



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



CLEAN **CITIES**, BLUE **OCEAN**

## SOLID WASTE CAPACITY INDEX FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (SCIL)

The **Solid Waste Capacity Index for Local Governments (SCIL) assessment tool** was developed by Clean Cities, Blue Ocean—the U.S. Agency for International Development’s global flagship program to address ocean plastic pollution. The SCIL enables local governments to self-assess their current capabilities associated with key criteria needed to develop and maintain a sustainable solid waste management system.

The assessment provides a capacity rating that allows local governments to measure their initial status and, with repeated assessments, their progress over time. From the assessment, a report and roadmap is generated to highlight priority improvements in key capacity areas, particularly those that are critical to the development of Solid Waste Management Plans. This provides valuable information to local governments on training needs, as well as policy and operational changes. SCIL assessments are conducted initially with support from CCBO, with the expectation that local governments will administer subsequent SCILs as part of annual capacity reviews.

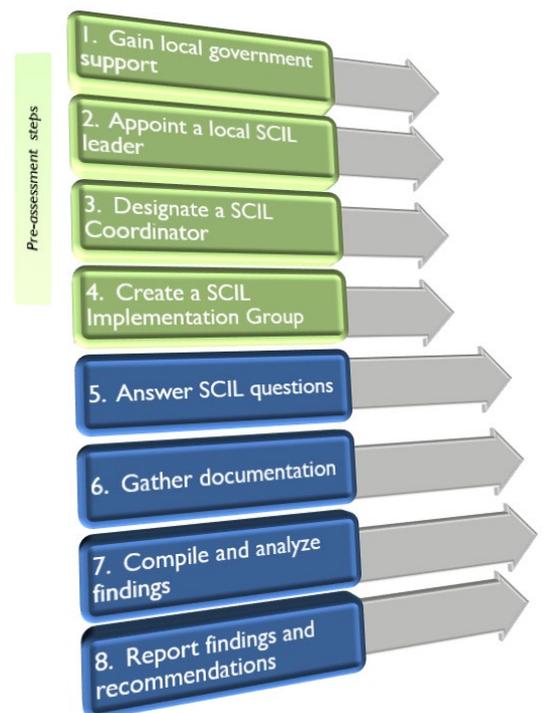
As of May 2022, USAID has piloted the SCIL in five countries across Asia and Latin America. The SCIL will be launched as a global, publicly available tool in 2022 to be used by local governments around the world.

### HOW DOES THE SCIL WORK?

The SCIL is an assessment-based tool designed to determine local government capacity around **six essential component areas**:

- 1.** Planning – *Is there a well-developed, and comprehensive plan for the local government's solid waste system that meets the needs of its citizens?*
- 2.** Policy and legal framework – *Do local laws and policies fulfill local government’s responsibilities in accordance with national legal requirements, strategy and policy?*
- 3.** Financial management – *To what extent are systems in place to administer, budget and track all 3R/SWM system expenses and revenues?*
- 4.** Service delivery – *Is there infrastructure and protocols in place to deliver to all its citizens reliable, equitable, and environmentally sound services for all waste?*
- 5.** Human resources – *Are there effective and equitable human resources, structures, and processes in place to competently and safely deliver waste management services?*
- 6.** Community Engagement – *To what extent has the local government engaged stakeholders (including women) in planning and implementation and incorporated their input into the design*

SCIL Process -



*and monitoring of the system?*

The SCIL process, is completed by a local SCIL Implementation Group—a designated group of cross-agency local government representatives. Representation will depend on the local government’s organizational structure, but and should ensure that each SCIL component is represented by knowledgeable staff. In many cases, these maybe Department Heads or Directors of agencies responsible for components of the local waste management system. By completing the SCIL together, each local government receives “scores” for overall capacity and each of the components, to identify where capacity is high as well as areas that are not as strong where investment is needed.

## **SCIL BENEFITS**

In addition to pinpointing exactly where local governments can strengthen their capacity to ensure sustained solid waste management services, the SCIL process has resulted in numerous related benefits.

- Completing the SCIL process itself builds capacity and serves as a communication tool to engage staff
- Increased understanding amongst local government officials and staff that solid waste management and building circular economies is much more than service delivery
- Helps local governments prioritize to save money and resources
- Increased understanding amongst local government employees of their role in the solid waste management system
- Facilitates intra- and inter-agency relationships, bringing together staff that otherwise do not have the opportunity to align on their work and respective roles in the system
- Increases understanding of the importance of the six SCIL components and areas covered by the assessment questions are critical
- Empowers local governments and their staff
- Creates transparency that builds trust in the local government

## **CONTACT**

For more information, please contact:

Lori Scozzafava  
Director of Capacity Development & Governance  
[Lori.Scozzafava@cleancitiesblueocean.org](mailto:Lori.Scozzafava@cleancitiesblueocean.org)

