

CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN

FACT SHEET — PHILIPPINES

Each day, plastics leak into the waters around the more than 7,500 islands of the Philippines, driven by rising production and consumption of single-use plastics. USAID’s Clean Cities, Blue Ocean program is engaging across the Philippines to stop the flow of plastic pollution to the waters within and surrounding the country.

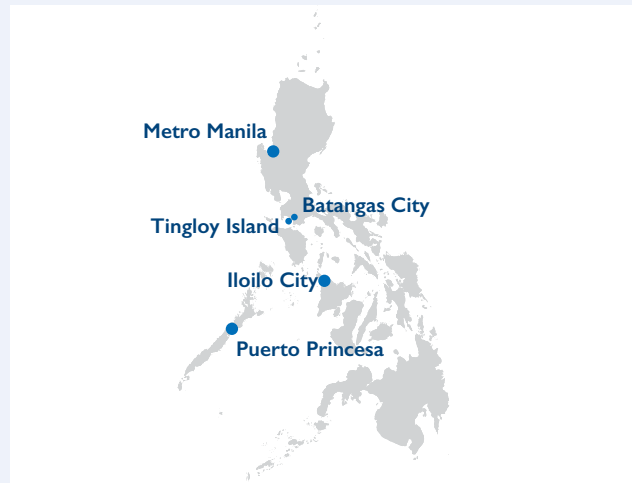
- In **Metro Manila**, USAID is empowering women to advance in the waste sector through training, mentorship, and the opportunity to receive funding to establish or expand entrepreneurial waste businesses.
- In **Pasig City**, USAID is transforming local organics and single-use plastics into usable products, such as ocean and climate change-friendly compost and eco-bricks, through a community “Eco Hub.”
- In **Parañaque City**, a new USAID-supported “Eco-Ikot” (Eco-Circular) Center collects and enables low-value plastics and other waste to be made into new recycled plastic goods, creates jobs for local women, and serves as a community education center.
- In **Manila City**, USAID supported women-owned sari-sari convenience stores to earn additional income as local “waste to cash” stations that buy plastic waste from the community and put it back into a developing local circular economy. USAID partners are also building local government capacity and helping local waste collectors to establish profitable, sustainable waste businesses.
- In **Tingloy Island** and **Batangas City**, USAID is supporting a new island-based circular economy and barangay waste management system by strengthening local policies and establishing revenue-generating recovery centers and new local businesses that will support the circular economy.

Country Stats

Uses more than **160 million** single-use plastic “sachets” each day

Generates an estimated **2.7 million tons** of plastic waste annually

Approximately **20%** of this is estimated to leak into the ocean



- In **Iloilo City**, USAID is building the capacity of waste collectors and aggregators, while helping the local government to implement and monitor new waste management strategies.
- In **Puerto Princesa**, USAID is professionalizing informal waste collection to improve safety, livelihoods, and the environmental contributions of local waste collectors, now known as “Eco Warriors.”

Photo: PZC for Clean Cities, Blue Ocean / Philippines

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

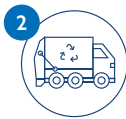
Our Local Systems Approach

USAID's engagement in the Philippines comes at a pivotal time, supporting action to avert irreversible damage to our oceans, reduce plastic and waste-linked contributions to the climate crisis, and advance other priority development objectives. 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, non-governmental organizations, and the USAID Municipal Waste and Recycling Program (2016-2021).

The program's work supports **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 Philippines, program impacts (to date) include:



Over **800 tons of plastic and other low-value waste—the equivalent of approximately 76 million plastic bottles—secured** from leaking into the environment through recovery efforts that diverted material from landfills, while supporting local livelihoods and building circular economies.



Nearly **3,000 individuals trained** from local government, the informal waste sector, and local organizations to build local capacity for solid waste management planning and programs.



Formed over 70 partnerships with local governments; private sector partners, including Nestle Philippines and the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines; and groups including the Metro Manila Development Authority and World Bank, to build sustainable, circular economies.



Approximately **\$3.8 million in grant funding and in-kind support awarded** to local organizations and governments to implement effective, locally-led solutions.



Nearly **500,000 households**, or about **2.1 million people**, benefiting from improved waste services or programs with government entities as well as through local grantees.

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.

Contacts

Marian C. Navata
Urban Planning Specialist, USAID/Philippines
maricruz@usaid.gov

Rene Acosta
Asia Regional Director, Clean Cities, Blue Oceans
renerio.acosta@cleancitiesblueocean.org

For more information, please visit urban-links.org/ccbo or email info@cleancitiesblueocean.org.