



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN

VIETNAM



PHOTO: USAID MUNICIPAL WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Vietnam has experienced rapid urbanization, especially in the last decade, with urban populations expected to surpass those in rural areas by 2050. Despite relatively high waste collection rates in urban centers, over one quarter of urban residents live in low-income and densely populated areas where collection can be challenging to deliver consistently. Vietnam’s urban growth, combined with increased demand for and dependency on single-use plastics, has outpaced its waste system capacities, leading to environmental leakage. USAID’s Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program is piloting solutions to address these challenges, which also impact human health and our climate.

In 2019, Vietnam issued its National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Debris Management until 2030, which aims to reduce plastic litter in oceans by 50% by 2025 and by 75% by 2030. USAID is supporting these goals through targeted national-level support and activities in four engagement sites.

Phú Quốc, is Vietnam’s largest island, with a population of just over 100,000 and a burgeoning tourism sector. On the island, USAID is working with partners to develop and pilot a community-based waste management model, focusing on households and hotels, and integrate waste management into the island’s annual socio-economic development plans.

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

URBAN-LINKS.ORG/CCBO

COUNTRY STATS

More than **17,000** metric tons of plastic waste generated each day

In some areas, only **20-60%** of waste is secured in landfills



Hue City has deep historical significance and a large tourism economy. USAID is working with local partners to develop the city’s circular economy by launching a “ReForm” plastic facility—a new market-based recycling scheme and social enterprise model focused on low-cost solutions for processing plastic and packaging waste into new materials. Behavior change for increased sorting and waste collection is promoted amongst households and businesses to support the success and sustainability of the system, and local government and municipal waste operators are engaged to ensure a strong enabling environment.

Da Nang is aggressively working to become greener and more sustainable by reducing the more than 1,000 tons of waste it generates each day. USAID is supporting the effort by developing public-private partnerships and engaging with informal waste collectors to build their capacity, support their formalization as a professional group, and align their services with increasing waste demands.

Bien Hoa, located near the Mekong River Delta, is a rapidly growing industrial and commercial area. Here, USAID is working to establish and build the capacity of informal waste collector cooperatives to formalize their role in waste management, increase their collection volumes and earnings, and improve worker safety and protections.



OUR LOCAL SYSTEMS APPROACH

In Vietnam, 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 implement 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:

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Thanh N.P., Matsui, Y. & Fujiwara, T., Assessment of plastic waste generation and its potential recycling of household solid waste in Can Tho City, Vietnam, Environ Monit Assess 175, 23–35 (2011).

World Bank, Vietnam, Country Overview: Vietnam, World Bank, Accessed June 5, 2020.

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