



PHOTO: UNSPLASH/DUSTAN WOODHOUSE

# CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN

## USAID'S GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAM TO COMBAT OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION

Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) is the U.S. Agency for International Development's global flagship program to combat ocean plastic pollution. The 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 systems and building circular economies, city by city, the program builds sustainable solutions that reduce ocean plastics while empowering vulnerable populations and mitigating pollution that affects human health and our climate.

More than 22 million tons of plastic leak into our aquatic environment each year, the majority from land-based sources, primarily communities and cities that aren't able to adequately collect and manage local waste. To address this critical issue, the program works in collaboration with global, regional, and local stakeholders to test, scale, and share inclusive and sustainable solutions to promote the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), strengthen solid waste management systems, and build or advance local circular economies. The program's work supports its partner countries to implement national plans and strategies and aligns with U.S. Government priorities and plans, particularly those outlined in Save our Seas 2.0 (signed into law in December 2020), such as increased engagement and cooperation with foreign governments, local stakeholders, and the private sector for the development of sustainable solutions.

### GEOGRAPHIC FOCAL AREAS

CCBO is global in scope, with a focus on key countries in Asia, the Pacific Islands, Latin America and the Caribbean (**Indonesia, the Maldives, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, and Peru**).

**DURATION:** August 2019 – August 2024 **LOCATION:** Global **BUDGET:** \$48 million  
**IMPLEMENTER:** Tetra Tech (in collaboration with ICMA and the Manoff Group)

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### AT A GLANCE

**\$48 million, global program** to tackle ocean plastics pollution at the source

Working in over **25 cities** across **9 countries** in **Asia, the Pacific Islands, Latin America and the Caribbean**

Advancing **local solid waste management systems** to create **cleaner cities, healthier oceans**, and reduce **waste-linked contributions to the climate crisis**

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## OUR APPROACH

Clean Cities, Blue Ocean provides local, national, and international technical expertise, paired with a global grants program, to test, scale, and share locally-led, innovative, and proven solutions with governments, communities, and businesses. Where possible, the program learns from and expands upon the success of proven initiatives by local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the USAID Municipal Waste 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

## ACTIVITIES AND IMPACTS

As of March 2022, the program has:



**Secured over 43,000 metric tons of plastic and other materials** (the equivalent of over 4.6 billion plastic bottles) from leaking into the environment.



**Recovered and diverted over 87 metric tons of plastic and other waste** from landfills, while supporting local livelihoods and building circular economies.



**Trained over 900 individuals from local government, the informal waste sector, and local organizations** to build local capacity for solid waste management planning and programs.



**Impacted over 4.8 million individuals** who have experienced better air and water quality as a result of landfill remediation activities or have improved access to waste services as a result of new local businesses, organizations, and government partnerships.



**Awarded over \$3.1 million** in grants to local partners to implement effective, locally-led solutions.



**Formed partnerships** with local governments; private sector partners, including Nestle Philippines, the Coca-Cola Foundation, and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste; and groups including the Metro Manila Development Authority and World Bank, to build sustainable, circular economies. The program's partnerships have **leveraged over \$4.1 million in additional investments** to strengthen local waste systems.

## MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERS

Clean Cities, Blue Ocean is managed out of the USAID/Washington Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation's Environment, Energy, and Infrastructure Center and is implemented by Tetra Tech, with a consortium of expert partner organizations: 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.

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