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# CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN

## PERU

Each day, Peru generates more than 20,000 tons of waste—about 0.58 kilograms of waste per capita. While these volumes are comparatively low, inadequate waste management and infrastructure have amplified the impacts of Peru’s waste, allowing it to leak into the environment and generate other human, economic, and climate impacts. With inadequate waste management practices, low recycling rates, and only 64 sanitary landfills nationwide, communities across Peru are now facing significant waste management challenges.

Across Peru, infrastructure and support available for solid waste management varies widely. To establish more consistent practices and mitigate ongoing impacts from the country’s waste, Peru has made great progress in developing national laws for solid waste management, including its Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Law (2016), and more recent laws to protect the environment and human health, prioritize circular economies and the recovery and recycling of waste, and promote shared producer responsibility. Local governments are, however, challenged to implement the laws effectively, often faced by shortfalls in tax revenue and municipal capacity. USAID’s Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program is piloting solutions to address these challenges and avert irreversible damage to our oceans, reduce plastic and waste-linked contributions to the climate crisis, and advance other priority development objectives.



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

[URBAN-LINKS.ORG/CCBO](http://URBAN-LINKS.ORG/CCBO)



PHOTO: CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN/PERU

### COUNTRY STATS

- Generates approximately **7.5 million tons** of waste each year
- Only **4%** of this is estimated to be recycled
- Approximately **44%** is stored in substandard waste sites

In Peru, USAID is piloting solutions to stop the flow of plastic pollution to the waters within and surrounding the country, including the Pacific Ocean and other inland bodies of water, such as the Piura River—which flows all the way from the Andes to the Pacific Ocean—through work in:

- **Piura**, the most populous region after the country’s capital city of Lima, generates an estimated 411,880 tons of waste per year, of which only 16% is adequately disposed of. In Piura, the program is working in the cities of **Paita** and **Mancora**.
- **Ica** is one of Peru’s agricultural centers and home to famed Paracas National Reserve, which protects both marine and desert ecosystems that are vital to biodiversity conservation and income for thousands of Peruvians. Ica generates an estimated 244,110 tons of waste per year, of which only 24% is adequately disposed of. In Ica, the program is working in the city of **Pisco**.



PHOTO: CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN, PERU

## OUR LOCAL SYSTEMS APPROACH

In Peru, USAID is designing and implementing holistic strategies that 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 leverages 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 learns from and expands upon the success of proven initiatives by local government and non-governmental organizations.

The program’s work supports **USAID’s Five Building Blocks for Reduced Ocean Plastic Pollution:**



**1. Policies to enable a circular economy**



**2. Improved solid waste services and infrastructure**



**3. Locally-viable innovations and technologies**



**4. Sustained behavior change**



**5. An inclusive and equitable system**

## ABOUT CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN

Clean Cities, Blue Ocean is USAID’s flagship program to combat ocean plastic pollution. The five-year (2019-2024), \$48 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 (ICMA) 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.

### Sources:

Ministry of the Environment. List of Sanitary and Secure Landfills, Listado de Rellenos sanitarios y de seguridad\_23.09.xls. September 29, 2021.

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Ziegler-Rodriguez K., Margallo M., Aldaco R., Irabien A., Vazquez-Rowe I., Kahhat R. Environmental Performance of Peruvian Waste Management Systems under a Life Cycle Approach, 2018.

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