Chemical Safety – Key work areas

- Risk assessment – information on health impacts (burden of disease, specific chemicals), risk assessment tools and methods, strengthening country capacities
- Health in international instruments
- Poisoning prevention and management
- Preparedness and response to chemical emergencies
Risk Assessment Series

- Environmental Health Criteria (EHC)
- Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs)
- International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC)
- WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard
- Other ad hoc reports
WHO 10 chemicals of major public health concern

- Mercury
- Hazardous pesticides
- Air Pollution
- Arsenic
- Lead
- Asbestos
- Fluoride
- Dioxin
- Cadmium
- Benzene

10 Chemicals of major public health concern
Risk Assessment Methodology – some current priorities

- Life stages – childhood age groupings
- Combined exposures
- Immunotoxicity
- Assisting countries to do risk assessment
  - Risk Assessment Toolkit
Health in International instruments

- SAICM – strengthening health sector engagement
  - Global Alliance on Elimination of Lead in Paint

- Stockholm (POPs), Rotterdam (e.g. Asbestos)

- IHR
  - disinsection, chemical-related outbreaks, poisons centres

- Mercury Treaty negotiations
  - greening the health sector, health care waste, Children's health
WHO taking action on Mercury:

- Global Initiative to Substitute Mercury-Based Measuring Devices in Health Care -

TOWARD THE TIPPING POINT
WHO-HCWH Global Initiative to Substitute Mercury-Based Medical Devices in Health Care
A Two Year Progress Report
WHO taking action on Lead: WHO guidelines and Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints

- WHO guidelines on prevention and clinical management of lead exposure

- Alliance to phase out the use of lead in paint.
  - Collaborative effort from various parties, e.g. governments, IGOs, NGOs, academia, civil society and industry.
  - WHO and UNEP serve as Secretariat and contribute technically.
Poisons centres

- Public health roles
  - Human data on chemical exposures
  - IHR compliance
  - Poisons prevention
  - Chemical incident response
Poisons centres – capacity building

- Maintain network – global directory & mail serve
- Provision of
  - Information management tools
  - Training materials
  - Training workshops
  - Guidelines
Chemical Emergencies

- Direct support to countries
  - Investigative and response missions

- Supporting RO response
  - Technical support, access to networks

- Work within existing frameworks
  - IHR, Clusters (Health, WASH)

- Guidance materials
  - WHO Manual for the Public Health Management of Chemical Incidents
  - In pipeline - Manual for Investigating Disease Outbreaks of Chemical Origin
Emergency response – examples from 2010

- Nigeria – mass lead poisoning
- Haiti earthquake
- Volcanic ash
- Hungary – red mud flood
For further information visit: www.who.int/phe/