



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



This initiative is supported by **PacWastePlus**-a 72-month project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to **sustainably and cost effectively improve regional management of waste and pollution.**

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

TIMOR LESTE

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HEALTHCARE WASTE PROJECT



**Health Care Waste
Management:
Improving long term
management of healthcare
waste in Timor Leste**

The exposure to wastes generated in health care facilities has direct health impacts on the community, the personnel working in healthcare facilities, and the environment. Poorly handled medical wastes by health care professionals, and waste management personnel have led to an elevated chance of disease and sickness. Improper management of healthcare wastes (through open burning) on land adjacent to hospitals is leading to large areas of contaminated land, unusable for other purposes, and in need of remediation. The National Directorate for the Environment under the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Environment and the Ministry of Health seek to utilise PacWastePlus funds to implement several interconnected activities to improve long term management of healthcare waste in Timor Leste.

The Timor Leste project will focus on improving long term management of healthcare waste:



Timor Leste seeks to utilise the PacWastePlus investment for the following activities:



POLICY

Revision of the National Healthcare Waste Policy



MANAGEMENT

Revision of national contract terms for healthcare waste management to replace current national waste contracts



PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Development of five hospital Healthcare Waste Plans



REMEDIATION

Remediation of Baucau hospital burn field



TRAINING

Deliver training sessions on proper healthcare waste management



COMMUNICATIONS

Implementation of project education and awareness actions to identified stakeholders

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION



Timor-Leste has been seeking to **improve healthcare waste management** for many years



Effective management of healthcare waste, and protection of human health and the environment, remains a focus and additional support is required to assist the country to protect its people



Timor-Leste currently has five main hospitals throughout its provinces, and most of these have healthcare waste incinerators on-site, but none are currently functioning



Waste segregation in hospitals is attempted, but not effectively managed, as there is currently no operational way to manage waste generated



In 2014, findings from a **healthcare waste baseline survey** conducted in Timor-Leste made a number of recommendations



Hospital waste management plans need to be developed to align with national healthcare waste management strategies



Health facilities should apply the same system for waste segregation, transport and storage



Health personnel should receive appropriate training/education on proper healthcare waste management



Improvement of treatment infrastructure for healthcare waste to ensure that there is no potential negative impact to human health or the environment



Construct appropriate healthcare waste storage facilities to minimise the threat to health, safety and the environment



Enforce the use of PPE to protect health personnel from injuries and unnecessary exposure to hazardous substances

CURRENT STATUS / MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY WASTE

Current Situation:

Data collection and Education and Awareness

Awareness messaging for management of healthcare waste - on-going as opportunities arise



(awareness and education initiatives to healthcare workers on correct segregation, collection, safe removal and sound disposal of healthcare wastes)

Policy & Regulation



The Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 (Plano Estratégico de Desenvolvimento 2011-2030) sets a pathway to improve the protection of the environment, to control pollution and to introduce urban waste management guidelines



The National Directorate of Basic Sanitation Services, under the Ministry of Public Works, is responsible for planning and policymaking



Under the National Sanitation Policy, the Ministry of Health, through its Directorate of Community Health, has responsibility for sanitation and hygiene



(coordinating sanitation and hygiene on a national and district level; leading research on hygiene and sanitation; facilitating the construction and use of sanitary installations in family homes; sanitary facilities in healthcare buildings)

On-Ground Activity



Project will mitigate the environmental impacts caused by inadequate treatment of healthcare waste by remediating the burn field at Baucau hospital

Current low-cost options for healthcare waste treatment e.g., open dump disposal, low temperature incineration, etc., are often polluting and are therefore indirectly potentially harmful to human health

To address the long-term treatment of healthcare waste, an assessment of environmentally friendly and safe disposal options will be provided for Timor-Leste



(Absence of proper health care waste management puts human health at risk. Significant improvements can however be achieved by promoting proper healthcare waste management options such as purchase policies, national and local, hospital level health care waste plans and policies)

GENDER EQUALITY, SOCIAL AND DISABILITY INCLUSION (GESDI) CONSIDERATIONS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT IN TIMOR LESTE



Equality in today's society requires sound waste management.

All people have the right to access waste infrastructure, participate in decision making and able to voice grievances, access information and awareness messages, and be protected from harmful effects of waste – on health, environment, culture and traditions.



Opportunities for Timor Leste to provide for equality during the management of recyclables



Continue development of effective legislation to provide coordinated and equitable approach for waste management.



Include considerations regarding equality and inclusion in waste-related legislation and regulation



Consider additional bans and phaseouts of certain types of problematic or hazardous products



Provide for effective implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of waste-related legislation to protect vulnerable members of society



Mobilise additional resources for waste management including through an Advance Recovery Fee system



Enhance the availability and accessibility of information



Include additional Government departments, in particular labour, culture, women, and equality-related authorities and/or bodies, in waste-related decision making to identify and address potential inequalities



Provide waste management facilities for rural and outer island communities



Enhance efforts to protect waste workers



Utilise traditional knowledge and customs to enhance participation, environmental protection and stewardship

MAPPING PROJECT SUCCESS



LONG TERM OUTCOME



Timor-Leste is free from exposure and adverse impacts from poorly managed healthcare waste



MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES



Pollution from inappropriately managed healthcare waste is eliminated at all hospitals and clinics as healthcare waste is managed and disposed to industry best practice



Exposure risk for healthcare and waste industry workers is eliminated as healthcare waste is managed and disposed to industry best practice



Hospitals in Timor-Leste have effective budget and funding to manage healthcare waste due to National Healthcare Waste Policy and individual hospital-based Healthcare Waste Management Plans adopted and running effectively



Climate Change emissions from low temperature incineration of health care wastes is reduced due to proper, efficient incinerator usage



SHORT TERM OUTCOMES



An appropriate national health care waste management framework is implemented through the development of a National Healthcare Waste Policy and individual hospital-based Healthcare waste management plans



Contaminated burn fields at Baucau Hospital remediated, removing land and water pollution



Healthcare workforce effectively executing hospitals Healthcare Waste Management Plans and safely handling, controlling and disposing of healthcare waste



OUTPUTS



Development and endorsement of a revised **National Healthcare Waste Strategy (2021 - 2026)**



Development and endorsement of five Healthcare Waste Management Plans for regional hospitals



Develop and deliver national contract terms for healthcare waste management to replace current National Waste Contract available to Hospitals



Implementation of effective national education and awareness program

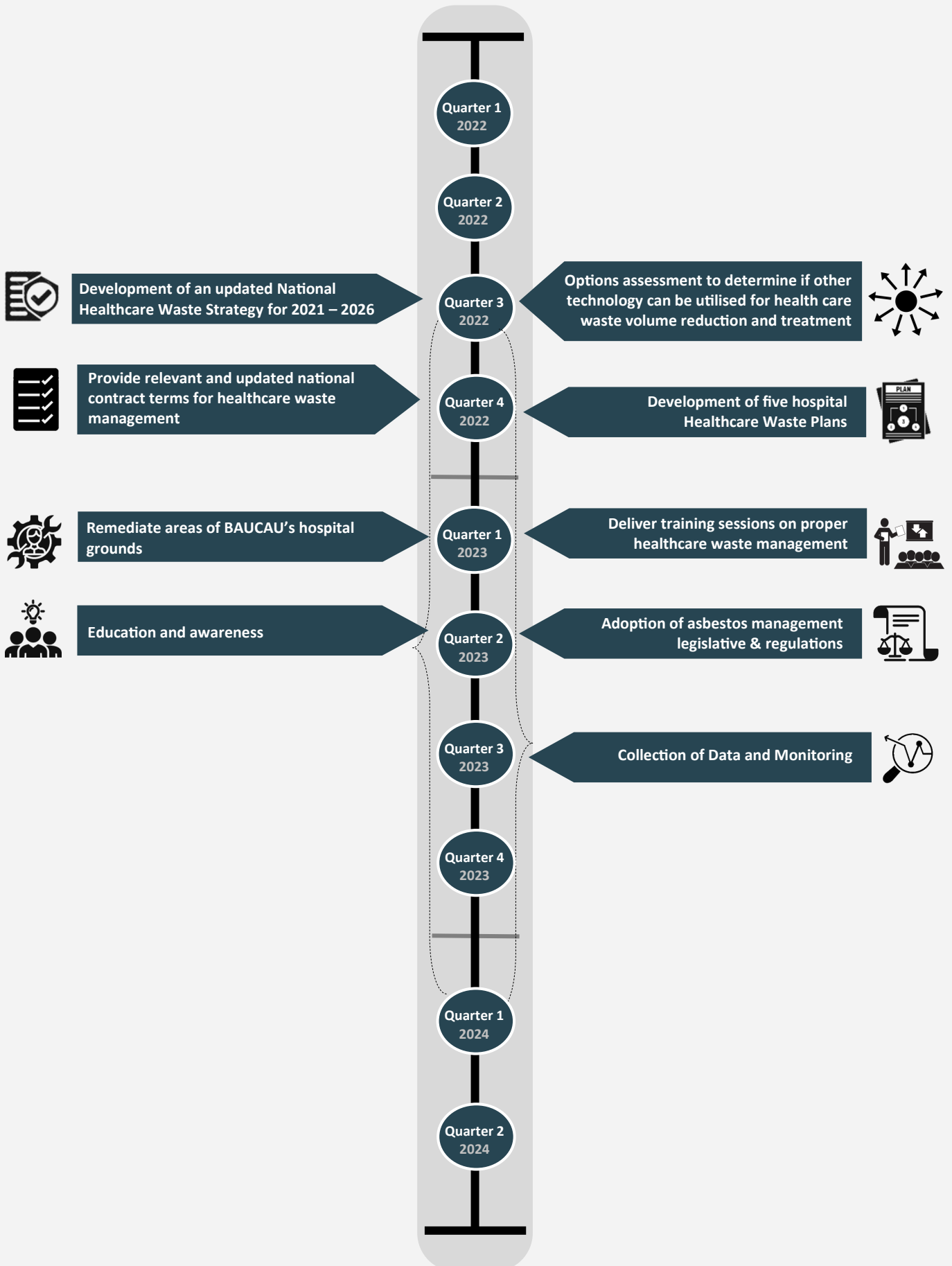


Remediation of contaminated burn fields at Baucau Hospital



Provision of waste transport infrastructure as needed, e.g., bins, vehicles, signage, PPE, etc., for the transport of health care waste from the hospitals to the landfill/incinerator

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE



PACWASTEPLUS REGIONAL PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES AND WHAT TIMOR LESTE CAN EXPECT



Health Care Waste Management

Timor Leste will receive:

- Healthcare waste training [storage, treatment, and disposal solutions for healthcare waste]
- Assessment of the impact of the PacWaste Project healthcare waste activities
- Repair selected healthcare waste Incinerators in the region
- Work with development partners to implement a long-term plan for the sustainability of health care waste infrastructure
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Asbestos Management

Timor Leste will receive:

- A guidance and drafting note to assist with legislative reform to ban the importation of asbestos
- Template Code of Practice to guide the safe handling and management of asbestos
- Communication resources and materials to provide information on safe handling and management of asbestos
- Learnings from other country projects focused on asbestos
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Organics Management

Timor Leste will receive:

- Document providing technical analysis of how to compost common organic materials received in the Pacific
- Template Minimum Standard document to guide effective and safe composting
- Resources to guide organic facility design and operation
- Training on organic facility design and operation
- Ongoing Technical Assistance
- Learnings from country projects focused on organics management



ARFD / Sustainable Financing

Timor Leste will receive:

- Communication resources and materials to provide information to stakeholders on the benefits of ARFD systems
- Resources and training to assist during ARFD system design and guide decisions support
- Learnings from other country feasibility studies and projects focused on ARFD
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Disaster Waste Management

Timor Leste will receive:

- Terms of Reference for the establishment of an Environment Sector Working Group (Cluster) within National Disaster Management Framework to ensure effective implementation of disaster Waste Management Response and Recovery
- Drafting/Guiding Notes on National and Community Disaster Waste Management Plans
- Disaster Waste Training Manual for use at both the National and Community level
- Learnings from country projects focused on disaster waste management
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Regional Course Development

Timor Leste will receive

- Development of a sustainable capacity building program for waste management in based on country needs
- Training through the adopted training courses, both vocational and tertiary



Schools Curriculum Development

Timor Leste will receive

- School curriculum on waste management education (eight programme waste streams) incorporated in to existing school core subjects such as Maths, English and Science
- Primary school education-problem based curriculum
- Secondary school education-culturally responsive
- Tertiary school education-culturally responsive
- Training and capacity building opportunities for teachers



Bulky Waste Management

Timor Leste will receive:

- Guiding document and a Decision Support Tool to guide on how to design and implement a national ELV management programme.
- Drafting/Guiding Notes on how to draft national legislation for the management of End-of-Life vehicles
- Safe Dismantling Training Manual
- Publications and awareness materials



Behaviour Change

Timor Leste will receive

- Learnings of the community-based social marketing Pilot projects and replication of successfully implemented projects
- Ongoing Technical Assistance

ABOUT THE PACWASTEPLUS PROGRAMME

The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus, is a 72-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to improve regional management of waste and pollution sustainably and cost-effectively.

About PacWastePlus

The impact of waste and pollution is taking its toll on the health of communities, degrading natural ecosystems, threatening food security, impeding resilience to climate change, and adversely impacting social and economic development of countries in the region. The PacWastePlus programme will generate improved economic, social, health, and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices for all participating countries.

Countries participating in the PacWastePlus programme are: *Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.*

KEY OBJECTIVES

Outcomes & Key Result Areas

The overall objective of PacWastePlus is “to generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment”.

The specific objective is “to ensure the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, health and wellbeing of Pacific Island communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements”.

Key Result Areas

- **Improved data collection, information sharing, and education awareness**
- **Policy & Regulation** - Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented.
- **Best Practices** - Enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development implemented
- **Human Capacity** - Enhanced human capacity



Learn more about the Timor Leste Project by visiting

<https://pacwasteplus.org/country-project/timor-leste/>

For more information please contact:



The PacWastePlus team on pwp@sprep.org



Or visit - <https://www.pacwasteplus.org>

Disclaimer

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**Countries mentioned in this publication are as at November 2021*

(post project please email sprep@sprep.org)