



**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:** EE-Waste- a New Emerging Danger: EE-Waste National Awareness Campaign

**NGO:** Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP)

**Country:** Jordan

**Date:** February 2011

### **Elements of SAICM Covered:**

Activities relating to identification and assessment of where issues relating to the sound management of chemicals arise during the lifespan of electrical and electronic products, including the design of such products, green chemistry, recycling and disposal, in particular in the context of the requirements of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, participation in the workshop on electronic waste be held in the margins of the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group meeting of the Basel Convention and follow up recommendations and options for the SAICM OEWG and ICCM3 (ICCM2 decision II/4)

**Definition of e-waste and near end of life items and the hazardous chemicals contained in them:**

Electronic and Electrical Waste (e-e-waste) is defined according to the bylaw on Management, Transportation and Handling of Harmful and Hazardous Substances No: 24/2005 as substances that cannot be disposed of in the dumping sites designated for general waste, or into drainage networks, due to their hazardous characteristics and their harmful effects on the environment and life forms, and which require special means to treat and permanently dispose of. Jordan classifies e-e-waste as a hazardous waste according to the National Technical Committee, established by the law 24/2005 that manages hazardous substances and waste.

**Description of the situation with regard to e-waste that is generated in the country vs. waste that enters the country:**

E-e-waste is a growing issue globally, regionally and at the national Jordanian level. According to the Department of Statistics, 31.3% of the Jordanian population own computers (Jordan population is 6 million), excluding computers owned by private companies, universities, schools, commercial sector, stores, etc., with a percentage more or less equal to the same percentage indicated above. This percentage is on the increase with a rate of more than 5% annually. Therefore in a few years time, Jordan will start to encounter a real problem in soundly managing waste generated by this type of equipment and other related electronic and electrical devices.

As Jordan has recently launched a couple of initiatives and programs (among which is Madrasaty, E-government, a laptop to Each University Student), computers specifically are highly purchased, having in mind that 35% of the Jordanian population are students in schools and universities. In addition, the Jordanian market is saturated with cellular phones exceeding the Jordanian population. Picking up just one example, Jordan's number of cellular phones has increased manifold over the past couple of years. Today, and after 12 years of licensing the first cellular phone company, Jordanians have about 6 million cellular phones, a number exceeding the Jordanian population. Jordanians are culturally attracted by technology and therefore, their cultural setup is very much influenced by what you have at home and in your hand. Therefore, much electronic and electrical new digital equipment are invading Jordanian minds before homes and offices. Jordanians are thus fond of technology and one concludes this is associated with the generation of wastes connected to this new electronic and electrical advanced and digital technology.

Official figures for the year 2007 showed that 99% of houses in the Kingdom are connected to the electricity grid, 97.7% are connected to the potable water network and 57.3% connected to a sewage system. The following table of percentages released in the year 2007 by the Department of Statistics shows electrical and electronic devices Jordanians own, in addition to other important percentages as follows:

Population of Jordan	6 million
Mobile phone	86%
Computers	31.3%
Televisions	94%
Refrigerators	90.6%
Washing machine	90.4%
Jordanian families:	941 thousand
Number of dwellings (houses):	1 million and 121 thousand
Dwellings in Jordan connected to the public electricity:	1 Million,109 thousand

At the legislation level one can say that the country has established the basic institutions needed to initiate an action to manage and control ee-waste. The Ministry of Environment was established in the year 2003 with the mandate to protect the natural and human environment. Additional directorates and national committees are established as per the environment protection law such as the Directorate of Licensing and Guidance, Central Licensing Committee, EIA committee, Directorate of Hazardous Substances and Waste Management and the National Technical Committee. Two other institutions were established of high importance that relate to the work of managing ee-waste: the Royal Administration for the Protection of Environment

(Environmental Police Department) and the Ministry of Telecommunication. Jordan has also adopted its National Action Plan – the National Agenda - in the year 2006 to improve the socio-economic and environmental status. The Ministry of Environment developed its Executive Plan to the Ministry of Environment Strategy for the year 2010. Moreover, the Ministry of Environment proposed the Policy of EE-Waste in the country in the process of its endorsement.

Most of the environmental NGOs are interested as per their mandates; meanwhile others have implemented projects such as Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP) which has implemented two projects on ee-waste over the past two years.

### **Description of the current practices for dealing with e-waste and near end of life electrical equipment:**

Jordan has for the past couple of years identified a site about 80 km South East of Amman to store hazardous waste called "Swaqa". This site is one place where hazardous waste (among which is e-e-waste) can be stored. Other options could include the possibility of exporting hazardous waste outside the country. In view of this emerging matter of e-e-waste, a pilot facility can be established that includes all parties specifically mandated to handle e-e-waste, with suggested collection systems with the participation of the Ministry of Environment, Greater Amman Municipality, the Ministry of Telecommunication, Jordan Chamber of Commerce and Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP), or in general the civil society interested or involved in the issue. No system is existing in Jordan for the collection of electrical and electronic waste. Sporadic initiatives are available where spare parts are re-used, but at the end some waste is generated. Moreover, it is not known where the toxic part of the equipment ends up.

### **Description of any contaminated sites that have resulted from e-waste:**

No sites are identified due to the fact that this issue is new.

### **Project Outcomes:**

#### **Description of the activity conducted:**

During the project life a series of activities were organized:

1. An assessment study was conducted to examine the current situation.
2. Two questionnaire studies were conducted that addressed 200 schools in the Kingdom and 65 electronic shops in Amman.
3. A brochure on ee-waste was developed which contains basic information on ee-waste for the purpose of raising community awareness about the topic.
4. A couple of SMSs were developed and circulated through LHAP electronic network.
5. Several community consultations were organized and addressed the following communities:
  - a. The topic was presented in 4 workshops within a current project LHAP is carrying out addressing CSOs to empower their intervention in public policies. In these workshops more than 200 CSOs attended the training, during which the topic of ee-waste was discussed as an issue that needs policy. The four workshops took place in Aqaba, Madaba, Jerash and Amman.
  - b. The topic was also presented in 4 conferences addressing students in which more than 200 students and teachers were targeted. The 4 meetings were part of a project on "Students Parliament" with the purpose of educating them about their rights and encouraging them to become politically active. The four meetings took place in the following towns: Tafileh, Zarqa, Amman and Ajloun.
  - c. A one day meeting including a field visit was organized for a group of escorts coming from the Arab World on June 6, 2010 (Global Environment Day), during

which the issue of ee-waste was presented and discussed. The estimated number of participants was about 30 people.

- d. A campaign of 3 days targeting the general public in coffee shops in 3 cities (Amman, Zarqa and Irbid) run by university students who received some training to carry out this task. Interviewees received brochures and got into discussion with the students. About 100 people were targeted in this campaign.
- e. One major gathering targeted the main importers and producers were organized with an estimated number equal to 70 people.

### **Impact on target groups:**

The targeted group was engaged using different methodologies. People engaged with current LHAP projects were the first to engage. Such type of people are the CSOs, students, teachers and supporters. The second group was random the way it was done in the coffee shops. The third was through supporters through the electronic networks. The fourth was targeted groups who are considered to be important, such as media and importers. Being something new, the topic attracted the attention of all Jordanians. Some of the remarks noted are:

1. Ee-waste is new topic to Jordanians.
2. Jordanians were not aware of the toxic content of electrical and electronic equipment.
3. Jordanians want to cooperate, but the system is not yet in place.
4. National initiatives are undergoing with the involvement of all stakeholders.
5. The media got attracted heavily and have contributed to the community's interest.

### **Impact on target policies:**

As the Ministry of Environment is one of the collaborators, and supportive of this initiative, it plans seriously to produce legislation that specifically relates to this matter.

### **Outreach to stakeholders:**

The public, private, academia, CSOs and media were involved. Examples are the Ministry of Environment, Jordan Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Education, schools and a wide number of CSOs and students.

### **Deliverables, outputs and/or products:**

This project revealed the following: the production of an assessment report, a brochure, an aware community, the organization of several consultations addressing all the main cities of Jordan, an SMS campaign and the organization of two questionnaire studies (one addressing schools and the second downstream vendors).

### **Communication efforts:**

Media was heavily involved. This project has received a wide media coverage including TV, radio and daily newspapers.

[http://www.alarabalyawm.net/pages.php?news\\_id=227518](http://www.alarabalyawm.net/pages.php?news_id=227518)

<http://petra.gov.jo/Artical.aspx?Lng=2&Section=1&Artical=195511>

[http://www.alrai.com/pages.php?news\\_id=347187](http://www.alrai.com/pages.php?news_id=347187)

### **NGO Recommendations for next steps:**

1. Carry out further community awareness campaigns.
2. Come up with a national legislation in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment.
3. Establish a collection system through the involvement of the Ministry of Environment, Jordan Chamber of Commerce, Greater Amman Municipality and LHAP.