

# 2022

# Annual REPORT



ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION-ESDO

# Executive Summary

The Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) has completed a variety of campaign and advocacy actions in support of major issues in its 2022 mission. Various particular activities were completed as part of a larger set of mandatory issues.

These issues included projects like Legislation for Combating Single-Use Plastic Pollution, Lead Elimination, Contribution towards early ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention to phase out mercury-added products and Mercury Free Dentistry for Environmental Health, Building Zero Waste Community for a Pollution Free Environment in Bangladesh.

Various tasks completed for the mandates above included local and national level workshops, open forums, stakeholder consultations, market evaluations, surveys and research, campaign and policy advocacy, and other related activities, to name a few.

ESDO expresses its gratitude to all of its global partners, including financial contributors and partners who assisted in the development and funding of its numerous programs and initiatives.

This report provides a compilation of all of our 2022 activities. With fresh energy, ambition, and optimism, ESDO looks forward to the year 2023.

Siddika Sultana  
Executive Director  
ESDO



# INTRODUCTION

---

ESDO is a leading Bangladeshi organization in policy advocacy, environmental capacity building and policy intervention. Since its inception in 1990, ESDO has helped more than 1 million people in Bangladesh to achieve a sustainable and self-reliant lifestyle and live in harmony with their immediate environment. ESDO has also been influential in guiding national policy, the organization's most significant achievement being the banning of plastic (polythene) bags throughout the country.

## ESDO'S DEDICATION

---

ESDO is dedicated to advocating for awareness of environmental conservation amongst schools and youth, urban and rural communities in Bangladesh, building community capacity; conducting research to advocate for policy change and conserving indigenous knowledge in the name of environmental protection.

In addressing lifestyle practices of the poorer population of Bangladesh -where the poor do not have a choice as to how they utilize resources to survive and thrive-how is environmental conservation including this basic need - ESDO is continuing to empower communities by building individual and collective capacities inspiring people in the field of environmental management and conservation. Through encouraging participatory involvement through our holistic approach, ESDO therefore works to build the capacity of our beneficiaries to enhance their ability to: - take leadership in promoting a safe and sustainable environment, improve the socioeconomic situation of their communities, and be more in control of their own future. Our major capacity building activities include: education (literacy and environmental), alternative income generation, awareness-raising (conservation and community health), sanitation, Information Technology training, and organic farming.

# OUR PHILOSOPHY

---

ESDO is a Bangladeshi organization working to spread the message about the need for environmental conservation – to ensure the protection of biological diversity and ecological balance. Since the official formation of ESDO in 1990, we have focused on generating knowledge amongst the wider community about how human activity can negatively impact on the environment of Bangladesh. As a service oriented, non-profit, non-government organization, ESDO strives to improve livelihoods, socio-economic statuses and provision of environmental education of some of the most vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. Socio-economic statuses and provision of environmental education of some of the most vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. ESDO invests in people to care for the environment through providing essential inputs and capacity building. Environmental and Social Development Organization wants to ensure self-reliant rural communities who live in harmony with their environment.

# OUR MISSION

---

The mission of ESDO is to promote and encourage an environmental movement through a participatory democratic framework involving diverse social groups and to assist them with ideas, information, and leadership for promoting a safe, sustainable and toxic free world.

# OUR VISSION

---

The vision of ESDO is to see Bangladesh as well as all developing nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Working towards Protecting and conserving nature and life from toxic and plastic pollution; reducing poverty; increasing literacy and education; empowering women in rural communities, and improving sanitation and health services through sustainable environmental livelihoods.

# Major International Project Partners

	Asian Center for Environmental Health
	Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)
	International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)
	International Union for Conservation Nature (IUCN)
	The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
	Toxic Links
	United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)
	World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry
	Zero Mercury Working Group



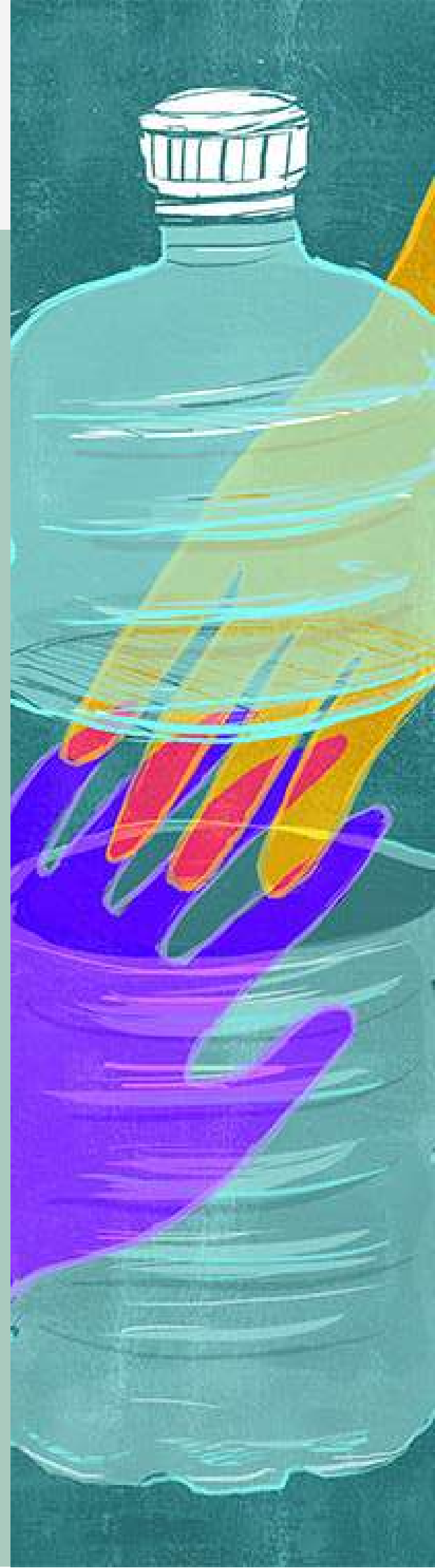
# PROJECT

**“COMBATING THE  
POLLUTION THREAT FROM  
MICRO PLASTIC LITTER TO  
SAVE MARINE HEALTH IN  
THE BAY OF BENGAL”**

# INTRODUCTION

Our water bodies have become a toxic pool of waste, contaminated by everything from drifting plastic packs to synthetic waste. In the simplest terms, contamination of water bodies implies pollution of that water. Consequently, water pollution occurs when lakes, seas, rivers, repositories, and so on are mismanaged. Bangladesh is a small South Asian country located on the eastern flank of India. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has published in their report regarding the production and usage of plastic worldwide that around 73,000 tons of plastic waste end up in the sea everyday through the rivers Padma, Jamuna and Meghna in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is already facing severe challenges in managing waste, which is one of the prime reasons for the environmental pollution of this country. Bangladesh ranked 10th for producing the largest amount of plastic waste.

In this perspective, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) has launched a project entitled “Legislation for Combating Single-Use Plastic Pollution” with the three-year renewable proposal of an ongoing grant application, 2020-2023. The ultimate goal of this project is to achieve legislation to ban single-use plastic and restriction on other problematic plastic packaging.



## Report Launching for 'The Plastic Deluge: In the Sylhet City Corporation Area, Bangladesh'

On 26th January 2022, ESDO launched its new research report entitled "The Plastic Deluge: In the Sylhet City Corporation Area, Bangladesh". The study was conducted collaboratively by ESDO and the University of Portsmouth, under the STEPP (Sustainable Transitions to End Plastic Pollution) project.

The report highlighted that around 54 tons of plastic garbage was generated per day by Sylhet City Corporation in 2021. This plastic garbage mostly contained sachets, one-time-use utensils, personal care items, and different other single-use plastic products.

This event was graced by the Honorable Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation, Mr. Ariful Haque Choudhury as Chief Guest. The session was inaugurated by Muqtabis-un-Noor, Editor of The Daily Jalalabad. Dr. Cressida Bowyer, Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Lead, Revolution Plastics, University of Portsmouth, UK, and Steve Fletcher Professor, Ocean Policy and Economy Director, Sustainability and the





Environment Research Theme & Revolution Plastics, University of Portsmouth, UK was the special of the event. They emphasized ending the plastic pollution from Sylhet as well as the global south by sustainable transition and strategic management. As the guest speaker of the event Dr. Shameem Ara Begum, Professor, Department of Chemistry, SUST, Dr. Md. Jahir Bin Alam, Professor, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering SUST, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director, Environment & Social Development Organization-ESDO shared their valuable insights. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO and also the team leader of the study also gave his expert opinion addressing the severity of the problem of plastic pollution in the Sylhet City Corporation in this event.



In the closing remarks Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO urged the government and concerned organizations to build and supervise a sustainable waste management system at all of Sylhet's tourist sites.

This event was also attended by different academicians from Sylhet and media people from both Dhaka and Sylhet.

**The Plastic Deluge**  
In The Sylhet City Corporation  
Area, Bangladesh

**REPORT LAUNCHING OF**  
**“The Plastic Deluge: In The Sylhet  
City Corporation Area, Bangladesh”**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022**  
**Time: 03:00 PM – 4:30 PM (GMT +6)**  
**Place: Virtual Platform (zoom)**

Situation Analysis Report, 2021

ESDO

জালালাবাদ  
The Esly talaboud

UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

STEPP

## Stakeholder Consultation and Round table meeting on ‘Phase out the use of single-use plastic from the coastal area of Bangladesh’

Virtual stakeholder consultation and roundtable meeting were organized by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO on 16th February 2022 to discuss the strategy for phasing out Single-Use Plastic (SUP) products. Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary of Bangladesh and President of ESDO dignified the event as the chief guest.

Tourism business and plastic pollution are interlinked with each other. To discuss this issue and the strategies to phase out SUP from the coastal areas of Bangladesh, Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO arranged a virtual stakeholder consultation and roundtable meeting on ‘Phase out the use of single-use plastic from the coastal area of Bangladesh’. In the event stakeholders from govt., tourism board, hotels, and restaurant chains actively participate and shared their thoughts on SUP.

The main agenda of the event was not about all kind of plastic, but to discuss only one kind of plastic that is the Single-use Plastic products and how to phase them out from the coastal zones of Bangladesh.

Ms. Keya Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Climate Change underlined that tourist hotspots and many other places are constantly being polluted with rubbish, including polythene, empty plastic bottles, and packets, left scattered by tourists.





Jabed Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer (Additional Secretary), Bangladesh Tourism Board said that Cox's Bazar and Kuakata is one of the most popular tourist spots not just in Bangladesh but worldwide and these places are being contaminated by plastic frequently.

Association Bangladesh Chapter; Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO, Syed Ghulam Qadir, Vice President, Bangladesh Outbound Tour Operators Association - BOTOA and ESDO's Technical Advisor, Syed Mahubul Islam Bulu, President, Tourist Guide Association of Bangladesh, M Rezaul Karim, President, Tour Operator Owners Association of Cox's Bazar - TOAC, respected faculty members from different universities and different electronic and print media journalists were present at the event.

Among the other respected guests, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Chief Executive, BELA; Bangladesh Plastic Association's President, Mr. Shamim Ahmed; Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO; Shahid Hamid, Pacific Asia Travel



## **Press Briefing on Global Report- 2021 "Plastic's Toxic Chemical Problem: A Growing Public Health Crisis"**

**Environmental Groups Call for International Action to Control Plastic Chemicals!**



Environmental activists and experts demanded an international response to prevent the spread of toxic chemicals in plastic pellets. Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO arranged a media briefing both physically and virtually on 13th January 2022 to address the problem of harmful chemicals found in both beach and recycled pellets.

Media people from different newspapers and online news portals attended the event and discussed this issue. ESDO's Secretary-General, Dr. Shahriar Hossain one of the leaders of the pellet study shared his insights in this event. ESDO's Executive Director, Siddika Sultana also gave her expert opinion addressing the seriousness of the problem of the toxic chemicals in plastic.



Recently IPEN collaborated with International Pellet Watch (IPW) and its NGO partners in 35 countries including Bangladesh investigated the extent of the problem relating to toxic chemicals' presence in spilt or lost pre-production plastic pellets found on beaches, and recycled plastic pellets purchased from

recycling facilities around the world to get a global picture of the situation. With the results from this study IPEN published a global report titled “Plastic’s Toxic Chemical Problem: A Growing Public Health Crisis”. To address this issue and notify the media about the problem of the toxic chemicals in plastic, ESDO held a briefing with the media.

Press Briefing On  
**GLOBAL REPORT- 2021**  
**‘PLASTIC’S TOXIC CHEMICAL PROBLEM:  
A GROWING PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS’**

January 13, 2022  
Time- 11.00 AM- 1.00 PM

Organized by  
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO



## **Virtual Roundtable Discussion to Stop the use of Single-use Plastic and Polythene Bags**



The virtual roundtable was jointly organized by non-governmental organizations Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRED), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), and Prothom Alo. Experts called on the government to make the highest political commitment to stop the use of plastic, especially single-use plastic, and polythene products to protect life and biodiversity

## Mobile Campaign on Banning Single-use Plastic

Public Urged for Strict Legislation and Enforcement for Nationwide Ban on Single-use Plastic

To raise public awareness about the hazardous environmental consequences of using single-use plastic products and to make people understand the importance of waste segregation, Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO held a day-long mobile and signature campaign to gain public support on “Banning Single-use Plastic and Support Waste Segregation” on February 14, 2022, at multiple locations in Dhaka city.

During the campaign, people from various age groups were personally consulted and motivated. The Signature Campaign, which collected signatures from individual responses in favor of ESDO's Ban SUP movement, was an important aspect of the awareness campaign. By formally participating in the signature drive, over 500 people voiced their support for ESDO's initiative. The event may be considered a success in every way because it met all of its predetermined goals.



## Initiation of Plastic Free Super Shop!

On 7th March 2022, ESDO had a courtesy visit with the Chief Executive Officer of Meena Bazar Supermarket. ESDO conducted the visit to let them know about plastic free shops and zero waste lifestyle. Meena Bazar is one of the Bangladesh's popular and leading supermarket which has eventually moving towards less plastic policy. They have already taken some initiatives such as they have introduce reusable bags in their super shop. Also, they have started Extended Producer Responsibility - EPR policy and they are gradually coming out of plastic packaging.



## Webinar on “UN System Response to Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution”



The Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues aim to encourage more interaction and engagement among stakeholders in Geneva and abroad. They also plan to deal with the plastic issue and encourage coordinated measures that can lead to more efficient decision-making. This session was organized in partnership with the United Nations Environment Management Group (UN-EMG) and GRID-Arendal, which featured the launch of the UN-EMG Report on mapping the UN response to marine litter and plastic pollution. This webinar was attended by one of the ESDO's team member Hridita Ferdous.

## **Webinar on Global Plastic Treaty: Opportunities for South East Asia**

With the recent developments and upcoming UNEA 5.2, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law organized a webinar on the opportunities of South East Asia on the Global Plastic Treaty where the partner organizations were Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (GAIA), Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO, and Greenpeace. Secretary-General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain participated the session as a Guest Speaker, and also presented a presentation highlighting the comparison of Japan and Rwanda Resolutions to be Adapted at UNEA 5.2.



### **The Resumed Session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.2) 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'**

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), hosted by the UN Environment Program which brings together representatives from the UN's 193 member states, corporations, civil society, and other stakeholders to agree on policies to solve the world's most serious environmental concerns. The overall theme for UNEA-5 is "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".

The United Nations Environment Assembly's (UNEA-5.2) fifth session will be held online and in Nairobi from February 28 to March 2, 2022. ESDO's Secretary General Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Director Siddika Sultana, Assistant Program Officer Hridita Ferdous and Program Associate Samina Khondaker has already attended the Day 1 session of the meeting.





## Global Plastic Pollution Agreement: A Historic Moment!

On the 2nd of March 2022 in Nairobi, Heads of State, Ministers of the Environment, and other officials from 175 nations supported a historic resolution to End Plastic Pollution and build an international legally enforceable agreement by 2024 at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in Nairobi. The resolution covers the whole lifetime of plastic, from manufacturing to design to disposal.



The resolution, based on three initial draft resolutions from various nations, establishes an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), which will begin its work in 2022, with the ambition of completing a draft global legally binding agreement by the end of 2024. It is expected to present a legally binding instrument, which would reflect diverse alternatives to address the full lifecycle of plastics, the design of reusable and recyclable products and materials, and the need for enhanced international collaboration to facilitate access to technology, capacity building and scientific and technical cooperation



## Environmental Education Camp for Zero Waste Approach & Plastic-free Campus Session

On the 13th of April 2022, Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized a session titled “Environmental Education Camp for Zero Waste Approach” with students of Lalmatia Housing Society School and College of Dhaka City to build the next generation of environmental leaders and to ensure environmental sustainability practice and applying zero waste & plastic free lifestyle among the students. The event included a brief talk on the zero waste lifestyle and plastic-free approach and the necessity of implementing these for a pollution-free environment, as well as group discussions, quiz, role-play, question-answer sessions were among the other various student activities. Students participated in various activities as part of a green club formation organized by ESDO and Lalmatia Housing Society School and College Committee.



## No Sachet Campaign



ESDO launched #NoSachet Campaign by raising public awareness about the hazardous environmental consequences of using single-use plastic sachets and motivate mass people through a day-long mobile and signature campaign.

## Plastic Free Campus



On June 30, 2022, the ESDO organized the 3rd session of the Plastic-free Campus Follow-up Session with members of their green club at Lalmatia Housing Society School and College in Dhaka City.

## First ever Single-use Plastic Free Fair on National Level!



Entrepreneurs displayed alternatives to single-use plastic products at the country's first-ever plastic-free fair on the National Level. Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO is kicking off a two-day long country's first-ever National Single-use Plastic Free fair on the National level on 4th and 5th June 2022 at WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi – 27, Dhaka.

This event will serve as an excellent platform for our country's plastic alternative producers to promote their work and make their products available on the market.

The focus of the fair is to exhibit alternative products of single-use plastic like cloth bags, paper packaging, paper cups, paper straws, leaf packaging, leaf cutleries, reused items, i.e., new clothing items made of used materials, or new blankets made of used clothes, etc. to shift people's mind set up that single-use plastic-free living is possible. This will also be a platform to promote the entrepreneur participants and their creativity. Additionally, people who are ready to refuse single-use plastics will get to know where to get the alternative products through this fair.

## **“BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC CAMPUS” SESSION WITH LALMATIA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized a session titled “Break Free from Plastic Campus” with students of Lalmatia Girls High School in Dhaka City on July 21st, 2022 to develop the next generation of environmental leaders and to ensure environmental sustainability practices and apply a zero-waste plastic-free lifestyle among students. An overview of the plastic-free campus movement and the need to adopt a zero-waste lifestyle for a pollution-free environment was covered briefly throughout the workshop, along with group discussions about potential activities for the students. Students participated in various tasks and activities, including an art competition on “Rooftop Gardening”, a poster design on “Plastic-free Campus,” and an essay competition on “The Effects of Plastic on Our City Life.”

ESDO’s Executive Director, Siddika Sultana along with other members of ESDO, joined the session. A representative from the Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL) also attended the session as a guest.





## **Brand Audit 2022 Dhaka**

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO conducted a two-day long Brand Audit on the 24th and 25th of August 2022. ESDO has been organizing this brand audit for the last 5 years.

This Brand Audit is a global initiative to measure the number of different brands that can be found in plastic waste. The audit started from Dhanmondi Govt. Boys' High School and made its way to Bijoy Sharani Road via Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, TNT, Ispahani Islamia Eye Hospital, Tejgaon college and Khamarbari. About 50 students of Lalmatia Housing Society School and College participated in the brand audit and collected single use plastic wastes from the locations.

Secretary General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain, principal of Lalmatia Housing Society School and College, Mr. Akmal Hossain, along with some teachers from the same school, journalists and the ESDO team were present at the audit.

# Brand Audit on Single Use Plastic in Khulna University

On the occasion of World Cleanup Day 2022, Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO jointly with Khulna University conducted a day-long Brand Audit at Khulna University premises and its surrounding area to reveal the mask of the corporates who are responsible for harming our environment.

Around 100 students of Khulna University joined together and conducted the brand audit. The audit was monitored and supervised by university faculty members and the ESDO.



This audit also marks the beginning of the negotiations for the world's first Global Plastic Treaty, a legally binding international law aimed at reducing plastic pollution worldwide, covering the full life cycle of plastic. This is a historic step forward in the fight against plastic pollution, but there is still a long road ahead as the negotiations continue throughout the end of 2024.

ESDO organized the Brand Audit for the 5th time in association with Plastic Solutions Fund and Break Free from Plastic.



## Brand Audit on Single use Plastic in Chittagong City and Potenga Beach



Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO in association with Green Voice conducted a day-long Brand Audit at Chittagong University and its surroundings and Potenga Beach to reveal the mask of the corporates who are responsible for plastic pollution.

Around 100 participants from Chittagong's Green Voice organization joined together and conducted the brand audit. The audit was monitored and supervised by ESDO.

## ESDO ORGANIZED THE BRAND AUDIT FOR THE 5TH TIME IN ASSOCIATION WITH PLASTIC SOLUTIONS FUND AND BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC.

The motive of this year's agenda doesn't only limit to finding out the corporates accountable but also, marks the beginning of the negotiations for the world's first Global Plastic Treaty, a legally binding international law aimed at reducing plastic pollution worldwide, covering the full life-cycle of plastic. This is a historic step forward in the fight against plastic pollution, but there is still a long road ahead as the negotiations continue throughout the end of 2024.





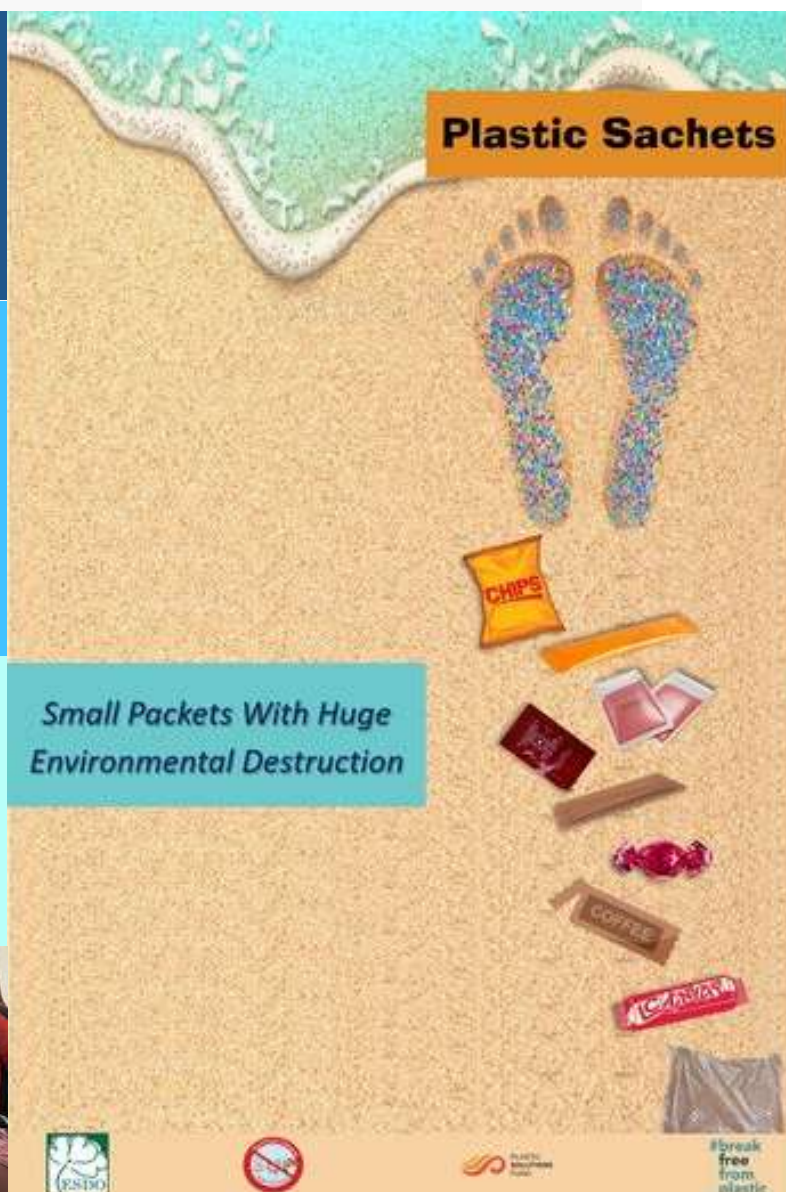
## Press Briefing and Report Launching of “Plastic Sachet: A Small Packet with Huge Environmental Destruction”

Bangladesh generates 192,104 tons of sachet waste annually, which indicates that 129 million sachets are used by Bangladeshi people on a daily basis. In Bangladesh, single-use plastic waste production has reached 1.06 million tons in 2021-2022 (June 21-May 22). This information was revealed in the report “Plastic Sachet: Small Packet with Huge Environmental Destruction,” which was launched on 2nd July 2022 through a media roundtable by the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO

According to ESDO’s research, these sachet products are divided into four categories, such as food sachets (40%), medicine (8%), cosmetics (24%), and stationaries.

Cooking ingredients (7%) are included in the masala packs. We also find out about the sachet products frequently purchased by Bangladeshi consumers (353 respondents in Dhaka and Rangpur).

Shampoo/conditioners (69%) were most frequently purchased, followed by saline packs (50%), instant drinking powder (30%), and many others.





## National Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for the South Asia (PLEASE) Project



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently hosted National Stakeholder Consultation Workshop To explore the opportunities of Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for the South Asia (PLEASE) Project and having stakeholder's recommendation about the intervention.



---

## Media Briefing and Report Launching of Brand Audit of Single-use Plastic 2022



ESDO conducted this year's brand audit in three different cities, which are Dhaka, Khulna, and Chittagong. More than 250 volunteers conducted the audit on August 25th, September 20th, and September 24th, respectively. To share the result of the audit, ESDO conducted a media briefing event on Monday, October 17, 2022, at ESDO head office. Coca-Cola again retained the position as the top polluter of single-use plastic for the 5th time in a row, with 20.78% of the total waste.

The event was chaired by former Secretary Government of Bangladesh and ESDO Chairperson Syed Marghub Murshed. Senior Technical Advisor of ESDO, was also presented at the event along with ESDO's Secretary General, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Director, Siddika Sultana, ESDO members, and journalists from different newspapers and print media.

## **Report Launching of “Assessing Transboundary Movement of Single-use Plastic Waste Through River Channels in Bangladesh” and “Dialogue on The Upcoming Global Plastic Treaty”**

The study was conducted by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO in collaboration with the Plastic Solutions Fund and the Global Alliance of Incineration Alternatives (GAIA). ESDO presented the report on 20th November 2022 at a conference titled “Assessing Transboundary Movement of Single-use Plastic Waste Through River Channels in Bangladesh and Dialogue on the Upcoming Global Plastic Treaty” at a city hotel.

The entire event was divided into two segments. The first segment was to launch the report, and the second segment was to have an elaborate discussion on the upcoming Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on the global plastic treaty and how Bangladesh could act on it.

The event was chaired by Syed Marghub Murshed, former Secretary of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO. Dr. Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the National River Conservation Commission, graced the event as the chief guest. Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Sociology, BUP, and Former Secretary, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, was the event’s special guest.

The Bay of Bengal receives 2.6 million metric tons of single-use plastic a year through 18 transboundary rivers in Bangladesh, posing a serious threat to river systems, waterways, and human health, according to a report by the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO).



# Project “Lead Elimination”

## Introduction

For nine years, the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO has been working on eradicating lead in paints and establishing precise regulations for lead-free paint. Since 2010, the ESDO has focused on promoting awareness, public education, and legislative advocacy in the area of lead paint eradication, as well as doing research in this area. With the help of the European Union, ESDO has been conducting the Lead Paint Elimination Project in collaboration with the International POP's Elimination Network since 2012. Our major purpose is to increase environmental awareness democratically by involving the community and providing ongoing support with information and ideas for initiatives that will result in a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment. We aim to raise awareness and take the necessary steps to promote a better, healthier, and toxic-free environment. Since 2008, ESDO has been engaged in a lead elimination awareness campaign and policy lobbying. ESDO performed several key studies and projects with IPEN and EU financing to identify and analyze the existing status, causes, and degree of lead pollution. Aside from the research, each year we mark International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week to raise awareness about the harmful effects of lead on human health and the environment. We also have several meetings and policy discussions with appropriate authorities to prohibit the use of lead.



## LEAD IN PAINT SAMPLING

In Bangladesh, Lead content in paints is already standardized at 90 ppm for household paint. Currently it is being looked forward to a standard for industrial paints as well.



To emphasize the matter, ESDO has recently conducted a paint sampling. About 63 samples were collect from markets, sampled and send to USA for testing purpose.

## **PECP to reduce Lead poisoning among children in Bangladesh related activities**

**A meeting was organized at DGHS under the PECP project to discuss the upcoming ILPPW observation. The proposed activity plan for the week dated 23rd to 29th October was shared with the PECP technical and advisory members.**

**Representatives from UNICEF shared the whole plan. It was a formal meeting to share the ILLPW celebration agenda and event details.**



## International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022 Human Chain and Rally

On the occasion of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022, Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, in collaboration with DGHS, IcdDr'b, IEDCR, Pure Earth, UNICEF Bangladesh, and IPEN organized a human chain alongside a rally on October 22 to call for the complete banning of all lead-based paint in Bangladesh and the proper implementation of the existing law.





Around 120 volunteers from Girls' Guide, Green Voice, and students from different universities participated in this human chain and rally. Representatives from IcdDr'b, Pure Earth, and, UNICEF Bangladesh were also present on the occasion.

The human chain started in front of the National Press Club, continued as a rally toward the High Court and TSC, and then ended with another human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar.



**With the pledge  
“Together, we  
can solve lead  
pollution”, ESDO  
jointly observed  
International  
Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Week  
2022**



## National Seminar on “Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh: Evidence for Urgent Action”

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and UNICEF Bangladesh jointly hosted a national seminar in collaboration with IEDCR, ICDDR'b, ESDO, and Pure Earth as part of the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022 Observance program. The seminar title was “Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh: Research Evidence for Urgent Action.”

Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO, moderated the panel discussion session. Besides, Executive Director of ESDO Siddika Sultana along with other ESDO colleagues were also present at the event.



## Interface with Key Stakeholders from the Business Ecosystem in Bangladesh

In order to understand the impact and involvement of the private sector in tackling lead poisoning in Bangladesh, UNICEF, Bangladesh, in technical collaboration with Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), conducted an interaction with key stakeholders from companies in Bangladesh.

# Art Competition in order to observe International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022



On the occasion of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022, ESDO organized an art competition today at Public Library Auditorium, Rangpur. The objective of this art competition was to create public awareness of the harmful effects of lead poisoning, to highlight the efforts of countries and partners to prevent lead exposure, particularly in children, to involve youth in a better understanding of the harmful effects of lead poisoning, and to urge further action to eliminate lead paint through regulatory action at the country level.





## **BAT Training Webinar Workshop**

Nowadays impacts of burning issues in environmental pollution, and toxic chemicals are gradually portrayal attention to global and national policies. One such arising concern issue is the consequence of the impacts of recycling lead and used lead acid batteries (ULAB). This type of batteries has long been used due to its efficiency in storing energy over long periods. Due to the high demand, the ULABs are recycled and reused in several sectors in Bangladesh. There is also an alliance with a great deal of lead pollution in soil and water that ultimately causes harm to human health and the environment.

4 days long “BAT Training Webinar Workshop” was conducted from 7th to 10th November 2022, with the collaboration of ESDO, Pure Earth, UNICEF, and the International Lead Association (ILA). The purpose of this training is to welcome the new members formally and to make them understand the concept of the Environmental Sound Management of ULAB, strategies and policy options for the ESM of ULAB recycling, and the elimination of informal ULAB recycling, the use, and the application of the BAT for the ESM of LAB Manufacturing. It offered the participants to bond with each other by participating in any activities individually or in a group to reduce lead poisoning in Bangladesh.

The ESDO's initiative to prevent lead pollution was introduced in this session. It had been working since 2008 from awareness-raising activities to policy advocacy on the issue of ‘Ban Lead Paint ‘in Bangladesh. It conducted studies to evaluate the lead content of decorative paints in Bangladesh to show the country’s situation of paints so that the relevant authority gets acknowledged the issue and can take necessary initiatives to control the situation.

# PROJECT

## “CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS EARLY RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION”

### Minamata Convention



COP-4 INDONESIA  
MAKE MERCURY HISTORY



MINAMATA  
CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY



**“MERCURY-FREE  
DENTISTRY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH”**

# Introduction

---

This section of the report provides a summary of ESDO's actions on mercury-added goods in 2021. As we all know, mercury is found in a variety of products that are extremely dangerous to our health, including skin lightening lotions, bulbs, batteries, thermometers, amalgam.

ESDO has held several press briefings, workshops, international conferences, discussion shows, and other events related to mercury-added goods. Government officials, academics, media personnel, and the general public were all present at each occasion.

## **High-level Policy Dialogue on ‘Mercury-Free Dentistry: A Significant Transition to Phase-out Dental Amalgam’**

Phasing out Mercury Amalgam will ultimately advance the ban of mercury import and use in dentistry and reach the key goal of ratifying the Minamata Convention in Bangladesh. It's time for dentists to do their part for the greater good, and mercury amalgam-free dentistry is a key indicator of Bangladesh's healthy rise within the global movement. To discuss this important issue ESDO in association with Bangladesh Dental Society – BDS, Department of Environment – DoE, and Asian Center for Environmental Health organized a High-level Policy Dialogue ‘Mercury-Free Dentistry: A Significant Transition to Phase-out Dental Amalgam’ today at the Department of Environment Auditorium.

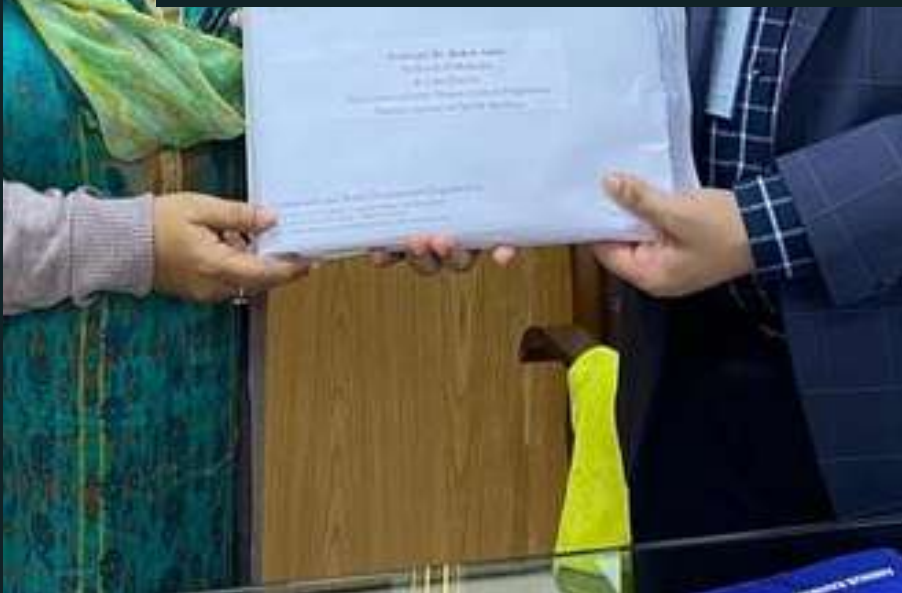
Respected Chairperson of ESDO, Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh chaired the session. Habibun Nahar, MP, Honorable Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change graced the event as Chief Guest





ESDO executive Director Siddika Sultana pays a courtesy visit to Prof. Dr. Robed Amin at DGSH, where they discussed an insightful topic on oral health, ESDO's initiative to prevent mercury use from dentistry because mercury is harmful to human health. DR. Robed Amin mentioned the report and policy for oral care that yet to be legalized.

### **Courtesy Visit on Mercury Free Dentistry**



He also appreciates the works and awareness workshop conducted by ESDO and express consent to be with ESDO on the mercury phase-out program. All these efforts can be considered to be very effective to phase out mercury from dentistry that will be able to provide support Govt. in the way of ratification of the Minamata Convention.





## **Country Situation Report on Mercury Added CFL Bulbs/Lights/Lamps.**

To analyze the country situation of mercury added CFL bulbs/lights/lamps, a questionnaire survey was conducted in different districts of Bangladesh to extract the data. The study respondent was divided into two groups: a) retailer, producer, and manufacturer, and b) consumer. The sample size for the retailer, producer, and manufacturer groups was 32, while the sample size for the consumer group was 26. The draft report was prepared to visualize that mercury-added CFLs are rarely found in market stores in Bangladesh which is the most positive finding to eliminating mercury-based fluorescent lighting products at the next Conference of Parties (COP4) would lead to a global phase-out by 2025 and accelerate a transition to LED lighting.



# SKIN LIGHTENERS ARE STILL ONLINE DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF MERCURY!



The Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) has been investigating mercury-added skin lightening products (SLPs) with ZMWG member organizations including Bangladesh for several years, primarily due to their health risks, their illegality under many national laws, and the prohibition by the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The 2020-2022 ZMWG investigation of SLPs offered by over 40 online platforms, and accessed in 17 countries by our partner NGOs, 1 confirmed yet again that high-mercury SLPs are widely available from a range of popular e-commerce platforms globally. Of the 271 SLPs tested, 129 were found to have mercury levels over 1 ppm.

## Inter-ministerial meeting on Minamata Convention



An Inter-ministerial meeting on Minamata Convention Ratification by Bangladesh was held at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to get opinions from the stakeholders and authorities of Bangladesh regarding the Ratification of the Minamata Convention. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO attended and emphasized the ratification.

## Skin lightening Cream: An urgent concern!

ESDO has recently started a project with Wonjin Institute for occupational and Environmental Health based in Seoul, South Korea to find out mercury concentration in skin creams. For sampling purpose, ESDO collected samples from both online and offline platforms. After collection of the creams, they will be sent to Korea for testing purpose.



# Project Chemicals and Heavy metals

## Detrimental Effects of Heavy Metals

Hg

Mercury

Pb

Lead

As

Arsenic

Cd

Cadmium

- Brain damage, psychological & neurological disturbances
- Coronary Heart Disease
- Shivering, personality changes, anxiety, restlessness, sleep disturbances and depression
- Lung cancer, stomach cancer and gliomas
- Tubular damage in kidney, lung damage



Besides working to eliminate lead and mercury from different products, ESDO has also been working with different other chemical that are detrimental to both environment and human health.

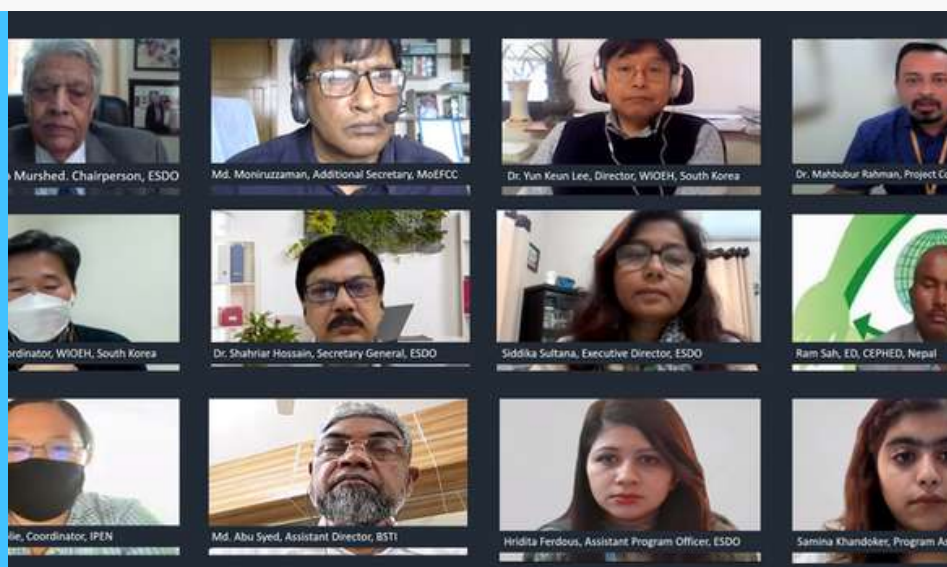
Among these chemicals PFAS in textile and water, endocrine disrupting chemical like, phthalates in eraser, BPA and BPS in cash recites are most notable studies done by ESDO.

## **Report Launching and Media Briefing on Toxic Chemicals in kids Stationaries: Phthalates in Erasers**

Phthalates are a group of chemicals used to make plastics more durable. These are toxic to human health and children can be considered as the most vulnerable group. However, this toxic compound is widely used as additives in a range of plastics and other consumer products including kid's stationaries.

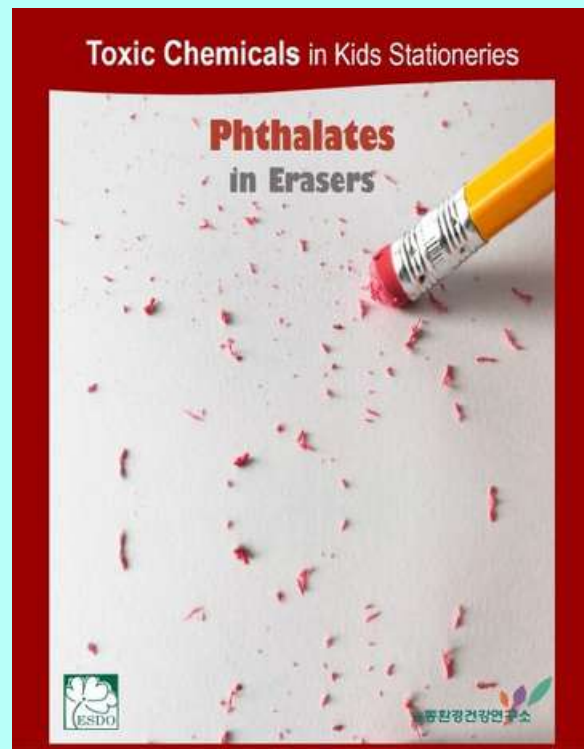
Environment & Social Development Organization - ESDO in association with Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health, Seoul, Korea conducted a study to evaluate the presence of phthalates in erasers. A media briefing was held on 14th March 2022 from 11.30 AM to 1:00 PM through the online platform Zoom to highlight the findings of the report which will show the types of phthalates particles found in the erasers.

Honorable Chairperson of ESDO, Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh graced the event as the Chief Guest. Md. Moniruzzaman, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was present as Guest of Honor at the event. Dr. Yun-Keun Lee, Executive Director, Wonjin Institute for Occupational & Environmental Health (WIOEH) joined the event as Guest Speaker, and Dr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman Project Coordinator, Environmental Intervention Unit, icddr,b joined as a guest speaker.



Representatives from other South Asian Countries were present who were also contributors to this project.

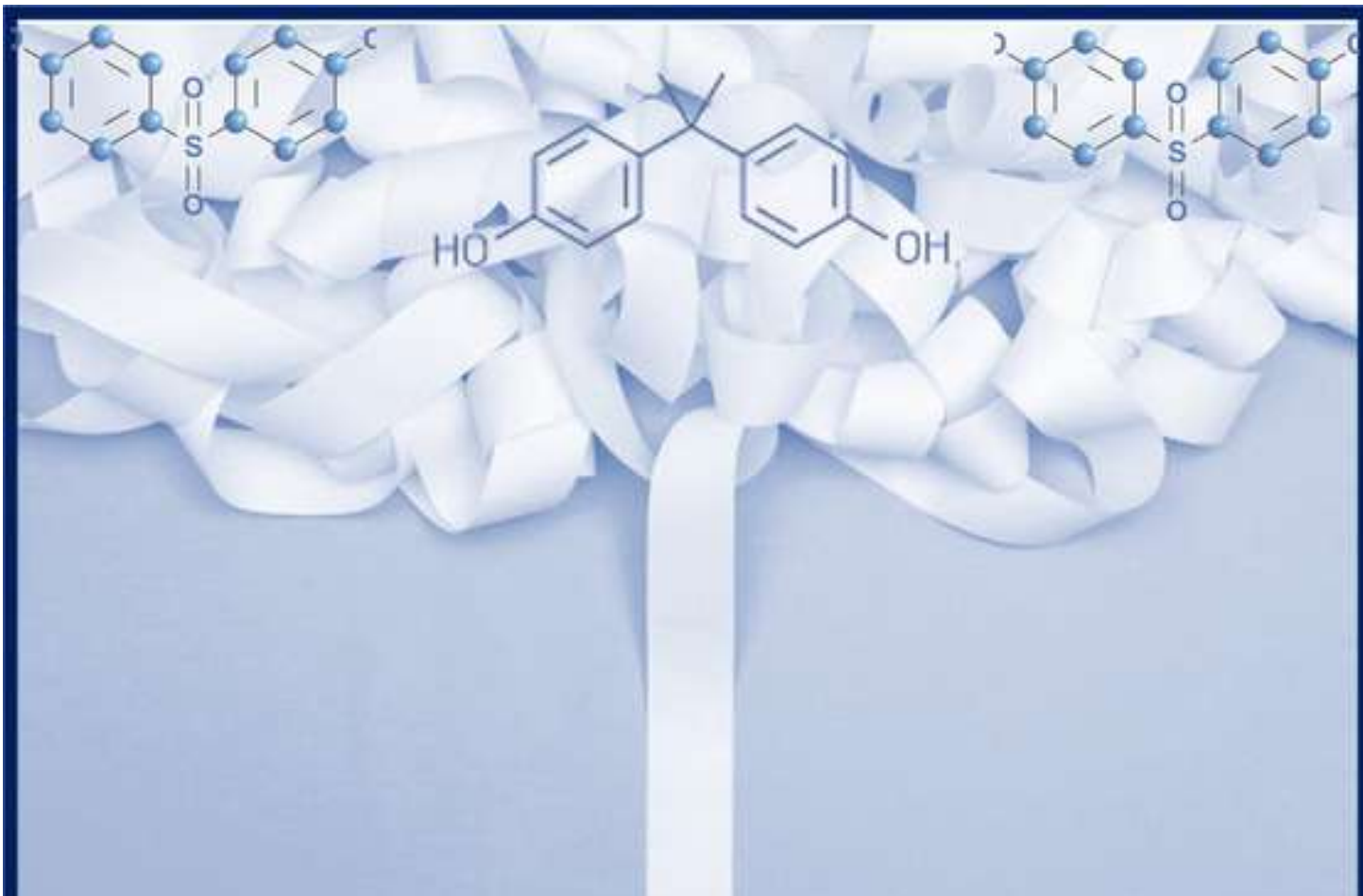
Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO moderated the open discussion session, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO provided a closing remark, and Hridita Ferdous, Assistant Program Officer of ESDO presented a thematic presentation. Besides, representatives from Govt. officials, organizations, participants from national international organizations, print, and electronic media journalists were present at the event.



## Campaign on Environmental and Economic Benefits of Clean Lightening



This year ESDO did a campaign in collaboration with CLASP on environmental and economic benefits of clean lighting. The objective of the campaign is to eliminate fluorescent lighting and accelerate the transition to energy-efficient LEDs, massively reducing global carbon emissions from lighting. The campaign started from December 2021 and end in 2022.



## High Level Policy Dialogue on 'Comparison Report on BPA in Cash Receipts'

There was a time when it was thought that human exposure to bisphenols comes mainly from canned foods, water and beverage bottles, and dental sealants. This perception has changed rapidly with the realization that thermal paper used at cash registers contains unusually high amounts of monomeric BPA and BPS and it could be a potential source of human exposure and subsequent absorption through the skin and, possibly, mucocutaneous junctions.

Transaction With Toxins  
Bisphenols in Cash Receipts!!

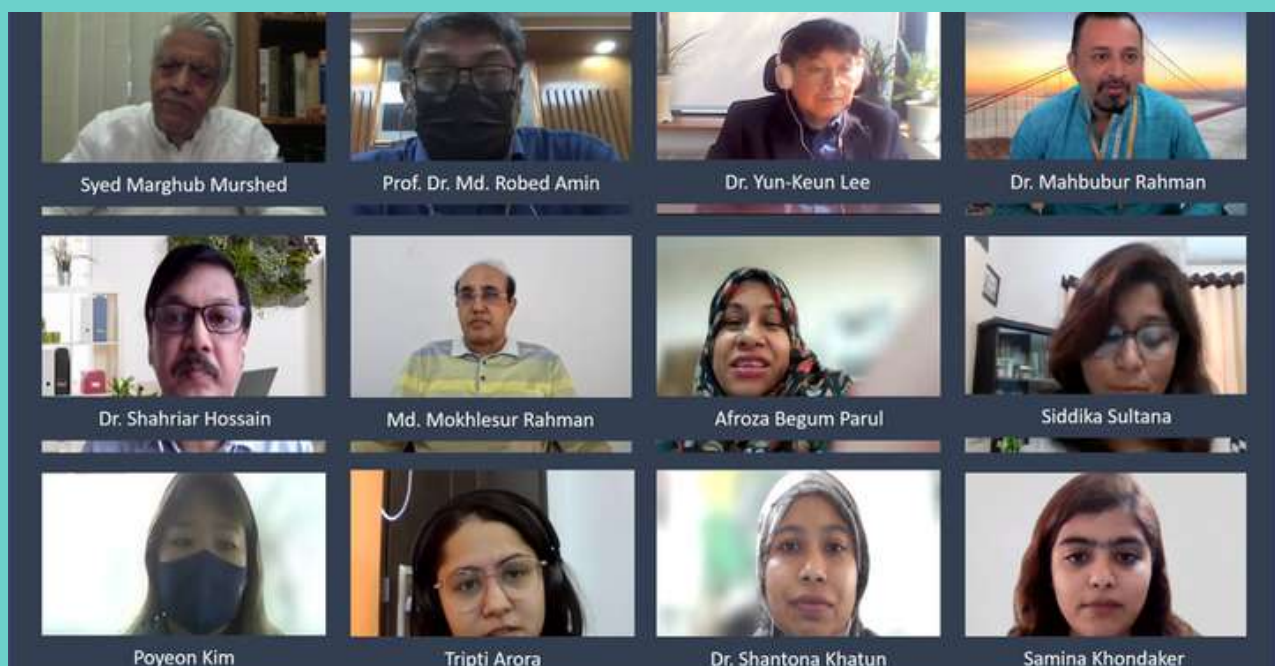


Environment & Social Development Organization – ESDO in association with Financial Industry Public Interest Foundation and Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health, Seoul, South Korea conducted a study to share the findings on the presence of Bisphenols in Thermal Papers.

To discuss this important issue ESDO organized a High-Level Policy Dialogue on ‘Comparison Report on BPA in Cash Receipts’ through the online platform Zoom on 11th April 2022 from 11.30 AM to 1.00 PM.

The event focused on highlighting the findings of the report which showed the types of Bisphenols present in the cash receipts that we use daily.

Respected Chairperson of ESDO, Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh graced the event as Chief Guest. Dr. Mohammad Robed Amin, Line Director, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Dhaka attended the event as Guest of Honor.



Dr. Yun-Keun Lee, Executive Director, Wonjin Institute of Occupational Environment and Health, and Dr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Project Coordinator, Environment Intervention Unit, ICDDR,b was the guest speaker at this event. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO moderated the open discussion session and Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO provided closing remarks.

Besides, representatives from Govt. officials, organizations, academicians from different universities, and print and electronic media journalists were present at the event.

## PFAS in Textile Sampling



PFAS is a group of chemicals often found in Nonstick cookware, Grease-resistant and waterproof coatings on food packaging (e.g., popcorn bags, takeout containers, and fast food wrappers), Coated paper products, Waterproof, water-resistant, and stain-resistant textiles (e.g., clothing, shoes, upholstery, and carpets), Cosmetics and personal care products, Industrial and household cleaning products, Floor, car, and boat waxes, Engineered coatings used in semiconductor production, Metal plating and finishing, Etching of metals, plastics, and glass, Plastics, resins, and rubber products, Surface coating, paint, varnish, and inks, Cable and wire insulation for electronics, Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) used to extinguish flammable liquid fires.

ESDO team has recently surveyed the presence of PFAS chemicals in the Textile sector. PFAS use in the textile sector accounts for about 50% of the total global use. PFAS are widely used as water and dirt repellents and impregnation in outdoor wear and accessories for outdoor sports. The team conducted many renowned supermarkets in Bangladesh which later will send for testing purposes.





## PFAS Sampling in Bangladesh

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of synthetic chemicals that are frequently used to increase the stain, grease, and water resistance of common household products. Many industrial, commercial, and consumer items have employed these compounds, and some of these products can be found or used during regular sampling activities. The use of these materials could contaminate samples during sample preparation, sample collection, equipment cleaning, shipment, and storage. Given the likelihood of PFAS cross-contamination, developing and using efficient PFAS sampling techniques is important.



Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO team has recently identified the PFAS source location. Five potential pollution sites: Dhaka EPZ, Adamjee EPZ at Shitalakshya river, Small Textile industries at Buriganga river, small textiles industries at Shitalakshya river, small textile industries at Banani and Gulshan lakes were selected for this sampling process. The sources included the river, channel, or lake and there was an inflow of industrial water above the sampling site. The sampling site was divided into two sources like-upstream and downstream, a minimum of 1 upstream, and downstream, and 1 control sample was collected from every pollution source. According to the circumstances, the downstream sample collection varies depending on location. The study site was used to gather 29 water samples from various points along the way collected by the team. The transect was oriented in the direction of the water flow. After collecting the samples, it was listed in numeric codes and also took photographs during the sampling at the sites.



Project

---

**“Building Zero Waste  
Community for a Pollution Free  
Environment in Bangladesh”**

2022

# NON O T C D D O R T N

In order to achieve its goal of making Dhaka a sustainable and environmentally friendly city, the ESDO plans to advocate for the issuance of regulations incorporating zero-waste principles into waste management systems, such as a nationwide ban on single-use plastic and the development of zero waste management rules and guidelines. Bangladesh's approach to solid waste management has mostly been technocratic until yet. Nonetheless, the end-user, i.e., the general public, is disengaged and under-informed about waste management and the repercussions of poor waste management. ESDO thinks that a waste management movement based on a public-private-community collaboration is long overdue in Bangladesh, and it plans to build a participatory model for zero waste management in the country. The ultimate goal of this project is to create ecologically and environmentally conscious rural and urban communities, to implement appropriate waste management systems, to create mass awareness and engage the end-users to a proper waste management system, capacity building, and training, and to assist the government, implement law and legislation. For this project, ESDO has set some specific locations which are; Block B & C of Lalmatia, Dhaka, one ward in the city corporation, Shalbon in Rangpur, and Betgari village in Gangachara pouroshova in Rangpur.

# Policy Dialogue on “Zero Waste Communities for Sustainable Waste Management”

Building a zero waste community is the need for time for sustainability. To discuss this important issue ESDO is organized a policy dialogue Today!

Respected Chairperson of ESDO, Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh presided over the discussion.

Md. Moniruzzaman and Ms. Keya Khan Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change graced the event as Special Guest. Md, Mokhlesur Rahman, Former Additional IGP of Bangladesh Police was the Guest of Honour of this event.

Brig Gen Md. Zobaidur Rahman, Chief Health Officer, Dhaka North City Corporation, Mr. Shibu K Nair, Coordinator, GAIA India, Quach Thi Xuan, Coordinator, Vietnam Zero Waste Alliance, and Dr. Daru Setyarini, Waterkeeper Asia Pacific, Ecoton were the guest speakers of this event.

Furthermore, Representatives from different Ministries and Departments of Bangladesh and experts from different Asia Pacific countries were also present at the meeting.



Adapting Zero Waste principle is essential for Sustainable Waste Management!

## Building Capacity among Community People to Encourage Entrepreneurship

ESDO organized a capacity-building workshop with thirty participants of Shalbon, Rangpur for encouraging them on entrepreneurship on 15th February, 16th February, and 17th February 2022. This initiative was undertaken by ESDO under the project 'Building Zero Waste Communities for a Pollution-free Environment in Bangladesh'. Three sessions were arranged for three days on three trades including Handloom and painting, Block and Batik, and Jute Carpet and reusing old clothes. One trainer for each trade was assigned for guiding the participants. Besides teaching the techniques of producing the product, the trainers also highlighted price selection and marketing techniques for the products. The participants were divided into three groups consisting of 10 members each. They were able to make a final product on the ending day. The linkage between the SMEs and the participants will enable them to promote their products shortly for entrepreneurship.

---



## **Distribution of Small and Large Bins to Beneficiaries**

Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) focus on the model of zero-waste community development in three different territories under the project 'Building Zero Waste Community for a Pollution Free Environment in Bangladesh'. To fulfill the project framework ESDO is providing waste segregation bins at the community level. As a demonstration and incentive for the early adopter, ESDO has distributed small and large bins to beneficiaries to ensure zero waste management practices.



**Bin distribution to the households of Lalmatia block C**

**Bin distribution to the households of Lalmatia block C**



**Bin distribution to the Markets and schools of Lalmatia**

**Bin distribution to Lalmatia Girls' School and College**



## Capacity Building Workshop on “Waste Segregation for a Sustainable Environment”

On January 8th, 2022, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) held a daylong capacity building workshop on “waste segregation for a sustainable environment”. The target audience of the workshop was the housemaids. The goal of this workshop was to introduce the concept of Zero Waste, usage of two bins for wet & dry waste separation practice to achieve a waste-free lifestyle. This initiative also promoted organic farming by encouraging people to compost at home and use kitchen waste to make organic fertilizer for rooftop, balcony gardening





## Environmental Education Camp for a Better Future

To promote Zero waste lifestyle at the education sector, ESDO has started an activity and that is to form a green club in different schools in order to make students of different ages to understand the necessity of the adaptation zero waste lifestyle.

ESDO previously formed the green club at RCCI public school and college at Rangpur. To become aware about the single use plastic pollution in Bangladesh and avoid by practicing the use of these products in personal lifestyle is the main target to engage the students in green club. To practice the different group activities among the participation of students, an environmental camp was arranged in this school. 30 regular students and members of green club were participated and completed their assigned task.





## Capacity Building Workshop with Waste Frontliners

The Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) presented a daylong capacity building session on "waste segregation for a sustainable environment" at the Lalmatia Housing Society School and College on January 9th, 2022 with waste workers. The purpose was to disseminate awareness among the waste workers which elaborates waste collection from green, blue and red colored bins that reduces their health risk, physical labor and offer them a comfortable, admirable life. Besides, this program also highlighted the waste segregation process and advised to refuse the waste collection from household that hasn't been sorted properly. In addition, this program made them believe they are the actual waste warriors who are involving with a noble task and this zero-trash initiative will diminish their sufferings at a greater level.



## **Survey in Household: Segregate it all, No matter how small!**

ESDO performed a gardening survey among household members and gathered their contact information as well as house holding numbers in order to develop a database. It is also important to understand the waste segregation method that the members are implementing. The majority of people voiced their opinions, with the majority of them failing to properly separate their waste. They were motivated to segregate the waste, however, if they were given a segregation bin.



## **Waste Segregation: A Healthy Choice for the Waste Warriors!**



On February 20th, 2022, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) went for community counseling with the households at Lalmatia Block B and C. The target audience of the counseling was the waste pickers. The goal of this counseling was to motivate them to segregate waste from the source and inform them about health issues and environmental pollution.

## Lets Start the Segregation from Household Level!



On February 20th, 2022, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) conducted a community counseling with the households at Lalmatia Block B/19. The target audience of the counseling was the households members. The goal of this counseling was to motivate them to adopt zero waste lifestyle and waste segregation.

## Rooftop Garden Put Waste to the Right Place!

ESDO team set up a rooftop garden in this month. We have started a hydroponic garden with 70 plants. In this garden, organic fertilizers will be used that has been extracted from composter





## Country's First Ever Single Use Plastic Free Fair

Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO hosted the country's first-ever Single-use Plastic-free Fair in Dhaka on 25th & 26th March 2022 at the premises of Lalmatia Housing Society School and College. In this fair, Single-use plastic alternatives were showcased by the local SMEs. The two-day-long fair was visited by different people around the city.

Two similar fairs were organized before the Dhaka fair on the 7th and 8th of January 2022 in Shahpara Center Playground, Gangachara Upazilla, and on the 24th and 25th of March 2022 in Rangpur City.

Clay Ornaments, Leaf Utensils, Paper Cups, Handicrafts, Woodcrafts, Clay goods/ Earth crafts/ ceramics, Yarn swings and bags, Clay crafts, clothes, jewelry, and so on were among the products shown by various Small and Mid-size Enterprises and plastic alternative entrepreneurs. The exhibition also included programs such as movies on zero waste and home composting, information on rooftop gardening, a demonstration of how to easily manage garbage at home, and so on. There were also organic food kiosks that were 100% eco-friendly and devoid of single-use plastic.



## Community Consultation with Stakeholders

ESDO conducted small community consultations with market stakeholders throughout the month of April, May and June to educate stakeholders about zero waste concept practice.

## Monitoring of Distributed Bins

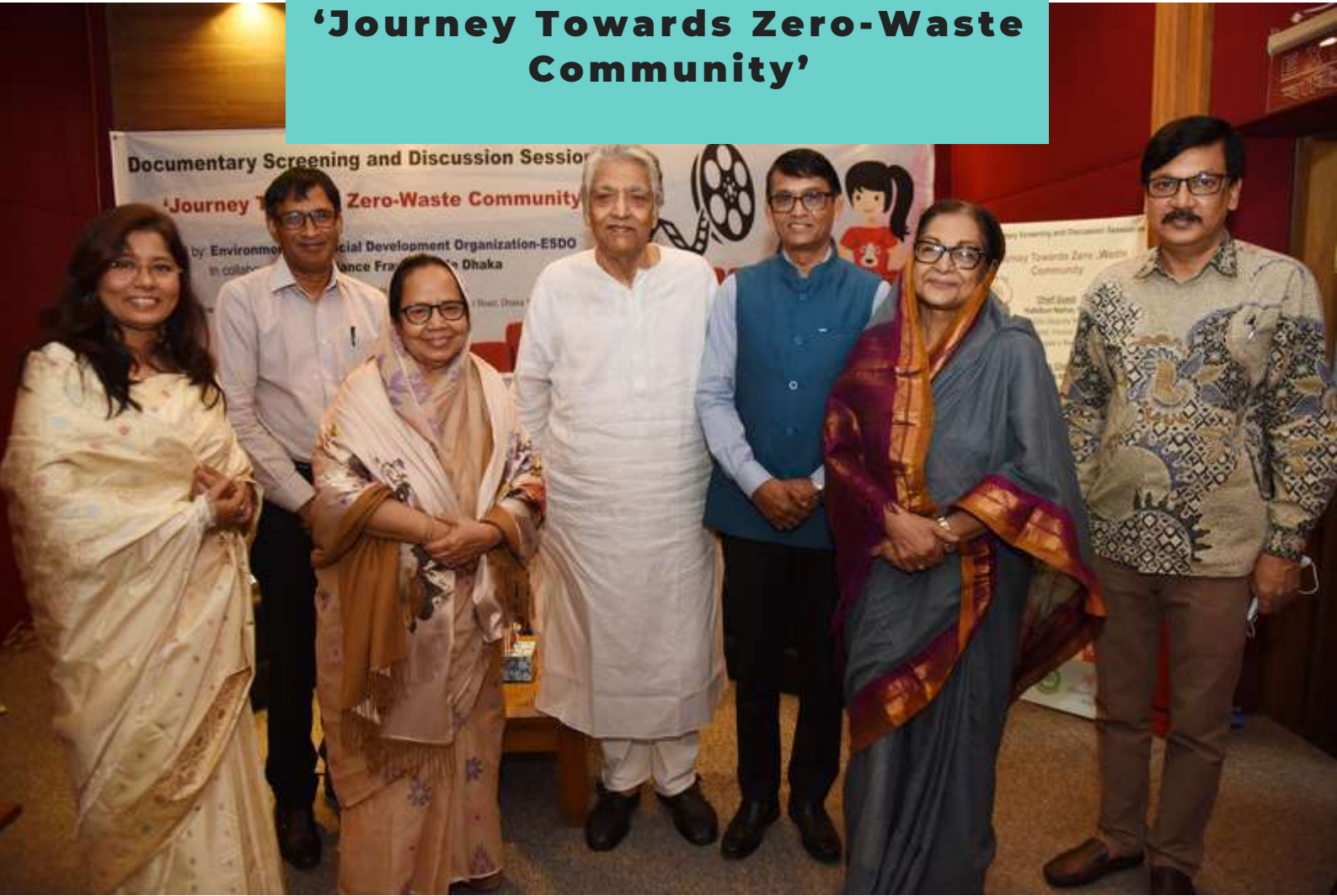
The zero-waste team of ESDO has operated a sudden visit to identify the actual status of the use of large bins at Lalmatia Block- C market & Lalmatia Housing Society School & College.



## Radio Talk Show

On the 14th of May, ESDO took part in a radio talk show on the zero-waste approach on ABC radio station to inform the general public about the Zero Waste Approach and how we can contribute to preventing environmental degradation by changing some small habits at home.

## "Animation Documentary Screening on 'Journey Towards Zero-Waste Community'"



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO in association with Alliance Française de Dhaka organized a Documentary Screening titled 'Journey Towards Zero-Waste' on 25th July 2022 at Alliance Française de Dhaka. The goal of the animated documentary screening on Reduce, Refuse, Reuse & Recycle and Waste Segregation was to demonstrate how adopting the 4R approach may make our life simpler and healthier. Outstanding actor Azizul Hakim, veteran actress Dilara Zaman, and renowned singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna appeared in another video documentary on simple ways to live a zero-waste lifestyle that was also shown at the event.

Honorable Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Habibun Nahar, MP graced the event as the chief guest. Former Secretary of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO, Syed Marghub Murshed honored the event as the session chair. Md. Moniruzzaman, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change joined the event as a special guest. Actor Azizul Hakim and Dilara Zaman was also present at the event. Apart from this, the students and teachers of Lalmatia Housing Society School and College and journalists from different channels, newspapers, and online portals participated in this event.

# **Environmental Education Camp for Zero-Waste Community Development**



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized a session titled “Environmental Education Camp for Zero Waste Approach” with students of Lalmatia Girls High School in Dhaka City on July 21st, 2022 to develop the next generation of environmental leaders and to ensure environmental sustainability practices and apply a zero-waste plastic-free lifestyle among students. An overview of the zero waste movement and the need to adopt it for a pollution-free environment was covered briefly throughout the workshop, along with group discussions about potential activities for the students. Students participated in various tasks and activities, including an art competition on “Rooftop Gardening.”, a poster design on “Plastic-free Campus,” and an essay competition on “The Effects of Plastic on Our City Life.”

ESDO’s Executive Director, Siddika Sultana along with other members of ESDO, joined the session. A representative from the Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL) also attended the session as a guest.

## Capacity Building Training on Setting up Rooftop Garden



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized “Capacity Building Training on Setting up Rooftop Garden” at Lalmatia Housing Society School and College from 21 August to 23 August, 2022. The training session aimed at sharing practical knowledge among the students as well as their parents on how to set up rooftop garden and how to generate compost from the waste they produce every day. This way the program focused on building a zero waste community and a green environment. The three-day long program was successful with the active participation of the students and their parents throughout the whole program.

As part of the Zero Waste Community project, a capacity building training was conducted from 21 August to 23 August, 2022, with the participation of the students and their parents on rooftop gardening. The aim of the event was to turn the kitchen wastes into wealth, and encourage the community in a zero-waste lifestyle.



## Consultation with Service Provider

Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO, has organized a consultation with service providers at the ESDO head office to discuss about waste segregation and the recycling process. The initiative was undertaken by ESDO's project titled "Building Zero Waste Communities for a Pollution-free Environment in Bangladesh".



## Community Consultation in Rangpur

Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO has organized a community consultation at Mistripara City Corporation High School, Rangpur with the community people of Shalbon, 25 no ward. ESDO initiated the project 'Building Zero Waste Community for a Pollution Free Environment in Bangladesh' in this locality with 150 households on July 2020. With a view to developing a sustainable zero-waste community in this locality, the involvement of community people is mandatory. Therefore, the targeted population was communicated with and undertaken under counseling several times. On September 22, 2022, a follow-up session was organized with the community people.

The principal aim of the counseling was to disseminate knowledge of zero waste lifestyle with proper and sustainable waste management among the community members. Around 60 community people were present in this consultation. The CBO of Shalbon, Rangpur was present and their active participation in the arrangement of the consultation was highly remarkable. The active participation of the community people made the event more successful. The event was divided into three major segments: Introduction, PowerPoint Presentation, Question Answer, and Feedback receiving sessions. Ideas to generate household income were shared with the community members with some real examples. The women were well motivated to adopt the ideas and contribute to their family income. The consultation was very effective indeed.



## Graduation Ceremony of Green Club at Betgari High School

The Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) established a green club at Betgari High School in Rangpur in March 2022. This green club was founded primarily to stimulate students' interest in environmental issues. Under this environmental education program, the kids took part in a variety of activities, such as a poster presentation, brand audits, campus cleaning, and more. After their six-month journey was over, ESDO presented them with a graduation certificate.



Therefore, the Green Club, Betgari High School graduation ceremony was held on October 13, 2022, from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. The students debated their suggestions for establishing zero-waste communities while working on project models. 22 groups contributed project ideas. Both Enamul Haque, the school's president, and Md. Fakhrul Bari, the headmaster of Gangachara's Betgari High School, was present at the event. The students were quite happy to get the awards. They had a good idea, and they were anxious to adopt daily zero-waste practices.

## Biogas Plants Set up in Betgari

At Betgari, Gangachara, Rangpur, two biogas plants have been installed. Out of 150 eligible recipients, two have been selected for this Biogas plant. Based on the availability of cows and land to build the plant, the households were chosen. 85 percent of the total cost of establishing the biogas facility was covered by ESDO. The construction of the plant took five to six days. The plant was later abandoned for 21 days. Cow manure was added to the plant after 21 days, and it took 15 to 20 days for the facility to start producing gas.



A partner organization of IDCOL named Maowa Renewable Energy Ltd. offered technical assistance and general management for the installation and upkeep of the plant. Up to three years of technical supervision will be provided by them. The recipients were overjoyed to get the service. They can effectively manage their waste with the help of the biogas plant, turning it into resources. Along with the gas service, the recipients will also receive fish feed and compost from the plant as byproducts.

## Large Bin and Composter Distribution

For the purpose of easing waste segregation, ESDO started distributing six sets of 120-liter waste bin to the community and institutions. In addition, the community has received 15 sets of home composters for use in generating compost. These actions made by ESDO will aid in educating people about the process of turning trash into resources. The CBO members assisted in the selection of the Rangpur household. For this service, those who are willing to compost their household organic waste were chosen.



2022



# INTERNATIONAL WEBINARS AND TRAININGS

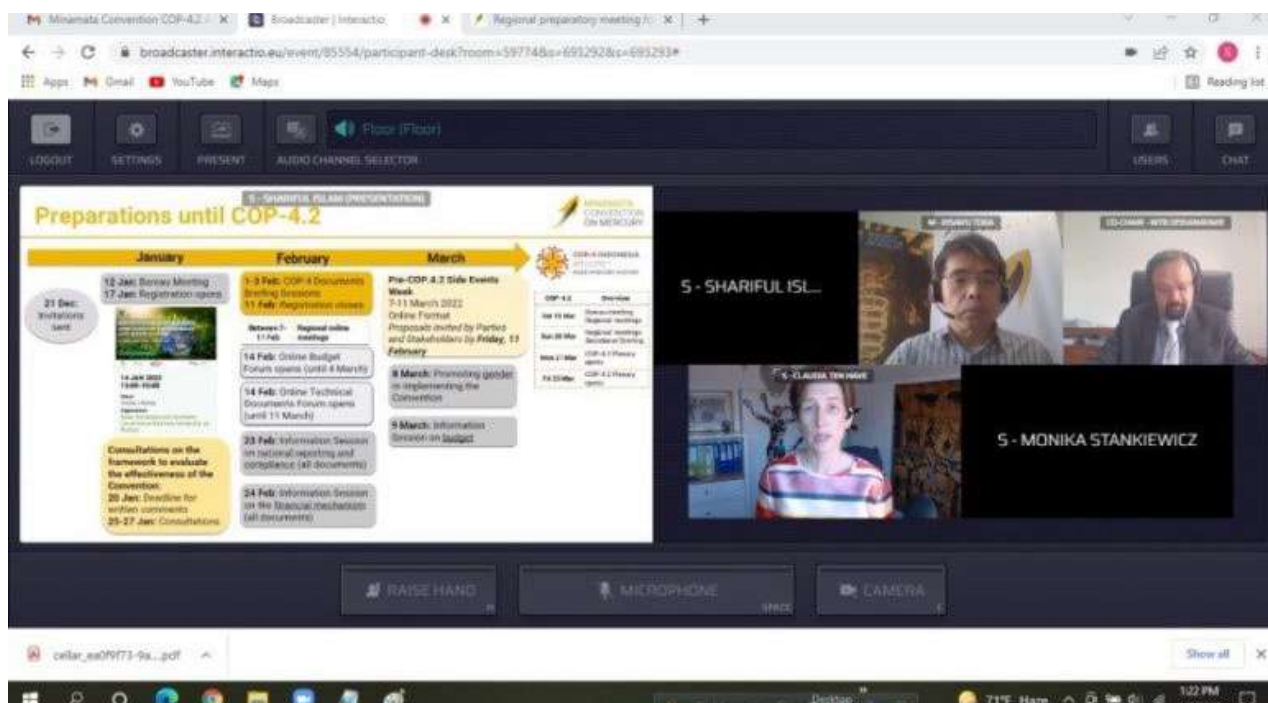


## Minamata COP-4 on Mercury: From Indonesia to the World

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Bureau of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury decided, at its fifth meeting held on 14 April 2021, to organize COP-4 in two segments: a first segment was conducted online within the period of 1 to 5 November 2021 and, in accordance with Decision MC-4/1 on the dates of the resumed COP-4, a second segment was conducted in-person within the period of 21 to 25 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. Secretary General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director of ESDO Ms. Siddika Sultana attended the segment.



## Minamata Convention COP-4.2 Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting



On 7th February, 2022, Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting for COP-4.2 was organized with a view to discuss the second segment of COP-4, substantive items of the COP 4.2 and also to shared information on the logistic matters and Bali declaration. Secretary General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director Siddika Sultana participated on the preparatory regional meeting as part of preparation of COP4.2.

*Presenters had very engaging discussion over the strategies and guideline which is going to be followed during COP-4.2 in person segment of Minamata convention.*



## Regional Update Report on Mercury Free Dentistry

The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry is one of the pioneer organizations working with governments and organizations to phase down amalgam use in every region. World Alliance It welcomed the growing momentum to phase out the use of dental amalgam. Environmental and Social Development Organization working in the same journey with World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry Since 2017 nationally, regionally and globally. A regional report was prepared to reflect progress made by the national authorities, organizations, scientific communities from different countries in the way of phase-out the use of mercury from the dentistry. The report would provide support and practical to those networking countries willing for complete ban. This will also be a showcase of the current situation of the network countries in Mercury free dentistry journey.



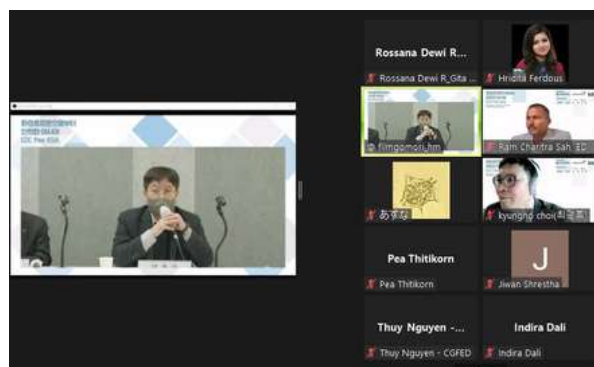
## **Gender and Chemical: A Matter of Concern!**



An online interview of executive Director of ESDO Siddika Sultana was arranged by IPEN on Gender and Chemicals. As per request, she shared her journey of creating a toxic free environment. She also put forth the initiatives and achievements of toxic free movement she took part in being a part of Environmental and Social Development Organization-ESDO.

## **International Conference on Hazardous Chemical Free Asia**

On March 31, 2022, the Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health in Seoul, Korea, hosted an international conference at which partner organizations who had participated in the project reported their results on phthalates in erasers and BPA in cash receipts. ESDO, a Bangladeshi organization, took part in the study, and Siddika Sultana presented the findings.



# SCOPE:

## SKIN LIGHTENERS ARE STILL ONLINE DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF MERCURY!

The Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) has been investigating mercury-added skin lightening products (SLPs) with ZMWG member organizations including Bangladesh for several years, primarily due to their health risks, their illegality under many national laws, and the prohibition by the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The 2020-2022 ZMWG investigation of SLPs offered by over 40 online platforms, and accessed in 17 countries by our partner NGOs, 1 confirmed yet again that high-mercury SLPs are widely available from a range of popular e-commerce platforms globally. Of the 271 SLPs tested, 129 were found to have mercury levels over 1 ppm



Authors and analysts listed in alphabetical order: Charline Cheuvar, Rina Guadagnini, David Lennett, Natural Resources Centre, Antigua and Barbuda; Andreas Prevodnik, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Sweden

With NGO support from the following ZMWG member organizations, in alphabetical order, that provided information:

BAN Toxics, the Philippines; Bio Vision Africa and Environment (CEPHED), Nepal; Centre for Environmental and Social Development Organization (CESO), Antigua and Barbuda; European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Belgium; Health Outreach (HO), Antigua and Barbuda; Indonesia Sustainable Research and Action Link, Indonesia; and Toxisphera Environmental Health, India

With government support from Dr. Custer from the Philippines Nuclear Research Institute, Manila; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Antigua and Barbuda

Editing and technical review: Peter Maxson, Concorde East/West, Belgium.

Publication design: Tibor Juhasz ([www.tiborjuhasz.com](http://www.tiborjuhasz.com)) and Sarah Abou-Chleih, EEB.

This report is dedicated to our friend, colleague and mentor,  
Dr. Mahmood A. Khwaja,  
Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan.



Zero Mercury Working Group  
C/o European Environmental Bureau  
Rue des deux Eglises 14-16  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel +32 2 289 1090  
[www.zeromercury.org](http://www.zeromercury.org)  
[eeb@eeb.org](mailto:eeb@eeb.org) | [www.eeb.org](http://www.eeb.org)

#### Funded by:

- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) via the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
- The Sils Family Foundation
- The LIFE programme of the European Union





## Webinar on LEAD Exposure on CHILDREN

ness for action to prevent exposure to

icals Safety and Health Unit, WHO, HQ Geneva

INCHES works in official collaboration with WHO. One of the collaborative tasks is to organize a webinar on lead exposure and children to share the most recent consequences of lead exposure especially for children to create the awareness to reduce the global problem. Different presenter from different country from respected organization like WHO, public universities shared their insight through their presentation.

## Webinar on “UN System Response to Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution”



The Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues aim to encourage more interaction and engagement among stakeholders in Geneva and abroad. They also plan to deal with the plastic issue and encourage coordinated measures that can lead to more efficient decision-making. This session was organized in partnership with the United Nations Environment Management Group (UN-EMG) and GRID-Arendal, which featured the launch of the UN-EMG Report on mapping the UN response to marine litter and plastic pollution. This webinar was attended by one of the ESDO’s team member Hridita Ferdous.

## Webinar on Global Plastic Treaty: Opportunities for South East Asia

With the recent developments and upcoming UNEA 5.2, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law organized a webinar on the opportunities of South East Asia on the Global Plastic Treaty where the partner organizations were Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (GAIA), Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO, and Greenpeace. Secretary-General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain participated the session as a Guest Speaker, and also presented a presentation highlighting the comparison of Japan and Rwanda Resolutions to be Adapted at UNEA 5.2.



---

## **The Resumed Session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.2) 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'**

---

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), hosted by the UN Environment Program which brings together representatives from the UN's 193 member states, corporations, civil society, and other stakeholders to agree on policies to solve the world's most serious environmental concerns. The overall theme for UNEA-5 is "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".

---

The United Nations Environment Assembly's (UNEA-5.2) fifth session will be held online and in Nairobi from February 28 to March 2, 2022. ESDO's Secretary General Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Director Siddika Sultana, Assistant Program Officer Hridita Ferdous and Program Associate Samina Khondaker has already attended the Day 1 session of the meeting.



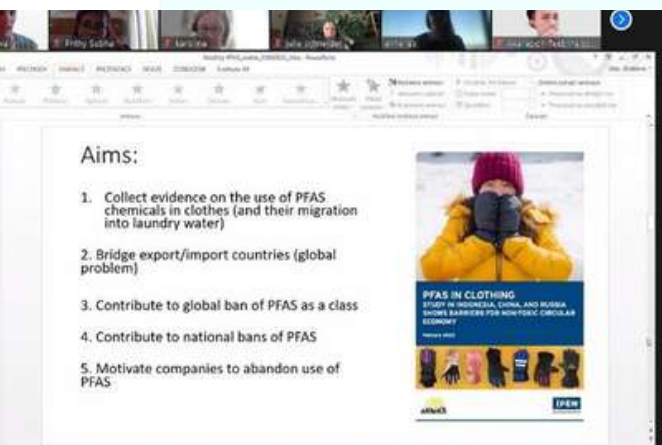
## Interventions at BRS COP 2022



The BRS Triple COP convened for a second, in-person, segment in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO is currently in Geneva attending the meeting. He is attending there as a delegate of ESDO and PO of IPEN: for a toxics-free future.



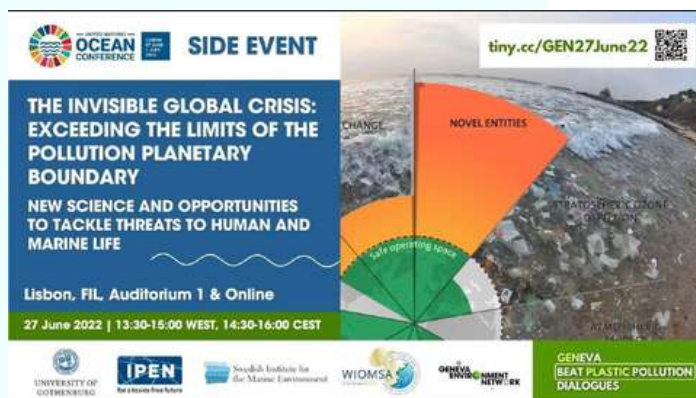
## Workshop on PFAS in Textile!



A recent study is going on to evaluate the presence of PFAS in textiles in a collaboration with Arnica, IPEN, and its network countries. On that occasion, an online meeting was held to give a brief guideline to the all-participatory research groups about the sampling procedure for PFAS in Textile. Executive Director of ESDO Siddika Sultana and her team joined the meeting.

## The United Nations Ocean Conference of 2022

The United Nations Ocean Conference of 2022 has been happening in Lisbon since 27 June and will continue till 1 July. As part of the conference, the “2022 UN Ocean Conference – VIRTUAL Side Event” is occurring online. The topic of the virtual event was on “Marine Pollution: Tackling Land-based Sources through Multi-stakeholder Action”



## **IPEN PO briefing on Proposed Project Plan**

IPEN organized a PO Briefing on to proposed a project titled Refuse Derived Fuels and tracking transboundary movements which was approved and yet to be start.



## **Workshop on Development of IEC material on Air Pollution & Noise Pollution**

ESDO was invited and attended a series of workshop on development of IEC material on Air Pollution & Noise Pollution organized by DG Health Services.

Over 100 messages were developed by DGHS and after keen review by the participants, about 80 messages were revised and submitted to Dr. Parvez which he will submit to higher authority and finalize it with their consent. The second day, all the participants again revised the slogans and confirmed it for social awareness.



These workshop works as a brainstorming session which is actually a good practice. People now a days have stop generating ideas and are depending on internet to find slogans or messages. From this workshop, I have learnt how to participate in a discussion with government officials. It also made me realize with a little brainstorming, great ideas can be generated in a very short time.



---

## **Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group Working on the INC Developing a Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution**

Dr. Shahriar Hossain attended Multi-stakeholder dialogues for ad hoc open-ended working group working on the INC developing a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution in Senegal.



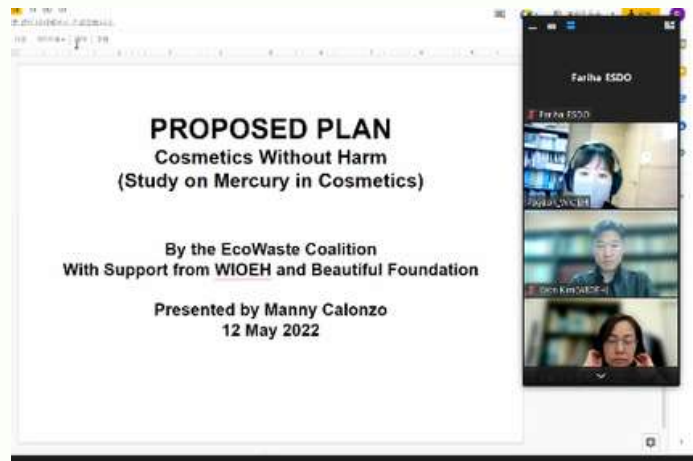
## **Workshop on Decent Jobs and Economic Growth for Cultural and Creative Industries**

A recent workshop was organized by Unitar Cifal Jeju on Decent Jobs and Economic Growth for Cultural and Creative Industries: The Sustainability of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Dr. Santona Khatun from ESDO participated at the webinar.

---

## Meeting on Mercury in Cosmetics

A zoom meeting was arranged by Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health - WIOEH to discuss about a project activity on mercury in cosmetics. The expected action plan, sampling activities were also discussed. The event was successful through the active participation from the networking countries and participants able to have clear conception about the upcoming project.



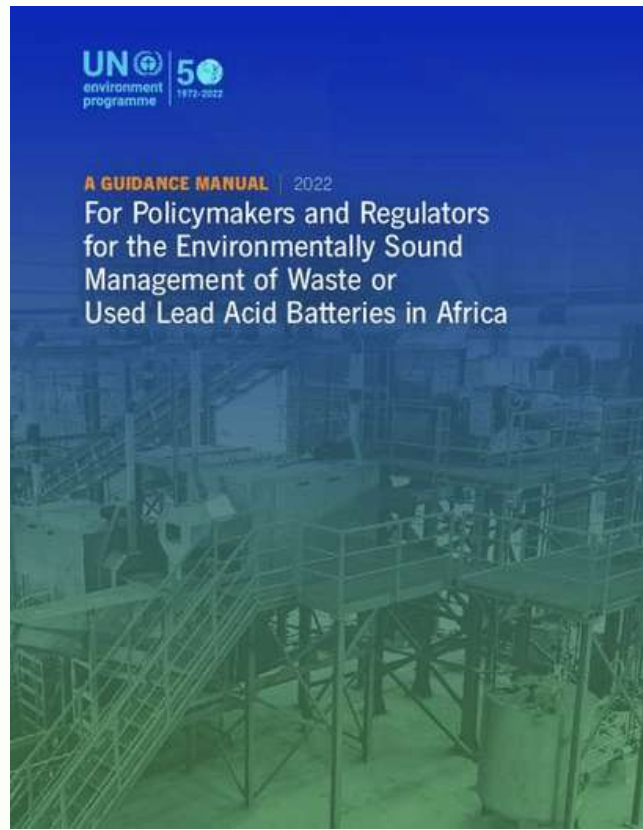
## Revised Technical Implementation Committee for Every Child Potential (PECP)

A series of workshops organized by DG Health Services with a purpose to Revised Technical Implementation Committee for Every Child Potential (PECP). Executive director of ESDO Siddika Sultana attended both meeting as an active member and shared ESDO's work on this issue

---

## Webinar on Environmentally Sound Management of Waste or Used Lead Acid Batteries

A Webinar was organized by UNEP titled “Environmentally Sound Management of Waste or Used Lead Acid Batteries” to highlight challenges, opportunities and best practices/solutions that exist in ESM of WLAB and the Africa Guidance Manual on WLAB recently developed by UNEP. In an open discussion session, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO mentioned that WLAB is an important issue that should be addressed properly and implemented in the rules and regulations.



**GLOBAL PLASTIC POLICY CENTRE**

---

**PLASTIC POLICY REVIEW WORKSHOP**

---

The Global Plastics Policy Centre is undertaking a major analysis of plastic policies worldwide, with a view to improve policy making.

You have been identified as a key leader in this area and we wish to invite you to participate in this validation workshop.

**7-8 APRIL 2022**

REGISTER - [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3PQVCE3](https://bit.ly/3PQVCE3)

**REVOLUTION PLASTICS**

**UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH**

Photo by James Wakibia

## Global Plastics Policy Centre - Validation Workshop

Global Plastics Policy Centre - Validation Workshop - The need for an independent evidence base on plastic policy effectiveness has never been more pressing, especially in light of the recent adoption of the UNEA resolution "End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument," which invites governments to negotiate a legally binding instrument that addresses the full life cycle of plastic.

---

## Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty that attempts to safeguard both human health and the environment against the impacts of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The Convention entered into force on May 17, 2004. This year, it has taken place in Rome, Italy from 26th September to 30 September 2022. The Executive Director of Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO is currently attending the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants as a representative of ESDO and IPEN in Rome, Italy.



**Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**  
Highlights of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Day

On the 5<sup>th</sup> day (POPRC) concluded its review of four of the five chemicals under consideration. It agreed to defer its consideration of the draft risk profile on chlordane.

The 4<sup>th</sup> day was the most important day as it was the penultimate day. All the documents need to be finalized by the end of the day. Participants at (POPRC) worked throughout the day to advance their work as much as possible to meet these deadlines.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> day marked midweek of the Convention. Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) worked throughout the day in contact groups to continue their expert reviews of the risks.

## World Alliance Leadership Meeting

World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry convened a meeting to exchange activities and provide an update on the dental amalgam phase-out program's progress. All of the leaders from various nations discussed their experiences with the mercury-free dentistry program. Participants also discussed their future steps and decided to voice concerns about the new amendment on mercury-free dentistry.



## **WAMFD felicitates Ram Charitra Sah and Ministry of Health and Population**

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty that attempts to safeguard both human health and the environment against the impacts of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The Convention entered into force on May 17, 2004. This year, it has taken place in Rome, Italy from 26th September to 30 September 2022. Siddika Sultana, Vice-President (Asia) of WAMFD and Executive Director ESDO Bangladesh handed over a letter of appreciation to MoHP and First in Asia Award's plaque 2022 to Ram Charitra Sah.

The government of Nepal has taken very progressive, public health, and environment-friendly decisions and implemented them to address the issues of high mercury exposure and environmental pollution. There is provision of Mercury Free Health Care Service, the banning of the import, purchase, and use of all mercury-based equipment in public as well as private sectors effective from 17th July 2013.

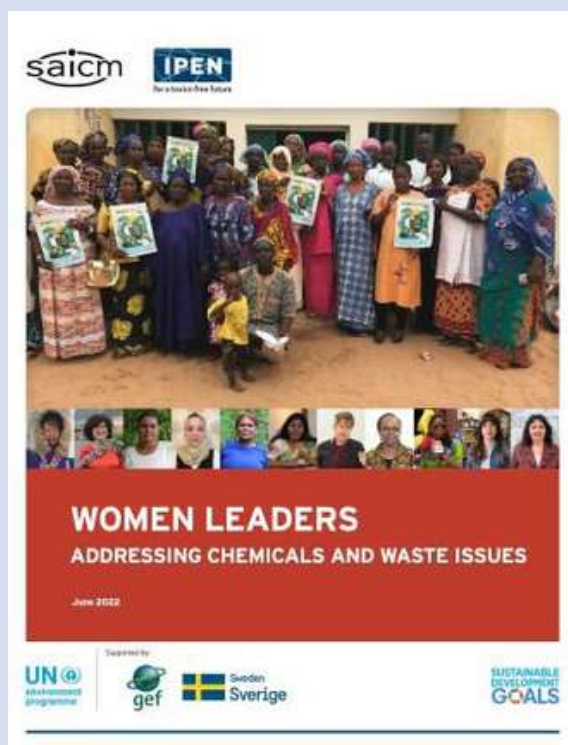
Similarly, a coordination meeting organized on Saturday aims to solicit coordination and collaboration of all concerned public and private stakeholders toward the successful completion of these compliance monitoring initiatives, actively participated by over 35 representatives from MoHP, Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE), World Health Organizations (WHO), Nepal Dental Association (NDA), different other public and private health care services and medical education providing institutions and media personnel.



---

## Women Leaders Addressing Chemicals and Waste Issues

Women Leaders: Addressing Chemicals & Waste Issues” highlights women’s leadership through 10 organizations from around the world working to address chemical health threats. Along with female leaders from different countries, this report features the Executive Director of ESDO, Siddika Sultana. The report highlights the female leaders who are continuously working to eliminate toxic chemicals from the environment and create awareness among the general population about the impacts of these chemicals on human health.



## Communications training- South Asia Regional Meeting Phase 1

IPEN organized a capacity building programme on Communications and advocacy. Charles Margulis, IPEN's Communications Director shared IPEN's communication and advocacy strategies. Expert on social media strategy: Mr. Jyotidendra Zaveri was also presented at the training session as a speaker. The session focused on designing awareness campaigns and managing social media platforms.

Maliha Hoque, Project Associate of ESDO and Md. Asif Imran, Project Assistant of ESDO joined the session as ESDO's representative.





**1ST SESSION OF THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING  
COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AN  
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING  
INSTRUMENT ON PLASTIC POLLUTION,  
INCLUDING IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT  
(INC-1)**

As one of the most palpable examples of our “throwaway” culture, the immense growth in plastic pollution is wreaking havoc on human health and the environment. In a historic decision at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in March 2022, Member States agreed to negotiate an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, setting an ambitious timeline to conclude negotiations in 2024.



Meeting for the first time, the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) was prepared to address organizational as well as substantive matters. However, from the very start, delegates delved into the form and substance of the future treaty. While these substantive discussions occupied most of the week's agenda, a few significant and contentious procedural and organizational matters, including the election of the bureau and voting procedures, were also in the foreground.

The Committee heard a number of proposals over the course of the week, with some early points of convergence emerging as well as notable differences on a number of matters. At its conclusion, the Committee requested the INC Secretariat to prepare a document, ahead of INC-2, which would outline options for elements of the instrument, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics, including the objective, substantive provisions including core obligations, control measures, and voluntary approaches, implementation measures, and means of implementation, and including both legally binding and voluntary measures.

Prior to the meeting, more than 1,000 participants attended a Multi-Stakeholder Forum, both in-person and online. During the INC meeting itself, an additional stakeholder dialogue was held, with two panels addressing, respectively, the upstream and downstream approaches to plastic pollution and the mid-stream stage of the plastic lifecycle. Delegates supported wide stakeholder participation throughout the INC process, with many underscoring stakeholder input through written statements during intersessional periods as well as participation in the INC process.



INC-1 convened online and in-person in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 28 November - 2 December 2022. More than 2,300 delegates from 160 countries and stakeholder groups participated.

ESDO's Secretary-General Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director Siddika Sultan joined the meeting as a participating organization of IPEN and submitted a statement emphasizing the urgent need of having a legally binding instrument.



On behalf of ESDO and as a participant organization of IPEN, Executive Director of ESDO Siddika Sultana intervened in the session where she urged the INC to adopt the precautionary principle in making decisions to prevent the harms of plastics and their associated chemicals.



Secretary-General of ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain intervened on Subitem-5 sequencing-Stakeholder engagement in the INC process. He emphasized the participation of all stakeholders in the INC process and urge the member states to allow and open all regional meetings to all stakeholders and to create a space for meaningful discussions between them.



## **Capacity Building Training On Integration of Gender Concerns and Equity in Climate Change Projects “Strengthening Gender Responsive Climate Actions in Bangladesh”**

Two representatives Khalilur Rahman, Sr. Program Associate and Tanjima Hoque Trisha, Project Associate from Environment & Social Development Organization-ESDO participated the 2 days long training program organized by Bangladesh Climate Change Trust, BCCT, BCAS, C3ER and UN Women. It was organized in 30th November and 1st December 2022 in the Conference Hall of BCCT.

On day 1, the training program started at 9.30 AM with registration and welcome. Ms Roufa Khanum, Lead C3ER- BRAC University delivered her welcome speech first. Then Mr. Md. Khairuzzaman, Director, BCCT gave his valuable speech. Ms Nurun Naher Hena, Managing Director(Additional Secretary) BCCT was present as the Chief Guest and gave her valuable speech.

Then the technical session of the training was started by expressing the Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Gender Responsive Adaptation and Mitigation by Ms Sharmin Nahar Nipa, C3ER . From this session, the participants could understand the basic knowledge about the climate, weather, climate change, impacts of climate change, gender responsive adaptation, mitigation etc. The participants participated in this session spontaneously

After the lunch break, session 2 was organized by Mr Monowarul Islam, BCAS and Ms. Roufa Khanum. They elaborately discussed the Gender Responsive Scale. Then group work was given to all the participants. They share their experiences of life as a men or women. Being a men or women which types of difficulties they are facing or faced were shared by each of the participants. With this session, the first day of the training was successfully completed.





If we took away barriers to women's leadership, we would solve the climate change problem a lot faster.

---- Mary Robinson



On the day 2, the training was started by recapping the previous day. Then Mr. Monowarul Islam started his session titled “Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change Projects.” Then Ms. Roufa Khanum delivered her presentation on “Shared Learning on BCCT Proposal Format and Template.”

After lunch, Mr Md. Khairuzzaman shared the Role of BCCT in Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Finance. Then the most enjoyable session of the training was arranged. Participants were divided into different groups. They were asked to select a title for project focusing on climate change and gender. Then they were asked to build a draft structure for the project mentioning all the essentials for BCCT funding. Then they were requested to present their project individually. The Chief Guest, Director and other officials were present that time. All the groups were appreciated by the guests. Then the closing remarks and distribution of certificates were successfully done by the team

## A meeting on “Planning about Way-forward on Prevention of Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh.”



A meeting was held in UNICEF, Dhaka in the date on 20 December 2022. Secretary-General, Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director, Siddika Sultana, and Project Associate Tanjima Hoque Trisha of ESDO were present at the meeting. From UNICEF 3 representatives were also present. There was a spontaneous discussion about Lead (Pb) poisoning in Bangladesh. The main sources of the lead and alternatives were discussed. Also, they discussed the gap and what we need to know more.

The sources of lead poisoning, alternatives, and the status of lead poisoning in Bangladesh were discussed in the meeting. The representatives gave their valuable opinion. They also discussed the past situation of lead use. Lead is everywhere and very toxic to humans and especially to children. They are facing dangerous health problems and also facing death from slow poisoning. There is no safe level for lead actually.



From the event organized in ILPPW on the date of 26th of October, 2022, a few recommendations were proposed by the public, private, or government sectors. In the next meeting with UNICEF, the gaps were analyzed by the attendee.

# ESDO received National Environment Award 2020!

## Special Edition

On the occasion of the World Environment Day 2022, Environment and Social Development Organization received the National Environment Award 2020. This award was bestowed upon ESDO for its outstanding contribution to the development of the country's environment.



***The award was given by H. E. Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at Bangabandhu International Conference Center. On behalf of ESDO, Siddika Sultana, Executive Director received the award from the Prime Minister.***

ESDO is working relentlessly to ensure biological diversity since its formation in 1990. It is the pioneer organization that initiated the anti-polythene campaign in 1990 which later resulted in a complete ban on polythene shopping bags throughout Bangladesh in 2002. Since then, ESDO has been advocating continuously for the complete ban of Single-use Plastic. Due to ESDO's continuous advocacy and negotiation, the High Court of Bangladesh has ordered the concerned authorities to prepare the ground for banning single-use plastics in coastal areas, hotels, motels, and restaurants across the country in the 2021 year. Later in a hearing on 10th February 2021, the High Court of Bangladesh ordered the concerned authorities to phase out Single-use plastic products within 31 December 2022 from the coastal area. Following the High Court's order, the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change have issued a gadget instructing all concerned to completely stop the use of single-use plastic from 12 coastal districts of Bangladesh by 2023.





## INITIATION OF DAY CARE CENTER!

ESDO has recently initiated a Day Care Center Project at Fatehpur locality in Rangpur Division.

### PURPOUSE

The main purpose of the day care center is to identify the underprivileged people of the area those who will benefit from this day care center. Elderly men and women, widows, and people with disabilities will take advantage of this center and be able to become self-reliant.

### OBJECTIVE

The main object is to get an idea about the disadvantaged people in this area through day care center and to provide services to improve their socio-economic status.



## TEAM ORIENTATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

Whether professional or non-professional, training program has always benefited people in every possible way. ESDO has always tried to improve team member's skills. With a view to that, on 3rd September 2022 to 5th September 2022, ESDO conducted 3 days long orientation with Dhaka and Rangpur team where different subjects such as advocacy and lobbying, report writing, presentation skill, interpersonal communication and team building tasks were discussed and performed. The orientation started with formal greetings. After that, different types of exercises were conducted where teams were divided and performed. All the team members performed the task gracefully.





## COLLABORATION WITH MUTUAL TRUST BANK TO INITIATE PLASTIC-FREE CAMPUS



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO submitted this proposal to Mutual Trust Bank Limited in order to enhance Corporate Social Responsibility and ensure environmental sustainability in Bangladesh.

On 19th December 2022, MTB organized a check giving ceremony with a view to provide ESDO with the necessary funding to conduct Environmental Education on Plastic-free Campus.

ESDO's Secretary-General, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Director, Siddika Sultan, Head of Program, Monowarul Islam and Project Associate, Maliha Hoque joined the event. A overview of the activities of the project was given to MTB by Dr. Shahriar Hossain.

### *The Objective*

- To build second generation leadership*
- To aware young generation about the toxicity of Plastic*
- To Prepare young students to refuse single-use plastic*



**Environment & Social Development  
Organization ESDO**  
**House # 8/1, Level # 5, Block # C,  
Lalmatia, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh**  
**Website:**  
**<http://esdo.org/>**

