

International Mercury Treaty Enabling Activities Program (IMEAP)

Following the signing of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (the ‘mercury treaty’) in 2013 and the release of the IPEN Minamata Declaration on Toxic Metals, IPEN expanded its Mercury-Free Campaign and developed a broad program of treaty-enabling activities to be implemented in conjunction with IPEN Participating Organizations (POs). The International Mercury Treaty Enabling Activities Program (IMEAP) is geared toward raising awareness about the mercury treaty while generating data on key thematic elements of mercury pollution to help enable countries to implement the Minamata Convention.

IPEN launched IMEAP in early 2014 and continues to mobilise resources for IPEN POs to conduct activities that support implementation of the mercury treaty¹.

The key objectives of the IPEN IMEAP are:

1. *Preparing for Treaty Ratification & Implementation:* Creating synergies between NGOs in developing countries with ongoing UN agency or government-led mercury activities and NGO priority-setting.
2. *Enabling Activities to Prepare Countries for Treaty Ratification & Implementation:* Support to NGOs to carry out national and thematic mercury treaty activities.
3. *Communication of Issues Related to Mercury and Treaty Ratification & Implementation:* Global dissemination of project results & south-south collaboration.

The following project forms part of the overall IMEAP activities and contributes to the greater global understanding of mercury pollution issues while providing information that may contribute to Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA) and raise public awareness in preparation for early ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

¹ IPEN would like to acknowledge the financial contributions from the governments of Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, and the Swedish public development co-operation aid through the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and other donors. The views herein shall not necessarily be taken to reflect the official opinion of any of these donors, including SSNC or its donors.

IPEN Mercury Treaty Enabling Activities Project: Jordan

Name of the NGO: Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP)

Date: September 9th 2015 (IMEAP: 2014 Phase)

Country: Jordan

Title of project: Jordan Country Mercury Situation Report

Summary

Jordanian NGO Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP) conducted a range of mercury monitoring and awareness-raising activities to sensitize the public and key stakeholders to the dangers of mercury pollution and the need to ratify the Mercury Treaty. The activities were conducted within the overall framework of a development of an initial Country Mercury Situation Report to help inform the national enabling activities process in the lead-up to ratification. LHAP reports that the Jordanian government has already taken key steps toward mercury control, banning mercury in medical measurement devices and establishing a mercury storage facility. LHAP conducted a pilot screening test of mercury monitoring in fish, human hair and cosmetics, and reported that no samples returned a mercury level higher than 1ppm. The results and broader mercury pollution issues were communicated through a purpose-designed brochure and a series of stakeholder engagement meetings held in various locations in Jordan. Importantly, the engagement of LHAP in the Mercury Treaty enabling activities and its close liaison with the government has resulted in confirmation that Jordan will engage in an accelerated early Treaty ratification process.

Imports and exports: Describe the quantities of mercury imported/exported and stored in your country and the method of estimation):

There is no estimate for the quantities imported into Jordan nor is it known how much Jordan exports. Jordan has signed the Minamata Convention in October 2013. Currently Jordan is carrying out an early ratification of the agreement. Jordan, moreover, has signed a funding agreement through which an inventory of the mercury will be calculated in Jordan.

Mercury based products in the market

Identify the most common forms of mercury available to the public, including in products sold:

The most common form of mercury available to the public is thermometers that are either used to measure human body temperature or blood pressure. Few are aware of the fact that mercury is present in cosmetics (lipsticks, whitening ointment, nail paints) pesticides, fish products, dental amalgam, vaccine, electrical and electronic apparatus, energy saving and fluorescent lamps, and in gold processing.

Human exposure to mercury

Describe the most common forms of mercury exposure in the country:

The most common form of exposure to mercury comes from food (fish), cosmetics and dental amalgam.

Human activities leading to mercury pollution

Specify the current knowledge about human activities that release mercury into the environment in your country:

In hospitals where thermometers for both blood pressure and temperature measuring, in addition to dental procedures are some of the human activities that release mercury into the environment. In addition, the use of pesticides in farming for those containing mercury all contribute into releasing of mercury into environment. Lamps that contain mercury when broken is a third source of release into the environment. There are also power stations in Jordan operated by using fossil fuels. Wastes in general are either dumped in open dumping sites or in sanitary landfills. Incinerators are used to incinerate medical waste in Jordan. Jordan has 6 cement factories covering the Jordanian market and the neighboring countries such as Iraq for reconstruction. The Ministry of Environment has exempted from its regulation the use of bed coke (only for cement factories) and thus one expects the emission of mercury from these factories.

ASGM

Describe the level of Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in your country including; location, mercury use (if any), source of the mercury (including legal or illegal supplies) and whether the gold trade is formal or informal:

In Jordan there is no ASGM nor at the large neither at the small scale. However, it was reported by the Jordanian Gold Association that jewelers use mercury to collect the left over gold in very fine and tiny quantities and mercury is used amalgamate the gold fragments to re-use.

Levels of mercury release and exposure:

Provide information on mercury data available at the national level and indicate if this information has been derived using the UNEP Toolkit (level 1 or level 2 mercury inventories using UNEP Tool Kits or other inventory methods). Report the inferred quantity of mercury realized based on the recent inventory result if any. Describe the main exposed population groups and provide references for information sources:

Jordan is very new on the issue of mercury. No inventory has been done. More attention has been given after Jordan signed the convention in October 2013. Currently Jordan is carrying out a national consultation to make an early ratification. Moreover, it has signed an agreement with one donor to carry out an inventory addressing all the sources mentioned above.

Possible damage caused by mercury

Describe current known or reported mercury threats. Provide information on the kinds of mercury problems in the past have caused damage to the public, environment, food and/or workers. Identify the known population sub-groups vulnerable to mercury exposure. Please provide any information or reference sources:

There are potential threats caused by mercury coming through different means mentioned earlier. But there are no studies carried out in the country to identify any damage. LHAP carried out pilot screening sampling of fish, human hair and cosmetics looking for residues of mercury but all samples reported less than 1 ppm of mercury.

Laws currently regulating mercury:

Define any laws limiting or banning the use of mercury in specific practices, processes and/or products in your country (if any):

There are different legislations which are relevant to mercury which overlap among many institutions as follows:

Ministry of Health:

1. The Ministerial decision in accordance with the Public Health Law 47 for the year 2008 by which he restricted the use of mercury and its compounds through placing them in the list of prohibited chemicals, published in the gazette number 5187 on 14 November 2012, for different industries such as preserving woods, textiles, industrial waste water treatment and in the manufacturing and packing of paints.
2. The Ministerial decision issued in the gazette No 5178 on 14 September 2012 by which he prohibited the use of mercury and its compounds in the schools and universities laboratories.
3. The Ministerial decision No 2390 dated 9 May 2013 by which the ministry stopped purchasing the mercury blood pressure apparatus in all the procurements of the ministry and replaced them by air or electronic meters.
4. Monitor the emissions of medical waste incineration whether they contain mercury or its compounds issued in accordance of the instructions of medical waste No 1 for the year 2001.
5. Precautions of medical waste generated from dental clinics among of which is the residues of amalgam and the empty capsules.
6. The instructive guideline on how to handle mercury once it's released in the environment.

Ministry of Environment: Directive 24 for the year 2005 by which the Ministry listed mercury and its compounds as part of the prohibited list of chemicals. This includes the storage of these chemicals in Jordan's hazardous SWAQA storage and dumping site as they are considered hazardous materials. This includes energy saving lamps (such as CFLs), thermometers and blood pressures measuring meters.

Ministry of Agriculture: The ministry decision to prohibit the import of pesticides that contain mercury or its compounds in compliance with the Rotterdam Convention that require prior consent before getting them into the country.

Ministry of Industry and Commerce:

1. Instructions no 1 for the year 2012 by which it has adopted the list issued by the Ministry of Environment among of which is the mercury and its compounds.
2. Prohibition on the use of mercury and its compounds in the manufacturing of cosmetics in accordance with the international trend.
3. The prevention of the use of mercury in the manufacturing of antiseptics and detergents.

Greater Amman Municipality:

1. It is authorized by the Ministry of Health in accordance with its public health law 47 for the year 2008 to monitor the gold workshops.
2. Enforce the Ministry of Environment directive of solid waste management No 27 for the year 2005.

Water Authority: the instructions of industrial waste water discharge into the sewer systems in accordance with the authority law number 18 for the year 1988 and to article 22 of waste water directive No 66 for the year 1994 that prohibits the discharge of commercial and industrial waste into the domestic waste water sewer system in case it exceeded certain values set in the directive.

Metrological and Specifications Corporation:

1. Specification No 983 for the year 2006 regarding the reclaimed waste water release into valleys and surface water bodies.
2. Specification 2093 for the year 2013 regarding high voltage fluorescent bulb lights.
3. Specification 2019 for the 2013 regarding home environmental friendly lights.
4. Specification 1032 for the 2013 regarding lipsticks and lips moisturizing.
5. Specification 1141 for the year 2014 regarding nails paints by which the maximum permissible amount is limited to 2 ppm.
6. Specification 1584 for the year 2011 regarding the Dead Sea salts (Carnelite) by which only 1 ppm is allowed.

Department of Customs:

Consider the harmonized system in the custom tariffs tables and following instructions received from the concerned ministries and authorities.

Efforts in your country to deal with mercury

Specify any priority action on mercury that the government taken to reduce mercury exposure:

As it can be seen many overlapping efforts are in place, but the issue is still immature. It is expected to be hastened after Jordan ratifies the Minamata Convention.

Storage

Report the current capacity for interim or long term storage of mercury and mercury compounds in your country:

Yes it does. A site called SWAQA Hazardous storage and dumping site is identified where all hazardous materials and wastes are optionally stored (including mercury and its compounds). This site which is 90 km south east of Amman is operative for quite some time.

Mercury wastes:

Explain how mercury wastes are currently managed in your country including domestic treatment or export. If your country has a threshold value or other means to define mercury waste, provide information on the method used. Describe the technologies currently available in your country to manage mercury waste:

The legislation has set limits for waste but in practical application the status and efforts of monitoring and the realization of the situation is humble. For those companies and industries that have hazardous waste, it is optional for them to pay for what they will store in SWAQA, but in case they are found to be violating the legislation they will then be sent to the court for penalties.

Ratification of the Mercury Treaty:

Describe the forces (economic, environmental, social) that support and oppose ratification.

Outline the public participation consultation process (direct or indirect via parliament, senate etc.) leading to ratification.

The Ministry of Environment and the Focal Point for the Minamata Convention, formed a national committee from all institutions in the public, private, academic and civil society sectors for the early ratification of the convention. The conclusion was that no economic, environmental or social impact will negatively impact any of these sectors if Jordan ratifies the agreement. Therefore, the government of Jordan is taking the steps to ratify the agreement.

Project Outcome:

Describe the activity conducted:

1. Carry out a desk review and interview with concerned institutions (LHAP's president is head of the National Technical Committee for the early ratification of the Mercury Treaty) and through the participation in the national committee for early ratification of the agreement to which LHAP is a member, concluding a rough view of the status of mercury and its compounds in the country.
2. Summarize the findings of this study in a brochure and circulate in the community consultations organized for this project and many other meetings related to LHAP activities.
3. Taking 12 samples (3 human hair, 1 whitening and facial spots removal ointment, 1 lipstick, 7 fresh, frozen and canned fish with different species) sent to an accredited lab with the results revealed that all samples contain less than 1 ppm. The samples and the results are published in the brochure.
4. Organized 3 public hearings and many other planned community consultation meetings for other projects under implementation by LHAP during which the mercury issue was discussed and the brochure was circulated.
5. The brochure, which is a summary of the IMEAP project findings, was send to the Ministry of Environment. It was also shared with the stakeholders participating in the national workshop on mercury supporting Jordan's progress in the early ratification of the Minamata Convention. The brochure was also published on LHAP Facebook group where it is estimated that more than 1000 members are friends of that page.

Engagement of and impact on target groups

Report your engagement with the target groups and the result of the activity on the target groups:

The community was approached through targeted organized consultations in addition to informing people participating in other LHAP activities and consultations within other projects. The meetings included circulating the brochure that contains detailed information on mercury and the current status of mercury issues in Jordan. As the issue touches sensitive part of human being which is their health, many were shocked and have listened with attention and carefulness and in addition indicated they require more awareness raising activities.

Impact on target policies

Specify the target policies you sought to impact upon and the result of the activity on the target policies:

The country was already part of the negotiation of the mercury agreement and thus immediately has signed the Mercury Treaty during the global ceremony in Japan in October 2013. Moreover, Jordan is currently carrying out an early ratification campaign and then it will be followed by conducting an inventory project concerning mercury and its compounds. The Ministry of Environment will soon issue WEEE legislation (it is in the final stage for approval) and have updated its NIP where special consideration was placed for the mercury. The Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Greater Municipality of Amman launched a collection program addressing energy saving lamps, batteries, electronic and electrical wastes and cellular phones. The team involved in the preparation of the WEEE legislation took note the PCB project remarks as well as the NIP update team specifically when it comes to electrical and electronic equipment.

Outreach to stakeholders

Identify the stakeholders and sectors that were engaged in this activity, and estimate the potential to follow-up and advance the relationships with these stakeholders:

The people engaged in the activities are mainly the public at large, ordinary people and the supportive team of LHAP and other initiatives. At the policy level, the brochure was furnished to the Ministry of Environment and was circulated during the national workshop in which an endorsement (for the brochure) was agreed for the technical, legal and communication teams working on the early ratification of the agreement. LHAP through its president headed the technical committee and was member of the communication committee. Therefore, LHAP has contributed at the policy level through the conclusion of Jordan's early ratification of the agreement. The relationship with the stakeholders (mainly the Ministry of Environment) will continue especially in the upcoming phase of conducting an inventory of mercury and its compounds for Jordan.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products

List the types of outputs from the activity, including report or information materials:

The project deliverables are:

- a report on the status of mercury and its compounds in Jordan documented in a brochure (with the print of 2000 copies),
- the organization of three community consultations and getting many others informed about the mercury and its impacts during the many public hearings and activities organized within LHAP. Moreover, LHAP relationship is strengthened with the focal point of the Mercury Treaty through being involved in many overlapping issues crosscutting with mercury such as WEEE legislation, NIP update, PCBs and the Minamata national team of the early ratification of the agreement.

Communication Efforts: Describe efforts to communicate this activity to the media and/or general public. Please include media coverage and/or photos or visuals:

The efforts are communicated through the consultations, public hearings and LHAP activities by informing the participants and distributing the brochure that contains detailed information in addition to the results of the samples.

The following photos were taken during the month of Ramadan when more than 60 people gather to break their Fast and the brochure was circulated. The photos were taken by the support team of LHAP. The event was a mixture of many activities including a band for kids.



The following photo shows the volunteer team of LHAP who implemented a project in 12 remote villages to collect data on potable water and waste water systems used in the communities. The team was informed about this mercury project in detail and provided with brochures. The photo is taken by Mr. Jamal Taybawi:



The following photos are from activities LHAP organized in different parts of the country addressing MPs and their constituencies during which the issue of mercury and the brochure content was discussed and the audience informed:





Communication with national or local authorities

If you communicated, coordinated or shared the results of your Activity with your National Mercury Treaty Focal Point, or any other national or local authority related to mercury management, please describe how this happened:

Yes, LHAP through its president is a member of the NIP update in the Ministry of Environment, heading the technical team for the early ratification of the agreement, has drafted the WEEE legislation and the national policy. Dr.Mohammad Khashashneh, head of Hazardous and Harmful Chemicals department in the Ministry of Environment is LHAP adviser and about 200 brochures were given to the Ministry to distribute in the national workshop endorsing the national report for the early ratification of mercury which happened on August 19, 2015. Therefore, the relationship with the national authorities is organic and based on continuous communication, support and understanding.

Mercury Treaty Focal Point: Provide the name and contact details of your National Mercury Treaty Focal Point.

Ministry of Environment
Dr.Mohammad Khashashneh,
Cellular: 962 776296294
e-mail: mkhashashneh@yahoo.com

Recommendations, from a public interest, NGO perspective, on reducing and eliminating human sources of mercury:

The following recommendations are concluded out of this study and awareness campaign as follows:

1. Carry out a comprehensive study at the national level to realize the actual status of mercury in Jordan, its presence and quantities as a step forward to comply with the Mercury Treaty
2. Unify the national efforts represented by the scattered legislations present in different authorities to facilitate the resolution of the issue of pollution from mercury and its compounds.
3. Increase the monitoring levels for food items imported to Jordan.
4. Strengthen the capacity and equip the national accredited labs with technology to be able examine and test food items and cosmetics efficiently and immediately.
5. Take the necessary action and decisions to cease the use of amalgam with mercury and introduce the alternatives which are already available in the market.
6. Stop the use, if any, of mercury in the vaccines in Jordan.
7. Take the necessary measures to cease the use of pesticides containing mercury.
8. Encourage the involvement of private sector in establishing treatment facilities for equipment containing mercury or its compounds.
9. Launch a national awareness campaign to make the people aware of mercury, its impacts on health and educate the public about the Minamata Convention and the Jordanian requirements as a result of ratification at the individual, institutional and national levels.

What, if anything, changed from the original plans and why?

No change has happened and the original plan was implemented.

Resources on mercury: Please list websites, databases, reports, academic researchers, laboratories, etc. that you are familiar with.

The Royal Scientific Society operates the nationally accredited laboratories that has tested the samples and provide us with a report which is presented below:

الجمعية العلمية الملكية
Royal Scientific Society

تقرير فحص

رقم التقرير: ١٧٧/٢٠١٧
رقم العينة: ١٧٧/٢٠١٧

الاسم: **الأرض والآليات لعمارة السببية**

العنوان: **عبدلات، ٧٧٤٤٣٣٧٥**

رقم الطلب: ١٧٧/٢٠١٧
تاريخ الفحص: ٢٠١٨/٠٦/٠٦
تاريخ التسليم: ٢٠١٨/٠٦/٢٠

النتيجة	الوحدة	طريقة الفحص
١.٠٠	م/كجم	SOP-03/02/03-13

ملاحظات:
- حالة العينة عند الاستلام جيدة.
- جرى التحليل حسب طلبكم.

مستوى الخطأ: **أقل من ١%**

ملاحظة: **الجمعية العلمية الملكية - قطاع المختبرات**

FORM NO. RSSPMP1302 REV.01

مختبرات التحليل الكيميائي الآلي
الجمعية العلمية الملكية
Royal Scientific Society

رقم الطلب: ١٧٧/٢٠١٧
رقم العينة: ١٧٧/٢٠١٧
رقم التقرير: ١٧٧/٢٠١٧

العنوان: **عبدلات، ٧٧٤٤٣٣٧٥**

ملاحظة: **الأرض والآليات لعمارة السببية**

نوعية عينة: **وعاء**

إشارة التكميل رقم (١٧٧/٢٠١٧) تاريخ (٢٠١٨/٠٦/٢٠)، بدون مرفق تقرير نتائج الفحص/الامتثال/الخدمة المطلوبة من الفحص، وقد تم تكاليف العمل المطلوب مبلغاً وقيمة (٢٨٨) لائتمانه وشاهديه وأربعون ديناراً أردنياً.

ليرجى اتخاذ الإجراء المحدد أدناه بالإنارة: -
 لا حاجة لتخاذ أي إجراء بخصوص هذه العينة، وذلك للحدوث التكرار -
 العينة تحتفظ بموجب اتفاقية رقم (/) أخرى
 دفع قيمة العينة عند استلامها الفاتورة الصادرة عن الفاتورة المرفقة في الجمعية العلمية الملكية.

و أقبوا الاحترام.....

ق.أ. منور المختبرات
د. أحمد الطويلة
ahmad.tarawneh@rss.jo
رقم الهاتف: ٥٢٤٤٧٠١١

ملاحظات: يرجى إصدار الفاتورة باسم الجمعية العلمية الملكية.
 - لا يجوز استبدال نتائج الفحصات الجمعية العلمية الملكية للخدمة الخاصة بالعميل على العينة المدفوعة.
 - تقرير الفحص غير صالح من الناحية القانونية.
 - جميع أرشيفات نتائج الفحصات محفوظة لدى الجمعية العلمية الملكية لمدة ١٠ سنوات.
 - يمكن الجمعية الصرافة التي يحددها بعد الفحص إذا لم يتم تسليمها بالوقت المحدد.