

Press release

For immediate release

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UNOPS and Takeda Partner to Tackle Medical Waste Crisis in Bangladesh

Landmark project protects millions while strengthening public health systems in climate-vulnerable districts

Dhaka, Bangladesh —The **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**, in partnership with **Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited (Takeda)**, has launched a transformative healthcare waste management initiative in Bangladesh. The project aims to protect over 7.3 million people from infection risks linked to healthcare waste while boosting climate resilience in the public health system. Supported by **USD 7.1 million (JPY ¥1,023,546,180)** from Takeda, it will establish a sustainable and replicable framework for medical waste management in underserved and climate-exposed regions.

In Bangladesh's rural and disaster-prone districts, mismanaged medical waste poses an increasing threat to both public health and the environment. Hospitals now generate around 3.4 kg of waste per bed per day, up from 2 kg in 2019, with this surge far outpacing the development of supporting infrastructure. Over 80% of municipalities still lack proper waste treatment facilities. Seasonal floods and cyclones worsen the situation, spreading untreated, infectious waste into nearby communities and water systems, and heightening the risk of diseases such as HIV, hepatitis, and bacterial infections.

To address this urgent challenge, the project will establish **six modern, climate-resilient medical waste treatment facilities**, serving thousands each day and reaching over **1.8 million people annually**. It will also train **1,400 healthcare professionals and waste workers**, while engaging **250 community elders and volunteers** to promote safe handling and disposal practices. By emphasizing behavioral change and local capacity-building, the initiative seeks to ensure long-term impact.

"Our partnership with Takeda is a powerful example of what we can achieve when we join forces to tackle complex challenges. Together, we're helping build safer, more climate-resilient healthcare systems in Bangladesh addressing medical waste head-on

while strengthening local capacity. We're proud to continue our collaboration with Takeda across the region, showing how private sector partnerships can drive real, lasting impact in public health," said **Sanjay Mathur**, UNOPS Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

"This collaboration demonstrates our shared commitment to strengthening health systems for Bangladesh's most vulnerable populations. By addressing medical waste management in climate-affected communities, we will advance the development of sustainable solutions that safeguard public health and enhance local capacity. Together with UNOPS, we aim to create a model that can be adapted to serve similar communities facing these pressing challenges worldwide," said **Toshie Ando**, Head of Global CSR & Partnership Strategy, Global Corporate Affairs, Takeda.

Designed for scale and sustainability, the project integrates modern infrastructure, workforce training, recycling solutions, and close collaboration with local governments. This evidence-based model offers a blueprint for managing medical waste in other low-resource, high-risk settings worldwide linking infection control with climate resilience and stronger local governance.

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About UNOPS

UNOPS offers practical solutions across peace and security, humanitarian and development operations. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners, such as the European Union and its Member States, to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement across the world. Read more: www.unops.org.