

## Chemicals and Waste Management Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion 1 Summary

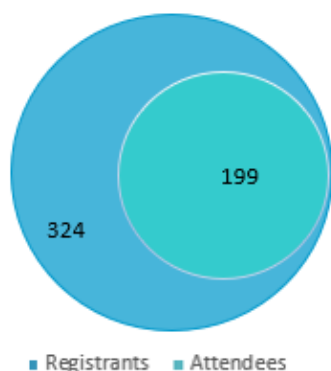
<b>Title</b>	Launch of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund – first round of applications
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	4 October 2024, 14:00 – 15:30 (UTC+2)
<b>Recording</b>	<a href="https://thegreenforum.org/event/launch-global-framework-chemicals-fund-first-round-applications">https://thegreenforum.org/event/launch-global-framework-chemicals-fund-first-round-applications</a>
<b>GFC CoP</b>	<a href="https://ggkp.org/ChemAndWasteCoP">ggkp.org/ChemAndWasteCoP</a>

On 4 October 2024, the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) Secretariat and the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) hosted a discussion on the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund. This fund, which launched its first call for applications on 1 October 2024, will provide financial support of US\$300,000 to US\$800,000 for up to three years to projects that prevent or minimize harm from chemicals and waste. Eligible applicants include governments from developing countries, Small Island Developing States, and countries with economies in transition, along with civil society networks.

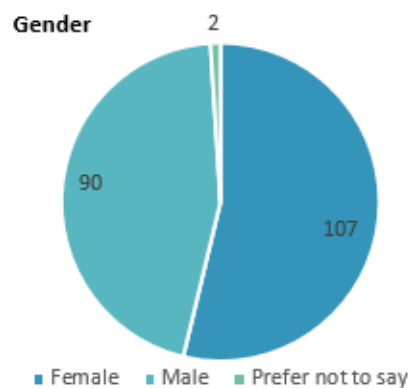
The discussion covered the Fund's objectives, application process, and ways to raise awareness. Participants also discussed impactful project ideas, communication strategies, and the training needs for an effective project development and management. Participants were also encouraged to share insights on designing sustainable, high-impact projects aligned with the Framework's strategic goals.

### Attendee Report

Participants

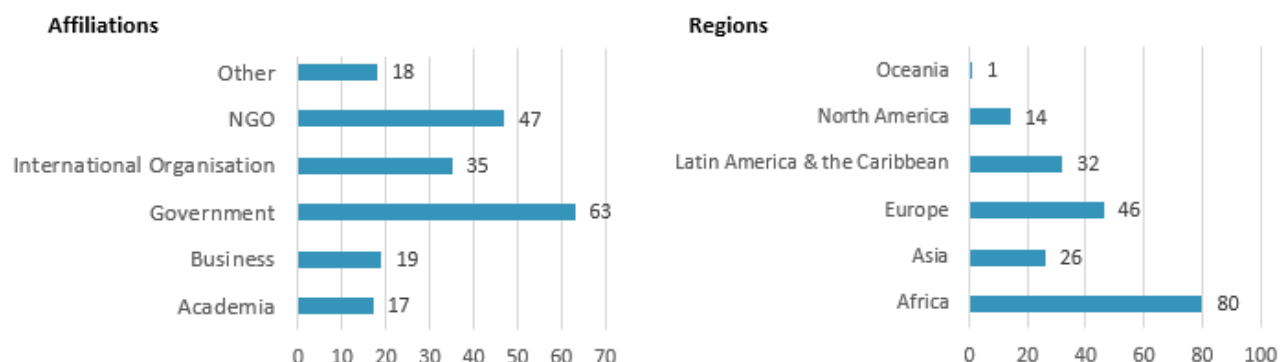


Gender



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## Presenter



**Rebecca Chudaska**, Associate Expert, Global Framework on Chemicals Secretariat

Rebecca works as an Associate Expert at UNEP's Global Framework on Chemicals Secretariat. She is involved in launching the first round of applications for the Fund and will support its further implementation.

Previously, Rebecca worked as a policy advisor for GIZ, providing policy advice to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, specifically on the National Sustainable Development Strategy, SDG governance mechanisms, SDG budgeting and regulatory impact assessments.

Rebecca holds a master's degree in environmental sciences from Wageningen University where she focused on international development and integrated water resources management as well as a first degree from Leuphana University, focusing on environmental chemistry.



**Santos Virgilio**, Technical Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Angola

Santos currently works as a senior technical advisor in the Ministry of Environment in Angola. His main programme of work focuses on pollution, chemicals and waste related issues.

In his current function, he is a member of the Global Framework on Chemical's Bureau as well as a co-chair of the Executive Board of the respective Fund. He spent most of his career in chemicals management and served as a national

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	<p>and regional focal point on several chemical conventions and agreements for the past years. Santos is an expert for implementing chemicals management in Sub-Sahara Africa.</p> <p>Santos holds a degree in Organic Chemistry.</p>
Facilitator	<p><b>Kay Williams</b>, Head of the Global Framework on Chemicals Secretariat</p> <p>Kay currently works with the United Nations Environment Programme as Head of the Global Framework on Chemicals secretariat, based in Geneva, Switzerland.</p> <p>The majority of her career was spent at the UK Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs where she was latterly the Head of International Chemicals, Pesticides and Hazardous Wastes hub. She was a lead negotiator for the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Basel Convention on Hazardous Wastes in addition to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management - SAICM.</p> <p>Externally, she has chaired the Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee of the Environmental Health and Safety programme at the OECD; co-chaired the UNEP Special Programme Executive Board in addition to playing an active role in the UN Beyond 2020 intersessional process to develop the new Global Framework on Chemicals.</p> <p>Kay has a PhD from Imperial College, London and began her career carrying out applied research at the Central Science Laboratory before moving to Government policy in 1999. She has held a wide variety of policy posts ranging from the Common Agricultural Policy through to sustainable procurement.</p>



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## Discussion Summary

### Question 1

**Impactful projects:** The Fund aims to support impactful projects with sustainable outcomes. What projects would provide the biggest impact for your country/region and to meet the strategic objectives of the Framework?

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The discussion on impactful projects centred around identifying initiatives that would provide the most significant benefits for countries and regions while aligning with the strategic objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals. Participants emphasized the importance of projects that address national chemicals management capacities, as these form the foundation for effective and sustainable chemical safety practices.

Many attendees highlighted the need for projects that focus on strengthening regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms. This includes developing or updating national legislation related to chemicals management, as well as building the capacity of regulatory bodies to implement and enforce these laws effectively. Participants noted that robust legal frameworks are essential for creating a level playing field for industries and ensuring compliance with international standards.

Another key area of discussion was the importance of projects that address specific chemical-related challenges, such as the management of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) and the reduction of mercury use in various sectors. Attendees emphasized the need for targeted interventions that can demonstrate tangible results in reducing the risks associated with these substances.

The concept of supply chain transformation emerged as a crucial theme, with participants recognizing the potential for projects that promote sustainable practices throughout the lifecycle of chemicals. This includes initiatives focused on green chemistry, safer alternatives, and circular economy approaches in the chemical industry. Attendees noted that such projects could have far-reaching impacts by influencing both production and consumption patterns.

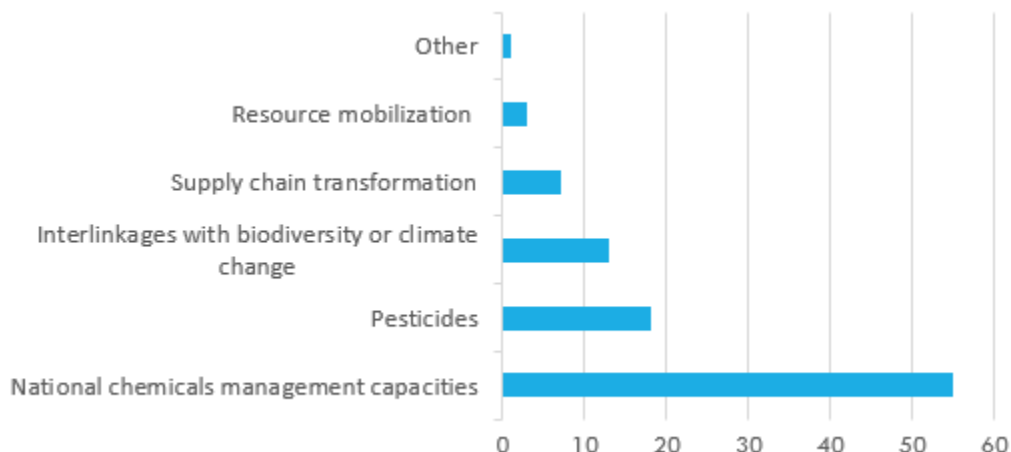
Capacity building and training programmes were identified as critical components of impactful projects. Participants stressed the need for initiatives that enhance the technical skills and knowledge of government officials, industry professionals, and civil society organizations involved in chemicals management. This includes training on risk assessment, chemical safety, and the implementation of international agreements and conventions.

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### Poll 1

From your country/regional perspective: In which strategic area(s) do you think projects could have the greatest impact?



### Question 2

Communication: The Fund is a new funding mechanism that aims to complement existing funds such as the Special Programme or the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It targets governments from developing countries, Small Island Developing States, and countries with economies in transition as well as civil society networks. What can be done to raise awareness for the Fund and to reach this target group?

The discussion on communication strategies focused on identifying effective ways to raise awareness about the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund and reach its target audience, which includes governments from developing countries, Small Island Developing States, countries with economies in transition, and civil society networks. Participants recognized the critical role of clear and targeted communication in ensuring the success of the Fund and maximizing its impact.

One of the primary topics of discussion was the selection of appropriate communication channels. Attendees emphasized the importance of using a mix of traditional and digital media to reach diverse stakeholders. Email emerged as the preferred method for official communication, given its reliability and widespread use among government officials and organizations. However, participants also noted the growing importance of social media platforms and messaging apps in certain regions and among younger professionals. Participants also highlighted that connectivity and bandwidth constraints still

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exist and pose a challenge to downloading large documents or quickly accessing documents which are only available online.

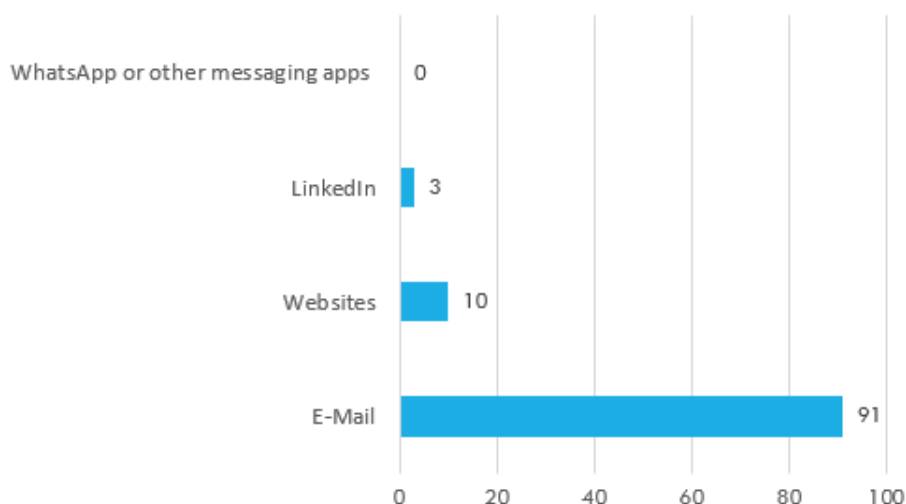
The need for multilingual communication material was highlighted as crucial for ensuring accessibility and inclusivity. Attendees stressed the importance of providing key information about the Fund in multiple languages, particularly in regions where English is not widely spoken. This includes not only application guidelines and forms but also promotional materials and case studies of successful projects.

Participants discussed the value of leveraging existing networks and partnerships to disseminate information about the Fund. This includes working with UN agencies, regional organizations, and international NGOs that have established relationships with potential applicants. The role of national focal points for various chemical-related conventions and agreements was emphasized as a key channel for reaching relevant government stakeholders.

The importance of tailoring communication strategies to different target groups was a recurring theme. Attendees noted that while government officials might prefer formal channels like official letters and emails, civil society organizations and grassroots groups might be more effectively reached through social media and community networks. The need for differentiated approaches that consider the specific contexts and preferences of various stakeholders was emphasized.

#### Poll 2-1

Which type of media do you most frequently use to receive work-related updates such as the launch of a Fund?

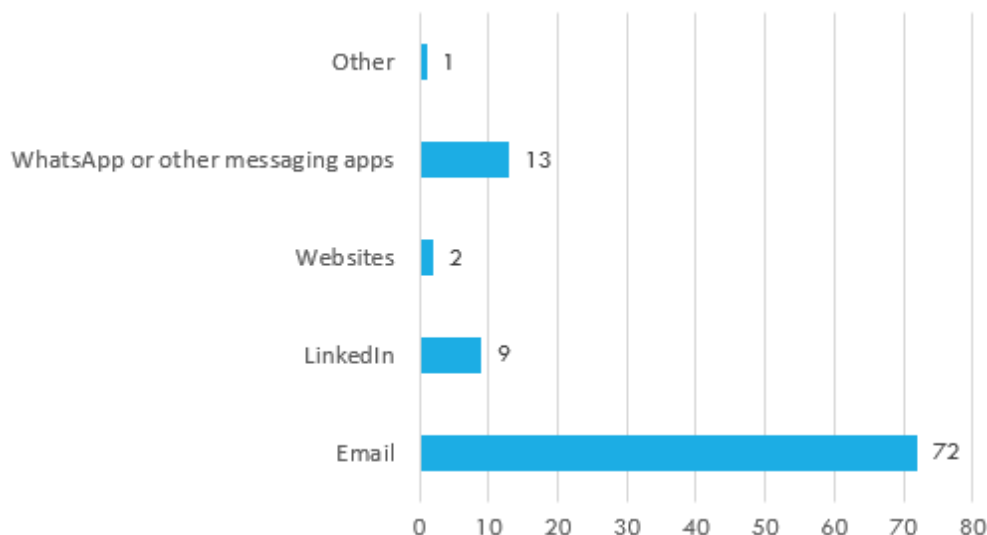


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### Poll 2-2

Which type of media do you most frequently use to share work-related updates such as the launch of a fund?



### Question 3

**Types of training:** Implementing a project comes with many tasks such as project development, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting as well as budget management. What type of training could be addressed towards applicants in designing and delivering a Fund project?

The discussion on types of training focused on identifying the most critical areas where capacity building is needed to support applicants in designing and delivering successful projects under the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund. Participants recognized that effective project implementation requires a diverse set of skills and knowledge, and that targeted training could significantly enhance the quality and impact of funded initiatives.

Project management emerged as the most prominently discussed training need. The emphasis was on the importance of equipping applicants with the skills to plan, execute, and monitor complex projects effectively. This includes training on developing logical frameworks, creating realistic timelines, managing resources, and adapting to changing circumstances. Participants noted that strong project management skills are crucial for ensuring that funded initiatives deliver their intended outcomes within the specified timeframe and budget.

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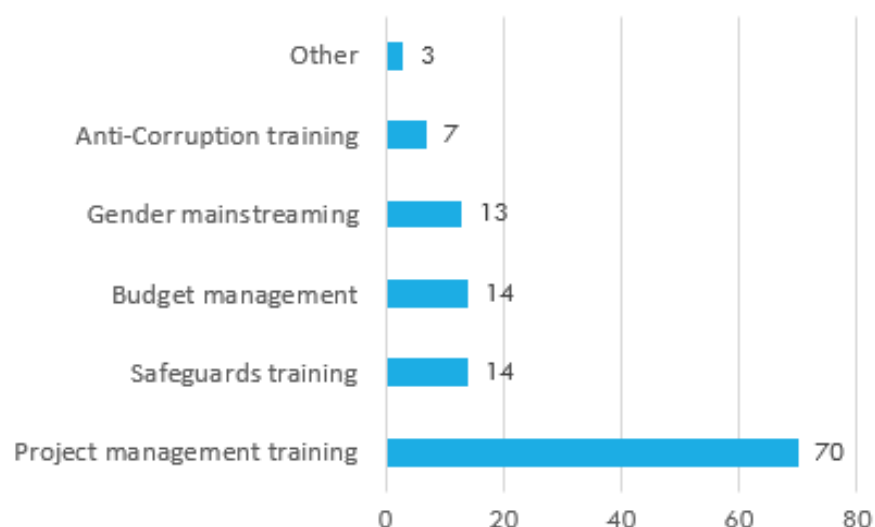
Financial management and budgeting were identified as critical areas for training. Attendees highlighted the need for applicants to understand the Fund's financial requirements, including budgeting procedures, financial reporting, and audit processes. Training in this area was seen as essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of Fund resources. Gender was also mentioned as a priority.

Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (MER) were discussed as key components of project implementation that often require specialized skills. Participants suggested that training in developing indicators, collecting, and analysing data, and preparing comprehensive reports would be valuable for applicants. The importance of demonstrating project impact through effective MER practices was emphasized.

Technical training on specific aspects of chemicals management was identified as crucial for many potential applicants. This includes topics such as risk assessment, safe handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals, green chemistry principles, and the implementation of international conventions and agreements. Attendees noted that such technical knowledge is essential for designing effective and scientifically sound projects.

### Poll 3

From a project manager's perspective: Which type of training should the Fund prioritize?



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## Useful Resources

- Guidance document on the scope of the Fund. [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Application guidelines ([English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#))
- Application documents: [Applying for funding | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

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