

Mainstreaming Gender in National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention

BIH experience

Melina Džajić - Valjevac



Chapter 2.1.18 The importance of embedding the gender equality issues in the NIP for the Stockholm Convention in BiH

Indicated that women are **particularly sensitive** to hazardous chemicals :

- Because they are susceptible to the special effects of hazardous chemicals because of the structure of their **reproductive system**;
- Because of the **lipophilic characteristic** of most hazardous chemicals, as their effect is **bigger** on women, considering that women most often have a higher proportion of fat tissue, and there is a **higher** possibility of storage of dangerous chemicals in the body;
- In certain periods of their life, such as **pregnancy, breastfeeding, menopause** and so on.



2010

2013

2015

2016

Legal framework

The Law on Gender Equality in BiH (Official Gazette of BiH, no. 16/03 and 102/09) determined the commitments of all government institutions to take the appropriate and required measures for implementing the measures set by this Law and the Gender Action Plan (GAP) of BiH

Besides this Law, Unique rules for accepting and processing requests for assessing violations of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH were created and implemented (Official Gazette of BiH, no. 71/12) and they regulate the implementation of the Law.

Institutional Framework

Agency for Gender Equality of BiH, Gender Centre of FBiH and Gender Centre of RS.

Commission for Gender Equality which was founded by the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.

Within the FBiH Government and the RS Government focal persons were appointed for gender issues in **every ministry**. Commissions and coordinating committees for gender issues were established at lower levels of government as well, including **cantons and municipalities**.

Apart from the institutional framework, there is a network of **NGOs** which support the rights of women and gender equality through their activities, which are primarily based on counselling and providing psychological support



However

Long journey from seeing gender equality as a 'female concern' to mainstreaming gender equality in decisions and measures

2010

2013

2015

2016

NIP recommendations

Raising awareness about the link between exposure to hazardous chemicals, the effects on human health and gender differences when it comes to risk and effects is of vital importance.

Raising awareness about current health risks from toxic chemicals which are used or are included in different types of equipment in sectors where, during the creation of the preliminary inventory of POPs in BiH, the presence of POPs chemicals was identified, is very important for the successful implementation of other identified activities.

In order to achieve the desired goal of raising public awareness, it is necessary to implement the following activities:

- Development and distribution of guidelines which contain information about hazardous chemicals, health and gender differences and effects;
- Provision of information about social factors which have an effect on human exposure to chemicals, such as, for example, the division of labour;
- **Inclusion of health- and gender-related information during thematic trainings;**
- Dissemination of material for raising awareness of all involved stakeholders.



2010

2013

2015

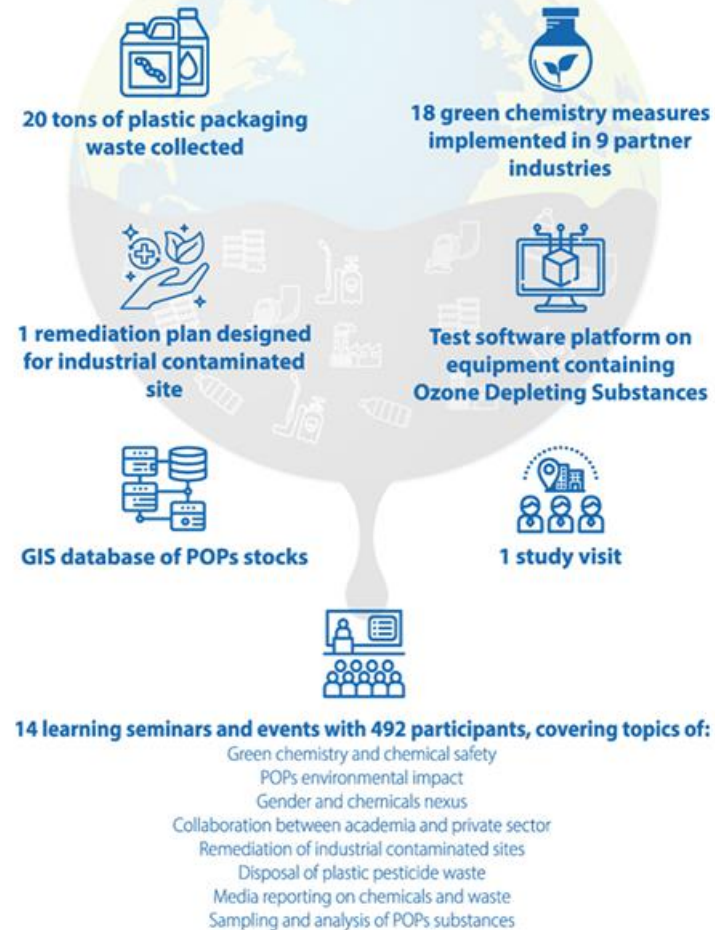
2016

#POPS project in BiH

POPs PROJECT IN FIGURES IN 2023



Environmentally Sound Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in industrial and hazardous waste sectors



#POPS

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS) IN INDUSTRIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE SECTORS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Project Duration:
2019-2025



Project Value:
€6 million

PARTNERS

Ministry of Foreign Trade and
Economic Relations of Bosnia and
Herzegovina (BiH)

Ministry of Spatial Planning,
Civil Engineering and Ecology of
Republika Srpska

Ministry of Environment and
Tourism of the Federation of BiH

Department of Spatial Planning and
Property Affairs of the Brčko District



MAIN GOAL

Reduce risk for people's health and the environment through the prevention of U-POP releases, shifting from POPs toward non-POPs chemicals in the plastic industry, and sound destruction of at least 50 tons of POPs waste.



WHAT WE DO

- Capacity building and mainstreaming of POPs related legislation
- Prevention and monitoring of U-POPs generation and of release of POPs through minimization, segregation, and environmentally sound management of selected hazardous waste stream
- Implementation of green chemistry principles in plastic manufacturing
- Management and disposal of PCBs and POPs from abandoned industrial premises
- Development of inventory of cooling equipment
- Responsible management of potentially infectious waste (related to Covid-19)

The NIP recommendations were considered in all aspects of the UNDP POPs BiH project

Throughout the project, special attention was devoted to ensuring **balanced gender representation of participants** across all activities. The organizers were particularly mindful of this priority

2019

2025

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#POPS project in BiH

1. Integration of gender equality aspects in the field of environment – online, May 2021

2. Gender Aspects and POPs Management” – Banja Luka, 11 Dec 2024

Goal: Raise awareness on POPs impact on health & environment, highlight examples of hazardous chemicals/waste management, with special focus on **gender aspects**.

Key lecture topics included the impact of POPs on women's health, particularly reproductive health, initiatives emphasizing the gender dimension in environmental protection, as well as the development of a Chemical Safety Strategy with a focus on gender equality.

UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina's post

UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
11. decembar 2024. · 🌐

👤 „Rodni aspekti i upravljanje POPs supstancama” ✓

Danas je u Banja Luci održana radionica posvećena jačanju svijesti o uticaju POPs supstanci na zdravlje ljudi i okoliš, s posebnim naglaskom na rodne aspekte u upravljanju opasnim hemikalijama i otpadom.

Ključne teme predavanja obuhvatile su uticaj POPs-a na zdravlje žena, posebno reproduktivno zdravlje, inicijative koje naglašavaju rodnu dimenziju u zaštiti okoliša, kao i izradu Strategije hemijske bezbjednosti s fokusom na rodnu ravnopravnost.

📌 Radionica je organizovana u sklopu #POPs Projekta "Ekološki prihvatljivo upravljanje postojanim organskim zagađivačima u sektoru ndustrije i upravljanja otpadom u BiH" finansirano od strane Embassy of Sweden in Sarajevo



UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina's post

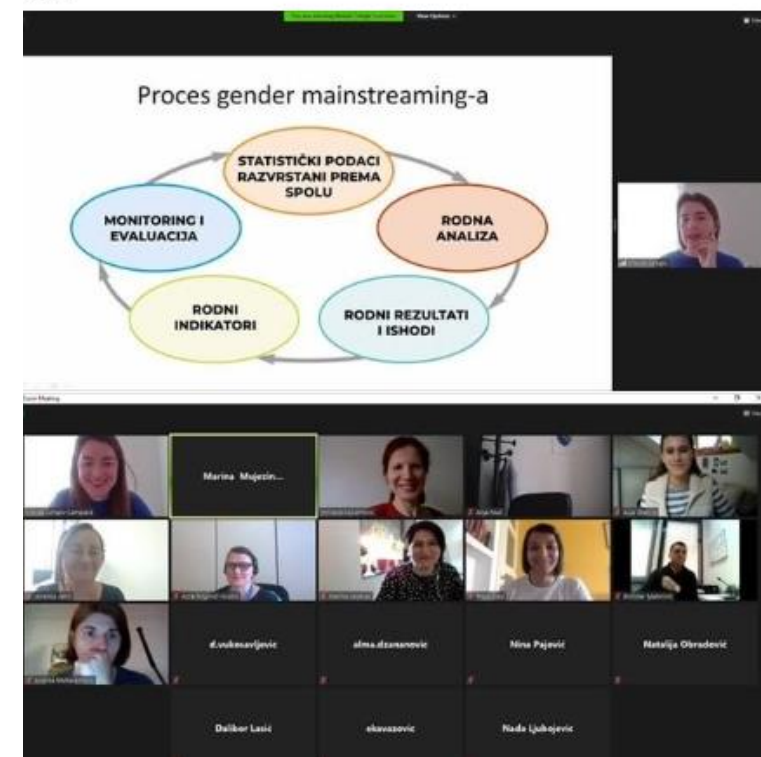
UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina
7. maj 2021. · 🌐

Izloženost postojećim organskim zagađujućim materijama (POPs) može uzrokovati ozbiljne zdravstvene probleme za žene, muškarce te djecu, ali specifičan uticaj na svaki spol nije dovoljno istražen u BiH. U tom smislu, prepoznata je važnost edukacije institucionalnih partnera o specifičnim rodnom pitanjima u kontekstu upravljanja ovim materijama.

U okviru #POPs projekta koji finansira Embassy of Sweden in Sarajevo održan je webinar na temu "Uključivanje aspekta rodne ravnopravnosti u oblast životne sredine/okoliša" za službenike različitih institucija.

Cilj edukacije je bio upoznavanje sa rodnom ravnopravnosti u kontekstu:

- zakonodavstvo, strategije i informacije o trenutnom položaju žena i muškaraca,
- obaveze u vezi sa ratificiranim međunarodnim dokumentima i specifičnosti procesa integriranja roda u području okolinski prihvatljivog upravljanja POPs materijama u industrijskom i sektoru opasnog otpada.



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Conclusions- recomendations

Scientific facts and global monitoring results on the presence of POPs in breast milk, air and water should be more integrated into workshops and trainings on various chemical management topics. In this way, greater interest and involvement of women in decision-making processes will be achieved

Instead of having separate “gender equality” activities, we should make sure that the specific vulnerabilities of women, men, children, and other vulnerable **groups are built into all health and environmental policies**

Workshops and trainings with NGOs and media proved essential, as they help convey scientific facts and monitoring results to the public in a responsible way – **raising awareness without creating panic**.

When it comes to the industrial sector, the involvement of chambers of commerce is crucial, as they bring together similar industries and organize joint events. Cooperation with chambers of commerce will facilitate access to the necessary information, which would enable gender mainstreaming in the NIP – that is, the identification of realistic and implementable measures



Conclusions- recomendations

The identified NIP priorities and goals should be viewed through the lens of gender equality. Therefore, working groups should include representatives of institutions (agencies, NGOs, etc.) who can support this process.



The Action Plan should be reviewed by the competent gender equality institution and require their input. It is necessary to ensure that representatives of these institutions are familiar with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention, particularly with the proven specific impacts on women's health

Thank you !

Questions?