

ASIA PACIFIC WEBINAR: WASTE MANAGEMENT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

July 16

16:00 - 17:30 ICT

Register here: bit.ly/2Zbg6g7



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

UN
environment
programme



Photo: Simon Davis/DFID

While COVID-19 is primarily a global health emergency, its impacts have been unprecedented on a wide spectrum of sectors. One of the most pronounced challenges to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis is waste management. The impact of both the health crisis and lockdown conditions has impacted waste management, from infectious and medical waste management to breakdowns in municipal waste systems, which has had both environmental and human health implications.

Over the last twenty years, United Nations Environment Programme has been involved in dealing with management of solid wastes during major disasters such as tsunamis and earthquakes. Many lessons from those experience are valid in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis.

Hospitals handling COVID-19 cases generate waste which are potentially infectious, from materials used in patient care to the personal protective equipment used by the healthcare personnel. Even well-established medical facilities have been overwhelmed by COVID-19 waste. In areas without environmentally adequate waste management solutions that can responsibly handle medical, household and potentially disaster waste, locally appropriate solutions based on integrated waste management will need to be found.

In many countries, tens of thousands of people are involved in waste picking activities and the market for recycled goods has crashed. The COVID-19 situation has impacted livelihoods of waste pickers and increased stigma of their jobs. Therefore, this sector will also need special attention.

The UN Environment Programme and its experts will be delivering a webinar in order to increase awareness and provide guidance on the issue of waste management during the COVID-19 crisis. Participants of the webinar will also have access to additional reference materials and guidance.

16:00	Welcome to the Webinar Series <i>Mushtaq Memon, COVID-19 Waste Management / Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, UNEP Asia Pacific Office</i>
16:05	Opening Remarks <i>Isabelle Louis, Deputy Director, UNEP Asia Pacific Office</i>
16:10	Management of Solid Wastes in Disasters <i>Lisa Guppy, Regional Humanitarian Affairs Offices, UNEP Asia Pacific Office</i>
16:25	Management of healthcare waste during COVID19 <i>Martin Guard, Senior Consultant, REACT Project, UNEP</i>
16:40	Impact on the Informal Sector <i>Mike Cowing, Chief Technical Advisor, Ogoniland Project, UNEP</i>
16:55	Questions and Answers
17:30	Conclusions

Agenda

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Mushtaq Memon

COVID-19 Waste Management / Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, UNEP Asia Pacific Office

Mushtaq is the Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency in UNEP's Asia Pacific Office. He is supporting resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, green economy, green financing, sustainable public procurement, sustainable tourism, sustainable industries and various areas for Asia and the Pacific. Currently, he has been assigned to lead UNEP's response on COVID-19 on waste management.



Isabelle Louis

Deputy Director, UNEP Asia Pacific Office

Isabelle has been Deputy Regional Director at UNEP's Asia Pacific since September 2014. She has more than 25 years of global, regional and national level experience in sustainable development and natural resource management as well as in office operations, programme management, multi-stakeholder engagement and multidisciplinary team management.



Lisa Guppy

Regional Humanitarian Affairs Offices, UNEP Asia Pacific Office

Lisa is the Regional Coordinator for Disasters and Conflicts with UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. Lisa has a background in disaster management, humanitarian response and integrated water management. She has worked with several UN agencies including UNICEF and the United Nations University in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, North America and Europe.



Martin Guard

Senior Consultant, REACT Project, UNEP

Martin has more than 30 years' experience improving coastal resource use practices and community management in Tanzania, extensive environmental, waste management and risk assessment of field operations for a number of oil and gas exploration companies. Since 2017, Martin has worked as Hazardous Waste Specialist with the Rapid Environment and Climate Technical Assistance Facility (REACT) under UNEP to provide technical assistance to global UN peacekeeping and special political missions to improve their solid and hazardous waste management.



Mike Cowing

Chief Technical Advisor, Ogoniland Project, UNEP

Michael J Cowing is an environmental scientist, trainer and assessor in the field of integrated solid waste management systems. He possesses over 30 years of international experience within the environmental and waste management sectors. Throughout this period, he has operated in more than sixty countries worldwide particularly within Africa, Asia and South America. Michael has worked with the Crisis Management Branch of UNEP for more than 15 years.