



CLEAN AIR CATALYST

A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ACCELERATING CLEAN AIR SOLUTIONS

A Brief Introduction

THE PROBLEM

Air pollution is the world's largest environmental health risk,¹ resulting in an estimated 6.7 million premature deaths each year.² The death toll from air pollution is greater than that of tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria combined. Air pollution causes and exacerbates heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and acute respiratory infections. It damages ecosystems, causes climate change, reduces agricultural productivity and alters the water cycle. Globally the air pollution crisis is expected to deepen, particularly in rapidly urbanizing low and middle income countries (LMICs). Under "business as usual," the estimated number of deaths from air pollution could increase by more than 50% by 2050.³

¹ World Health Organization. 2018. "9 out of 10 people worldwide breathe polluted air; but more countries are taking action." News release. May 2. <https://www.who.int/news/item/02-05-2018-9-out-of-10-people-worldwide-breathe-polluted-air-but-more-countries-are-taking-action>

² GBD 2019 Diseases and Injuries Collaborators. 2020. "Global burden of 369 diseases and injuries in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019." *The Lancet* 396 (10258): 1204–1222.

³ Lelieveld, J., Evans, J.S., Fnais, M., Giannadaki, D. and A. Pozzer. 2015. "The contribution of outdoor air pollution sources to premature mortality on a global scale." *Nature* 525: 367–371.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Action to improve – and maintain – clean air has lagged far behind the mounting evidence of harm. Clean Air Catalyst, a new flagship program launched by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and a global consortium of organizations led by World Resources Institute (WRI) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), seeks to change this.

Through this new program, USAID offers a globally applicable approach to developing locally tailored, self-reliant solutions that cut air pollution and improve human health in cities in LMICs. Our partnership brings together diverse local stakeholders to address critical information gaps, to build confidence and trust in air pollution information and to advance and institutionalize lasting solutions.

Budget: Up to \$20 Million

Duration: 2020-2025



WHERE WE WORK

We will work in 2 initial pilot cities:



*In Jakarta, Indonesia, the project will be anchored by WRI Indonesia.

PROGRAM STRATEGY

We will use a novel program strategy combining 4 key innovations:

- 1 Source Awareness:** we combine participatory science, structured media engagement and assessment of public perceptions to build a shared understanding of the pollution sources that affect communities in each city.
- 2 Root Cause Analysis:** we broaden our search for clean air solutions beyond the “end of the tailpipe/top of the smokestack” regulatory actions by identifying 3-5 activities that drive emissions in the most polluting sector(s) in each pilot region.
- 3 Strategic Coalition Building:** we will select one high-impact intervention from the root cause analysis and build a multi-sector coalition of public, private and community partners to reduce emissions from a key pollution source. Solutions that have the best chance of being implemented and which have clear health, gender and climate benefits will be prioritized.
- 4 Cross-Sectoral Global Consortium:** our coalition of leading air quality, environment, public health, energy, governance, and communication experts will work to break down sectoral silos to deliver credible and comprehensive solutions.

SCALING STRATEGY

We will develop methodologies to move quickly from data to impact.

While the critical sectors and interventions will vary across program sites, we anticipate drawing on the partnership's expertise in advancing clean energy access, developing alternatives to burning crops, wood and solid waste, shifting freight and passenger traffic to lower-emitting options and cleaner vehicles.

Through these pilots, the project will not only generate new, societally relevant scientific findings, but will also create a practical, field-tested playbook for convening collaboration among key stakeholders, identifying and building awareness of air quality priorities, and leveraging USAID missions' strengths to deliver and sustain cleaner air. All outputs will be open source and we encourage other groups to use the data, join the partnership, or otherwise help build a global groundswell of effective and collaborative clean air action.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

A growing cooperative led by The U.S. Agency for International Development, World Resources Institute, and Environmental Defense Fund.

Clean Air Catalyst

A cooperative by:



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