Microbiological contamination and content of heavy metals in unlined landfill sites of Ulaanbaatar

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ABSTRACT

Background: The aim of the study was to investigate bacterial and heavy metal pollution in four landfill sites of Ulaanbaatar. Surveyed landfills included closed and currently operating unlined landfills.

Methods: In order to sample, we divided each landfill sites into three zones including zone 1: cover soil or in the boundary of the landfill, zone 2: from the boundary of the landfill to hygiene zone (25 m² to 500 m² out of cover soil), zone 3: from hygiene zone to settlement areas and compared the pollution.

Results: The titre of *Clostridium perfringens*, presence of *Salmonella* and total bacteria were not significantly different for landfill sites. The titre of *Escherichia coli* and the titre of *Proteus* for industrial landfill site were significantly different than other sites. The titre of *E. coli* and the titre of *Proteus* for the zone 1 were significantly different than the zone 3. The presence of *Salmonella* and the total bacteria for the zone 1 was significantly different than the zone 2 and zone 3. The titre of *C. perfringens* was not significantly different for landfill zones. The bacterial indicators were not significantly different for seasons of the year. Content of heavy metals in soil landfills were Pb 0.1-63 mg/kg, Cr 0.4-5124 mg/kg, Ni 3.2-84 mg/kg, Zn 21.7-776 mg/kg, Cd 0.01-2.8 mg/kg.

Conclusions: Microbiological contamination and content of heavy metals in closed unlined landfill are not different from currently operating unlined landfills.

Keywords: Municipal solid waste, Waste disposal, Soil pollution, Waste management

INTRODUCTION

The most common ways to manage such waste disposal are landfills and incinerators. Up to 95% total municipal solid waste collected is disposed of in landfills worldwide.1,2 Currently, there is not any incinerator in Mongolia and wastes are disposed in unlined landfills.

Landfills in developing countries pose serious environmental and public health hazards. Developing countries challenges in solid waste management such as insufficient waste recycling, hazardous wastes that are not separated for safe disposal, and landfills that are not properly engineered to prevent groundwater pollution.3

In total, there are 391 landfill sites occupy 4543 hectares of land in Mongolia and 2102721 tonnes of waste has been disposed in 2016. Among the wastes disposed in landfill sites, the majority 49% were ger district, 24% were from business entities, 16% came from apartments, 5% from roads and 6% for others.4 That year, 988390 tonnes of municipal solid waste was received in Ulaanbaatar city landfills including Narangiin Enger (NE), Morin Davaa (MD) and Tsagaan Davaa (TsD).

UCH landfill has been receiving municipal waste of city since 1977. It is unlined landfill which was closed in 2009.

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NE landfill which was planned to be used for 20 years was built with investment of Japan International Cooperation Agency and commissioned in 2009. It also is unlined landfill and located in Songinokhairkhan district. It receives 1176 tonnes of waste or more than other landfill sites every day.

MD landfill which was planned to be used until 2020 became officially a landfill site in 2007. This landfill also is unlined. MD is located in Khan-Uul district where the various type of factories such as leather industry, which dispose their wastes to this landfill, are located. 449 tonnes of waste is disposed here daily.

TsD landfill which was planned to be used for 20 years was commissioned in 2012. The landfill is in Baynzurkh district and receives 1083 tonnes of waste every day.

Surveyed landfills are not built with liner system and do not uses even daily cover materials. There is lack of gas and leachate collection system in these landfills. Approximately 1-3 months after receipt of the waste, landfill cover operation is made with soil that brought from near the landfills. During the absence of cover, soil pollution can pose a risk to environment.

Unlimited and uncontrolled emissions of various substances into soil inhibit the development of soil bacteria. As a result, it causes a decrease in their count and enzymatic activity, which disturbs the soil environment homeostasis. Uncollected solid waste also increases risk of injury, and infection. In particular, organic domestic waste poses a serious threat, since they ferment, creating conditions favourable to the survival and growth of microbial pathogens.

UCh, NE and TsD landfills in UB have been causing several environmental problems including smells and smoke of open burnings, strays and flies. Waste collection vehicles have negative impacts on living condition of residents, who live nearly to these landfills, including noise and dusts created by lost garbage.

High-risk group includes population living close to a waste dump and those, whose water supply has become contaminated either due to waste dumping or leakage from landfill sites. The pollutants migrate vertically rather than laterally. The microbial loads of air in the vicinity of various dumpsites in Delta State, Nigeria were all the tested parameters decreased with distance away from the dumpsites and the microbial loads were higher than regulatory limits. Therefore, recommended that dumpsites be located at a minimum 1 km distance away from residential quarters. The pollution not only prevails around its vicinity during its period of operation but may linger on for a long time after the landfill or dump site ceased operations. Solid wastes are sources of environmental pollution through introduction of chemical substances above their threshold limit into the environment. Positive impacts of the dumped municipal wastes on the microbial and organic properties of the analyzed soils.

According to the Order No. 404 “Procedure for activities of individuals, business entities and organisations to landfill and requirements for waste disposal and destruction, dedicated facility, landfill type” approved by Mongolian Minister of Nature and Environment in 2006, it is noticed that landfill should be located at about 500 m away from residential area to prohibit the population from conducting production or service or residing in the area. However, this restriction zone was not mentioned in “Law of Mongolia on household and industrial waste” adopted in 2003 and “Law on waste” which adopted in 2012 as well. As stated in “Law on waste” which updated in 2017, centralised landfill protection zone is not less than 300 meters from apartment and public zone. By this time, distance from the landfill to the settlement area is approximately 0.2-0.88 km.

Landfill sites in Ulaanbaatar do not monitoring on soil, water and air regularly. Therefore, the problem is lack of accurate information on the effects of unlined landfill sites on environment.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the bacterial pollution of soil and heavy metal concentration of soil in NE, MD and TsD and closed landfill site UCh. The main feature of this study is comparison made between activity and closed landfills, and characterisation of three zones that made from cover soil to settlement areas. The relevance of our research is to create pollution data of landfill sites in Ulaanbaatar for the first time to investigate soil pollution of landfill sites.

METHODS

Study area

We divided each landfill sites into three zones including zone 1: cover soil (both of active and non-active waste cell) or in the boundary of the landfill, zone 2: from the boundary of the landfill to hygiene zone (25 m² to 500 m² out of cover soil), zone 3: from hygiene zone to settlement areas and compared the pollution. Sample points are shown in the picture (Figure 1).

Sampling

Relating to the procedure mentioned above, we had collected surface soil pollution samples every quarter and heavy metal pollution samples from the landfills in every spring and autumn for two years.

Firstly, we built quadrats with side 5 metre and created diagonals. Then taken samples from 5 crossing points were placed into one sterile glass jars. The average weight of one sample was 500 g and samples were collected from 10 cm deep. Sample of soil bacterial pollution should be taken in sanitary condition and taken...
to the sterilised bottle and sent to the laboratory for analysis within 24 hours after creating the appropriate address.\textsuperscript{17}

Order No.404 also noticed that “Relating to the program approved by the Governor of Province and Capital, Environmental Office should conduct environmental analysis in a specially designated site once a half year and bacterial analysis at least once a quarter”.\textsuperscript{14}

This is the reason we collected pollution samples once in a quarter, control samples of bacterial pollution from non-urban settlement area (in control soil out of urban). While heavy metal pollution sample is collected twice a year (Spring and Fall). Control samples of heavy metal pollution (control UCh, control NE, control MD, control TS-D) from were collected from clean places near landfill sites. We also took sample from clean area where bacterial control samples taken to compare with mean of heavy metal concentration samples of landfill sites and Table 4 involve this comparison.

Total of 139 samples (92 samples for bacterial contamination and 47 samples for heavy metals) were taken from 4 landfills.

\textbf{Laboratory and statistical analysis}

Soil temperature during sampling bacterial pollution was measured by digital thermometer with probe sensor TP3001.

As stated in gravimetric method, we used soil sample that has been dried to constant weight in oven at temperature between 105 °C and determined the evaporated water weight to measured the soil sample mass.\textsuperscript{18}

The soil pH was measured in water (1:2.5 H\textsubscript{2}O) with electronic pH meter and a glass electrode. 10 gram of air-dried soil sample was taken in a 50 ml beaker and 25 ml of distilled water was added to it. The suspension was stirred for 20 to 30 minutes using magnetic stirrer. Then a digital pH meter was used to measure the pH of solution after 1 h of standing for sedimentation.\textsuperscript{19}

According to Mongolian norms for soil sanitation assessment in urban settlements, sanitary condition is assessed with the titre of \textit{Escherichia coli}, the titre of \textit{Clostridium perfringens}.\textsuperscript{20} Hence, we studied these bacterial indicators including titre of \textit{Escherichia coli (E. coli)}, the titre of \textit{Proteus}, the titre of \textit{Clostridium perfringens (Cl. perfringens)}, the presence of \textit{Salmonella} and total bacteria.

The microbiological tests were determined the following:

- The titre of \textit{E. coli} was determined by membrane filtration method using Endo Agar medium.\textsuperscript{21}
- The titre of \textit{Proteus} was determined by meat peptone agar.\textsuperscript{22}
- The titre of \textit{Cl. perfringens} was determined by membrane filtration method using Clostridial perfringens agar.\textsuperscript{23}
- Buffered peptone water pre-enrichment medium, Selenite Broth enrichment media and bismuth sulfite agar by selective isolation were used for the presence of \textit{Salmonella} respectively.\textsuperscript{24}
- Total bacteria were enumerated by viable plate count technique; for this, 10 g of soil sample was taken into 90 ml of sterile distilled water and mixed well for 2 minutes. The soil suspension was subjected to tenfold serial dilutions were made \textsuperscript{10}\textsuperscript{-1}-\textsuperscript{10}\textsuperscript{-2} and 100 µl of diluted cells were spread on agar medium nutrient agar and plate count agar were used.\textsuperscript{25}

This laboratory analysis of soil was made along the standard method of the Mongolian Institute of Public Health. Content of heavy metals were determined using atomic absorption spectrophotometer in Central Geological Laboratory of Mongolia.

Statistical analysis of data was performed using Sigma plot 14 software. Significant differences in the effect of the landfill sites, zones and the seasons on bacterial indicators in soil were tested using one way analysis of variance. Tukey’s test was used to determine which bacteria are statistically different. Furthermore, a comparison between the effect of heavy metals for landfill sites and zones was conducted with a one-way ANOVA.

\textbf{RESULTS}

The potential of hydrogen (pH), moisture and temperature of soil during sampling of soil bacteria are shown in Table 1. These measurements are taken from every sample of bacterial pollution and the sampling dates are as same as the date of bacterial pollution samples (Date of sampling in Table 2). We also made a comparison between soil bacterial samples of pollution of landfill sites and samples taken from outside the city where the settlement area is unaffected. The mean of pH of the soil ranged between 6.92 and 7.58, moisture varied from 3.89\% to 13.78, and temperature was between 5.71 °C and 9.75 °C (Table 1).

Table 2 indicates that determination of the titre of \textit{E. coli}, the titre of \textit{Proteus}, the titre of \textit{Cl. perfringens}, the presence of \textit{Salmonella} and total bacteria from landfills soil. In cover soil of landfill, the total bacteria count ranged from 0.1×10\textsuperscript{6} CFU/g to 460×10\textsuperscript{6} CFU/g while the total bacteria count ranged from 0.014×10\textsuperscript{6} CFU/g to 0.3×10\textsuperscript{6} CFU/g in control soil out of urban. The titre of \textit{E. coli}, the titre of \textit{Proteus}, the titre of \textit{Cl. perfringens}, the presence of \textit{Salmonella} were not detected in the control soil out of urban area.

Table 3 indicates content of heavy metals such as lead, chromium, nickel, zinc and cadmium. Concentration of Pb, Ni, Zn and Cd did not exceed the norm of Mongolia
but higher than the content of net soil out of urban area. We detected that Cr concentration in NE2.4, NE3.4, MD1.2, MD2.4 and Zn concentration in NE2.4 were more than the precaution value. According to our analysis, the mean concentrations of heavy metals in landfill sites are higher than control out of urban.

Table 1: Potential of hydrogen, moisture, temperature of soil of landfill sites.

| Landfill sites | Zone | pH      | Moisture, % | T [°C] |
|----------------|------|---------|-------------|--------|
| UCh            | Zone 1 | 7.27±0.44 | 9.05±3.26 | 9.34±15.46 |
| Zone 2         | 7.58±0.22 | 3.89±1.06 | 9.63±14.81 |
| Zone 3         | 7.45±0.31 | 4.66±1.85 | 8.75±15.54 |
| NE             | Zone 1 | 7.49±0.18 | 6.59±1.03 | 8.7±16.56 |
| Zone 2         | 6.92±0.85 | 11.63±11.25 | 8.33±16.62 |
| Zone 3         | 7.28±0.45 | 5.63±2.01 | 8.15±16.87 |
| MD             | Zone 1 | 7.52±0.26 | 13.78±13.10 | 6.75±16.52 |
| Zone 2         | 7.54±0.20 | 5.1±2.53 | 8.63±17.11 |
| Zone 3         | 7.5±0.11 | 4.26±2.10 | 9.75±18.75 |
| TsD            | Zone 1 | 7.52±0.19 | 11.59±4.24 | 6.33±15.52 |
| Zone 2         | 7.38±0.46 | 9.79±4.59 | 8.75±18.50 |
| Zone 3         | 7.11±0.51 | 10.09±3.90 | 9.06±18.31 |
| Control        |       | 7.19±0.34 | 3.92±1.89 | 5.71±14.92 |

Table 2: Bacterial contamination in soil of landfill sites in UB.

| Sampled points | Sample number | Date of sampling | E. coli | Proteus | Cl. prefringens | Salmonella | Total bacteria, CFU×10⁶ |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------|------------|------------------------|
| UCh1.1         | S1            | 22/02/2016      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0               | 0          | 0.44                   |
|                | S2            | 20/02/2017      | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0.1             | 1          | 5.2                    |
| UCh2.1         | S1            | 22/02/2016      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0               | 0          | 3                      |
|                | S2            | 20/02/2017      | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0               | 0          | 1.9                    |
| UCh3.1         | S1            | 22/02/2016      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0               | 0          | 0.28                   |
|                | S2            | 20/02/2017      | 0       | 0.1     | 0               | 0          | 3                      |
| UCh1.2         | S1            | 11/05/2016      | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0               | 0          | 5.2                    |
|                | S2            | 17/05/2017      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0               | 0          | 14.8                   |
| UCh2.2         | S1            | 11/05/2016      | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0               | 0          | 4.1                    |
|                | S2            | 17/05/2017      | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0               | 0          | 9.5                    |
| UCh3.2         | S1            | 11/05/2016      | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.1             | 1          | 189                    |
|                | S2            | 17/05/2017      | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0               | 1          | 7.6                    |
| UCh1.3         | S1            | 25/07/2016      | 0.0001  | 0.0001  | 0.001           | 1          | 87                     |
|                | S2            | 05/07/2017      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0               | 0          | 14.1                   |
| UCh2.3         | S1            | 25/07/2016      | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.01            | 1          | 3.5                    |
|                | S2            | 05/07/2017      | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0               | 0          | 3.5                    |
| UCh3.3         | S1            | 25/07/2016      | 0       | 0.1     | 0               | 0          | 2.6                    |
|                | S2            | 05/07/2017      | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0               | 0          | 2.7                    |
| UCh1.4         | S1            | 20/10/2016      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01            | 1          | 6.8                    |
|                | S2            | 18/09/2017      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.1             | 1          | 15.5                   |
| UCh2.4         | S1            | 20/10/2016      | 0.001   | 0.01    | 0.1             | 1          | 4.2                    |
|                | S2            | 18/09/2017      | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0               | 0          | 4.1                    |
| UCh3.4         | S1            | 20/10/2016      | 0       | 0.1     | 0               | 0          | 1.7                    |
|                | S2            | 18/09/2017      | 0.1     | 0       | 0               | 1          | 3.9                    |
| NE1.1          | S1            | 22/11/2015      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01            | 1          | 9.1                    |
|                | S2            | 20/02/2017      | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.01            | 0          | 7                      |
| NE2.1          | S1            | 22/11/2015      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01            | 0          | 7                      |
|                | S2            | 20/02/2017      | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0               | 0          | 5.5                    |
| NE3.1          | S1            | 22/11/2015      | 0.1     | 0       | 0               | 0          | 0.29                   |
|                | S2            | 20/02/2017      | 0.1     | 0       | 0               | 0          | 2                      |
| NE1.2          | S1            | 11/05/2016      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01            | 1          | 112                    |
|                | S2            | 17/05/2017      | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01            | 1          | 261                    |
| Sampled points | Sample number | Date of sampling | E. coli | Proteus | Cl. prefringens | Salmonella | Total bacteria, CFU/g×10^6 |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------|---------|----------------|------------|--------------------------|
| NE2.2          | S1            | 11/05/2016       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.1            | 0          | 1.3                      |
|                | S2            | 17/05/2017       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.1            | 0          | 6.2                      |
| NE3.2          | S1            | 11/05/2016       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0.1            | 0          | 3.5                      |
|                | S2            | 17/05/2017       | 0.01    | 0       | 0              | 0          | 4                        |
| NE1.3          | S1            | 25/07/2016       | 0.0001  | 0.0001  | 0.01           | 0          | 21                       |
|                | S2            | 05/07/2017       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01           | 1          | 195                      |
| NE2.3          | S1            | 25/07/2016       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01           | 0          | 0.8                      |
|                | S2            | 05/07/2017       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.1            | 0          | 4.9                      |
| NE3.3          | S1            | 25/07/2016       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0              | 0          | 1.5                      |
|                | S2            | 05/07/2017       | 0.01    | 0       | 0              | 0          | 6.3                      |
| NE1.4          | S1            | 20/10/2016       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01           | 0          | 8.5                      |
|                | S2            | 18/09/2017       | 0.01    | 0.1     | 0.1            | 0          | 18.7                     |
| NE2.4          | S1            | 20/10/2016       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0              | 0          | 6.6                      |
|                | S2            | 18/09/2017       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0              | 0          | 3.6                      |
| NE3.4          | S1            | 20/10/2016       | 0.1     | 0       | 0              | 0          | 5.3                      |
|                | S2            | 18/09/2017       | 0       | 0.1     | 0              | 0          | 3                        |
| MD1.1          | S1            | 20/02/2017       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.01           | 1          | 11.2                     |
| MD2.1          | S1            | 20/02/2017       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0.1            | 0          | 9.8                      |
| MD3.1          | S1            | 20/02/2017       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0              | 0          | 4                        |
| MD1.2          | S1            | 17/05/2017       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01           | 1          | 27.5                     |
| MD2.2          | S1            | 17/05/2017       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0.01           | 0          | 15                       |
| MD3.2          | S1            | 17/05/2017       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0              | 0          | 3.7                      |
| MD1.3          | S1            | 05/07/2017       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.1            | 1          | 9                        |
| MD2.3          | S1            | 05/07/2017       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0.1            | 0          | 4.4                      |
| MD3.3          | S1            | 05/07/2017       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0              | 0          | 2.2                      |
| MD1.4          | S1            | 18/09/2017       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0              | 1          | 11.5                     |
| MD2.4          | S1            | 18/09/2017       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0              | 0          | 7.9                      |
| MD3.4          | S1            | 18/09/2017       | 0       | 0.1     | 0              | 0          | 4.4                      |
| TsD1.1         | S1            | 22/11/2015       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.001          | 1          | 69                       |
|                | S2            | 20/02/2017       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01           | 1          | 15.6                     |
| TsD2.1         | S1            | 22/11/2015       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.001          | 1          | 5.4                      |
|                | S2            | 20/02/2017       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0              | 0          | 9.1                      |
| TsD3.1         | S1            | 22/11/2015       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0              | 0          | 0.41                     |
|                | S2            | 20/02/2017       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0              | 0          | 0.11                     |
| TsD1.2         | S1            | 11/05/2016       | 0.0001  | 0.0001  | 0.001          | 1          | 321                      |
|                | S2            | 17/05/2017       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.001          | 0          | 335                      |
| TsD2.2         | S1            | 11/05/2016       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0              | 0          | 13.5                     |
|                | S2            | 17/05/2017       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0              | 0          | 7.1                      |
| TsD3.2         | S1            | 11/05/2016       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.01           | 1          | 9.5                      |
|                | S2            | 17/05/2017       | 0.1     | 0       | 0.1            | 0          | 8.5                      |
| TsD1.3         | S1            | 25/07/2016       | 0.00001 | 0.00001 | 0.001          | 1          | 14                       |
|                | S2            | 05/07/2017       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01           | 1          | 460                      |
| TsD2.3         | S1            | 25/07/2016       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.001          | 1          | 3.3                      |
|                | S2            | 05/07/2017       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0              | 0          | 11.6                     |
| TsD3.3         | S1            | 25/07/2016       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0              | 0          | 0.21                     |
|                | S2            | 05/07/2017       | 0.01    | 0       | 0.1            | 0          | 10.4                     |
| TsD1.4         | S1            | 20/10/2016       | 0.001   | 0.001   | 0.01           | 1          | 7.2                      |
|                | S2            | 18/09/2017       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0              | 0          | 22                       |
| TsD2.4         | S1            | 20/10/2016       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.01           | 0          | 5                        |
|                | S2            | 18/09/2017       | 0.1     | 0       | 0              | 0          | 7.5                      |
| TsD3.4         | S1            | 20/10/2016       | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0              | 0          | 0.39                     |
|                | S2            | 18/09/2017       | 0       | 0       | 0              | 0          | 0.38                     |
| Control        | S1            | 26/12/2016       | 0       | 0       | 0              | 0          | 0.19                     |
Table 3: Comparison of heavy metals concentration in landfills (mg/kg of dry matter).

| Landfill site | Sampled point | Sample | Date of sampling | E. coli | Proteus | Cl. prefringens | Salmonella | Total bacteria, CFU/g×10^6 |
|---------------|---------------|--------|------------------|---------|---------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Winter        | S2            | 20/02/2017 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.11 |
| Control Spring | S1           | 11/05/2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.3 |
| Control Spring | S2           | 17/05/2017 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.014 |
| Control Summer | S1           | 25/07/2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.11 |
| Control Summer | S2           | 05/07/2017 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.038 |
| Control Fall  | S1            | 20/10/2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.22 |
| Control Fall  | S2            | 18/09/2017 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.029 |

nd - not detected, + salmonella detected in 25 ml.

International Journal of Scientific Reports | August 2019 | Vol 5 | Issue 8  Page 195
| Landfill site | Sampled point | Sample | Sampling date | Pb  | Cr  | Ni  | Zn  | Cd  |
|--------------|---------------|--------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| TsD1.2       | S1            | 19/05/2016 | 3.7 | 7.3 | 19.5 | 49.6 | 2.195 |
|              | S2            | 23/05/2017 | 32  | 57  | 20   | 107  | 0.23  |
| TsD1.4       | S1            | 10/10/2016 | 20  | 70  | 22   | 92   | 0.15  |
|              | S2            | 19/09/2017 | 19  | 69  | 20   | 94   | 0.26  |
| TsD2.2       | S1            | 19/05/2016 | 6.1 | 15.1| 32.2 | 25.9 | 1.985 |
|              | S2            | 23/05/2017 | 20  | 51  | 17   | 90   | 0.06  |
| TsD2.4       | S1            | 10/10/2016 | 19  | 78  | 26   | 87   | 0.2   |
|              | S2            | 19/09/2017 | 21  | 73  | 31   | 88   | 0.2   |
| TsD3.2       | S1            | 19/05/2016 | 12.6| 29.5| 43.9 | 21.7 | 0.258 |
|              | S2            | 23/05/2017 | 21  | 69  | 24   | 96   | 0.09  |
| TsD3.4       | S1            | 10/10/2016 | 11  | 52  | 12   | 57   | 0.1   |
|              | S2            | 19/09/2017 | 19  | 76  | 24   | 78   | 0.2   |
| Mean±SD      |               |         | 17.03±7.62  | 53.91±24.20 | 24.30±8.34 | 73.85±28.39 | 0.49±0.75 |
| Control TsD  | 10/10/2016    |         | 23.83±22.13 | 270.10±871.86 | 25.17±15.54 | 115.74±124.85 | 0.39±0.64 |
| Mongolian norm | Precaution value |       | 100      | 150   | 150 | 300 | 3     |

*MNS 5850:2008 Soil quality. Soil pollutants and substance."

Figure 1: Localization of sampled points.
In Mongolia, landfills are covered with soil from nearby places instead of daily cover material thus concentration of some heavy metals (Pb, Cr, Zn and Cd) in zone 1 is less than in zone 2. Concentration of some heavy metals in zone 2 is higher than in other zones due to its daily activity and all the studied landfills that are unlined (Figure 2).

Correlation analysis made between content of heavy metals and bacterial indicators showed no significant relationship.

According to Table 4, statistical analysis demonstrated that:

- The titre of *E. coli* for the MD landfill site (M=0.06, SD=0.05) was significantly different than the TsD landfill site (M=0.02, SD=0.04); the titre of *Proteus* for the MD landfill site (M=0.07, SD=0.05) was significantly different than the TsD landfill site (M=0.01, SD=0.03) and the NE landfill site (M=0.03, SD=0.04). However, titre of *Cl. perfringens*, presence of *Salmonella*, total bacteria did not significantly differ for landfill sites.
- The titre of *E. coli* for the zone 1 (M=0.001, SD=0.03) was significantly different than the zone 3 (M=0.05, SD=0.05); the titre of *Proteus* for the zone 1 (M=0.001, SD=0.03) was significantly different than the zone 3 (M=0.05, SD=0.05); the presence of *Salmonella* for the zone 1 (M=0.64, SD=0.49) was significantly different than the zone 2 (M=0.14, SD=0.36) and zone 3 (M=0.14, SD=0.36); the total bacteria for the zone 1 (M=74.45, SD=122.70) was significantly different than the zone 2 (M=6.05,

### Table 4: Analysis of variance of the number of bacterial indicators and heavy metals in soil according to the landfill sites, zones and season of the year.

| Indicators              | Site   | Zone | Season |
|-------------------------|--------|------|--------|
|                         | F  | p   | F     | p    | F  | p    |
| Titre of *E. coli*      | 2.751| 0.048| 6.848 | 0.002| 0.365 | 0.779 |
| Titre of *Proteus*      | 5.424| 0.002| 7.736 | <0.001| 0.232 | 0.874 |
| Titre of *Cl. perfringens* | 0.821| 0.486| 0.383 | 0.683| 0.598 | 0.618 |
| Presence of *Salmonella*| 1.086| 0.360| 14.226| <0.001| 0.071 | 0.975 |
| Total bacteria          | 1.365| 0.259| 7.594 | <0.001| 2.753 | 0.048 |
| Pb                      | 2.24 | 0.10 | 0.73  | 0.49 | -    | -     |
| Cr                      | 1.96 | 0.14 | 1.52  | 0.23 | -    | -     |
| Ni                      | 1.82 | 0.16 | 0.40  | 0.68 | -    | -     |
| Zn                      | 2.67 | 0.06 | 1.19  | 0.31 | -    | -     |
| Cd                      | 0.73 | 0.54 | 1.44  | 0.25 | -    | -     |

F—among groups variance, p—significance level
SD=3.49) and zone 3 (M=10.03, SD=35.19). But, titre of *Cl. perfringens* did not significantly differ for landfill zones.

- The bacterial indicators did not significantly differ for seasons of the year.

Heavy metals on landfill sites and zones had no significant effect (Table 4).

**DISCUSSION**

In the present study, we investigated bacterial and heavy metal pollution in four landfill sites. Unlimited and uncontrolled contamination spread through these unlined landfills.

According to our result, for the MD landfill which receives industrial waste, the titre of *E. coli* site was significantly different than the TsD landfill site, the titre of *Proteus* was also significantly different from the TsD and the NE landfill sites. Samples were examined for frequency of isolation of viable aerobic heterotrophic bacterial and fungi from four different station of a dump site in Port Harcourt City. There were no significant differences in the bacterial and fungal population between the four stations.26

While results of the investigations conducted for this study show that bacteria from the genus *Salmonella* were not detected in any of the collected soil samples on the premises and in the vicinity of the Municipal Landfill Site and the Municipal Solid Waste Management Plant in Toruń.27 Our study revealed that *Salmonella* were founded in all landfill sites.

Samples were collected from ash of the burned waste near the landfill sites in Ulaanbaatar to identify content of heavy metals including Pb, Cr, Cd, Ni and Zn. There are total of 300 mg/kg Cr and 700 mg/kg Zn identified from ash of burned electrical wire, 1000 mg/kg Pb is identified from ash of burned tires. These open burnings have considerable influences on polluted soil with heavy metals.29

Heavy metals in the landfill – suggest that the long-existing and -operating metal-processing, wood and chemical industries did not prove to be a significant metal pollution source by their deposited wastes to the nearby closed unlined landfill.30 Anthropogenic inputs derived from leachate are among the contamination sources that directly impacted the soils of Bizerte landfill.31 Among environmental pollutants, heavy metals are of particular concern due to their toxicity, wide source, non-biodegradable properties, and their ability to accumulate for long period of time.31, 32

Need of constant monitoring of microbiological contamination emissions, in particular those within the landfill, for a threat to people who work in that area.33 Reclaimed landfill cell continues to be a source of soil contamination. Soil contamination may be caused by bioaerosol forming on the landfill site, and by animals–mainly birds, rodents, stray dogs, and cats.27 The principal threat to groundwater comes from inadequately controlled landfills where leachate generated from the fill is allowed to escape to the surrounding and underlying ground. To minimise the impact of such landfills on groundwater quality and the environment in general, it is necessary to properly design and build these facilities to prevent pollution.34

Managing waste disposal, landfills, and dumps is a crucially important issue for maintaining a safe and sustainable environment across Asia. However, waste disposal practices in the developing countries of the region are poor, and the many open dumps pose serious health and environmental risks.35

Many cities in developing Asian countries face serious problems in managing solid wastes. The annual waste generation increases in proportion to the rises in population and urbanisation. Asian countries with greater rural populations produce more organic waste, such as kitchen wastes, and fewer recyclable items, such as paper, metals, and plastics.36 A good waste classification system is the foundation and precondition for efficient waste management.37 Recyclables are collected from wastes received in landfill sites due to the resource classification system is not developed in UB.

The practice of covering landfills with soil 30 cm thick was started, and this continued in most areas of Japan in the 1960s. With intermediate cover, it was called the sandwich-like landfill method, but there was no technical standard until 1971.38 This technology has been being used in Mongolia since 2009.

To overcome the problem, the management aspect should be systematic and efficient not only at the early phase of operation but also during and after the landfill is closed from active operation. A regime of actions required to manage the issues of heavy metal pollution require substantial reduction of the waste sources through application of integrated management of waste through reducing generation of wastes at their respective source; recycling, composting and thermal burning which could reduce the concentration of heavy metal in the wastes.31 Re-designing of sanitary landfill with clay or plastic liners to prevent leachate from getting to water table, adoption of clean technology for recycling greenhouse gases emanating from the landfill and a sustainable land management programme for reclamation are needed.39 Rehabilitation of old unlined landfills should take place with continuous monitoring programs of ground water sources around the area to contain any contamination that might occur.40

The development of integrated waste management system and enhancing the final disposal technology has become one of the social challenges in Mongolia.
Microbiological contamination and content of heavy metals in closed unlined landfill are not different from currently operating unlined landfills. Average content of heavy metal pollution of landfills did not exceed precaution value but it is higher than in the control soil. The unlimited and uncontrolled contamination is a strong factor in this pollution accumulation. Liner system for avoiding of pollution spreading and daily cover material for saving the environment from landfill bacterial pollution are recommended.

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