

Promoting Sustainable Health Care Waste Management in Southwestern Uganda through a Public-Private Partnership

Duration of activity: Two years

Anticipated funding: US\$600,000

Description: Despite significant progress made in health care waste management (HCWM) in Uganda to date, much remains to be done to ensure HCWM is a key component of infection prevention and control (IPC) at health facilities in the country. Recent Site Improvement through Monitoring Systems (SIMS) visits conducted by USAID with the MOH show that disposing of infectious waste remains a challenge for many health facilities due to a lack of functioning technology and inadequate planning for HCWM. Additionally, many facilities do not have acceptable options for disposing of large stocks of expired pharmaceutical products which they have accumulated over the years. As key interventions like voluntary medical male circumcision and HIV testing services are scaled up to meet the “90-90-90” strategy goals set by UNAIDS (2014), facilities will be faced with increasing amounts of health care waste in need of disposal. It is critical to address this problem before it reaches crisis levels.

The goal of AIDSFree Uganda is to support Green Label Services Ltd. (GLSL), a private provider, to establish a sustainable final disposal solution of health care waste in SW Uganda through a public-private partnership (PPP) ensuring prevention of environmental contamination through the use of non-incineration technology.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Health, U.S. Government team, GLSL, PEPFAR implementing partners (IPs), and target districts, this activity will—

- support the establishment of sustainable final HCWM disposal solutions by working with the MOH to implement the national HCWM plan
- build capacity among US Government partners and local government counterparts to assess and plan for HCWM, including HCWM’s incorporation into budgeting processes at national and district levels to ensure ongoing, sustainable support
- provide training technical assistance to US Government IPs and their local government counterparts through a training of trainers (TOT)
- support GLSL to review the company’s finance and administrative functions in order to identify areas where GLSL internal controls can be strengthened and improved

Planned AIDSFree Uganda Key Activities

Engaging GLSL through a PPP: AIDSFree Uganda will work with GLSL to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) among GLSL, the MOH, and AIDSFree outlining key responsibilities..

Developing a Business Plan: AIDSFree will help GLSL to develop a detailed business plan highlighting methods for collecting waste, identification of appropriate temporary waste storage facilities in each district, linkages with potential other service providers (glass and plastic recycling), and sustainability plans for beyond the life of the project, including marketing and outreach to non-public sector actors.

Conducting an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment: AIDSFree will work with GLSL to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) among GLSL, the MOH, and AIDSFree outlining key responsibilities and roles in the PPP.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Environmental Mitigation Management Plan: AIDSFree will work with GLSL to develop and implement plans to prevent environmental contamination.

Assessing Waste Generation: AIDSFree will assess the types of waste generated at facilities in SW Uganda to prepare for the identification of equipment required and plant design features.

Procurement of Non-Incineration Equipment: AIDSFree will develop specifications and issue a request for quotations (RFQ) to procure non-incinerator technology for final waste treatment and disposal.

Designing the Waste Management Facility: AIDSFree will oversee the design of the facility, including the housing structure, lagoons, and landfill. AIDSFree Uganda will then provide technical assistance to GLSL as they construct the facility per the site plan.

Building Capacity and Providing Training Support: AIDSFree will build capacity among USG partners and local government counterparts to assess and plan for HCWM, including incorporation of HCWM into budgeting processes at national and district levels to ensure ongoing, sustainable support for HCWM. Technical assistance may include support in developing specifications for MOH HCWM-related procurement, updating IP training materials, and adding HCWM criteria to IP supportive supervision tools. AIDSFree will also develop and conduct a TOT for regional USG IPs and district teams.

Supporting GLSL to Strengthen Internal Controls: AIDSFree and GLSL will review the findings of the recent audit of GLSL conducted by Deloitte and together identify areas in which GLSL can strengthen internal control systems. Actionable plans will then be developed for GLSL follow-up.