

National Agency for Waste Management

GEF 2995 «Demonstrating and Promoting Best Techniques and Practices for Managing Healthcare Waste and Polychlorobiphenyls (PCBs)»

Three lessons learned:

1. It is a Partnership Project which has federated 6 Ministries, trade union chambers (clinics & hemodialysis centers), national councils (pharmacists, dentists, etc.), the private sector Waste management, civil societies operating in the environment and health, scientific research, etc. *All the steps were followed in a participatory manner in close consultation with the relevant stakeholders* under the auspices of a Steering Committee (COPIL), a Project Management Unit (PMU) and a Central Technical Committee (CLC);

2. Communication, Awareness and Training were a strong link. The communication as designed has encouraged dialogue with the required transparency and allowed access to environmental information (*ESMP on the website, a database accessible to the general public*) in the spirit of the 'Aarhus on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters and in the spirit of Article 32 of the Tunisian Constitution on the right of access To information.

A communication strategy has been developed and approved by all partners and operationalized by an action plan (2014-2017) set up during the project (*Website www.POPs-tunisie.tn; facebook page: Ensemble changerons nos Habits (about 5000*

like), DAS database: www.dechets-sanitaires.tn, 4 issues of newsletters, 11 posters, 1 educational brochure for patients and visitors, two itinerant exhibitions in the regions, 18 roll-up). A training plan (2014-2017), combining priority training themes, has been proposed, validated and implemented. These trainings have touched several target audiences at the national, regional and local levels, notably the heads of medical services, medical officers of health, hygienists, hospital directors, the paramedical corps, etc.

3. *The technical aspect based on the choice of good techniques and practices for waste management of health activities* is perpetuated by a harmonious regulatory outline and budget allocations to cover all the related costs (*Creation of a specific budget For each hospital related to the management of the PCBs*). These considerations, which went hand in hand, made it possible to improve the management of DAS in Tunisia by strengthening the regulatory framework by promulgating a decree specific to the DAS supported by two decrees and in harmony with the framework law of waste , The development of the framework manual of procedures for managing dangerous SARs in Tunisia, 11 specific DAS management manuals (118 MS), 97 specific environmental and social management plans (97 ESMPs), 14 technical sheets Of the DAS and 7 specific services), 1 poster of good practices of management of the DAS in intra- and extra-muros; Identification of hospitals' needs for equipment, acquisition of equipment (mobile containers, intermediate and refrigerated centralized storage rooms, freezers for maternity services) and signing of a contract for the collection, processing and procurement of consumables.