

Toolkit for Incorporating the Sound Management of Chemicals in MDG-based Policies and Plans

At the 2005 UN Summit, countries made a strong commitment to develop MDG-based national development strategies. UNDP, as the UN System's MDG campaign manager, is rolling out MDG Support Services (MDGS) in 60 countries before the end of 2007 to help countries to put the MDGs at the core of their development planning.

The MDG Support Services aims to assist countries in preparing MDG-based national development strategies by delivering services around the following three pillars:

Pillar 1 – MDG-based diagnostics, needs assessments and investment planning;

Pillar 2 – Widening policy options; and

Pillar 3 – Strengthening national capacity to deliver

The UNDP Environment and Energy Group provides national governments with support, through the provision of policies and instruments, to better integrate environment and energy considerations and objectives into MDG-based National Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies and helps catalyze environment finance for sustainable development.

Within this context, UNDP has been supporting initiatives at the national level that promote the Sound Management of Chemicals. These activities assist countries in reducing and eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), reducing and preventing chemicals pollution of international waters and phasing-out of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS). Following the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in February 2006, UNDP will also support countries in taking up SAICM priorities.

To facilitate this task for national governments and UNDP Country Teams, UNDP has finalized a guidance document on "Incorporating the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) in MDG-Based Policies and Plans". The guidance document will be developed into a toolkit.

TOOLKIT OBJECTIVES:

MDGS Pillar 1:

MDG-based Diagnostics and Investment Planning

Sound Chemicals Management country support services:

- Establishing national visions and targets with regard to chemicals management in MDG-based development policies and plans
- Accessing MDG-based chemicals management needs assessments and costing
- Aligning chemicals management investment in national budget making processes

MDGS Pillar 2:

Widening Access to Policy Options

Sound Chemicals Management country support services:

- Mapping-out of chemicals management investments, inclusive of various sources of funds (such as MLF, GEF, SAICM's QSPTF, public sector revenue, ODA and private sector)
- Formulation of resource mobilization action plans
- Developing chemicals management policies and improving the integration of chemicals management priorities into national development planning agenda

MDGS Pillar 3:

Strengthening Country Capacity to Deliver

Sound Chemicals Management country support services:

- Developing strategies to build national capacity to improve sound chemicals management
- SMC management and service delivery capacity development at national and local levels, including capacity to access and manage new and additional sources of environmental finance
- SMC monitoring, evaluation and reporting capacity development, linked to MDG and poverty monitoring

HOW IS SOUND CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT RELATED TO THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?



MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The poor are at higher risk of exposure to toxic and hazardous chemicals because of their occupations, living locations, and lack of knowledge about chemicals. Sound chemicals management can improve their living environment, and consequently their health, and can help increase their revenue (e.g. proper use of pesticides can boost crop yields and protect the productivity of freshwater and marine fisheries).



MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

Establishing basic knowledge of science in primary education will lay the foundation for students to assimilate science-based curricula within the secondary and tertiary levels. Knowledge of science will help nations to progress in many fields while awareness-raising about for example, chemical safety issues, can reduce the occurrence of chemical related accidents.



MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Women being the primary care takers, food preparers, and gatherers of fuel used in the household, are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution, and water/food-borne illnesses. Women's empowerment and knowledge of proper storage, handling and disposal of chemicals within the home can help protect themselves and their families' fauna.



MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

Chemicals (in medications) play a major role in the control of vector borne diseases such as malaria that is still the number one cause for child mortality in developing nations. In many developing countries children are exposed to chemicals through agricultural work (e.g. through improper use of pesticides), in their homes (i.e. because of bad labeling and storage of chemicals and indoor air pollution) and their living environment. Sound chemicals management combined with better nutrition can improve children's working and living conditions, decrease their sensitivity to chemicals, and reduce child mortality.



MDG 5: Improve maternal health

Certain types of chemicals can build up to dangerous levels in humans causing adverse reproductive, developmental, immunological, hormonal and carcinogenic effects. Women who have accumulated these kind of chemicals (e.g. in their lipids or body fat) can pass as much as one fifth of their toxic burden to their infant children, both prenatally and after birth. Improved SMC can lower a women's risk of contamination, improve maternal health and therefore the health of future generations



MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

Malarial medications (prophylactics) and other chemical products (for example treated mosquito bed nets) prevent millions of deaths worldwide from this disease. Chemicals (medications) are helping to control HIV/AIDS and prevent mother-to-child transmission



MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Chemicals can contribute to global warming, ozone depletion and climate change and can be major contributors to environmental degradation through the contamination of water, soil, air and flora and fauna. Sound chemicals management can help prevent and/or minimize harmful chemicals from entering the environment and reduces the need for difficult and costly environmental remediation.



MDG 8: Global partnership for development

International co-operation and co-ordination efforts towards improved chemicals management such as through the recently adopted Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and chemicals related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) create global partnerships, efforts and initiatives that help countries in integrating sound chemicals management objectives into national and local development policies and plans.

THE TOOLKIT'S ROLLOUT

The toolkit is intended to be a work in progress with improvements being incorporated in it as they derive through stakeholder consultations (international and national partners) as well as through lessons learned from its application in a number of pilot countries. The selection of the pilot countries will be in-line with UNDP's MDG Support Services roll-out and the support UNDP will be providing to countries in taking up the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) priorities. UNDP will cooperate with partner agencies using their expertise and comparative advantages.

For further information on the SMC guide, please contact: Dr. Suely Carvalho, Chief Montreal Protocol Unit/Principal Technical Advisor Chemicals, 304 East 45th Street, Room 970, New York, NY 10017, Tel: +1 212-906-6687, Email: Suely.Carvalho@undp.org, Website: <http://www.undp.org/chemicals>