

With A Dream For A Sustainable World



Annual Report *2021*



Environment and Social Development Organization



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 2021 mission. Various particular activities were completed as part of a larger set of mandatory issues.

These issues included activities of 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.

Siddika Sultana
Executive Director, ESDO

Introduction

ESDO is a membership-based action research organization in Bangladesh working for policy advocacy, environmental capacity building, and policy intervention. Since its founding in 1990, ESDO has assisted over 1 million people in Bangladesh in achieving a sustainable and self-sufficient lifestyle while living in peace with their surroundings. ESDO has also had a considerable impact on national policy, with the organization's most notable victory being the nationwide ban on plastic (polythene) bags.





ESDO's Dedication

ESDO is committed to raising environmental awareness among Bangladesh's schools and young, as well as urban and rural communities, strengthening community capacity, conducting research to advocate for policy reform, and preserving indigenous knowledge in the cause of environmental protection.

To address the lifestyle practices of Bangladesh's poorer population – where the poor do not have a choice in how they use resources to survive and thrive – ESDO is continuing to empower communities by building individual and collective capacities and inspiring people in the field of environmental management and conservation. ESDO works to build the capacity of our beneficiaries by encouraging participatory involvement through our holistic approach, allowing them to: take leadership in promoting a safe and sustainable environment, improve the socio-economic situation of their communities, and be more in control of their future.



Our Philosophy

ESDO is a Bangladeshi non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the word about the need of conserving the environment in order to preserve biological diversity and ecological equilibrium. Since the formal funding of ESDO in 1990, we have concentrated on raising awareness among the general public about how human activities may negatively damage Bangladesh's environment. ESDO is a non-profit and non-governmental organization that works to enrich the lives, socio-economic conditions, and environmental education of some of Bangladesh's most unprivileged communities. Through vital inputs and capacity building, ESDO invests in people to care for the environment. Environmental and Social Development Organization wants to ensure self-reliant rural communities who live in harmony with their environment.

Our Mission and Vision

The objective of ESDO is to develop and foster an environmental movement encompassing different social groups within a participatory democratic framework, and to provide them with ideas, information, and leadership in order to create a safe, sustainable, and toxic-free society.

To achieve The Sustainable Development Goals is ESDO's vision for Bangladesh as well as for all the developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Working to protect and conserve nature and life from toxic and plastic pollution, as well as to reduce poverty, improve literacy and education, empower women in rural areas, and improve sanitation and health services via 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

2021

ESDO's

Activities



December 2021
Virtually (zoom)



Eliminating Plastic Pollution

As the world's capacity to cope with the fast-rising manufacturing of throwaway plastic items overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them, plastic pollution has become one of the most important environmental challenges. Plastic pollution is especially noticeable in impoverished Asian and African countries, where garbage collection systems are sometimes inadequate. In Bangladesh, the plastic waste situation is not much different from others. Day by day the trash pile of plastic is increasing. According to the Department of Environment, over 17000 tons of plastic garbage are generated in the country every day, with just half of it being recycled. According to World Bank, Dhaka city alone produces 646 tonnes of plastic waste per day, and only 37% of this waste is recycled, but mostly by the informal sector. The World Bank report further said 48 percent goes to landfills, 37 percent is recycled, 12 percent ends up in khals and rivers, and 3 percent is dumped in drains and unserved areas of the city corporations. Plastic usage has surged as a result of rapid urbanization and development. According to the World Bank research, daily trash produced per capita in both Dhaka North and South city corporations was 0.61 kg in 2020, and with a population of 10,596,475 in the Dhaka metropolitan region, the estimated garbage created per day is 6,164 tons.

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.

Environmental Youth Awareness Webinar

Youth Participation towards Single-Used Plastic and to Build Zero Waste Community

On the 31st of January 2021, ESDO, in collaboration with Plastic Solution Fund-PSF, will host a Webinar on "Developing Environmental Awareness and Eco-Friendly Behavior." The goal of the workshop was to urge youngsters to become more receptive to the need to quit single-use plastic to achieve a zero-waste community. With this effort, ESDO aimed to identify some talented environmental defenders (institutional or non-institutional) who might contribute to the environment and, in collaboration with ESDO, form a Green Club in their particular region in the near future. Many participants from various institutions, including Daffodil University, Jagannath University, College of Home Economics, Dhaka University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, and others, shared their experiences and suggested a remarkable pathway for promoting eco-friendly behavior among people. Dr. Shahriar Hossian, ESDO Secretary-General, and Siddika Sultana, ESDO Executive Director, were also present at the Zoom meeting. There was also an open discussion session where all of the young people may participate. There was also an open discussion session when all of the young delegates offered their thoughts and ideas on how to limit the usage of plastic and how we can all work together to achieve a more sustainable future.

Webinar on
"Youth Participation
Towards Banning Single-Use Plastic & to Build Zero Waste Community"

Date: 31 January, 2021 (11.00 am to 12.30 pm)
Venue: Virtual Platform- Zoom

Organized by:
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO

ESDO PLASTIC SOLUTIONS FUND #break free from plastic

Participants (35)

Q. Find a participant

AA	Amena Akter Nishi		
AH	Anwar Hossain		
AZ	ashrafiya zannat 1798013		
ESDO	ESDO Dhaka		
F	Farzana Akther(01)		
F	Fatema-13		
GR	Golam Raibani		
HP	Hridita Ferdous		
MJ	Mahir Jabin Ahamed		
MA	Md Ashir Morshed Pail		
MA	Monjara Alder		
MM	Moysse Mina Haque		
NA	Nusrat Alam(Ranger)		
RZ	Rehinuma Zaman		

Invite Unmute Me Raise Hand

Signature Campaigns on Single-use Plastic

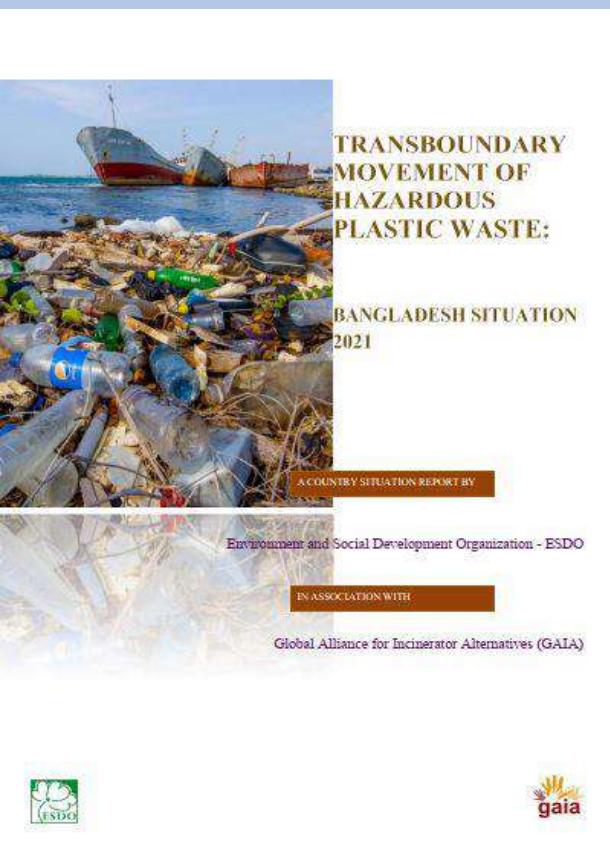
Public appealed to the government to stop the production of Single-use Plastic!



On the 16th of January 2021, the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, in collaboration with PSF, GAIA, and IPEN, held an awareness campaign to raise awareness about protecting the environment from the detrimental effects of single-use plastic. The promotion was held at five different venues in Dhaka (Haitriheel, Press Club, TSC, NEW Market, and Parliament). The signature mass support campaign focuses on teaching people about the adverse impacts of single-use plastic goods and emphasizing sustainable, accessible, and inexpensive alternatives as to the key to solving the problem. In addition, IEC materials have been disseminated to encourage people to choose alternative items instead of single-use plastics to lessen the adverse effects of single-use plastics on human health and the environment. Significantly, a large amount of public support has been garnered, with 629 signatures collected in a single day. Another signature campaign was done on 14th February 2021. Total five major places in Dhaka city were visited and people were made aware of toxic plastic pollution in an interactive manner. The primary objective of this campaign was to raise mass awareness about the detrimental impacts of toxic plastic pollution and subsequently gain their support in the form of signatures. More than 500 people expressed their solidarity with the initiative taken by ESDO by formally participating in the signature campaign.

Assessing Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Plastic Waste

Expert Urge Government to Ratify Basel Ban Amendment



On March 18th, 2021, ESDO, in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives – GAIA, will hold a media briefing on the "Importance of Implementing the Basel Amendment to Stop Trans-Border Movement of Hazardous Plastic Waste." Syed Marghub Morshed, Former Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh and Chairperson of the ESDO, opened the meeting, which was attended by David Azoulay, Managing Attorney of the Center for International Environmental Law's (CIEL) Geneva Office and Director of CIEL's Environmental Health Program, Switzerland; Jim Puckett, Founder and Executive Director, Basel Action Network (BAN); Sirine Rached, Global Policy Advocate, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives – GAIA, USA; and M The virtual platform Zoom was used to connect the overseas visitors to the session.

All of the presenters in this session voiced concerns about the challenges linked with Bangladesh's illegal garbage trade particularly plastic. To address this issue, they all agreed to adopt the Basel Ban Amendment. They asked the government to take appropriate steps toward ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment.

Community Consultation: An initiative of advocacy for legislation to combat Single-use Plastic

ESDO organized two small-scale discussions for zero-waste communities in Dhaka and Rangpur as part of raising awareness and changing people's behavior to encourage them to live as plastic-free a life as possible. Initiatives for legislative campaigning to prevent single-use plastic were shared as part of those conversations.



Enabling BFFP membership drive to combat single-use plastic pollution together!

Earth is Melting...

But We can save our Planet

#Refuse_Plastic



#break
free
from
plastic

Since March 2020, all campuses in Bangladesh have been shuttered because of the horrific COVID-19 epidemic. The majority of institutes offer online programs. Running a membership drive in this circumstance is tough, even if it is done online because most students and instructors are not technologically competent. Under the BFFP plastic-free campus initiatives, ESDO has contacted a few institutes and held four physical first meetings with authorities of four institutes in Dhaka, Rangpur, Dinajpur, and Mymensingh since February 2021. These institutions committed to collaborating with ESDO's plastic-free campus initiative at first, and their top goal will be steadily reducing single-use plastic in the future.

Media Advocacy

Develop media's power to encourage and aware citizens about Single-use Plastic

ESDO held multiple press conferences on the detrimental consequences of plastic pollution on the environment and human health, the negative effects of the plastic waste trade, and the transboundary flow of hazardous plastic waste. One of the major themes we discussed in each media briefing was the media's ability to advocate and educate consumers about the importance of changing their regular consumption patterns of single-use plastic. Furthermore, we are establishing corporate strategies to strengthen our alliances with support organizations that may serve as a pressure group on businesses and government agencies to stop utilizing multi-layer packaging in their products

Online Petition Launched on 22nd May 2021 for Banning SUP in Bangladesh

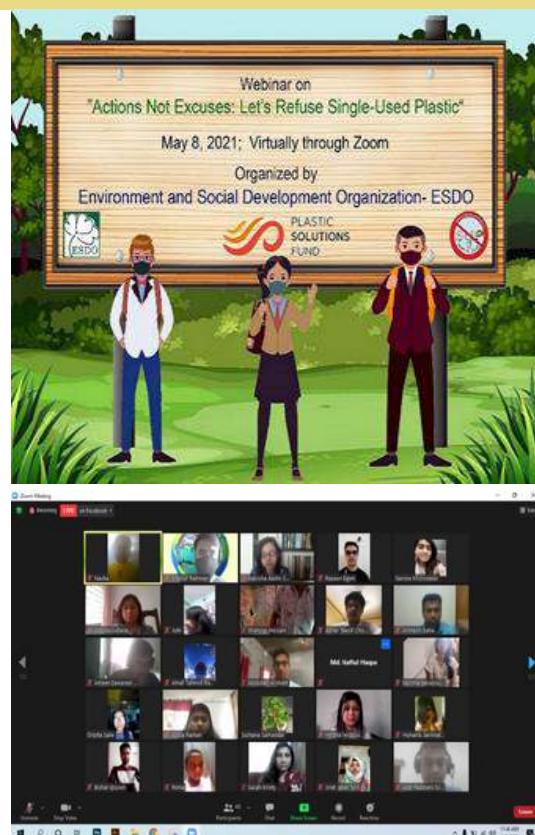


Single-use plastics are those that we discard after only using them once, such as sachets, food packaging, plastic cutlery, plastic bags, and bottles. This indicates that the object has not been used frequently, posing a major hazard to our health and the environment. ESDO believes that it is high time for us to safeguard our environment by simply purchasing environmentally friendly products. This is the reason why ESDO started an online petition to prohibit single-use plastic goods and to pressure the government to implement a legal ban on them in Bangladesh.



“Action Not Excuses: Let's Refuse Single-use Plastic”

A webinar titled "Actions Not Excuses: Let's Refuse Single-Used Plastic" was hosted by ESDO in collaboration with Plastic Solutions Fund. This webinar brought together students from several institutions from grades 6 to 9 to remember the devastating effects of single-use plastic in our country. The first session of the webinar was an introduction session for all participants, and the second session was held on 29th May with students who participated in the first session showing us their models that were allocated to them in the first session. After the two sessions, all participants will get certificates, and the best model/presentation will be given at the conclusion.



Short Report Published on Assessing Polyethene Bag Waste Generation in Last Year During Pandemic

This report was published in June 2021. The main objective of this study was to determine the present state of polythene bag usage; to examine the country's polythene bag issue an irrespective ban, and to assist in understanding the loopholes in the law on polythene bag ban enforcement. This study was conducted from April 2020 to March 2021. This report's findings demonstrate that during the pandemic, economically stable families are more concerned about health and hygiene issues, and as a result, they are found to use an average of 10 polythene shopping bags per week for most grocery stores. This category accounts for around 78.8% of all Bangladeshi households. According to our data, each marginal home dumps a minimum of 5 lightweight polythene shopping bags every week. This resulted in an estimated 709 tons of single-use plastic garbage generated only from the use of polybags. About 14500 tons of hazardous plastic garbage have developed from the drastically increased usage of single-use medical face masks after the first month of the official lockdown to prevent COVID-19 from spreading in Bangladesh. The usage of surgical face masks accounts for 11.2 percent of total trash, whereas polythene-made conventional handbags account for 21.5 percent. Single-use polythene shopping bags, 20 percent from medical hand gloves, and 40.9 percent from single-use polythene shopping bags transporting food, and 6.4 percent from empty hand sanitizer containers.



Expert Consultation with Ministry Official to Receive Technical Guidance on Proper Enforcement for the Ban on 5th June 2021

This event was arranged virtually on 5th June 2021 to discuss the reason Bangladesh is struggling to enforce the law against polythene bag pollution when Bangladesh was the one, the first country to ban polythene bags nationwide. Guest of Honor of the event Keya Khan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change; Special Guest Mst. Sushmita Islam, Deputy Secretary, Health Service Division with other ministry officials and academicians, Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary; Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chairperson of ESDO, Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Former Additional IGP of Bangladesh Police and Technical Advisor of ESDO, Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO; Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO, and ESDO project team members were present in this policy briefing and dialogue. The sole purpose of this event was; to commemorate World Environment Day, 2021, drawing Govt. attention to urge for the implementation of polythene bag ban in Bangladesh, to sensitize mass awareness across the country on the impacts of polythene bags, to push policy decisions to foster the ban of plastic bags in Bangladesh, drawing media attention for mass dissemination of the issue.

Photos - Banner 5th june copy.jpg

World Environment Day, 2021

Policy Briefing and Dialogue
on
"Enforcement of Law on Polythene Bag Ban:
Restore the Ecosystem"

June 5, 2021; Virtually through Zoom

Organized by
Environment and Social Development Organization- ESDO

PLASTIC SOLUTIONS FUND

#break free from plastic

Participants: 21

Unmute Start Video

Chat Share Screen Record Reactions

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows

Leave

Participants:

- Sarah Kristy
- Firoj Kobir
- Hasni Moudud
- Keya Khan
- Prof. Dr. Md. Sh...

ESDO is Developing a Road Map for Banning Single-Use Plastic

ESDO has initiated policy advocacy in Bangladesh in order to develop a roadmap for enacting a law prohibiting the use of single-use plastics.



Plastic Free July 2021

Plastic Free July is a global initiative that encourages millions of people to join in the fight against plastic pollution, resulting in cleaner streets, seas, and communities. Since its inception, ESDO has been observing plastic-free July in collaboration with Break Free from Plastic. ESDO commemorated this month this year by creating awareness posters and video clips. ESDO also includes children in its movies to demonstrate that even today's children recognize the need of rejecting single-use plastic.



Expert Consultation on Roadmap to Phase out Single-use Plastics

To share this roadmap and to receive expert opinion to enhance the work with expert's knowledge about making our environment sustainable, ESDO organized an Expert Consultation on "Roadmap to Phase Out Single-use Plastics from Bangladesh" on 22nd August 2021. Representatives from the Government and Academicians from different universities such as Dhaka University, Jagannath University, Aarhus University of Denmark, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology were present at the event.

Dialogue with local enterprises on 'Building Plastic Free Community

ESDO hosted a dialogue titled "Building Plastic Free Community" to help local businesses develop a formal network to collaborate on a plastic-free, zero-waste strategy. The need of understanding about their work expansions on trash recycling, organic fertilizer, and organic farming was also underlined throughout this session. Representatives from local businesses from all around the country attended this event to share their perspectives and pledge to working together to help achieve a plastic-free, zero-waste environment.





**REFUSE
PLASTIC
BAG**

**INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC BAG FREE DAY
3 JULY 2021**



**'Bangladesh Network for Banning Single-Use Plastic' Network
Launch in the occasion of 'International Plastic Bag Free Day 2021'**

"Single-Use Plastic is the most harmful contaminant in the plastic waste stream; it is critical to ban SUP immediately to safeguard the ecology and public health." Activists and experts encouraged Bangladesh's government to take the necessary steps to prohibit the use of single-use plastic. To address this issue and commemorate the 2021 'International Plastic Bag Free Day.' In July and September, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) and the Plastic Solution Fund (PSF) held two virtual sessions to establish the "Bangladesh Network for Banning Single-Use Plastic." The sole purpose of this network building is to collaborate with the local organizations that have been working for the betterment of the environment and together fight to ban single-use plastic

Introductory Session on 'Plastic Free Campus Initiative'

Break Free From Plastic Campus is a new campus awareness program launched by the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) in collaboration with Break Free From Plastic (BFFP) in the Philippines. Break Free From Plastic Campus is a global movement that encourages schools to band together and commits to going plastic-free. This initiative attempts to minimize plastic pollution on school campuses in a measurable way, with a particular focus on reducing and eventually eliminating plastic bottles, straws, and utensils, as well as plastic food packaging.



In order to provide students and instructors with a thorough understanding of the project, ESDO prepared an introductory session on the "Plastic Free Campus Initiative." The event was attended by teachers and students from YWCA Higher Secondary Girls' School, Summerfield International School, Lalmatia Housing Society School and College, and RCCI Public School and College.

Brand Audit 2021

Brand Audit has been a key player in the ESDO's initiative to ban single-use plastic pollution campaigns. Since 2018, ESDO has been conducting Brand Audits in collaboration with Break Free from Plastic to identify Bangladesh's top plastic polluters. This year, ESDO conducted a Brand Audit in Dhaka and Mymensingh City with over 100 volunteers, collecting 19,963 pieces of plastic waste weighing 132 kg and identifying 11 international and 33 local parent companies producing close to 200 brands, including The Coca-Cola Company, PepsiCo, Nestlé, Unilever, Perfetti Van Melle, Bombay Sweets, and Co. Ltd, Pran RFL Ltd, Square Foods and Beverage Ltd, Akij For the fourth year in a row, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Pran RFL, Nestlé, and Unilever were the top plastic polluters in Bangladesh!



‘Brand Audit 2021’ Report Launching



The top polluting firms are held accountable in this brand audit study for contributing to Bangladesh's plastic pollution catastrophe. This year, a total of 19,963 pieces of plastic waste weighing 132 kg were collected, with 11 international and 33 domestic parent companies producing close to 200 brands identified, including The Coca-Cola Company, PepsiCo, Nestlé, Unilever, Perfetti Van Melle, Bombay Sweets and Co. Ltd, Pran RFL Ltd, Square Foods and Beverage Ltd, Akij Group, Meghna Group of Industries, and others. We identified 78.04642 kg of recyclable garbage and 52.0526 kg of non-recyclable waste among the collected rubbish, demonstrating that recycling is not the answer to the plastic pollution challenge.



Refuse to use Sachet this September!

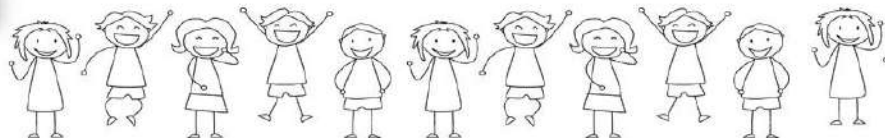
Observe

'NO Sachet' September

With us!

#NoSachetSeptember

For more visit: bansup.esdo.org



ESDO launched an initiative to promote 'No Sachet September,' in which we want people to be informed of the sad reality about sachets so that they may refuse these items and help the environment become plastic-free.

Bangladesh Network for Banning Single-Use Plastic

'To establish a strong network for cooperating to secure effective legislation for prohibiting the use and production of single-use plastic goods across the country,' On November 14th, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), in collaboration with the Plastic Solution Fund (PSF) and Break Free from Plastic (BFFP), hosted the third virtual session of the Bangladesh Network for Banning Single-Use Plastic.

Sub Regional Campaign on “Ban Single-use Plastics”

ESDO organized a Sub-Regional Campaign on Banning Single-Use Plastic, during which an overview of available and practiced local solutions to single-use plastic pollution in the South Asian and Southeast Asian context, available eco-friendly alternatives to single-use plastic, local government initiatives, plastic waste trade in this region, and what are the best to approach people to shift narratives were presented. This campaign was launched on 29th September 2021 & follow up session held on November 24th on the web platform Zoom.



A detailed event poster for the 'Sub-regional Campaign on Ban Single Use Plastic'. It features a large graphic of a black marker drawing a 'Ban Single Use Plastic' sign. Below this, there are silhouettes of people holding a 'NO Single Use' banner. The event is scheduled for '2021 November 24, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM, Bangladesh Standard Time, (GMT +6)'. The poster lists several participants: Moderators Dr. Shahriar Hossain (Secretary General, ESDO) and Siddika Sultana (Executive Director, ESDO); Von Hernandez (Global Coordinator, BFFP); Mageswari Sangaralingam (Research officer CAP, Honorary Secretary, SAM); Ram Charitra Sah (Executive Director, CEPHED); Rahyang Nusantara (National Coordinator, Indonesia Diet Plastic Bag Movement); and Sherma E. Benosa (Knowledge Management Officer, GAIA Asia Pacific). Logos for Facebook Live, YouTube Live, ESDO, Plastic Solution Fund, #break free from plastic, and GAIA are also present.



The High-level Policy Dialogue on

The Global Agreement on Marine Litter & Plastic Pollution for the Upcoming Fifth Session of United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA 5.2

On 11th December (Saturday), 2021, ESDO, one of Bangladesh's most outspoken opponents of plastic pollution, hosted a virtual high-level policy dialogue to discuss the Global Agreement on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution for the upcoming Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly - UNEA 5.2. This policy conversation focused on the methods Bangladesh could adopt for UNEA 5.2, as well as some recommendations for how the Bangladeshi government may support the Plastic Treaty following the CSO approach.



LEAD Elimination

For nine years, 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.

Environmentally Sound Management ULAB

An Urgent Need in Bangladesh



It is critical to practice environmentally sound management (ESM) and regulate unauthorized ULAB recycling to avoid health risks and pollution.

In a Capacity Building Workshop organized by the Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO in collaboration with the UN Environment Program and the International Lead Association on the 24th February 2021 in Dhaka both physically and virtually, experts expressed their concern about improper recycling of used lead-acid batteries throughout the country. The evaluation showed the rate of lead exposure, as well as the health risks that the exposed community faces, as well as information on the economic consequences. According to a study of the economic effects of lead exposure, Bangladesh loses \$15.9 billion in GDP each year due to reduced lifetime earning potential among the exposed population. According to the ESDO assessment report, there are more than 6,000 informal and illegal ULAB recycling operations across the country, and these informal and unsound ULAB recycling operations are thought to be a significant contributor to population lead exposure and the primary contributor to lead pollution hotspots. ESDO also recommended a ten-step strategy plan for governments to avoid poor ULAB management.

Lead Paint Study in Bangladesh

Paint Sample Preparation for Lead Concentration Test

The goal of the lead paint study in Bangladesh was to gain a better understanding of the paint market in Bangladesh and the scope of the problem with high-lead-content paints. The purpose of the paint brand survey was to visit paint stores, hardware stores, and other locations in Dhaka. To analyze the present paint brand's condition, ESDO team conducted an exhaustive survey that included both online and field visits. ESDO crew has begun the paint sample preparation procedure after receiving instructions from IPEN. We ordered 63 paint samples in all, and we began preparing the paint samples on May 30. There will be 189 samples in all, including replications, that will be returned to IPEN and the US lab.



International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week - 2021 (ILPPW)

National Report Launching Event On Lead In Solvent-based Paints

Lead (Pb) is a toxic metal with a long half-life that can harm human and environmental health. The rate and magnitude of exposure are worrying. ESDO has been working for a long time to convey information to all stakeholders as well as the general public and has performed various studies and taken steps to prohibit the use of harmful metal. ESDO and the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) performed research on paint samples to assess our country's status in terms of the presence of the dangerous substance lead (Pb) in our paints. ESDO examined 63 cans of solvent-based paint sold for residential use in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Lead concentrations exceeding 90 parts per million were found in 20 of the 63 points (32 percent). Furthermore, six of the 20 paints (or 10% of the total) had exceptionally high lead contents of > 10,000 ppm.

The highest lead levels found were 190,000 parts per million in yellow industrial paint and 52,000 parts per million in yellow decorative paint marketed for residential use. Both of the paints were made in Bangladesh. On the other hand, lead concentrations below 90 ppm were found in 43 out of 63 paints, 68% of paints, indicating that Bangladesh has the technology to create paint without leaded components.

In addition to the study, ESDOs initiated a series of efforts in Bangladesh in 2008 to prohibit lead and raise environmental awareness. Environmental activists and experts urged the government to issue a regulation at a high-level policy dialogue hosted by the Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO, the Directorate General of Health Services – DGHS, and the International Pollutants Elimination Network – IPEN on November 4th, 2021. ESDO shared the findings of the study at that time, and it was also a step toward implementing legislation, which ESDO thinks will result in more substantial environmental health outcomes with popular support. The distinguished visitors, representatives from a variety of institutions, government officials, and all other participants gave speeches, presentations, discussions, and ideas, transforming the policy briefing into a knowledge-sharing platform. The discussion focused on the significance of establishing and enforcing regulations to reduce the amount of lead in paint, which is one of the most common causes of lead contamination.



International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week - 2021 (ILPPW)



Youth urge for Ban all leaded paints

Lead poisoning in children continues to be the most common cause of death in Bangladesh. With a view to that, Youth urged a regulation in total lead paints through a human chain organized by Environment and Social Development organization – ESDO on 23rd October, 2021 in front of Bangladesh National High Court followed by a rally that ended in front of Raju Vashkor at University of Dhaka



Round Table meeting on lead in paints

A roundtable on 'Lead poisoning and child health in Bangladesh: The way ahead' was jointly organized by Pure Earth Bangladesh, ESDO, UNICEF and Prothom Alo. The discussion was arranged as part of observing the International Lead-Poisoning Prevention Week. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO participated in the event and shared about ESDO work on lead in paints.



Formal Meeting with Pure Earth Bangladesh



Mercury Added Products



Mercury is a heavy metal that's commonly found in the natural world. Mercury poisoning happens as a result of too much exposure to mercury. The exposure can occur through skin lightening creams, bulbs, batteries, thermometers, dental amalgam, fish, etc. ESDO has always tried to put forth the negative effects of mercury added products by creating awareness among people as well as government officials.



Bangladesh Dental Society and ESDO signed MOU for the third time!

ESDO and BDS have announced that mercury dental amalgam would be phased out in Bangladesh by 2022! To meet the targets set for 2022, a thorough action plan was created. A joint consultation was conducted by ESDO on 21st January 2021. The conversation included the whole year's action plan as well as the implementation of several action-oriented initiatives. The Action Plan comprises a public awareness campaign, a study, policy lobbying, and a petition to the government, among other things. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, BDS Secretary-General Professor Dr. Humayan Kabir Bulbul, BDS Vice President Dr. Md. Joynal Abdin, ESDO Executive Director Siddika Sultana, and BDS Executive members Dr. Kazi Md. Israfil, Dr. Md. Assaduzzaman, Dr. Md. Shareeful Alam Khan, Dr. Md. Rowl Karim, Dr. Shammi Akter, Dr. The gathering also included ESDO Program Coordinator Sarah Jabeen Kristy, Program Officer Golam Rabbani, and Junior Program Associate Samina Khondaker.



A pledge by dentists to practice Mercury-free Dentistry



Around 90% of dentists in Bangladesh have ceased using mercury in their practices. They've switched to mercury-free dentistry. For a long time, ESDO has been working on a mercury-free dentistry project with BDS, and has begun to compile a database of the names of dentists who do not use mercury in their practice. Dentists who practice mercury-free dentistry will be recognized nationally and awarded a certificate for their efforts.

First South Asian Woman Appointed as the Vice President for Asia of the World Alliance for Mercury-free Dentistry

The World Alliance for Mercury-free Dentistry had chosen ESDO's Executive Director as its Vice President for Asia. She is the first woman from South Asia to hold the position of Global Leadership for the World Alliance since its inception in 2010. The World Alliance is a global network located in Washington, D.C., that is working to phase out the use of dental amalgam across the world



#makemercuryhistory

Mercury Free Dentistry Study Report Dentists are Stepping up to practice Mercury Free Dentistry

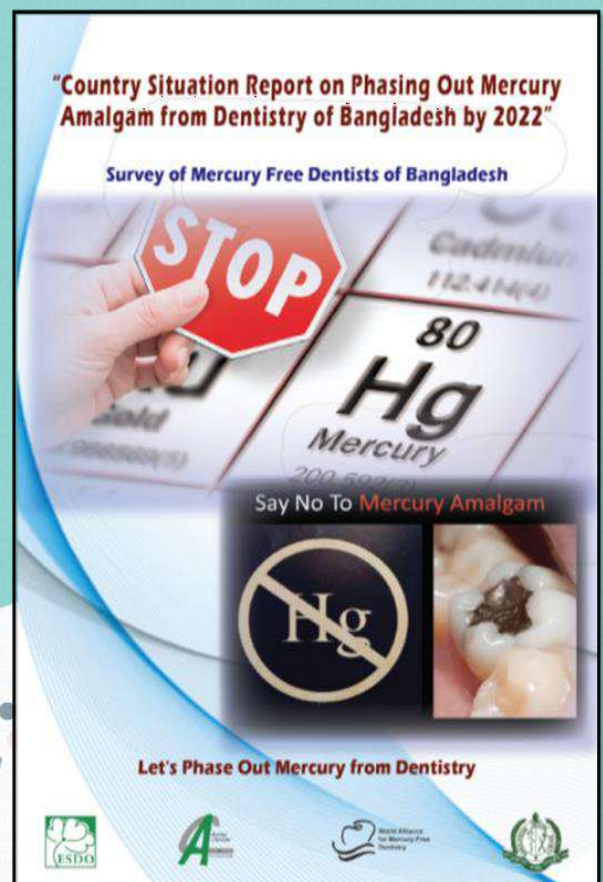


Worldwide mercury free dentistry has been practiced prevalently due to its harmful effects on human body. To keep up with the world, Environmental and Social Development Organization-ESDO is working since long time

towards mercury free dentistry through making the dental amalgam mercury free in association with Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS). In Bangladesh there are 11000 government registered dentists but ESDO has successfully reached to 90% registered dentists who had participated in the survey and confirmed that they are practicing mercury free dentistry.

Country situation report on Mercury Free Dentistry

ESDO prepared a report on current country situation of mercury free dentistry of Bangladesh. The report has been developed on the basis of survey data conducted through questionnaires in both physical visits of dental chambers (before covid situation) and virtual platforms (within covid situation) through google form, emails and social media circulations. This survey found that about 96.70% dentists have opted out from using mercury amalgam on their patients because of the health impacts of mercury



Petition Submission to the Ministries to phase out Mercury from Dentistry in Bangladesh



A formal petition has been developed jointly by ESDO and BDS that contains the importance of banning mercury from the dentistry. The purpose of submitting this petition to the relevant ministries to get their consent and suggestions.



The petition has been submitted successfully to the respective relevant authorities. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Department of Environment issued a consent letter to ESDO and BDS as a response to the request to phase out mercury free amalgam. This petition will be further submitted to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

2022 Year Action Plan Sharing on Mercury Free Dentistry with Bangladesh Dental Society



To share and discuss the 2022 year action plan on Mercury Free Dentistry, ESDO organized a Consultation with Bangladesh Dental Society - BDS on 30th December, 2021. Secretary General of BDS, Dr. Humayun Kabir Bulbul was present at the meeting with other recognized dentists. Different issues and activities that are planned to be executed in year 2022 was discussed thoroughly.

World Alliance Global Strategic Meeting



On 8th February, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry held a Global Strategic meeting with the regional leaders. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the project the regional leaders are working on. The first project was the submission to the Minamata Secretariat, the second one would be Amendment and the third one was a Survey of the dentists

around Asia, Africa, and Latin America. There was also a project added recently with WHO. There was a thorough discussion on how to improve projects which some of which are already in a continuous process and generate ideas through brainstorming.

Meeting with World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry

To get update on regional situation on mercury free dentistry and to discuss further on upcoming COP4, World Alliance Alternative Secretariat from Dhaka organized a meeting with regional hub. The session was Chaired by Attorney Charles Brown, President, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry and moderated by Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Vice President, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry.





COP-4 INDONESIA

ONLINE 1-5 NOVEMBER 2021
BALI 21-25 MARCH 2022

MAKE MERCURY HISTORY



**MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY**

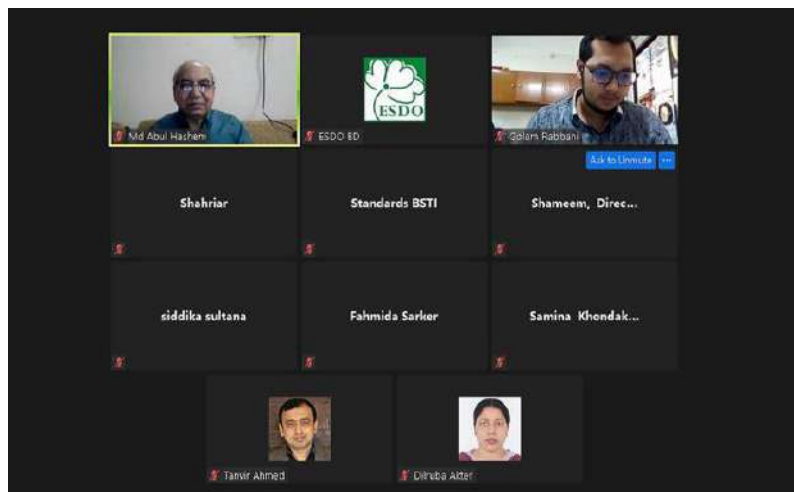
ESDO and Asian Centre for Environmental Health supports African Amendment towards an end date for manufacturing, and the use of dental amalgam

On 30th April, African region submitted their amendment regarding mercury free dentistry and mercury sale to be executed by 2029. They are willing to amend the Article 4, Part II of Annex A of the Minamata Convention which will be presented on COP4 of Minamata Convention. World Alliance for Mercury Free dentistry requested to Ban toxic from Philippines who have already sent a letter to their government requesting to support African Amendment in COP4 on 19th May. Consequently, ESDO and Asian Center for environmental Health has supported this amendment and will try to reach to respective governmental authorities to support it in COP4



Project Support Group meeting

A step forward Minamata Convention Ratification



On March 4th, ESDO hosted a Project Support Group (PSG) meeting to review the 'Draft roadmap/strategy for phasing out mercury-added goods in Bangladesh under the Minamata Convention on mercury.' The ESDO feels that this proposed roadmap/strategy will be extremely useful if the

Minamata Convention is ratified. The major goal of this meeting was to present the plan to the PSG and get their feedback on how to improve the draft roadmap/strategy. Participants in the PSG include representatives from key ministries and departments (Minamata focal person), academics from institutions such as BUET and the University of Dhaka, and members of the ESDO board of directors

ZMWG Skin Cream Campaign

Skin Cream Sampling for Mercury Concentration Test

The Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) is a multinational organization dedicated to reducing mercury pollution. This group arose from the Zero Mercury Campaign effort, which had as its ultimate goal "zero" mercury emissions, demand, and supply from all sources under our control, to decrease mercury in the environment to a bare minimum. The European Environmental Bureau - EEB, in partnership with the Mercury Policy Initiative, launched the project in November 2004. ESDO is trying to phase out mercury from skin lightening cream as part of the Zero Mercury Working Group's Skin Cream Campaign. We are acquiring creams for tasting and monitoring their availability in stores and online shopping channels as part of our program. The ESDO is now checking to see if the skin-lightening products are available for purchase on the online shopping site. The monitoring has been confined to internet platforms this year owing to pandemic circumstances



New Round of Market Survey on Mercury-Containing Creams

ESDO has performed a round of market research and sampling of skin whitening cosmetics containing mercury. This sample and survey were undertaken till July 2021 as part of an ESDO and EEB project on Mercury Added Product in Skin Lightening and Whitening Cream. We selected 15 possible mentioned creams and submitted them to a facility in another country for testing. This cream is being gathered in accordance with the BSTI forbidden list.



Stakeholder Consultation and Project Completion Workshop on ‘Mercury Added Products: Provision to Phase out under Minamata Convention’



A stakeholder consultation workshop was organized by Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO at Women’s Voluntary Association (WVA) Lalmatia, Dhaka where the current countrysituation of mercury-added products along with the viability of phasing out the products and the importance of ratifying Minamata

Convention was highlighted. Representatives from Ministry, department, national and international organizations, faculty members of different universities and print and electronic media were present at the consultation.

Meeting on the update of Skin Lightening Creams campaign

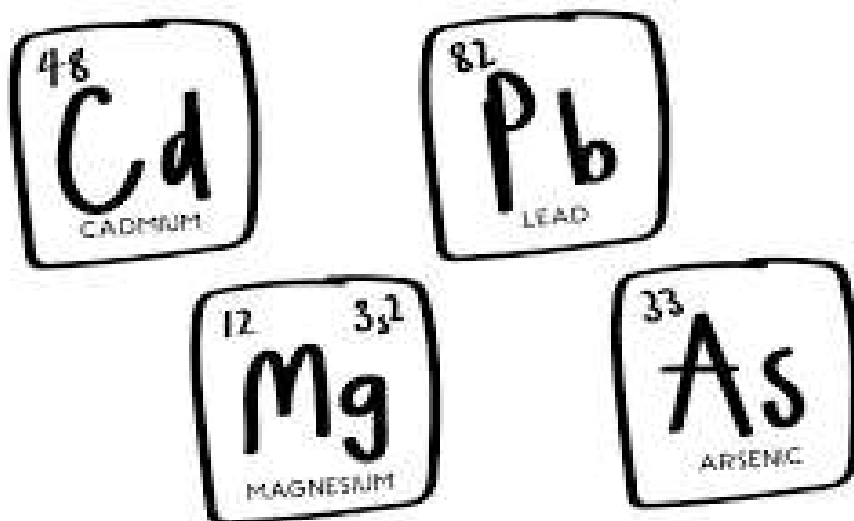


A zoom meeting call was arranged by European Environmental Bureau - EEB on the update on overall works on mercury added skin lightening cream campaign. Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO attended the meeting and shared update on ESDO's work on mercury added skin lightening creams

Chemicals and Heavy metals

Environment and Social development organization-ESDO is working to spread awareness about the need for conservation of our environment to protect biodiversity. Our main goal is to raise environmental movement through a democratic frame by engaging the community and providing continuous assistance with information, and ideas for the initiative to create a healthy, safe and sustainable environment. It is our motive to conduct extensive research, spread awareness, and also take the necessary initiative to ensure a better and healthier, and toxic-free environment.

Through comprehensive research and awareness programs, ESDO worked on eliminating heavy metals, and POPs to save our environment as well as humans from the toxic impacts of the harmful chemicals. ESDO has conducted several studies on the hazardous impact of heavy metals such as mercury and lead on human health and the environment. Besides the scientific research, ESDO working to spread awareness about the harmful chemicals nationwide and also continue policy advocacy for sticker regulations to prevent the use of the hazardous chemicals from the country.



PFAS Desk Assessment Study: Hidden Killer in Our Drinking Water



ESDO is a pioneering environmental organization in Bangladesh and a leader in the fight for environmental justice. Part of that process is raising awareness about PFAS. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of man-made

carcinogenic (cancer-causing) compounds that do not degrade in the environment or the human body and have been identified as a substantial pollutant in our drinking water sources. From 2019, ESDO is doing a detailed investigation on the country status of PFAS as part of the IPEN program and has developed a desk assessment report on which ESDO Executive Director Siddika Sultana gave an interview to Somoy TV.

Gender and Chemical: An increasing problem that needs attention!

Gender's position in chemical management is not a new phenomenon, either domestically or internationally, but it is still complicated. Gender (social/behavioral) factors are typically addressed in three ways in chemical risk assessment and management: first, concerning gender and exposure; second, about gender and exposure; and third, concerning gender balance and equal participation of women and men in chemical risk management decision-making.



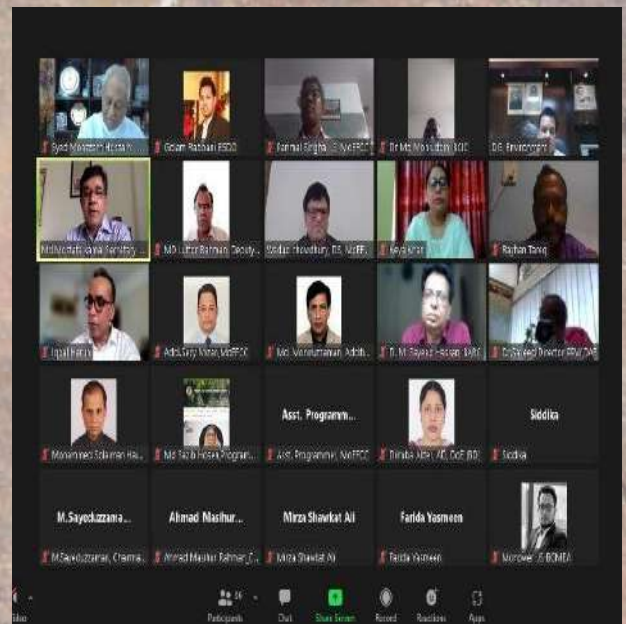
Report Launching Event on “BPA in Receipt: Toxin in Finger”

Bisphenol A, or BPA, is one of the most dangerous substances on the market today. It affects everyone from toddlers to adults, and it may be found in every aspect of human existence as well as the environment. ESDO undertook a research addressing this topic as a startup from February 2019 to January 2020. We've all heard about the dangers of BPA in toys, water bottles, and food containers, but new scientific research shows that regular use of cash receipts poses an alarming health risk because the receipt's existing BPA, which is known to have hormone-disrupting properties, is transferred to the skin, where it can migrate into the bloodstream. To disclose the study findings, ESDO organized a report launching event titled “BPA in Receipt: Toxin in Finger” on 5th August 2021.



Listed of 16 new chemicals endorsed by the Government of Bangladesh under the Stockholm Convention

The Department of the Environment launched an inter-departmental and stakeholder consultation to add 16 new Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) substances under the Stockholm Convention. The conference was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, the Department of Environment, and the Department of Industrial Ministry. Ms. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of the ESDO, gave a presentation on the issue and made useful comments throughout the meeting.



Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Cash Receipt & Eraser Sampling



Cash receipts and eraser may contain Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals - EDCs which may be dangerously harmful for human health. To find out the presence of EDCs on cash receipts and erasers in Bangladesh, ESDO collected and send 65 cash receipts and 47 erasers of different brand for sampling at Wonjin Institute of Occupational Environment and Health - WOIEH, South Korea

Throwaway Packaging, Forever Chemicals: European wide survey of PFAS in disposable food packaging and tableware



PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), also known as “forever chemicals” are extremely persistent in nature and contaminate drinking water, soil and air. This webinar explored PFAS in food packaging and alternatives for phasing it out. Ms. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO attended the webinar and shared Bangladesh's PFAS situation

IPEN Asia PO's meeting with Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health - WIOEH

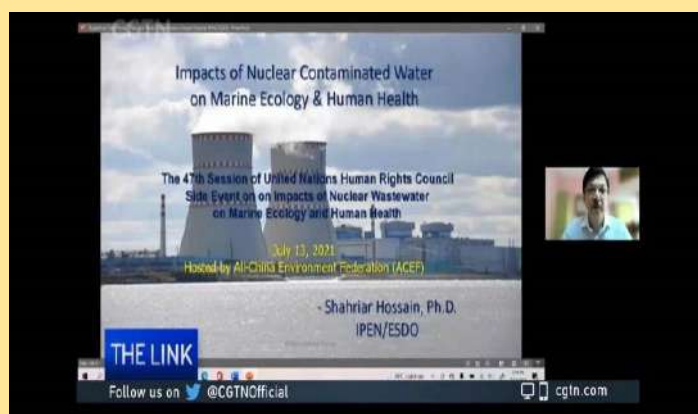


WIOEH organized or a meeting to discuss the implementation of their project particularly on collecting samples for BPA, BPF, BPS and other EDC content testing with IPEN Asia PO's.

WIOEH project team also presented the guidelines in their EDC project sampling and other important information about the project. The aim of the project is to provide laboratory support to IPEN PO's in Asia and contribute in addressing the environment and health issue. Ms. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO attended the meeting and shared ESDO's study report on BPA.

Seminar on Impacts of Nuclear Contaminated Water on Marine Ecology and Human Health

The 47th Session of United Nations Human Rights Council Parallel Event: Seminar on Impacts of Nuclear Contaminated Water on Marine Ecology and Human Health hosted by All-China Environment Federation held on July 13, 2021. The event has provided valuable scientific knowledge to all attendees and wide public about the negative impacts of nuclear contaminated water discharge on the marine ecology and human health, and has also drawn great attention from the public, news media and government departments both in China and global community. Secretary General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain attended the event as a Keynote speaker and presented a presentation on regarding topic



Tomorrow without Toxics: Chemicals in Products and the right to know



The four-day virtual conference “Tomorrow without Toxics” is to take place from November 22 to 26, 2021. This conference will bring together civic organizations, movements and stakeholders to discuss the political challenges and prospects in the international regulation of chemical management. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of ESDO attended the event as a panelist. She shared about Chemicals in Products and Bangladesh situation





APNN Country Report of Bangladesh

The Asia and Pacific Nation Network (APNN) is a regional affiliate of the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES). It was established in Busan, Korea in 2009 to serve as a platform for Asian women scientists and engineers to exchange information such as Asian women scientists' organizations and policies and the current technology situation in every member country. ESDO is a member of this network and has been preparing and submitting annual report since 2017. The annual report consists of ESDO introduction and how the Bangladesh is developing in women in science and engineering sector. The report also reflects ESDO's works on chemicals and heavy metals, gender and chemicals, climate change, etc.

Country Presenters



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

Zero Waste is a philosophy and a designed principle that goes beyond recycling to take a “whole system” approach to the flow of resources and waste through human society. It attempts to guide people to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where discarded materials become resources for others to use. Every day Bangladesh generates 25,000 tons of solid wastes in the urban areas. From which an enormous amount of wastes remains uncollected. It is expected that waste production will be increased by 47,000 tons per day by 2025. If Bangladesh failed to collect and dispose of all the trash, then the whole country will face a big disaster soon. Already it is harming human health by contaminating surface and groundwater, soil, and air. To solve this problem Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO launched a unique and innovative project titled “Building Zero Waste Communities for a Pollution-Free Environment in Bangladesh”. The ultimate target of this project is Building Zero Waste community model towards ending environmental health risks and community wellbeing as well as accelerates the circular economy in Bangladesh.



Webinar on 'Home Composting for Zero Waste Community to Go beyond Recovery!'



ESDO hosted a webinar on 'Home Composting for Zero Waste Communities to Go Beyond Recovery!' on the virtual platform Zoom to mark the Global Day of Action with GAIA, in which seven entrepreneurs eagerly participated. The webinar was held to urge individuals to live a waste-free lifestyle. This event aims to raise public knowledge about the benefits of composting for improving or maintaining high-quality soil, growing healthy plants, reducing fertilizer and pesticide usage, and protecting the environment. Many small-scale gardeners participated in the webinar and contributed their thoughts and photos on home composting. Ms. Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of the ESDO, and other members of the ESDO team attended the webinar and expressed their thanks for the opportunity to commemorate the worldwide day of action.

Zero waste Community Consultation A Walk Towards Sustainable Waste Management



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized community consultations on 'Sustainable Waste Management' on 26 January 2021 virtually at ESDO Head office and on 6 February 2021 physically at Lalmatia Housing Society School and College to share the concept of a waste-free lifestyle with the community people of Lalmatia. The goal of this session was to introduce the notion of waste-free living to the residents of Lalmatia and get their feedback on it. This initiative also promoted organic farming by encouraging people to compost at home and utilize kitchen trash to make organic fertilizer. Sayed Hasan Nur Islam Ruston, honorable councilor of 32 no. Ward, DNCC, Dhaka, has informed the audience about the principal guest in both shows. He praised ESDO's initiative and stated that the City Corporation will continue to collaborate with ESDO on this project.

Community Consultation in Rangpur City

The practice of waste management for a sustainable living

On the 13th and 14th of February, ESDO held community discussions and CBO formation to educate and encourage community members to practice waste management for a more sustainable lifestyle. There was one session at Shalbon, Rangpur, and another in Betgari Union, Rangpur. Upazila, Chairman of Betgari Union, Senior Journalists, Academicians, and Members of Civil Society were present at such gatherings to endorse ESDO's proposal. In addition, several small-scale talks with the targeted community were held in Rangpur in January.



Media Orientation in Dhaka and Rangpur City

Environmental Journalism: Reporting on Waste Issue

A day-long media orientation was organized by Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO in two big cities of Bangladesh; Dhaka on 18th March 2021 and Rangpur on 16th February 2021. The aim of the orientation was to guide journalists on how they can play a leading role in protecting the environment through their regular awareness and anti-corruption reporting. There were several sessions which were conducted by Dr. Shahriar Hossain and



Ms. Siddika Sultana and Mr. Shahiduzaman, Senior Journalist & Editor, News network. The sessions were focused on the discussion on the need for environmental journalism to protect human life and the environment, to identify the waste stream, cause, and consequences, to discuss how a report can lead to problem-solving and aware the society and to know the tools of environmental journalism



Capacity Building Training for City Waste Workers on Waste Segregation and Health-Safety

Occupational health safety is an essential requirement for waste worker's health safety. To enlighten them on waste segregation and health safety, ESDO organized capacity building training for city waste workers to enlighten them on waste segregation and health safety on June 19 2021 at Lalmatia Housing Society School and College, Lalmatia, Dhaka and on 21st June 2021 at Rangpur City. A total of 18 waste workers took part in the physical training session altogether.

Waste professionals were taught about several hazardous wastes during this training session. It was also demonstrated using a flipchart that not wearing safety equipment during garbage collecting can lead to infection from the waste. They advocated using four distinct colored bins to separate different forms of garbage (green, red, yellow, and blue). All of the participants in this capacity-building workshop agreed to the plan and expressed an interest in utilizing various containers to separate garbage. All participants were given pertinent posters and reading materials at the start of the session, and at the end, ESDO distributed health and safety equipment such as rubber gloves, gum boots, masks, and hand sanitizer to each garbage worker

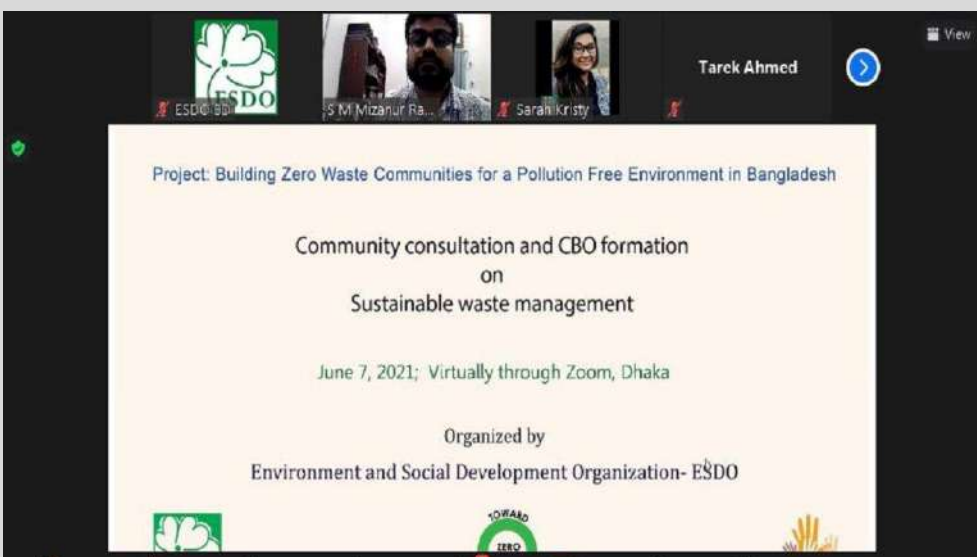
Capacity Building Training on Ensuring Occupational Health Safety for Waste workers



Environment and Social Development Organization

Zero waste Community Consultation and CBO formation

Sustainable Waste Management for a Better Future



On June 7, 2021, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) held a community consultation to build a Community Based Organization (CBO) in Lalmatia, Dhaka, as part of its initiative. Due to the lockdown, the meeting was held through the internet platform Zoom, with local

neighbors of the project area in attendance. The goal of this session was to discuss the ongoing actions of waste-free living with the inhabitants of Lalmatia and get their feedback on the topic. This program also focuses on CBO members contributing ideas for achievable actions to assist Zero Waste efforts at the implementation level with local citizens. A full presentation of the CBO's guidelines and operations was presented, and based on that, a constructive conversation with many viewpoints was held, as well as the formal formation of the CBO with five members.

Zero Waste Community

150 Earth Composter units completed in Betgari Village

ESDO has completed 150 earth composter units at the project location betgari village in Gangachora upazilla, Rangpur district, as part of the project 'Building zero waste communities for a pollution-free environment in Bangladesh.' Telmolpara, Pramanikpara, Shahpara, Muhuripara, Jummapara, and Ramnagar are distinct sites in Betgari village. The communities are the ones that initiated the practice.



Zero Waste Lifestyle

ESDO's initiatives for segregating waste from household level



ESDO took the initiative to segregate garbage at the home level as part of the project "Building zero waste communities for a pollution-free environment in Bangladesh." Three huge bins of three different colors were set up by ESDO (green for organic, blue for recyclable, and red for hazardous waste). Following the installation of these bins at the convener's residence in Shalbon, Rangpur, a brief consultation was held to encourage inhabitants of the building to separate their household garbage. The practice of garbage segregation began soon after the bins were placed and residents were consulted.

SME Consultation on “No Waste, Go For Zero Waste”

Dialogue with Local Enterprises

"No Waste, Go for Zero Waste"

July 29, 2021; Virtually through Zoom

Organized by
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO



On the 29th of July, 2021, ESDO hosted a discourse titled "No Waste, Go for Zero Waste" using the online platform Zoom to establish a formal network of local businesses to collaborate on a plastic-free zero waste strategy. The need for understanding their work expansions on trash recycling, organic fertilizer,

and organic farming was also underlined throughout this session. Representatives from local businesses from all around the country attended this event to share their perspectives and pledge to work together to help develop a plastic-free, zero-waste environment.

Distribution of PPE and Relief to Waste Front liners

This distribution and discussion session is part of a series of capacity-building assistance programs organized by the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) as part of its project "Building Zero Waste Communities for a Pollution-Free Environment in Bangladesh." With its primary essential participants – Waste Workers – the initiative focuses on building a Zero Waste community model to address environmental health concerns and community wellness, as well as accelerate the circular economy in Bangladesh.



Environmental Education Camp on Zero Waste



Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO organized sessions titled "Environmental Education Camp for Zero Waste Approach" with students of RCCI School and College of Rangpur City on September 20th, 2021, and also with students of Lalmatia Housing Society School and College of Dhaka City on September 30th, 2021, to ensure environmental sustainability practice and applying zero waste lifestyle among students



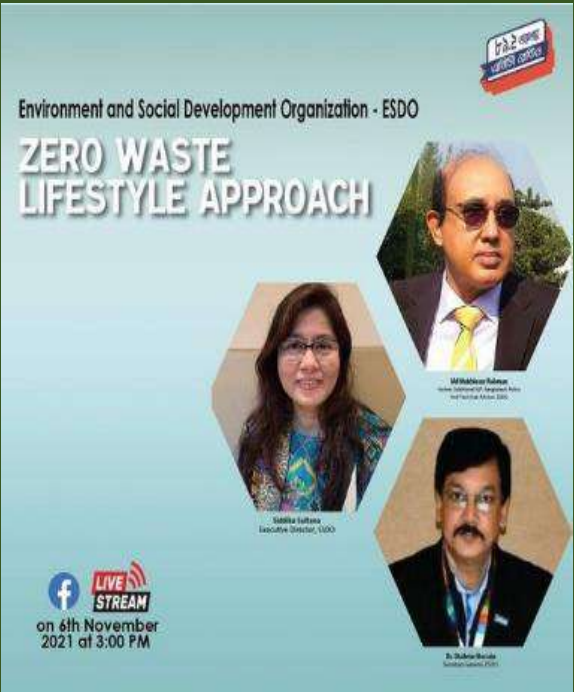
Zero Waste Community Building Bin and Van Distribution



Waste is quickly becoming one of the most widely recognized and discussed issues, with merchants, businesses, and people implementing a variety of strategies to reduce waste consumption. While some of these modifications have had a good influence on waste reduction and environmental protection, many other options are inflicting just as much, if not more, harm. In recognition of this, ESDO constructed sets of three color bins and vehicles in Dhaka and Rangpur. Organic trash is green, dry/recyclable garbage is blue, and hazardous waste is red.



Radio Talk Show on Zero Waste Lifestyle Approach



The concept of Zero Waste lifestyle is an effective eco-friendly lifestyle that aims to reduce the amount of waste an individual creates on a daily basis and it can be done easily. To promote this lifestyle ESDO recently participated in a radio talk show at ABC Radio



Zero Waste and Economy Recovery

Zero Waste Systems Could Create Thousands of Jobs for Dhaka Residents!

A new study from GAIA finds that cities that invest in zero waste programs and policies create numerous, good, green jobs, in addition to known benefits of reducing pollution and improving community health. This report comes as municipal governments across the world are making critical investment decisions to increase climate resilience and rebuild local economies damaged by the COVID-19 crisis. The study projects that if Dhaka were to recover 80% of recyclable and organic material in its waste stream, the city could create over 6,000 new jobs.



Actions on the Inclusion of Waste Workers in the Vaccination Program to Ensure Health Safety and Hygiene for Waste Collectors

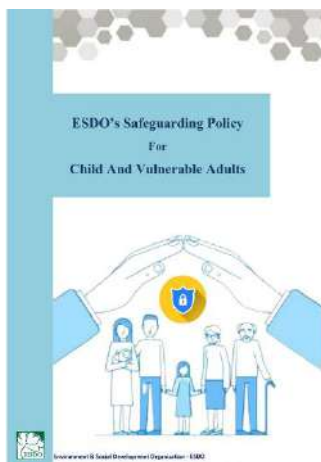
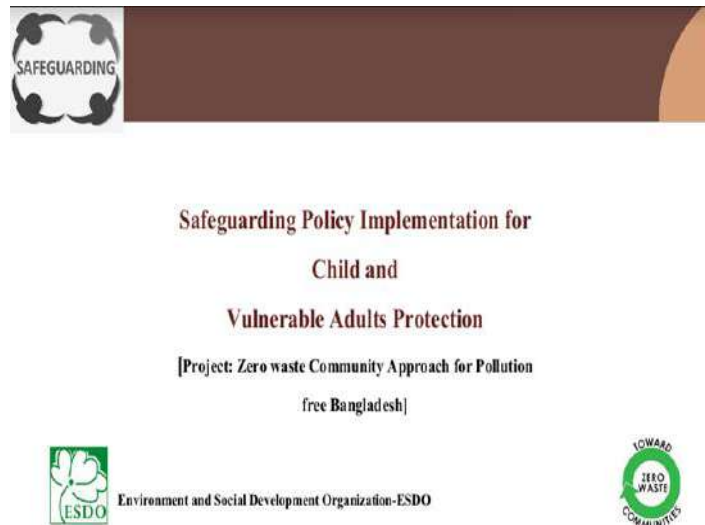
COVID-19 is one of the most dangerous challenges that the world has faced. Our waste workers face a greater risk to their own health and livelihood at this time of the pandemic. In solidarity with Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives - GAIA, Environment and Social Development



Organization - ESDO is joining the actions on the inclusion of waste workers in the vaccination program to ensure health safety and hygiene for waste collectors around us

Workshop on Safeguard Policy for Child and Adult

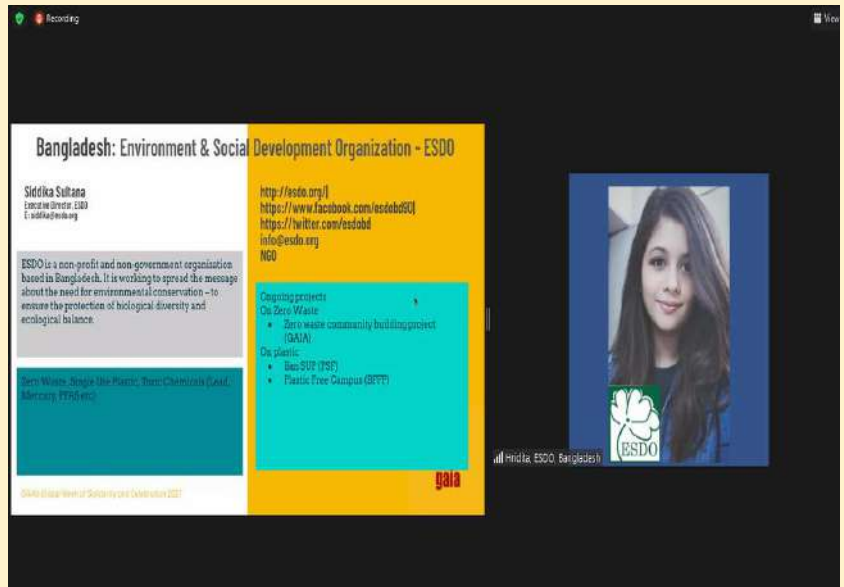
On August 22, 2021 Porticus arranged Safeguarding: Policy to Implementation Final Online Workshop with Porticus Bangladesh Partners Agenda. All the partners' shared-Safeguarding experiences during the COVID pandemic. Also, taking Stock of journey by each organization and Consolidation of experience to be prepared by each organization: Presentation on your journey of working on the development/strengthening policy. Sarah Jabeen of ESDO shared ESDO's experience through a presentation.



On august 29, 2021, ESDO team attended final workshop with partners to self-assess existing policies. Sharing self-audit 2 findings Emerging ideas/approaches to safeguarding taking safeguarding implementation forward Feedback on Safeguarding experience. The workshop was very informative and knowledge sharing

GAIA AP Zero Waste Tea Party

The Global Week of Solidarity and Celebration Zero Waste Tea Party was an important undertaking for GAIA AP members to interact with one another, share stories and successes, celebrate milestones, and get to know more about the other organizations in the region. This strengthened the network's bond and camaraderie. Perhaps it also served as a venue for a light moment with everyone, a rest from the limitations and challenges brought about by the pandemic situation. ESDO joined the tea Party and Hridita Ferdous, Assistant Program Officer shared ESDO's success stories.



GAIA-BFFP AP Comms. Officers Fellowship: Graduation Party!

19 week long GAIA-BFFP Comms. Officers Fellowship was concluded by a Graduation party. Samina Khondaker and Khalilur Rahman from ESDO participated this 5 month long fellowship and actively participated in all the activities and breakout sessions. ESDO also got a grant by submitting a proposal on illegal transboundary movement of plastic waste.



First GAIA BFFP AP Comms Fellowship

The GAIA-BFFP Asia Pacific Communications Officers Fellowship is a 4-month program that will bring together twenty (20) Organizations on GAIA and BFFP's Programmes (Zero Waste, Anti-Incineration, and Plastics) and beef-up their knowledge on traditional media, new media, and institutional communications. The Fellowship is an intensive program on Communications that will provide participants with the chance to evaluate their skills and their organization's communications strategy. The GAIA-BFFP AP Comms Officers Fellowship has started from 10th July and will run till November. Khalilur Rahman and Samina Khondaker from ESDO is participating the fellowship



opening program




1st GAIA-BFFP AP COMMS OFFICERS FELLOWSHIP

#break free from plastic

gaia
ASIA PACIFIC
COMMS OFFICERS
FELLOWSHIP

Global week of Solidarity and Celebration

Have You Ever Wonder How is Life in Trash??






Holud Mia

The Waste Warrior

premiering

Wednesday, 8th December, 2021

at 10:30 AM (GMT +6)
Bangladesh Standard Time



GAIA has initiated this Global Week of Solidarity and Celebration for International and Regional Coordinators where they will share a “State of the Network” report, highlighting key campaigns and initiatives as well as updates on our grants, finances, and staff on the GAIA and ZWE teams. The week of action held from 3rd December to 8th December. ESDO, as a core member of GAIA has joined this week of action and launched a short documentary on waste workers titled ‘Holud Mia: The Waste Warriors’. The premiere was attended by different national and international networks.



Climate Change Adaptation Activities

Since 1992 environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO focused on climate change adaptation and Resilience. ESDO initiates the youth climate leadership building through an environmental education camp. Targeting the variable locations in North to South and East to West of Bangladesh.



Green Club for Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Camp for Nature Conservation



Bangladesh is located at the tail end of the fragile delta formed by the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna Rivers and more exposed to tropical cyclones than any other country. It also experiences about two-fifths of the world's storm surges every year. According to the 2015 Climate Change Vulnerability Index, Bangladesh's economy is more at risk to climate change than any country. With a per capita gross domestic product or GDP, of about \$1,220, the economic losses in Bangladesh over the past 40 years were at an estimated \$12 billion, depressing GDP annually by 0.5 to 1 percent. Especially devastating storms that come along every few years have an outsized impact – such as the 2007 cyclone Sidr, which wrought an estimated \$1.7 billion in damages, or about 2.6 percent of the GDP on top of \$1.1 billion losses due to monsoon flooding in the previous 12 months .In May 2009, 3.9 million Bangladeshis directly suffered from the impact of Cyclone Aila, which caused an estimated \$270 million in asset damage.

We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly.

– Anne Marie Bonneau



**Environment & Social Development
Organization – ESDO**

**House # 8/1, Level # 5, Block # C,
Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh**

Website: <http://esdo.org/>

