taking banners, calling for Zero Mercury Zero lead in paints

- The action that has attracted the most public attention: Young people walking on stilts and carrying banners with slogans "Zero Mercury, Zero Lead in Paint" Additionally:
 - The participation of the Majorettes of Sousse, playing music in the main streets of Kelibia;
 - Activities of sensitization and awareness-raising at the beach of Kelibia on preventing hazardous of chemicals on seaside and sea biodiversity;
 - On August 2 (evening) a Mediterranean conference at the White Kelibia Hotel "GO" on the theme Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Chemical Pollution : NGOs, Tunisians and Mediterranean experts in chemicals and environment took part to this event.



9. 7 August, 2010 in Tunis, AREMEDD organized wide activities to mark the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, through an awareness campaign on the title "Reducing the hazards of chemicals on biodiversity."
- The event was marked by the presence of Mr. Ahmed Joghlef, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biodiversity.
- It was attended by students who have shown their good knowledge of the hazards of chemicals and used batteries on biodiversity.
- The tests organized for them, in the presence of Mr. Joghlef, allowed everyone to understand their level of knowledge.
- At this occasion, an agreement was signed between AREMEDD and the Executive Secretariat of the United Nations Convention specifying that:
- AREMEDD is engaged in the implementation of the Programme of the "Green Wave" of the International Convention on Biodiversity, through the involvement of the 500 biological school gardens program, including annual events to raise awareness about the safe use of chemicals, heavy metals and a better knowledge of the SAICM plan in these schools.



First person on the right Mr Joghlef. On his right M.Mlika, AREMEDD president



10. On September 7 2010 at Mateur (Bizerte):

AREMEDD made a statement on a serious situation marked by the presence of three electrical transformers, apparently inoperable, abandoned on the sidewalk of a central avenue of the city, beside several barrels containing residues of pyralene, where children were playing in direct contact with these drums and these transformers, totally unaware of the dangers.

AREMEDD sensitized these children against the danger, alerted the local authorities and sent to the department concerned and urgent correspondences asking them to immediately end the situation and ensure that such cases will not be repeated.

Impact on target groups:

The target groups were engaged via the activities described above. In total, 52 schools, 1600 students and pupils, 450 educators, 300 women and 37 NGOs had their awareness about chemical hazards raised.

Outreach to stakeholders:

To implement our program in the IPEN-AREMEDD agreement, AREMEDD covered the following regions in Tunisia (with the local NGOs' and authorities' participation):

- Tunis, February 2010.
- Gafsa, April 2010
- Ben Arous, March 2010
- Gabes, May 2010
- Bizerte, September 2010
- Sfax, October 2010.

While the program in the agreement cooperation was adopted to cover six governorates (states) and to include 36 schools, 1500 students, 400 educators and 1500 citizens, we actually reached:

- 8 Governorates: Tunis, Ben Arous, Sousse, Monastir, Gafsa, Nabeul (Kelibia), Kairouan, Bizerte
- Gafsa : 4 February 2010
- Tunis: 15-16 February 2010
- Sousse: 18 February 2010
- Ben Arous: 6 Mars 2010
- Nabeul 12-15 Mai 2010
- Monastir 23 July 2010
- Tunis 7 August 2010
- Kairouan 6 September 2010
- Bizerte 14 September 2010

The theme of used batteries was the most important common denominator of our campaign of awareness and sensitisation actions in different regions of Tunisia, in addition to other aspects of implementation of the SAICM program.

In addition to associations, students, educators and parents, the presence of representatives of the authorities was remarkable.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

Flyer, report