

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	9684	Umoja No:	SB-007468
Project Title	Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hot Spots and Measuring Progress to Impacts		
Duration months	<i>Planned</i> 72	GEF financing amount	USD 14,250,000
	<i>Extension</i> 0	Co-financing amount	USD 53,146,727
Division(s) Implementing the project	Economy Division (C&W focal area) and Ecosystems (IW focal area)	Date of CEO Endorsement	21-Jan-20
Name of co-implementing Agency		Start of Implementation	6-Apr-20
Executing Agency(ies)	UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)	Date of first disbursement	31-Mar-20
Names of Other Project Partners		Total disbursement as of 30 June	USD 234,958
Project Type	FSP	Total expenditure as of 30 June	USD 65,389
Project Scope	Regional	Expected Mid-Term Date	30-Sep-23
Region <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	Mediterranean	Completion Date	<i>Planned</i> 30-Sep-25
Names of Beneficiary Countries	Albania, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Algeria, Turkey		<i>Revised</i> 0
Programme of Work		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	30-Sep-25
GEF Focal Area(s)	Multi: Chemicals and Waste/International Waters	Expected Financial Closure Date	31-Mar-26

EA: UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages

The project is aligned with the priorities of the participating countries, as evidenced in the following linkages to the relevant UN cooperation framework documents:

Albania: Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (2017-2021): Priority IV "Environment and climate change" and its Outcome 4 "Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction".

Algeria: UN Strategic Cooperation Framework (2019-2021): Priority 3 "Environment" and its Outcome 4 "By 2021, the wellbeing and resilience of citizens are improved as a result of an inclusive and sustainable management of natural and urban ecosystems", including through the sustainable management of natural resources in the context of climate change, support for pollution reduction, and sustainable consumption and production.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025): Strategic Priority I "Sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth" and its Outcome 1 "By 2025, people benefit from resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth ensured by the convergence of economic development and management of environment and cultural resources", including through actions supporting a stronger policy and regulatory environment and stimulus measures to enable low-carbon development, spur business development and increased competitiveness, and support the creation of green and decent jobs, complemented by environmental action.

Egypt: United Nations Partnership Development Framework (2018-2022): Outcome Area "Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources Management", including through actions to promote management of hazardous waste and to support Egypt in its obligations under relevant global conventions and protocols, sustainable use of scarce water and agricultural land resources, capacity for the sound management of biodiversity resources (including eco-tourism), and to promote eco-innovation in production.

Lebanon: United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF) (2017-2020): Core priority 3 "Lebanon reduces poverty and promotes sustainable development while addressing immediate needs in a human rights/gender-sensitive manner" and its Outcome 3.3 "Lebanon has improved environmental governance", including through the effective management of solid waste and the protection of water quality, support for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the protection of coastal zones.

Libya: United Nations Strategic Framework (2019-2021): priority actions under the "Environmental aspects" section, including national capacities for environmental management, water and waste services, response to climate change; strengthened management of natural resources, particularly water, land and biodiversity; increased resilience of vulnerable populations to environmental risks and climate change; assessment of soil and water pollution; and increased capacity for generation and use of environmental data.

Montenegro: Integrated United Nations Programme for Montenegro (2017-2021): Priority Area "Environmental Sustainability" and its Strategic Outcome "By 2021, the people of Montenegro are benefitting from sustainable management of cultural and natural resources, combating climate change and disaster risk reduction" including through strengthened capacity for chemical waste management in line with international standards, support for resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, integration of climate change mitigation measures in national policies and strategies, and data collection and capacity building for evidence-based planning and decision making.

Morocco: United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2017-2021): Core priority 2 "Inclusive sustainable development" and actions in partnership with the UN system to promote sustainable industrial development and cleaner production techniques; improved management and access to natural resources and ecosystem services, including through the protection of biodiversity; evaluation and characterization of water resources to promote evidence-based management approaches; opportunities for civil society to participate in territorial planning that integrates the principles of sustainable development, human rights, sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity and the green economy; and reinforced capacities for accessing environmental information to support decision making.

Tunisia: United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025): Outcome 4 "Natural resources management, climate change and resilience to climate risks and crises" and actions in partnership with the UN system, the public and private sectors and civil society, to promote sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystem services, including through the participation of local populations in the management of water and sanitation services; the development of an integrated territorial approach for the management of ecosystems and natural resources; capacity building for tools to elaborate and finance public policies that contribute to green economic growth in domains including water, food security, industry and territorial management; capacity building to reduce and management all kinds of risks; and capacity building to elaborate and implement integrated policies to ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agricultural systems.

Turkey: United Nations Development Cooperation Strategy (2016-2020): Strategic Area of Cooperation "Sustainable, inclusive growth and development" and its Result 3 "By 2020, improved implementation of more effective policies and practices for all men and women on sustainable environment, climate change, biodiversity by national, local authorities and stakeholders, including resilience of the system/communities to disasters".

EA: Link to relevant SDG target(s) & indicator(s)

Component 1 of the project is devoted to the reduction of harmful chemicals and waste (POPs and mercury) in coastal hotspots, and involves activities on the safe removal of existing stocks of POPs and mercury, as well as pilot projects on the prevention of the generation of wastes containing new POPs and mercury. For this component, the relevant SDG targets are:

- 3.9 By 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination
- 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Component 2 is aimed at strengthening regional cooperation frameworks to identify priorities and actions to increase environmental and socioeconomic benefits in the region, including through an updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean LME (including a gender assessment), increased capacity for monitoring and reporting on environmental trends, and an assessment of the project's progress towards stress reduction impacts and achievement of the SDGs. For this component, the most relevant SDG targets are those associated with Goals 5, 13 and 14:

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities
- 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
- 14.A Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

Component 3 is devoted to knowledge management and project coordination and therefore supports the achievement of the SDG targets associated with the other two components.

1.2 Project description

Child Project 1.1 (GEF ID 9684) is dedicated to reducing pollution from harmful chemicals and wastes in Mediterranean hotspots and measuring progress to Impacts. The objective of this project is to achieve measurable reductions in levels of POPs and mercury in priority Mediterranean coastal hot spots and catchment areas. This objective will be achieved through a multi-focal area collaboration between the GEF Chemicals and Waste and International Waters focal areas.

UNEP/MAP is the Executing Agency of this Child Project and its activities are led jointly by MED POL and the MedProgramme Coordinating Unit. Two of UNEP/MAP's regional activity centers are also Executing Partners: the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre and the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC). The countries participating in the project are Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

This project is composed of three Components:

- Component 1: Chemicals and Waste
- Component 2: International Waters
- Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation and information dissemination

Component 1 focuses on the reduction of hazardous chemicals pollution, namely Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) banned under the Stockholm Convention, and mercury banned under the Minamata Convention. It covers national activities in up to eight countries, as well regional activities to share lessons learned. The Child Project will remove over 3,000 tonnes of POPs and mercury wastes from the coastal zones of the project countries, directly removing the land-based sources of chemical pollution and breaking the source-pathway-receptor linkages to the Mediterranean Sea ecosystem and inhabitants. This will be achieved through a two-phased activity for the identification, safe storage and disposal of PCBs and POPs; an activity dedicated to the disposal of mercury; as well as pilot projects aimed at the prevention of the generation of wastes containing new POPs and mercury. Component 1 is linked with the other Child Projects of the MedProgramme which focus on reductions of the other main source of Mediterranean pollution, namely excess nutrients (Child Projects 1.2 [GEF ID 9717] and 1.3 [GEF ID 9691]).

Component 2 is dedicated to the identification of priority actions that will increase environmental and socioeconomic benefits in the region, and to the strengthening of countries' capacity to monitor and report on environmental trends to support evidence-based policy making and decisions. The centerpiece of Component 2 is an update of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem, including a gender assessment. This gender assessment is expected to allow for a better understanding of the crosscutting issues of gender, water, and environmental security, and to provide updated inputs for the overall MedProgramme gender agenda. Next, a report will be prepared to assess the impact of the project activities on progress towards the MedProgramme's objectives as well as countries' commitments in the context of the SDGs, on the basis of the results of Component 1's pollution reduction activities, the TDA indicators and their linkages with SDGs, and literature reviews of the SDG progress in the participating countries. Another important activity of Component 2 will be support to the GEF eligible countries of the Mediterranean to upgrade their national monitoring programmes in line with IMAP requirements to also cover the offshore areas, and to ensure better availability and accessibility of monitoring data. This will be accomplished through the development of an Offshore monitoring strategy, the selection of 20 sites for this strategy and pilot activities in a limited number of them.

Component 3 will ensure that knowledge generated by the project is used effectively for project activities and shared with the wider MedProgramme portfolio, and will also execute the project's monitoring and evaluation plan. The knowledge management activities will include the development of interactive visualizations of chemicals inventories across the countries using the MapX application, the preparation of case studies to document results and best practices from the project's activities on pollution reduction as well as the TDA process, and the elaboration of a data sharing protocol to support the monitoring activities foreseen in Component 2. Finally, this Component includes activities supporting the project's monitoring and evaluation plan, including the regular monitoring of project results and delivery, including quarterly progress and financial reports to the Implementing Agency, annual reports to GEF and effective documentation of project lessons learnt. It also includes periodic independent evaluation of project results and achievement of intended outcomes, through external reviews at project midterm and completion.

1.3 History of project revisions

Version	Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
NA	NA	NA

2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

IP PoW

UN Environment Subprogramme(s)

Subprogramme 5: Chemicals, waste and air quality

Specify the relevant Expected Accomplishment(s) & Indicator(s)

PoW 5: (a) (i) and (b) (i)

2.1 UNE

TM: Progress towards delivering the stated PoW

The project is in its first year of implementation and has initiated steps towards disposal of waste from 2 countries; and is supporting regulatory action in 2 countries to ratify the Minamata Convention. No firm results have been achieved to date however.

Subprogramme 3.1: International Waters

3.1 Improved governance of shared water bodies, including conjunctive management of surface and groundwater through regional institutions and frameworks for cooperation lead to increased environmental and socio- economic benefits.

PoW 3.1.

TM: Progress towards delivering the stated PoW

The project is in its first year of implementation and has initiated steps towards the preparation of the TDA process setting the foundation for the substantive work to be engaged on updating of the TDA which is scheduled for the latter part of 2021. The draft for the concept note on the Offshore monitoring strategy was drafted and consultations have taken place with MED POL officers for the future location of monitoring stations.

2.2. GEF Core Indicators

GEF Core Indicators

Indicative expected Results

TM: GEF core indicators targeted by the

Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by genders co-benefit of GEF investment
1	2,050 metric tons	4,000 (2,000 women and 2,000 men)

Indicators	Expected value at	
	Mid-term	End-of-project
Number of shared water ecosystems(fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management		1
Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)		2050
Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment		4000

TM

PIR #

Rating towards outcomes

Rating towards outputs

Risk rating

2.3 Impl status & risk*

FY 2021	1st	MS	MS	M
Summary of status.		<p>Rating of Outcomes:</p> <p>Component 1 (C&W) is rated as MS, as the procurement for the Phase 1 disposal of 235 tonnes of PCB (Algeria & Lebanon) is well underway, with prequalification of vendors almost complete and good progress in developing the detailed Request for Proposals. The EA has also initiated country contracts for Phase 1 and Phase 2 inventory of PCB. Work on mercury is dependent on ratification of Minamata Convention by the project countries, notably Algeria & Bosnia Herzegovina, which is under discussion.</p> <p>The rating of outcome 3 is MS due to limited progress towards Child Project 1.1's knowledge management but strong support to KM services and products delivered through Child Project 4.1.</p> <p>Rating of Outputs:</p> <p>C1 (C&W): Delivery of Component 1 outputs is MS overall, considering progress on PCB removal, but delays on POPs prevention and mercury pilot projects which have been affected by the COVID pandemic and by slow contracting of the relevant delivery partner. This contract is now in place and will initiate project activities under these outputs.</p> <p>C2 (IW): The rating of Component 2 outputs is MS as there has been steady progress on mobilizing human resources and contracting arrangements for all outputs. A TDA Steering Committee is set, with links to the programme level KM; and information gathering initiated for the TDA links with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) dashboard (maintained by Plan Bleu). Work is also initiated on the Offshore Monitoring Strategy. The regional data sharing policy is only due in 2022.</p> <p>C3: (C&W/ IW): The rating of outputs 3.1 and 3.2 are both MS as the child projects are contributing to the development of programmatic KM activities (visual identity, MedBulletin, promotional video...) and are preparing for implementation of child project outreach activities (e.g. visualisation of chemical inventories, the curation and promotion of case studies etc.) through the approved MedProgramme outreach channels. The EA has been reporting progress and expenditures to the IA quarterly in a timely manner, although delays in assembling the project team are a risk to efficient delivery.</p> <p>Risk Rating: The overall risk rating is M. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic have adversely impacted delivery of project activities and will persist in view of the rise of the Delta variant. A second key risk on recruiting project staff and finalizing sub-contracts may also affect delivery.</p>		
*section will be uploaded into the GEF Portal				

2.4 Co-finance

EA: Planned Co-finance (total only)	USD 53,146,727	EA: Actual to date:	USD 2,263,883
EA: Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.	<p>To date, a total of 4% of the total planned co-financing has been mobilized, from the EA and its Executing Partners (Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC). To date, none of the participating countries of this Child Project have reported co-financing mobilized in this first year of execution. However, the EA anticipates that with the ramping up of national and programme-wide activities in Year 2 – including the Annual Stocktaking Meetings, the MedProgramme Bulletin, knowledge exchanges and capacity building events –the participating countries will accelerate their respective activities that constitute co-financing for this Child Project. The requirement for the participating countries to deliver on their co-financing commitments will be re-emphasized at the 2022 Project Steering Committee Meetings.</p>		

Instruction to EA: Add additional text

EA: Stakeholder engagement

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Stakeholder engagement activities in this first year of execution have focused on stakeholders within the immediate sphere of influence of the project, namely the GEF Operational Focal Points and the MAP focal points, the Implementing Agency, Executing Partners and their national focal points in the participating countries, and the national executing partners for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities of Component 1. Eight of the GEF Operational Focal Points of the participating countries took part in the first Project Steering Committee meeting in March 2021, to review preliminary progress and approve the 2021-2022 workplan and budget (Albania and Egypt were not present). In terms of Component 1, efforts were dedicated primarily to engagement with the national authorities in Algeria and Lebanon that will carry out the Phase 1 activities for the disposal of PCBs, including through the development of legal instruments or terms of reference that set forth the collaboration modalities for this phase of work. Furthermore, discussions have been initiated with the countries that will participate in Phase 2 activities (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco and Tunisia), in view of the establishment of their legal instruments that will finance activities in the country. In addition, SCP/RAC - one of the Executing Partners - has mobilized its network of national focal points in preparation of the pilot projects on the prevention of wastes containing new POPs (Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) and mercury (Lebanon and Tunisia) that will also be carried out in Component 1. In Component 2, steps have been taken to establish the Steering Committee of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), including initial communications with the participating countries on their roles and responsibilities in this committee, and with scientific and research organizations that will be invited to contribute to the process. Furthermore, Plan Bleu - the Executing Partner that will be supporting the TDA with environmental and socioeconomic analyses - has activated its national focal points in the participating countries to prepare for the pooling of existing data and information needed for those analyses.

EA: Gender mainstreaming

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Significant progress has been made on the implementation of the MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in the context of CP 1.1. activities. A Gender Action Plan with appropriate gender mainstreaming actions were developed to suit the results of the programme-level gender monitoring framework, with indicative cost estimates included. A set of performance measurement indicators tailored to track progress against targets set per gender actions is included in the detailed Gender Action Plan of this Child Project. Moreover, the Gender Specialist has been fully engaged in the design and the preparation of the TDA, by providing technical and analytical support in terms of data collection to form the basis of the gender assessment that will inform the TDA, including by developing a concept note on the topic and drafting the TOR for a gender expert to undertake the collection and analysis of gender data to inform the TDA. Key members of the CP 1.1. implementation team also participate in the MedProgramme Gender Community of Practice, thus enhancing their gender capacity and exchanging knowledge with other partners on gender activities.

EA: Environmental and social safeguards management

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The environmental and social risks of the project relate to the possibility of an accident or spill during the field operations for the activities of Component 1 (Safeguard Standard 2: Resource Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management of Chemicals and Wastes). On that note, for the Phase 1 activities addressing the safe disposal of PCBs in Algeria and Lebanon, initial environmental management plans (EMP) were elaborated in the PPG phase for each site where operations will be conducted, and were deemed in full compliance with the UN Environment safeguard policies for projects, namely the UN Environment Environmental, Social and Economic Review Note. Furthermore, the cooperation agreements/terms of reference for the work of national partners in these countries will ensure that Health and Safety Plans are elaborated for each site. It should also be noted that the project benefits from the MedProgramme's overarching Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and therefore due attention is being given to UNEP Safeguard Standard 8 (Gender equity), including through the development of a gender action plan with actions tailored to the technical assistance activities of both Component 1 (CW) and Component 2 (IW), including a gender assessment for the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (see section above on gender mainstreaming for further details).

EA: Knowledge activities and products

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The Knowledge Management strategy of the MedProgramme operates at two levels: at the programmatic level (to support the entire portfolio with KM services and products delivered through the Hub Child Project 4.1); and at the individual child project level (with specific outputs and activities that build on the overall programmatic services and are supported by the Med PCU for their execution). Child Project 1.1 has integrated the programmatic KM approach in its project document narrative (section A8, p.89-94 prodoc) and has annexed the full KM strategy to the prodoc; it also foresees a dedicated output (3.1) for sharing the knowledge generated under the project implementation, placing particular emphasis on the interactive visualisation of chemicals inventories (through MapX), the dissemination of case studies, and data sharing protocol as complementary key policy to support the development of the TDA. During the building phase of the KM strategy, progress has been made to establish the foundations of the services that will support the MedProgramme portfolio and help each Child Project achieving related project outcome and outputs.

EA: Stories to be shared

(will be shared with UNEP & GEF communication division)

Not applicable for this first PIR.

*section will be uploaded into the GEF Portal





Selected Project

9684

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MED - Mediterranean Hot Spots and Measuring Progress to Impacts

3. RATING PROJECT PERFORMANCE

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target	End of Project Target	EA: Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	TM: Progress rating
Objective						
To achieve measurable reductions in levels of POPs and mercury in priority Mediterranean coastal hot spots and catchment areas.	Capacity in project countries to address land-based sources of pollution in Mediterranean catchments (POPs and mercury) and monitor pollution levels	Despite extensive regional and national activities in Mediterranean countries to safeguard, collect and dispose of PCBs, significant stock of PCB contaminated oil and equipment and mercury remain, and new POPs are widely used in the project countries.	NA	Capacity of national authorities to eliminate PCB and POPs stockpiles, updated legislation and greater awareness of decision-makers on new POPs, updated assessment and monitoring arrangements	Although this is the first year of project implementation, the EA has nevertheless made some modest progress towards the objective-level target for the project. For example, the cooperation instruments under development with Algeria and Lebanon for the disposal of PCBs will promote capacity building on the safe packaging, storage and disposal of PCBs. The recruitment of international and national consultants for the pilot projects on the prevention of new POPs that has been initiated will soon yield benefits for countries in terms of technical and legal support for decision-makers on long-term solutions for elimination of these chemicals. The mobilization of human resources for the TDA and the definition of the composition, roles and responsibilities of the TDA Steering Committee represent important first steps towards engagement of the countries on the important analyses and assessments that will produce the updated TDA. The updated TDA will provide a factual basis for expected follow-up activities towards formulation of the next SAP for the Mediterranean that will set priorities for the time-line beyond 2025 addressing the identified priority transboundary problems. Finally, the draft concept note on the Offshore monitoring strategy will soon lead to substantive consultations with countries on regional advancements on monitoring arrangements.	MS
Outcome 1						
Reduction of wastes and hazardous chemicals (POPs and mercury) in coastal hotspots	No. of tonnes of POPs waste and new POPs eliminated No. of tonnes of POPs prevented	POPs = 3,346 tonnes inventoried during PPG (refer to Table 9—Quantified summary table of potential GEB by country)	586 t POPs removed	Disposal of 2000 tonnes of POPs, including estimated 650 tonnes new POPs prevented	There is progress on the mid-term target of removing 586 tonnes of PCBs from two countries. The inventories of the corresponding PCB stocks in Algeria and Lebanon are nearly complete, and procurement initiated for competent providers of waste management and disposal services to dispose of up to 800 tonnes of PCB from Phase 1, increased from the original Phase 1 tonnage by additional tonnes proposed by Lebanon and agreed by the 1st Steering Committee. On POPs prevention, there has not yet been measurable progress, as the delivery partner contract and fund disbursement was finalized only in 2021,	S
	No. of tonnes of Hg of/safely stored waste disposed No. of tonnes of Hg prevented	Mercury wastes= 84.7 tonnes inventoried during PPG	NA	Reduction and safe storage of 50 tonnes of mercury wastes 300 Tonne of Hg containing equipment prevented	Mercury disposal is scheduled for Year 4 of the project. The EA's efforts in the present reporting period have focused on support for Algeria's signature of the Minamata Convention, to enable that country to access the GEF funding for the mercury disposal activities. With respect to the pilot projects for mercury prevention in the health sector, the EA has made modest progress on mobilizing international and national consultants that will carry out inventories of mercury-containing wastes in hospitals in Lebanon and Tunisia. The Covid-19 pandemic has posed a particular challenge to this target, considering that the timeframe for safe access to hospitals in the participating countries is still unclear.	MU
Outcome 2						
Littoral countries enabled to identify trends and progress to impacts.	Updated TDA including gender assessment	Changed context in the Mediterranean since previous TDA	NA	TDA is updated by the end of the programme	The EA has made good progress towards the achievement of this target, by setting the foundations for the substantive work on the updated TDA that will begin in the second semester of 2021. The EA has recruited a consultant to support the overall TDA process, defined the composition, roles and responsibilities of the TDA Steering Committee, and has developed TORs for the national experts that will assist with the pooling and analysis of official data that will feed into the TDA. The first gathering of the TDA Steering Committee will take place in 2021 Q4 to discuss the list of transboundary issues coming out of the knowledge pooling.	

	Report on progress to impacts	Data gaps affect quality and applicability of assessments, ability to track progress and formulate adequate responses	NA	Report on progress to impacts and on the achievement of relevant SDGs is prepared	The EA has made modest progress towards the achievement of this target, which is dependent upon substantive progress achieved on outputs in Components 1 and 2 of the project. During the present reporting period, the EA has progressed mainly on (i) establishing a strong cooperation between the project's technical experts and the MedProgramme's KM Specialist; and (ii) information gathering on the links between the TDA and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and its associated dashboard maintained by Plan Bleu.	
	Offshore monitoring strategy and identification of 20 locations for the offshore monitoring stations	Monitoring programs focused on areas close to coasts	NA	Minimum 20 locations for offshore monitoring stations identified	The EA has taken some important initial steps towards achievement of this target, namely the preparation of a draft concept note on the Offshore monitoring strategy and TORs for an expert to assist with its elaboration. In terms of advancement on the selection of offshore monitoring stations, the TDA expert has organized consultations with MED POL's Monitoring and Assessment Officer on the status of monitoring activities in the region to gather background information and recommendations on potential locations for monitoring stations.	
	Data sharing policy for the Mediterranean stations	Availability of synchronized datasets and accessibility of data need to be improved with the view to improve knowledge on the Mediterranean marine environment	NA	Data sharing regional policy prepared for the deliberation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	To date, the EA has not yet made progress towards this target; relevant activities are scheduled to begin in 2022 Q1.	

Outcome 3

Project results and knowledge are effectively disseminated and used to adaptively manage the project	Project delivery is effective and responsive to beneficiary and stakeholder needs	NA	Mid-term review results endorsed by project partners	Terminal evaluation results endorsed by project partners	The EA has not yet made specific progress towards Child Project 1.1's knowledge management outcome. However, it has advanced on the initiation of essential KM services and products delivered through Child Project 4.1 which are necessary preconditions to the achievement of the KM outcome of this Child Project. In this context, the EA has recruited a team of consultants to support the preparation of a prototype of the Knowledge Management Platform, a promotional video for the programme (which will include reference to the activities of Child Project 1.1) as well as the MedProgramme's visual identity. Other tools in development that will support the dissemination and effective use of the results and knowledge of Child Project 1.1 include the MedProgramme Bulletin and the Annual Stocktaking Meeting, also being prepared in the framework of Child Project 4.1.	MU
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3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs

Output	EA: Expected completion date	Implementation status as of 30 June 2020 (%)	EA: Implementation status as of 30 June 2021 (%)	EA: Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	TM: Progress rating
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Under Comp 1

1.1 Management and disposal of 2,000 tonnes of POPs	31/03/2024	NA	10%	<p>Lebanon has finalized its PCBs inventory for the Phase 1 activities and the EA has drafted TORs for consultants that will support administrative and field work for the national activities (to be advertised in 2021 Q3). Algeria has informally confirmed its PCBs inventory for the Phase 1 activities; the EA has prepared a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) for the activities that will be carried out by Algeria's national partner (CNTPP) (to be signed in 2021 Q3).</p> <p>In terms of securing the services for the disposal of the PCBs in Algeria and Lebanon, the EA is collaborating with UNON for the prequalification of chemical waste removal and disposal service providers. The EA and UNON are currently evaluating six prequalification proposal packages received in response to the 25 May 2021 call for proposals, and they expect to complete the prequalification exercise in 2021 Q3. The award of the contract for the Phase 1 PCBs removal is anticipated by the end of 2021 Q4.</p> <p>Some delays were experienced in the Phase 1 activities due to the recent change of the GEF Operational Focal Point in Algeria (impacting the negotiation of the SSFA with CNTPP) and the slower-than-expected procurement process with UNON, including the elaboration of criteria for prequalification of service providers and for evaluation of bids.</p> <p>The EA has also set foundations for the Phase 2 activities, which will involve the removal of (at least) an additional 1,414 tonnes of PCBs from four countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco and Tunisia. In this context, the EA has initiated discussions on the requirements for the PCB inventories in these countries and the draft SSFAs that will be signed with the four countries in 2021 Q3.</p>	MS
1.2 Management and safe storage of 50 tonnes of mercury wastes	31/03/2023	NA	1%	<p>The EA is supporting Algeria & Bosnia Herzegovina in signature of the Minamata Convention, to make that country eligible for use of the GEF grant for mercury activities. The other participating countries - Morocco and Tunisia - have signed the Convention. To that end, the EA is cooperating with UNITAR on a project with Algeria aiming to support its ratification of the Minamata Convention. It is hoped that the combined support of the EA and UNITAR (and the potential for Algeria to receive additional financial resources to manage its mercury stocks) will motivate the country to sign the Convention. This will enable the EA to proceed with the initiation of the mercury inventories and environmental management plans in all four participating countries for this output.</p>	MS
1.3 New POPs reduction and alternatives pilot activities completed	30/06/2024	NA	5%	<p>For this output, the EA and its Executing Partner (EP) for outputs 1.3 and 1.4 (SCP/RAC) have primarily advanced on preparations for the recruitment of international and national consultants that will support the inventories, legal support and technical assistance activities aimed at replacing new POPs with environmentally sound alternatives in pilot projects in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The TORs for these consultants have been prepared and will be launched in 2021 Q3 (July). Furthermore, the EP has advanced on a public tender for the selection of an international laboratory that will provide sampling of new POPs to support the pilot projects; it is anticipated that the advertisement and selection of the laboratory will be completed in 2021 Q3.</p> <p>Progress on this output was somewhat delayed due to the longer than expected timeframe for the EA's disbursement of funds to the responsible Executing Partner (SCP/RAC), due to the lack of a dedicated Finance and Budget Officer for the MedProgramme which was compounded by COVID lockdowns in project countries.</p>	MU
1.4 Mercury reduction through pilot activities on mercury alternatives	30/09/2024	NA	5%	<p>The TORs for consultants that will undertake the inventories of mercury-containing wastes in hospitals in Lebanon and Tunisia have been prepared and will be advertised in 2021 Q3, in view of the initiation of audits in the participating hospitals in 2022 Q1.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has posed a particular challenge to this output, since there remains a great deal of uncertainty about the timeframe for proceeding with the on-site inventories of mercury-containing wastes in the hospitals. The EA and its Executing Partner are monitoring the situation and are in regular contact with the GEF Operational Focal Points and other relevant collaborators in Lebanon and Tunisia to determine when it will be safe to proceed with the inventories in the hospitals.</p>	MU

Under Comp 2

2.1: Updated Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment including gender assessment	31/12/2022	NA	22%	<p>During the present reporting period, the EA has made steady progress on mobilizing human resources for the TDA process and defining the composition of the TDA Steering Committee that will be guiding the development of this complex output. In January 2021, the EA recruited a consultant that is supporting the overall TDA process and has developed TORs for national experts that will assist in pooling and analyzing available data from the countries to support the analyses. The MedProgramme Gender Specialist has also been engaged in the process, to ensure that gender is considered as an integral part of the overall set of analyses that will be carried out for the TDA. A concept note was drafted, outlining gender issues to be considered in the context of the TDA development and data that will need to be collected as part of the gender assessment. A TOR for a gender expert to be recruited in order to collect and analyze the gender-related data that will feed into the TDA has also been drafted, expected to be launched by the end of 2021. Furthermore, the composition of the TDA Steering Committee has been agreed and TORs developed to articulate roles and responsibilities of its members; the TORs will be transmitted to the proposed TDA Steering Committee members in July 2021 (including the participating countries of the Child Project, relevant MAP components, the UNEP GEF-IW Unit, etc.). In the course of the preparation of the updated TDA, the beneficiary countries are encouraged to prepare country assessment reports on the National Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis through the mobilization of multidisciplinary restricted team of national experts. It is anticipated that the first gathering of the TDA Steering Committee will take place in 2021 Q4, a workshop on to launch the TDA process and workplan and discuss the prioritization of TDA issues.</p> <p>Some delays may be expected with the activities of one of the EA's Executing Partners, Plan Bleu, which is responsible for socioeconomic assessments and the indicators to assess the effects of climate change. This is due to the departure in 2021 Q2 of the responsible project manager at Plan Bleu; the organization is currently recruiting a replacement which should be on board by the end of 2021 Q3.</p>	S
2.2: Report on progress to impacts	30/09/2024	NA	7%	<p>The aim of this output is to demonstrate the impact of the Child Project's activities on the MedProgramme's overall objectives, taking into account the project's pollution reduction actions targeting POPs and mercury, and the knowledge generated from the analysis of data and information on transboundary issues, impacts and priorities for the updated TDA. It will furthermore consider how the project's outcomes will support countries' achievement of the SDGs and contribute to improved environmental and socioeconomic conditions in the region. The preparation of this output therefore relies on the availability of well-advanced outputs in Components 1 and 2 of the project, which is reflected in its anticipated delivery in Year 4 of the project. During the present reporting period, the EA has progressed mainly on (i) establishing a strong cooperation between the project's technical experts and the MedProgramme's KM Specialist; and (ii) information gathering on the links between the TDA and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and its associated dashboard maintained by Plan Bleu. There are no specific challenges or delays to report at this time.</p>	MS
2.3: Offshore monitoring strategy and identification of 20 locations for the offshore monitoring stations	30/06/2024	NA	32%	<p>The EA's progress on this output is primarily associated with the initiation of foundational elements of the Offshore Monitoring Strategy, including the preparation of a draft concept note on the strategy and TORs for an expert to assist with its elaboration. The concept note provides initial recommendations on the axes of the strategy, taking into account relevant background information from IMAP (Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme) monitoring reports, monitoring methodologies and QA protocols. The TORs for the expert that will assist with the development of the strategy are complete and have been submitted for approval, in view of advertisement in 2021 Q3. In terms of advancement on the selection of offshore monitoring stations, the TDA expert has organized consultations with MED POL's Monitoring and Assessment Officer on the status of monitoring activities in the region to gather background information and recommendations on potential locations for monitoring stations. Consultations with the countries on the strategy and monitoring stations (including development of monitoring plans) are anticipated to begin in the second semester of 2021, once the aforementioned concept note is finalized and the consultant that will support development of the strategy is recruited.</p>	S
2.4: Data sharing policy for the Mediterranean	31/12/2023	NA	0%	<p>The ultimate aim of this output is to produce a regional data sharing policy, based on SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System) principles, to facilitate reporting and effective use of IMAP data collected by the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties. Activities for this output are scheduled to begin in 2022 Q1, and there is no progress by the EA to report at this time.</p>	MS

Under Comp 3

3.1 Knowledge Management strategy shares knowledge from Child Project 1.1	31/12/2024	NA	0%	<p>The MedProgramme KM approach operates at two interlinked levels (programmatic and individual child projects level) and the delivery of KM related output(s) of Child Project 1.1 relies on essential services and products delivered through the Hub Child Project 4.1. During the present reporting period the EA has made some progress mainly focusing on establishing the foundations for programmatic KM pre-requisites to enable Child Projects to execute their specific activities. The Med PCU has proceeded with the recruitment of specific technical experts that by Q4 2021/Q2 2022 will produce: the MedProgramme visual identity and brand guideline (including a specific logo variation for CP 1.1); an infographic and brochure; a template for the MedBulletin (which will serve as an informal reporting mechanism to showcase progress and knowledge generated by CP 1.1); a promotional video capturing the complementary breadth of actions and impact from all CPs including CP 1.1 and scope of Program Component 1; a prototype of the MedProgramme knowledge platform (comprising of dedicated webpages for CP 1.1 a database module and MapX visualisation tools to showcase progress on chemical inventories and overall impact).</p> <p>The full implementation of output 3.1 and its related activities will start as soon as the KM services above mentioned are in place so that they can support the effective visualisation of chemical inventories, the curation and promotion of case studies and all other project activities through the approved MedProgramme outreach channels.</p>	MS
3.2 Regular monitoring and evaluation of project progress and results	31/12/2024	NA	7%	<p>The EA has been reporting to the IA quarterly on progress and expenditures in a timely manner, for the most part. Some delays on the expenditure reports have been experienced due to the lack of a dedicated Finance and Budget Officer for the MedProgramme at the EA, however the recruitment of this position (P2) in 2021 Q3 should greatly improve the EA's ability to deliver the expenditure reports within the required timeframe.</p>	MS

Table A. Risk-log

Implementation Status 1st

Risk	Risk affecting:	Risk Rating		Δ	Variation respect to last rating Justification
	Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1		
Security in Algeria renders project activities unimplementable	Outputs 1.1 and 1.2	Medium	M	=	No change with respect to the one-week advance notice required to evaluate risk and issue clearance for activities.
PCB contaminated equipment identified in inventories is no longer available for removal during project	Output 1.1	Medium	M	=	No changes with respect to initial level of risk identified. It is intended to minimize the interval between inventory and disposal in Phase 1, and with respect to Phase 2, the national focal points are already in contact with equipment owners and have raised their awareness of the POPs risk (i.e., disappearance of transformers) and need for secure storage of wastes until their disposal.
Sale of metallic mercury in advance of project activities	Output 1.2	Medium	M	=	No change with respect to risk for sale of mercury stocks identified for disposal. Once the EMPs and mercury inventories are initiated, the EA will work to raise awareness about the need to secure and monitor mercury stocks prior to their removal.
Basel permits take too long to process, exceeding project work plan	Outputs 1.1 and 1.2	Medium	M	=	No change with respect to risk for exceedingly long permit process for transboundary movement of hazardous wastes; many participating countries have experience in this domain and any countries required to complete the permit process will be supported by the EA.
Prevention of new POPs is not measurable in tonnes	Output 1.3	Medium	M	=	No change with respect to initial level of risk identified; the new POPs prevention pilot is not yet operational. This will be evaluated again once those activities come online.
Labs with technical capacity to provide reliable analysis of new POPs not available in the region	Output 1.3	High	H	=	No change with respect to initial level of risk identified. SCP/RAC will launch public tender in 2021 Q3 for international laboratories to support analyses of new POPs in the region. Depending on the success of that public tender, this risk assessment can be updated and reflected accordingly in the next PIR.
Impacts of climate change on the project	All outputs	High	H	=	The impacts of climate change and variability in the Mediterranean - including increased air temperatures and extended periods of drought - remain a high risk for project activities. However since most activities in the past 12 months have been conducted virtually, the worst impacts have perhaps been avoided by project stakeholders.
Lack of sustained political commitment of beneficiary countries	All outputs	Low	L	=	No change with respect to initial level of risk identified. Most of the participating countries took part in the first Project Steering Committee meeting in March 2021 (all except Albania and Egypt) and have been actively supporting project execution.
Data gaps continue to affect quality and applicability of assessments, ability to track progress and formulate adequate responses	Output 2.1	Medium	M	=	No change with respect to initial level of risk identified. Once the TDA Steering Committee is mobilized in late 2021/early 2022, it will be possible to reassess this risk based on the examination of available data from the countries for the assessments and analyses feeding in the TDA.
Lack of monitoring and reporting capacities; reluctance with provision/ sharing of data	Outputs 2.3 and 2.4	Low	L	=	No change with respect to initial level of risk identified. Once countries are actively participating in project activities involving the development of the Offshore monitoring strategy and the pilot monitoring programmes, it will be possible to make a more accurate assessment of this risk.
Accident or spill during the field waste operations	Outputs 1.1 and 1.2	Low	L	=	The relevant field activities will have sufficient safeguards in place to reduce the risk of accidents or spills during operations. EMPs will be available for each site and contractors will be required to produce a Health and Safety Plan for each site.
Wastes collected for temporary storage are not disposed for some reason and remain at the project end	Outputs 1.1 and 1.2	Low	L	=	No change with respect to initial level of risk identified.
Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on project activities	All outputs	N/A	M	↑	transversal risk for all projects. The Covid-19 risk applies to a different extent to the project outputs, especially those that require on-site, face-to-face actions including inventories of chemical-containing waste, packaging of chemical waste, etc. The EA will continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate
Consolidated project risk		M	M		Overall there has not been any significant changes in the risks vis-à-vis the project preparation phase. As activities come online in Year 2, it will be possible to update the risk levels according to the experiences from project execution.

Table B. Outstanding medium & high risks

List here only risks from Table A above that have a risk rating of **M or worse** in the **current PIR**

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRT-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom
Security in Algeria renders project activities unimplementable	N/A	Co-development of implementation plan (for SSFA) with Algeria's national partner for POPs prevention (CNTPP)	Review UN Security Procedures, specifically with respect to disposal activities in Algeria	2021 Q4	Child Project 1.1 Chemical and Waste Officer (P3)
PCB contaminated equipment identified in inventories is no longer available for removal during project	N/A	None	Remind national execution partners about the risk of disappearance of transformers (due to scrap metal resale value) and need for secure storage of wastes until their disposal.	2022 (when disposal activities begin in Phase 1 countries)	Child Project 1.1 Chemical and Waste Officer (P3)
Sale of metallic mercury in advance of project activities	N/A	None	Raise awareness among national execution partners about the need to secure and monitor mercury stocks prior to their removal.	2022 (when mercury disposal activities begin)	Child Project 1.1 Chemical and Waste Officer (P3)
Basel permits take too long to process, exceeding project work plan	N/A	None	Monitor time required to establish Basel permits and licenses	2022 (when PCBs and mercury are evacuated from countries)	Child Project 1.1 Chemical and Waste Officer (P3)
Prevention of new POPs is not measurable in tonnes	N/A	None	Monitor potential cost of new POPs revention per tonne reduced, and present this information to the Project Steering Committee for their decision on the feasibility for funding of full prevention activities.	Early 2022 or 2023, ahead of the PSC meeting	Child Project 1.1 Chemical and Waste Officer (P3)
Labs with technical capacity to provide reliable analysis of new POPs not available in the region	N/A	Public tender prepared to seek proposals from qualified international laboratories for sampling new POPs	Monitor results of the public tender to determine whether there are laboratories with the required technical capacity to provide reliable analysis of new POPs in the region.	2021 Q3 or Q4	Child Project 1.1 Chemical and Waste Officer (P3)
Impacts of climate change on the project	N/A	None	Monitor evolution of climate change risks on project activities and propose mitigation measures if feasible.	Starting in 2022	Child Project 1.1 Chemical and Waste Officer (P3)
Data gaps continue to affect quality and applicability of assessments, ability to track progress and formulate adequate responses	N/A	None	Monitor progress on the data collection and analyses used to produce the TDA and alert UNEP GEF IW Unit to data gaps, as appropriate, that may negatively impact the reliability of the updated TDA.	Starting in 2022	MedProgramme IW Specialist
Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on project activities	N/A	On-site activities delayed to respect Covid-19 safety concerns in the countries	Monitor impact of Covid-19 pandemic on CW and IW activities and present these at the 2022 PSC meeting.	2022 Q1	Child Project 1.1 Chemical and Waste Officer (P3) and IW Specialist

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.

Medium Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.