



MINISTRY OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, LABOUR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA



დაავადებათა კონტროლისა და საზოგადოებრივი ჯანმრთელობის ეროვნული ცენტრი
GEORGIAN NATIONAL CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

GEORGIA Brief 2020

Environment and Health

Similar to many other countries in the world, burden of diseases caused by adverse environmental impacts is quite high (17%) in Georgia. In order to reduce and prevent burden of environmentally related diseases, National Environmental and Health Action Plan has been developed, based on requirements defined in the Association Agreement between Georgia and the EU. The Decree N680 of the Government of Georgia, dated 29 December 2018, approved the "**National Environmental Action Plan 2018-2022 NEHAP-2**". The Strategic Objectives of the National Environmental and Health Action Plan are the following:

<p>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE №1</p> <p>Improve access to safe water and sanitation, including for each child</p>	<p>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE №2</p> <p>Improve access to healthy and safe environment for Children and Youth to ensure their increased physical activity</p>	<p>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE №3</p> <p>Reduce the harmful effects of ambient and indoor air pollution on human health</p>	<p>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE №4</p> <p>PREVENTION OF MORBIDITY CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES</p>	<p>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE №5</p> <p>INTEGRATION OF HEALTH ISSUES IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION POLICIES</p>

Coordination of NEHAP-2 activities and supervision will carry out the coordinating council, which will be the advisory body of Georgian Government.

TWINNING PROJECT "INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM IN GEORGIA"

As an EU support to Georgia, aiming to help Georgia to harmonize its environmental health systems with the EU standards, Twinning project **GE22 Institutional Strengthening of Environmental Health System of Georgia** (2017-2019) was conducted. All objectives of the project have been successfully accomplished.



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between NCDC and Italian National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità).

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT ON HUMAN HEALTH

With support of National Statistics Office of Georgia - GEOSTAT, United Nations Children's Fund, WHO and the National Center of Disease Control and Public Health, MIC's survey was conducted on the whole territory of Georgia in order to prevent environmentally associated diseases. The survey round was expanded by adding water questionnaire, drinking water quality assessment and measurement of lead in children's (between 2-7 age groups) blood.

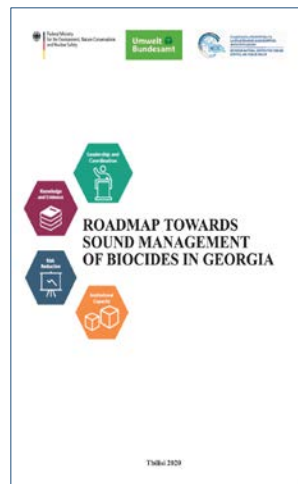


CHEMICAL SAFETY

NCDC successfully implemented the Project "Establishment of key elements of national systems for a sound chemicals management in selected countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (Belarus, Georgia, and Kazakhstan)" funded through the Advisory Assistance Programme of the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) and the World Health Organization European Center for Environment and Health in Bonn, Germany. During the reporting period, following planned activities were carried out within the framework of the project:

1. Software for online registration of chemicals//biocides has been developed and tested.
2. Draft Decree "**Technical regulation concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products**" has been prepared to ensure proper management of biocides.

3. National road map "**TOWARDS SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOCIDES IN GEORGIA**" has been drawn up. On 26th of November, 2020 was held second virtual meeting of the Global Chemicals and Health Network - "National case studies on implementing the WHO Chemicals Road Map", organized by World Health Organization Headquarters, where our experts presented "Roadmap of the implementation of systems for sound management of biocidal product in Georgia: Methodological Approach".



4. "Help Desk" has been established to support governmental authorities and private sector. Organizational legislation has been developed.

Particularly, noteworthy is the functioning of the Help Desk during the coronavirus outbreak, when

countries were closed, disinfectants were in short supply, and imports were suspended. With support

of Help Desk, small businesses were informed about the production of hands and surfaces disinfectants. NCDC has played an important role in Georgia's response against COVID-19. Entrepreneurs submitted required documentation in accordance with national law and registered more than 150 hand and surface disinfectants, which removed the deficit of the products on the consumer market. (On the picture: NCDC staff while using "Help Desk").



ESTABLISHING OF COORDINATED, CONSISTENT, EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES AND STRENGTHENING INTER-SECTORAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

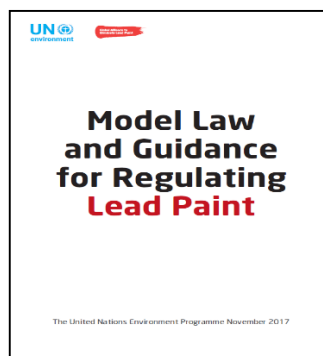
In close cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture AirPortal setting works were initiated from January 2019. AirPortal publishes information for public, regarding air quality monitoring results, health recommendations on each pollutant etc.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE CONDITIONS (WASH) in HEALTH CARE FACILITIES- HCF.

Georgia is a Signatory to the Protocol on Water and Health, co-leading the priority area on WASH in institutions under the 2017-2019 programme, including schools and HCF. Georgia is Co-leader with Hungary and Moldova in strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Health Care Facilities (HCF) in European Region. With coordination and support of the WHO ECEH, NCDC will review regulatory framework and mechanisms for ensuring on WASH in HCF, collate available evidence and facilitate the technical preparation for the national assessment of WASH conditions in HCF in 2020-2021.

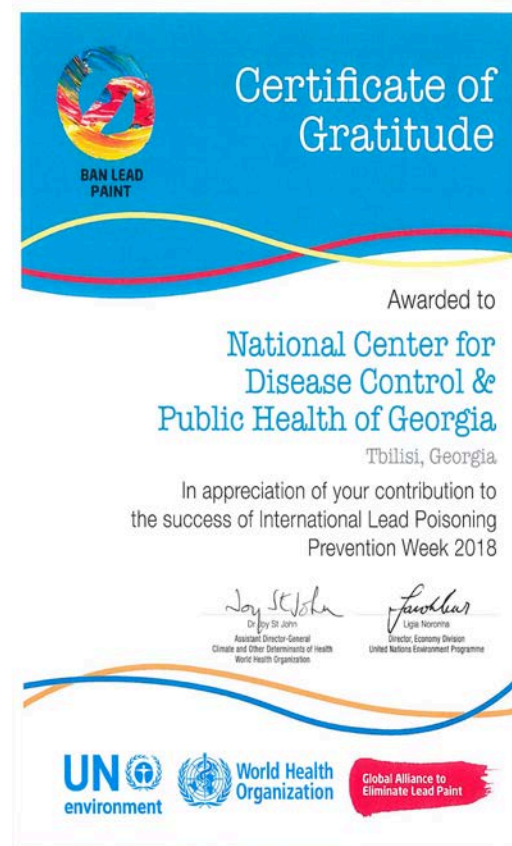
PROHIBIT USE OF LEAD IN PAINT

According of the NEHAP 4th Strategic Objective - "Prevention of morbidity caused by exposure to chemical substances" Georgia should prohibit use of leads in paints according to WHO/UNEP recommendations in order to ensure safety of the products. On April 19, 2019 Georgian Government adopted Decree #869 on "**Early detection and management measures for toxic effects of lead in children**", which in line with WHO/UNEP recommendations created base for elaboration of technical regulation setting limits on lead in paints. The draft technical regulation was developed and distributed among State Competent Authorities.



PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

During October 25-31, 2020 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week was carried out with following headline-"Say No to Lead Paints".



Challenges

1. Development of national portfolios for implementation of the Ostrava Declaration commitments
2. Implementation of the National Environment and Health Action Plan NEHAP-2.
3. Establish Surveillance, control and analysis of diseases, associated with the impact of environment, in accordance with internationally acknowledged indicators; provide information to the EISS;
4. Establish operations and surveillance system of poisoning;
5. Strengthen laboratory capacity for assessment of environment risk factors on human health.



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