



TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. General Information

Position Title:	Social-Economic Assessment Expert
Unit:	Policy Development and Research Unit
Contract period:	12 months
Project:	Reduction of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants and Mercury through an Environmentally-Sound Approach on Healthcare Wastes Management in the Philippines with a Special Focus on the Pandemic
Reporting to:	Project Manager
Duty Station:	Quezon City
Employment status:	Project-term employee (output-based)
Budget:	

II. Background

Organizational Context

The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is being implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) as lead agency and BAN Toxics as executing entity.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. The Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development (TCS), headed by a Managing Director, ensures the Organization's application of strategies and interventions for sustainable industrial development related to environment, energy, Micro, Small and Medium-Enterprises (MSMEs), and digitalization. The Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development (TCS), and in close coordination with other organizational entities within UNIDO, the Division of Circular Economy and Green Industry (TCS/CEG) contributes to greener and more circular industries and products by minimizing both resource use along value chains and the emission of pollutants to the environment. The Responsible Materials and Chemicals Management Unit (TCS/CEG/RMC) is responsible for supporting Member States to implement the chemicals and wastes obligations and requirements under the Basel, Minamata, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions and other emerging relevant agreements, in particular where it relates to larger and

formalized industries and sectors, and to leverage its experience to address industrial pollution mitigation in general as well as other emerging compliance mechanisms

DENR-EMB is a national authority responsible for pollution prevention and control, and environmental impact assessment. EMB is guided by the vision of a nation empowered to protect its finite natural resources in pursuit of sustainable development, to ensure a healthy environment that enhances the Filipino quality of life for present and future generations. Its mission is to restore, protect, and enhance environmental quality towards good public health, environmental integrity, and economic viability.

Particularly, EMB is mandated to implement the following national environmental laws: Presidential Decree 1586 (Environmental Impact Statement System), Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990), Republic Act 8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999), Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), Republic Act 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004), and Republic Act 9512 (Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008).

BAN Toxics is an independent non-government environmental organization that works for the advancement of environmental justice, health, and sustainable development in the area of chemicals and wastes with a special focus on women, children, and other marginalized sectors.

BAN Toxics' intervention approach emphasizes how the mismanagement of toxic chemicals can impact us. Chemicals are a part of daily life and they play an important role in society. However, their mismanagement can potentially impact various aspects of human life. As such, the organization views toxic chemicals issues as important human rights issues.

PROJECT CONTEXT

Reduction of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants (uPOPs) and Mercury through an environmentally-sound approach on health care wastes management” or the HCW project.

This project aims to achieve the protection of human health and the environment from the impacts of improper medical wastes management. It also focuses on the avoidance and reduction of the releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury in the health care waste sector. Below are the major components of the project:

- Component 1: Unintentionally produced POPs release reduction in the healthcare waste sector*
- Component 2: Management of mercury, mercury-added products (MAPs) and mercury wastes in the health sector according to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Philippine National Action Plan for MAPs phase-out.*
- Component 3: Capacity-building, awareness raising, and knowledge management*
- Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation*

The project is implemented through six (6) partner hospitals across the Philippines, namely: Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Cagayan Valley Medical Center, Eastern Visayas Medical Center, Southern Philippines Medical Center, Northern Mindanao Medical Center, and Caraga Regional Hospital. The consultancy shall also cover the corresponding treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities and relevant local government units (LGUs). For implementation purposes, project partners may be grouped into clusters consistent with the clustering approach adopted for the Technology Assessment and Recommendation Consultancy.

III. Scope of Work

The consultant shall undertake the assignment for the assigned cluster of project partners, which may include one or more partner hospitals, TSD facilities, and relevant LGUs. Applicants may apply to cover one or more clusters, subject to evaluation of their technical expertise, operational capacity, and availability.

In relation to Output 1.2.: “Environmentally-sound technology for the collection, treatment, and recycling of wastes generated during pandemic implemented.” The consultant is asked to conduct an assessment of the social and economic impacts of adopting non-burn technologies and waste reduction interventions in the healthcare waste sector. The consultant shall utilize and build upon the findings, recommendations, assessment results, and technical documents developed under the project's healthcare waste management assessment activities. Socio-economic analyses shall complement the technical assessments and provide evidence on the costs, benefits, operational implications, environmental outcomes, and broader impacts of the recommended interventions. The specific responsibilities of the consultant include:

- In coordination with the Policy Development and Research Unit of BAN Toxics, develop a research plan including indicators, data-collection, and validation methodologies.
- Taking into consideration the results of the initial technical assessments and strategic plans for waste management in partner facilities, provide an in-depth assessment of the social and economic impacts of adopting non-burn technologies and waste reduction methodologies. Factors that may be considered include 1) direct costs incurred by hospitals in the operation and maintenance of technologies (including comparisons to thermal treatment options, if applicable), 2) cost savings from waste reduction initiatives, and 3) impacts to human health and the environment.
- Development of case studies on the success of implementation of project interventions in the partner hospitals, and provision of further recommendations to improve waste management practices.
- Based on the case studies, provide general recommendations and guidance for healthcare and TSD facilities to improve the management of healthcare wastes including the identification of suitable technologies, waste reduction strategies, and policies.
- Integrate gender-responsiveness and inclusivity considerations throughout the research design, stakeholder engagement process, data collection methodologies, analysis, and recommendations. The assessment shall consider differentiated impacts of healthcare waste management interventions on women, men, marginalized groups, healthcare workers, waste workers, and affected communities.

- Coordinate with the Technology Assessment and Recommendation Consultant, where applicable, particularly during stakeholder consultations and validation activities, to ensure complementarity of findings and efficient engagement of project stakeholders.

Project outputs will be developed under the supervision of the Project Technical Working Group, the Department of Health, and the DENR-EMB, the UNIDO and with support from BAN Toxics.

IV. Qualifications

- A degree in social sciences, economics, environmental studies, or related studies
- A demonstrated expertise in the conduct of research related to environmental sustainability and waste management
- At least 5 years of experience working in the development sector
- Based locally and able to conduct site visits when necessary

V. Application and Engagement Process

The project encourages applications from qualified consultants capable of supporting one or more clusters of partner hospitals, TSD facilities, and LGUs. Applicants shall indicate the cluster(s) they wish to cover and demonstrate their technical and operational capacity to deliver the required outputs within the prescribed timeline.

The final clustering arrangement and assignment of consultants shall be determined by the Project Management Unit based on project requirements, consultant qualifications, and operational considerations.

VI. Expected Outputs

Expected outputs of the project include:

- Research Plan, including methodology, indicators, data collection tools, validation mechanisms, implementation timeline, stakeholder engagement approach, and gender-responsive and inclusive assessment framework.

Socio-Economic Assessment Report, including:

- Cost-benefit analysis of recommended technologies and interventions;
- Comparative analysis of burn and non-burn technologies;
- Assessment of operational, environmental, public health, and economic impacts;
- Stakeholder consultation findings and supporting data.
- Assessment of gender, social inclusion, and equity considerations associated with the proposed healthcare waste management interventions.

Case Studies and Guidance Document, including:

- Case studies on successful implementation of project interventions in partner hospitals;
- Comparative experiences and lessons learned from burn and non-burn technologies;
- Guidance on best practices, technologies, and implementation approaches to improve healthcare waste management and minimize environmental impacts;
- Policy and programmatic recommendations for healthcare facilities and TSD operators.
- The consultant may develop supporting communication materials, including a short video presentation, subject to project requirements and available resources.

All outputs shall be subject to technical review and approval by BAN Toxics, DENR-EMB, DOH, UNIDO, and the Technical Working Group prior to acceptance.

Target Timeline of Activities				
#	Activity	Projected Timeline	Notes	Payment Tranche
1	Inception meeting, stakeholder consultations, and development of research plan and methodology	Month 1 to Month 2	Coordination with BAN Toxics, DENR-EMB, DOH, UNIDO, HCFs, and relevant stakeholders	10%
2	Finalization and approval of research plan, indicators, data collection tools, and validation framework	Month 2 to Month 3	Presentation of methodology and workplan to TWG for review and approval	20%
3	Data gathering, stakeholder consultations, and socio-economic	Month 3 to Month 6	Includes collection of operational, environmental, economic, and social data from partner hospitals and relevant stakeholders. Utilizes	10%

	assessment of project interventions		available technical assessment findings and recommendations.	
4	Preparation, presentation, and endorsement of draft Socio-Economic Assessment Report	Month 6	Presentation of preliminary findings, cost-benefit analysis, and recommendations to BAN Toxics, TWG, DENR-EMB, DOH, and UNIDO	30%
5	Development and finalization of case studies, comparative analysis of burn and non-burn technologies, and guidance document on best practices and technologies	Month 7 to Month 11	Includes validation activities, additional consultations, and incorporation of stakeholder comments	
6	Finalization, presentation, and endorsement of all outputs	Month 12	Submission of final revised reports, case studies, guidance document, and supporting materials incorporating comments from reviewers	30%

Note: The timeline may be adjusted to accommodate the availability of technical assessment outputs, government review processes, stakeholder consultations, site access approvals, validation activities, and procurement-related processes. The consultancy shall allow for periods of limited activity during procurement and project implementation while ensuring sufficient operational time to complete the socio-economic assessment and case study requirements.