

Trip Report

Hospital Regional Eduardo Ximenes Baucau

22August2022

Undertook a site visit to Baucau Hospital for the day.

Visit and assess burn areas located adjacent to the hospital

Visit the old Baucau hospital to view the PWP incinerator parts, photographs and evaluate repair potential.

Attend meeting with hospital staff.

Arrived at hospital grounds (Index Map) at 11:00am and was introduced to the hospital director. First stop was the burn areas, second the PWP material located at the old Baucau hospital location, and lastly meeting with hospital staff. Note that this is a new hospital, built beginning in 2005 and commissioned for use in 2015. As informed by the current Baucau hospital director, this hospital was fully in use, and the old hospital abandoned, in 2018.

Burn Areas

We visited the burn areas located approximately 100 meters west from the hospital buildings on gentle sloping ground away from the hospital. There were many small burn areas, however, there were two large areas noted. There were small piles of solid waste in numerous locations around the hospital.

We were told that there is no uniform waste disposal plans or processes in place at the hospital for solid or healthcare waste. The hospital ground are enclosed by a large concrete wall, with access controls in place, not allowing anyone except hospital staff and patients on hospital grounds. Note that there is no fencing around the burn areas or healthcare waste located on the surface.

The surface is a carbonate/coral hard substrate with no appreciable topsoil present. The topography is rugged, and very porous, making it difficult to walk in that area. Ground water is not used, as all potable water for the City of Baucau is piped in from surface water locations elsewhere; I was informed that there was an attempt to use groundwater as a potable water supply in the past, but it was unsuccessful.

There are two main burn areas located at the hospital, the smaller directly west of the hospital buildings and the other to the southwest about 200 meters down a short path. There is very little vegetation other than grasses and small shrubs. There are two concrete pads near these areas, one has a small outbuilding on the surface. The other is a structure with a wall approximately four meters tall, [noted later as the WHO burn structure], where HCW is burned on a concrete pad; there is a metal door to access the inside of the structure. It appear that all healthcare waste is not disposed of in this manner.

Burn Area West

This area consists of two smaller burn locations separated by a short path between them. ~~The area is approximately ten by twenty-one meters [210 square meters] in size.~~ (Figure 1) Partially burned healthcare waste is on the surface, as there is no excavation or depression located in the area. The

waste includes sharps and infectious wastes, blood and blood products, all visible on the ground surface. Directly south of the area is a small grove of roughly 15 well-kept banana trees.

Burn Area Southwest

This area consists of an elongated, eggplant shaped area with the southernmost section located in a depression surrounded by rocks. The area contains both burned and unburned material, included sharps as well as blood products. (Figure 2)

Incinerators

There are four facilities that were procured to provided high temperature incineration of health care waste at Baucau hospital. I was informed by currently hospital staff of these facilities, and was provided the name of the donor agency funding and procured these facilities. Other than the EU funding PW facility I had no independently verification that this information was true.

Hospital West Burn Facility [WHO funded]

This facility consists of a concrete slab approximately 100 meters square with a four-meter-tall concrete wall and a metal gate to access inside the enclosure. HCW is burned directly on the pad, there are no emission controls. (Figure3) Unaware of any ash disposal location.

This facility was actively in use.

Hospital East Incinerator [Chinese funded].

This dual chambered facility was located east of the hospital on a concrete pad, enclosed in wire fencing. (Figure 4)

I was informed that this incinerator was in use for some time, but then it failed and there were no spare parts provided to fix it. It appeared to have not been in use or accessed for a number of years.

Old Hospital Housed Incinerator [USAID funded]

This facility was located at the old Baucau hospital location. The incinerator is housed in a sturdy building in good shape. (Figure 5) I did not see the incinerator inside the structure as I was unable to access the building, but I was able to see the stack. I was told that this facility was procured for use at the hospital in 2014. I did notice some soot on the stack; however, I was unable to confirm that it was commissioned.

Old Hospital Incinerator Parts [EU/PacWaste funded]

Next to the incinerator housing were parts of an incinerator chamber, both lower and upper, for an INCINER8 facility. The parts were in relatively good condition, with some rust. (Figure 6) However, I was informed that the parts had been outside, with no covering, since delivered to that location back in 2015. The parts had never been assembled or used.

I was told that the burners and electronics were located inside one of the hospitals buildings that we were unable to access.

Meeting with Baucau Hospital staff

A two-hour briefing was held with Baucau Hospital personnel. (Figure 7 & 8) The meeting started with introductions followed by lunch.

After lunch Lance Richman (PWP project officer) provided a brief on the Pac Waste Plus project activities being undertaken in Timor Leste. It was stressed that local staff would have the opportunity to take part in the healthcare waste management training. It was stated that one of the objectives was to address the waste piles located around the facility.

Baucau hospital staff provided the following information.

There is no strategy or plan in the hospital for dealing with healthcare waste. Most infectious waste is burned, and other general solid waste is picked up by PAX [a local disposal company] and taken to a landfill. There is no segregation of waste materials, however they do occasionally receive healthcare waste bins and other healthcare waste infrastructure that does help in containing their healthcare waste. However, disposal is still to the local landfill.

There is no healthcare waste committee at the hospital

Anatomical wastes are handled in several ways. First due to cultural issues in Timor Leste, the families of the persons where the waste (body parts, etc.) come from are offered the opportunity to take the material home for burning or burial. Other anatomical waste is either burned or placed with other healthcare waste and disposed of via the local waste pick up. In some cases, the material can be taken away to a company for cremation and burial, i.e., full bodies.

They requested that any training meet the context and education level of the staff at the hospital. Concern was voiced about providing training that has no real use or value to the hospital. Language is an issue as well, whatever training is giving must be in Tetum or Portuguese.

The staff needs training and efforts must be focused on building staff capacity to better perform to appropriate hospital procedures.

While repairing the incinerator is needed, without training and spare parts as well as building of local staffs' capacity to undertake repairs, any positive outcomes will not be sustainable. The long-term sustainability of these investments requires capacity building of local staff as well as the provision of needed spare parts.

Staff in the hospital are given double duties. While a person may be hired as a nurse, they may also be tasked to do other work in the hospital outside of those tasks that a nurse would normally do.

There is a significant need for better waste infrastructure at the hospital. This includes waste bins, sharps containers, PPE for waste management staff, etc. WHO has provided this in the past but is no longer doing so.

END



Burn Area West

Burn Area Southwest

Hospital West Burn Facility

Hospital East Incinerator



Figure 1: Burn Area West, Baucau Hospital, Baucau, Timor Leste, August 22, 2022, Photo taken by Lance Richman



Figure 2: Burn Area Southwest, Baucau Hospital, Baucau, Timor Leste, August 22, 2022, Photo by Lance Richman



Figure 3: Hospital West Burn Facility [WHO funded], Baucau Hospital, Baucau, Timor Leste, August 22, 2022, Photo taken by Lance Richman



Figure 4: Hospital East Incinerator [Chinese funded], Baucau Hospital, Baucau, Timor Leste, August 22, 2022, Photo taken by Lance Richman



Figure 5: Old Hospital Housed Incinerator (USAID funded), Baucau, Timor Leste, August 22, 2022, Photo taken by Lance Richman



Figure 6: EU/PW Incinerator Parts located at the old Baucau Hospital, Baucau, Timor Leste, August 22, 2022. Photos by Lance Richman



Figure 7: Meeting with Hospital Staff, August 22, 2022, Baucau Hospital, Baucau, Timor Leste. Photo by Lance Richman



REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR LESTE
VIII GOVERNO CONSTITUCIONAL
MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE
HOSPITAL REGIONAL EDUARDO XIMENES BAUCAU



Lista Presenca Enkontro Gestau Lisu Iha HoREX dia 22 de Agosto de 2022

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4	Mario Marcelino Romão	chefe dep. Q.E.	[Signature]
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10	Bernardim Freitas Marçal	Parteira Maternidade	[Signature]
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