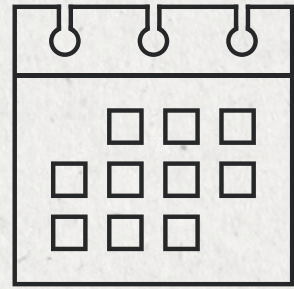


# ESDO NEWSLETTER

JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2023



## About ESDO

ESDO is working to promote the coherent implementation of environmental dimensions of sustainable development since 1990. It should be mentioned that ESDO is the first organization to ban polythene bags in 2002. ESDO's activities continue with different issues like mercury-free dentistry, single-use plastic pollution, and microbeads including lead-containing products. In this quarter, ESDO's primary objective was phasing out mercury-free products and plastic pollution through consultations and campaigns to raise awareness among the general people, government officials, stakeholders and policymaking.

## Inside This Issue

Plastic-Free July

Plastic-free Campus  
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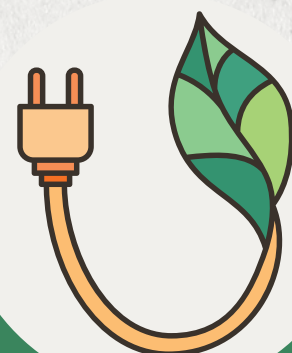
Policy Dialogue on Plastic  
Pollution Towards Plastic  
Treaty Negotiation

Brand Audit 2023

International Week of Mercury-  
Free Dentistry (MFD)

Seventh Global Environment  
Facility (GEF) Assembly

We Work for  
Toxic-Free World





## MOBILE CAMPAIGN TO OBSERVE PLASTIC-FREE JULY



To observe the Plastic-free July, a day-long mobile campaign was organized by Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO on July 8, 2023, in various locations in Dhaka city. An engaging message of “Combat plastic pollution” was successfully disseminated across this mobile campaign to increase awareness of the urgent need to stop plastic pollution.

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## Plastic-free Campus Intervention in Sylhet

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized the plastic-free campus intervention on 12-13 July 2023 at ‘Sylhet Pilot School’ and ‘Hazrat Omar Faruque (R.) Academy’. The two-day environmental education camp aimed to raise awareness about plastic pollution and provide students with information on its impacts,

[READ MORE](#)



## Plastic-free Campus Intervention in Khulna

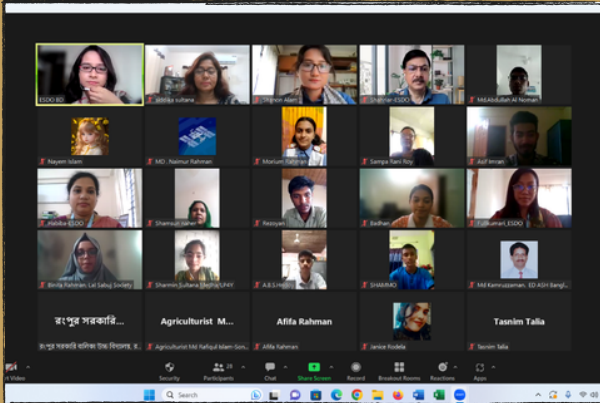


In observance of “Plastic Free July,” Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO held another environmental education camp at Government Coronation Secondary Girls’ School and Khulna University School on July 18 and 19, 2023, as part of its Plastic Free Campus (PFC) project.

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## Consultation on the Environmental Threat of "SINGLE-USE PLASTIC."



Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO organized a webinar to observe plastic-free July on July 27, 2023. The webinar outlines the detrimental impact of single-use plastics on the environment, wildlife, and human health while exploring potential solutions to mitigate this urgent problem. [READ MORE](#)

## ESDO's Initiative to Combat Plastic Pollution



Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) has taken bold steps to combat this pervasive crisis on 9th August 2023 at Kamrangirchar. ESDO's initiative to combat plastic pollution not only raises awareness but also implements practical solutions that serve as a guiding light in our global battle against plastic waste.

## Policy Dialogue on Plastic Pollution Towards Plastic Treaty Negotiation

Environmental activists and experts urge an immediate nationwide ban on single-use plastic with strict enforcement. Environment and Social Development Organization(ESDO) hosted a policy dialogue on "Plastic Pollution Towards Plastic Treaty Negotiation" on 30 August, 2023 in Dhaka city.

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## Consultation on "Environmental and Social Impacts of Plastic Pollution: Importance of Transitioning to Plastic Alternatives"

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized a consultation on 16 September 2023 to provide a platform for SMEs to explore the environmental and social impacts of plastic pollution and engage in a dialogue on the imperative transition to plastic alternatives.

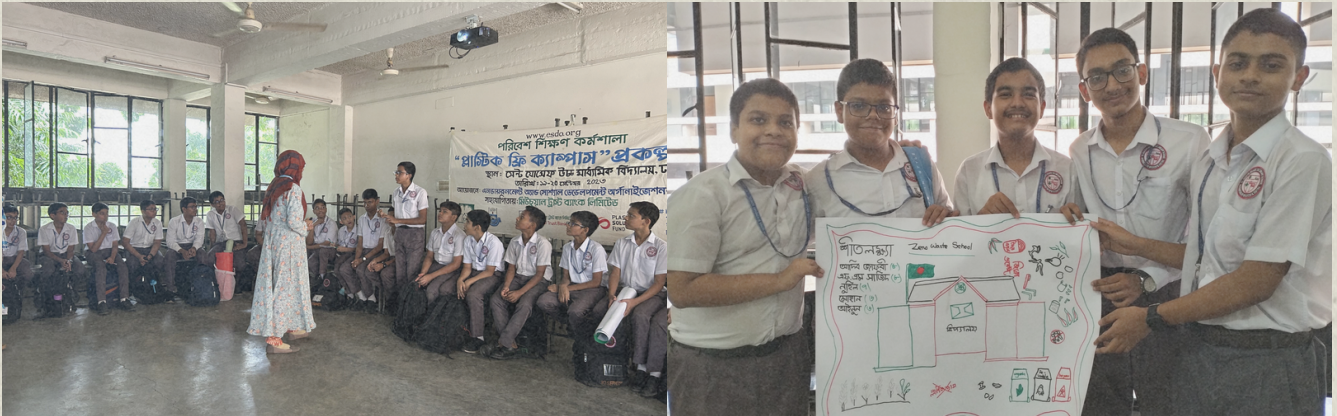
[READ MORE](#)



## ESDO and St. Joseph Higher Secondary School Unite for a Plastic-Free, Green and Sustainable Campus

As part of its Plastic Free Campus (PFC) project, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) hosted an environmental educational camp at St. Joseph Higher Secondary School on September 19 and 20, 2023. For this environmental educational camp, ESDO chose 50 students from St. Joseph Higher Secondary School which included students from class 3 to 8.

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## Volunteer Orientation for Brand Audit of Single-use Plastic

Environment Social and Development Organization (ESDO) organized a volunteer orientation for a Brand Audit of single-use plastic in Dhaka and Rangpur cities on 26 and 27 September of 2023. This event aimed to raise awareness among local people about the environmental impact of single-use plastics. The aim of these orientation is to share ideas about plastic pollution and how to participate in the brand audit event.

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## ESDO's Brand Audit 2023 Exposes the Major Polluters of SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

In collaboration with Break Free from Plastic, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) conducted its 6th Brand Audit in Dhaka and Rangpur, two significant divisional cities in Bangladesh.

In Dhaka, the brand audit was carried out by a team consisting of students from Lalmatia Girls High School, Lalmatia Housing Society School, and St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, along with volunteers and ESDO team members. Simultaneously, in Rangpur, students from Rangpur Zilla School and Rangpur Govt. Girls High School has conducted the brand audit.

The combined effort in these two major divisional cities resulted in the collection of approximately 158 kilograms of plastic waste.

[Read More](#)





#TOXICFREEWORLD



## EDC Free Asia II Project Market Survey

The study team explored both the online platform and market platforms while deciding on the sample products for the EDC Free Asia II project. They visited Townhall Market, Agora, Meena Bazar, and Unimart. They also investigated internet stores like Kabliwala and Daraz. They identified the widely used toothpaste, baby wipes, mouthwash, and hand wash through market research. The potential product list for sampling has been finalized by the team. The research team will determine the hazardous compounds, which are dangerous to both adults and children, are present in these products.



## Sampling for EDC-free Asia II Projects

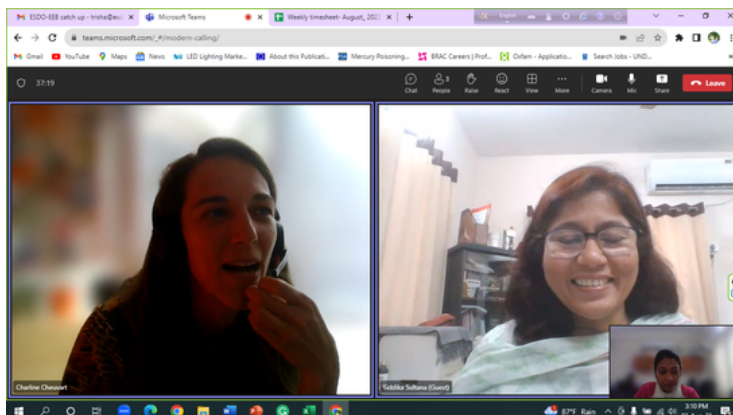
To spread the knowledge among the community, ESDO in collaboration with Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health (WIOEH) is conducting research on Everyday Carry products like hand wash, body wash, mouth wash, deodorant etc. which are containing with toxic chemicals harmful for users, especially women and children.





## Mercury Elimination Project: Follow-up Meeting

On 2 August, 2023 ESDO with EEB arranged a follow-up meeting about the updates of project activities. The project manager Charline Cheuvart from EEB and Project Associate Tanjima Hoque Trisha from ESDO were present in this meeting. Also, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO attended the meeting. The meeting was about the updated activities of the project. The search team conducted 12 parlor visits and 2 beauty institution visits.



## "Exploring the Harmful Impacts: A Visit and Interviews with Experts and Victims on Mercury-Added Skin-Lightening Creams and Lead Poisoning"

On August 23, 2023, the Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO visited the National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital (NICRH), Mohakhali, Dhaka, for documentation on mercury-added skin-lightening creams and lead poisoning. The team interviewed the on-call doctor and cancer expert.



## International Week of Mercury-Free Dentistry (MFD) Observed in Bangladesh and South Asia

To phase out mercury from dentistry in Bangladesh by 2030, the Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO observed the "International Week of Mercury Free Dentistry from 17th to 25th August, 2023 in Bangladesh.





## #FIELD ACTIVITIES

### **A Step Towards Ensuring Food Security in the Future: Toxic-free Organic Farming in Betgari**

We are excited to bring the latest updates on our journey towards a sustainable future through organic farming. In this edition, we'll highlight our recent achievements, ongoing efforts, and exciting plans for the future.

In our mission to enhance food security and promote a balanced diet, we are actively preparing to introduce a variety of vegetables in different plots. This diversification offers our community a broader range of nutritious options and strengthens our farming practices' resilience. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all community members who have been actively participating in our farming initiatives.



### **Empowering Zero Waste Community in Rangpur: Zero Waste Project Activities Follow Up and Interest-Free Loans**

During a recent meeting with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), we discussed follow-up activities for the Zero Waste Project and the Interest-Free Loan Program in Rangpur. Together, we're working towards a more sustainable and economically vibrant community.

### **Betgari Union's Biogas Plant Success Story**

The facility's users express their happiness with the assistance they receive. They claim that the plant's gas production rate has stabled and now satisfies their daily energy needs. They currently receive assistance from the service for four to five hours every day.





## Zero Waste Loan Program Meeting

ESDO organized a zero-waste loan program meeting on 25 September, 2023 at ESDO Rangpur office. The primary goal of this program is to involve unemployed individuals from the zero-waste community in various economic activities. The program has been named "Amar Swapno" and will be managed by Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) operating within the zero-waste community.



## Plastic Free Campus Project Follow-up Session

ESDO, the organization dedicated to environmental sustainability, successfully conducted its second follow-up session on creating plastic-free campuses. This session, led by Asif Imran, took place at Rangpur Govt Girls High School and Rangpur Zilla School. During the session, students enthusiastically shared their experiences and strategies for involving their friends in the mission to make their school campuses plastic-free.





## #International Intervention

### Seventh Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly

The Global Environment Facility has a unique governing structure organized around an Assembly, the Council, the Secretariat, 18 agencies, a Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, and the Evaluation Office. The GEF serves as a financial mechanism for several environmental conventions. The Executive Director of ESDO, Ms. Siddika Sultana has participated at the Seventh Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly and also provided a speech at the closing ceremony.



### The Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for COP-5 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Asia Pacific regional preparatory meeting for COP-5 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury took place on September 5 and 6, 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand. Its primary purpose was to prepare for the upcoming COP-5 meeting, scheduled for October 30 to November 3, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. During this preparatory meeting, the provisional agenda was discussed and developed in collaboration with COP-5 Bureau members representing the Asia and Pacific region.

ESDO's Executive Director, Siddika Sultana and Research and Campaign Associate, Shanon Iffat Alam attended the meeting on behalf of ESDO, World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry and Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG).





## Regional Meeting of Fifth Meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5)

The Bonn World Conference Center hosted the ICCM5 meeting from September 25 to 29, 2023. The Intersessional Process for Consideration of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020 (IP4.3), which took place from September 23–24, 2023, before ICCM5.

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, the secretary general of ESDO, and Siddika Sultana, the executive director of ESDO, took part in IP4.3 on ESDO's behalf. At this conference, Ms. Siddika Sultana intervened in the Strategic Objectives and Targets section on the timeline of Sound Management of Chemicals.





## Meeting with the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

A meeting was held on 16 August 2023 with Dr. Farhina Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh. The meeting was held in the Conference Room at the Secretariat, MOEFCC.

Sanjay Kumar Bhowmic, Additional Secretary, Climate Change Wing (Additional Charge), Dr. Fahmida Khanom, Additional Secretary (Development Wing), and Dharitri Kumar Sarker, Deputy Secretary, MoEFCC were also present. From the ESDO team Dr. Ainun Nishat, Vice-Chair, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary-General, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director and Monowarul Islam, Head of Programme of ESDO were present.



## Meeting with DoE on COP-5: Minamata Convention on Mercury

The meeting regarding the upcoming COP-5 was held at the Department of Environment (DoE) on 13 September, 2023. There was an open discussion about the Bangladesh position paper to be submitted at the COP-5. ESDO's Secretary General Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director Siddika Sultana attended the meeting along with Research and Campaign Associate Shanon Iffat Alam and Intern Neherin Zakia.





## **Courtesy Visit at Swedish International Development Corporation Agency (SIDA)**

ESDO's Secretary General, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, and Executive Director Siddika Sultana along with Maliha Hoque, Program Associate of ESDO paid a courtesy visit to SIDA to discuss the different aspects of environmental issues and working together on related projects in the future on 12 September 2023. The agenda of this meeting was to discuss on future collaboration of ESDO & SIDA on projects related to environmental issues.

On behalf of SIDA, Nayoka Martinez-Backstrom, Deputy Head of Development Section, Embassy of Sweden, Dhaka and Mostafizur Rahman, National Programme Officer-Climate and Environment, Embassy of Sweden, Dhaka welcomed ESDO members at the SIDA office.



## **Consultative meeting of the Technical Implementation Committee for the “PECP to reduce Lead poisoning among children in Bangladesh related activities”**

DGHS hosted a Consultative meeting of the Technical Implementation Committee for the “PECP to reduce Lead poisoning among children in Bangladesh-related activities” on September 17, 2023. Representatives from DGHS, Unicef, ESDO, Icddrb, IEDCR, and Pure Earth participated in this meeting to discuss their agendas for ILPPW2023. The talking points included discussions on Planning for ILPPW 2023, Training of doctors at Patualkahi on 24 September, participation of DGHS, Training at DPE on 30 Sept, Participation of DGHS, and Preparation and progress on the training of Alo Clinic doctors.





## Seminar of National River Conservation Commission on “Definition and Number of River in Bangladesh”



To celebrate the International river day, the National River Conservation Commission organized a seminar titled “Definition and Number of River in Bangladesh” on September 24. The commission launched a book regarding the number of rivers in Bangladesh along with providing the true definition of being a riverine country. Chief guest of this event was Syed Marghub Murshed, respected Chairperson of ESDO and former secretary of the government of Bangladesh and 5 Dr. Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman (Secretary to GoB), National river conservation commission was present at the event as session chair. On behalf of ESDO, Mr. Monowarul Islam, Head of Program, ESDO participated at this event



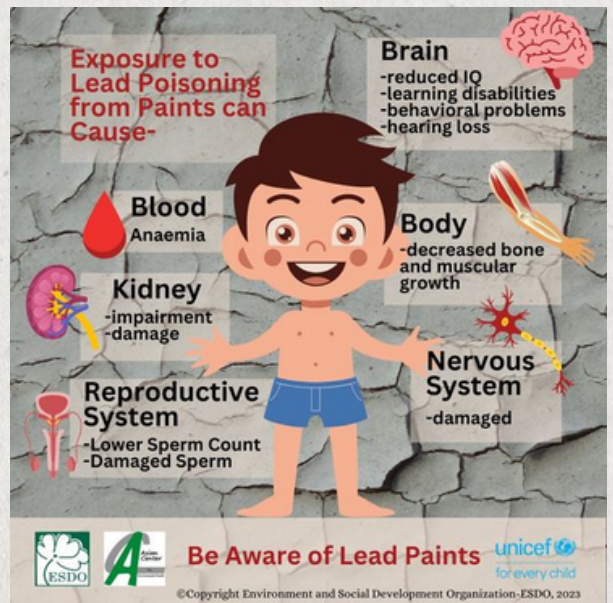


# #Social Media Campaign





# #Social Media Campaign







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