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Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia

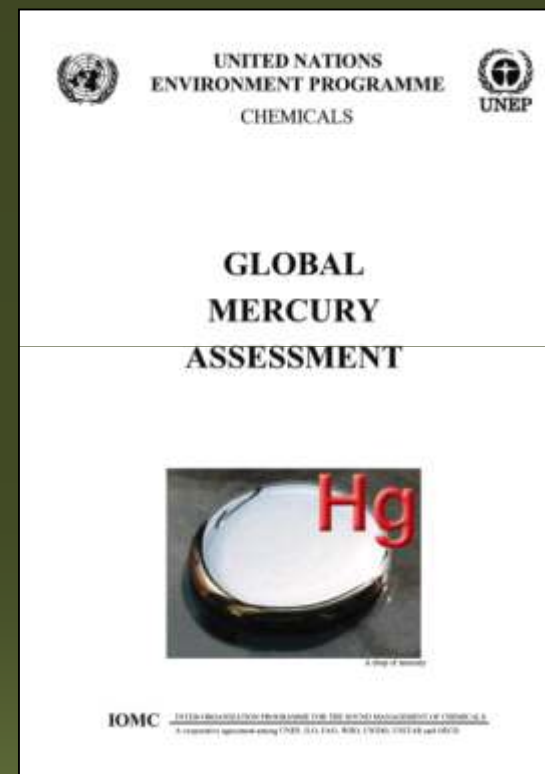
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The WHO-HCWH Global Initiatives to Phase-out Mercury Containing Devices in Health Care and the Move to Alternatives



United Nations Mandate on Mercury

- **Assessment** Initiated by United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council at its 21st session in February 2001;
- **Finding:** Hg is persistent and cycles globally – emissions in any continent can contribute to deposition in others thus an international issue.
- **UNEP Governing Council 2007:** *Concluded* that further long-term international action is required to reduce risks to human health and the environment.
- **Governing Council 2009:** Mandates the negotiation of a legally binding instrument to control mercury globally.



Mercury Substitution in US and European Health Care

USA

- Thermometer bans or severe restrictions in 28 states.
- It is virtually impossible to buy a mercury thermometer in the US today.



European Union

- Mercury thermometers banned in 2007.
- Blood pressure devices on their way out.



2005 WHO Policy on Mercury in Health Care



World Health Organization

Short Term: Develop and implement plans to reduce the use of mercury equipment and replace with mercury-free alternatives. Address clean-up, storage, disposal.

Medium Term: Increase efforts to reduce use of unnecessary mercury equipment

Long Term: Support a ban of mercury containing devices and promote alternatives.

Global Initiative Launched by WHO and HCWH in 2008



Goal:

By 2017, to phase out the demand for mercury-containing fever thermometers and sphygmomanometers by at least 70% and to shift the production of all mercury-containing fever thermometers and sphygmomanometers to accurate, affordable, and safer non-mercury alternatives.

Component of the UNEP
Products Partnership

www.mercuryfreehealthcare.org

Five Strategic Foci

- International guidance on accuracy
- Awareness raising and mobilization of the health care sector in all countries in order to shift demand.
- Model policy development and catalytic activities to shift demand at global, regional, national, state and municipal levels.
- Disposal— support proper management of mercury waste in health care settings.
- Shift production to accurate affordable alternatives.



Seven Steps to Mercury-Free Health Care



1. Education and training
2. Pilot hospitals
3. Replication in other hospitals
4. Mega-city/provincial policies
5. National policies
6. Models for replication in regions
7. Contributing to global policy

Each country and region has their own sequence and approach

Global substitution of Mercury

Many developing country health systems are finding that it is a cost-effective and straightforward proposition to substitute mercury-based medical devices with safe, affordable and accurate alternatives.

Many have implemented substitution policies with support from or in collaboration with the WHO-HCWH Global Mercury-free Healthcare Initiative, a component of the UNEP Mercury Products Partnership.



Latin America

- Argentina

- In 2009, Ministry of Health (MOH) signed a policy to substitute mercury devices
- In 2010, issued order prohibiting commercialization of mercury blood pressure devices
- In 2011, National Ombudsman called on MOH to end sale of mercury thermometers to the public.



- Brazil

- States of Sao Paulo and Santa Catarina legislated phase-out of mercury devices
- 671 health establishments, and 207 hospitals have completed substitution
- A number of Brazilian hospitals have joined the WHO-HCWH Partnership.

Latin America

- Costa Rica
 - Social Security Administration adopted policy to avoid purchase of mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers
 - At least 3 national hospitals are mercury free and more are in process.
- Chile
 - More than 127 hospitals committed to mercury substitution
 - In 2011, Ministry of Health (MOH) adopted a national policy for the 206 public hospitals which requires all hospitals to substitute mercury devices .



Africa

- South Africa

- Province of KwaZulu Natal and the Western Cape implemented mercury substitutions in health care
- Department of Environmental Affairs recommended that Ministry of Health issue a directive to all Provincial Health Departments to discontinue the purchase of mercury thermometers and blood pressure devices.

- Tanzania

- A baseline survey conducted by AGENDA in 56 schools and 43 health care facilities on mercury use
- Findings being disseminated to health and education communities and policy makers.



- China
 - HCWH partner Global Village of Beijing (GVB) working on reducing mercury pollution from health cares together with Chinese NGO's and hospitals
 - Two mercury free health care pilot projects launched in two hospitals
 - In addition to several hospitals that are mercury free.





■ Indonesia

- In 2011, worked with with BaliFokus to promote mercury free devices in seven Denpasar City hospitals
- Together with WHO and government officials laid groundwork for implementation
- Worked on replication across the country.

- Mongolia
 - In 2011, Ministry of Health and National Emergency Management Agency issued joint order to “ban” further procurement of mercury thermometers, sphygmomanometers and dental amalgam
 - Authorized heads of city and provincial health care departments and managers to reduce the use of mercury in health care and replace with alternatives.



Asia



■ Nepal

- Three hospitals are mercury free with more moving to phase-out
- WHO supported creation of nation-wide national mercury feasibility study.

- Philippines
 - In 2008, Department of Health (DOH) issued national policy to phase-out mercury health care
 - In 2011 majority of hospitals have gone mercury free.



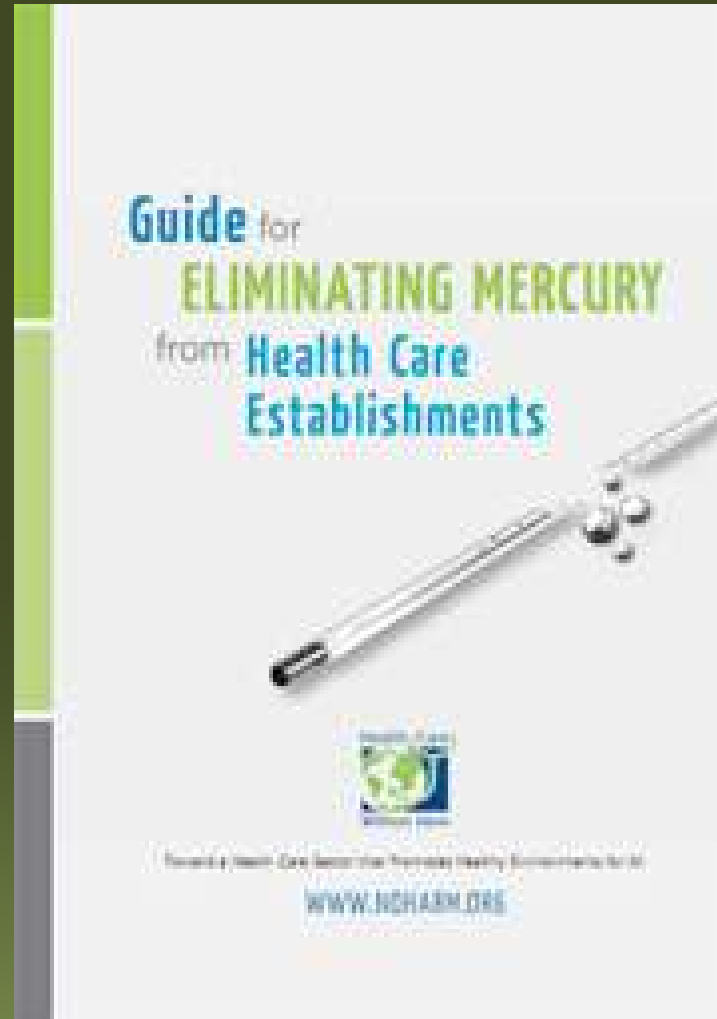
Resources on Mercury

- WHO Technical Guidance on Substituting Mercury Thermometers and Sphygmomanometers
 - It identifies available resources that support the equivalent accuracy and comparable clinical utility of the substituted products.



Resources on Mercury

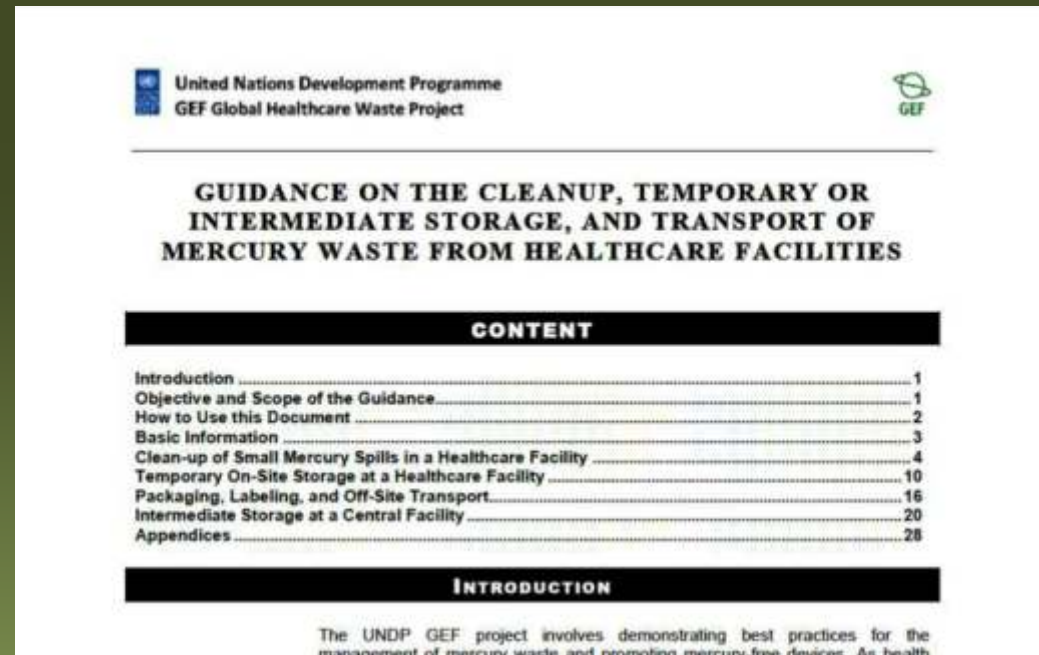
- HCWH Mercury Substitution Guide
 - In order to scale-up replacement of mercury, the guide systematizes the basic steps to substitution



Resources on Mercury



- GEF Guidance on Cleanup, Storage, and Transport of Health Care Mercury Waste
 - Guidance document released by UNDP GEF Global Health Care Waste Project guide health care facilities on their way to being mercury free.



Next Steps

Treaty Process and the Health Sector

- Many countries have already taken action in health care
- It is politically and economically viable almost everywhere
- The treaty will probably mandate a phase-out of mercury in health care.
- Treaty can reinforce greening of the health sector





**Mercury-Free
Health Care**

An Initiative to Substitute
Mercury-based Medical Devices
Around the World.



**World Health
Organization**



**Health Care
Without Harm**



www.noharm.org
www.mercuryfreehealthcare.org