


First meeting of the
**Eliminating Mercury
Skin Lightening
Products** project
stakeholder group

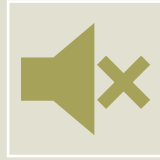
28th November 2023

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm CET

An illustration of a diverse group of people, including men and women of various ethnicities, represented by stylized heads and shoulders. A speech bubble from one of the figures contains the text 'Please use chat to say hello'.

Please use
chat to say
hello

Before we start, please:



Keep microphones off unless when making an intervention, cameras are optional



Use the “**Chat**” to ask technical questions or share views



The **meeting will be recorded**. Please indicate if you have any objection

AGENDA

13:30 Opening and scene setting , **Beautywell, Minamata Convention, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**

Updates from the GEF project

13:45 GEF project on eliminating skin lightening products, **WHO and BRI**

14:00 Updates from the project countries, **Jamaica and Gabon**

Updates from the stakeholders

14:15 Online Marketing of Toxic Skin Lighteners, **ZMWG, CEJAD**

14:25 **Interactive session:** updates and defining priorities , **All**

14:50 Case study: Mercury-containing SLPs in New York City, **New York City Department of Health**

15:00 Mercury in Retrograde, **EIA**

15:15 **Interactive session:** Way forward, **All**

15:25 Closing



OPENING AND SCENE SETTING

Beautywell,

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention,

Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties



Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-5)

Geneva, Switzerland, 30 Oct 2023 - 03 Nov 2023



More than 800 participants and 115 Parties represented

21 decision adopted

- ❖ The effects of mercury pollution on Indigenous Peoples and on local communities
- ❖ Mercury supply sources and trade
- ❖ Study of the global supply, trade and use of mercury compounds
- ❖ Amendments to annexes A and B
- ❖ Preparation of a report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- ❖ Information on the Economic and Technical Feasibility of Mercury-Free Catalysts in VCM Production
- ❖ Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- ❖ Mercury emissions
- ❖ Guidance on BAT/BEP to control releases
- ❖ Mercury waste thresholds
- ❖ Review of the financial mechanism
- ❖ Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer
- ❖ National reporting
- ❖ First effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- ❖ Gender action plan
- ❖ Knowledge management
- ❖ Contribution of the Minamata Convention to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- ❖ Enhanced international cooperation and coordination
- ❖ Cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the BRS secretariat
- ❖ Programme of work and budget for 2024-2025
- ❖ Dates and venue of COP-6

Decision MC-5/4: Amendments to annexes A and B and feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for manufacturing processes listed in annex B



Mercury-added products	Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)
Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1 ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available ^{1/}	2020
Cosmetics, including skin-lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available ^{1/}	2025

^{1/} The intention is not to cover cosmetics, soaps or creams with trace contaminants of mercury

Decision MC-5/5: Preparation of a report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury



The Conference of the Parties

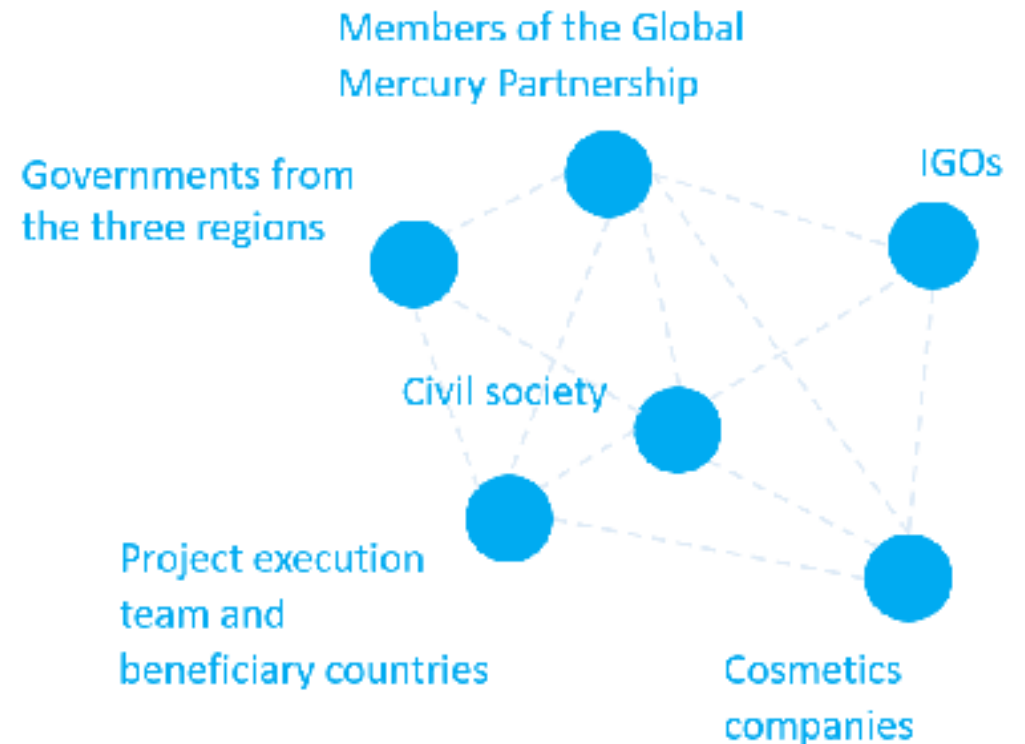
1. *Invites* parties and relevant stakeholders to submit information to the secretariat by 30 June 2024 on challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as on current or proposed measures for addressing these challenges taken by parties and others, including the Global Mercury Partnership;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a draft report, compiling and synthesizing the information described in paragraph 1 above, addressing topics such as, but not limited to, the following: phasing out sales and offers of sales of mercury-added cosmetics; strategies for discouraging the marketing, advertising and display of mercury-added cosmetics; advisories, detention lists and prohibited substances lists concerning mercury-added cosmetics; licensing and product ingredient approvals for cosmetics manufacturing facilities; developing and implementing product safety pledges for online platforms; and raising awareness of the hazards of skin-lightening product use among physicians, dermatologists and beauty centre staff, as well as consumers and family members;
3. *Also requests* the secretariat to make the draft report mentioned in paragraph 2 above available to parties and relevant stakeholders by 31 March 2025 so that they can review it and comment on it;
4. *Further requests* the secretariat to prepare a final report, taking into account the comments submitted by parties and relevant stakeholders in accordance with paragraph 3 above, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products **project stakeholder group**

PURPOSE:

Platform to exchange information between project and stakeholder on the topic

- **How often:** Semestral basis
- **Where:** Virtual
- **Secretariat:** UNEP GMP





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Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products



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[Community of Practice](#)

GEF PROJECT ON ELIMINATING SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS

WHO and BRI



GEF# 10810

Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products

Project Overview

1st Meeting of the Project Stakeholder Group (PSG)

28 November 2023 [virtual event]



Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)/ World Health Organization (WHO)



**GEF 10810:
Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening
Products**

PROJECT AIM

To reduce the risk of exposure to mercury-added skin lightening products (SLPs)

OVERALL TIMELINE

September 2022 – September 2025

Funding Agency:



and Co-Financing Partners

Implementation Agency:



Co-Executed by:



Project Countries:



Technical Assistance:



GLOBAL
MERCURY
PARTNERSHIP



Co-Financing Partners

Governmental Institutions

Government of Gabon:

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Environment

Government of Jamaica:

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Environment

Government of Sri Lanka:

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Environment

UNEP Partners

World Health Organisation (WHO)

Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

Global Mercury Partnership (GMP)

NGOs, CSOs and Research Partners

Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG)


European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Occidental College

Label Beauté Noire

Sema Jonsson
"Pantheon of Women who Inspire"

Beauty Well



Project Components & Key Outcomes

Build national capacity on legislation, enforcement, compliance, and awareness raising strategies

Project countries having strengthened capacity to develop enforcement and compliance strategies to support legislation on SLPs

Reduce or stop production, trade, distribution of SLPs in project countries

Increased understanding of, and ability to monitor, local and online markets for SLPs, including production, distribution and usage

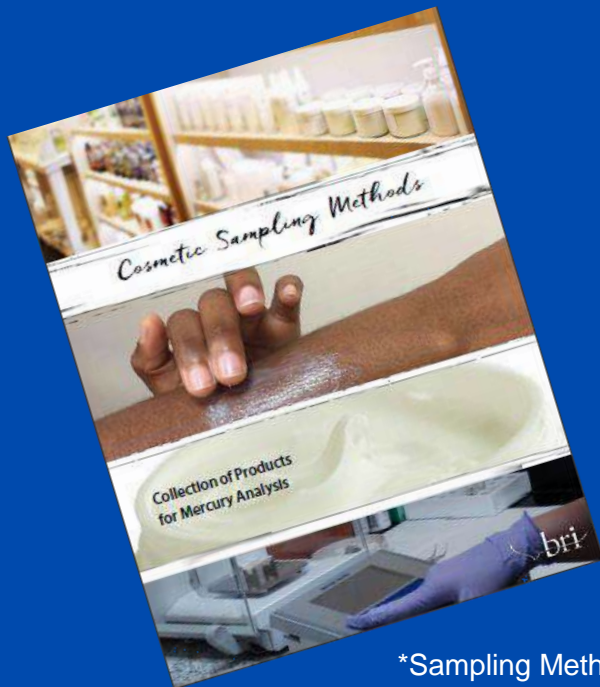
Knowledge management at global level

- **Global Advocacy Campaign**
- **Community of Practice – Project Stakeholder Group**
- **Knowledge Hub**

UPDATES ON KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES EXECUTED BY:



SAMPLING PROTOCOL UPDATES



*Sampling Methods document now available in English and French

Proposed sampling will be done in 2 phases:

PHASE 1: SCREENING

To understand “universe” of SLPs: baseline assessment of products

It is recommended that a strategy be developed to randomly sample different products from:

1. The formal sector – pharmacies, retailers etc.
2. The informal sector – street markets, homemade mixtures for sale etc.

Sample sizes will vary by country according to availability.

SAMPLING PROTOCOL



PHASE 2: TARGETED SAMPLING

To understand variability amongst products:

- 5-10 replicates of SLPs $>1 \mu\text{g/g}$ from Phase 1
- Aim to understand variation across batches, containers, etc. .

TESTING PROTOCOL



Step 1: Screening



XRF will be used to detect samples $> \sim 10 \mu\text{g/g}$

(Higher concentrations of Hg in SLP samples will damage more sensitive mercury analyzers).

Step 2: Analysis



Direct Mercury Analyzer (DMA) will be used to determine precise mercury concentrations for samples $< 10 \mu\text{g/g}$ in Step 1.

Partner labs will analyze samples $> 10 \mu\text{g/g}$

TESTING PROTOCOL



To strengthen national capacity, SLPs can be analyzed by in-country and/or regional labs (after assessment of current status) and a subset will also be analyzed at BRI's laboratory in the US.

Lab splits are a common part of the QA/QC process and to calibrate laboratories.

Subset will be smaller as project progresses, and capacity grows.

The testing protocol may also be further refined throughout the process.

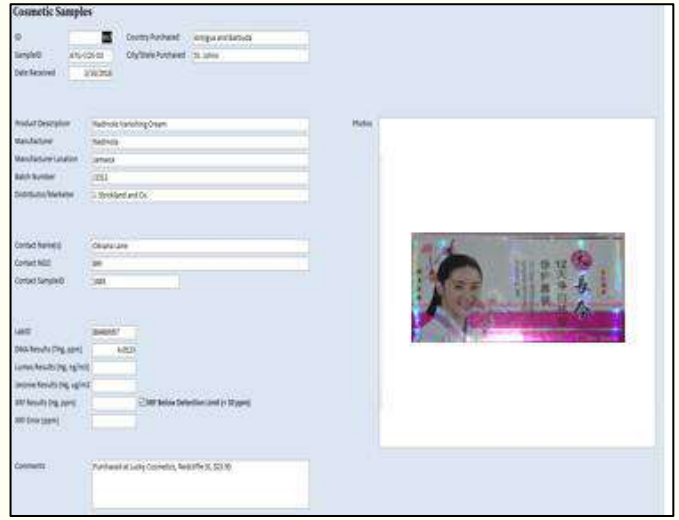


ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF GLOBAL DATABASE

All SLP mercury concentrations will be kept in a centralized database developed in coordination with the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (and key stakeholders) and will be available to the Ministry of Health and/or other designated government ministry as well as Customs.

Database will include:

- Unique ID
- Country of Manufacture
- Country of Purchase
- Location of Purchase
- Name of SLP
- Type e.g., Lotion, Cream
- Batch No.
- Date
- Notable ingredients listed e.g., Calomel
- Photos ,
- Hg results




UPDATES ON KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES EXECUTED BY:



World Health
Organization





Project Components & Key Outcomes

Project management

JAM

GAB

SRL

Build national capacity on legislation, enforcement, compliance, and awareness raising strategies

Project countries having strengthened capacity to develop enforcement and compliance strategies to support legislation on SLPs

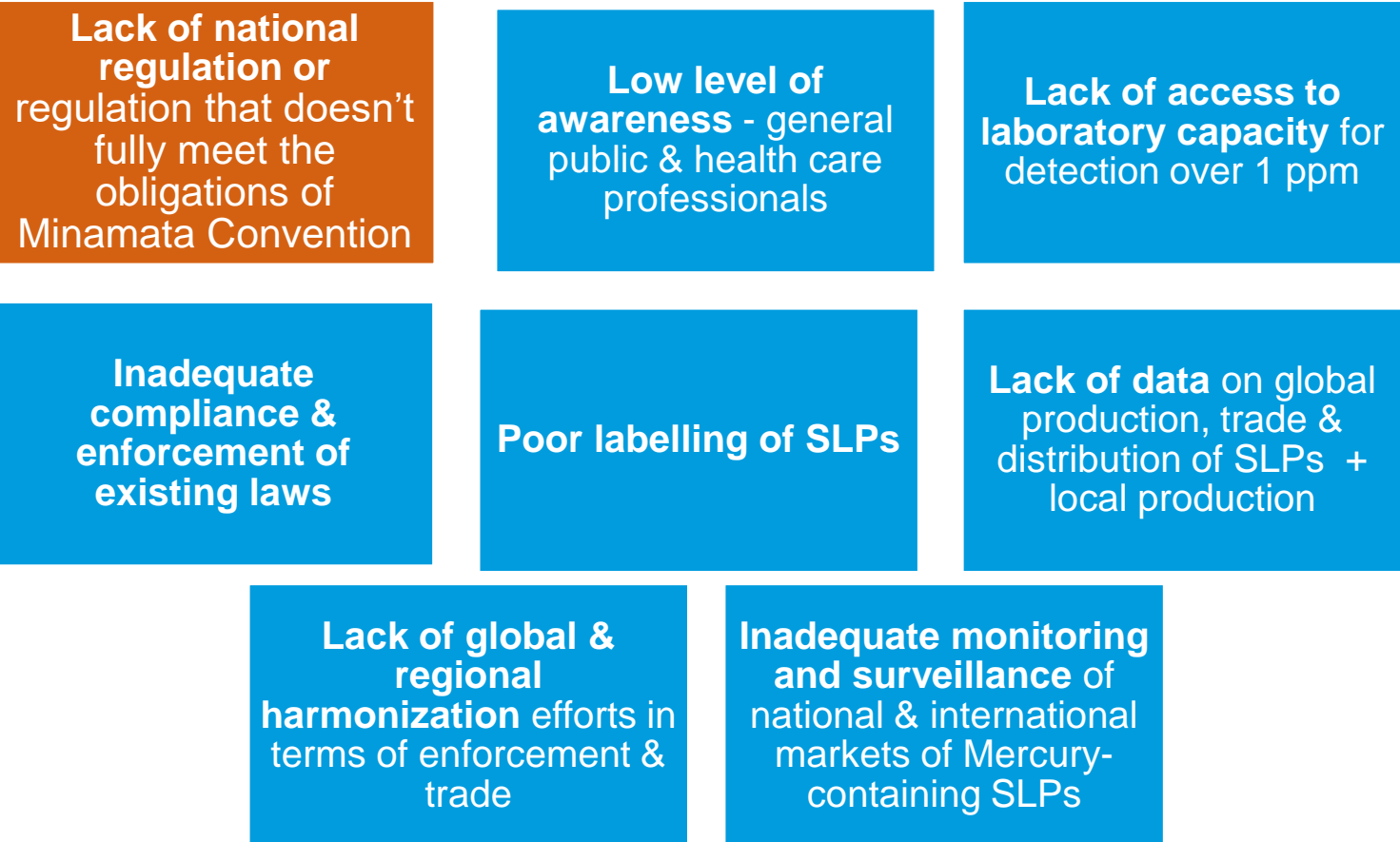
Reduce or stop production, trade, distribution of SLPs in project countries

Increased understanding of, and ability to monitor, local and online markets for SLPs, including production, distribution and usage

Knowledge management at global level

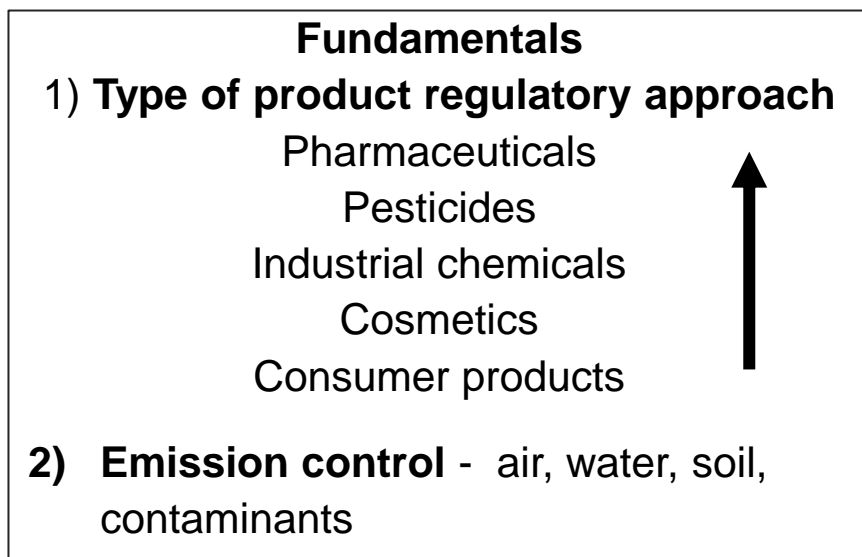
- **Global Advocacy Campaign**
- **Community of Practice – Project Stakeholder Group**
- **Knowledge Hub**

Barriers to reducing/eliminating mercury in skin-lightening products



Regulatory approaches

Initial step – review and survey of regulatory approaches



Mercury and Skin Lightening Products

Organic Mercury

Inorganic Mercury

Survey of cosmetics legislation in MS

Interfere with enzymes in the body to stop the production of melanin

Definition of terms

- **Pharmaceutical/Drug:** substance that has physiological effect
- **Cosmetic:** Something to clean, beautify, altering the appearance, keeping skin or hair in good condition
- **Cosmeceutical** – no meaning under law – term used to promote cosmetic that have medicinal benefits

THANK YOU!



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For more information on the project, visit:
<https://www.unep.org/mercuryfreecosmetics>

#mercuryfreecosmetics

An illustration of a woman with dark skin and long, braided hair, wearing a yellow dress and a white headband. She is standing in a store with purple shelves filled with various products, including bottles and containers. She is holding a pink shopping basket. The background features a grid of shelves with different items, some decorated with colorful stars and ribbons.

UPDATES FROM THE PROJECT COUNTRIES

Jamaica and Gabon

The left side of the slide features a light gray background with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

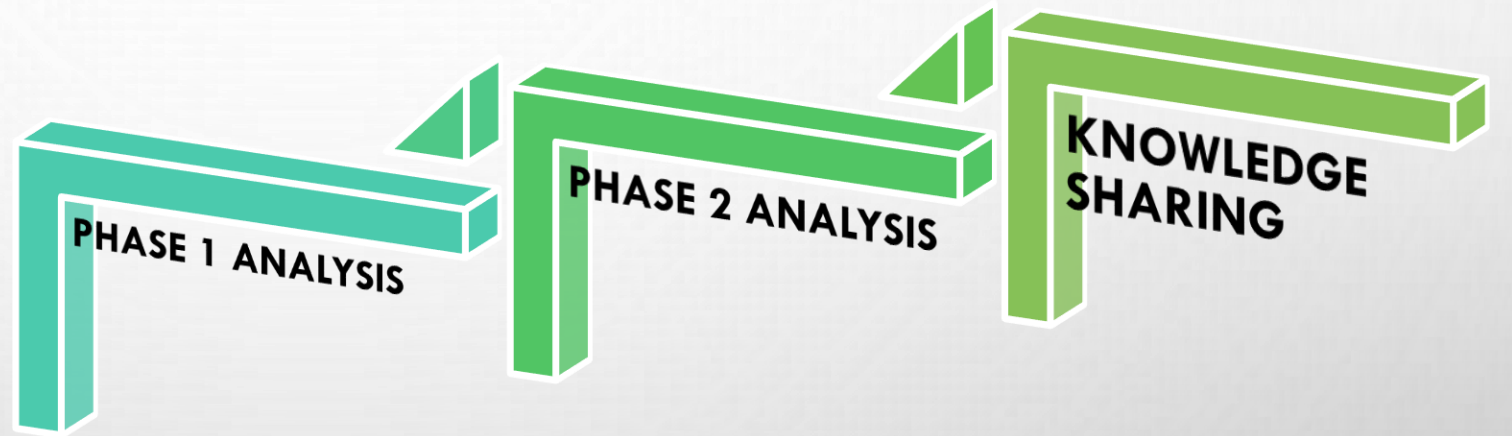
SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS SAMPLING & ANALYSIS

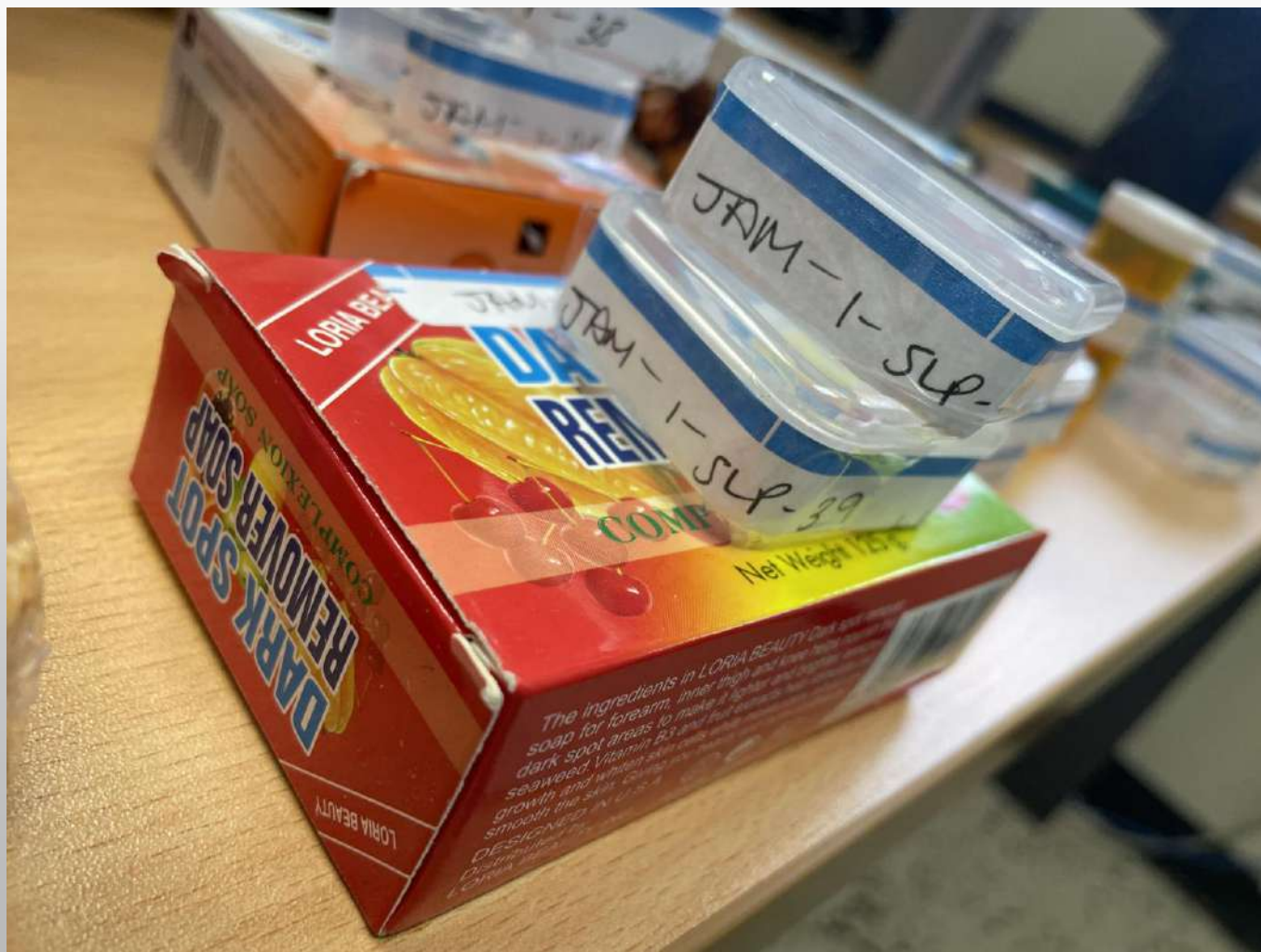
DR ALECIA HAMILTON CAMPBELL, NATIONAL PROJECT
COORDINATOR.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION - JAMAICA



SYSTEMATIC TESTING





ELEMENTS



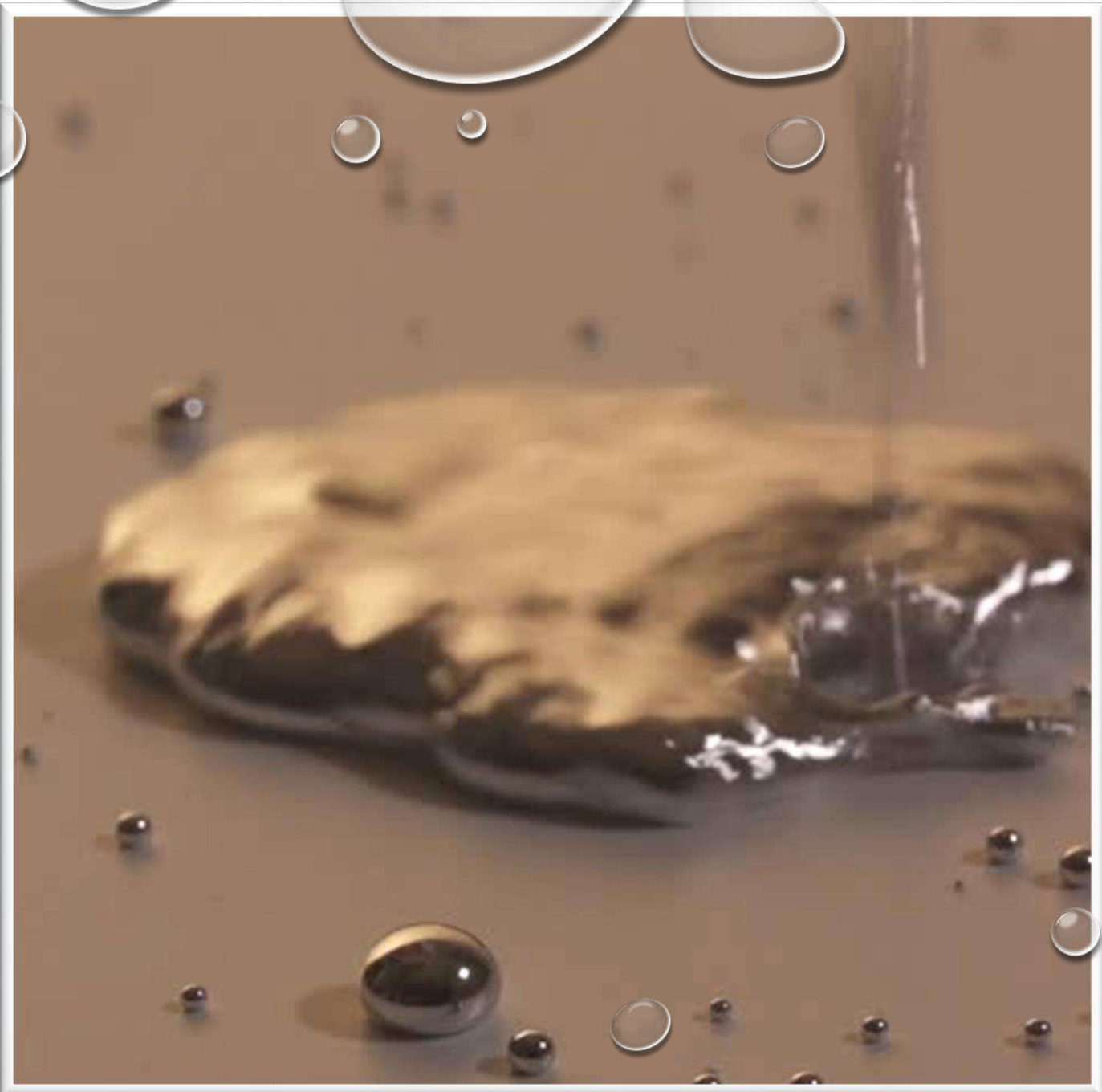
IDENTIFICATION



COLLECTION &
DISTRIBUTION



ANALYSIS



THANK YOU

**ANY
QUESTIONS?**

First meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholder group

Gabon: Updating regulatory framework

Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o, National Project Coordinator, WHO Office Country

Plan

- 3 texts
 1. National Steering Committee
 2. Regulation of SLPs and Other Hazardous Substances
 3. Regulation of certain medical devices
- Testing and monitoring of the SLPs

Establishment, organization, and operation of the National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Skin Lightening cosmetic Products containing mercury and other hazardous substances in Gabon

MINISTERE DE LA SANTE ET
DES AFFAIRES SOCIALES

CABINET DU MINISTRE

REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE
Union –Travail- Justice

Visa CJ

Arrêté n° 000007/MSAS/CAB portant création,
attributions, organisation et fonctionnement du Comité Technique
National sur l'Élimination des Produits Cosmétiques Eclaircissants
pour la Peau contenant du Mercure et d'autres substances dangereuses
en République Gabonaise

Le Ministre de la Santé et des Affaires Sociales ;

Vu la Charte de la Transition ;

Vu la loi n° 3/91 du 26 mars 1991 portant Constitution de la République Gabonaise ;

Arrête :

Chapitre 1^{er} : De la création et des attributions

Article 1^{er} : Il est créé et placé sous la tutelle du Ministère en charge de la Santé, un Comité Technique National d'Élimination des Produits Cosmétiques Éclaircissants pour la Peau contenant du mercure et d'autres substances dangereuses, en abrégé **CTNEPCEP**.

Article 2 : Le CTNEPCEP a notamment pour mission d'accompagner l'Agence du Médicament et des Autres Produits de Santé, ainsi que d'autres services techniques du Gouvernement, dans la lutte contre la fabrication, l'importation, l'exportation, la distribution et l'usage des produits cosmétiques éclaircissants pour la peau, contenant du mercure et d'autres substances dangereuses.

Le CTNEPCEP peut recevoir du Gouvernement d'autres missions spécifiques liées à son domaine de compétence.

Chapitre 2 : De l'organisation et du fonctionnement

Article 3 : Le CTNEPCEP comprend :

- un Comité de Pilotage (CP) ;
- un Secrétariat Technique (ST).

Section 1 : Du Comité de Pilotage

Article 4 : Le Comité de Pilotage est l'organe d'orientation et de validation des propositions du Secrétariat Technique.

Il est composé ainsi qu'il suit :

- un représentant du Ministre chargé de la Santé et des Affaires Sociales;
 - un représentant de la Primature ;
 - un représentant de l'Institut de l'Hygiène Publique et d'Assainissement ;
 - un représentant de l'Institut de la Pharmacopée et de la Médecine Traditionnelle IPHAMETRA ;
 - un représentant de l'Agence Gabonaise de Normalisation;
 - un représentant de la Direction Générale des Douanes;
 - un représentant de la Direction Générale de la Santé;
 - un représentant de l'Agence Nationale du Médicament et des Autres Produits de Santé;
 - un représentant de la Direction Générale de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature ;
 - un représentant de la Direction Générale de la Concurrence et de la Consommation;
 - un représentant de la Direction Générale du commerce ;
 - un représentant de la Direction Générale de l'Industrie;
 - un représentant du Commandement en Chef de la Police Nationale;
 - un représentant de l'Observatoire ChemObs;
 - un représentant de l'Ordre National des Pharmaciens du Gabon;
 - un représentant de l'Ordre des Sage-Femmes ;
 - un représentant de l'Université des Sciences de la Santé,;
 - deux représentants de l'Ordre National des Médecins (dermatologues & chirurgien-dentiste) ;
 - deux représentants des Médias;
-
- un Point Focal de la Convention de Bâle;
 - un Point Focal de la Convention de Stockholm;
 - un Point Focal de l'Approche Stratégique pour la Gestion Internationale des Produits Chimiques, ;
 - deux représentant de fabricants, vendeurs et distributeurs des Cosmétiques;
 - deux représentant d'ONG.

Les membres du Comité élisent parmi eux le Président, les deux Vice-présidents et les deux rapporteurs.

Article 8 : Le Secrétariat Technique est composé des membres suivants :

- un représentant de la Direction Générale de l'environnement et de la protection de la nature, 1^{er} Rapporteur ;
- un représentant de l'Agence Nationale du Médicament et des Autres Produits de Santé, 2^{ème} Rapporteur ;
- un représentant de la Direction Générale des Ecosystèmes Aquatiques, membre ;
- un représentant du Laboratoire Pluridisciplinaires des Sciences de l'École Normale Supérieure, membre ;
- un représentant de l'Unité de Recherche Epidémiologie Santé-Environnement de l'Université des Sciences de la Santé, membre ;
- un représentant de l'OMS, membre.

Chapitre II : Des Dispositions Diverses et Finales

Article 11 : L'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS) et l'Institut de Recherche sur la Biodiversité (IRB) appuient le Gouvernement dans l'exécution de la mission confiée au CTNEPCEP.

Article 12 : Les fonds nécessaires au fonctionnement du CTNEPCEP sont assurés par l'OMS dans le cadre du projet GEFSEC ID 10810 et par les contributions des autres parties prenantes au titre du co-financement.

Article 13 : Le CTNEPCEP peut faire recours à toute personne physique ou morale dont l'expertise est avérée dans le domaine de sa compétence.

Article 14 : Des textes réglementaires déterminent, en tant que de besoin, les dispositions de toute nature, nécessaires à l'application du présent arrêté.

Article 15 : Le présent arrêté sera enregistré, publié au Journal Officiel et communiqué partout où besoin sera.

Fait Libreville, le 24 OCT. 2023

Le Ministre



Pr. Adrien MOUGOUGOU

Regulation to prohibit the manufacture, import, export, use, and marketing of cosmetic and personal hygiene products containing mercury, mercury compounds, and other hazardous substances for health in the Gabonese Republic

MINISTERE DE LA SANTE ET
DES AFFAIRES SOCIALES

CABINET DU MINISTRE

REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE
Union –Travail- Justice

Visé


Arrêté n° 000002 /MSAS/CAB

portant interdiction de la fabrication, de l'importation, de l'exportation, de l'utilisation et de la commercialisation des produits cosmétiques et d'hygiène corporelle contenant le mercure, les composés de mercure et les autres substances dangereuses pour la santé en République Gabonaise

Le Ministre de la Santé et des Affaires Sociales ;

Vu la Charte de la Transition ;

Vu la loi n° 3/91 du 26 mars 1991 portant Constitution de la République gabonaise ;

Vu la Convention de Minamata acceptée par le Gabon le 24 septembre 2014 ;

Vu la loi n° 007/2014 du 1er Août 2014 relative à la Protection de l'Environnement en République Gabonaise ;

Vu la loi n°002/2014 portant Orientation du Développement Durable en République Gabonaise ;

Vu l'Ordonnance n° 001/95 du 14 janvier 1995 portant orientation de la Politique de Santé en République Gabonaise ;

ARRETE :

Article 1er : Le présent arrêté, porte interdiction de la fabrication, de l'importation, de l'exportation, de l'utilisation et de la commercialisation des produits cosmétiques et d'hygiène corporelle contenant le mercure, les composés de mercure et les autres substances dangereuses pour la santé en République Gabonaise.

Chapitre I : Des dispositions générales

Article 2 : Au sens du présent arrêté, on entend par :

Artisan cosmétologue : toute personne physique active dans la production, la transformation, la commercialisation des produits cosmétiques et dont les activités présentent des aspects essentiellement manuels et légèrement mécanisés n'occasionnant pas une production industrielle ;

Cosmétique et d'hygiène corporelle contenant le mercure ou composé de mercure : produit cosmétique et d'hygiène corporelle qui contient du mercure ou un composé du mercure ajouté intentionnellement ;

Cosmétique mise sur le marché : le fait de fournir un cosmétique ou de le mettre à disposition d'un tiers, à titre onéreux ou non. Toute importation est assimilée à une mise sur le marché.

Déchets de cosmétiques : déchets provenant des activités de cosmétologie ou des produits cosmétiques.

Importation : l'introduction physique sur le territoire national de cosmétique contenant du mercure, de composés du mercure, de mélanges à base de mercure et de produits contenant du mercure ajouté

Chapitre II : De la gestion des déchets des produits cosmétiques contenant le mercure et des autres substances dangereuses pour la santé

Article 8 : Toute personne physique ou morale, détentrice de produits cosmétiques contenant du mercure, des composés de mercure ou d'autres substances dangereuses pour la santé est tenue d'en faire la déclaration auprès des services compétents du Ministère de la santé ou des services déconcentrés de l'ANMAPS dès la signature du présent Arrêté.

Article 9 : Les producteurs de déchets de cosmétiques contenant du mercure sont responsables de leur élimination jusqu'au stade ultime conformément aux dispositions des articles 93, 100 et 102 de la loi n°007/2014 du 1er Août 2014 sus visée.

A cet effet, ils établissent avec l'Agence du Médicament et Autres Produits de Santé, des conventions de gestion qui explicitent notamment :

- le nom et les coordonnées des parties ;
- la localisation ou zone d'opération ;
- les fournisseurs des produits cosmétiques en cours de vie ;
- l'origine des déchets,
- les quantités de produits réputés déchets au mercure ;
- les actions d'élimination envisagées.

Article 10 : L'Agence du Médicament et Autres Produits de Santé tient à jour un registre des saisies des produits cosmétiques contenant le mercure, les composés de mercure ou d'autres substances dangereuses pour la santé non conforme à la réglementation en vigueur.

Ce registre contient, outre les informations évoquées à l'article 9 du présent arrêté, toutes les informations nécessaires à l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre de la Convention de Minamata dans le secteur de la santé au Gabon.

Chapitre III : Des dispositions diverses et finales

Article 11 : Des textes réglementaires déterminent, en tant que de besoin, les dispositions de toute nature nécessaires à l'application du présent arrêté.

Article 12 : Le Directeur Général de l'Agence du Médicament et Autres Produits de Santé, le Directeur Général de la Santé et les services compétents des autres administrations sont chargés chacun en ce qui les concerne, de l'application du présent arrêté.

Article 13 : Le présent arrêté qui prend effet à compter de sa date de signature, sera enregistré, publié au Journal Officiel et communiqué partout où besoin sera.

Fait à Libreville, le 11 OCT. 2023

Le Ministre

Pr. Adrien MOUGOU



Regulation to prohibit the manufacture, import, export, marketing and use of dental amalgam, thermometers, and blood pressure monitors with mercury in Gabon

MINISTERE DE LA SANTE ET
DES AFFAIRES SOCIALES

CABINET DU MINISTRE

REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE
Union –Travail- Justice

Visa CJ

Arrêté n° 000006 MSAS/CAB portant interdiction de la fabrication, de l'importation, de l'exportation, de la commercialisation et de l'utilisation des amalgames dentaires, des thermomètres et des tensiomètres à mercures en République Gabonaise

Le Ministre de la Santé et des Affaires Sociales ;

Vu la Charte de la Transition ;

Arrête :

Article 1er : Le présent Arrêté porte interdiction de la fabrication, de l'importation, de l'exportation, de la commercialisation et de l'utilisation des amalgames dentaires, des thermomètres et des tensiomètres à mercures en République Gabonaise.

Chapitre I : Des définitions

Article 2 : Au sens du présent arrêté, on entend par :

- **Amalgame dentaire ou « plomb »**, un matériau composé généralement du mercure à 50%, de l'argent à 30%, du cuivre à 10% et de l'étain à 10% utilisé pour traiter les caries dentaires.
- **Matériau de restauration**, un matériau utilisé pour obturer les cavités résultant de l'élimination de tissus dentaires affectés par des caries.
- **Déchets de cabinet dentaire**, tout résidu issu d'un processus de mélange ou de placement du matériau d'obturation de cavité dentaire, destiné à ne plus être utilisé, donc à éliminer.
- **Risque**, probabilité d'apparition d'un effet nocif spécifique. Il est souvent exprimé en pourcentage de cas dans une population donnée pour une durée déterminée. Une évaluation du risque peut être faite à partir de cas réels ou par projection de cas futurs, basée sur des extrapolations.
- **Déchets de mercure ou de composés de mercure**, sont des déchets consistant ou contaminés au mercure ou aux composés du mercure provenant eux-mêmes des activités de soins, de l'industrie, de l'usage des équipements, des outils ou des biens de consommation ayant une teneur de 0.5mg de mercure par kilogramme de matière considérée.

Section III : Des tensiomètres à mercure

Chapitre II : De l'amalgame dentaire, des thermomètres et des tensiomètres à mercure

Section I : De l'amalgame dentaire

Article 3 : Sont interdits au Gabon la fabrication, l'importation, l'exportation, la commercialisation et l'utilisation des amalgames dentaires.

Section II : Des thermomètres à mercure

Article 9 : Sont interdits la fabrication, l'importation, l'exportation, la commercialisation et l'utilisation des thermomètres à mercure en République Gabonaise.

Article 10 : Les établissements de soins, d'importation, de distribution et de dispensation, détenteurs de thermomètre à mercure à la date de publication du présent arrêté, sont tenus de procéder à leur collecte, au retrait et à leur stockage sécurisé.

Les stocks identifiés et sécurisés, sont communiqués au Ministère en charge de la Santé via l'Agence du Médicament et des Autres Produits de Santé.

Article 11 : Dès publication du présent Arrêté, les mesures de température pour des besoins de santé ne peuvent se faire que via des dispositifs médicaux autres que ceux contenant du mercure.

Article 12 : Les opérations de collecte et de stockage des thermomètres à mercure sont conduites par des structures habilitées et agréées par les autorités compétentes.

Article 14 : Sont interdits la fabrication, l'importation, l'exportation, la commercialisation et l'utilisation des tensiomètres à mercure en République Gabonaise.

Article 15 : Toutes les formations sanitaires, publiques ou privées officiant sur le territoire national sont tenues de faire un inventaire exhaustif de leurs tensiomètres à mercure. Les résultats d'inventaires sont communiqués à l'Agence Nationale du Médicament et des Autres Produits de Santé par les directions régionales de la santé compétentes.

Article 16 : Les opérations de collecte et de stockage des tensiomètres à mercure sont conduites par des structures habilitées et agréées par les autorités compétentes.

Chapitre III : De la gestion des déchets de mercure dans les établissements sanitaires

Article 17 : Toute personne physique ou morale, détentrice de produits contenant du mercure, des composés de mercure ou d'autres substances dangereuses pour la santé est tenue d'en faire la déclaration auprès des services compétents du Ministère de la santé ou des services déconcentrés de l'Agence Nationale du Médicament et des Autres Produits de Santé dès la signature du présent Arrêté

Article 18 : Les producteurs de déchets contenant du mercure sont responsables de leur élimination jusqu'au stade ultime conformément aux dispositions des articles 93, 100 et 102 de la loi n°007/2014 du 1er Août 2014 sus visée.

A cet effet, ils fournissent à l'Agence Nationale du Médicament et des Autres Produits de Santé, un engagement sur l'honneur qui précise notamment :

- Le nom et les coordonnées des parties ;
- La localisation ou zone d'opération ;
- Les fournisseurs des produits cosmétiques en cours de vie ;
- L'origine des déchets ;
- Les quantités de produits réputés déchets au mercure ;
- Les actions d'élimination envisagées.

Testing and monitoring of the SLPs

- Initially planned for the current month, the activity was reframed following exchanges with BRI during COP-5 Minamata.
- Start-up is scheduled for January 2024

Thank you!



**ONLINE MARKETING OF TOXIC SKIN
LIGHTENERS**
ZMWG, CEJAD

Zero Mercury Working Group Mercury added skin lightening cream campaign *Online Marketing of Toxic Skin Lighteners*

**First meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening
Products project stakeholder group**

28th November 2023, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm CET

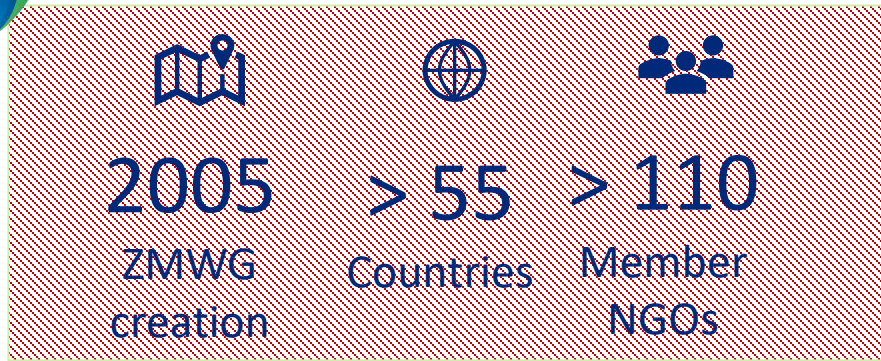
Elena Lymberidi-Settimo
Policy Manager, European Environmental Bureau
International Coordinator of the Zero Mercury Working Group
Co-lead Mercury in Products Partnership Area of the Global Mercury Partnership

Griffins Ochieng
Executive Director
Center for Environmental Justice and Development (CEJAD)





ZMWG & Skin Lightening Campaign Partners



ZMWG Aim:
Reduce/eliminate mercury supply, use, emissions, exposure, implementing the Minamata Convention

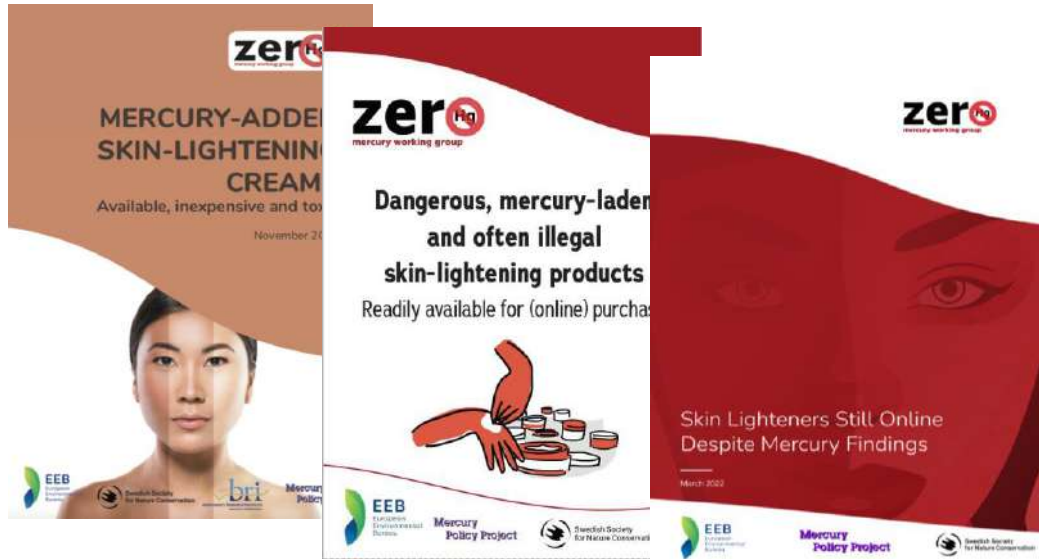


- AFRICA- Bio Vision Africa, **Uganda**; Center for Environment Justice and Development, **Kenya**; Centre Africain pour la Santé Environnementale, **Cote d'Ivoire**; groundWork, **South Africa**; Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development, **Nigeria**
- AMERICAS- Casa Cem, **Mexico**; Mercury Policy Project & WE-ACT, **United States**; Integrated Health Outreach (IHO), **Antigua and Barbuda**; Toxisphera Environmental Health Association, **Brazil**
- ASIA- BAN Toxics, **the Philippines**; Center for Public Health and Environment, **Nepal**; Earth, **Thailand**; Environmental and Social Development Organization, **Bangladesh**; NEXUS3Foundation, **Indonesia**; Toxics Link, **India**
- MIDDLE EAST- Environment Friends Society, **Bahrain**
- EUROPE- European Environmental Bureau, **Belgium**

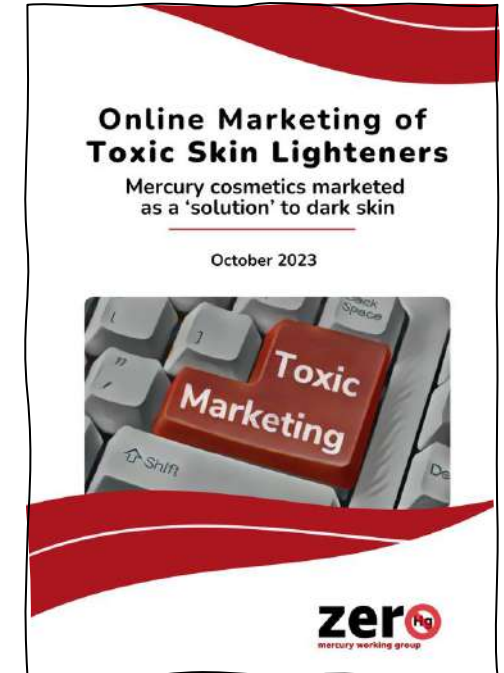




ZMWG Global SLP Investigations



**ZMWG online
database
> 1000 entries**



Global samplings in 2017- 2018, 2019 and 2022:

- Focused on local markets and then online sales
- **775 products tested**, engaging NGO partners from over 20 countries around the globe.
- **33% (256) with mercury over 1 ppm**

Fourth global sampling in 2022-2023:

- Focus on online platforms
- In total, **213 products** were purchased from over 23 e-commerce sites, and tested.
- **90% (191) of the products (60 different brands) had mercury above 1ppm [74,800ppm]**



Suspect creams, countries, online platforms, and methodology

Countries where NGOs are based and where samples were ordered	E-commerce platforms from which samples were purchased
Antigua and Barbuda	ebay.com
Bangladesh	daraz.com.bd; Kablewala.com.bd
Belgium	amazon.com.be; amazon.fr; befr.ebay.be
India	amazon.in; flipkart.com
Indonesia	bukalapak.com; shopee.co.id; tokopedia.com
Kenya	jiji.co.ke; jumia.co.ke; kilimall.co.ke
Nigeria	jiji.ng; jumia.com.ng; kongga.com
Philippines	shopee.ph
South Africa	bidorbuy.co.za
Thailand	lazada.co.th; shopee.co.th
Uganda	jiji.ug
United States of America	amazon.com; ebay.com

Methodology:

1. Priority list of suspect high mercury SLPs compile + national detention lists
2. Identification of national/regional e-platforms
3. Searching availability of the SLPs on e-platforms /countries
4. Inventory / Purchase of SLPs
5. Samples sent for XRF screening to regional hub
6. 10% of samples sent to Laboratory for verification

Steps to address illegal toxic SLP trade



Enforcement measures
to restrict high mercury
cosmetic products under
the Minamata Convention



Mercury
Policy Project



Legal framework, mandates and division of responsibilities

Legal gap analysis, Licensing/registration requirements, Restrictions/bans, Labelling of ingredients and full disclosure of ingredients



Supporting tools and measures

Detention lists, Alert systems or Advisories (EU Safety Gate, ASEAN cosmetics Post Marketing Alert System), Capacity-building, Detection and measurement capabilities



Inspections and sanctions

Severe fine and penalties, screening, tools , informing consumers for better market surveillance



Inter-agency and international Collaboration

Mandates, national interagency/regional/international cooperation (e.g. East African Community, ASEAN, EU) collaboration with NGOs



On the ground projects supporting the work

- Bangladesh, Philippines, Pakistan, India
- Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, [Uganda]
- [Antigua and Barbuda]
 - Sampling online (and on the ground)
 - Contacting e-platforms
 - Investigative journalists' reports on illicit trade, videos, articles
 - Lumex monitoring of beauty parlours
 - XRF screening hub
 - XRF demonstration to customs
 - Capacity needs assessment on enforcement (questionnaire)
 - Looking at detention list methodology
 - Dermatology surveys
 - Stakeholder meetings, webinars, COP side events, bilaterals





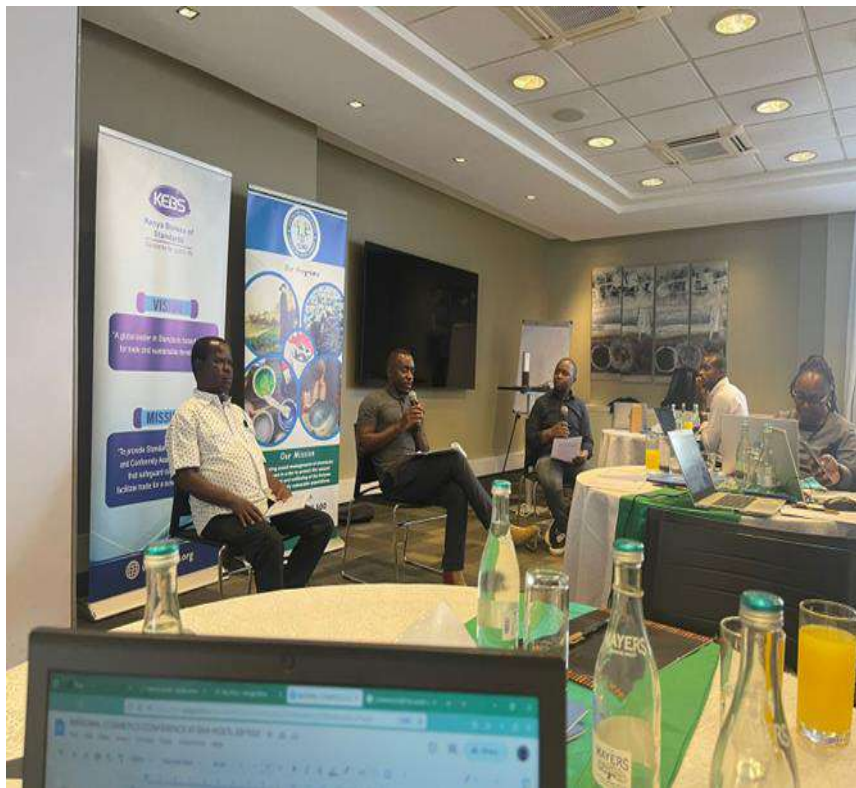
CEJAD – Supporting Enforcement work on SLPs in Kenya



1. Supported by the EU/UNEP ACP-MEAs III project via EEB/ZMWG.
2. Investigation on illegal trade, XRF demo with customs agents, SLP survey/testing.
3. **CEJAD and KEBS held a national conference on the prevention of trade in illegal mercury skin-lightening creams.**
 - The conference was conducted on 23rd and 24th November 2023
 - Conferences attended by 40 people drawn from government, industry, academia, and CSOs.



CEJAD/KEBS meeting: Way forward identified by stakeholders



1. **A coordinated national awareness campaign** by all relevant stakeholders to address not only the **social and cultural drivers** but also the **dangers of mercury skin-lightening creams**.
2. Urgent need to tackle the sale of mercury skin lightening creams via online platforms. **Regulation of online platforms and voluntary agreements with e-platforms**.
3. **Review of laws** relating to the regulation of cosmetics to address overlap (between KEBS and PPB); harmonize fines and penalties, **advertisement marketing, advertising, and display of mercury-added cosmetics** among others.



CEJAD/KEBS meeting: Way forward identified by stakeholders



1. **Multi-agency collaborations** (regulatory agencies) for better inspections and enforcement.
2. **Harmonize enforcement activities at the EAC regional level.** Illegal transboundary trade is a key challenge.
3. Strengthen technical capacity and skills (**for testing and inspection**).
4. **Strengthen partnerships and collaboration with government, industry and CSOS.**



Thank you!



Our campaign page:
[https://www.zeromercury.org/
mercury-added-skin-lightening-
creams-campaign/](https://www.zeromercury.org/mercury-added-skin-lightening-creams-campaign/)





INTERACTIVE SESSION: UPDATES AND DEFINING PRIORITIES

All



Summary



Outline

– [First meeting of the Eliminati...](#)

Updates on the ongoing work

Area 1: Legislation and regul...

Area 2: Engaging supply cha...

Area 3: Testing and monitori...

Area 4: Raising awareness a...

Needs and priorities for futur...

Area 1: Legislation and regul...

Area 2: Engaging supply cha

First meeting of the Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products project stakeholder group

28th November 2023, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm CET

Interactive session: sharing updates and defining priorities



Updates on the ongoing work



CASE STUDY: Mercury-containing SLPs in New York City

New York City Department of Health



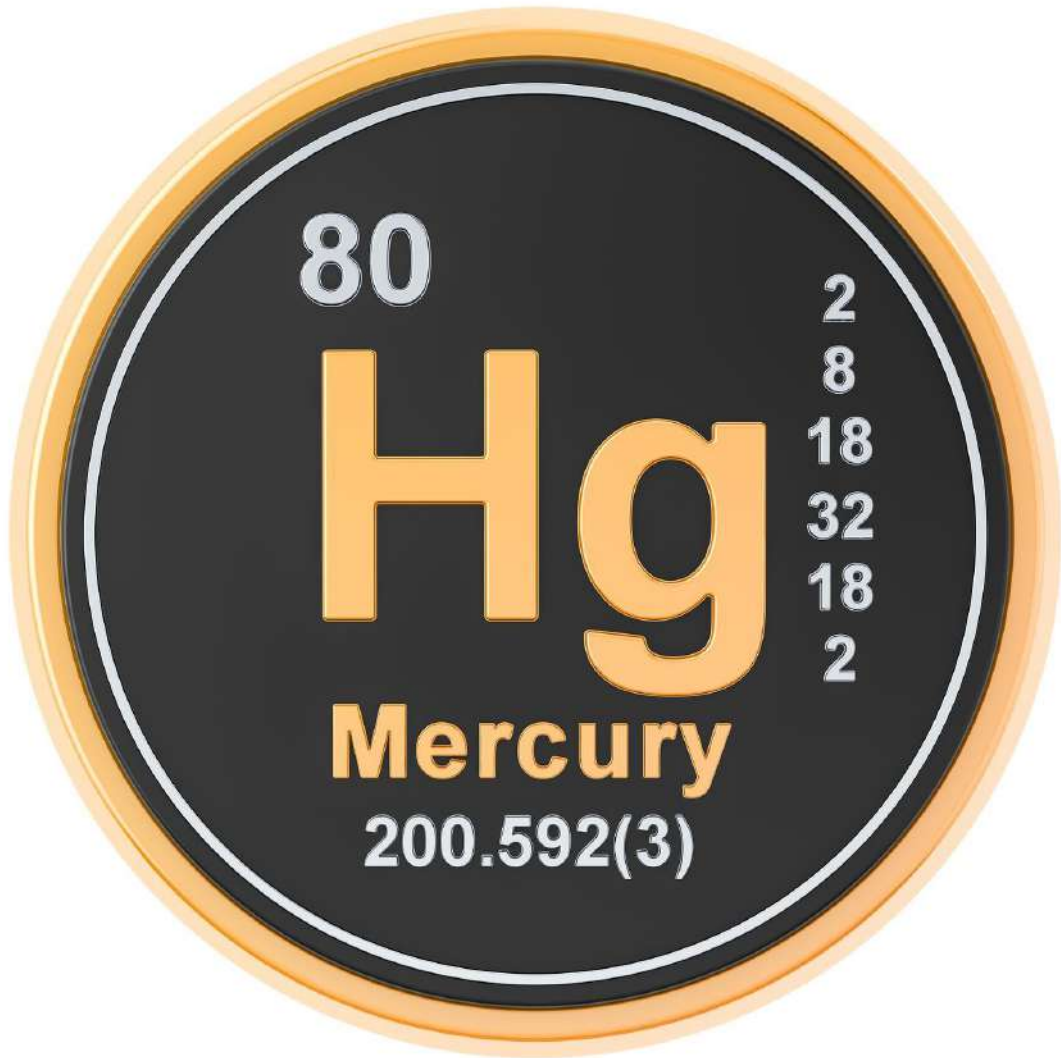


Mercury-containing skin lightening creams in New York City

Paromita Hore, PhD, MPH

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

phore@health.nyc.gov



Why is mercury used in these types of products?

Why is it of concern?

Who is at risk?

① [Get the latest on the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

NYC Health 311 Search all NYC.gov websites

Promoting and Protecting the City's Health

NYC Health

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[Community Health Survey](#)

[Data Catalog](#)

[Vital Statistics](#)

[Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#)

[NYC Health and Nutrition Examination Survey](#)

[NYC Community Air Survey](#)

[GIS Data Files](#)

New York City Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

- [Designing and Implementing a Community HANES Survey](#)
- [NYC HANES 2004 Information](#)
- [Datasets & Related Documentation](#)

The New York City Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NYC HANES) is a community-based health survey. Two surveys have been conducted, one in 2004 and the most recent one in 2013-14. The first survey was conducted by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the second by the CUNY School of Public Health and DOHMH. NYC HANES is modeled after a similar national survey - the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). NHANES has been conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics for more than 35 years. Information from NHANES has led to important improvements in American health care and nutrition. [Learn more about NHANES.](#)

The data collected enabled the DOHMH to learn how many New Yorkers suffered from basic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and depression. With this critical information, DOHMH can better direct the City's resources to the health needs of New Yorkers.

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/new-york-city-health-and-nutrition-examination-survey-2004-nyc-hanes.page>

2004 CHANES participants with elevated urine mercury (above 20 µg/L) were interviewed to determine exposure source

NYC HANES 2004

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducted the first NYC HANES in 2004. Through a detailed health survey and a brief physical exam, NYC HANES collected data from nearly 2,000 New Yorkers.

Since the first NYC HANES was conducted in 2004, researchers have published more than 20 scientific articles. Those research articles led to action that improved the health of all New York City residents. Some of the scientific articles also contributed to the nation-wide conversation about public health.

Researchers used NYC HANES data to learn more about how many New Yorkers have health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and depression and how well these conditions are controlled. They have also learned about environmental exposures, including second-hand tobacco smoke, lead and mercury. Findings from the study have led to changes in New York City laws and regulations as well as to educational campaigns to improve the health of New Yorkers.

[Learn more about the 2004 NYC HANES methods, publications and download the public use dataset.](#)



NYC Store Surveys Triggered by CHANES

Table 3. Results of mercury testing for products obtained from nonchain pharmacies, health and beauty supply stores, discount stores, and botanicas in NYC, 2005.

Product name	Place of manufacture	Active ingredient listed	Mercury content ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	Type of store(s) selling product
Skin-lightening creams				
Recetas de la Farmacia Normal—Crema Blanqueadora	Dominican Republic	Ammoniated mercury	6,190–41,600	Brought into country by study participant/Botanica
Dermaline Skin Cream	Dominican Republic	Amide chloride of mercury	21,100	Beauty supply
Magia Blanca de Michelle Marie Crema Blanqueadora	Unknown	No mercury listed	18,500	Pharmacy
Dermaline Skin Whitening Cream	Dominican Republic	No mercury listed	13,600	Beauty supply
Miss Key Crema Blanqueadora	Dominican Republic	Amide chloride of mercury	9,100	Pharmacy/beauty supply
Crema Santa	Dominican Republic	Mercury oxide	6,200	Pharmacy/discount/beauty supply
Deluxe Nadinola Bleaching Cream	Jamaica	3% Ammoniated mercury	3.47	Beauty supply
Dermaline Beauty Cream	Dominican Republic	No mercury listed	3.37	Pharmacy
Germicidal soaps/creams/balms				
Germicida 200 (soap)	European Economic Community	No mercury listed	4,770	Botanica
Crema Santa Germicida	Dominican Republic	No mercury listed	4,700	Pharmacy
Pomada Salva-Vida (balm)	Dominican Republic	Percl. mercurio: 10%	438	Botanica
Jabon Germicida Contifarma (soap)	Dominican Republic	1% Mercury iodine	204	Pharmacy/beauty supply

NYC Approach to Address Hazardous Consumer Products

Identification of Hazardous Consumer Products

- Investigations of lead-poisoned individuals
- Poison Control Center reports
- National alerts
- Reports from other jurisdictions
- Media reports
- Published literature

Determination of Product Availability in NYC

- Check product availability in NYC stores
- Target neighborhoods based on product users
- Laboratory testing (when necessary)

Embargo and Enforcement

- Stop sale or distribution of products
- Seize and remove products
- Order disposal of products
- Notify other agencies when applicable

Public Awareness Activities

- Notify consumers and general public, businesses, health care providers, community-based organizations
 - Press releases
 - Brochures
 - Fact sheets
 - Health advisories

Ongoing Store Surveillance in New York City

Between 2009-2022, NYC DOHMH collected 200+ products from NYC stores for mercury testing



1/3 of products tested contained mercury and 2/3 of those had levels >1,000 ppm (max 27,000 ppm)

- 206 products purchased and tested: 166 (81%) were creams and 40 (19%) were soaps
- Products were made in 25 countries
- Highest level 27,000 ppm mercury

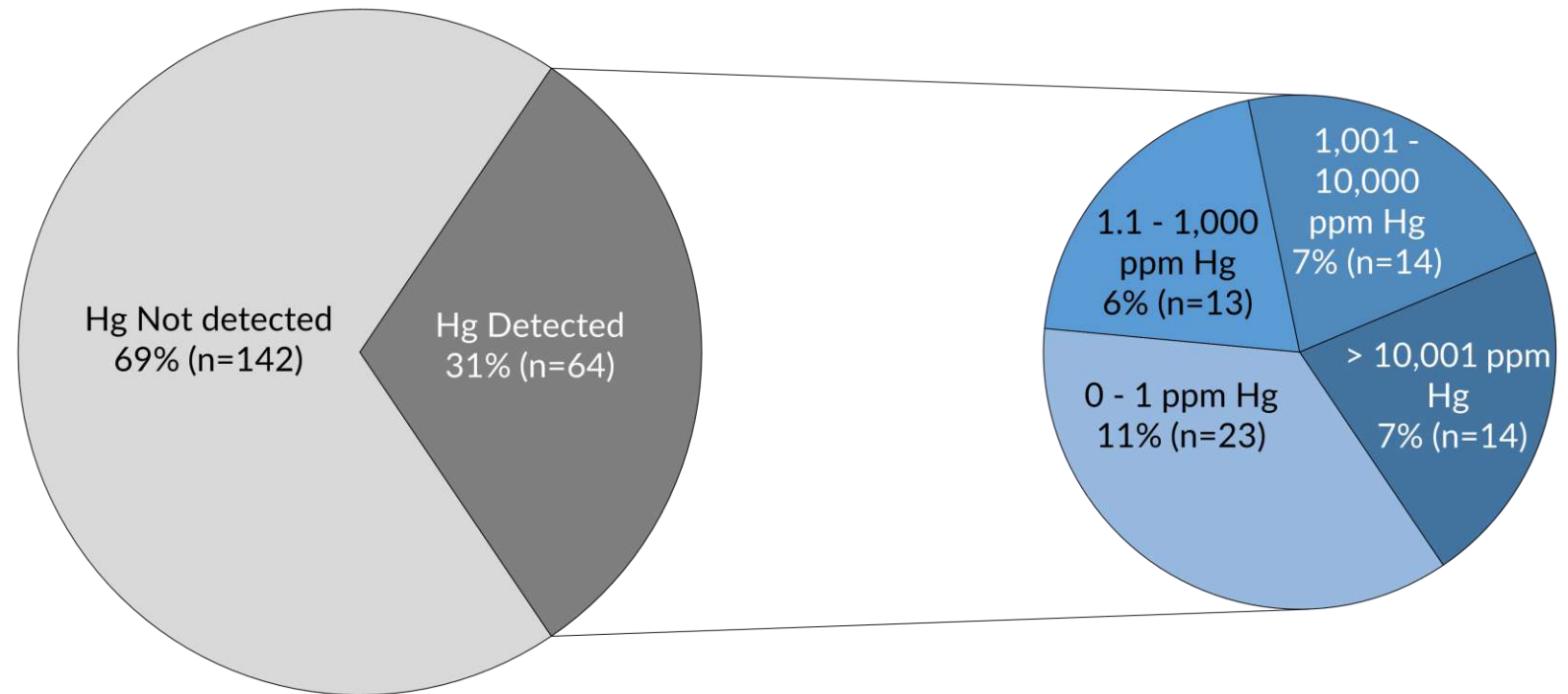


Figure 1: Mercury (Hg) levels in skin lightening products purchased from NYC stores, 2009 – 2022 (n=206). Percentages given are of the total number of products.

All the products with elevated mercury are produced outside of the United States

Country of Manufacture	Creams (N=166)				Soaps (N=40)			
	N	ND	> 0 ppm	>1 ppm	N	ND	>0 ppm	>1 ppm
Pakistan	42	19%	81%	67%	8	50%	50%	0%
India	22	86%	14%	0%	5	80%	20%	0%
Lebanon	11	82%	18%	18%	4	75%	25%	0%
Spain	2	100%	0%	0%	10	0%	100%	70%
Thailand	11	55%	45%	9%	0	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	8	88%	13%	13%	3	67%	33%	0%
China	8	75%	25%	25%	0	-	-	-

Mercury-containing products also marketed to remove wrinkles, spots, freckles and acne

	Creams (N=166)		Soaps (N=40)	
Product Indications	N	% > 0 ppm	N	% > 0 ppm
Lighten the skin	128	30%	23	22%
Reduce aging or wrinkles	39	36%	2*	50%
Remove spots, marks, etc.	102	32%	12*	25%
Clear acne or blackheads	53	55%	6*	33%
Treat under eye circles	19	89%	1*	100%
Promote smooth skin	36	11%	5*	80%
Improve skin tone/complexion	74	20%	18	44%

Enforcement

- ❑ NYC Health Department orders businesses to stop sale, dispose of hazardous products and alert customers (removed 3,000 units from NYC store shelves since 2017).
- ❑ Notified federal government (US Food and Drug Administration) which has resulted in addition of hazardous products to US FDA Import Alerts stopping hazardous products at US borders.

Risk Communication

HEALTH WARNING
 صحت سے متعلق انتباہ

ব্যবহার করবেন না **DO NOT USE** استعمال نہ کریں

These beauty creams were found to contain mercury. Mercury is a poison and can harm your health. See your doctor if you use these products.

Call 311 or 212-POISONS (212-764-7667) for more information.



- Zuni Beyoutiful Beauty Cream a product of Zuni USA LLC
- Infocus Professional Pearl Beauty Cream by Infocus Cosmology CO Pakistan
- Goree Beauty Cream with Lycopane by Goree Cosmetics (Pvt) Ltd
- Dure Beauty Cream made by Kreative Cosmetics (Pvt) Ltd.
- Sandal Whitening Beauty Cream made by VMIC Cosmetics @ - Pakistan
- Chandni Whitering Cream made by SJ Enterprises Pakistan
- Golden Pearl Beauty Cream made by Golden Pearl Cosmetics
- Face Fresh Beauty Cream made by Ghaheen Cosmetics Pakistan
- Faiza No 1 Beauty Cream made by A.M. Cosmetics (Pak)
- Faiza Beauty Cream made by Poonia Brothers (Pak)
- Seven Herbal Ubtan Cream made by C.P.H.L
- Stillmans Freckle Cream and Stillman's Skin Beach Cream made in Pakistan under license from the Stillman Company Inc., USA

ان ہوائی کریمز میں مرکوری شامل ہونی بھی ہو سکتی ہے۔
 کسی بھی صورت کو نقصان پہنچا سکتا ہے۔
 اگر آپ ان پروڈکٹس کا استعمال کرتے ہیں تو اپنے
 ڈاکٹر سے رابطہ کریں۔

مزید معلومات کے لیے 311 یا 212-764-7667
 پر کال کریں۔

NYC Health



WARNING: MAY CONTAIN MERCURY

Certain skin-lightening creams and medicated soaps contain high levels of mercury, even if it is not listed as an ingredient on the label. Mercury is a poison that can damage the brain and kidneys, and cause skin problems.

- Never use skin-lightening creams and medicated soaps that list mercury as an ingredient.
- If you use non-prescription products to lighten your skin or for skin disorders, ask your doctor to test your urine for mercury.

Call 311 or visit nyc.gov/hazardousproducts for more information.

NYC Health

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Hazardous Products: Mercury in Soaps and Creams

Certain skin-lightening creams and medicated soaps can contain mercury. Soaps and creams containing mercury are banned in the United States, but may be available for purchase over the counter or on the Internet.

The mercury in these types of products can be absorbed through your skin. Mercury can damage the brain, nervous system and kidneys. It may also damage the skin, cause rashes and blotchy spots, and give skin a grayish color.

The longer and more often products containing mercury are used, the greater the health risk. These products can be especially harmful to children.

How to Identify Dangerous Soaps and Creams

Products may contain mercury, even if it is not listed as an ingredient on the label. Check packaging materials and any instructions or ingredient lists carefully. Look for:

- "Hg" (the chemical symbol for mercury) or the word "mercury"
- Mercuric iodide, mercuric chloride, mercurous chloride, ammoniated mercury, calomel, mercurio, amide chloride of mercury or mercury oxide
- Instructions to avoid contact with silver, gold, rubber, aluminum and jewelry

Listed below are some skin-lightening creams and medicated soaps that have been found to contain high levels of mercury. Click on the warning sign links to print signs.

Call 311 to report a store selling products found to contain mercury.

www.nyc.gov/hazardousproducts



Challenges

- ❑ Mercury containing skin-whitening products are available for sale over-the-counter and online in the US. Such products may also be hand-carried into the US.
- ❑ Use has been associated with poisonings across US.
- ❑ Medical treatment post exposure and remediation costs are high.
- ❑ To protect the global community, we need to fix the problem at the countries of origin!



For more information about hazardous consumer products, visit www.nyc.gov/hazardousproducts or scan the QR Code below:



MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

The Dark World of Toxic Skin Lightening Products



Avipsa Mahapatra
Campaign Director

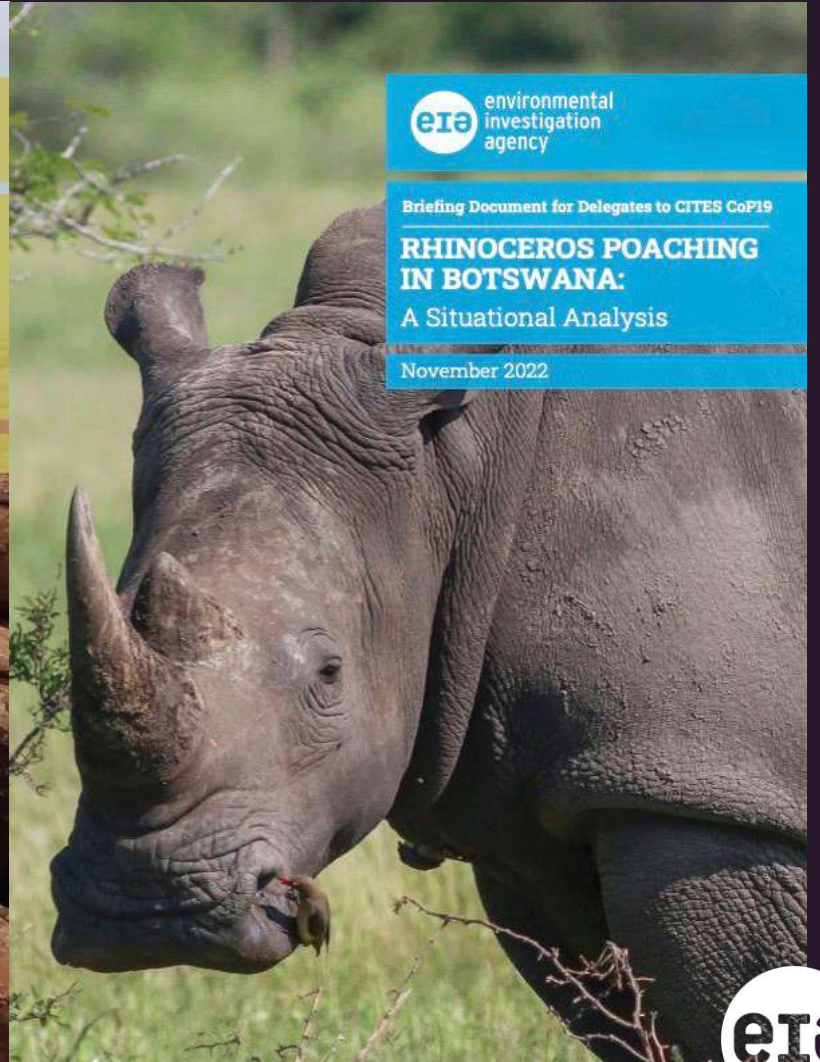
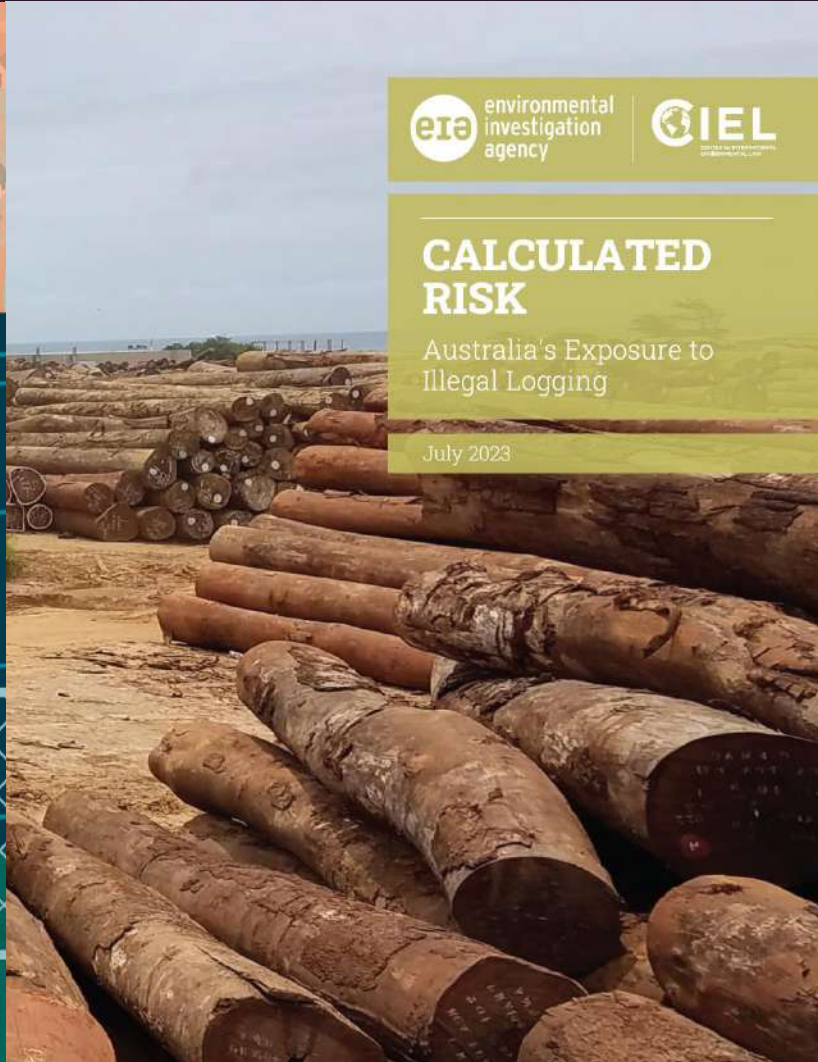
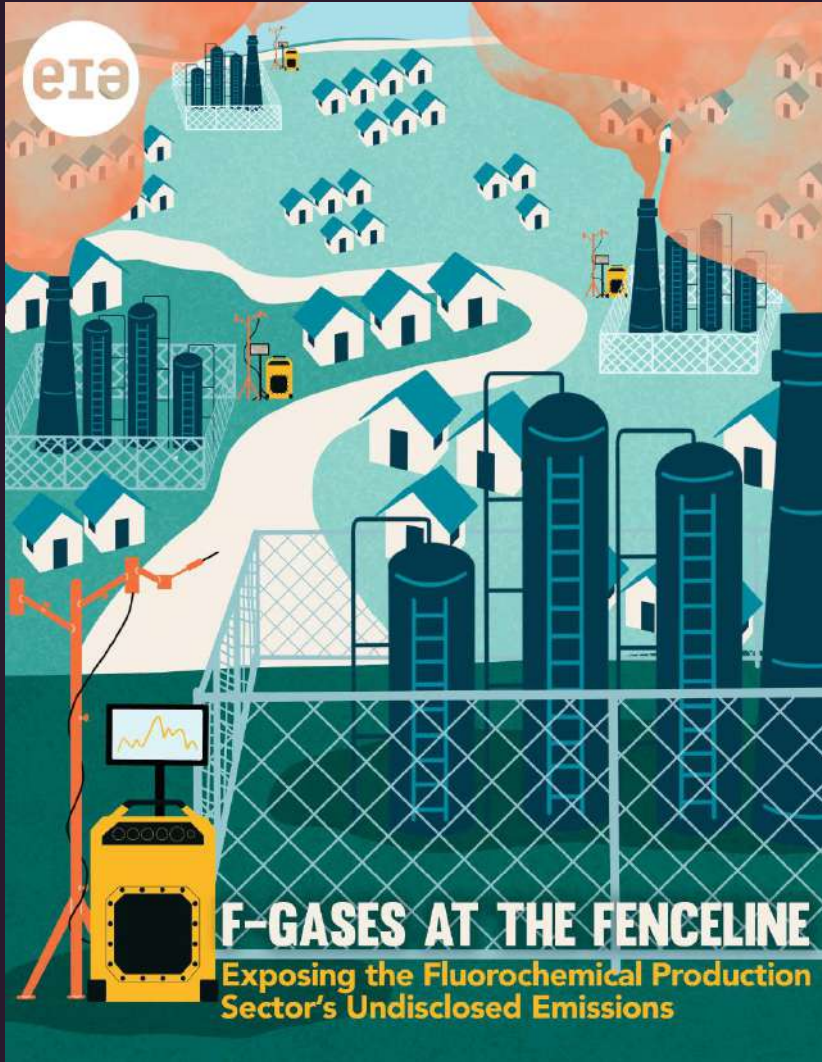


Christopher Douglass
Policy Analyst



environmental
investigation
agency

Who is EIA?



Undercover Investigations

Summary Table of Key EIA Investigation Findings (Non-exhaustive):

Company	Key Findings	Industry
Thailand		
BioNature	Company owner confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams.	Cosmetics Producer
Inter Coslab Co.	High level representatives at the company confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams.	Cosmetics Producer
Viorabio	Company owner confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams.	Cosmetics Producer
Jenisa	Company owner confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams.	Cosmetics Producer
Pakistan		
Poonia Brothers (Faiza)	A high-level representative at the company confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams; however, claimed it is at or below "acceptable" standards. ³⁸ The representative also confirmed they currently produce creams that contain mercury compounds for private brands.	Cosmetics Producer
Biocos	High-level representatives at the company confirmed intentional addition of mercury compounds into their creams at concentrations ranging from 2.5-4%, however claimed it is at or below legal standards.	Cosmetics Producer
India		
Macsen Labs	High-level representative confirmed selling ammoniated mercury for use in skin whitening creams and frequently ships the compound under another name, amido (hg) chloride or amido (hg ii) chloride.	Chemical and Pharmaceutical Ingredients Manufacturer
Champa Purie Chem Industries	High-level executive confirmed that Pakistani companies producing mercury-added SLPs were sourcing mercury compounds from India, but he denied that his company was their source.	Chemical and Pharmaceutical Ingredients Manufacturer
Gurjar Chemicals	High-level executive confirmed they produce and sell ammoniated mercury for use in skin whitening creams.	Mercury Products Manufacturer
Jamaica		
E.W Abrahams & Sons Ltd	Owner confirmed ammoniated mercury-added to their creams and that the ammoniated mercury is imported from the United States.	Cosmetics Producer
United States		
Noah Chemicals	Company representative confirmed they are currently exporting the mercury compounds for use in SLPs. Executives at other companies confirmed Noah Chemicals as a mercury compound supplier.	Chemical and Compound Supplier
Spain		
Quimicalited	Company owner confirmed they currently supply ammoniated mercury for use in the production of skin whitening products. Confirmation of export of elemental mercury in the past.	Chemical and Compound Supplier

Pakistan

- **Poonia Brothers (Faiza):** confirmed manufacture of SLPs that contain mercury compounds, claimed to be under “acceptable limit”
 - Also confirmed Poonia currently produces creams that contain higher amounts of mercury compounds for private brands
- **Biocos:** Claimed water-based cream, such as Goldish, requires less mercury compound than an oil-based cream to achieve the same result
 - 2.5-3% mercury compound in water-based creams
 - up to 4-4.5% in oil-based creams
- **UAE:** Serves as an intermediary for compound and SLP distribution
 - Faiza has manufacturing facilities in both Pakistan and Dubai to facilitate faster shipping

(clip)



A cosmetics executive displays the packaging for their top selling mercury-added product.

Jamaica

- For 60 years, the company E.W. Abrahams & Sons Ltd has openly sold a popular mercury-containing cosmetic cream in Jamaica
- The product packaging states that the product contains 3% ammoniated mercury
- Owner claimed he imports the ammoniated mercury from the United States

Deluxe Silken Nadinola Cream 2.25 ounce

\$20.00 USD

In Stock

Shipping calculated at checkout.

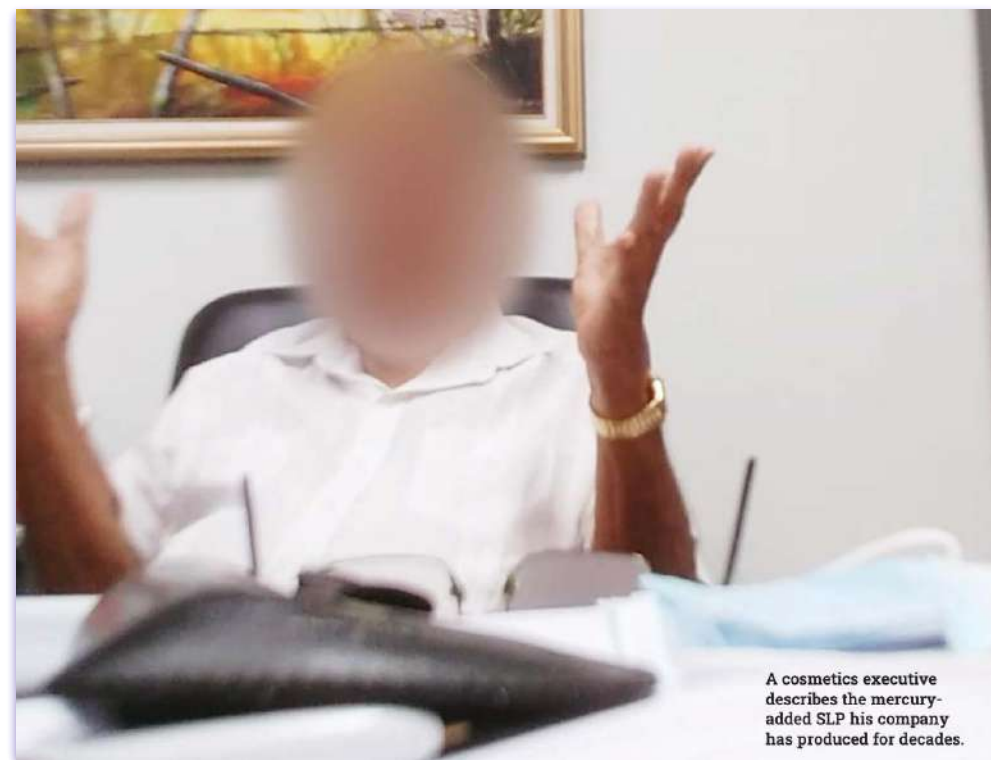
Add To Cart

DeLuxe SILKEN Bleaching Cream For Oily or Normal Skin. Jamaican Deluxe SILKEN fades dark spots and freckles, lightens and brightens skin to a smooth radiant glow. This creamy

reduces oiliness as it blends into the skin helping to combat blackheads for a



ZMWG has confirmed these products remain available for sale online.



A cosmetics executive describes the mercury-added SLP his company has produced for decades.



(clip)

Thailand

- Jenisa: a small-scale local manufacturer and storefront, confirmed SLPs contained ammoniated mercury, referred to as “AM”
- Inter Coslabs: discussed a typical mercury compound percentage of 3-3.5%, said it would be possible to have concentrations up to 4%
- BioNature: owner did not worry about the police visit during EIA interview;
 - Place the mercury-added creams away from the front of the shop
 - Stated if the police were to check the products, they would pay the officers to go away
- Viorabio: showed EIA investigators a cream his company makes that contains 4% of a mercury compound

(clip)



Skin lightening samples given to EIA investigators in Thailand, reported to have mercury added.



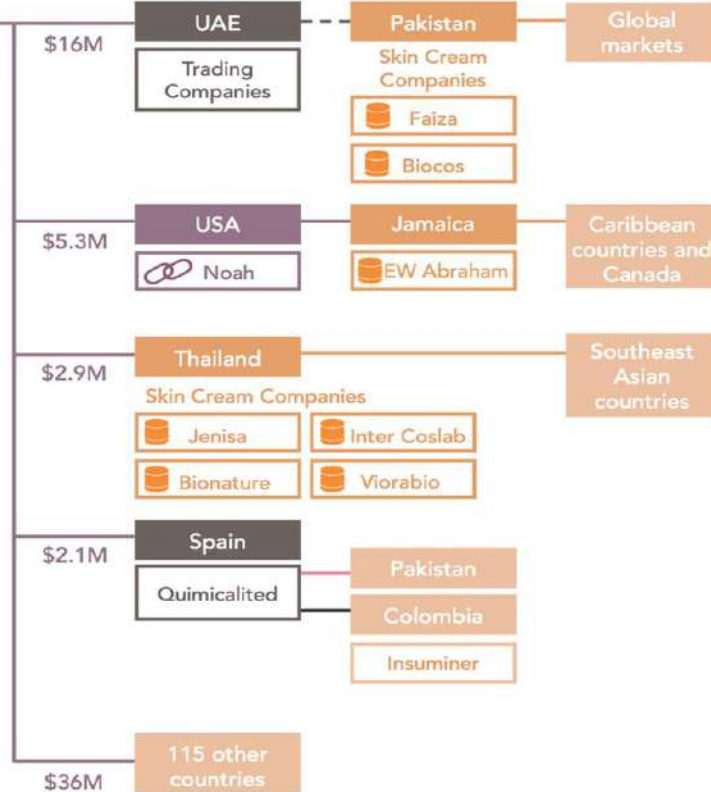
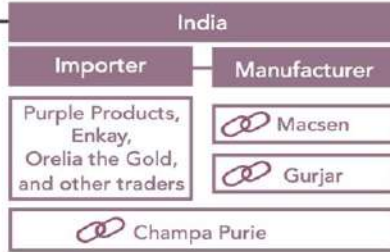
A cosmetics executive in Thailand explains the SLP ingredients, including mercury compounds.

Trade Data

Global Supply Chain Diagram

Investigative Sources

Thailand	\$2.2M
BMT	
Japan	
Nomura	\$1.4M
Peru	\$1.3M
Mercantil	(Indian imp.) \$2.4M (Peru exp.)
Other Sources	
Russia	\$9.2M
Indonesia	\$2.7M
UAE	\$2.1M
Kyrgystan, Tajikistan, Mexico, and 18 others	\$10.8M



Legend

- Elemental mercury (HS 2805.40)
- Mercury compounds (e.g. ammoniated mercury)
- Mercury-added skin-lightening products (SLPs)
- Thimerosal
- Link uncertain
- \$ Trade sum 2016 - 2022
- Recycler

Global supply chain for mercury compounds and mercury-added SLPs. Sources from EIA investigation.

Note, the scale of mercury compound production is not limited to the compound trading companies mentioned in this report

Mercury Compound Distributors

USA

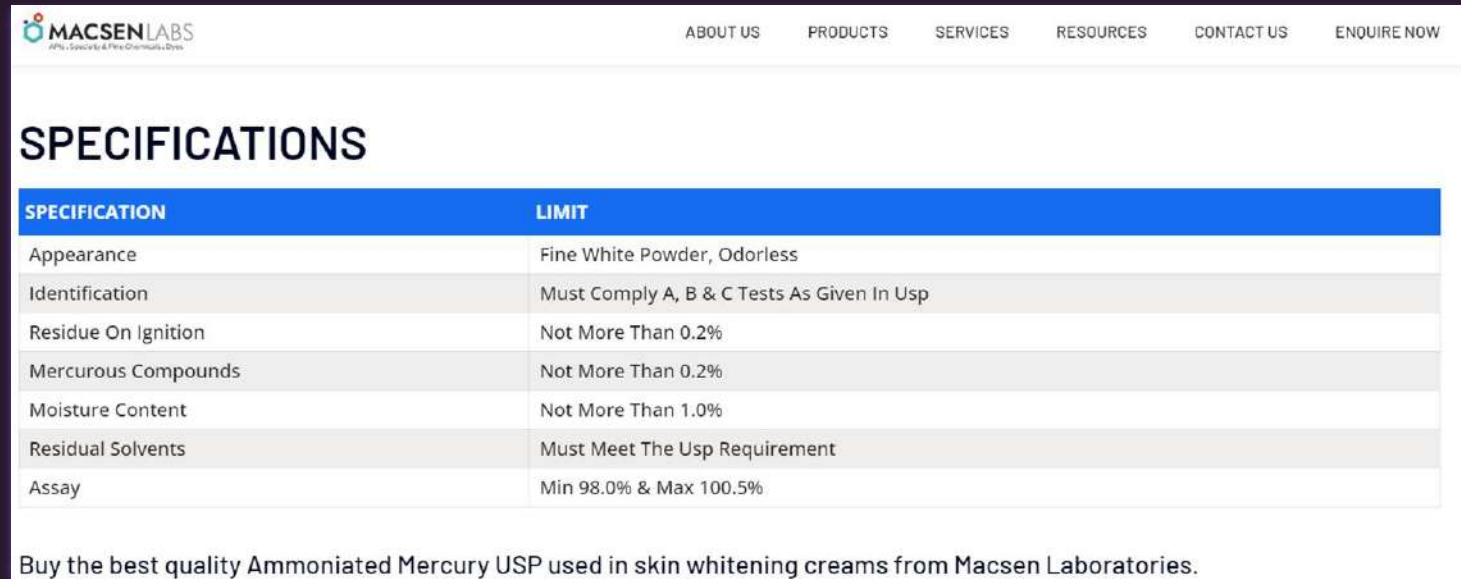
- Noah Chemicals, a Texas-based company, is currently exporting mercury compounds for SLPs to E.W. Abrahams. (Silken Deluxe, Jamaica)
- Also an Indian compound supplier claimed Quimicalited sold ammoniated mercury to Noah Chemicals

Spain

- Quimicalited: supplies ammoniated mercury for use in the production of skin whitening products and confirmation of export of elemental mercury in the past.

India

- Macsen: sell ammoniated mercury for use in skin whitening creams and frequently ships the compound under another name, amido (hg) chloride or amido (hg ii) chloride
- Gurjar: produces and sells ammoniated mercury for use in skin whitening creams



The screenshot shows the Macsen Labs website with a navigation menu (ABOUT US, PRODUCTS, SERVICES, RESOURCES, CONTACT US, ENQUIRE NOW) and a 'SPECIFICATIONS' table. Below the table is a promotional text: 'Buy the best quality Ammoniated Mercury USP used in skin whitening creams from Macsen Laboratories.'

SPECIFICATION	LIMIT
Appearance	Fine White Powder, Odorless
Identification	Must Comply A, B & C Tests As Given In Usp
Residue On Ignition	Not More Than 0.2%
Mercurous Compounds	Not More Than 0.2%
Moisture Content	Not More Than 1.0%
Residual Solvents	Must Meet The Usp Requirement
Assay	Min 98.0% & Max 100.5%

Buy the best quality Ammoniated Mercury USP used in skin whitening creams from Macsen Laboratories.

Key Findings

- Companies intentionally add mercury compounds, often at concentrations greater than 1 ppm.
- Ammoniated mercury is the primary mercury compound added to these creams.
- The sources of mercury compounds that are being sold for use in SLPs include companies based in Spain, India, Japan, and the United States.
- It is standard practice for SLP producers across the globe to manufacture products consisting of 3-4% of a mercury compound.
- The production of these products is enabled by the unregulated trade of most mercury compounds.



Legal Landscape

- Addition of mercury compounds into cosmetics over 1 ppm of mercury is a violation of the Minamata Convention under Article 4
 - National legislation implementing this requirement has not been adopted in all countries
- Of the SLP production countries covered in this report (Jamaica, Pakistan, and Thailand)
 - Thailand and Pakistan have enacted national laws in compliance with the 1 ppm restriction
 - Enforcement remains a key issue



Recommendations

- Update national laws to be consistent with the Convention
- Strengthen and ensure enforcement of the manufacturing and trade ban of mercury-added SLPs in the manufacturing countries
- Take measures to control online sales
- Control the production and trade of mercury-added compounds



Questions?

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Thanks to ZMWG for reviewing our report.



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An illustration on the left side of the slide shows a hand cupping an ear, symbolizing listening. To the right of the hand is a white speech bubble containing the text 'WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU'. The background is a solid teal color.

**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU**

Go to www.menti.com
and use the code **9756 1190**



THANK YOU

