

## **Gunjaman Singh Day Hospital, Pithuwa Village, Chitwan District, Nepal**

### **GGHH Agenda Goals**

- Leadership in environmental health in district health posts and hospitals.

### **Progress Achieved**

The Hospital has already piloted new projects in medical waste management, renewable energy and safe water. It is now acting as a hub to disseminate this knowledge. As part of a collaboration with Health Care Foundation Nepal and HCWH, the Hospital has recently hosted a meeting for directors of local health posts and the District Public Health Officer to discuss the implementation of safe healthcare waste management in five local health posts (see photo).



Health Post Directors, HECAF and HCWH of district health posts meet at GSH to share learn from their example and plan how to improve their own facilities. Dr Gonseth is second from the right.

### **The Issue**

Chitwan is a rural district in the eastern lowlands (Terai) region of Nepal. There is no proper waste management for either domestic or medical waste. Most waste is burned in open pits or badly constructed incinerators. This causes air pollution, including by dioxins and furans which are persistent organic pollutants or “POPs”

### **Sustainability Strategy Implemented**

The Hospital 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 Hospital 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 Hospital, is committed to sharing her environmental expertise with others wherever possible.

### **Implementation process**

GSH has an ongoing collaboration with Health Care Foundation Nepal, a strategic partner of HCWH. HECAF has obtained a grant from the GEF small grants project to reduce the production of POPs including implement safe healthcare waste management and GSH is contributing its facilities and some staff time as co-financing for the project. Up to 5 small facilities will be helped to implement safe and sustainable waste management systems by the end of 2013. First contacts to health posts and other hospitals in the district have already been made by HECAF and HCWH. Once the best facilities have been chosen, the team will help them install the necessary equipment, train staff and monitor and report progress

### **Challenges and lessons learned**

The most important challenge is that Dr Gonseth is only able to be at the hospital for part of the year. Staff sometimes return to old ways of doing things in her absence. It is necessary to make sure that practices are checked and the message about the importance of improved practices is reinforced regularly.

### **Next Steps**

The healthcare waste management project could be expanded in the future. A fifty-bed hospital is being constructed nearby and the district public health office is already considering expanding safe healthcare waste management beyond the initial five health posts. GSH will act as a hub for expertise for these and other initiatives.

### **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 specialized person from Switzerland there to give trainings to the staff.

Gunjaman Singh Hospital, Pithuwa-3, Chitwan, Nepal  
Independent non-profit day care centre.

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The District Public Health Officer (left), Mahesh Nakarmi of HECAF (second left) and Dr Ruth Gonseth (right) discuss the systems in place at the Hospital

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