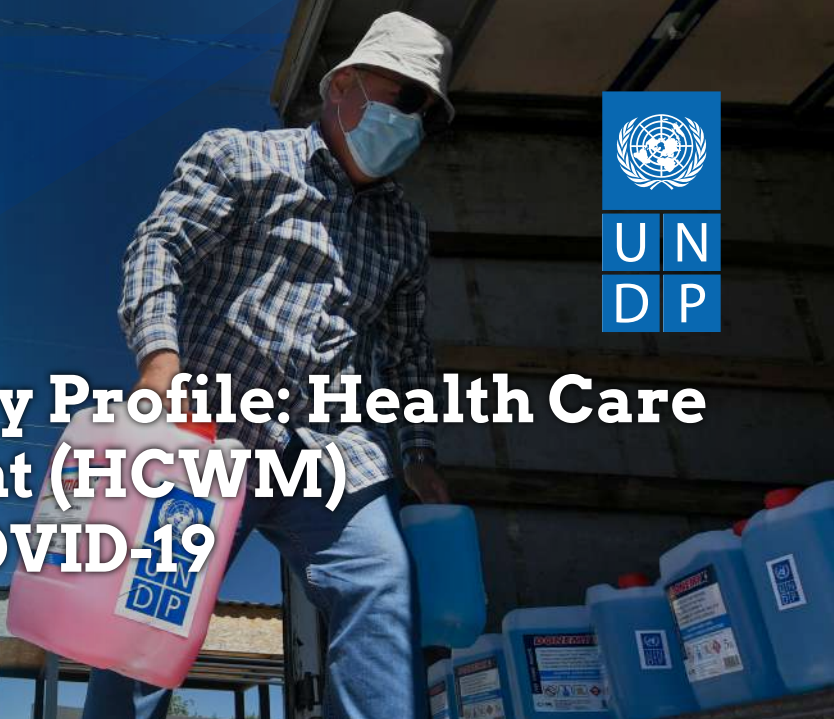


# Kyrgyzstan Country Profile: Health Care Waste Management (HCWM) in the Context of COVID-19

September 2020



## Background Information on HCWM

Population	6,456,900 <sup>1</sup>
National entity in charge of HCWM	Ministry of Health
Municipal solid waste (MSW) generation	1,113,300 tonnes/year <sup>2</sup>
Health care waste (HCW) generation	Not available
On-site vs. off-site treatment	On-site (63% of respondents)
Health care waste exports?	No
National solid waste management law	"On waste production and consumption" No. 89 (2001)
National solid waste strategy	Unknown
National HCW management law	On protection of the health of citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic, No. 6 (2005)
National HCW policy	Not available
National HCW management strategy	Target Program for Management of Health Waste in Health care Organizations of the Kyrgyz Republic 2017–2020
National guidelines or standard operating procedures (SOPs) for HCWM	The Order of the MoH, dated February 18, 2013, No. 59 "On the improvement of the safe management system for HCW in health organizations" and the Order No.214, issued on March 26, 2018, "On Approval of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Healthcare Waste Management (HCWM) in Healthcare Facilities, and of the Manual on Monitoring and Evaluation of the HCWM System in Health Facilities in the Kyrgyz Republic"

## Policy and Planning Environment

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) is responsible for health policy and the development of legislation and regulations for the organization and provision of health services.
- The MOH's Department of Disease Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance has a special role in the healthcare system. The department (and its 51 territorial subdivisions) is entrusted by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (KR) with oversight and control over the execution of regulatory documents that govern public healthcare.<sup>3</sup>
- The Resolution of the Government of the KR of 12.01.2012 No. 32 "Instructions for infection control in health care organizations of the KR" is one of the core documents in the area, as it includes the description of safe injections and also covers the management of health care in the area of "disinfection and sterilization in the medical practice."

The KR has adopted a 12-year state strategy for the development of public health, including health systems, in pursuit of universal health coverage by 2030. HCWM is included in this strategy:

*"Development and implementation of modern, efficient standards and criteria in ensuring procedure safety, control of nosocomial infections, technologies for disposal of medical waste in health care organizations, taking into account the type and volume of produced waste and the territorial location of healthcare organizations."*

## Legal Framework

A review of relevant international conventions for HCWM showed that Kyrgyzstan has signed all major conventions, with the exemption of the Minamata Convention

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>3</sup> Review of the National Policy and legal Framework and Injection Safety and Healthcare Waste Management in Kyrgyzstan. Dr. Ute Pieper. August 2015.

on Mercury (phasing out of mercury containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers and phasing down of mercury containing amalgam in the health sector).<sup>5</sup> It has also signed the Montreal Protocol.

## Snapshot of COVID-19 Health Care Waste Situation

Declaration of the pandemic	March 25, 2020
Number of cumulative confirmed cases as of Sept 18, 2020	45,244
Number of HCFs surveyed	11
Pre-COVID19 HCW generated	N/A <sup>4</sup>
COVID-19 HCW generated	N/A
Percent increase (approximate)	Greater than 100% (reported by six government respondents)
Types of COVID-19 waste generated	PPE (gloves, masks, gowns), diagnostic samples, cultures, swabs and disposable medical devices
Changes to HCWM policy	Yes
Most common HCW treatment technology	Autoclave/shredder
Service disruptions due to COVID-19 (among surveyed)	No
Emergency treatment/disposal in place	Yes
Special COVID-19 training in place	Yes
Collection capacity surpassed?	Insufficient data
Treatment capacity surpassed?	Insufficient data
Disposal capacity surpassed?	Insufficient data

## Legal Framework (cont'd)

The most relevant governmental resolution is “On issues related to the treatment of medical waste and work with mercury-containing products in healthcare organizations” No. 94 (2018), which includes annexes on the “Temporary instructions for the management of medical waste” and “Temporary rules for working with mercury-containing medical devices in accordance.”

- Medical waste management issues are reflected in the law “On protection of the health of citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic” No. 6 (2005). According to this law, local administrations in the field of public health protection ensure the destruction of biological and health care waste. Article 39 states that the national authority in charge of healthcare shall define the management and storage of biological material and health care waste.
- The Technical Regulation “On the safety of medicines for medical use” No. 137 (2011) contains a chapter on “Safe requirements for the disposal of medicines.”
- Article 14 of the Law “On general technical regulation in relation to environmental safety in the Kyrgyz Republic” No. 151 (2009) follows the passing of Law No. 89, and also prohibits unauthorized burning, disposal and recovery of buried waste.

## Institutional Framework

- The MoH is responsible for the safe management of healthcare waste at health facilities. It liaises with the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) on environmental issues, including the treatment and disposal of hazardous waste.<sup>5</sup>
- The SAEPF is a state executive body for the implementation of policies and regulations in the sphere of environmental protection, ensuring environmental safety and nature management.

## Programs and Actions in Place during COVID-19

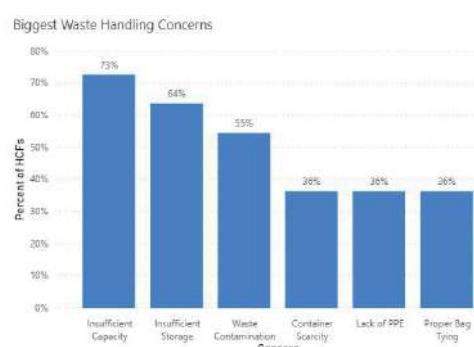
“ERIK project under the Ministry of Emergency Situations, funded by the World Bank, together with the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, has been purchasing microwave units for medical waste disinfection and pre-destructors for 42 hospitals since the beginning of the pandemic.” — Government Respondent

## HCWM Challenges during COVID-19

The HCF survey respondents cited the greatest challenges for HCWM as lack of **dedicated funding, occupational health and safety for staff (lack of policies, enforcement and/or compliance, and/or budget), coordination and trained staff:**



The respondents also identified **insufficient treatment and storage capacities and waste contamination** as major concerns for waste handlers:



## Options for Improvement / Opportunities

- Increase capacity of HCW collection, transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal systems.
- Increase training and awareness for healthcare workers and support personnel at health care facilities on proper waste segregation and handling.
- Conduct ongoing monitoring to ensure compliance with SOPs.

<sup>4</sup> HCW is not measured

<sup>5</sup> Review of the National Policy and Legal Framework and Injection Safety and Healthcare Waste Management in Kyrgyzstan. Dr. Ute Pieper. August 2015.