



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



A SUSTAINABLE, COMMUNITY-BASED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Municipalities in Sri Lanka are tasked with managing solid waste via collection and haulage to landfills. For towns that fall outside the jurisdiction of a municipality, however, solid waste is not collected; instead, households burn their waste or dispose of it in nearby waterways.

Leveraging the involvement of community-based organizations across 22 towns (total population over 100,000) along the Gin Ganga River outside of Galle City, the project Participatory Approach to Solid Waste Management at Community Level is shifting household waste management practices toward self-sustaining solid waste systems in which garbage is collected and hauled to landfills by 14 entrepreneurs who earn their income from selling recyclables (including plastics, metals, cardboard, compost, and other waste products). The local government in Galle assists with haulage.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AS BEHAVIOR CHANGE AGENTS

Women are at the heart of the project's approach of working with community-based organizations to conduct awareness raising campaigns to promote comprehensive and versatile approaches to household-level solid waste management. These include waste segregation at source, identification of recyclables and non-recyclables, and use of biodegradable waste. Applying what they have learned, households now convert their organic waste into compost for use in home gardens, and make cloth bags from old saris to use for shopping and groceries. In some towns where the project operates, as many as 95 percent of households now separate their waste. In addition, the project has trained 65 teachers and 447 students on plastic waste reduction and management, and held educational sessions to raise awareness for 178 local government employees.

ENGAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Project activities also focus on engaging local government officials on issues related to plastic pollution, not only in their roles as waste management service providers, but also as town residents. In addition to the extension of waste collection services through project support, educational sessions on plastic waste pollution with town officers and a local police station led to office personnel reducing their plastic consumption.

PROJECT: Participatory Approaches in Solid Waste Management at Community Level | **DURATION:** October 1, 2017 – March 31, 2020
IMPLEMENTER: Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation (SLCDF) | **LOCATION:** 22 towns at the Gin Ganga River bank west of Galle City in Sri Lanka | **BUDGET:** \$242,712

HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE

- The Galle Public Health Inspector's Office attributed a **decline in dengue fever cases (close to 80% in some villages)** from 2017 to 2018, to the sharp drop in improperly disposed plastic waste that previously served as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- Following training, **25 schools** now engage in a variety of **plastic waste reduction and recycling approaches**, including elimination of plastic bag use and segregation of solid waste.
- Community environmental facilitators conducted 48 community awareness activities, **teaching at-source waste separation to 8,123 individuals in 21 towns.**