

CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN

FACT SHEET —

PACIFIC ISLANDS: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea

Each day, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea generate on average nearly six kilograms of waste per person—the equivalent of each person using 24 one-liter plastic bottles every day. While this volume is comparatively low, communities in Pacific Island countries face significant waste management challenges, including irregular and inefficient waste collection and limited opportunities for recycling. Pacific Island countries may not produce much plastic waste, but they are on the receiving end of significant amounts of waste due to ocean currents bringing other countries plastic waste to their shores. Across the Pacific Islands, solid waste management is also hampered by insufficient financial resources; limited land area; customary land ownership; environmental fragility; insufficient human, financial, and transportation capacity and regulatory frameworks.

It is estimated that many urban areas—which comprise 35 percent of the total Pacific Island population or roughly 4.3 million people²—collect less than half of the municipal solid waste generated. Given the islands' limited recycling capacity, most waste is illegally dumped in vacant areas, the ocean, or collected in piles and burned. Waste burning releases harmful chemicals, impacting public and environmental health and contributing to climate change. By 2040, if corrective measures are not implemented, the annual volume of plastic entering the ocean from the Pacific Islands is expected to triple.

USAID is providing regional and country-level support in engagement sites in three Pacific Island. At each engagement site, USAID is piloting localized approaches to address waste management challenges and avert irreversible damage to our oceans, reduce plastic and waste-linked contributions to the climate crisis, and advance other priority development objectives.

Pacific Islands Stats

Papua New Guinea, and the Federated States of Micronesia generate over **280, 165, and 15 metric tons** of plastic waste every day, respectively¹

Municipal governments collect as little as **20-30% of solid waste** on the islands

In some Pacific Island countries, **over 70% of total municipal solid waste is illegally dumped or burned**

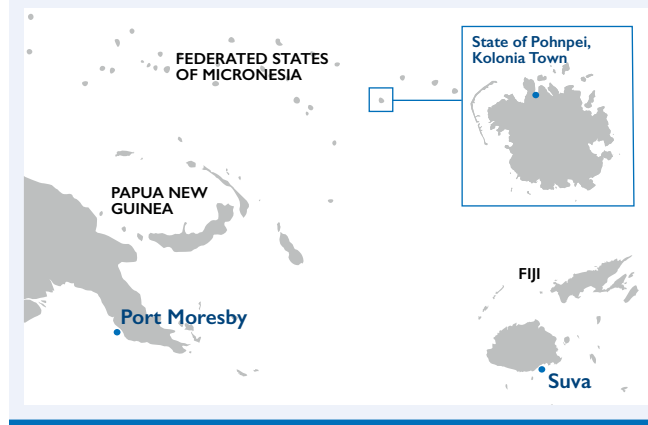


Photo: Rene Akosta / USAID Clean Cities, Blue Ocean

¹ 2022. PNG Conservation and Environment Protection Authority. Plastic Waste in the Ocean in the Pacific Island Region. Plastic Waste Dataset Modified February 11, 2022.

² 2022. Pacific Data Hub, Population Dashboard. Accessed at <https://pacificdata.org>

Details on program activities, implementing partners, and grantees can be found on the program website, listed below.

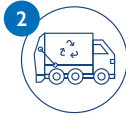
Our Local Systems Approach

USAID's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean program is designing holistic strategies that will address each step in the waste value chain—from production to end use—prioritizing the most inclusive, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable solutions. The program will leverage local, national, and international technical expertise, paired with its grants program, to test, scale, and share locally-led, innovative, and proven solutions. Where possible, the program will learn from and expand on the success of proven initiatives by local government and nongovernmental organizations.

USAID's Five Building Blocks for Reduced Ocean Plastic Pollution:



Data-driven policies for circularity



Effective solid waste services and investment



Green jobs and local innovations



Sustained behavior change to reduce single-use plastics



An inclusive, just, and equitable system

Impacts and Results

In the Pacific Islands, program impacts (to date) include:



0.63 tons of plastic and other low-value waste—the equivalent of more than 20,000 plastic bottles—secured from leaking into the environment through recovery efforts that diverted material from landfills and routed materials back to the circular economy.



130 individuals trained from local government, the informal waste sector, and local organizations to build local capacity for solid waste management planning and programs.



Nearly 500,000 households, or about 1.15 million individuals, benefiting from improved waste services or programs with government entities. In Fiji, for example, the program and its partners, Waste Recyclers (Fiji) Pte Ltd and Pacific Recycling Foundation, established waste and recycling collection points in communities that have previously not been reached by waste collection services, creating cleaner communities and enabling materials consumed on the island to enter back into the local circular economy.



7 partnerships formed with local governments and organizations to strengthen waste collection and build sustainable, circular economies.

About CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN

Clean Cities, Blue Ocean is USAID's flagship program to combat ocean plastic pollution under the Save our Seas Initiative. The five-year (2019-2024), \$53 million program works at the global level and in specific, rapidly urbanizing focal countries to target ocean plastics directly at their source. By strengthening waste management and advancing or building circular economies, city by city, USAID builds sustainable solutions that reduce ocean plastics while empowering vulnerable populations and mitigating pollution that affects human health and our climate. The program is implemented by Tetra Tech, in partnership with a consortium of organizations that include the International City/County Management Association and The Manoff Group. Other partners include national and local government, members of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and local women's and youth organizations.

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