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WASTE TO WAGES: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Solid waste management is a challenge in the Philippines, a rapidly growing developing country in Southeast Asia comprised of over 7,000 islands. With increasing amounts of waste and not enough sanitary landfills, as much as 750,000 metric tons of discarded plastic finds its way into the ocean annually.¹ This environmental crisis also represents a missed opportunity for poor neighborhoods in coastal cities where the value of that waste could be captured, generating much-needed income.

A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE RECYCLING SYSTEM

To help address this problem, the Waste to Wages project, a partnership between World Vision Philippines and the Plastic Bank, improves livelihood opportunities for informal waste collectors and promotes increased household compliance on waste segregation and recycling. The project implements community-based solutions to increase the volume of plastics recycled in the low-income neighborhood of Barangay² Baseco (population 60,000) in Metro Manila, which reduces leakage of plastic waste into the adjacent river and the ocean.

BRINGING TECHNOLOGY TO WASTE COLLECTORS

The project focuses on empowering informal waste collectors as community advocates and resource persons to increase recycling while raising their incomes. Among other results, the project has contributed to impartial pricing stability for recyclers through a new mobile phone application, resulting in more profitable and reliable transactions within the informal sector. By bringing together waste collectors, street sweepers, and junkshop operators the project is increasing the efficiency of the local plastics recycling system.

The barangay's Ecological Solid Waste Management Committee are also key stakeholders. With help from the project they reorganized the duties and functions of local government officials and employees to better implement their new Barangay Solid Waste Management Plan, including by raising community awareness, promoting household waste separation at source, and increasing the amount of plastic waste collected and recycled.

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

HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE

- Support for organizing the participation of **8,000 neighborhood residents** in a Manila Bay clean-up launch event.
- Establishment of a **new comprehensive solid waste management plan** and support for its implementation among 60,000 residents.
- Collection of **11,000 plastic bottles in just one day** as part of a communication campaign at the annual Barangay Fiesta.
- Linking the Coca Cola Foundation and the national Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the community, contributing to **the construction of two new materials recovery facilities** to expand recycling.

PROJECT: Waste to Wages | **DURATION:** March 31, 2018 – August 31, 2019 | **IMPLEMENTER:** World Vision, Inc.

LOCATION: Barangay Baseco, City of Manila, Philippines | **BUDGET:** \$100,000