



**USAID**  
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# MUNICIPAL WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

## Keeping Plastics out of the Oceans

Every year, 8 million tons of plastic waste is discarded into the world's oceans—the equivalent of five plastic grocery bags filled with plastic for every foot of coastline in the world. Much of this waste will be generated in parts of the world without adequate waste management systems and infrastructure. With rapid population growth and urbanization, municipal waste generation is expected to rise dramatically in the coming decades. By 2050, we may have more plastic in the ocean than fish by weight. To reduce plastics in the world's waters, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is partnering with governments, businesses and civil society to improve waste management. The global challenge of plastics pollution is daunting. However, waste management solutions also hold tremendous potential for economic growth, job creation and social inclusion.

## **REDUCING MARINE PLASTICS WASTE BY WORKING WITH CITIES**

USAID provides financial support and technical assistance to local non-governmental partners, who are working with local businesses, women's associations, municipal governments and others, to improve solid waste management and waste recycling efforts in and around cities. USAID also convenes stakeholders to support innovative and/or scalable solid waste management practices and to increase investment in municipal waste recycling. USAID-funded programs also promote social inclusion, empower women and youth, generate jobs and economic growth, and strengthen resilience while addressing the problem of mismanaged plastics waste. USAID's initial efforts have focused in four Asian countries that are among the largest contributors to plastic waste in the oceans: Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

## **GRANTS PROGRAM**

USAID disburses grants to eligible non-profit and for-profit non-governmental organizations, as well as academic and scientific institutions for the following goals:

- Strengthening local actors and their collaboration to render urban systems more effective in solid waste management and reducing marine plastics pollution
- Applied research to identify locally-appropriate technology and improve decision-making processes related to urban solid waste management and recycling
- Enabling the private sector to develop and implement market-driven solutions to marine plastics pollution and strengthen the recycling value chain

## **EVALUATION AND LEARNING**

Grants program results are evaluated regularly and used to develop lessons learned and recommendations to inform future investments in municipal waste recycling. USAID analyzes the cost-effectiveness, investment potential, sustainability, and scalability of new approaches in its grant-funded projects. USAID combines lessons learned and in-depth research to generate and disseminate knowledge products through stakeholder workshops, conferences, technical assistance, news articles, technical briefs and other publications. In addition, USAID is considering potential capital investment opportunities in the solid waste and recycling sector that could be supported by USAID's Development Credit Authority.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

USAID coordinates with private sector, NGOs, academia, and counterpart governments in reducing marine plastics pollution. Based on learning from its grant-making activities, USAID provides policy and investment recommendations and other forms of technical support for strategic partnerships in marine plastics debris.

## **CONTACT**

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