

Summary

Blacksmith Institute is currently developing a global inventory of toxic hotspots that pose a risk to human health. This effort has been ongoing since 2009 with assessments having been carried out in some 47 countries. The inventory has been supported by the European Commission, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

The purpose of this document is to provide an outline of how the overall process develops in each country. Key elements are summarized and activities are briefly described. The document is intended to be used by Blacksmith staff to guide the develop of national programs.

Country Selection

The inventory is being carried out in low to medium income countries as defined by the World Bank. Countries are excluded for one of three reasons: little or no industrial base; ongoing conflict; oppressive or non-cooperative government. Remaining countries (about 90) are prioritized for similar reasons, including large industrial base; cooperative government; low GDP at PPP, among others.

Initial Site Assessment

In completing the inventory, Blacksmith utilizes a simplified risk assessment protocol known as the Initial Site Assessment (ISA). The ISA is a rapid assessment tool that allows for review and comparison between a range of sites. The purpose of the Inventory is to provide cursory data on a large number of sites, allowing for further in-depth assessment later, and flagging those sites where intervention is most urgent. The protocol is not intended to form a qualitative review of all risks posed by a site. Rather it is a quantitative first pass to help better understand the global risks posed by pollution.

Government Cooperation

Relevant government agencies are closely involved in the process. Technical staff accompany Blacksmith staff during site assessments and jointly feed information into the online database. A part time Country Coordinator is contracted in every country to facilitate this relationship. Where appropriate, Blacksmith may cover government costs associated with carrying out ISAs, including sampling and transportation expenses.

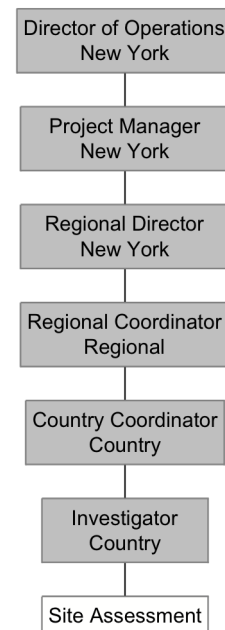
Staffing

Key staffing positions are outlined below.

Project Manager – New York-based. Responsible for overall coordination of project. Supports Regional Directors. Reports to Blacksmith Director of Operations.

Regional Director – New York-based. Responsible for regional coordination of project. Supports Regional Coordinators and/ or National Coordinators. Reports to Blacksmith Director of Operations.

GIP Management



Regional Coordinator – Regionally-based. Responsible for day-to-day regional coordination, including: contracting Country Coordinators, cultivating and managing government relationships, and ensuring consistent implementation across the region. Reports to Regional Director.

Country Coordinator – Country-based. Responsible for day-to-day country coordination, including: contracting and managing Investigators, cultivating and managing government relationships, identifying contaminated sites, and ensuring consistent implementation across the country. Reports to Regional Coordinator and/or Regional Director.

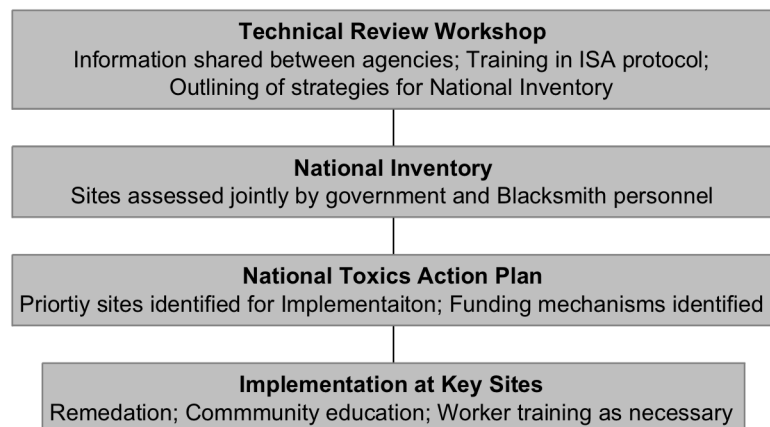
Investigator – Country-based. Responsible for identifying contaminated sites and carrying out ISAs. Reports to Country Coordinator.

Training

Blacksmith and Government personnel attend national Technical Review Workshops (TRWs) to learn the ISA protocol. The TRW is typically two days and includes a site visit during which the ISA protocol is demonstrated. As part of the TRW, government and Blacksmith staff share experiences with existing and previous efforts to inventory and deal with toxic hotspots.

Online Database

All completed ISAs are entered into an online password-protected database. Each database is country specific and exists in the appropriate local language. Information contained in the database is owned by Blacksmith and is not public. Individual site assessments may be shared with multi-lateral development banks or other funders in the event of implementation. Country governments are given full access to the database including the ability to create and delete users, and download any and all information.



Inventory

National inventories are carried out jointly by Blacksmith and the appropriate government agency. Sites are visited by representatives of both organizations and data is entered into the online database. Blacksmith may cover costs associated with sampling and transportation, though does not cover salaries of government staff.

National Toxics Action Plan (NTAP)

Inventories that are carried out in earnest may begin to demonstrate considerable results within 6 to 12 months of the NTAP. In cases where it is appropriate to do so, Blacksmith may assist relevant government agencies in organizing a national workshop to prioritize

sites for intervention. Those present at the workshop typically include representatives of the Ministries of Health and Environment, academia, Blacksmith and potential funding agencies. Present at past workshops include representatives of the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, USAID, and the Asian Development Bank, among others. Sites are prioritized and funding mechanisms are identified for implementation.

Implementation

Key sites are prioritized for intervention as part of the NTAP. Where funding becomes available for intervention, projects may be implemented. Blacksmith can have an important role in this phase, including responsibilities related to Project Design and Management and Technical Assistance.

Ongoing Assistance

Inventory work may continue in parallel with implementation activities. Comprehensive national inventories are likely to take several years. During this time, Blacksmith will continue to support inventory, prioritization and implementation efforts.