Aga Khan Health Services

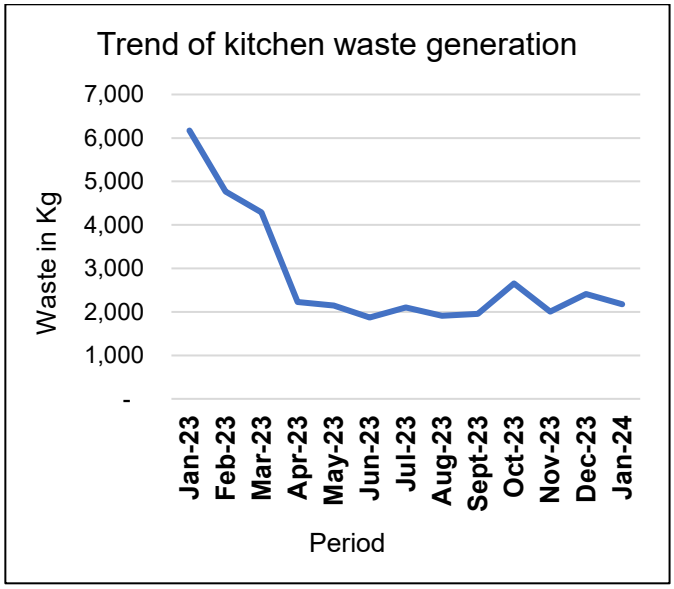
# Tanzania: Aga Khan Hospital-Dar es Salaam: Revolutionising kitchen waste management

***Published on 13 July 2024***

The Aga Khan Hospital (AKH) Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, (a 170-bed private not-for-profit, tertiary and teaching accredited Joint Commissioned International (JCI) establishment), runs a large in-house catering service for patients and staff which provides around 2000 meals a day. As part of its net zero ambitions, the hospital reviewed means to reduce kitchen waste.

Since January 2023, a number of initiatives were undertaken. This included working with suppliers to guide them on ways to provide pre-prepared meat and fish, and training kitchen staff on economic ways to peel and trim food to reduce waste in food preparation from the outset. Kitchen staff then worked with staff to adjust food portions and cater to the specific demand of patients which was an iterative and gradual process built on consultation and building consensus. Drinking water was purchased in large bottles and distributed to patients using reusable glass jugs instead of single-use small plastic bottles. Furthermore, leftover food, peeling and trimming waste was arranged to be taken back by suppliers for animal feed.

Within one year, these collective efforts including awareness and education of staff have reduced kitchen waste from around 6,200 kg to 2,200 kg—a reduction of around 64.8%. This translates into a 4.06-ton reduction in CO2e emissions through avoided landfill. These calculations were made possible through the use of the Aga Khan Development Network's carbon management tool. Additionally, the changes have reduced the annual use of single-use 350ml plastic water bottles by 97% - from almost 111,400 to 3,000 bottles. Collectively, these resulted in considerably reduced expenses for waste disposal.




*Kitchen waste reduction at AKH-Dar Es Salaam January 2023 – January 2024.*



*Water served in a reusable glass jug, a sustainable swap for single-use 350ml plastic bottles.*