

## Project Case Study - Madagascar

### CHUMET—best environmental practices in health care waste management

#### Background

The University Hospital Centre, or The Mother and Child University Hospital, in Tsaralalàna is one of the eight training facilities supported by the project to reduce unintentional emissions of persistent organic pollutants (UPOPs) and Mercury. Built in 1928, the hospital has 54 beds but with the extension works started in 2018, 120 beds are estimated to be available soon. The establishment registers 5 to 17 children per day that are treated or admitted to its various services, i.e. an average of 300 children per month. Although located in the heart of the city, CHUMET had been incinerating its waste and as a result, sick children, mothers of patients and even hospital staff admitted



having been regularly choking on smoke.

The institution's staff had previously received training in health care waste management, but the institution did not have the necessary tools to apply the knowledge acquired. There was only one bin for all types of waste and no needle cutter.

#### Approach

- Training: Dr Hanta Ratsitohaina, the project focal point, and Major Raholiarimanana Fanja have taken the training courses in best environmental practices in health care waste management provided by the project.

- Application: Multicoloured bins have been installed in the hospital courtyards, in a highly visible place with a clear inscription "**Dispose of waste according to the picture shown, in the appropriate bin**". In addition, the facility encourages staff creativity in the maintenance of materials and the cleanliness of the hospital. For example, a group of staff transformed milk boxes into flowerpots, coloured them and then placed them near the bins provided by the project. The combination of the two objects attracted more attention from visitors, which encouraged them to read and respect the waste typology instructions.
- Follow-up: Every morning at seven, Major Holy tours the hospital to educate visitors and patients' mothers and remind colleagues about sorting waste in the appropriate bins. Waste management education takes place every day, at all levels of the hierarchy.
- Instructions: Health workers develop the habit of distinguishing between sharp and non-sharp infectious waste. They then dispose of it in the appropriate bin according to the colour code.
- Collection: Support agents work in chains. The cleaning agent collects the waste in the bins from each room and the yard. They gather each in their respective bags: paper, diapers, organic waste, sharp-edged infectious waste, non-sharp-edged infectious waste. The support agent takes over by placing the bag of infectious waste in its dedicated bin. CHUJRA's support agents collect them Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9 a.m.





## Outcomes

- Education on the habit of washing hands with soap or using hydro-alcoholic gel.
- Patients and visitors are taught to dispose of their waste in the appropriate bins according to the instructions on the lids.

## Sustainability Strategy Implemented

- Close collaboration of the hospital's management team and the department of Public Health District (authority representing the Ministry of Public Health-MOH-in the district) permits MOH's support and the training and equipment provided by the GEF/HCWM to strengthen capacity.
- Acquisition and maintenance of waste materials provided by the GEF/HCWM project such as bag welders, garbage bags, personal protective equipment, and waste transport vehicle.

## Challenges and lessons learned

- Sustainable change in staff behaviour towards employing the best environmental practices of health care waste management: awareness and regular monitoring.

## **Project Overview**

**Project:** GEF-financed UNDP-supported regional project: "Reducing UPOPs and Mercury Releases from The Health Sector in Africa"

**Objective:** Implement best environmental practices and introduce non-incineration healthcare waste treatment technologies and mercury-free medical devices in four Sub-Saharan African countries to reduce harmful releases from the health sector

**Financing:** \$ 6,453,195 (GEF financing)  
\$ 28,936,164 (co-financing)

**Term:** December 2015 until December 2020

**Partner:** WHO - World Health Organization  
HCWH - Health Care Without Harm

**Countries:** Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zambia

**Executing Agency:** Ministry of Public Health, Madagascar  
Ministry of Environment, Madagascar

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