

# UNDP in The Gambia



## Capacity Building for Poly chlorinated Biphenyl's (PCBs) and Unintended Persistent Organic Pollutants (U-POPs) in The Gambia

Start date: 2019

End date: 2024

Budget (GEF): US\$ 1.9 million

It is well known that the exposure to POPs can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease, and damages to the central and peripheral nervous systems. The Stockholm Convention on POPs has been established based on the consideration that, given the long-range transportation of POPs, no one government acting alone can protect its citizens or its environment from POPs.

PCBs are among the most toxic POPs listed in the Stockholm Convention. The so-called dioxin-like PCBs are characterized by a toxicity and environmental persistence that is very similar to that of dioxins. Based on the re-assessment of scientific evidence, PCBs have recently been re-classified as class 1 carcinogens by the International Agency for Research of Cancer (IARC-WHO). Although PCBs were mostly used in closed systems, like transformers and capacitors, very often such equipment is recycled at the end of its operational life and the PCB oil contained therein can be either directly disposed of in the environment, recycled, or even sold as fuel oil

### Project Objective & Outcomes

The project intends to support the Gambia with the necessary technical and financial assistance to reduce the risks posed by PCBs and uPOPs to the environment

and human health. The project has the following intended Outcomes;

**Outcome 1:** Strengthened of legal frameworks, administrative processes, and technical preparedness for the sound management of PCBs and reduction of uPOPs emissions

**Outcome 2:** Environmentally sound management of PCBs and PCB-contaminated sites

**Outcome 3:** Minimized releases of uPOPs from open burning of waste

**Outcome 4:** Monitoring, learning, adaptive feedback, outreach and awareness raising, and evaluation

Incorporated into the project is the piloting of innovative waste solutions. UNDP intends to work further with national stakeholders to forge partnerships to scale-up these solutions.

Outside the scope of this project, the Government of The Gambia has also expressed interest in receiving support to better manage plastic waste in an effort to reduce ocean pollution.

***This project has two Implementing Agencies (UNDP and UNITAR)***

For more information on how to engage, or to share ideas on how to address the crisis in The Gambia, contact Mariam Njai, Communications Analyst at: [mariam.njai@undp.org](mailto:mariam.njai@undp.org) / +220 3303180

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