



a toxics-free future

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International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: Campaign and media activities to eliminate Saida Waste Dump

NGO: AMWAJ of the Environment

Country: Lebanon

Date: 21 January, 2011

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Work toward establishing and implementing national action plans with respect to waste minimization and waste disposal, taking into consideration relevant international agreements and by using the cradle-to-cradle and cradle-to-grave approaches (69); Carry out measures that will inform, educate and protect waste handlers and small-scale recyclers from the hazards of handling and recycling chemical waste (72); Promote waste prevention and minimization by encouraging production of reusable/recyclable consumer goods and biodegradable products and developing the infrastructure required (73); Implement demonstration projects on waste minimization and efficient resource management including zero waste demonstration projects (262)

Description of current waste management practices in your country:

Waste management practices in Lebanon are distributed between several parties such as the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and The Ministry of Environment-Council of development and reconstruction. Some of these parties delegate private companies to collect waste to be assembled in public dumps, and some waste to be buried in open locations. The most open waste dumps are in the Lebanese shores, such as Saida dump, which leads to conflicts of authorities and lack of a proper policy to handle it.

Description of health and environmental effects of current waste handling practices:

The lack of a national plan to handle waste practices and lack of ability increase related problems, which lead to serious environmental and health problems, such as underground and natural water sources pollution, plants destruction, and shores pollution, all as the result of random waste accumulation and burning. Moreover, health problems are caused (such as respiratory ones, asthmatic provocation), as well as the consequences on nature, and the epidemic effects.

Description of existing legislation on waste management:

There isn't any existing national legislation on waste management. There are old laws on public cleanness and civic education. Moreover, there are many ministerial decisions preventing random waste burning and burying, defining safety conditions, and environmental health conditions in the case of burying waste.

Project Outcomes:

Description of the activity conducted to promote waste minimization:

A continuous pressing campaign. Meetings with the local municipality of Saida, Ministry of Environment officials and agents for tourism were conducted to put a plan and action together to minimize this dump until full replacement by a public garden is carried out. The plan details are found in the attachment in Arabic with a brief description in English.

Impact on target groups:

Target groups were encouraged to adopt the plan principles to eliminate Saida waste dump and to participate actively in the projected activities to be done, with a definition of each one's role. The impact was positive and there is an overwhelming interest to remove this dump of waste.

Impact on target policies:

Emphasizing connection and communication policy and dialogue with aimed sectors, for waste minimization by way of recycling and sorting of items that can be recycled. Encouraging media to promote such campaigns, by publishing investigations and offering solutions to raise awareness of the public opinion of the disastrous effects of such a dump, with a prospective plan to eliminate it.

Outreach to stakeholders:

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Interior and municipalities, council of development and reconstruction, Municipality of Saida, tourist agents, media, public opinion, local NGOs and national ones. The Saida Municipality was involved to deal with the matter as a priority, and to take proper preventive steps needed to reach the elimination of such a dump, by active and efficient steps, to be replaced by a public garden.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

Issued leaflets for public awareness, and road panels announcement on site, with the best practices to be used for the minimization of the dump.

Communication efforts:

To collect a wide number of photos of the location and to archive it, for report, investigation and delivery statements of medias, in using real materials in the campaign in a convenient way to give a proper image of the problem.

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NGO Recommendations for next steps:

- To adopt a national policy for the best waste management in Lebanon.
- To follow up on the local plan to remove Saida dump.
- To adopt sorting procedures for homes and recycling.
- To develop a partnership between the governmental and nongovernmental sectors in the national plan.
- To rehabilitate and ameliorate actual waste dumps.