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COMMUNITY AND MARKET-BASED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Although the Philippines has passed legislation and created incentives at the national level for comprehensive solid waste management (SWM), supervision and rules enforcement are still weak at the subnational level, leading to mismanaged plastics entering the ocean. Currently less than a quarter of Metro Manila's barangays¹ effectively implement a SWM system.

A LOCAL SYSTEMS APPROACH

The City Empowerment for Local and Market-Based Solid Waste Management Solutions project established and strengthened community-based SWM committees in six very poor barangays (total population 105,000) of Metro Manila to promote a local, sustainable, and integrated approach to SWM. The project trained barangay authorities on SWM laws and good practices and helped them to develop and implement localized SWM plans, strengthening waste collection, landfill diversion, and plastic recycling in their communities.

To create sustainable change, the project also worked with the communities to identify and train SWM ambassadors—representatives from civil society organizations, youth and women's groups—on improved SWM practices, who then reached more than 6,000 households, educating them on how to segregate waste at source. The project's 54 community cleanup and education events, attended by 4,074 people, focused on waste segregation at the household level and raising public awareness on the importance of recycling.

ESTABLISHING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Through the project, informal waste collectors (49 women and 40 men) and small-scale junk recyclers gained skills and seed capital that enabled them to improve their operations and increase their incomes. These collectors, organized into 30 social microenterprises, spearheaded waste recovery and recycling activities. The enterprises receive a steady supply of recyclable materials from the project's community cleanup and education activities. The incomes of the informal waste collectors increased by 10-20 percent on average after three months.

¹ *Barangay is the smallest administrative division in the Philippines, equivalent to village or neighborhood in metropolitan areas.*

PROJECT: City Empowerment for Local and Market-based Solid Waste Management Solutions

DURATION: October 1, 2017 – November 30, 2018 | **IMPLEMENTER:** Catholic Relief Services United States Conference of Catholic

Bishops **LOCATION:** Two cities in Metro Manila in the Philippines | **BUDGET:** \$100,000

KEY RESULTS

- New SWM systems **introduced segregated waste collection** with 6,000 households in six barangays, enabling them to divert recyclable waste from local landfills.
- After four months of operation, members of the 30 social enterprise groups were earning a livable **average monthly income of \$229**, which is above the region's minimum wage.
- The cities of Navotas and Malabon within Metro Manila now consider the six barangays as **model SWM communities** that can showcase successful implementation of barangay-level SWM systems.