



PARTNERING WITH CITIES TO REDUCE OCEAN PLASTICS

THE MUNICIPAL WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM | MWRP

KEEPING PLASTICS OUT OF THE OCEAN

Every year, eight million metric tons of plastic waste pour into the world's ocean—the equivalent of a garbage truck dumping a load of plastic into the ocean every minute.¹ Ineffective waste management systems and infrastructure in developing countries have led to much of this pollution. Rapid population growth and urbanization indicate municipal waste generation will keep rising dramatically.² To reduce ocean plastics pollution, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) partners with local and national governments, businesses, and civil society to implement sustainable solid waste management (SWM) and recycling solutions that keep plastics waste out of the ocean.

COASTAL CITIES REDUCE AND RECYCLE PLASTIC WASTE

USAID's Municipal Waste Recycling Program (MWRP) is aiming to reduce land-based sources of ocean plastics pollution in four Asian countries that are among the largest polluters: Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. Through grants and technical assistance to eligible organizations, MWRP has introduced innovative, scalable solid waste management (SWM) approaches and increased municipal waste recycling investment in coastal cities, by supporting local businesses, women's associations, municipalities, and others to reduce ocean plastics pollution.

MWRP's grants strengthen local stakeholders' capacity to effectively manage solid waste and expand recycling through mechanisms that promote social inclusion, empower women and youth, support independent waste collectors, and generate jobs and economic growth. USAID's funding has supported applied research to identify locally appropriate technology and improve decision-making processes for urban SWM and recycling. MWRP bolsters the private sector to implement market-driven solutions to reduce ocean plastics pollution and to strengthen the recycling value chain.

KEY PROGRAM RESULTS *(as of March 2020)*

- **30 grants** to local organizations
- **35 new laws and regulations** that support ocean plastic reduction
- **40+ local governments** committed to combating plastic waste
- **1,300 jobs** created in SWM (50%+ for women)
- **3,100 metric tons** of plastic waste recycled
- **2,500+ independent waste collectors' working conditions** improved
- **96,000 youth** engaged
- **163,000 households, businesses and schools** adopted improved waste management behavior

1. Jambeck, J.R. et al. (2015). Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean. *Science* 347(6223), 768-771. doi: 10.1126/science.1260352

2. Kaza, S. et al. (2018). *What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050*. World Bank. doi: 10.1596/978-1-4648-1329-0

COMMUNITIES TAKE ACTION AND EXPAND RECYCLING

MWRP has identified what *truly* works to reduce ocean plastics pollution: creative community campaigns that quickly change awareness and behaviors, municipal legislation to reinforce waste management efforts, and partnerships with local, national, and multinational corporations.

By working with 30 grantees in 32 locations, MWRP's efforts have diverted more than 3,000 metric tons of plastic waste from oceans and brought access to recycling to 3.3 million people.³ MWRP's grantees are creating change in the waste management and recycling sector by empowering women with training and job opportunities. More than 50% of the 1,300 jobs created by the Program are held by women. By engaging more than 96,000 youth volunteers in awareness and learning campaigns, MWRP built environmental awareness among millions of citizens and the next generations.

Legislation efforts led to 35 new laws and regulations that support ocean plastic reduction. More than 40 local governments committed to helping combat plastic pollution by reducing the prevalence of single-use plastics, improving SWM, and modifying regulations on plastic packaging to strengthen the recycling value chain.

At the national level, MWRP engages national and international companies in policy development, education and information campaigns, recycling market expansion, and capacity building on SWM. At the local level, MWRP supports entrepreneurs to strengthen and expand SWM, recycling, and plastic waste reduction through training, education, skill-building, and access to new markets. By formalizing status, providing education on health and occupational safety, training on recycling and plastic waste, and capacity building in business management, MWRP improved the working conditions of more than 2,500 independent waste collectors.

ABOUT MWRP'S IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The Development Innovations Group, an international management and consulting firm, expands the frontiers of finance, basic services, and environmental management.



PHOTO: USAID URBAN

A Women's Union in Ha Long, Vietnam organizes the neighborhood collection of plastic waste for recycling.

"When I got connected with [the MWRP team] they taught me the value of the work I am doing and the amount of benefit it brings to Negombo's marine environment... then I received trainings on working with government offices and the rights I have as an environmental business. With these trainings, I was able to develop my business to a level that I never imagined."

- Anton Josph owner of a start-up plastic recycling company in Negombo (Sri Lanka)

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DURATION: September 2016 – September 2021 | **IMPLEMENTER:** Development Innovations Group in collaboration with DAI Global, LLC, and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing & Organizing (WIEGO) |

LOCATION: Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam | **BUDGET:** USD 14.1 million

3. Grants range from USD 50,000 to USD 250,000.