Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova

# MERCURY RELEASES FROM OPEN BURNING IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

2018

LEVEL 2

This calculation of releases was performed in accordance with UNEP's "Toolkit for identification and quantification of mercury releases", Inventory Level 2 (version 1.03, April 2015).

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# 1 Summary

The inventory of sources of mercury releases in the Republic of Moldova conducted in 2014 reference year 2014 based on UNEP Toolkit Level 2 (version April 2015). The inventory has been elaborated by the Environmental Pollution Prevention Office within the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova (EPPO) in the frames of the project *UNEP/GEF Project "Enabling activity development of Minamata initial assessment in the Republic of Moldova"* revealed that the **main source categories present in country** are:

- i) Extraction and use of fuels/energy sources
- ii) Production of other minerals and materials with mercury impurities
- iii) Consumer products with intentional use of mercury
- iv) Other intentional products/process uses,
- v) Production of recycled metals,
- vi) Waste incineration and waste burning
- vi) Waste deposition/landfilling and waste water treatment,
- vii) Cremation and cemeteries.

An aggregated presentation of the results for the category open burning of waste is presented in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1-1 Summary of mercury releases from open burning of waste for the period 2012-2016, kg/year

| Source category: Waste incineration  | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Incineration of municipal/general waste                                      | 0,000  | 0,000  | 0,000  | 0,000  | 0,000  |
| Incineration of hazardous waste  | 0,164  | 0,168  | 0,181  | 0,145  | 0,175  |
| Incineration of medical waste  | 5,922  | 5,910  | 5,614  | 5,333  | 5,066  |
| Sewage sludge incineration   | 0,000  | 0,000  | 0,000  | 0,000  | 0,000  |
| Informal waste burning (open fire waste burning on landfills and informally) | 49,152 | 49,086 | 48,987 | 48,528 | 47,996 |
| Total  | 55,238 | 55,163 | 54,782 | 54,006 | 53,237 |

In 2016, the waste open burning sub-category contributing with the highest **mercury releases to the atmosphere** is the informal waste burning with 47,99 Kg Hg/y, that represents 90% of mercury releases from the source category 5.8 Waste incineration and burning, followed by open burning of medical waste.

Figure 1. Releases of mercury from open burning of waste, 2012-2016, kg/year 49,086 48,987 48,528 47,996 50,000 40,000 30,000 20,000 10,000 5,922 5,910 5,614 5,333 5,066 0,164 0,168 0,181 0,145 0,175 0.000 2012 2015 2013 2014 2016 ■ Incineration of hazardous waste ■ Incineration of medical waste ■ Informal waste burning (open fire waste burning on landfills and infomally)

# 2. Data and inventory on waste incineration and burning

## 2.1 Incineration of municipal/general waste

In the Republic of Moldova, there are no authorized facilities for incineration of municipal/general waste. For this reason, emissions of mercury from this sub-category were not estimated.

### 2.2 Open burning of hazardous waste

#### Subcategory description

Hazardous waste refers to residues and wastes which contain hazardous materials in significant quantities. Generally spoken, all materials including consumer goods, which require special precautions and restrictions during handling and use, belong to this group. These include solvents and other volatile hydrocarbons, paints and dyes, chemicals including pesticides and herbicides, pharmaceutical products, batteries, fuels, oils and other lubricants, as well as goods containing heavy metals. Also, all materials contaminated with these materials such as soaked rags or paper, treated wood, production residues, etc., are considered hazardous waste (UNEP, 2003).

Methodology applied to estimate releases from open burning of hazardous waste

The formula used for calculation of mercury emissions to different media is:

Estimated mercury = activity rate  $\times$  input factor  $\times$  output distribution factor elease to pathway Y = tor for pathway Y

Source: UNEP, 2015

#### Activity rate data

The activity rate data needed to estimate releases from open burning of hazardous waste in the Republic of Moldova is the amount of hazardous waste burnt annually.

For this sub-category the releases has been assesses for one waste flow – used vehicle oil, which is informally burned in auto service centers for heat production purposes and thus, can be considered as open burning. An estimate of the potential quantity of waste oil generated by transport in Moldova in the period 2012-2016 in presented in the table 2-1. The source of data is the official reply provided by the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova (letter no 28/07-3590 as of 14.03.2017).

It is assumed that 90 % of the generated waste oil is burnt by the service centers.

Table 2-1 Activity rate data used to estimate releases from incineration of hazardous waste – waste oil, tones

| Customs code | 2012     | 2013     | 2014     | 2015     | 2016     |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 271019810    | 5911.281 | 6255.602 | 6601.358 | 6101.920 | 6557.095 |
| 271019990    | 474.812  | 529.551  | 756.963  | 486.789  | 421.500  |
| 271019870    | 631.809  | 687.564  | 691.038  | 778.616  | 831.513  |
| 271019830    | 481.254  | 546.979  | 594.339  | 760.027  | 712.342  |
| 271019930    | 137.356  | 81.758   | 98.228   | 60.562   | 61.456   |
| 270900900    | 75.178   | 677.074  | 298.218  | 52.019   |          |
| 271019910    |          |          | 30.728   |          |          |

| 271019850                 | 25.328     |          | 20.073    | 29.816   |           |
|---------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 271011900                 | 50.350     | 459.210  | 554.618   |          |           |
| 271019310                 |            |          |           |          |           |
| 271019250                 |            |          |           | 8.715    |           |
| 271019650                 |            |          |           |          |           |
| 271019610                 | 503.461    | 23.120   |           |          |           |
| 271019290                 | 0.386      |          | 0.147     | 2.033    |           |
| 271019110                 |            |          |           |          |           |
| 271099000                 | 0.009      |          |           | 0.087    |           |
| 271019150                 | 0.105      |          |           |          |           |
| 271011250                 | 1041.474   |          | 939.640   |          |           |
| 271011210                 | 163.820    |          |           |          |           |
| 271019910                 | 44.725     | 44.733   |           | 18.940   | 19.295    |
| 270750900                 | 41.900     |          |           |          |           |
| 270799990                 |            | 0.106    |           | 1.568    | 1.697     |
| 270900100                 |            | 504.880  |           |          |           |
| 271012210                 |            |          |           | 152.796  | 154.956   |
| 271020900                 |            |          |           | 0.900    |           |
| 271012900                 |            |          |           | 0.509    | 6.080     |
| 271012110                 |            |          |           | 0.046    |           |
| 271012250                 |            |          |           |          | 1469.343  |
| 270730100                 |            |          |           |          | 0.510     |
| 271012150                 |            |          |           |          | 0.024     |
| Total placed on market    | 9583,248   | 9810,577 | 10585,35  | 8455,343 | 10235,811 |
| Total waste oil generated | 9104,0856  | 9320,048 | 10056,082 | 8032,575 | 9724,0204 |
| Total burnt               | 8193,67704 | 8388,043 | 9050,4742 | 7229,318 | 8751,6184 |

#### Mercury input factor

In order to estimate emissions of mercury from the sub-category Incineration of hazardous waste, information on the concentration of mercury in the processed hazardous waste is needed. Since the type of hazardous waste identified to be burned in the country is vehicle used oil, which represents a mix of synthetic and mineral lubricants, it was considered appropriate to use as input factor for this sub-category the concentration of mercury offered in the Toolkit as default input factor for heavy oils, namely 0.02 g Hg per ton of oil incinerated. For a more accurate estimate, actual results of mercury content analysis of the used oil would be required. However, at this point of the inventory, such data has not been identified within the company or sought independently by the project team.

#### Output distribution factors

For the calculation of mercury emissions based on IL2 approach the default output distribution factors that have been already provided in the IL2 Excel calculation spreadsheet were used.

## Summary of inputs and results

Table 2-2 Summary of inputs and results from sub-category 5.8.2 Incineration of hazardous waste in the Republic of Moldova in 2012-2014

| Incineration of hazardous waste               | Unit                     | Produc-<br>tion | Use | Disposal (open burning) |        |        |        |        |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|   |                          |                 |     | 2012                    | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   |
| Activity rate                                 | Used oil open burnt, t/y | -               | -   | 8193,6                  | 8388,0 | 9050,4 | 7229,3 | 8751,6 |
| Input factor for phase                        | g Hg/t waste oil burnt   | _               | -   | 0.02                    | 0.02   | 0.02   | 0.02   | 0.02   |
| Calculated input to phase                     | kg Hg/y                  | -               | -   | 0,1638                  | 0,1677 | 0,1810 | 0,1445 | 0,1750 |
| <b>Output distribution factors for phase:</b> | fraction                 |                 | -   |                         |        |        |        |        |
| - Air   | -                        | -               | -   | 1                       | 1      | 1      | 1      | 1      |
| - Water                                       | -                        | -               | -   | -                       | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| - Land  | -                        | -               | -   | -                       | -      | -      | -      | _      |
| - Products                                    | -                        | -               | -   | -                       | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| - General waste treatment                     | -                        | -               | -   | -                       | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| - Sector specific waste treatment             | -                        | -               | -   | _                       | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| Calculated outputs/releases to:               |                          |                 | -   | _                       | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| - Air   | kg Hg/y                  | -               | -   | 0,1638                  | 0,1677 | 0,1810 | 0,1445 | 0,1750 |
| - Water                                       | kg Hg/y                  | -               | -   | -                       | -      | _      | -      | -      |
| - Land  | kg Hg/y                  | -               | -   | -                       | -      | _      | -      | _      |
| - Products                                    | kg Hg/y                  | -               | -   | _                       | -      | -      | -      | _      |
| - General waste treatment                     | kg Hg/y                  | -               | -   | _                       | -      | -      | -      | _      |
| - Sector specific waste treatment             | kg Hg/y                  | -               | -   | -                       | -      | -      | -      | _      |

#### Data gaps and priorities for potential follow up

Due to the lack of authorized hazardous waste treatment facility/ incinerator and lack of statistic data on open burning of waste oil, the quantity of waste oil was estimated on the basis of expert judgement.

Because an analysis of the used oils for mercury content has not been carried out by the company or other specialized institutions, it is highly uncertain that the default input factor used in the IL2 calculation spreadsheet is appropriate for use in the calculation of mercury emissions from this subcategory. It is probable that concentration of mercury in used vehicle oil is different than the one in the initial oil used as lubricant in vehicles.

It should be noted that, according to the Waste Act no. 209 of July 29, 2016, which entered into force on January 23, 2017, all economic operators carrying out dangerous waste management activities are to be authorized to carry out their activity on the basis of the new requirements stipulated in the said law. Until now, no economic agent has obtained authorization for the collection and management of used oil.

At the same time, Article 12 of the Waste Act contains provisions related to the extended responsibility of the producers of products. The article provides that natural and legal persons designing, producing, processing, treating, selling and / or importing products are subject to extended producer responsibility in order to enforce reuse and prevention, recycling and other forms of waste recovery. In order to promote the principle of extended producer responsibility, the following products will be subject to these regulations:

- batteries and accumulators:
- electrical and electronic equipment;
- · vehicles;
- oils;
- · packaging.

#### 2.2 Incineration of medical waste

#### Subcategory description

Medical waste includes infectious and non-infectious wastes generated by a variety of facilities engaged in medical care, veterinary care, or research activities such as hospitals, clinics, doctors' and dentists' offices, nursing homes, veterinary clinics and hospitals, medical laboratories, and medical and veterinary schools and research units. The mercury content in the medical waste stream originates primarily from intentionally used mercury in discarded products and process waste. The mercury concentrations are directly dependent on the inputs of mercury to the waste (UNEP, 2015).

Medical waste is considered to be every waste generated from medical activities regardless if these activities take place in a hospital or are performed by a medical doctor, dentist or any other physician. The waste generated during these activities includes secretes, blood, pharmaceuticals and packaging materials and/or tools used for the medical treatment of people or animals. To reliably destroy viruses, bacteria, and pathogens this waste is often thermally treated by incineration (UNEP, 2003).

Methodology applied to estimate releases from incineration of medical waste

The formula used for calculation of mercury emissions to different media is:

Estimated mercury activity rate  $\times$  input factor  $\times$  output distribution factor for release to pathway Y = pathway Y

Source: UNEP, 2013

#### Activity rate data

The activity rate data needed to estimate releases from incineration of medical waste in the Republic of Moldova is the amount of medical waste incinerated/ burnt annually.

In the Republic of Moldova, there are no authorized medical waste incinerators.

However, it is common practice that medical waste is burnt at the medical institutions and hospitals in order to destroy infectious waste. The practice of medical waste burning is carried out mainly through three methods: 1) open burning, 2) closed burning in boilers for heating or metal barrels and 3) transportation for treatment through pyrolysis by a specialized authorized company.

The total amount of medical waste burnt in the public health institutions in the country has been summarized on the basis of data presented by the National Public Health Centre<sup>2</sup> and is presented in the Table 2-3 below.

Table 2-3 Estimated amounts of medical waste treated by thermal methods from public medical institutions in Republic of Moldova for the period 2012-2016

|                                      | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015   | 2016    |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Amount of medical waste burnt, tones | 740,3 | 738,7 | 701,7 | 666,62 | 633,289 |

#### Mercury input factor

Available information indicates that medical waste incineration systems can be significant sources of mercury emissions. Mercury emissions result from mercury-bearing materials contained in the waste. Known mercury sources include thermometers, blood pressure gauges, dental material with mercury amalgam, batteries, laboratory chemicals (in tissue samples etc.), fluorescent lamps, high-intensity discharge lamps (mercury vapour, metal halide, and high-pressure sodium); special paper and film coatings, and pigments; most of which should preferably be sorted out the waste stream before incineration, if possible (UNEP, 2015).

The type of medical waste burnt within medical institutions in the country constitutes largely infectious (pathological) waste, such as syringes and post-operational waste. Mercury-bearing materials mentioned above such as mercury thermometers, fluorescent lamps and high-intensity discharge lamps are usually collected and stored separately within the institutions. Dental material with mercury amalgam is not used in the country, therefore it is estimated as not being present in the produced medical waste.

The mercury content in the medical waste determines the mercury inputs to incineration of medical waste. However, as presented above, the medical waste burned by medical institutions in the Republic of Moldova is composed of infectious waste, which is free of mercury containing products. Information received from medical institutions in the country confirmed that the type of medical waste burned includes infectious waste.

Analysis of mercury in infectious waste burned in the country has not been carried out up to date, therefore in order to determine potential concentration of mercury in medical waste burned, results of studies of mercury emissions from incineration of medical waste carried out in other countries could be used. Results of an USA study that looked at mercury emissions from incineration of pathological waste and general medical waste can be considered relevant for establishing possible mercury concentration in medical waste burned in the Republic of Moldova. According to the data obtained in this study, an average atmospheric emission of 8.9 g Hg per metric ton of incinerated pathological and general medical waste was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Trisumg Ltd treats certain plastic medical waste through pyrolysis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Letter no. 06t-3-2524 of 30.10.2015 from the National Public Health Centre

produced in the USA in 1996 (US EPA, 1997b cited in UNEP, 2015). Also, it was established that pathological waste contain significantly less than mercury than general medical waste, which on average contain about 8.2 g mercury per metric ton (US EPA, 2004 cited in UNEP, 2015).

Based on above data, it can be deduced that infectious medical waste could contain up to 8 g of mercury per metric ton. Additionally, the UNEP Toolkit methodology indicates that the low end input factor (8 g Hg/metric ton waste) is expected to be relevant for a situation where substantial parts of the waste products with high mercury concentration (thermometers, batteries, dental amalgam wastes, fluorescent lamps etc.) have been sorted out of the waste for separate treatment, and will therefore be present in lower amounts in the waste (UNEP, 2015). Taking into consideration this information, in the case of the Republic of Moldova it was deemed appropriate to choose the low end default input factor of 8 g Hg/t of incinerated waste, which was used for the quantification of mercury releases from this sub-category.

The incineration technology and particularly the flue gas cleaning systems applied, determine the distribution of the output of mercury between air emissions and releases to water (UNEP, 2013). According to the data presented by the National Public Health Centres across the country, in the Republic of Moldova, medical waste is burnt either openly or in furnaces of the local medical institutions. Therefore, no emission reduction devices are applied; hence for the quantification of releases from this sub-category *Output Scenario 1) No emission reduction devices* has been chosen.

#### Output distribution factors

For the calculation of mercury emissions, the default output distribution factors already provided in the IL2 Excel calculation spreadsheet have been used.

### Mercury inputs and results

Table 2-4 Summary of inputs and results from sub-category Incineration of medical waste in the Republic of Moldova in 2012-2016

| Incineration of medical waste          | Unit Production      | Use | Disposal (open burning) |       |       |       |        |         |
|--|----------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
|  |                      |     |                         | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015   | 2016    |
| Activity rate                          | t medical waste/y    | -   | -                       | 740,3 | 738,7 | 701,7 | 666,62 | 633,289 |
| Input factor for phase                 | g Hg/t medical waste | -   | -                       | 8     | 8     | 8     | 8      | 8       |
| Calculated input to phase              | kg Hg/y              | -   | -                       | 5,922 | 5,910 | 5,614 | 5,333  | 5,066   |
| Output distribution factors for phase: | fraction             |     | -                       |       |       |       |        |         |
| - Air                                  | -                    | -   | -                       | 1     | 1     | 1     | 1      | 1       |
| - Water                                | -                    | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| - Land                                 | -                    | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| - Products                             | -                    | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| - General waste treatment              | -                    | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| - Sector specific waste treatment      | -                    | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| Calculated outputs/releases to:        |                      |     | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| - Air                                  | kg Hg/y              | -   | -                       | 5,922 | 5,910 | 5,614 | 5,333  | 5,066   |
| - Water                                | kg Hg/y              | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| - Land                                 | kg Hg/y              | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| - Products                             | kg Hg/y              | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| - General waste treatment              | kg Hg/y              | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |
| - Sector specific waste treatment      | kg Hg/y              | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -     | -      | -       |

#### Data gaps and priorities for potential follow up

The full data on amounts of waste formed in private hospitals, clinics, doctors' and dentists' offices that activate in the country is missing. Additionally, an in-depth assessment of mercury contents in medical waste is needed.

### 2.3 Incineration of sewage sludge

In Republic of Moldova, the practice of sewage sludge incineration is not present. For this reason, emissions of mercury from this sub-category are not estimated and presented.

## 2.4 Open fire waste burning (on landfills and informally)

#### Subcategory description

Informal waste incineration is defined as waste incineration undertaken at informal conditions, in barrels, containers, or on bare land, with no flue gas controls and diffuse spreading of incineration residues on land. Open burning of waste at landfills – often applied to reduce waste amounts - also belong to this subcategory. The mercury present in the waste, part of it will be released to air, and part of it will remain in incineration residues (including unburned and semi-degraded waste) with a potential for additional subsequent mercury releases to air, ground water and surface waters. Given the volatility of mercury, it is expected that most of the mercury is released into the air as a result of informal waste incineration. This waste disposal method may pose an immediate risk for the local community in which it takes place, because air emissions (of several potent pollutants) are not controlled and residues may cause contamination of the local ground water (UNEP, 2015).

#### Methodology applied to estimate releases from open fire waste burning

If open fire waste burning is a widespread waste disposal method in the country examined, the potential mercury releases can be indicated through 1) quantification of mercury inputs with individual products and, or 2) by applying the mercury input default factors (mercury concentrations in municipal waste), in combination with rough estimates of amounts of waste incinerated informally per year. The resulting estimates are of course very uncertain, but may give a rough indication of the order of magnitude of mercury releases from informal waste incineration (UNEP, 2015).

The approach chosen to estimate potential mercury releases from open-burning of general waste is to apply the mercury input default factors for IL2, in combination with rough estimates of amounts of waste incinerated informally per year.

The formula used for calculation of mercury emissions to different media is:

Estimated mercury activity rate × input factor × output distribution factor for release to pathway Y = pathway Y

Source: UNEP, 2015

Activity rate data

The activity rate data needed to estimate releases from open fire waste burning in the Republic of Moldova is the amount of waste burned informally per year.

The amount of waste burned informally per year has been estimated by using the equation suggested for calculation of the amount of municipal solid waste open-burned in the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Chapter 5section 5.3.2 (2006).

The equation used is the following:

$$MSW_B = P^*P_{frac}^*MSW_P^*B_{frac}^*365^*10^{-3}$$

Where:

MSW<sub>B</sub> = Total amount of municipal solid waste open-burned, t/yr

P = population (capita)

 $P_{frac}$  = fraction of population burning waste, (fraction)

MSW<sub>P</sub> = per capita waste generation, kg waste/capita/day

 $B_{frac}$  = fraction of the waste amount that is burned relative to the total amount of waste treated, (fraction)

365 = number of days by year

 $10^{-3}$  = conversion factor from kilogram to ton.

The data necessary for calculating the amount of waste open burnt is presented in the table below.

Table 2-5. The estimated quantity of municipal waste open burned

|  | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Urban per capita waste generation, kg waste/cap- |        |        |        |        |        |
| ita/day  | 0,9    | 0,9    | 0,9    | 0,9    | 0,9    |
| Rural per capita waste generation, kg waste/cap- |        |        |        |        |        |
| ita/day  | 0,5    | 0,5    | 0,5    | 0,5    | 0,5    |
| Population urban                                 | 1721,4 | 1728,2 | 1732,5 | 1726,1 | 1711,4 |
| Population rural                                 | 2204,6 | 2195,5 | 2185,8 | 2158,7 | 2132,2 |
| Population total                                 | 3926   | 3923,7 | 3918,4 | 3884,8 | 3843,6 |
| MSW incinerated urban, kt                        | 16,964 | 17,032 | 17,074 | 17,011 | 16,866 |
| MSW incinerated rural, kt                        | 32,187 | 32,054 | 31,913 | 31,517 | 31,13  |
| MSW incinerated total, kt                        | 49,152 | 49,086 | 48,987 | 48,528 | 47,996 |

According to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, open burning includes regularly burning and sporadically burning. Regularly burning means that this is the only practice used to eliminate waste. Sporadically burning means that this practice is used in addition to other practices and therefore open burning is not the only practice used to eliminate waste. For countries that have well-functioning waste collection systems in place, it is good practice to investigate whether any fossil carbon is open-burned. In a developed country,  $P_{\text{frac}}$  can be assumed to be the rural population for a rough estimate. In a region where urban population exceeds 80 per cent of total population, one can assume no open burning of waste occurs. In a developing country, mainly in urban areas,  $P_{\text{frac}}$  can be roughly estimated as being the sum of population whose waste is not collected by collection structures and population whose waste is collected and disposed in open dumps that are burned.

The incineration of waste practice is predominantly characteristic to rural areas, both in households and on landfills in order to reduce the volume of solid waste disposed, mainly by burning organic waste (paper, cardboard, plastics and vegetable waste).

It is worth mentioning that specialized waste collection and disposal services exist in the municipalities of the country as well as in the district centres, but this system covers only about 60-80 per cent of the total urban population generating solid municipal waste. Therefore, the share of the population that does not benefit from waste collection services is about 10-30 per cent, or on average about 20 per cent. In the absence of official data on per capita waste generation, it was used the value of 0.5 kg/capita/day for rural population, respectively 0.9 kg/capita/day for the urban population of the Republic of Moldova.

It was considered that circa 20 per cent of the urban population that does not benefit from waste disposal services uses to burn in open-air the organogenic solid waste, while the fraction for solid waste burned ( $B_{frac}$ ) from the total amount of treated waste in urban areas represents 0.15 (15 per cent of the total). In rural areas, it was considered that 40 per cent of the population uses to burn in openair the organogenic solid waste, and the  $B_{frac}$  represents 0.2 (20 per cent of the total).

#### Mercury input factor

UNEP recommends a input factor of 1 g Hg / tonne of waste where the significant amounts of waste with increased concentration of mercury (thermometers, batteries, dental amalgam wastes, switches etc.) selected from the waste that is generated to be treated separately and, therefore, are present in the municipal waste in smaller quantities, and a factor of 10 g Hg / t of waste where such a selection is not taking place and the much of the waste products with increased concentrations of mercury are present in municipal waste.

Possible mercury concentration in municipal solid waste disposed of in the Republic of Moldova can be inferred on the basis of available statistical data on imports of mercury containing products, such as fluorescent lamps, thermometers and batteries with mercury and appropriate input factors for each product category (see section on consumer products with intentional use of mercury). Estimated amount of mercury to be released in Moldova with mercury-added products in 2014 is shown in the Table 2-6 below. Using statistics on the total amount of waste transported to controlled landfills and the assumption that most mercury containing products are shipped along general waste to these landfills, the calculation is done based on the average concentration of mercury possible per tonne of waste from controlled landfills.

Table 26. Estimated amount of mercury to be released in Moldova with mercury-added products in 2014

| Consumer products with intentional use of mercury | Estimated quantity of mer-<br>cury at disposal stage in 2014,<br>kg/year |
|---|--|
| Thermometers with mercury                         | 195 kg   |
| Electrical switches and relays with mercury       | 81 kg  |
| Light sources with mercury                        | 33 kg  |
| Batteries containing mercury                      | 21 kg  |
| Polyurethane with mercury catalysts               | 65,5 kg  |
|   | Total: 395.5 kg/year   |

The table 2-6 below provides an estimate of the concentration of mercury in a tonne of general waste, considering that all imported products are discarded annually. Given the total incomings of mercury calculated for these products (395.5 kg Hg / year) compared to the total amount of municipal solid waste transported to controlled landfills in Moldova, including ATULBD (1.32568 million tons), it was estimated that 1 tonne of waste collected and transported to dumps containing less than 1 g of mercury (0.3 g / Hg). As the result given

calculations are based on estimates, the default factor concentration used for calculations in this report is 1 g Hg / tonne waste, as recommended by UNEP Toolkit.

Table 2-7 Estimation of the concentration of mercury in a tonne of municipal waste, considering that all imported products are removed annually

| The total amount of municipal solid waste transported to   | 1 325 680 tonnes                        |
|--|---|
| landfills controlled in Moldova, including AUTLBD, 2014    |   |
| Estimation of total amount of mercury removed with mer-    | 395.5 kg Hg                             |
| cury containing products for 2014                          |   |
| The average concentration of mercury calculated per ton of | 395 500 g Hg/ 1 325 680                 |
| waste  | tonnes waste = $0.3 \text{ g Hg/tonne}$ |
|  | of waste                                |

#### Output distribution factors

For the calculation of mercury emissions the default output distribution factors that are provided in the IL2 Excel calculation spreadsheet have been used.

#### Data gaps and priorities for potential follow up

No major data gaps were revealed within this category. The assumptions made with regard to the practice of informal waste burning for the population living on the left side of Dniestr River have been made based solely on the data available for the population from the right bank of Dniestr River.

## Summary of inputs and results

Table 2-8 Summary of inputs and results from sub-category Informal burning of waste in the Republic of Moldova in 2014

| Open burning of municipal waste        | Unit                   | Produc-<br>tion | Use | Disposal (open burning) |       |       | irning) |       |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
|  |                        |                 |     | 2012                    | 2013  | 2014  | 2015    | 2016  |
| Activity rate                          | t municipal waste/y    | _               | -   | 49152                   | 49086 | 48987 | 48528   | 47996 |
| Input factor for phase                 | g Hg/t municipal waste | -               | -   | 1                       | 1     | 1     | 1       | 1     |
| Calculated input to phase              | kg Hg/y                | _               | -   | 49,15                   | 49,09 | 48,98 | 48,52   | 47,99 |
| Output distribution factors for phase: | fraction               |                 | -   |                         |       |       |         |       |
| - Air                                  | -                      | -               | -   | 1                       | 1     | 1     | 1       | 1     |
| - Water                                | -                      | -               | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -       | _     |
| - Land                                 | -                      | -               | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -       | -     |
| - Products                             | -                      | -               | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -       | -     |
| - General waste treatment              | -                      | -               | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -       | -     |
| - Sector specific waste treatment      | -                      | -               | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -       | -     |
| Calculated outputs/releases to:        |                        |                 | -   | -                       | 1     | -     | -       | -     |
| - Air                                  | kg Hg/y                | -               | -   | 49,15                   | 49,09 | 48,98 | 48,52   | 47,99 |
| - Water                                | kg Hg/y                | _               | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -       | -     |
| - Land                                 | kg Hg/y                | -               | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -       | -     |
| - Products                             | kg Hg/y                | -               | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -       | -     |
| - General waste treatment              | kg Hg/y                | -               | -   | -                       | -     | -     | -       | -     |
| - Sector specific waste treatment      | kg Hg/y                | -               | -   |                         | -     | -     | -       | -     |

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