Gunjan Singh Hospital,
Pithuwa Village, Chitwan District, Nepal

GGHH Agenda Goals
- Safe and sustainable waste management,

Hospital Goals
1. Safe and sustainable hospital waste management

Progress Achieved
Proper hospital waste management was implemented in 2011.
- Training was done by the team of Mahesh Nakarmi from Healthcare Foundation Nepal (HECAF) in Kathmandu.
- Infectious waste is treated by autoclave (see photo on the right)
- The Center has needle and syringe destroyers to prevent reuse of syringes and prevent injuries during disposal.
- We have a new constructed compost bins for biodegradable waste
- The center is mercury free so there is no mercury waste
- Pharmaceutical stocks are monitored and the ones with the closest expiry dates are used first. This saves money and prevents generation of pharmaceutical waste
- As much waste as possible is recycled

Cost of equipment, trainings, transport and living costs around USD 500 plus staff time and travel and allowances for HECAF to do the training.

We have also one person responsible for waste management: M. Surej (photo on the right). After implementing the waste management program and cleaning properly our hospital and surroundings we have achieved a good standard of hygiene from which our staff and patients are benefitting and learning.

The Issue
Chitwan is a rural district in the eastern lowlands (Terai) of Nepal. There is little municipal waste management and no healthcare waste management. Most healthcare facilities burn waste in pits or badly made incinerators. Medical waste dumping is also common.

Sustainability Strategy Implemented
The Center is funded by Swiss NGO “Shanti Med Nepal” and private sponsorship. Environmental health and sustainability is an important factor in decisions in the development in the hospital. So far, the Center has become mercury free, implemented safe healthcare waste management, installed solar electricity backup and solar water disinfection. Dr Gonseth, the Swiss dermatologist who founded Shanti Med Nepal and spends part of the year at the Center, is committed to sharing her environmental expertise with others wherever possible.
Implementation process
In such a small facility, the decision making and implementation process is comparatively simple. Dr Gonseth was responsible for selecting the projects to be undertaken, any necessary fundraising, identifying collaboration partners and directing implementation for all elements within GSH.

The project to implement medical waste management in other similar projects is led by HECAF. All participating parties (HECAF, GSH and HCWH) worked together on the plans, which are supported by a small grant. GSH will host a demonstration site which will be important in training of staff from other facilities. HECAF are responsible for the implementation of the project and HCWH are providing technical support as requested.

Tracking Progress
Healthcare waste management: success is measured by the ability to treat and recycle as much as possible of the waste produced by the facility. Parameters recorded include the amount of infectious waste autoclaved; results of the regular efficacy testing of the autoclave; records of maintenance of the autoclave; amounts of waste sold for recycling; income from the sale of recycling and any profit remaining after transportation costs are deducted.

Challenges and lessons learned
The original hospital manager was against the project and tried to disrupt it. He refused to issue staff with PPE and tore down posters about the project. He was eventually replaced and the project has been more successful since.

Next Steps
- HECAF is leading a project with GSH and HCWH to implement safe waste management in small facilities in Chitwan District. There is a wide interest in installing the proper waste management and there is the support of the District Public Health Office and the national Ministry of Health and Population. GSH will both serve as a demonstration site and source of expertise during the project.
- It is planned to expand from the current daycare center to a small hospital being built nearby. In the first phase, it will have twenty-five beds, expanding eventually to fifty beds. Sustainable healthcare waste management will be implemented at the hospital.

Demographic information
Gunjaman Singh Hospital, Pithuwa-3, Chitwan, Nepal, is an independent non-profit day care centre, funded by NGOs and private donation. Gunjaman Singh Hospital has 50 – 70 patients daily and has 10 staff members (including two Nepali doctors). Mostly of the time there is
also a volunteer doctor or another specialised person from Switzerland there to give trainings to the staff.

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Quotes:
Ruth Stringer: “It is really impressive to see that the whole centre, including the x-ray machine, and the waste autoclave, can be run on a single array of solar panels. The leadership provided by Dr Gonseth will have an impact far beyond Gunjaman Singh Hospital, as the partnership with HECAF shows.”