



Mid-Term Evaluation Brief /2023

PacWaste Plus (PWP) is a regional programme working with Pacific Island States to improve their solid waste management practices. Funded by the **European Union**, PWP is implemented by the **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**. Between January and August 2023, **NIRAS** conducted a mid-term evaluation of PacWaste Plus, producing a series of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to improve the programme implementation.

Timor-Leste



Country project focus:



Healthcare Waste Management

Local actors involved:

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (with former National Authorizing Officer), National Authority for Water and Sanitation (ANAS), Secretary of State of Environment.



Good practices

The waste audit was reported as a main contribution of the project, according to the National Authority for Water and Sanitation (ANAS). A private contractor translated the materials into Tetum and remotely trained ANAS' staff on the waste audit methodology in 2021, as there were still travel restrictions in place. The local staff collected qualitative and quantitative data from households and businesses in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Having conducted this work themselves will allow ANAS to perform waste audits in other locations and use the data in decision-making.

Lessons learned:

- Language is a significant barrier to implementing project activities in Timor-Leste. While some people speak English, some others speak Portuguese, the common national language is Tetum.
- Timor-Leste is a much larger country than other Pacific Island States, having its own European Union Delegation (EUD) in Dili. This country's different needs and challenges undermine the contribution of a regional programme such as PacWaste Plus. Supervision of the country project delegated to the EUD in Timor-Leste, and a stronger mandate to coordinate with local actors would have strengthened the project, especially during travel bans enforced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sustainable financing principles are yet to be incorporated into healthcare waste management to sustain operations beyond the programme implementation period.

Main results achieved:

- A stocktake of existing waste legislation and an assessment of legislative frameworks were completed.
- A household waste audit was completed in the Baucau and Covalima Districts.
- An asbestos management brief was developed.
- A healthcare waste management strategy was drafted and discussed with relevant stakeholders.
- A technical assessment of the condition and needed repairs of healthcare waste incinerators in Baucau, Maubisse and Suai hospitals was conducted.

Next steps:

- Repair and commission healthcare waste incinerators purchased during the previous PacWASTE programme.
- Prepare and implement healthcare waste management plans for three hospitals.
- Remove contaminated soil due to open burning of healthcare waste from Baucau hospital grounds.
- Carry out healthcare waste management training with hospital staff.