



A laboratory technician on a COVID-19 rapid response team conducts a PCR test at a home in Khartoum. © WHO/Lindsay Mackenzie

Mohammed Hassan gets really excited about garbage.

On a recent visit to Omar Ibn Khatab Primary Health Centre in Khartoum, Sudan, the World Health Organization (WHO) infection prevention and control (IPC) specialist watched as a health worker carefully donned protective gear and threw away medical waste in a special blue container outside the facility.

“This work is my baby,” he said with a broad smile.



Hussein Sala Habib disposes of medical waste in a container specially set up for this purpose at Omar Ibn Khatab Primary Health Centre in Khartoum. © WHO/Lindsay Mackenzie

It’s not something people think much about, Mohammed explained, but it’s vitally important. Keeping potentially infectious medical waste separate from other garbage is one of several IPC measures that help keep health facilities safe for staff and patients. Ensuring good hand hygiene, using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and creating a screening and triage system for people entering health facilities are also key.



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