



NIGERIA

IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (HCWMP) IN NIGERIA

PRESENTED BY

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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HCWMP IN NIGERIA

- The Making Medical Injection Safer Project (MMIS) has been working in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnvt), Federal Ministry of Health (FMH), other Partners and Stakeholders in developing draft HCWM Plan, Policy and Guidelines for Nigeria.
- The NHCWMP identifies several opportunities to advance safe HCWM in Nigeria. The HCWM Technical Working Group (TWG) drafted :

BRIEF OVERVIEW CTD.

- NHCWM Guidelines: This will be widely distributed to decision makers in relevant Government Agencies, and other stakeholder groups and applied in all Health Care Waste (HCW) generating and disposal facilities in Nigeria.
- Under this Guideline, mercury waste is regarded as highly hazardous and classified under class 8. It is separated from other HCW streams in terms of the practices and technologies applied in its handling.

BRIEF OVERVIEW CTD.

- NHCWM Policy: This will stimulate management team in Healthcare Facilities (HCF) to establish and maintain efficient safe and sustainable HCWM practices.
- HCWM Bill will be prepared and presented to the National Assembly for enactment into law.

BRIEF OVERVIEW CTD.

- NHCWM Action Plan: This is to progressively upgrade the current HCWM practices and be implemented over a five year period.
- It recommends the establishment of a National Steering Committee (NSC) to ensure coordination and supervision of the NHCWMP at all levels in the country.
- It also encourages efforts to discontinue the usage of mercury in- products while encouraging the use of alternatives.

PROGRESS SINCE LAST YEAR

- As at last year, the three working documents were in draft though ratified by stakeholders and submitted to FMEnvnt for submission to the Federal Executive Council (FEC).
- FMEnvnt was to seek and obtain approval from FEC before the documents will be put into use.
- In a bid to obtain approval from FEC, FMEnvnt sought the concurrence of the FMH.

PROGRESS SINCE LAST YEAR CTD.

- The FMH raised some issues which brought to fore the need to seek where such issues have been encountered and resolved so as to have free implementation when approved.
- South Africa was found to have had similar issues in their implementation of HCWM. A study tour of South Africa health and medical waste treatment and disposal facilities was proposed by MMIS and undertaken by a team of officers from FMEnvt and health.

PROGRESS SINCE LAST YEAR CTD.

- The report of the study tour with accompanying memo seeking the approval of FEC on the three working documents and the establishment of NSC on HCWMP has been sent to the Minister of Environment for presentation to the FEC.
- It is hoped that as soon as approval is obtained full implementation of the plan will take off.

CHALLENGES FACED IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT

- Limited and unreliable financial resources.
- Lack of political will among the political class.
- Insufficient awareness creation.
- Poor documentation and data gaps/ management.
- Lack of cooperation among stakeholders.
- Bureaucracy in the system.
- Inadequate legal and regulatory framework.
- Lack of technical expertise

TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES APPLIED IN THE PROJECT

- The technologies include: incineration, autoclave, microwave, hydroclave, chemical disinfection, and engineered land fill.
- While the practices include: minimization at source, segregation, colour coding, collection, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal.
- For mercury waste, it is presently being collected in drums labeled “Mercury” and stored under roof with concrete floor and proper ventilation.

WAYS TO RAISE AWARENESS TO GAIN COOPERATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

- Advocacy visits.
- Seminars/Conferences/Workshops.
- Assigning responsibilities.
- These can be achieved using kits, flyers, billboards, jingles, print and electronic media.

LESSONS LEARNT SO FAR FROM THE PROJECT

- Fostering of cooperation and collaboration in addressing challenges of health care waste management amongst all relevant stakeholders.
- The proposed NSC should be truly independent to counter bureaucratic bottlenecks that may delay the implementation process.

LESSONS LEARNT SO FAR FROM THE PROJECT CTD.

- HCWM Bill should be readily available upon the inauguration of NSC.
- Full implementation of the HCWMP will take off as soon as the NSC is approved by the FEC and inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Environment.

THANK YOU.