

The Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) multi-focal initiative in the Mediterranean region, executed by UNEP/MAP and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) under the Barcelona Convention. Implemented from 2020 to 2026, the Programme is supported by a GEF grant of USD 42.3 million, complemented by USD 708 million in co-financing, and delivered through eight Child Projects to reduce pollution affecting people, ecosystems, and the Mediterranean Sea.

Amongst other issues, addresses pollution from persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury originating from land-based sources. Across Mediterranean coastal zones, legacy electrical equipment, industrial sites, and unmanaged waste areas continue to contain these hazardous substances, which persist in the environment, spread through air and water, and pose long-term risks to human health, marine life, and coastal ecosystems. In many countries, limited monitoring capacity and fragmented data further constrain the ability to assess pollution trends and identify priority areas for action.

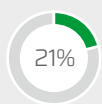


Child Project 1.1

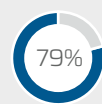
addresses pollution from persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury (Hg) originating from land-based sources and prevent new POPs and promote circular economy.



Duration
2020-2026



GEF Grant
USD 14.25 million



Co-financing
USD 53.15 million

Key Targets

Removal of dangerous waste

Safely collect and dispose of toxic POPs and mercury from the most polluted coastal hotspots.

Prevention of new pollution

Help countries replace harmful chemicals with safer alternatives.

Measuring real change

Monitoring shows where pollution is decreasing and where action is needed.

Results to Date

REMOVAL OF TOXIC CHEMICALS



Safely dispose of 2,000 tonnes of PCB-contaminated equipment in priority coastal hotspots by 2026

CURRENT STATUS

Identification completed, with large-scale disposal operations completed or underway across participating countries.

REDUCTION OF MERCURY RISKS



Ensure environmentally sound management of 50 tonnes of dangerous mercury waste

CURRENT STATUS

National mercury inventories and risk assessments completed. In Tunisia, 389 tonnes of mercury waste identified for safe management.

MONITORING AND PROGRESS TO IMPACT



Strengthen regional monitoring to track pollution trends beyond the coastline

CURRENT STATUS

20 offshore monitoring stations identified, with pilot monitoring underway to improve regional data availability and pollution trend analysis.



Activities and Countries Affected



- POPs & Mercury Regulatory Reform**
 National frameworks, inventories, policy recommendations, and prevention measures.
- Potential Offshore Monitoring Sites Identified (20+ sites)**
 Sites identified to support future regional monitoring expansion. Location: International waters
- Updated Regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and SDG-Aligned Progress-to-Impacts Framework**
 Regional analytical product integrating national TDAs, Quality Status Report 2023 and gender analysis.
- Data-Sharing Knowledge Management Platform**
 Regional governance and technical model aligned with MAP Data Policy
- Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Offshore Monitoring Pilot Stations (5 stations)**
 Location: International waters

Implementation and Partnerships

Child Project 1.1 is implemented with national and local governments in Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye.



CP 1.1 contributes to SDG targets 6.3, 12.4, and 14.1 by reducing hazardous chemical pollution, strengthening environmentally sound management of wastes, and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems.

