

# STRENGTHENING MERCURY FREE HEALTH CARE CAMPAIGN IN NEPAL THROUGH NATIONAL LEVEL PUBLIC AWARENESS

## Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED)

### Nepal

This project investigates the extent of mercury pollution in the health care sector of Nepal (including dental institutions and other health care settings) and suggests recommendations to transition to a mercury-free healthcare system. In addition, the project provides data on the status of mercury pollution in Nepal across a range of sectors, including health care products, lighting products and cosmetics. CEPHED also provides research outcomes on mercury pollution from industrial sources as well as the results of biomonitoring from fish and humans (including a subsection on the mercury body burden of health care professionals). The combined outcomes of this research was presented in a series of awareness-raising meetings throughout Nepal that resulted in strong engagement with high level policy officials, health care professionals and NGOs.



### Highlights of the project include:

- preparation, production and distribution of a Briefing Paper on Mercury
- awareness-raising and training program on mercury-free dentistry and health care services in Biratnagar, Chitwan, Pokhara in association with the Nepal Dental Association and its district chapter, directly benefiting over 250 dental professionals, government officials, journalists, NGOs, medical students and teachers.
- considerable public interest through broad media coverage
- a High Level Policy Meeting about mercury-free dentistry and health care services in Kathmandu, Nepal

The project also influenced some tertiary institutions to change dental curricula toward mercury-free dentistry and government to consider adding dental amalgam to the 2013 ban on mercury-based medical equipment (a policy position which CEPHED had campaigned for strongly).



(Above) CEPHED team promoting mercury-free dentistry in a rally on World Oral Health Day. (Photo by Dr. Shahriar Hossain)

(Below) High Level Policy Meeting on Mercury-Free Dentistry and Health Care Services in Nepal.



## IMEAP – INTERNATIONAL MERCURY-TREATY ENABLING ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

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