

“Mainstreaming Gender in National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention”

Regional Workshop for Europe, Asia, and Africa

SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM ARMENIA

NGO perspective

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AWHHE Mission and Activities

AWHHE was founded in September 1999 with the **mission:**

To explore the issue of environment pollution in Armenia, to advocate the human right to live in healthy environment, to promote the decrease of the risks of environmental harmful impacts, including climate change, on human health, as well to promote healthy lifestyle focusing especially on children and women.

Activities contributing to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs:

- Awareness raising and information sharing on alternatives to hazardous chemicals in products
- Capacity building for sustainable agriculture (farmer training and pilots on climate-smart methods)
- Policy advocacy (representing NGOs in the National Implementation Committee on the Stockholm Convention)



WHY WOMEN?

- ❖ Women and men can be affected differently by persistent organic pollutants (POPs) due to
 - ✓ their physiology,
 - ✓ occupational exposures,
 - ✓ and exposure to household products.
- ❖ They have other experiences of dealing with sources of exposure, different priorities, responsibilities and needs relating to the reduction of toxic chemicals and wastes.
- ❖ They play different roles in making decisions about
 - ✓ pollution prevention
 - ✓ waste management
 - ✓ identification of sources of chemical exposure
 - ✓ and building safer environment for communities



AWHHE encourages women as agents of change.

AWHHE believes that collaboration and effective partnership with all relevant stakeholders is a milestone for effective and successful implementation of the projects to improve and sustain human life and to reach **our vision “Healthy Environment for our Children, Healthy Generation for Armenia”**.

Examples of approaches to mainstreaming gender in the project implementation

- Awareness-raising: in our communication to women, especially in rural areas, we try to find simple words to explain that exposure to POPs can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and damage to the central and peripheral nervous systems
- Capacity building: our NGO members who are predominantly health professionals include in our training materials the health impacts of POPs, and discuss available alternatives
- Policy advocacy:
 - AWHHE is cooperating with the National Focal Point for the Stockholm Convention to ensure gender mainstreaming in the implementation process
 - representatives of our NGO actively participate in the meetings of the Conferences of Parties to the Stockholm Convention, including on gender issues
- International NGO cooperation and networking: AWHHE is closely engaging with professional NGO networks such as International Polluters Elimination Network (IPEN), Pesticide Action Network (PAN), Health Care without Harm (HCWH), Health and Environmental Alliance (HEAL), and others.

Examples of projects with successful gender mainstreaming approaches

- AWHHE contributes to the implementation of the GEF Enabling Activity project GEF ID 10924 entitled “Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Albania, Armenia and Kazakhstan” (a contract with **the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre hosted by RECETOX, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University**).
 - AWHHE carries out the awareness raising component, which includes messages for women on the health impacts of POPs, available alternatives and healthy lifestyles

Examples of other projects by AWHHE with gender components (awareness raising and enhancing women's participation in decision-making)

- project “**Promoting Democratic Participation and Climate-Smart Agriculture in Armenia**”, funded by **The United Nations Democracy Fund**: Through training and facilitation, it empowers women farmers to take advantage of existing opportunities to influence decision-making, obtain training in climate-smart agriculture and to boost their farms' productivity, sustainability and revenues (<https://awhhe.am/promoting-democratic-participation-and-climate-smart-agriculture-in-armenia/>)
- Awareness raising in frame of the project on “**Strengthening National Capacity of the Republic of Armenia in Sound Chemicals and Waste Management for Implementation of the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam, Minamata Conventions and SAICM**” (<https://awhhe.am/april-december-2023-strengthening-national-capacity-of-the-republic-of-armenia-in-sound-chemicals-and-waste-management-for-implementation-of-the-stockholm-basel-rotterdam-minam/>)
- Report, funded by IPEN, on the situation with Chlorpyrifos in Armenia (<https://awhhe.am/april-june-2022-the-situation-with-chlorpyrifos-in-armenia-2/>), highlighting health risks for women
- GEF funded project on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and alternatives, in Armenia's Kotayk and Vayots Dzor provinces (<https://awhhe.am/2021-armenias-women-rural-entrepreneurs-for-safe-alternatives-to-highly-hazardous-pesticides/>) , with a component on gender issues in the training materials

THANK YOU

