

# ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

### WASTE CATEGORIES

WHO mentions a minimum of 3 categories

- infectious waste
  - has been in contact with body fluids or infectious patients
  - has the potential to transmit infectious agents
  - examples: used gloves, bandages, i.v.lines...
  - must be collected in leak proof and puncture resistant container



- sharps
  - have the potential to transmit infectious agents
  - easily pierce the barrier of the skin
  - examples: needles, razors, blades, lancets...
  - must be collected in a designated sharps container
- general waste
  - is considered non hazardous
  - examples: paper, packaging material, kitchen waste, office waste...
  - recycling of certain material desirable and possible
  - can be burnt or landfilled

Additional categories especially in the general waste section are possible like organic waste, paper and bottles etc. especially for recycling

### WASTE PROCESSING

- Waste should be collected in designated and color coded containers. The containers should be placed strategically in dry and safe places.
- Staff, that handles and empties containers should be equipped with adequate PPE and have received training in how to handle different kinds of waste.
- Protocols for spilling or breakage as well as injuries should be in place.
- All the equipment needed including waste containers, sharps containers and autoclaves for sterilization of infectious waste and incinerators should be regularly maintained.



### INCINERATION

Incineration of medical waste must always be done in a closed incinerator with a combustion chamber

- preheating is necessary, in this phase general waste can be burnt
- proper burning temperature for medical waste is above 600° up to 1000° Celcius
- 1000° as well as 2 hours operation at combustion temperature should not be exceeded due to smoke development and toxin emission
- Montfort icinerators can burn about 6kg per hour
- temperature is to be monitored and kept stable by adequate loading intervals
- after cool-down the remaining ash has to be collected and disposed of in a designated disposal site

