

Kenya: Monitoring POPs - Painting a Global Picture

Monitoring of air and human milk samples can help establish a global baseline to understand the exposure of humans and the environment to POPs, take measures for reduction and follow changes with time.

Sampling results that are obtained as part of the GMP help paint "A global POPs picture" as data is compared and shared among a network of laboratories worldwide, and allow for the establishment of a POPs baseline. This baseline is a good indication of the POPs exposure to citizens worldwide.

"POPs levels in mothers' milk are a good way to measure POPs exposure to the general population" says Dr. Kanja from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Nairobi, who leads Kenya's mothers' milk sampling programme. "Funding and capacity building as part of this project have been critical. We now have reliable data that can be compared with other countries and regions".

If future POPs monitoring will show that concentrations of POPs in air and mothers' milk are reducing, it means that Kenya is being successful in implementing its commitments under the Stockholm Convention.