



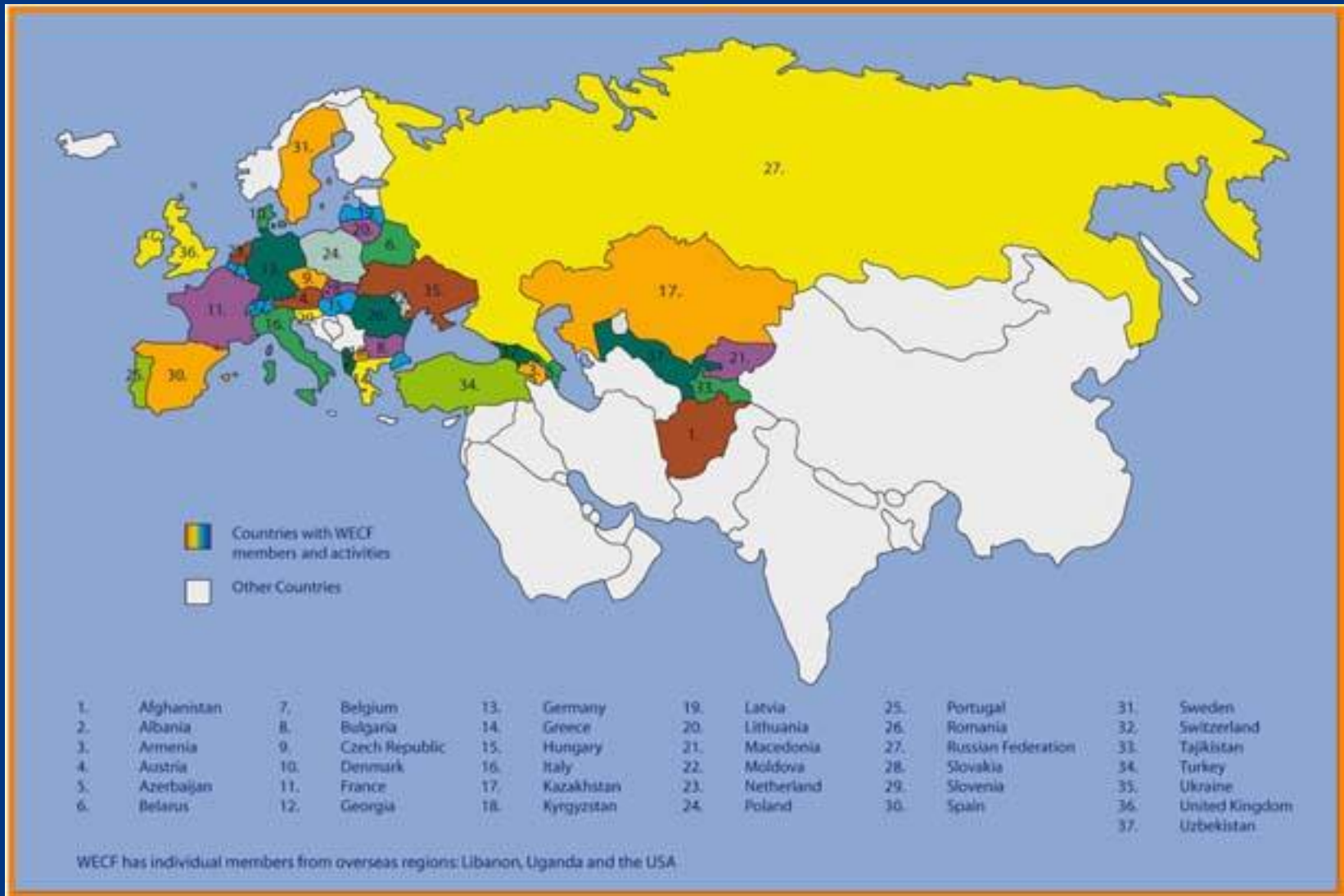
# Obsolete Pesticide Burials and opportunities for clean up with international and public support

Yerevan, October 2007



**WECF is a network of 80  
environment, health and women's organisations in 30  
countries**

# Countries with WECF members and activities



# Cooperation on POPs

- Since 1999 WECF invited EECCA partners to participate in the UN negotiations on the elimination of POPs
- Network of EECCA NGOs developed and joined IPEN, made obsolete pesticides a major concern
- NGOs IPEP project, 70 local projects in the EECCA region, new POPs dumps identified
- Role of AWHHE in awareness raising and identification of obsolete pesticide dumps

# Urgency of obsolete pesticide clean up

- Very persistent and toxic pesticides are a great risk to public health, ground water and agriculture of an entire region
- Each country has an interest in cleaning up their obsolete pesticide dumps
- Health, security, environment and economy

# EU has made it a priority

- The EU parliament, has made obsolete pesticide clean up a priority
- Exhibition about Obsolete pesticides dumps in Eastern Europe at the European Parliament
- Same exhibition to go to the World Bank GEF conference
- EU has made clean up a priority for support and funding for new neighbour states

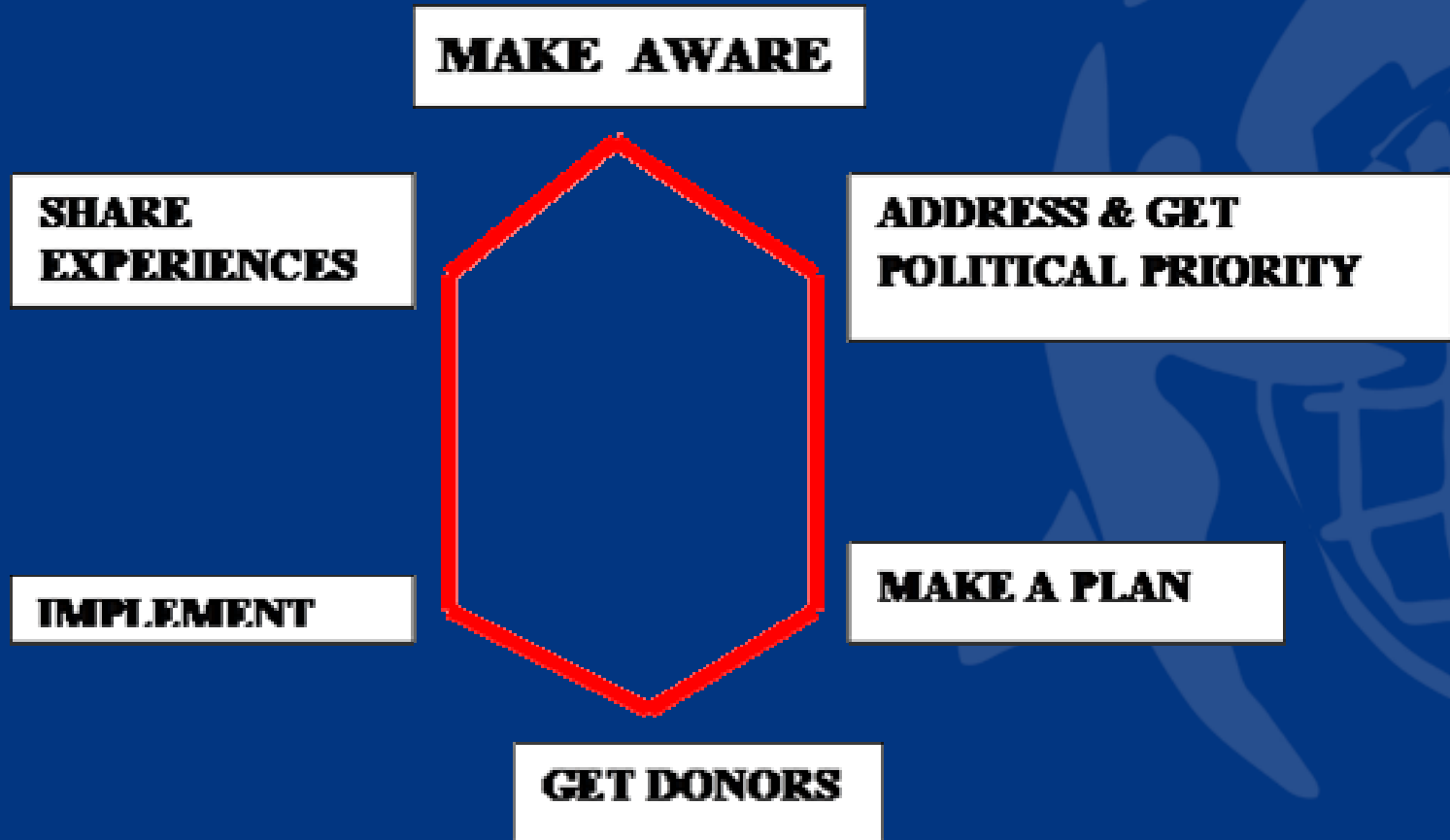
# Governments do not want to put public health at risk

- Most countries signed the Stockholm Convention on the elimination of POPs
- GEF funding (50%) available for clean up and destruction
- Other international agencies provide support, funding and technical assistance: OSCE, NATO, FAO, GTZ, EU and EU member states

# Need to avoid unrepairable damage

- Example: EU human court decision against Turkish government (2002)
- Turkish government was informed of risk of waste burial but no action taken
- Explosion caused death of 9 villagers
- Court decision: Turkish government should have taken action to clean up waste dump
- Turkey was found guilty, damage payments

# The cycle of obsolete pesticide clean up



# Example Moldova project

## **INTERIM PROPOSAL FOR A NATO PARTERSHIP FOR PEACE TRUST FUND PROJECT FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF PESTICIDES AND DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

**31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2004**

*I phase – Repacking and centralization of the stockpile of 1720  
tones of pesticides from 358 storage locations to 28-30  
centralized locations.*

*II phase – Identification of unknown Pesticides and  
Dangerous Chemicals.*

*III phase – Destruction of stockpile.*

*IV phase - Remediation of storage sites.*

# Implementation 1 year



**N A M S A**

NATO MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY AGENCY  
AGENCE OTAN D'ENTRETIEN ET D'APPROVISIONNEMENT

## **PLAN OF ACTION**

**22 August - 12 September 2006 – QUALITY PLAN**

**22 August – 23 October 2006 – MOBILISATION**

**23 October 2006 – 31 May 2007** – repackaging, transportation and centralization 1183 tones of pesticides and dangerous chemicals from 172 sites (warehouses) from 21 rayons of the Republic of Moldova.

# International Support



- **OSCE grant 538.265 euro**  
**NATO project 278,000 euro**  
**NGO project 150.000 euro**

# Equipment for individual protection

## Equipment

- ***For avoiding getting of chemical products into the body*** through skin, respiratory organs and mouth all personnel was supplied with equipment for individual protection approved by the ordinance of Ministry of Labor and Social Protection Service (Welfare) No. 40 from August 16<sup>th</sup> 2001 (Official Monitor no. 33 from 07.03.02. Article 70). They used gas masks with additional extra filters. In case of working with liquids the personnel used protection equipment isolated type.
- ***Using individual protection equipment*** was done according to the requirements of the Instruction concerning procedures of standard operation in the NBC defense area for the units deployed in Peace Keeping Missions.
- The teams was also supplied with devices of endowment (shovel, axe, about sledge hammer etc) which was allowed then to load, close, mark register, open, transfuse of liquid chemical products, decontamination devises (equipment and fluids for decontamination).

# Trained specialists and medical personnel

## Operational Teams

7 operational teams with 15 military in the each ones.  
Teams are formed by:

- ***Specialists*** capable for operating with dangerous chemical substances, giving first aid, etc.
- ***Drivers*** for special technical vehicles of dangerous materials, for special equipment for transfusion of these dangerous chemical substances.
- ***Medical instructors*** capable of giving first medical aid in case of chemical contamination (intoxication) as well as medical aid.

# Different types of obsolete pesticides, solid pesticides

## REPACKAGING PROCESS of solid pesticides

REPACKED 1259,144 tones of  
solid pesticides from 19 districts.



# ..and Liquid pesticides

## REPACKAGING PESTICIDES of liquid substances



***TOTAL: 1351,87 tones of pesticides from 19 districts***

# Moldova: Lessons learned

- Controlled process
- Risks can be managed by expert teams
- Partnership between government agencies and civil society have been productive

# Lessons 2

- But,
- if only temporary measures are taken
- If such dangerous pesticides are not cleaned up and destructed
- They will become major health, environmental and security risk in the future

# Armenian POPs burial

- Burial site is more difficult to clean up
- International expertise and support is absolutely required for Armenia
- Temporary measures have been taken
- Situation is deteriorating, landslide
- Nearby village populations are at risk
- River below the site could transport the persistent toxics to Caspian sea

# Burial threatens villages



The burial site threatens the neighboring settlements



the edge of the burial site

# Temporary measures do not ensure security



# Burial is sliding





**AWHHE**

American Women for  
Health and Healthy  
Environment

# THE PROBLEM REQUIRES FINAL SOLUTION



# Options for Action (1)

- Chance of a major landslide is increasing
- The burial might spill into the villages and the river
- This is a case for a calamity fund
- Make it a political national and international priority
- Consult FAO for fast support
- It will be the first obsolete pesticide burial clean-up
- Technical means for safe removal exist

# Option for Action (cont)

- Develop this case as a pilot example for other EECCA countries
- Example how such a burial is cleaned up
- Create partnership with donors
- Support of interested international organisation exists
- Next step, Armenian Government approaches partners

# First steps

- Visit to the burial site by participants
- Common declaration from this conference
- Call for urgent international support for Armenia to take action





Thank you!