The potential impact of climate change on the behavior of POPs in the environment is complex. Climate change will affect many aspects of the environment – temperatures, precipitation patterns, snow and ice cover, and the salinity of the oceans. These changes will alter the partitioning of POPs among environmental compartments (air, water, soil, sediments, snow and ice). Higher temperatures, for example, can result in more POPs evaporating from the soil into the air, while heavier rainfall can lead to greater surface deposition of airborne POPs and increased run-off of pollutants.

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are organic compounds that are resistant to environmental degradation through chemical, biological, and photolytic processes. POPs persist in the environment for long periods, are capable of long-range transport, bioaccumulate in human and animal tissue and biomagnify in food chains, and have potentially significant impacts on human health and the environment. Exposure to POPs can cause serious health problems including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and even diminished intelligence.

The Stockholm Convention is an international treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs. It was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004 initially covering 12 chemicals. Currently, 16 additional POPs have been added by 181 Parties as of 2017 to the Stockholm Convention.
PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Capacity building and mainstreaming of POPs related legislation into the process of harmonisation of the BiH environmental legislation
- Prevention and monitoring of U-POPs generation and of release of POPs through minimization, segregation and environmentally sound management of selected hazardous waste stream
- Implementation of green chemistry principles in plastic manufacturing to prevent the use of and release of new POPs
- Management and disposal of PCBs and POPs from abandoned industrial premises
- Monitoring, learning, adaptive feedback, outreach and evaluation

PROJECT CONTRIBUTES TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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