

## Toxic chemicals

The most toxic chemicals released – called uPOPs in short – are invisible and can be carried with wind and water over national and global distances. They do not easily break down, so overtime they build up in nature, in our bodies and in children through food and breathing. Other unhealthy chemicals released include poisonous mercury, as well as soot that contributes to global warming.

## Recycling hero competition

Children are the most vulnerable to the negative effects of waste burning. For this reason, it is important that they are educated and trained. Your government and the United Nations (UNIDO and UNITAR) organized the Recycling Hero Competition, to teach about the risks of open waste burning and encourage them to recycle. Several local schools will compete against each other, and the winner will be the school that recycled the most waste per participating child. The mechanics are simple:

1

### Collect

Help your child collect valuable recyclable materials



2

### Bring

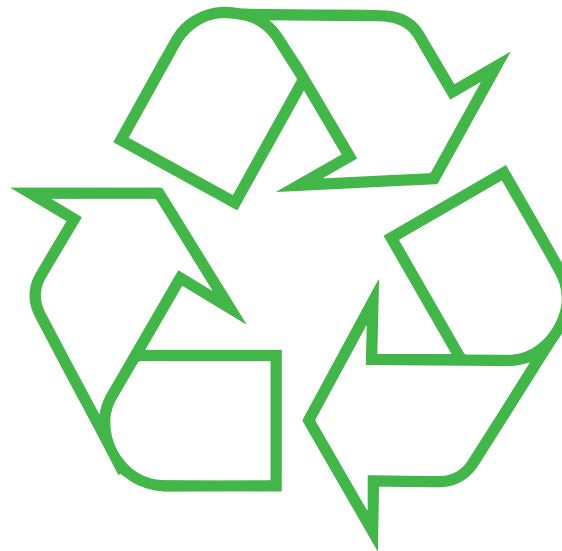
Make sure your child brings the materials to school



3

### Weigh

At the school they weigh how much has been collected



REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

# DON'T SET YOUR WASTE ON FIRE



## The dangers of waste burning

Did you know that the open burning of waste is dangerous? The burning releases poisonous chemicals and causes damage to both our health and planet.



### Health risks from waste burning includes:

- Cancer
- Throat and lung diseases
- Disturbance of your resistance to diseases
- Difficulties with bearing healthy children
- Poor intelligence and nervous system
- Unhealthy changes to our genes
- Hypersensitivity
- Skin irritation
- Eye damages
- Liver damages
- Irregular heartbeat
- Headaches

## What sorts of waste can be recycled ?



Plastic bottles and other hard plastics



Glass bottles and jars



Metals (cans, wire and other)



Paper and cardboard



Textiles (if they cannot be reused anymore)



Electronics and electric appliances



Sorted vegetable and fruit waste for composting

You too can help reduce the harmful effects of waste burning by:

**Reducing** the amount of waste you produce.

**Reusing** your bags, clothes and products in the family or hand them on to others and sort valuable materials from your waste.

Then deliver them to buy back centres or recyclers, from where they are processed for **recycling** into new products and materials.

**A clean country with healthy citizens starts with responsible handling of our waste.**

