UNDP GHANA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE  
HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT

AREAS OF SUPPORT

2. Monitoring and enforcement of Infection Prevention and Control protocols in health facilities.
3. Capacity building on health care waste management in health facilities and isolation centres.
4. Provision of hand sanitizers and logistics to frontline facilities.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

Policy level support

Two policy briefs have been developed and shared with the National COVID-19 Management team. They outline why it is important to ensure effective health care waste management in the response to COVID-19 and provide a more detailed explanation of the processes (and related SOPs) that need to be followed to effectively manage infectious waste for infection prevention.

UNDP has also convened meetings of the Waste Recovery Platform to discuss the impact of COVID-19 in the waste management sector, agree on actions to address these challenges and mobilize stakeholders to support their implementation.

Monitoring, enforcement and training

The Health Facilities Regulatory Authority (HeFRA), an agency under Ghana’s Ministry of Health, has been supported to carry out monitoring visits to 800 health facilities in Greater Accra and Ashanti regions to verify their compliance with Infection Prevention and Control protocols. They have been joined by experts from Accra School of Hygiene who are providing on the spot training for health personnel on how to discharge effective practices on health care waste management based on gaps identified during the monitoring.

According to WHO (2020), COVID-19 virus is transmitted through respiratory or respiratory droplets and transmitted through person-to-person transmission. It may also spread on objects where the virus could stay on an inanimate object. In addition, any surface that can accumulate moisture of any type can harbor the virus and can spread to a person when touched. Notably, the waste may contain clinical objects where a virus can be found in clinical waste for disposal procedures, with medical waste being potentially infectious.

Currently, the use of PPE and other personal protective equipment (PPE) can make healthcare providers feel overwhelmed by the amount of time and effort required to don and remove them. However, it is important to correctly don and remove PPE to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. It is important to follow proper procedures for donning and removing PPE to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. It is important to follow proper procedures for donning and removing PPE to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. It is important to follow proper procedures for donning and removing PPE to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. It is important to follow proper procedures for donning and removing PPE to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. It is important to follow proper procedures for donning and removing PPE to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19.
Under this theme, the National Quality Unit of the Ministry of Health is being supported to train staff of twenty hotels being used as quarantine and isolation centres in the Greater Accra Region on how to effectively manage their waste to prevent infections. The National Tourism Authority has been engaged to mainstream this subject in their health and safety requirements for tourist facilities across the country.

Provision of hand sanitizers and logistics
UNDP has supported the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital to produce hand sanitizers to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection in health facilities in Ghana. Through this intervention, UNDP has donated 11,150 litres of hand sanitizers (5,000 pieces of 230ml bottles and 2,000 pieces of 5 litres refill bottles, with 162 dispensers) to the Ministry of Health to support 21 key facilities playing leading roles in the testing and management of COVID-19 cases across the country. UNDP is also procuring consumables and personal protective equipment (PPEs) for the Ministry of Health to promote effective management of medical waste in the selected health facilities. These include 200 big infectious waste bins; 200 small infectious waste bins; 40,000 small infectious waste bags; 13,000 large infectious waste bags; 1,000 sharps containers; 1,000 safety masks; 200 safety googles and 100 working gloves.

AREAS OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT (RESOURCES TO BE MOBILIZED)

Monitoring, enforcement and training
- Expand monitoring, enforcement, and training programme to at least 800 additional health facilities in other regions of Ghana. Estimated budget: USD 100,000.
- Expand training for isolation and quarantine facilities programme to at least 60 hotels. Estimated budget: USD 85,000.

Provision of hand sanitizers and logistics
- Production and supply of additional hand sanitizers to key health facilities involved in testing and management of COVID-19 cases. Estimated budget: USD 100,000.
- Procurement of HCWM PPEs and consumables for key health facilities involved in testing and management of covid-19 cases. Estimated budget: USD 50,000.