



CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN MALDIVES

Maldives is a coral reef island nation made up of more than 1,200 low-lying islands. High population density, land-based pollution, and high dependence on climate-sensitive industries add to the country's vulnerability to climate change. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) works in partnership with the people of Maldives to support the reduction of plastic waste in order to protect the country's pristine ecosystems. This project is one component of the 20-year partnership between USAID and Maldives to support self-reliance, strengthen stability, and promote economic growth.

Reducing plastic waste is a global issue. Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) is USAID's five-year flagship global initiative to target ocean plastics at their source in cities and towns. Managed and funded through USAID headquarters in Washington, D.C. and implemented through a consortium of partners, CCBO is piloting solutions in Maldives to stop the flow of plastic pollution to the waters within and surrounding the country. CCBO is supporting holistic strategies that address each step in the waste value chain – from production to its end use – through critical site-level research, grants to local organizations, and additional technical assistance and capacity building support.

Implementing Partner: Tetra Tech ARD; Total Estimated Global Cost: \$48 million (part of which is allocated to Maldives); Performance Period: October 2019 – September 2024

OBJECTIVES

In order to keep plastic and other waste out of Maldives' marine environments and maintain healthy and clean cities throughout the island, CCBO seeks to:

- Develop, test, and implement new models that promote reducing, reusing, and recycling (3R) practices and enhance solid waste management (SWM);

- Facilitate partnerships and investment around key needs, such as infrastructure; and
- Strengthen local systems to build Maldives' resiliency and self-reliance.

ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH: Conduct critical site-level research to understand engagement sites' specific challenges in solid waste management and enforcement, behavior change, and barriers to private sector investment.

GRANTS: Award grants to local partners to begin piloting solutions to stop the flow of plastic pollution to the waters within and surrounding the country.

CAPACITY BUILDING: Provide technical assistance and capacity building support for local partners by offering state-of-the-art international and local technical expertise.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: Across its approach and activities, CCBO works to support and enhance the livelihoods of informal waste collectors, of which a large portion are women, and advance women's economic empowerment by improving social and economic conditions that impede women's ability to work successfully in solid waste management and recycling jobs.

RESULTS

- Awarded a grant to the Small Island Geographic Society to research household waste generation and disposal behavior and identify solutions to reduce single-use plastic consumption and increase plastic-free living. The project will seek inputs from businesses, government, civil society, and communities so they can all play a role in combating ocean plastic pollution, communicate ways to nurture low-waste households, and reimagine urban waste systems.
- Awarded a grant to Soneva Namona to work with island communities and local councils on reducing plastic consumption, diverting waste from entering the environment, and ending the open burning of trash on inhabited islands. Building on the success of a local initiative, this project will design and test a waste management model that focuses on disposal of plastics and other materials such as food and yard waste, glass, and metal.