Comprehensive Reduction and Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pakistan

Pakistan signed the UN Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) on 6 December 2001 and ratified it on 14 April 2008. A National Implementation Plan for compliance was submitted on 16 July 2010.

During Pakistan’s green revolution in the 1950s chemical pesticides were widely promoted and used without clear understanding of the impact of POPs. Although laws related to the storage, transportation and application of chemical pesticides were passed in 1971 and 1973, poor governance and a lack of implementation mechanisms have rendered them ineffective.

**QUICK FACTS**
- **Duration:** 2015–2019
- **Implementing partners:** Ministry of Climate Change and UNDP
- **Funding partner:** Global Environment Facility
- **Location:** Nationwide
- **Annual budget (2019):** USD$ 1,345,000
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For more information: [www.pk.undp.org](http://www.pk.undp.org)
At present, expired, obsolete and POP-contaminated pesticides are secretly sold in the market. They are even widely used as household pesticides with new labels.

The Government of Pakistan seeks to swiftly establish a sound POP management system. To this end, it is improving existing policy and regulatory systems under the National Implementation Plan for POPs, and strengthening enforcement, monitoring and compliance.

This initiative of UNDP and the Global Environmental Facility seeks to safeguard the disposal of large amounts of POP pesticides and prevent their release into the environment due to improper storage and the climatic conditions. The project is upgrading the safety standards of reclamation centres for the disposal of equipment and oil with PCB (a highly toxic POP) which will prevent the exposure of workers and the release of PCB into the environment.

This project proposes a series of activities to strengthen the existing legal and regulatory framework for POPs management and help ensure that communities, government departments and other stakeholders have the technical, enforcement and monitoring capacity required.

Main Achievements:

- GAP analysis of existing legal and regulatory framework for POPs management and work on amendments in existing rules and legislation.
- Capacity Building of PCBs Holders and Custom officials for the control and management of POPs by conducting 22 no. of trainings in all provinces including Azad Jammu and Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan.
- Development of Gender Action Plan to mainstream gender into management of POPs.
- Collection, transport and disposal of 475 MT of POPs Pesticides and PCBs from the already identified sites.
- Procurement of GC-MS and training of relevant officials of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA) for the identification and testing of POPs through GC-MS.
- Identification of PCBs contaminated oil from Power Sector through sampling and testing activity.
- Reconfirmation of POPs Pesticides Stockpiles from all provinces including Azad Jammu and Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan.
- Successful completion of Mid Term Evaluation of Project.

What’s next?

- Development of Sectoral guidelines for the management of POPs.
- Training of root level operators/workers of Agriculture, Energy, Ports and Ships department on safe handling and management of POPs.
- Development of PCBs management plan and Inventory of PCBs through extensive sampling and testing of PCBs contaminated equipment.
- Development of incineration facility through public private partnership for the disposal of POPs.
- Dissemination of information within and beyond the intervention area through short documentaries, brochures and flyers.

Objectives

This project aims to reduce risks to human health and the environment by enhancing management capacities and disposal of POPs through:

- The development and implementation of a regulatory, policy and enforcement system to reduce POP releases and to regulate POP waste disposal.
- Capacity building to reduce exposure to and release of POPs.
- Collection, transport and disposal of 300 tons of PCB and 1,200 tons of POPs pesticides.
- Monitoring and evaluation.