

CASE STUDY

Using the WHO Chemicals Road Map and Workbook to determine country priorities for sound management of chemicals and waste in Bhutan

Bhutan

This case study describes the use of the Workbook to identify national priorities and related activities by following the WHO Chemicals Road Map.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of this case study is to increase awareness of the WHO Chemicals Road Map and Workbook and their use in identifying priorities and activities for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The objectives of the case study are to:

- identify, based on the Road Map, national priorities in the field of sound chemicals and waste management;
- define activities necessary to take to implement the priorities;
- prepare the national plan of implementation of the Road Map;
- define the role of the Ministry of Health in sound chemicals and waste management;
- familiarize different sectors with the idea of sound chemicals and waste management; and
- stress the importance of multisectoral cooperation in sound chemicals and waste management.



Project Overview

Context

The Chemicals Road Map was developed to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) towards the 2020 goal and beyond. The Road Map helps to identify concrete actions where the health sector can lead or play a supporting role for a multisectoral approach to sound management of chemicals. Use of the Workbook helps planners identify priorities and associated activities, and to develop a high-level implementation plan.

Bhutan is in the process of applying for a chemicals management grant. This undertaking provided an excellent opportunity to bring all stakeholders together and to use the Road Map as a framework to identify the country's priorities in chemicals management.

Approach

A three-day workshop was conducted in Bhutan to identify country priorities and activities in management of chemicals using the Chemicals Road Map. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Health and attended by officials from the Department of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Labor and Human Resources; Department of Industry, Ministry of Economic Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture and Forest; Royal Center for Disease Control; Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and National Environment Commission.

The workshop was led by a WHO consultant. The first day began with a session introducing the Chemicals Road Map, including its origin and purpose. This was followed by a detailed explanation about the content and structure of the Road Map, including descriptions of the four focus areas – Risk Reduction, Knowledge and Evidence, Institutional Capacity, and Leadership and Coordination – and implementable actions under each of the areas. The next session described how the Workbook can assist in identifying priorities and planning activities around these priorities. The participants of the workshop identified actions listed under the four focus areas that were priorities for Bhutan.



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Results

The Road Map and Workbook provide a systematic method for planners to identify:

- key priority areas to focus on;
- activities in these areas to consider; and
- timelines and outcomes of each of the activities.

Once activities have been identified, they offer guidance on prioritization of activities based on feasibility, flexibility, impact and risk, as well as guidance on developing an implementation plan using a logic model and communication strategies to share the plan with key stakeholders.

During the workshop, the Chemicals Road Map Workbook was used effectively to:

- (1) select roadmap actions that were of highest priority for Bhutan and
- (2) create a high-level implementation plan for the prioritized activities, including identification of outcomes, deliverables, roles and responsibilities, resources and time frame.

Lessons Learned

Participants found the use of the Workbook and Road Map very helpful. The group work allowed participants to consider the issue of chemicals management from a multisectoral perspective while also considering sector-specific roles and responsibilities.

Recommendations

The Workbook and Chemicals Road Map are valuable tools for all countries to consider in planning for their environmental and occupational needs.

They can be especially useful when used to develop proposals for seeking development assistance to address environmental health concerns.

The case study was authored by the Ministry of Health. The named authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this publication



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This case study is one of a series of case studies coordinated by WHO to illustrate the implementation of the WHO Chemicals Road Map.

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