

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9080
Project Name:	Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and Legal and Institutional Strengthening for the Sound Management of Chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs)
Countr(ies):	Regional, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Integrated Health and Environment Observatories and Legal and Institutional Strengthening for the Sound Management of Chemicals in Africa (African ChemObs)

Country

Regional, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

GEF ID

9080

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

WHO Afro and African Institute

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/13/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 8th PIR

Objective

To contribute to improved health and environment through strengthening national and regional institutions, and implementing priority chemicals and waste related interventions

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

11,445,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

8,694,843.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

4/4/2017

Agency Approval

4/27/2017

Implementation Start 6/21/2017	First Disbursement 9/18/2017
Expected MTR 3/1/2021	Actual MTR 3/1/2021
Expected Completion 12/31/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The ChemObs Project in Ethiopia includes a significant component for the safeguarding and international disposal of approximately 1,245 tons of DDT, stored at various locations nationwide. The largest stockpile is at the Adami Tulu Pesticide Formulation Factory (471 tons), followed by the Adama City store (345 tons), with the remaining 500 tons distributed across several sites throughout the country. During the reporting period, safeguarding activities continued at Adami Tulu and Adama City stores but operations at the Adama City store were suspended in February 2024 due to export-related challenges and space constraints at the site. The Implementing and Executing Agencies, in collaboration with Ethiopian authorities, worked to resolve these space limitations while the contractor addressed outstanding Basel Notification and shipping requirements. As progress remained slow, the matter was elevated to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting held in Kenya in July 2024. The PSC resolved that Ethiopia should arrange with Adami Tulu site management to temporarily store DDT from Adama City, thereby freeing up space for repackaging activities to continue. In line with this resolution, the Africa Institute contracted a service provider to procure shipping containers for temporary storage of wastes at Adami Tulu, facilitating the resumption of safeguarding and repackaging at Adama City. As of 30 June 2025, 112 tons of DDT have been safeguarded at the Adama City store. Preparations for Basel Notification applications and subsequent shipping are advancing under the leadership of the contractor.

The development of decision-making tools (DMT), specifically the Economics Calculator and the Risk and Vulnerability Calculator, led to the design and implementation of tailored interventions in participating countries. Following the July 2024 PSC decision, it was agreed that all remaining funds allocated for country-level interventions would be consolidated for a single intervention. Proposals, including methodology, budget, and workplans, were received and evaluated by WHO, the Africa Institute, and UNEP. Subsequently, Zimbabwe's proposal for safeguarding POPs and other pesticides was approved, with implementation commencing in May 2025. Zimbabwe presented a detailed workplan, budget, and Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) plan for this activity.

Regarding financial performance the actual expenditure for the period was \$181,543 against the forecasted expenditure, which was \$583,263. The variance is attributed to the slow progress made in Ethiopia and also the amount of time taken to refocus on the hard intervention in Zimbabwe.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Three principal challenges affected implementation of the DDT disposal component in Ethiopia: Delays in securing Basel Notifications from competent authorities in the waste-generating, receiving, and transit countries. Global shipping disruptions, especially due to instability in the Middle East, affect the availability and reliability of hazardous waste shipping services. Waste accumulation at Adami Tulu, leading to congestion and operational delays in repackaging activities.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

ChemObs Project consists of amongst the other stakeholders, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health and Child Care, Environmental Management Agencies, Ministry of Mining, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Climate Change and Tourism, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Deputy President and other different stakeholders involved in chemical management in all the project countries. In Ethiopia, Environmental Protection Agency and Ministry of Health are instrumental in terms of heading the disposal activities. These stakeholders play important role in terms of guiding the activities of the project. These stakeholders were active in the countries and formed part of the National Project Steering Committees tasked with directing the project. These stakeholders form part of the Project Management Unit which meet biweekly to oversee the implementation of the project.

Main Learning during reporting period:

The disruption in the Red Sea has impacted on the implementation of the project. Driven largely by geopolitical tensions, attacks on commercial vessels, and heightened security concerns, this disruption has had far-reaching effects across the region. Despite the considerable efforts of all stakeholders, the project has faced specific challenges during this period, particularly difficulties in identifying shipping companies willing to export waste from Ethiopia to Europe. As a result, waste has accumulated at the Adama City site, leading to subsequent operational issues.

D. Gender Equality

The gender issues are integrated in the different components of the project as per the Gender and Women Empowerment plan of the project. The project covered key areas and provided the participating countries with an interactive space to strengthen their understanding of the interplay between sex, gender, and exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) while highlighting potential entry points for gender mainstreaming into the implementation of the ChemObs project.

The project was used to further assess capacities, lessons learned, and key challenges for gender mainstreaming in the area of chemicals and waste management faced by POPs practitioners and decision-makers working on the implementation of the project.

The implementation of the ChemObs project shed some light on the current knowledge, attitudes, and practices associated with the mainstreaming of gender consideration into the project under the Stockholm Convention, with a special focus on African countries. The focus of the reporting period was on the remaining community information sessions conducted. 70% of women attended the information sessions organized in the 9 project countries. In executing the information sessions women were specifically encouraged to partake in these events. The Executing Agency advised project countries to ensure that a great amount of consideration was given to gender mainstreaming in all the activities of the project and this included stakeholder engagements. This process significantly contributed to achieving gender equality and enhancing the overall effectiveness and sustainability of projects and programs.

The gender mainstreaming was made and included within the awareness raising of the project. Through the awareness raising, all the participating countries confirmed that they have some knowledge about the concepts of "gender equality" and "gender analysis". When inquiring about the concept of "Gender Mainstreaming", about 95% of the participants have heard about it before, while the remaining 5%

didn't. Half of the participating countries knew about the 1995 Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action, which highlights the linkages between gender equality and sustainable development, and the importance to capture gender concerns in environment and development policies and assess their impact on women. These suggest that while the notion of gender equality and the necessity to analyze and understand the drivers of gender inequality may be relatively known to most countries, interactions during the awareness raising suggest that participants appeared to be less familiar with the "How-to-do-so" through a gender mainstreaming strategy in the area of POPs management.

E. Knowledge Management

The University of Cape Town (UCT)'s Professional Masters in Chemicals Risk Management and PG Diploma in Pesticide Risk Management was ongoing during this reporting period and training was granted for about twelve students from Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the period 9 students from the 12 enrolled students graduated. The MCRM is a fully accredited programme by UCT and the South African government educational qualifications bodies. The following was completed during the project:

- All courses were finalised, peer reviewed.
 - 6 of 9 courses were translated into French (all MCRM).
- MCRM officially started in February 2022 and proceeded to 2024.
- 50 applicants for 25 places; 33 were from ChemObs countries.
- UCT accepted 30 applicants – 18 from ChemObs countries.

MCRM 2023 programme consisted of first- and second-year students - 21 ChemObs bursaries in total.

Participating countries have undertaken extensive risk assessment processes and produced comprehensive national reports which lay an important foundation for developing an effective system of health environment surveillance, reporting and action. The participating countries have developed a country specific ChemObs communications strategy, identifying the specific stakeholders, audiences, risks, priorities and plans of action for raising awareness of the risks of chemicals to human health and the environment. Some participating countries have begun to use the decision-making tools created through the ChemObs project to produce initial calculations of the Economic Cost of Inaction and of Risk and Vulnerability. This has allowed them to develop business cases and, for some countries, to receive funding for the implementation of hard interventions.

Project countries developed awareness raising materials to the different stakeholders in their respective countries and this helped a great deal in promoting the project outcomes. Two calculators were generated and completed as part of the ChemObs project. The first calculator, Risk and Vulnerability, accepts site-specific information for contaminated areas and outputs a relative ranking of ecological and human health risks. The second one is an economic calculator which accepts chemical exposure data for different populations and outputs estimated attributable productivity losses. Both calculators were developed with Microsoft Excel. The Regional Communication Strategy developed for this project was adapted by project countries to their situations and this helped with the roll out of the awareness raising campaigns.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	

Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	No cost extension was processed in the last reporting period. The hard intervention work in Zimbabwe was approved and the activities are well underway.
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Adami Tullu Store	7.866664	38.699997	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gabon	0.4162	9.4673	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Madagascar	-18.8792	47.5079	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mali	12.6392	-8.0029	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tanzania, Arusha	-6.372825	34.892483	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kitengela Sub location, Ildamat Location, Kajiado Central Sub – County, Kajiado, Nairobi Kenya	-1.452411	36.956019	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Adama City	8.527534	39.281758	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nairobi Kenya	-1.28333	36.81667	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kajiado Kenya	-1.321360	36.837155	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ildamat Location	0.9596600	36.0772300	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	9080-PIR-UNEP-2025-GEF-CW