

**SGP/GEF PROJECT**  
**For non-toxic**  
**environment,**  
**from local to**  
**global**



## **Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment NGO (AWHHE)**

Ostrava, 13 - 15 June, 2017





# AWHHE: Background



- IPEN Focal Point for Stockholm Convention in Armenia since its establishment in **1999**
  - Also member of international NGO networks: WECF, PAN, HEAL, EEB-ZMWG, GGF, GEF-NGO, etc.)
  - Over **120 projects** implemented mainly with support of WECF, EU, IPEN, PAN UK, in Armenia, with a focus on:
    - **Awareness-raising** on pesticide management including POPs, obsolete and highly hazardous pesticides (Public Hearing in Brussels)
    - **Community-based monitoring** of storages of obsolete and highly hazardous pesticides
    - **Knowledge transfer and capacity building:** safe management of pesticides and safe alternatives to pesticides (bio-humus, composting, plant tinctures, etc.) and promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques
- Stakeholder engagement and empowerment** of women and youth

# Case Presentation

## NUBARASHEN Armenia Emergency POPs Pesticides Burial Site

- **Designed in 1976**
- **Disposed in 1980-s**
- **Cover destroyed in 2010**





## Estimated quantities of the contaminated soil and the pure pesticides present at the landfill site

Total estimated quantities landfill site and landfill body	In situ	Weight
Contaminated top soil with traces of pure pesticides fenced area landfill site	3,000 m <sup>3</sup>	5,100 ton
Slightly contaminated top cover landfill body	890 m <sup>3</sup>	1,513 ton
Heavily contaminated top soil with traces of pure pesticides in landfill body	1,127 m <sup>3</sup>	1,916 ton
Pesticides	605 m <sup>3</sup>	605 ton

# Possible Risks



- People entering and/or working at the landfill site (zone 100 m around the landfill) have direct contact risk with the contaminated soil.
- Air born contaminated fine soil particles.
- The groundwater and the surface water at a few hundred meters downstream from the landfill site were not found to be impacted
- The receptor pathways of runoff water and percolating rainwater are not established.
- People living in neighborhood are concerned with off site migration of contaminants with runoff water and percolating rainwater.

## AWHHE's GEF SGP PROJECT RATIONALE AND APPROACH

- The GEF SGP project **For non-toxic environment, from local to global** is designed to contribute to the ongoing GEF-UNDP project *“Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Stockpiles and Addressing POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) and Contaminated Sites within a Sound Chemicals Management Framework in Armenia”* by
  - **increasing awareness of communities surrounding** the Nubarashen POPs/pesticides burial site and the relocation site;
  - **strengthened watchdog capacity** of local community members, CSOs and decision-makers; and
  - **a simulative model** reflecting
    - (a) the method of mobilization around identified needed activities,
    - (b) estimated resources, and
    - (c) required mechanisms for safe and effective handling community-based OP waste.





## Links: GEF UNDP + GEF SGP/SP

- The GEF SGP project **adds value to local, national and global level strategies** related to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Armenia.
- **Innovative community-based tools and approaches are demonstrated** for local community participation in monitoring of the hazardous chemicals to be stored in the Kotayk Hazardous Waste Storage Facility.
- The project is an important “brick” in the long-standing efforts of AWHHE to **promote a sustainable solution to the issue of the Nubarashen Burial Site of Banned and Obsolete Pesticides**

# Current Developments



- **07.03.2017- Decision on liquidation of Nubarashen pesticide burial**

## Project includes:

- Establishment of a national warehouse in Kotayk region.
- It will serve as storage place of pesticides from 24 warehouses left from the Soviet periods for the further export and elimination, as well as for the storage of 7000 tons of contaminated soil from Nubarashen burial site.





**Thank you.**  
**[www.awhhe.am](http://www.awhhe.am)**

