

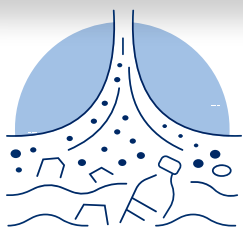


**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# Municipal Waste Recycling Program

## Key Results and Impacts

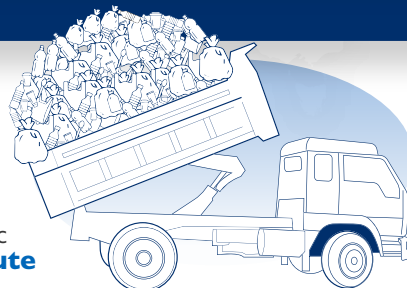
The global challenge of ocean plastic pollution:



Every year  
**11** million metric tons  
of plastic waste  
enter our oceans

equivalent to

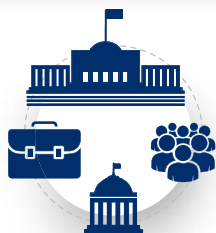
**1**  
garbage truck  
full of plastic  
every **minute**



*This growing crisis has implications for human health and the global economy and environment.*

Launched in 2016, the Municipal Waste Recycling Program was USAID's first formal response to this urgent challenge in developing countries.

During the last five years, the program focused on reducing land-based sources of ocean plastic pollution through:



**Partnering** with local and national governments, businesses, and civil society.



**Implementing** sustainable and locally-led solid waste management (SWM) and recycling solutions.



**Supporting 30** grantees with **\$5.5** million USD in **32** locations across **Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.**

Through grants and technical assistance, the program introduced a variety of innovative and scalable approaches to reduce ocean plastic pollution. Illustrative examples include:



Incentivizing recycling through community waste banks and working with informal waste collectors.



Raising awareness and changing behavior through door-to-door advocacy, school programs, community demonstration stations, and social media campaigns.

More details on implemented activities on [urban-links.org/mwrp](https://urban-links.org/mwrp)

December 2021

Over the life of the program, MWRP made a positive impact across the four countries. Some of the results include:



**Diverted 20,600 metric tons of plastic waste from the ocean:** of which, Recycled - **10,700** metric tons; Reduced single-use plastic usage: **9,900** metric tons



**Improved access to SWM and recycling services** for over **3.8 million** people, with additional **5.4 million** indirect beneficiaries.



**Partnered with more than 40 local governments** in using improved SWM services.



**100 local businesses and organizations made commitments** for the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), including through waste segregation.



**Engaged over 233,000 youth in awareness and learning campaigns** to build future generations focused on reducing ocean plastic pollution.



**Increased recycling and waste segregation** in **255,000** households.



**Supported over 60 new and improved laws and regulations** to reduce ocean plastic pollution.



**Empowered women in the waste management and recycling sector:** trained **36,000** women (78% of all trainees) in SWM and recycling, with over **1,700** women gaining jobs (63% of jobs created) in the SWM sector.

## Lessons Learned for programs to reduce ocean plastic pollution

**O**rganizing and formalizing the status of informal waste collectors is an effective strategy to mobilize an enormous labor force to recover a larger quantity of high quality recyclables. In addition, women and youth play critical roles in reducing ocean plastic pollution.

**C**reating strong linkages between private sector stakeholders and local governments results in a reduction of waste ending up in the environment.

**E**nabling locally led solutions is critical to addressing ocean plastic pollution at the source.

**A**wareness raising is a key step in creating behavior change for the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle). Improving waste separation at the source is critical for strengthening the plastic recycling value chain.

**N**ew policies and regulations for SWM, and reclining sector must be paired with implementation support.