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**Part I: Project Information**

**GEF ID**

10126

**Project Type**

EA

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT**

CBIT No

**Project Title**

Minamata Initial Assessment in Lebanon

**Countries**

Lebanon

**Agency(ies)**

UNIDO

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

Ministry of Environment

### Executing Partner Type

Government

### GEF Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

### Sector

### Taxonomy

Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Knowledge Exchange, Innovation, Capacity Development, Master Classes, Workshop, Training, Targeted Research, North-South, South-South, Field Visit, Exhibit, Theory of change, Adaptive management

### Rio Markers

#### Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

#### Climate Change Adaptation

No Contribution 0

### Biodiversity

### Land Degradation

Type of Reports	Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start	Expected Completion Date	Expected Report Submission to Convention
Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)	7/9/2019	11/4/2019	11/8/2021	5/2/2022

### Duration

24In Months

### Agency Fee(s)

11/8/22, 9:00 PM

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operations

ΛΥΣΗ ΓΕΦ(Σ)

19,000.00

## A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CW-EA	GET	200,000.00	18,600.00
		<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b> 200,000.00	<b>18,600.00</b>

**B. Project description summary****Project Objective**

Post-ratification activities under the Minamata Convention completed to enable policy and strategic decision making and to prioritize areas for future interventions.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
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Needs assessment of institutional and national capacity to implement the Minamata Convention	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1 National capacity improved to prepare for implementation of the Minamata Convention	Output 1.1.1: Institutional gaps identified and national coordination on mercury established	G E T	172,000.00	3,000.00
			Output 1.1.2: Review of existing mercury related regulations and identification of needed policy reforms to prepare for implementation of the Minamata Convention completed			
			Output 1.1.3: National mercury profile established based on the initial inventory and key sectors identified for intervention and investment to reduce, and where possible eliminate, mercury use, release, and emissions			
			Output 1.1.4: Dissemination of information among relevant stakeholder groups (academia, public and private sectors, and civil society) conducted			

Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	2.1 Project achieves objective on time through effective monitoring and evaluation	2.1.1 Periodic monitoring and terminal evaluation of project implementation completed	GET	10,000.00	4,600.00
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>182,000.00</b>	<b>7,600.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
					18,000.00	11,000.00
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>					<b>18,000.00</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>					<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>18,600.00</b>

Please provide justification

**C. Source of Co-Financing for the Project by Name and by Type**

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	UNIDO	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	7,600.00
GEF Agency	UNIDO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11,000.00
			<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>	<b>18,600.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

Not Applicable



## D. GEF Financing Resources Requested by Agency, Country and Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNIDO	GET	Lebanon	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	200,000	19,000	219,000.00
<b>Total Gef Resources(\$)</b>					<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	<b>219,000.00</b>

## Part II. Enabling Activity Justification

### A. ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Provide brief information about projects implemented since a country became party to the convention and results achieved

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The legally binding global instrument was agreed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, 19 January 2013. The treaty was formally adopted and opened for signature at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held from 9 to 11 October 2013 in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan. The Convention entered into force in August 2017 and the first Conference of the Parties (COP1) was held in September in Geneva Switzerland. Up to October 2017, 128 countries had signed the treaty and 83 had ratified it. Lebanon became a party to the Convention on 13 of October 2017.

The Minamata Convention has a phased approach to reduce, and where possible, eliminate mercury use in key industrial sectors. Provisions of the Convention include phase out deadlines established for supply sources and trade, mercury added products, and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used. Based on these targets, the Convention is designed to systematically reduce emissions and releases to land and water, and phase out the use of mercury where alternatives exist.

For Lebanon to meet obligations under the Convention, several barriers must be addressed. These include:

- (a) Institutional barriers: Limited information flow to implement the Convention;
- (b) Policy barriers: gaps in political and legislative frameworks to support Convention provisions;
- (c) Capacity barriers: lack of data on sources of emissions and releases;
- (d) Awareness barriers: low awareness of health risks associated with mercury among the public and government officials, with limited occupational safety mechanisms in place to reduce community exposure to mercury; and
- (e) Technological barriers: lack of knowledge on non-mercury technologies.

Lebanon will require assistance to formulate and apply sector wide programs through cost effective approaches within the context of its national development efforts. In the last years, Lebanon has promoted initiatives to tackle the negative impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment. The country is party to the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions.

No inventory of mercury sources and emissions has been conducted previously in Lebanon. Some studies have been conducted and published in different scientific journals, such as "The mercury study in precipitations at the Levantine basin level: rains and snows" published by the National Research Council. The only project related to mercury management is the GEF funded "Demonstrating the Promoting Best Techniques and Practices for Reducing Health Care Waste to Avoid Environmental Releases of Dioxins and Mercury" (2010-2013). The project included a survey of mercury containing devices (thermometers, dental amalgam, etc.) in selected health care settings, provided training on mercury awareness raising and safe handling, clean-up, storage and disposal of

mercury wastes, and evaluated the replacement with non-mercury alternatives. As a result of the project, three articles were published: a) Demonstrating and Promoting Best Techniques and Practices for Reducing Health Care Waste to Avoid Environmental Releases of Dioxins and Mercury, Health Care in Lebanon, Volume 1, Issue 1, August 2010, b) Same title, Selection of 2 Hospitals to Demonstrate Best Practices in Health care Waste Management in Lebanon, Issue 2, July 2011, and c) Same title, Mercury, Issue 3, September 2011.

Currently, there are no national regulations specific to mercury management in Lebanon. However, there are a number of umbrella regulations and national standards governing the management of hazardous substances, including mercury and the limits of its emissions to the environment and they are listed below:

- Law 444/2002: Protection of the Environment
- Law 64/1988: Protection of the environment from hazardous substances and wastes
- Law 387/1994: Ratification of Basel Convention on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal
- Decree 13389/2004: Classification of medical wastes and their disposal (which recognizes mercury as pollutant of concern requiring specific disposal methods)
- Decision 8/1/2001: Specifications and Standards for air pollutants and liquid wastes from classified establishments and wastewater treatment plants
- Decision 52/1/1996: standards and concentrations to limit the pollution of air, water and soil
- Circular 11/1/2011: Periodic reports from infectious healthcare waste management facilities (containing the measurement and reporting of mercury concentrations in wastewater effluents)

The following actions have been taken in preparation for implementation of the Convention: a) participation in the regional workshop in support of the ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on mercury for the Asia and Pacific region from 17-20 March 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and b) participation at several sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury.

Currently, Lebanon still uses many mercury containing products, such as batteries, switches and relays, various types of lamps, mercury containing cosmetics, and electronic measuring devices. The country also has one coal fired melting metal kiln, medical waste incinerators, and 4 cement clinker production facilities (3 in Chekka region in the North and 1 in Siblina in Mont-Lebanon region). Therefore, in order to implement the Minamata Convention, Lebanon has to establish a regime for import and export of mercury and specific mercury mixtures, take the appropriate measures to phase out, by 2020, the import/export of specific types of products that contain mercury, control mercury emissions from existing facilities, and ensure environmentally sound management of mercury containing waste and storage of mercury, specific mercury mixtures and mercury compounds.

Under existing circumstances, important baseline data remains largely unknown in Lebanon, such as:

- (a) the quantity and distribution of mercury stocks, supplies, trade and trans-boundary movement;
- (b) the amount of mercury being used and disposed from various sectors;
- (c) the handling of waste mercury; and

(d) the extent of mercury pollution.

An in-depth analysis is essential to provide information on future emissions and determining the potential target areas and actions for reduction. As sound mercury management is not yet integrated into sustainable development planning, insufficient mechanisms to handle hazardous wastes may weaken the basis for effective environmental management in Lebanon.

The situation tends to aggravate, as the country does not have the resources or the capacity needed to address mercury-related problems and promote the uptake of low mercury or mercury free technologies. The development of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) will address these issues by providing the basic and essential information to enable policy and strategic decision to be made and by assisting the development of plans to identify priority sectors and activities within the country.

## B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES

The proposal should briefly justify and describe the project framework. Identify also key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable. Describe also how the gender equality and women's empowerment are considered in project design and implementation

The request of financial support from the Chemicals and Wastes focal area of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is justified through investment in enabling activities to assist nations to fulfill essential communication requirements related to the Convention, make informed policy decisions and assist in prioritizing activities.

Enabling activities and full size projects have been conducted and are also currently under implementation in Lebanon with GEF resources in order to assist the country in the management and disposal of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and ozone depleting substance (ODS). The MIA enabling activities will complement the country efforts to reduce significantly the exposure of harmful chemicals and wastes of global importance to humans and the environment.

The project will strengthen Lebanon's national capacity to fulfill obligations under the Minamata Convention and promote effective implementation of its provisions. In order to reach that, the activities proposed will assist the Government and industrial partners to better understand the national operations on mercury, as well as its emissions, and to increase awareness of risks to human and ecosystem health.

With the support of GEF, pollution sources can be identified systematically to select areas for future intervention, while institutional and capacity needs assessment, as well as policy analysis, can assist Lebanon to identify potential barriers to implement the Convention. GEF resources will also assist the country to disseminate project achievements in the national level and help to leverage international support, as well as investments for additional projects in Lebanon to promote sound chemicals management as a key component of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The key stakeholders involved in the project are as follows:

**UNIDO** will act as the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the project. The UNIDO project manager will provide project implementation oversight.

The **Ministry of Environment, Department of Chemical Safety, Service of Environmental Technology**, will act as the main governmental counterpart, providing national leadership. The Ministry is a competent authority in the field of environmental protection and all issues related to environmental protection. The Minamata Convention focal point in the Ministry will be responsible for the day-to-day compliance with the treaty and its provisions. The Ministry of Environment will also act as the chair and secretariat of the **National Steering Committee (NSC)**.

The project will be executed through a contractual agreement with a national consulting firm. The process will be administered by UNIDO according to the "UNIDO General Terms and Conditions" and the national entity will be selected through a competitive open bidding process.

Per agreement with the national counterparts, a national project coordinator will be recruited by UNIDO to provide technical support for MIA implementation and liaise between the Ministry of Environment and UNIDO. The coordinator will be selected based on technical expertise to support appropriate policy and legal gap analysis, the development of the national mercury profile and the institutional capacity development.

Please refer to Annex A for a total estimation of the GEF grant and co-financing budget breakdown. Budget for the final evaluation is included as part of the monitoring and evaluation table.

The following key stakeholders will be involved in the project:

- Ministry of Industry
- Ministry of Public Health
- Order of Physicians
- Order of Nurses
- Lebanese Dental Association
- Order of Industrialists
- Directorate General of Customs
- Healthcare waste management providers
- Syndicate of importers of Medical devices and laboratory equipment
- Lebanese Standards Institution LIBNOR

The **NSC** will be established as an inter-ministerial Steering Committee comprised of UNIDO representatives, technical and policy experts from Ministry of Environment, relevant ministries and industrial associations to provide overall guidance and coordination for the execution of activities, providing strategic inputs and contributions to project management as needed. All project amendments will be done in accordance with UNIDO rules and regulations and GEF policy GEF/C.39/Inf.03.

**Civil Society Organizations**, including industry associations, academia and NGOs, will act as a bridge to connect Government institutes, technical experts, and relevant industries to assist in the development and implementation of policies to fulfill obligations under the Convention. This network of associations will liaise with primary mercury extractors and users to increase awareness, share knowledge and promote technology transfer to reduce mercury use within the enabling activities framework.

The project will not have an impact on **indigenous people** groups as they are not present in the region where the project will be executed.

Please refer to Annex B for a flow chart of various stakeholders.

Recognizing that the level of exposure to mercury and its related impacts on human health are determined by social and biological factors, women, children and men might be exposed to different kinds, levels and frequency of mercury. Therefore, gender mainstreaming will be included as part of the project. This will be addressed based on UNIDO's gender policy, among others by involving women and vulnerable groups at the stakeholder level, in the information sharing and dissemination events. The involvement and participation of women and vulnerable groups will be summarized in the initial inventory report and gender disaggregated data collected to provide a basis for prioritization, development of sectoral intervention plans and future projects.

Special attention will be paid to gender equality when evaluating and inviting members to participate to the National Steering Committee and when inviting stakeholders to awareness raising workshops. During recruitment process, female candidates will be encouraged to apply. For candidates with similar technical qualifications, preference will be given to women.

### C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Discuss the work intended to be undertaken and the output expected from each activity as outlined in Table A

This project sets out the activities necessary to prepare an MIA to support efficient implementation of the Minamata Convention within the national context. The project will assist Lebanon to plan these post-ratification activities while mainstreaming sound mercury management into legal and institutional structures that are fully in line with national priorities. The initiative will also help the country to collect baseline information on mercury use, emissions and releases that will serve as input to the design of future interventions required by the treaty, such as the development of a National Implementation Plan that may be required by the Conference of Parties within a few years of its entry into force.

The planned activities per output are listed below:

**Output 1.1.1:** Institutional gaps identified and national coordination on mercury established

**Activity 1.1.1.1** Establish project coordination mechanism and conduct national project coordination meetings

**Activity 1.1.1.2** Establish an inter-ministerial Steering Group (National Steering Group)

**Activity 1.1.1.3** Identify institutional capacity gaps and barriers

**Activity 1.1.1.4** Organize capacity development workshops and trainings

**Output 1.1.2:** Review of existing mercury related regulations and identification of needed policy reforms to prepare for implementation of the Minamata Convention completed

**Activity 1.1.2.1** Evaluate existing structures, policies, strategies, laws and regulations

**Activity 1.1.2.2** Translate text and annexes of the Convention and related guidance documents

**Activity 1.1.2.3** Sensitize policy makers regarding policy gaps

**Activity 1.1.2.4** Prepare a list of needed mercury related regulations while considering the vulnerabilities of different gender groups

**Activity 1.1.2.5** Prepare national draft legislation to implement the Minamata Convention

**Output 1.1.3:** National mercury profile established based on the initial inventory and key sectors identified for intervention and investment to reduce, and where possible eliminate, mercury use, release, and emissions

**Activity 1.1.3.1** Conduct national mercury inventory training

**Activity 1.1.3.2** Establish a web-based inventory tool for centralized data collection and reporting



**Activity 1.1.3.3** Collect data for the initial national mercury inventory

**Activity 1.1.3.4** Draft initial national mercury inventory

**Activity 1.1.3.5** Identify key sectors for intervention

**Activity 1.1.3.6** Develop national action plans

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**Output 1.1.4:** Dissemination of information among relevant stakeholder groups (academia, public and private sectors, and civil society) conducted

**Activity 1.1.4.1** Develop communication materials taking into account the impacts of mercury on and vulnerability of different gender groups

**Activity 1.1.4.2** Organize and conduct awareness raising campaigns and workshops adapting time and location of the events to different gender groups' needs

Please refer to the attached logical framework in Annex C for specific outputs and their associated indicators, verifications and assumptions.

**D. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT**

The project is expected to be highly cost effective as it is fully in line with the goals of Lebanon to fulfill the full range of obligations under the Convention, as well as regulate anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury in order to protect human health and the environment. With the GEF support, patterns of mercury consumption and release will be assessed to facilitate the design of targeted interventions, which in turn provide global and local benefits through reduced emissions to the environment. Through institutional capacity development and enhancement at the national level, potential contamination risks from the use of mercury-added products will also be minimized.

To ensure cost effectiveness, infrastructure and human resources of the governmental counterpart and executing agency involved in the project will be efficiently utilized. Most project activities will be carried out by national experts. This will foster an increase in local and national capacity to manage mercury and will contribute to the cost effectiveness of the project through reduced consultancy fees and travel expenses.

Project implementation and execution is expected to remain at low risk. UNIDO has solid experience in promoting environmentally sound management of mercury and plays an important role as co-lead of the ASGM sector under the Global Mercury Partnership – the main mechanism and technical advisory group of the Minamata Convention. UNIDO has also extensive experience with enabling activities through the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and NIP updates.

Lessons learned and experience gained by UNIDO through the development of mercury-related projects, as well as capacity building initiatives on POPs, are comparative advantages to the implementation of the project. The local and regional presence of UNIDO in the field will also help to ensure the smooth development of project activities.

## E. DESCRIBE, DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for this project will rely on several levels of review, quality control and feedback. Overall M&E will be conducted by UNIDO through annual supervision visits to the country. The National Steering Group, including the main project stakeholders, will meet annually to: (a) review annual work plan, (b) assess progress against M&E targets as indicated in the Project Results Framework, (c) review interim and final reports, and (d) assess any gaps or weakness and make appropriate adaptive management decisions based on progress and achievements. Work plan for year two will be based on the results achieved in the first year, including associated budget allocations, in agreement with the GEF and UNIDO's rules and guidelines and GEF Council Documents GEF/C.39/09 and GEF/C.39/Inf.03. The final evaluation, to be conducted by an independent evaluator, will be arranged by the UNIDO project manager with support from UNIDO's Evaluation Group and reports submitted to the donor within 90 days of project end. Please see below for a summary of the monitoring and evaluation plan, as well as the related budget breakdown.

**Programmatic M&E:** the main executing partner, a national consulting firm, will be responsible for day-to-day management and execution of the project, reporting semi-annually to UNIDO. Progress of activities and outputs against the targets and desired outcomes will be assessed bi-annually by the executing partners using the means of verification and impact indicators for measurement explained in the Project Results Framework.

**Financial Monitoring:** All project costs will be accounted for and documented. Financial reports will be required from the executing agency according to UNIDO standard accounting procedures.

According to the Monitoring and Evaluation policy of the GEF and UNIDO, follow-up studies like Country Portfolio Evaluations and Thematic Evaluations can be initiated and conducted. All project partners and contractors are obliged to (a) make available studies, reports and other documentation related to the project and (b) facilitate interviews with staff involved in the project activities.

**Legal context clause** "The present project is governed by the provisions of the Standard Basic Cooperation Agreement between the Lebanese Republic and UNIDO, signed on 14 March 1989."

### Monitoring and Evaluation table

M&E activity	Time	Budget [USD]	
		Cash [USD]	In-Kind
Start-up workshop report*	Within 3 months of project start	0	0
Project review by NSG at the end of year 1*	Month 12	0	0
Project review by NSG at the end of the project*	Month 24	0	0
<b>Terminal evaluation</b>	At project closure	10,000	4,600
<b>Total M&amp;E cost</b>		<b>10,000</b>	<b>4,600</b>
*Funded by Project Management Costs			

**F. EXPLAIN THE DEVIATIONS FROM TYPICAL COST RANGES (WHERE APPLICABLE)**

Not applicable

**Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)****A. Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):**

<b>Focal Point Name</b>	<b>Focal Point Title</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Signed Date</b>
Tarek El Khatib	Minister	Ministry of Environment	8/28/2018

**B. Convention Participation**

<b>Convention</b>	<b>Date of Ratification/Accession</b>	<b>National Focal Point</b>
Minamata Convention	10/13/2017	Viviane Sassine

**ANNEX A: Project Budget Table**

**Please attach a project budget table.**