



USAID
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CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN

SRI LANKA

As a densely populated island nation of 21.67 million (2018), Sri Lanka faces unique challenges in managing its solid waste. Waste management systems in the country have struggled to keep pace as urban populations have grown and system funding, organization, while local government resources have remained static. Across the country, it is estimated that only 20% of households have access to public waste collection services, while 47% burn their waste, 23% dispose of it in their communities or natural environments, and about 8% practice backyard composting for organic waste. USAID's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program is piloting solutions to build coordinated waste management systems with increased local government capacity.

At the national level, USAID is supporting Sri Lanka's national government in building a more sustainable, circular economy that fully engages the private sector as key players in the fight against ocean plastic pollution through Extended Producer Responsibility legislation. USAID is also piloting solutions in the following three engagement sites:

- **Colombo Metropolitan Area** is Sri Lanka's capital, the country's financial center, and a popular tourist destination. Colombo is Sri Lanka's most populated city, generating 10% of the nation's total waste although its residents represent only ~2.5% of the national population and live within 1% of the country's total land area. In Colombo, only 75% of waste generated is estimated to be collected.
- **Galle** is the country's southern capital, with an administration working toward establishing the city as a healthy and green coastal city.

COUNTRY STATS

Only **20%** of Sri Lanka's estimated **5.1 million** households have access to waste collection services
7,500 metric tons of waste are generated in Sri Lanka each day

- **Jaffna District** is home to the northern province's capital and many commercial and government institutions, industrial operations, and hotels. It is a popular area for manufacturing, given its connection to the country's rail system.

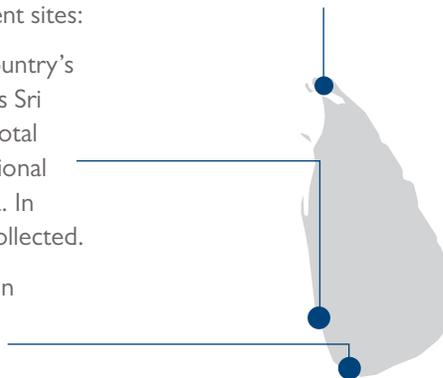


PHOTO: SRI LANKA MUNICIPAL WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

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



OUR LOCAL SYSTEMS APPROACH

In Sri Lanka, 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, 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:**



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:

Sri Lanka Central Environment Authority, 2018.

Number of households in Sri Lanka from 2013 to 2021, Statista. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/728353/number-of-households-sri-lanka/>

United Nations Food and Agriculture Association, Food Waste Management in City Region Food System Policy Brief, 2018.

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