



2023

# Annual Report



# Contents

<b>01</b>	● Acronyms	3
<b>02</b>	● Foreword	5
<b>03</b>	● About Us	5
<b>04</b>	● Our Coverage Area and Global Reach	6
<b>05</b>	● 2023 Highlights	7
<b>06</b>	● Our Achievements And Impact	10
<b>07</b>	● Global Space Events and Conferences	15
<b>08</b>	● Other News Highlights	17
<b>09</b>	● Communication	18
<b>10</b>	● Publications	19
<b>11</b>	● Virtual Toxic Tours	19
<b>12</b>	● Our Team	20
<b>13</b>	● Our Partners	21

# Acronyms

<b>ASGM</b>	Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
<b>ASMs</b>	Artisanal Small-scale Miners
<b>CEJAD</b>	Centre for Environment Justice and Development
<b>CPSP</b>	Centre for Pesticides Suicide and Prevention
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>EPR</b>	Extended Producer Responsibility
<b>GAIA</b>	Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
<b>HHPs</b>	Highly Hazardous Pesticides
<b>ICCM</b>	International Conference on Chemicals Management
<b>ILPPW</b>	International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week
<b>INC</b>	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
<b>IPEN</b>	International Pollutants Elimination Network
<b>KEBS</b>	Kenya Bureau of Standards
<b>KEFRI</b>	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
<b>MSPs</b>	Multi -stakeholder platforms
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environment Management Authority
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SAICM</b>	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
<b>SAPReF</b>	Southern African Pesticides Regulators Forum
<b>UNON</b>	United Nations Office of Nairobi

# Foreword



Dear Friends,

I am honoured to present our annual report for 2023, a year in which our team continued to make significant strides towards a just and sustainable environment, which is toxic free.

Throughout the year, in partnership with communities, donors and partners we have contributed to global policies through meaningful engagements, capacity building programs, research and availing of evidence to create awareness and to advocate for sound management of chemicals and waste.

At local and international level, we have witnessed progress and achievements on the impactful projects that we implement in different programs which includes: mercury elimination, elimination of highly hazardous pesticides, elimination of lead in paint, end plastic pollution and waste management as you will read in the pages that follow.

Whereas we have witnessed this growth, the challenge of toxic chemicals pollution remains enormous, thus a lot of work is still to be done to achieve sound chemicals management and protection of human health and the environment.

We are grateful to our Advisory Board, staff, the communities that put their trust in us, along with our donors and partners, who continue to support us to make this work possible and impactful. We hope that you find inspiration from the highlights that follow and join us as we envision to achieve a toxic free future.

Sincerely,

**Ochieng Griffins,**

Executive Director, CEJAD

# About Us

Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD) is a public interest Non- Governmental Organization registered in Kenya, committed to promoting sound management of Chemicals and Waste to protect the environment and human health.



## Mission

To promote sound management of chemicals and waste in order to protect the environment and human health, especially vulnerable populations.



## Vision

A just and Sustainable society free of toxic chemicals



## Our Strategy

Our strategy consists of four main pillars:

- Research on chemical pollution to avail evidence for policy reforms.
- Engaging grassroots to inspire uptake change towards the use of safer alternatives.
- Dialogue with policymakers and regulatory agencies.
- Contribute to global policies through direct participation and collaboration with international networks.

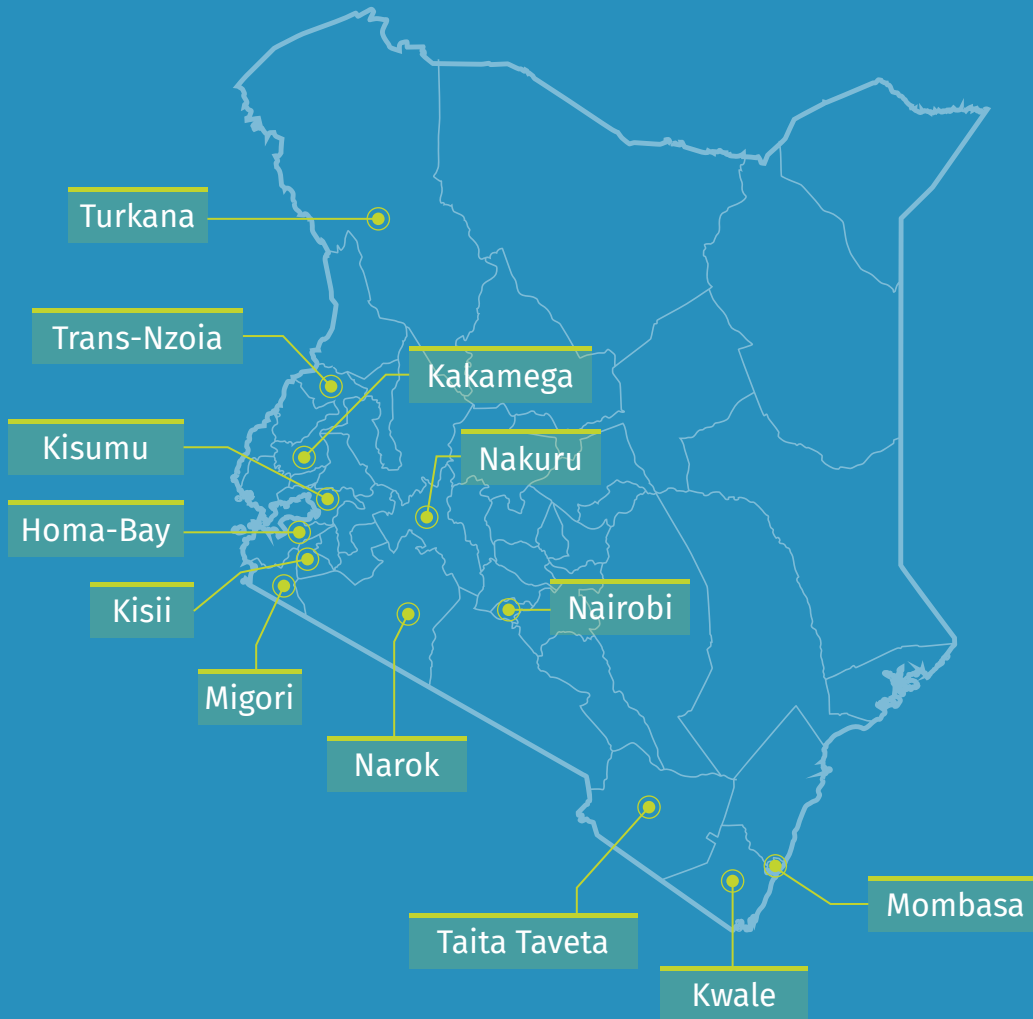


## Our Programs

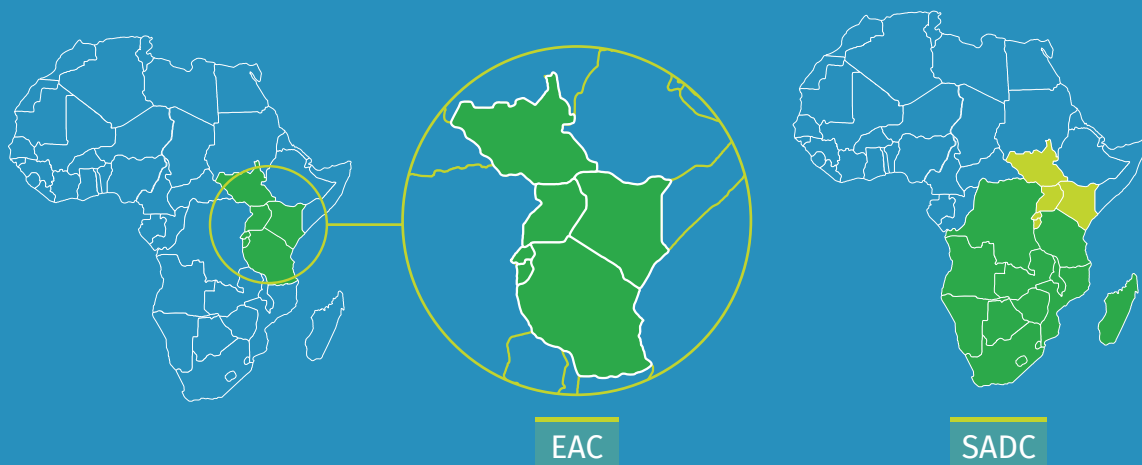
- Plastic and Waste Management
- Elimination of lead in Paint
- Elimination of Highly Hazardous Pesticides
- Elimination of Mercury

# Our Coverage Area and Global Reach

## Counties



## Regional



# 2023 Highlights

2023 saw momentous achievements in promoting sound chemicals and waste management at grassroots, national, regional and international through meaningful engagements with stakeholders as in the highlights that follow.

## Grassroot engagements and capacity building



Figure 1: Sensitization of waste pickers at Uasin Gishu County

In our grassroots engagements with waste pickers, we were able to reach waste pickers in Kiambu, Narok, Trans-Nzoia and Uasin Gishu counties with aim of sensitising them on importance of organising and formalisation. This has seen four additional counties organize and are in the process of registering with the registrar of societies. The four counties have since joined the Kenya National Waste Pickers Welfare Association in collectively working towards asserting their rights



Figure 2: Capacity building workshop for waste pickers

CEJAD convened a capacity building workshop for waste pickers leaders drawn from the 8 counties. During this workshop the waste pickers were trained on organic waste management, equipping them with knowledge and information on the linkages between methane and climate change. The workshop also involved building the capacity of the waste pickers in order to improve their leadership skills.



Figure 3: Miners capacity building workshop

Our engagement with miners involved capacity building on legal matters targeting land owners in mining areas on regulations, legislation, and policy frameworks governing the ASGM sector, conflict resolution mechanisms. Miners were sensitized on mine rehabilitation and integration of land rehabilitation in their contracts/ agreements held in 4 counties in partnership with NEMA and KEFRI. In Kakamega County Resilient team were also trained on Health and safety.

# Staff training and Capacity building



Figure 4: CEJAD staff after successful completion of Zero waste training

CEJAD team completed a capacity building and training at Zero Waste Academy Tanzania. The Academy gave the participants a platform to gain further knowledge and skills on the implementation of zero waste policies and to join the African Zero Waste Implementers Coalition.

# CSOs capacity building



Figure 5: CSO training convened by CEJAD

CEJAD convened a workshop that brought together CSOs from different regions in Kenya with the aim of promoting sound policy and legislation to safeguard Kenya against the adoption or perpetuation of false solutions to plastic pollution.

# Media training on ending plastic pollution

We organised two media engagements with local journalists on the entire overview of the Plastic Treaty, their role in

ensuring a robust treaty and helping them unpack false solutions and narratives [click here](#) INC3



Figure 6: Media training convened by CEJAD



# Promoted the use of X-ray fluorescence Technology (XRF) in the prevention of illegal trade in skin lightening creams

CEJAD collaborated with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Nairobi University's Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (INST) at the University of Nairobi organized a capacity building workshop for government agencies on the use of X-Ray Fluorescence Technology (XRF) in monitoring illegal mercury skin lightening creams.

The training benefited eight (8) government institutions including, KEBS, NEMA, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Ministry of Health (MOH), Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry and Government Chemist. A total of 20 people drawn from government line ministries, regulatory agencies and government laboratories were trained. These included policymakers, laboratory scientists and enforcement officers



Figure 7: Demonstration on the use of the XRF



Figure 8: Griffins making a presentation during the XRF demonstration

# Study Tour in Kenya for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining



Figure 9: Participants during the study tour in Narok County



CEJAD in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) successfully organized the East Africa Study Tour in Kenya for the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector that enabled 6 countries

(Congo (Brazzaville), Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Eswatini and Zimbabwe) to exchange experiences and share lessons learned on implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the ASGM sector.

# Our Achievements And Impact

CEJAD in collaboration with partners and the communities with whom we organize, continues its unwavering journey towards a toxic free future that protects the natural environment and well-being of the vulnerable population.



Figure 10: Brian Gisore waste picker from Kenya making a submission during INC-3.

Since we started supporting waste pickers organising in Kenya, the Waste pickers have gained remarkable recognition both nationally and globally. Through our support, waste pickers participated in policy and decision-making spaces including; a review of the EPR regulations in Kenya, in the plastics treaty negotiation process and advocacy for a just transition. They advocated for a just transition as a mandatory core obligation of both national laws and the plastic treaty.

## Establishing National and County multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms on ASM sector



Figure 11: ASM MSP meetings

CEJAD in collaboration with the State Department for Mining (SDM) convened a National and county multi-stakeholder forum for key stakeholders in the ASGM sector to dialogue and facilitate a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing issues affecting sustainability in the sector. The MSPs were held in Nairobi, Kakamega, Migori, Narok and Turkana Counties.

# Eliminating mercury in skin lightening creams

CEJAD in collaboration with the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) organized a two-day national conference for stakeholders in the cosmetics sector to dialogue and outline strategies for preventing the illegal trade in mercury skin lightening creams. The workshop brought

together a diverse group of stakeholders from different sectors including, government agencies, the cosmetics industry, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and academia



Figure 12: XRF training

# Monitoring of toxic chemicals in recycled plastics, clothing and food chain in Kenya



CEJAD in collaboration with IPEN and Arnika conducted a study to identify toxic chemicals recycled into consumer products such as children's toys, their availability in the food chain and in clothing. The report from the study revealed the toxic chemicals that are present in clothes, free range chicken eggs and clothing.

Figure 13: Fredrick during the sampling of clothes for the study

# Co-convenorship of the ‘End Plastic Pollution Technical Working Group’ in Kenya

CEJAD supported the establishment and co-convened the End Plastic Pollution Technical Working Group in Kenya. The working group brings together Ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), Civil Society Organisations and the

private sector to set priorities for Kenya in addressing the challenges of plastic pollution and negotiations of the ongoing Global Plastic Treaty.



Figure 14: End pollution working group team

## Main stream media engagements

Our engagement with the media enabled us to have sessions on the mainstream media where we shared the challenges faced from plastic pollution with the public.

Our report on contaminated eggs in Kenya was featured in the health segment of Daily Nation and highlighted our call for transparency in chemicals used in plastic,

and the need to have collaboration across the plastic value chain to protect consumers from potential risks.

Read: [Nairobi-residents-consuming-contaminated-eggs-report-reveals](#) and [Griffins-highly-toxic-chemicals-from-plastic-waste-contaminate-Kenya-s-food-chain-and-products](#)



Figure 15: Dorothy on TV creating awareness on the need for an ambitious global instrument for the plastics treaty



Figure 16: Kecha on TV during World Environment Day 2023, discussing dangers posed by open burning of trash to the community and its health effects

# CSO in Africa joined efforts to champion for a strong plastics treaty

CEJAD in collaboration with Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) convened a joint Africa CSOs and Member state meetings to advocate for priority areas in the

plastics legal instrument for the African region through online platform and physical meetings held in Nairobi, Rwanda and Guinea Conakry.

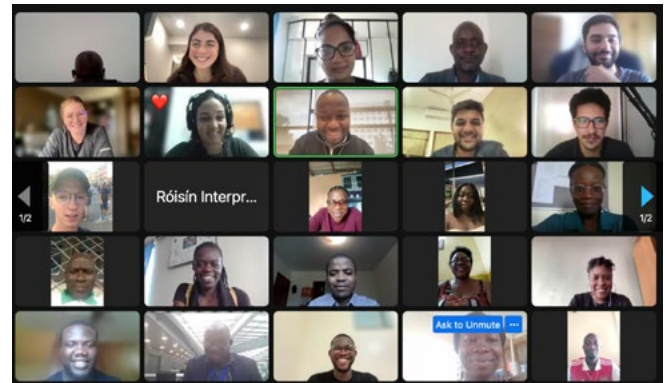
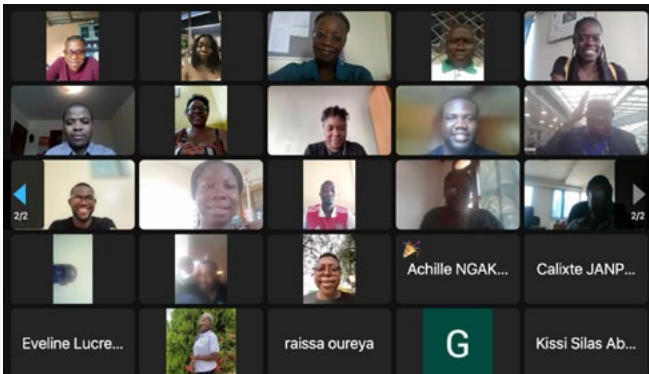


Figure 17: CSO online meeting pre- INC meeting

# Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) Elimination

In 2023, the drafting of regional harmonised strategies for addressing HHPs in the East African Community and Southern African Community Development (SADC) regions were finalised. The strategy development is supported by Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD) Centre for pesticides Suicide (CPSP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), University of Cape Town (UCT) and Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) in collaboration with

the EAC and Southern African Pesticides Regulators Forum (SAPReF).

As at the national level, CEJAD and CPSP supported meetings of highly hazardous pesticides Technical Working Groups in Tanzania and Zimbabwe as part of our pesticide suicide prevention project with the countries.



Figure 18: Delegates at the second physical meeting of the EAC HHPs TWG meeting in Kigali, Rwanda

In addition, the HHPs Strategy for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region was discussed and adopted by the Southern African Pesticides Regulators Forum's (SAPReF) HHPs Technical Working Group in a series of online meetings. In September 2023, the strategy

was adopted by the members of SAPReF in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Johannesburg on 4th - 8th September, 2023. The strategy now awaits adoption by the SADC Plant Protection Technical Committee (SPPTC) before adoption by the SADC decision making organs.



Figure 19: SAPREF, SADC, and HHPs Strategy meeting

## International Lead Poison Prevention Week campaign

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW or “Week of Action”) is an annual event that takes place during the last week of October. During the ILPPW in 2023, we collaborated with the Department of Chemistry of the University of Nairobi to advocate for the prevention and management of Lead Exposure at the Community Level. This awareness-raising event and training workshop

had over 100 participants in attendance consisting of 20 community health volunteers, key front-line health care providers and the general population from the community. The participants were taken through how to prevent and manage lead exposure at the household and community levels.



Figure 20: Partners during the ILLPW 2023

# Global Space Events and Conferences



## Zero waste Meetings

CEJAD team participated in the Africa for Zero Waste Regional meeting organised by GAIA Africa where we shared our best practices in empowering the local women to be catalysts for social and environmental change in Old Town, Mombasa.



Figure 21: GAIA Africa Regional Meeting in Dar- Es Salaam



Figure 22: Zero Waste Academy participants in the Philippines

Our programs officer for the plastics and waste management program completed the Zero waste academy global cohort of 2023 organised by Mother Earth in the Philippines. Dorothy was among the participants who received financial award to support implementation of Zero Waste in their home Country.



## SAICM Meetings

CEJAD team at the ICCM5/SAICM where the team lobbied countries, particularly those in the Africa region to support listing of chemicals in annex III. One of the HHPs lobbied for was listed in the Annex 3 of the Rotterdam convention.



Figure 23: CEJAD delegation during ICCM5/SAICM held in Bonn Germany



Figure 24: CEJAD delegation attending the IP4.2, SAICM meeting at UNON



## Intergovernmental Negotiation Committees

During INC-3 CEJAD team lobbied for inclusion and retention of issues on transparency and traceability, just transition, chemicals and polymers of concern, problematic and avoidable plastics, and extended producer responsibility in the zero draft.



Figure 25: CEJAD delegation during INC-3 at UNON



Figure 26: CEJAD delegation during INC-2 held in Paris, France.



## Conference of the Parties (COPs)

Participated MINAMATA Convention COP 5 held in Geneva where we followed up on dental amalgam issues, ASM and mercury in products



Figure 27: CEJAD Delegation during MINAMATA COP



Figure 28: CEJAD delegation during BRS COP



## Side Events



Figure 29: CEJAD making a presentation at a side event during ICCM5

CEJAD delivered a presentation on “Gender analysis local waste situation” at a [side event](#) during ICCM5 in Bonn, Germany.



# Other News Highlights



In the year 2023, Kenya ratified the Minamata Convention marking a significant step towards the protection of our environment.



- During ICCM5 a resolution to form a Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) was adopted, this will bring together a coalition of partners to help drive change.
- A new global framework that sets clear commitments for sound management of chemicals and waste was also adopted.



**IPEN Africa Regional Meeting**  
At Sawela Lodge, Naivasha 20th-22nd November 2023



Figure 30: IPEN Africa Regional meeting

CEJAD hosted the IPEN Africa Regional meeting a platform where member organization shared the lessons they learnt in working towards a toxic free future.

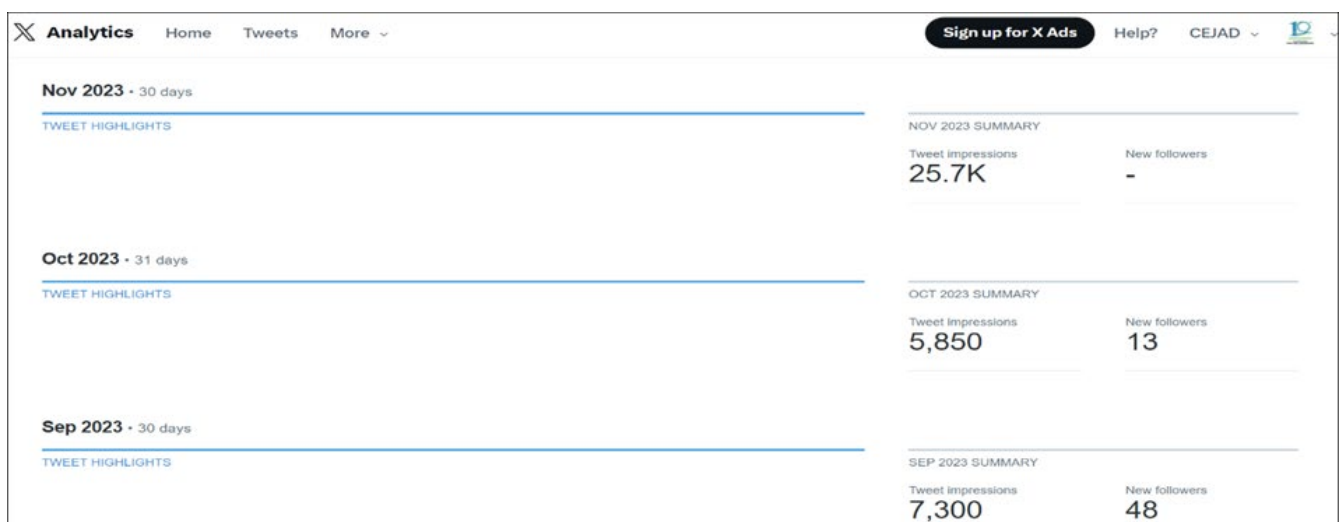


Figure 31: The Global CPSP team

CEJAD hosted the first-ever CPSP global in-person meeting where the partner organisation discussed and came up with the road map towards prevention of pesticide suicide cases.

# Communication

We witnessed a huge positive visibility and growth on our social media platforms. This was a result of rebranding and constant visibility in our digital space. Within the year, we got our official [LinkedIn](#) account.



# Publications

1. [Why-science-should-be-at-centre-of-plastic-treaty-talks](#)
2. [Pollution-will-increase-if-we-use-landfill-waste-to-produce-energy](#)
3. [Plastics-treaty-will-be-a-major-win-for-Africa-and-the-environment](#)
4. [Poor-states-cannot-cope-with-high-volumes-of-imported-plastic-waste](#)

## Briefs for policy Makers

1. [Towards a Just and Inclusive Transition for Waste Pickers in the Plastics Treaty and Circular Economy](#)
2. [Regulation of hazardous chemicals in plastic products is urgently needed in Kenya](#)

# Virtual Toxic Tours

This year, we participated in the second shooting and mapping for the Toxic tour filming, showcasing the untold impact of plastic impacts to communities around Gioto

Dumpsite in Nakuru. The tours maps communities at the frontline of plastic pollution. <https://toxictours.org/>



# Our Team

Thank you to the hardworking CEJAD team



# Our Partners

**Solidaridad**



SIGRID RAUSING TRUST



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG  
NAIROBI  
Kenya | Uganda | Tanzania



IICLD Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy



#Break  
Free  
From  
Plastic





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