United Nations Development Programme

UNDP and The Coca-Cola Foundation's Regional Partnership on "Management of Plastics Waste and Circular Interventions on Plastics in South, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific"

ANNUAL REPORT

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United Nations Development Programme

[Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam]

Reporting Period	1 November 2024 to 15 August 2025
Donor	The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF)
Country	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam
Project Title	Management of Plastics Waste and Circular Interventions on Plastics in South, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific
Project ID	Regional 01002871 Bangladesh 01003421 Bhutan 01003430 Cambodia 01003431 India 01003432 Indonesia 01004820 Maldives 01003433 Nepal 01003434 Philippines 01003435 Sri Lanka 01003436 Vietnam 01003437
Implementing Partner(s)	Bangladesh: The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Innovation and Research Center (IRC) Bhutan: Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport Cambodia: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Tourism, NGOs and Private Sector working on plastic waste management and recycling India: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Maldives: Waste Management Corporation (WAMCO) Nepal: Five Local Governments—Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC), Khumbu-Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality (KPRM), Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City (DSMC), Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality (LSM), and Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City (BSMC) Philippines: Select local government units in Western Visayas, Philippines, including Iloilo Provincial Government, Passi City, Banate, Dumangas, Pototan, and Iloilo City; Department of Environment and Natural Resources Sri Lanka: Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government, Western Province Waste Management Authority, Central Environment Authority Vietnam: Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE)
Project Start Date	1 November 2024
Project End Date	31 October 2027

Year 1 Annual Work Plan Budget	USD 4,950,495
Year 1 Expenditures	USD 3,857,701.28
Total resources required (2024-2027)	Year 1: USD 5,000,000 (inclusive of 1% UN levy) Year 1: USD 5,000,000 (inclusive of 1% UN levy) Year 1: USD 5,000,000 (inclusive of 1% UN levy) Total: USD 15,000,000 (inclusive of 1% UN levy)
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1. Executive summary

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with The Coca-Cola Foundation, is strengthening plastic waste management and circular interventions in 10 countries in Asia and the Pacific region (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia (added in 2025), Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam), and supporting to reduce the compounding impact of plastic waste on human life and the ecosystem. This partnership aims to accelerate the collection and recycling of plastic waste, improve and develop infrastructure for waste management in selected countries, improve national policy and regulatory frameworks, and promote inclusive stakeholder participation, and scale up best environmental practices and technologies. The project targets the **collection of at least 53,930 metric tons of plastic waste** and **improve the livelihoods of 69,600 waste workers**[1].

Since commencing in September 2024, the project has made steady progress across all participating countries, advancing plastic waste circularity through inclusive stakeholder engagements, introducing innovative circular models, strengthening infrastructure capacities, and policy frameworks. Countries have laid important foundations in initiating circular models:

- Bangladesh and Nepal formalized partnerships with key national authorities and advanced plans for Circularity Hubs and Material Recovery Facilities;
- Bhutan completed national-level assessments on GIS mapping of solid waste facilities, a national waste inventory survey, and GHG emissions to directly inform policy;
- Cambodia launched its Circular Economy Roadmap and deepened engagement with informal waste workers;
- India operationalized the NAMASTE Helpline, reaching 6,762 waste pickers, and advanced the development of a Responsible Sourcing Framework;
- Indonesia joined the TCCF regional project as the tenth participating country, with implementation beginning in August 2025;
- Maldives initiated major infrastructure investments, including electric vehicles and solarization, to accelerate plastic collection;
- the Philippines co-developed inclusive business models with local governments and identified pilot barangays for the digital waste tracking tools;
- Sri Lanka secured government endorsement, launched baseline data collection, and established new resource banks and MRFs;
- and Viet Nam advanced grassroots innovation through the Plastics Innovation Programme and launched pilots for responsible sourcing and waste-back-to-shore models.
- At the regional level, the project successfully convened its official launch, initiated Thematic Working Groups, and continues to provide technical and policy support across all countries.

[1] With Indonesia included as the 10th country, the total number of plastic waste collected and recycled amounts to 63,930 metric tons, and 135,600 waste workers' livelihoods improved.

Table 1: The aggregate targets achieved to date

Partnership Indicator	Projected Amount	Unit of Measurement	Year 1 Target	Actual Year 1
Amount of total materials collected	53,930	Tons	10,300	**533.43**
Amount of Plastics recycled	53,930	Tons	10,300	**533.43**
Livelihood impacted	69,600	Number	14,400	8,541
Co-financing mobilized from other funding sources	46,900,000	Dollars	N/A	30,771,472
Number of innovation projects or start-ups supported	19	Number	8	4
Total number of catalytic infrastructure investments supported	22	Number	8	6
Government solid waste management plans (circular systems) strengthened or created	19	Number	8	4
Awareness/Training programmes launched	47	Number	14	12

The first year of implementation highlighted several key lessons. Early and sustained stakeholder engagement is critical to ensure ownership and minimize delays. Building institutional capacity is essential for embedding circular economy principles and ensuring scalability of interventions. Experiences across countries also underscored the importance of adaptive planning, allowing teams to recalibrate activities in response to procurement delays, shifting political landscapes, or evolving regulations.

Building on these lessons, the project will prioritize key actions to accelerate delayed activities, including procurements and operationalizing key interventions such as Circularity Hubs, MRFs, and responsible sourcing models. In addition, strengthening multi-stakeholder coordination with governments, CSOs, private sector, and informal workers will be prioritized, together with scaling the capacities and introducing gender-responsive approaches to locally led circular intervention. The project also prioritizes the use of digital tools and data to strengthen monitoring, transparency, and policy impact, supported by regional platforms that continue to facilitate cross-country learning and knowledge exchange.

2. Background

Plastic waste management is one of the most significant environmental challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. Waste generation is rapidly increasing due to urbanization, population growth, and rising consumption patterns. The region struggles with inadequate systems for waste collection, disposal, and recycling, leading to plastic pollution in landfills, rivers, and oceans. Plastic waste not only harms ecosystems but also poses serious health risks. Toxic chemicals and microplastics contaminate soil, water, and air, exposing humans through ingestion, inhalation, and direct skin contact. These pollutants can carry pathogens, increasing the spread of diseases.

The informal waste sector plays a crucial role in collecting and recycling plastic waste. Despite their contribution, their effectiveness is undermined by a lack of regulation and formal recognition, and inadequate investments in the sector. Women are particularly affected, as they are disproportionately engaged in low-paying and unsafe informal waste management jobs, often without access to social protections or safety measures.

To address these challenges, a comprehensive and structured approach to plastic waste management is essential. The "Management of Plastic Waste and Circular Interventions on Plastics in South, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific" project, funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation, aims to establish sustainable plastic waste management practices across the region, accelerating plastic waste collection and recycling. Running from November 2024 to October 2027, the project will enhance waste infrastructure, strengthen regional cooperation, advocate for policy changes, and support the integration of informal waste workers into formal waste management systems.

The project aims to significantly reduce plastic waste leakage in the region and will support improving national policies, upgrading and establishing material recovery facilities, and fostering public-private partnerships to ensure continuity of the initiative. Regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing mechanisms will further ensure diverse learnings are leveraged, and best practices on plastic waste management solutions are exchanged across the Asia-Pacific region.

3. Progress Review

Bangladesh

Overall Implementation Progress

The project is progressing well toward its goal of promoting plastic waste circularity through inclusive stakeholder engagement, market system development, digital innovation, and increased community awareness. Preparations for establishing a Circularity Hub in partnership with Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries Innovation and Research Centre (FBCCI-IRC) are underway with the Memorandum of Understanding scheduled to be signed by September 2025. This initiative will support early-stage green startups, foster local green entrepreneurship, and create a tailored accelerator program in line with Bangladesh's sustainable development goals. In addition, policy dialogues and workshops focusing on gender-responsive plastic waste management are being planned. Partnership with three universities continues to help small businesses in recycling, and the project is coordinating with local authorities to strengthen private waste collection and sorting systems, with agreements targeted for August 2025. Key studies, including a baseline study, market value chain analysis, and gender analysis in Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, and Tangail, are scheduled to launch in August 2025. The ecopia app, a digital tool for tracking plastic waste, is under development and scheduled to be launched in September 2025. The project is also finalizing strategies to improve the health and safety of women waste workers and their children, with implementation planned for October 2025. The 'Sea to Summit' campaign has already increased youth awareness and involvement in responsible plastic waste practices.

Output 1: Strengthened collaboration with stakeholders to promote plastic waste circularity

The project is progressing on the implementation of a Circularity Hub in collaboration with Bangladesh Central Industry Associations, and the signing of the agreement between FBCCI-IRC is scheduled for September 2025. In parallel, policy dialogues on plastic waste management with a focus on gender-related issues is planned to commence in September 2025.

Output 2: Plastics Waste Market System Developed

To support business model development and market linkages for CMSMEs involved in plastic waste recycling, discussions have been initiated with three public universities: the University of Chattogram (CU), Chattogram University of Engineering and Technology (CUET), and Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU). The collaboration is scheduled to commence in September 2025. In parallel, an agreement is formalized between UNDP and the local government authorities in Chattogram City, Cox's Bazar, and Tangail Municipality to support private waste collection organizations in improving the quality and efficiency of waste management, as well as to strengthen the capacity of privately owned material sorting and segregation facilities. A Gender expert is being engaged to develop a learning module and deliver gender-sensitive training on Best Environmental Practices for plastic collectors, sorting and recycling stakeholders. The training will strengthen their ability to identify and improve technical practices in handling, storing, recycling and disposing of plastic contaminated hazardous wastes.

Output 3: Gender responsive information and plastic waste traceability mechanism established

To ensure targeted and sustainable interventions, the following key studies will be conducted between August to November 2025:

- Baseline study on the plastic waste situation in three cities: Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, and Tangail.
- An analysis of the informal plastic waste sector, including a market value chain assessment.
- A gender analysis of the plastic waste value chain across the same three cities.

In parallel, the upgrading of digital technology platform ecopia app, an online marketplace for plastic waste traceability, is being initiated. The app will be launched in September 2025, but further improvements will continue for another three months. The platform aims to onboard key actors (individuals, households, institutions, businesses, individual traders/scrap shops, scrap dealers, wholesalers) across the plastic waste value chain, improving connectivity and efficiency in the sector.

Output 4: Awareness, knowledge, and capacities developed among urban residents

The project is in the final stages of developing strategies to enhance health and safety measures for plastic waste workers, particularly women and their children engaged in the plastic waste value chain. Following the signing of an MoU with the local authorities, implementation is scheduled to begin in early October 2025. In parallel, planning for a gender-sensitive communication and outreach strategy and an environmental stewardship campaign has been finalized for the full project duration. One campaign, "Sea to Summit," has already been completed, successfully inspiring many young people to adopt responsible plastic waste management practices. So far, this initiative has reached around 500 college and university students, raising awareness about plastic use and plastic pollution.

Bhutan

Overall Implementation Progress

The Plastics Circularity Project in Bhutan has made significant progress in implementing its Year 1 activities. The project commenced with stakeholder consultations for social and environmental screening at the national level. These consultations held with central and local government agencies, private waste actors, and both formal and informal waste handlers served as a vital platform for raising awareness, identifying challenges and opportunities, and sharing knowledge on waste management practices in Bhutan.

Throughout its first year, the project facilitated multiple consultations and workshops focused on reducing plastic waste leakage into the environment, promoting sustainable waste management, enhancing occupational safety, and advancing the principles of a circular economy. These activities engaged a total of 412 individuals (Male: 175, Female: 242), reflecting strong community and institutional participation.

Recognizing the importance of updated waste data for informed decision-making, effective policy reform, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions tracking, the project aligned with government priorities and in close consultation with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and the Department of Environment and Climate Change implemented four key national assessments: GIS mapping of solid waste facilities, a national waste inventory survey, GHG emissions and mitigation measures, and the development of a nationwide waste infrastructure masterplan. The comprehensive data generated through these assessments has made a timely contribution to Bhutan's Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3).

Additionally, the project successfully established strategic partnerships with the World Bank and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) [2] through the PLEASE initiative, further strengthening regional collaboration and technical support. Under this partnership, four ongoing assessments, including GIS mapping of waste facilities, the national waste inventory survey, the waste masterplan and GHG calculation, are being jointly funded by SACEP PLEASE Project. UNDP and SACEP signed the partnership agreement on 17th December 2024, which will run until 30 September 2025.

[2] The partnership was covered on SACEP website UNDP_SACEP_WB Initiative

Output 1: Stakeholder Consultation – Awareness Programs to Support Behavior Change

Under this output, the project is supporting the National Initiative on Plastic Free River in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The activity is under implementation, and it significantly contributes to all the outputs and results planned in the project document. It will enhance awareness and promote behavioural change, strengthen local capacities, and facilitate the collection of plastic waste from river ecosystems. The National River Cleaning Initiative was carried out in five districts with 29 dedicated volunteers working closely with the local communities in cleaning rivers by collecting waste and increasing awareness through strong advocacy programs. This initiative has led to visible cleaner river stretches, improved river flow, and the gradual revival of riverbank vegetation. This has also strengthened the public awareness and sense of responsibility towards environmental conservation.

On Bhutan's Environment Day celebrated on 4 June in honour of Her Majesty the Queen of Bhutan, Royal Patron of the Environment, an awareness activity highlighting the importance of waste management was organised, followed by a mass cleaning campaign. The program mobilised **259 volunteers** (Male: 98, Female 161), who **picked six truckloads (7.3 tonnes) of waste in a day of which 1.3 MT of plastics.** The programme observed that improper waste disposal is largely due to a lack of awareness and the non-responsive behaviour of travellers. Participants expressed strong support for continuing similar advocacy and awareness programmes, emphasizing their importance in improving waste management practices across the country. The cleaning campaign and waste inventory exercise successfully collected a total of 272.5 metric tons of plastic waste.

Output 2: Increase plastic waste collection through deployment of best environmental practices and technologies such as compactor trucks, and value addition machines.

Activity 2.1 Number of compactor trucks deployed

An Invitation to Bid for the procurement of six waste compactor trucks was issued in March, with delivery planned in two phases. Three trucks will be deployed by the end of September, and the remaining three trucks will be deployed in January 2026, upon receipt of Year 2 fund transfer.

Activity 2.2 Metric tons of plastic waste (including PET and single-use plastic) collected

To date, one cleaning campaign was organized, resulting in the collection of 7.3 metric tons of solid waste, of which 1.3 tons of plastic waste were collected in a day and waste inventory collected 271.2 MT

of plastic waste, totalling 272.5 MT. The two project landscapes, Paro and Gelephu Municipality, will maintain records on plastic waste collection following the deployment of the compactor trucks.

Output 3: Capacity of waste handlers (formal and informal) developed in proper segregation and hygiene.

Activity 3.1 Geographic distribution of plastic waste mapped

UNDP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and the Department of Environment and Climate Change, completed the four national assessments on waste management. The initial scope of work was on GIS mapping and the waste infrastructure masterplan. However, given the importance of updated waste data for the development of NDC 3, improved GHG emissions, effective mitigation measures, to reinforce Bhutan's climate rationale with strong evidence-based data and with co-financing from the SACEP, the scope of work was expanded to include the national waste inventory survey and the calculation of GHG emissions and mitigation measures.

The GIS mapping of waste facilities provides a comprehensive, GIS-based spatial analysis of solid and plastic waste infrastructure across Bhutan, including landfills, Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), drop-off centers, and plastic processing units. The assessment aimed to examine the spatial distribution, assess capacities, conditions, ownerships, and service coverage of these facilities to identify disparities and support informed planning. Additionally, it assessed the environmental and social risks associated with existing waste infrastructure, with particular attention to sensitive ecosystems and nearby human settlements. The report recommends policy-driven actions to close service gaps, strengthen infrastructure, and advance Bhutan's climate and circular economy goals

The national waste inventory survey (NWIS) was conducted to update the baseline inventory conducted in 2019. The survey was conducted in six sampled districts representative of the national population. The primary objectives of NWIS-2025 are to estimate total and per capita waste generation across key sectors, analyse the composition of waste by type, and assess the collection, segregation, and disposal practices adopted across urban and rural areas.

Based on the updated waste data, a comprehensive assessment of GHG emissions from Bhutan's waste sector was conducted and it provides future emission projections up to 2050 under three different scenarios with practical mitigation measures.

Waste infrastructure masterplan is developed to identify infrastructure gaps to meet projected waste growth and improve system efficiency, while establishing national standards that ensure sustainable, context-appropriate waste management aligned with global best practices.

Cambodia

Overall Implementation Progress

The project has made significant progress across all three outputs. The development of the Circular Economy Roadmap serves as a strategic foundation to operationalize priority business models in plastic alternatives and recycling. It also reinforces UNDP's positioning as a key partner in advancing national circularity efforts. The project has also taken meaningful steps to engage with partner organizations to support informal waste collectors and to promote inclusive approaches to reduce plastic leakage. The project initiated collaborations with key ministries and local authorities to reduce single-use plastics, especially in the hospitality sector. At the same time, national capacity and public awareness have been strengthened through workshops and impactful social media outreach, helping mobilize diverse stakeholders on plastic waste management and sustainable waste solutions. The results from the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) analysis in waste management will better inform the development of gender-responsive communication materials and targeted awareness campaigns in the next implementation phase.

Output 1: Priority business models for plastic alternatives and plastic recycling operationalized.

To prioritize the business models for plastic alternative and plastic recycling operationalized, UNDP Cambodia has conducted an assessment to develop a roadmap towards Circular Economy (CE) in Cambodia[3]. The roadmap will guide the offer of support to the Government toward a more sustainable and resilient economic model. Specifically, the CE Roadmap proposes a conceptual framework to identify and map the key transition phases Cambodia must undergo to shift from its current linear economic model to a green and circular economy; to analyse the strategic and systemic enablers and barriers at each phase; and to recommend prioritized interventions and catalytic actions that would enable Cambodia to leapfrog from one phase to the next, with an emphasis on accelerating progress from the current early stage of transition. The roadmap gives an overview of the CE transition, before diving into the plastic sector as a case study.

To explore opportunities for improving the livelihood of informal waste collectors, the project conducted field visits to two potential partner organizations, namely TonToTon and River Ocean Cleanup. These visits aimed to understand how these organizations engage with informal waste collectors within the plastic value chain, particularly in the areas of collecting and recycling. The objective of this early engagement was to assess potential collaboration models that could support the integration of informal waste collectors into more formalized systems, thereby enhancing their income stability and working conditions.

Through these interactions, the project gained valuable insights into the current realities faced by informal waste collectors, including their challenges and their critical role in Cambodia's recycling ecosystem.

[3] The assessment report is in draft version, and it is scheduled to be finalized by October 2025.

These insights informed the TCCF Cambodia project to take further actions, including designing circular economy solutions to support innovative business solutions. The project has initiated dialogue with relevant ministries in Cambodia such as the Ministry of Environment (MoE), and the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) as well as local authorities in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville, to implement the CE measures to reduce the usage of single use plastic (SUP) in the hospitality sector in Cambodia, and providing support to informal waste workers through capacity building and other relevant equipment for their better health.

Output 2: National capacity enhanced and improved awareness about the plastic crisis and its solutions among citizens and the private sector.

The project designed and implemented different awareness-raising efforts to engage all stakeholders. In early July 2025, the project jointly organized the National Plastic Action Roadmap Validation Workshop in collaboration with Cambodia's National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP Cambodia) secretariat which brought together 40 stakeholders from key partner ministries, the private sector, development partners, academia and civil society. The workshop served as a platform to discuss strategic approaches to plastic management and raise awareness on plastic pollution and its impact on the environment and social economy. In addition to these efforts, the project also conducted two consultation workshops in July 2025 as part of the capacity building, stakeholder engagement and awareness raising with 35 participants representing government agencies, private sector, civil society organizations, academia, youth groups, and the informal sector. The consultations aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange and gather stakeholder inputs to inform the design of inclusive and effective interventions that support a circular economy and a sound waste management practices in Cambodia.

Building on the existing initiative, the project supported an analysis of Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI)[4] in waste management. It seeks to deepen understanding of the needs, priorities, and experiences of historically marginalized and discriminated communities, its impacts, and how these factors influence their daily engagement with plastic-related activities. The result of this analysis will inform the development of appropriate communication material for gender-sensitive strategic communication and targeted awareness raising efforts. By integrating GESI considerations into the project's communication strategy, the team seeks to ensure that interventions are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to those most affected by waste management challenges, especially women's group, as they make up the majority of workers in the waste management sector.

The project has leveraged UNDP Cambodia's social media platforms including Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter to disseminate key messages on plastic waste management.[5] These efforts have raised public awareness on tackling plastic and hazardous waste while drawing public attention to the harmful impact of microplastics on human health. In addition, the platforms were used to promote the launch of TCCF plastic circularity project and UNDP report on combatting plastic pollution, highlighting innovative

[4] See Cambodia's annex folder to the report of analysis on GESI
[5] See Cambodia's annex folder for the link to the social media contents.

initiatives led by UNDP Cambodia and the Ministry of Environment, ranging from developing and enabling policy framework to promoting circular solutions. These engaging contents reached an estimated audience of 7.5K viewers across UNDP's social media channels, significantly amplifying the public engagement and enhancing visibility of project initiatives.

Output 3: Plastic waste leakage reduced in target provinces and cities.

To effectively address plastic pollution in the target areas, the project has identified and will collaborate with selected partner organizations as below. These partnerships are designed to strengthen the impact and long-term sustainability of waste management interventions to reduce plastic leakage in the target provinces and cities.

1. TONTOTON

TONTOTON is a Cambodia-based initiative tackling plastic pollution through a "Plastic Credit" model. Businesses purchase credits to offset their plastic use, funding the collection and recycling of low-value plastics, like flexible packaging. Certified under Ocean Bound Plastic and Social+ OBP standards, TONTOTON ensures ethical practices and supports informal waste pickers with fair wages, improved housing, and social services. Operations are externally audited for transparency. While the model has improved recycling rates and community well-being, it faces challenges in scalability and consistent funding. Strategic priorities include expanding partnerships and raising awareness to grow the plastic credit market.

TonToTon's Plastic credit model aligns with UNDP's circular economy goal, offering a practical model and scalable solution to repurpose plastic waste and reduce environmental impact. Their integration of environmental innovation and social empowerment provides valuable insights for shaping national strategies. Continued support and collaboration with TonToTon can accelerate Cambodia's transition to a circular economy. In addition, partnering with TonToTon also enable UNDP to leverage a proven, transparent model that directly supports informal waste workers and promote ethical recycling practices. This collaboration could amplify community engagement, scale up inclusive waste management models, and strengthen credibility and traceability through certified operations. Moreover, it represents a strategic opportunity to pilot and expand plastic credit systems in target provinces, contributing to national policy development and long-term sustainability.

2. River Ocean Cleanup (ROC):

River Ocean Cleanup (ROC) is a Cambodian Non-Governmental Organization dedicated to eliminating pollution from rivers and the ocean. Through collaborative efforts with the government of Cambodia, local authorities, donors, the private sector, NGOs, educational institutions, and target communities, ROC aims to clean up plastic waste and prevent further pollution. Their holistic solution to address marine plastic pollution through their comprehensive package activities integrated with technologies, including: 1) collection of marine plastic and river-bound plastic through maximizing community participation to

save our rivers and rescue themselves from plastic pollution. 2) recycling and sorting plastic materials into different waste streams supported by TrinamiX (a cutting-edge plastic-type identifier), and co-processing (waste to energy, to cement product). And 3) raising awareness to the target group who are living in the river, riverbank, slums, and fishing villages as well as hosting public awareness and treasure events.

The team leveraged a network of trained "Clean Agents" to conduct large-scale river cleanups, supported by innovative technologies like garbage boats and waste sorting centers, and has established the Marine Plastic Action Center (MPAC) in Phnom Penh to support long-term operation. Their work has significantly improved living conditions in heavily affected fishing communities and contributed to more effective waste management systems to reduce marine plastic pollution.

Partnering with ROC offers UNDP a strategic opportunity to strengthen plastic leakage reduction efforts through a community-driven, technology-enabled approach. ROC's holistic model, combining plastic collection, recycling, and public awareness, aligns well with UNDP's circular economy and sustainability goals. For instance, ROC's trained "Clean Agents" and strong grassroots networks can enhance UNDP's outreach and engagement in vulnerable communities, especially along rivers and coastal areas. ROC's use of advanced tools like TrinamiX for plastic identification and garbage boats for collection complements UNDP's innovative agenda, enabling more efficient and traceable waste management systems. Moreover, the establishment of the MPAC provides a foundation for sustainable operations, which UNDP can support and scale across target provinces. And ROC's collaboration with government bodies and other stakeholders can reinforce UNDP's policy dialogue and advocacy efforts, helping to institutionalize best practices in marine plastic management. Finally, the joint initiatives can improve living conditions in affected communities, reduce environmental degradation, and improve inclusive development through job creation, education and awareness raising on plastic pollution.

India

Overall Implementation Progress

The TCCF India Project has made strategic and structured progress across its core focus areas—plastic waste management, responsible sourcing, and social protection for waste workers—aligned with India's national priorities on circular economy, social inclusion, and just transitions. The implementation approach combines system strengthening, community engagement, and evidence-based interventions, supported by institutional partnerships and digital innovations.

Output 1: Stakeholders engaged to scale up and replicate successful results in a gender-sensitive manner

FINISH Society was selected to implement community-level mobilisation. Post onboarding, a detailed orientation was held on field protocols, data collection tools, and gender-responsive enrolment. Activities including mobilisation, document verification, and scheme facilitation are now underway in targeted

locations. A strategic partnership has been established with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE). A Letter of Agreement (LoA) has been signed with NSKFDC, the implementing agency of the NAMASTE Scheme. The helpline is institutionalized under the MoSJE's NAMASTE scheme. Since its launch on 16 July 2025, the **NAMASTE Helpline has reached 6,762 waste pickers** (2,876 Male, 2,601 Female, 1,285 Not shared) within the first 15 days of operation, providing critical information on the scheme's components, benefits, and enrolment process. Notably, 1,373 of these represent first-time engagements, highlighting the helpline's growing footprint and its pivotal role in bridging information asymmetries among previously unreached and underserved waste picker communities. Capacity-building sessions for helpline staff have started; community outreach scripts are under development.

The Circulate Initiative (TCI) has been onboarded to lead the development of the Responsible Sourcing Framework. Initial consultations with stakeholders have been held to support ethical and traceable plastic waste management. Insights from these consultations are being synthesized into a comprehensive Responsible Sourcing Framework, which will articulate standardized criteria around Ethical sourcing and traceability mechanisms; Social safeguard integration; Environmental compliance standards; and Independent verification protocols. The framework is being co-developed with continuous feedback from on-ground implementation partners to ensure contextual applicability and scalability. Once finalized, it will serve as a governing document for project stakeholders and value chain actors, enabling ethically sourced plastic to be integrated into circular economy pathways.

The next steps include scaling up outreach and scheme enrolment activities in identified geographies; operating the NAMASTE Helpline with verified scripts and feedback loops and finalizing and rolling out the Responsible Sourcing Framework through targeted stakeholder consultations and field validation.

LOA Signing NSKFDC-MoSJE and UNDP







Launch of the NAMASTE Helpline

Output 2: Best Environmental Practices and Best Available Technologies for plastics waste management and circular approaches piloted.

A multi-stakeholder consultation has been conducted to identify gaps, contextual challenges, and opportunities for responsible sourcing and inclusion in plastic waste value chains. These are essential to inform the framework design and pilot preparation.

The process to onboard Recyclers as verified value chain partners for the implementation of the responsible sourcing framework in its value chain is ongoing. This value chain partner will adopt the responsible sourcing framework for channelizing plastic waste.

Output 3: National Capacities, Information and Guidelines on Plastics and Waste Management Strengthened.

The target under this output is the **Development of a Business Model for Responsible Sourcing of Plastic Waste.** This output aims to create a foundational ecosystem for sustainable plastic waste management by strengthening policy, institutional, and digital capacities. Substantial groundwork has been laid to support the development of a responsible sourcing business model.

So far, progress has been made on technical scoping, systems development, and preparatory work for policy and communication functions. Orientation sessions have been held internally and with key ecosystem stakeholders to build a shared understanding of the responsible sourcing model. These achievements mark over 40% of the foundational work toward developing an evidence-backed, action-oriented business model to drive responsible plastic waste sourcing in India.

Output 4: Information, Outreach and Knowledge Management

The target under this output is to strengthen national capacities and support the development of comprehensive guidelines for effective plastic waste management. To date, the following multi-stakeholder knowledge events were conducted.

- A roundtable on Responsible Sourcing of Recycled Plastic (4 June 2025),
- A panel session on international cooperation for circular economy at the RECEIC Global Symposium (25 March 2025),
- A webinar on financing the MSME transition to circular economy (10 July 2025)
- A webinar on digital innovations and circular business models (7 August 2025).

Insights from these events are informing the development of a Responsible Sourcing Framework & circular economy to enable ethical, inclusive, and traceable plastic waste channelization.

The Mission LiFE Youth Ambassadors Programme is being developed to engage India's youth as champions of circular economy practices and sustainable living. Starting with intensive pilots in 5 institutions, the programme will expand to 500 through peer learning and scale to 100,000 institutions via mass outreach. Anchored in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Mission LiFE's seven lifestyle themes, beginning with campus waste management, it promotes resource efficiency, waste reduction, and behavioural shifts that drive systemic change from campuses to communities nationwide.

Progress was further demonstrated through communication and visibility efforts, including the dissemination of five IEC collaterals, one project video, two press releases, and one social media post. These efforts enhanced awareness and stakeholder engagement across digital and grassroots platforms.

Indonesia

Overall Implementation Progress

On 10 July 2025, UNDP Indonesia officially joined the TCCF regional project as the tenth participating country. To support Indonesia's participation, TCCF allocated an additional USD 3,389,900 to UNDP, covering the implementation period from 1 August 2025 to 30 September 2027.

In Year 1, a national kick-off event will be organized to launch the project and engage key stakeholders, with full-scale implementation to start in September 2025. The project in Indonesia will focus on five key outputs: Increased knowledge, skills, and safety of waste workers within CBOs to enhance their role in the circular economy; improved waste collection systems and recycling rate to support waste workers' livelihoods; strengthened financial resilience of waste workers by improving access to funding and sustainable business models; strengthened institutional, policy, and regulatory frameworks for integrated and collaborative plastic waste management; and effective knowledge management, outreach, and monitoring system for plastic waste management.

Maldives

Overall Implementation Progress

The project is advancing well across its three key outputs, with foundational activities underway and strategic scheduling aligned to national priorities and implementation timelines.

Under Output 1, preparations and discussions are ongoing for regional waste management workshops in the North, Central, and South of the Maldives, scheduled for Year 3. These workshops will engage stakeholders to showcase best practices and discuss the standardization of plastic waste management. The timing is aligned with the April 2026 local council elections, allowing the project to engage incoming councils and influence their four-year development plans.

Output 2 has seen significant early progress. The project has completed the procurement of 31 electric vehicles for 21 islands, with additional larger EVs being sourced for outer population centers. Plans are also underway to solarize operations in K. Maafushi by September 2025. These activities support early plastic collection and reflect the priorities of the Implementing Partner. Other major procurements are scheduled for Years 2 and 3, based on tranche allocations.

Under Output 3, the project will prepare gender-responsive training modules on plastics and waste management, drawing on regional knowledge from ten countries. These will be translated and uploaded to both WAMCO Academy and the Kiyeveni portal in Year 3, ensuring broad accessibility and institutional capacity building.

Overall, the project is on track, with early investments laying the groundwork for deeper engagement and capacity-building in the coming phases.

Output 1: Stakeholder engaged, data collected, strategies developed, and roadmaps established to replicate and scale up successful results from previous TCCF interventions in a gender sensitive manner.

Under this output the project aims to conduct waste management workshops in regions of Maldives (North, Central and South) with key stakeholders to showcase best practices, explore local level context (challenges and opportunities), and discuss standardization of plastic waste management. The said workshops are planned for year 3 of the project as project is focusing on completing the procurements for year 1 and 2. Pushing back engagement with island councils may turn out beneficial as local council elections is set for April 2026, with changes in councils foreseen. The project will benefit more from engaging with incoming councils rather than outgoing ones, to influence island level development plans for the 4-year term of the new councils.

Output 2: Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and Best Available Technologies (BAT) for plastics waste management pilot and circular approaches to plastics management assessed, replicated, and/or scaled up, and the accompanying capacities strengthened.

The project is undertaking several key activities to strengthen environmental sustainability and waste management systems. These include: (i) identifying, documenting, and amplifying best environmental practices at the local level through Best Available Technology (BAT) support grants; (ii) piloting plastic processing (washing, flaking, and pelletizing) in the Southern and Northern Regional Waste Collection Centers to enhance plastic waste management and recycling; and (iii) providing electric vehicles and renewable energy infrastructure to the Waste Management Corporation. As part of the progress update, procurement of 31 electric vehicles for 21 islands has been completed. Efforts are also underway to procure larger electric vehicles for outer population centers where the Implementing Partner (IP) is present. Additionally, the project is working to solarize operations in K. Maafushi by September 2025. Major procurements under this output are scheduled for Years 2 and 3. The decision to prioritize EV procurement in Year 1 was driven by IP priorities and the need to initiate plastic collection early in the project to ensure achievement of project targets.

Output 3: Information, Outreach built, and knowledge management implemented.

The project focuses on strengthening institutional and community capacities for sustainable plastics and waste management through inclusive and accessible knowledge-sharing. Key activities include: (i) the development of information and guidelines on plastics and waste management, designed to be gender-responsive and inclusive of diverse stakeholder needs; and (ii) the translation and uploading of training modules to the local council learning portal (Kiyeveni). These modules will be based on knowledge and best practices generated across the ten countries participating in this regional initiative. Implementation of these activities is scheduled for Year 3, to make training resources available to both WAMCO through its Academy and local councils via Kiyeveni. This dual dissemination strategy ensures that both operational and governance-level actors are equipped with the tools and knowledge needed to support effective and equitable waste management practices.

Nepal

Overall Implementation Progress

TCCF Plastic Circularity Project in Nepal has completed all preparatory, consultative meetings with Local Governments and local partners, and procurements approved for 2025. These initiatives have remained instrumental in laying a solid foundation for the strategic implementation of its planned activities. UNDP has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with five Local Governments—Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC), Khumbu-Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality (KPRM), Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City (DSMC), Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality (LSM), and Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City (BSMC)—and is finalizing one with Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC), to implement project activities on a cost-sharing

basis. UNDP has conducted the Detailed Feasibility Study (DFS) and Social and Environmental Screening (SES) in close coordination with the respective Local Governments to identify the potential Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) across these six municipalities for targeted plastics circularity interventions.

Since the project aims to recover at least 1,150 tons of plastic waste and reduce environmental leakage risks, procurement of machines, tools, and technology for the five selected sites has been initiated, enabling effective plastic waste management. The project further aims to promote sustainable livelihoods through Recycling and Upcycling approaches by creating safe and sustainable income-generating opportunities for at least 1,550 waste workers, including the provision of appropriate safety gear to enhance occupational health and safety standards. To support these activities, service providers have been onboarded to conduct community outreach, build municipal capacity, develop SOPs/guidelines, and deliver skills and livelihood training focused on plastic management and circular economy interventions.

Output 1: Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are equipped with processing and management technologies.

To institutionalize plastic waste management and promote circularity, an integrated database system will be developed and linked to the web-based management systems of partner local governments/municipalities. In July 2025, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was launched to identify a qualified organization/company/NGO. The selected service provider will develop and operationalize a database system across at least six MRFs across five partner municipalities (i.e., LSM, BSMC, DSMC, KPRM and KMC. The service provider will be onboarded by the end of August 2025. The system will track and report data on the volume of plastic waste collected, segregated, processed, sold (including sales income), and sent to landfill sites. Additionally, UNDP is coordinating with LMC for a partnership on strengthening additional MRF.

Detailed Feasibility Studies (DFS) have been conducted at the seven Material Recovery Facility (MRF) sites across six municipalities[6]. These studies primarily provided technical inputs into waste generation, characterization, existing infrastructure, and the specific machinery required (BOQ) for plastics waste processing at each site. In addition, the DFS report has mapped the institutional and human resource capacities, focusing on the capacity building needs of waste workers and municipal representatives, as well as identifying essential safety gear requirements for waste workers.

Based on the findings of the Detailed Feasibility Study (DFS) reports, a range of machines, equipment, tools etc. has been customized to meet the site-specific needs of six MRFs across five municipalities. Following the finalization of equipment specifications, Request for Quotations (RFQ) have been issued for 4 MRF sites—specifically in Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality-KPRM (Namche and Lukla), Lumbini

[6] Based on the findings, the reports have recommended a range of machines and equipment tailored to the specific needs of each site. These include (i) Conveyor belts (inclined and horizontal) for plastic segregation from general waste (ii) Shredder machines (iii) Baler machines (iv)Vibrators for dust removal (v) Plastic cleaning/washing machines (vi) Plastic extruders (vii) Pallet trucks.

Sanskritik Municipality (Lumbini), and Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City (Butwal) with technology upgrades for 2 MRFs (Lumbini and Butwal) expected to be completed by September 2025.

As outlined in the DFS report, there is a need for two Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in for Namche and Lukla. Currently, the municipality operates an MRF in Namche, which manages plastic waste generated in the Mt. Everest region (a World Heritage Site) by both national and international travelers. This facility primarily shreds collected plastic waste, which is then transported to Lukla via travelers and animal porters, as there is no road access between Lukla and Namche which is about a two-day trekking route. Lukla does not yet have an MRF, although it is being connected to the national road network for the first time this year. As a result, KPRM plans to establish a well-structured MRF in Lukla to manage plastic waste generated both in the Namche–Everest region and in Lukla itself. **KPRM has committed to contributing approximately 50% of the total cost for the implementation in Lukla and Namche.** The civil design and Bill of Quantity (BoQ) have already been finalized, and the Request for Quotation (RFQ) process will be initiated soon. The project, in collaboration with KPRM, aims to complete the MRF infrastructure and installation of required technology and machines in Lukla by Quarter 1 of 2026.

The service provider selection processes have been completed to develop and/or revise the business plan (BP) and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of five Material Recovery Facilities at Namche, Lukla, Lumbini, Butwal and Dhangadhi. At least two business plans and SOPs will be drafted by the end of this year.

The project has conducted Social and Environmental Screening (SES) at seven potential MRF sites across six municipalities.

Output 2: Waste workers and communities are empowered with awareness campaigns, skills, and livelihood opportunities.

At least 280 waste workers of two MRFs (in Lumbini and Butwal) will receive occupational safety gears and livelihood support by September 2025. In addition, 140 waste workers from Dhangadhi received safety and livelihood support by December 2025. At least four public awareness campaigns at each four municipalities will be conducted by the end of 2025. Additionally, a factsheet and a short video will be developed by the end of November 2025 to capture the baseline information and context of the MRF sites. It is expected that the material will be used for various objectives like orientation, training, and awareness etc.

Philippines

Overall Implementation Progress

In its first year, the Project focused on foundational activities to strengthen plastic waste collection and diversion in the Province of Iloilo. Key activities included scoping studies, stakeholder consultations, and

co-design workshops aimed at developing practical and inclusive business models. The Project also conducted a review of existing waste management systems, including process flows and human resource capacity, to identify operational gaps and challenges in collection, segregation, and transformation. The Project also established synergies with other UNDP initiatives in the Philippines, ensuring a more integrated and strategic approach to the circular economy and waste management.

During the reporting period, the Project engaged local government units (LGUs), local enterprises and business groups, and civil society organizations (CSOs) through consultations and co-design sessions. These efforts result in the conceptualization of two business models, the drafting of a social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) framework, and the identification of pilot barangays for the deployment of a digital application for waste tracking and reporting.

Output 1: Inclusive, sector-specific business models successfully developed and integrated into the existing waste diversion system, enhancing efficiency and sustainability in plastic waste management of the locality.

For this reporting period, business models were co-developed to strengthen plastic collection and diversion.

- Building on Iloilo's province-wide campaign to maintain a clean and green environment, the IPG Model focuses on giving a second life to post-election plastic waste. Under the banner Weave Out Waste (WOW) Limpyo (translates to "clean" in English) Iloilo, this major upcycling initiative transforms discarded election tarpaulins into consumer products. The initiative will actively engage GEDSI groups and the informal waste sector, positioning them as key actors in the production process and promoting inclusive livelihood opportunities.
- The Dumangas Model centers on repurposing used woven polypropylene (PP) feed sacks into clean sacks for agricultural use and upcycled products. This business model aims to establishes a community-based enterprise that collects, cleans, repairs, and resells repurposed PP sacks to farmers and local businesses at reduced cost. By training and engaging community and women's groups in the recovery process, the model generates local income while promoting circular practices that extend the life of plastic packaging within agricultural and local business value chains.

To ensure compliance with social and environmental safeguard protocols, SES and waste management consultants were engaged to conduct pre-implementation assessments, site inspections, and due diligence on potential partners (e.g., Cargill).

Output 2: Local capacity to improve local plastic waste collection, recovery and recycling strengthened.

Collaboration meetings and executive sessions with local officials and environmental officers provided valuable opportunities to review and reframe existing programs, policies, mechanisms, and services. These engagements aimed to ensure the seamless integration of Circular Economy (CE) principles, enhance plastic waste management, and implement circular practices in pilot Local Government Units (LGUs).

Program Review and Policy Integration: The IPG's *Limpyo Iloilo Program* is currently under review to integrate circular solutions for plastic waste. This includes embedding circular economy (CE) principles into education and advocacy campaigns, coordinating synchronized community and coastal clean-ups, and managing election-related waste. Existing executive orders and ordinances are also being assessed to institutionalize plastic circularity and strengthen waste management strategies. During this reporting period, two key Executive Orders were issued:

1. EO 059 s.2025 – Establishes a Core Technical Team to advance CE initiatives and support the plastic circularity project in Iloilo Province; and
2. EO 042 s.2025 – Amends EO 594 s.2022 by evolving *Limpyo Iloilo* into *MoRPoGRes* (Movement for a Robust, Progressive, Globally Competitive, and Resilient Iloilo). This EO mandates municipal LGUs and encourages stakeholders to implement guidelines for the effective collection, segregation, and transformation of election-related waste.

Green Events and Capacity Building: LGUs are integrating circular economy (CE) principles into event management, including the issuance of permits for "Green Events." In line with the IPG's focus on MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism, the project has engaged an expert to develop Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines (SOPG) for LGU-hosted events and trainings. Consultations with LGUs, along with desk research on relevant laws, regulations, and best practices, are currently in progress to ensure the SOPG is practical, compliant, and aligned with both CE principles and tourism objectives.

Waste Management System Review: A comprehensive review of existing waste management systems was conducted in pilot LGUs to identify gaps and challenges in waste collection, segregation, and transformation. The review will be the basis for the revision of the waste collection systems, including adjusting frequency and schedules. LGUs led several community orientations to emphasize segregation at source.

As of July 30, 2025, pilot LGUs have collected a total of 55.93 tons of plastic waste. Of this, 70% was diverted to junkshops, while the remaining 30% was shredded and sent to a plastic transformation facility for conversion into classroom chairs.

Training and Community Engagement: Orientation sessions on circular economy and plastic circularity were conducted for municipal LGUs, and technical staff from provincial and municipal environment and solid waste management offices. In addition, a Circular Economy 101 session on plastic circularity and sustainable waste management was held with barangay officials in the municipality of Dumangas. The session aimed to raise awareness and strengthen community-level collection, segregation, and recovery practices.

Output 3: Plastic recovery and recycling operations of at least two GEDSI/ informal waste picker groups organized and scaled up.

During this reporting period, the Project undertook key preparatory activities to strengthen community-based plastic waste recovery and upcycling.

- Capacity Building for GEDSI Groups**:** A service provider was engaged to train GEDSI groups on upcycling plastic waste materials, such as tarpaulins and sacks, into marketable products. Support includes enterprise management training and facilitation of market access to help transform these initiatives into viable community enterprises.
- Asset and Skills Inventory: An inventory of existing assets and skills was completed to establish baseline data for training design and equipment procurement. A readiness scorecard was developed to assess the capacity of pilot communities to engage in social enterprises.
- Entrepreneurship Support: Coordination with the Provincial Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion Office (LEDIPO) ensured that entrepreneurship and financial training will be integrated into the 2026 LEDIPO budget and workplan.
- Provision of Equipment: Personal protective equipment (PPEs), weighing scales, and waste bins for segregation were procured and delivered to LGUs for use by informal waste pickers and community programs.
- Social and Environmental Safeguards: A Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) expert was hired to ensure compliance with safeguarding protocols and effective implementation of risk management plans.
- Establishment of a Redemption Hub in Dumangas: With guidance from inception workshops and coordination meetings, the LGU of Dumangas set up a redemption hub near the public market to support the "Plastic Exchange" and "Bunk Your Junk" programs. Goods for exchange were provided by local businesses identified as major plastic contributors, partner junkshops, and community members donating unused household items.

For Year 2, the Project will prioritize improving the safety, skills, and livelihoods of waste pickers and sorters. In partnership with Local Health Officers and the Department of Labor and Employment, the Project will support LGUs in conducting Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) training to protect workers from job-related risks. Additionally, targeted training will equip them to accurately identify and sort recyclable plastics-reducing landfill waste, and increasing their earning potential through higher-quality materials.

Output 4: Behavioural change modules for the targeted plastic waste sources developed and implemented

A mini research initiative was conducted to gather behavioral insights, practices, motivations, drivers, and challenges related to sustainable waste management and circular economic practices. The study engaged various stakeholders identified as key sources of plastic waste, including households, business establishments, markets, and both private and public institutions. The result of the FGD will inform the development of Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) strategy for the Project.

Output 5: Digital application that enables waste diversion tracking with incentives or reward system deployed

The Project conducted consultations to assess the current practices, capacities, and competencies in using digital tools for waste data recording and tracking. The assessment engaged representatives from the

LGUs and waste diverters. The workflow mapping from collection to diversion revealed three major gaps, including:

1. Inconsistent waste classification: Many LGUs do not follow the Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS) categories, instead classifying waste according to junkshop demand, which results in non-recovery of plastics not accepted by junkshops.
2. Low Digital Competency: Data encoders often lack computer and Excel skills, leading to inaccurate or fragmented records. In two pilot LGUs, waste data is still recorded manually, with more attention to trip ticket numbers than waste type of volume.
3. Limited Human Resources: In one pilot LGU, the MENRO operates with only two staff managing all environmental programs, including data recording and tracking.

To address these challenges, the Project developed and introduced an Excel-based waste recording and tracking tool as an interim solution, conducted hands-on coaching and workshops for LGU data managers on encoding and uploading data to Google Drive to strengthen waste tracking. In parallel, the procurement process is ongoing to engage an academic partner with expertise in digitalization and Solid Waste Management information systems.

Sri Lanka

Overall Implementation Progress

Since its inception, the project has demonstrated robust momentum in establishing the foundation for impactful implementation. Early endorsement from the Government of Sri Lanka catalysed strategic partnerships with key institutions, notably the Western Province Waste Management Authority (WPWMA) and the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government (MoPCLG). Regulatory clearances from the External Resources Department (ERD) and the National Planning Department (NPD), secured in April 2025, marked a pivotal milestone, enabling the transition to full-scale rollout.

Institutional coordination mechanisms have been strengthened through the successful convening of the first National Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting, and the inception workshop at the Karadiyana Waste Management Centre (KWMC). These engagements have fostered stakeholder ownership and reinforced the project's strategic direction.

A key highlight was the progress meeting held on 30 July 2025 with representatives of The Coca-Cola Foundation, Sri Lanka. This dialogue was instrumental in aligning expectations, reaffirming shared goals, and reinforcing the donor's confidence in the project's trajectory.

Implementation activities are now underway across key intervention areas:

- Baseline Data Collection: Initiated at Karadiyana and selected Local Authorities to assess plastic waste generation and management, informing the design of context-specific circular economy strategies.
- Infrastructure Development: Initial assessments for new Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) have been initiated to guide future investments.

- Stakeholder Engagement: Location identification completed for strengthening/establishment of ten resource banks to facilitate inclusive, multi-stakeholder collaboration for waste collection.
- Capacity Building: A comprehensive training program targeting 1,500 beneficiaries, focusing on enhancing technical and operational competencies, is planned following the training needs assessment in September to December 2025.
- Behavioural Change Communication: A communication strategy developed. A phased campaign is underway to promote public awareness and sustainable waste practices.

Output 1: Systemic approach to plastic waste management adopted and practiced at the selected Local Authorities (LAs).

Significant strides have been made under Output 1, contributing directly to the project's objective of institutionalizing circular economy practices in local waste management systems.

The procurement process is underway to engage a National Consultant tasked with conducting a comprehensive baseline assessment of plastic waste generation and management at the KWMC and selected Local Authorities. This assessment will generate critical data on plastic life cycles, evaluate integration into circular economy value chains, and review historical interventions to identify gaps and opportunities. The consultant will also deliver actionable recommendations, including policy enhancements, stakeholder role mapping, and capacity-building needs. The baseline assessment is expected to be completed by the end of October, positioning the project to design evidence-based, locally relevant strategies.

In parallel, to foster multi-stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange, the project has commenced the establishment and strengthening of ten resource banks in 2025. This includes upgrading the existing centre at KWMC, establishing seven new centres across selected Local Authorities, and setting up two additional centres within private sector premises. Initial assessments were initiated through site visits to successful MRFs in the Colombo District, offering practical insights that are now informing the design and operational planning of these resource banks.

The integration of policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, and infrastructure development ensures that interventions are both context-sensitive and scalable.

Output 2: BAT/BEP options are introduced to implement strategies developed under output 1

Progress under Output 2 reflects a strategic shift from planning to implementation, with tangible actions underway to operationalize circular economy strategies developed under Output 1.

Preparatory actions have commenced for the establishment of two new MRFs in 2026 and 2027, alongside the planned upgrade of an existing MRF in 2027. The procurement process to recruit a National Consultant is in progress, with the consultant expected to support baseline data collection that will inform site selection, facility design, and operational planning. In July 2025, initial assessments were conducted

through site visits to successful MRFs in the Colombo District. These visits provided critical operational insights and best practice benchmarks, ensuring that future facilities align with Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP).

Complementing physical infrastructure, the project is advancing the development of digital solutions to enhance the monitoring, tracking, and coordination of plastic waste flows. Initial assessments of existing digital platforms and their limitations have begun, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive, fit-for-purpose digital system. These tools will enable data-driven decision-making, improve transparency, and strengthen accountability across waste management operations. The estimated timeline for operationalizing the digital solution is the end of August 2026.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate measurable progress toward Output 2 by translating strategic plans into actionable systems and tools. The integration of BAT/BEP principles into both infrastructure and digital platforms ensures that implementation is environmentally sound, efficient, and scalable, ensuring sustainability & replicability.

Output 3 & 4: Implement a phased campaign on plastic pollution prevention and build the capacity of local authorities and stakeholders, & Share lessons learned from demonstrations and interventions at the selected project

The procurement process is underway to engage a qualified service provider to design and deliver a comprehensive training program targeting seven Local Authorities—Moratuwa, Dehiwala–Mount Lavinia, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Maharagama, Panadura, Kesbewa, and Boralegamuwa. The program aims to reach 1,500 beneficiaries, including informal waste workers, community-based organizations, and women in the waste sector.

A phased three-year communication strategy has been developed to drive public awareness and behavioral change. Initially focused on the Colombo Metropolitan Area, the campaign leverages:

- Social media outreach.
- Youth engagement initiatives.
- Community events.
- Public-private partnerships.

Procurement has commenced for key communication tools, including explainer videos and an online pulse survey, to enhance campaign effectiveness and monitor public engagement. The launch of the official project webpage—https://www.undp.org/srilanka/projects/tccf-plastics-circularity-project—provides a centralized platform for stakeholder engagement, real-time updates, and transparency.

Vietnam

Overall Implementation Progress

UNDP Viet Nam has made significant progress in advancing the expansion and replication of best practices and innovative solutions to promote plastic circularity in Viet Nam.

In its first year, the project focused on establishing a baseline to design and refine practical models with strong potential for replication across various locations in Viet Nam. These models include the Responsible Sourcing Initiative and the innovative approach of fishing boats collecting and returning waste to shore. Additionally, the project has actively sourced and supported locally led innovations for further development.

The project is also synergized with other UNDP projects in Vietnam, creating a more comprehensive approach to circular economy and waste management. By leveraging the expertise and resources from different initiatives, this project ensures that its interventions are not isolated but contribute to a broader target. This collaboration helps to connect dots across various topics and stakeholders, strengthening the overall target.

Output 1.2: Promote stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, awareness raising, and innovation

A key activity under this output is the **Plastics Innovation Programme** **2025**, which supports grassroots innovations addressing plastic pollution in Viet Nam through capacity building and grant funding.

Launched on 26 February 2025, the programme received ***116 submissions*** from diverse stakeholders, including SMEs, NGOs, CSOs, universities, and research institutes. These proposals were shortlisted, and ***25 teams entered the Incubation Phase*** from 7 May to 24 June 2025 to refine their ideas and strengthen their financial and business plans.

The Final Pitching Event on 25 June 2025 concluded the phase, selecting ***10 winners,*** *including 6 innovators to receive the grant of up to USD 30,000 per project and 4 innovators to receive the fund of USD 10,000 per project*. These innovators are expected to sign agreements with UNDP Viet Nam in August and begin the Acceleration Phase in September 2025.

Key indicators achieved:

1. **25 innovation teams** received coaching and mentoring to enhance their understanding of circular economy principles, develop practical business models, and refine their ideas for pitching. Some of them were also invited to knowledge sharing and networking event, *Plastic Talk*, organized by NPAP Viet Nam in June.
2. **10 innovative solutions** were selected to receive grants of up to USD 30,000/project (6 innovators) and USD 10,000/project (4 innovators) for project implementation and participation in the Acceleration Phase, supported by UNDP specialists. *(See Annex for the full list of selected teams).*

This programme has garnered strong engagement from a wide range of stakeholders across sectors, including government agencies, diplomatic missions, development and non-profit organizations, businesses, academia (research institutes and universities), and financial institutions. Through the call announcement and Incubation Phase, *nearly 800 participants* have taken part in various events, capacity-building sessions, and matchmaking activities designed to nurture innovative solutions. To date, approximately USD 240,000 has been mobilized to support the piloting, implementation, and scaling of these solutions, including a co-funding contribution of USD 120,000 from the UNDP Viet Nam. Notably, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE), through the National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) platform, has actively promoted the programme's innovative solutions across its networks and continues to use them to inform relevant policy implementation efforts toward a circular economy.



Photo 1. 6 winners received a grant of up to USD 30,000/project from UNDP's Plastics Innovation Programme – 25 June 2025



Photo 2. 4 winners received a grant of USD 10,000/project from UNDP's Plastics Innovation Programme – 25 June 2025

Output 2.1: Deployment of waste-back-to-shore scheme in 3 fishing ports

Several activities were carried out to propose pilot models tailored to the current situations at the three selected fishing ports in three provinces of Viet Nam:

1. Province screening to identify suitable finishing ports for piloting
2. Local stakeholder engagement to conduct a baseline survey and secure commitment for the pilot phase
3. Consultant workshop and discussions on the baseline findings and recommended models, which will be implemented in selected provinces

As of mid-August, there are several key outputs obtained:

1. **01 baseline assessment completed** to select fishing ports for the pilot phase, including: fishing ports in Ninh Binh (North of Viet Nam), Khanh Hoa and Lam Dong provinces (South of Viet Nam), with the tentative involvement of three Fish Port Management Boards, and **over 300 fishing boat owners** across these locations.
2. **01 onboarding and Consultation meeting** held on 29 July to share insights from the baseline survey and proposed models. All representatives from Sub-departments of Fisheries and Management Boards of the fishing boats from 3 provinces attended and provided input to finalise implementation plans from September 2025.
3. **03 engagement letters/MOUs** signed with the Sub-department of Fisheries, confirming the commitments of local authorities to support and participate in the pilot (Supporting documents available upon request).

Output 2.2: Pilot implementation of harmonized plastic responsible sourcing

With technical assistance from The Circulate Initiative (TCI) and in collaboration with the recycler, Vikohasan, and implementor, GreenU, UNDP Viet Nam has achieved the following milestones:

1. ***Baseline survey was completed in June 2025***, covering 119 aggregators and junk shops with interviews conducted with 145 owners and workers throughout the supply chain of Vikohasan in Ha Noi, Bac Ninh and Nghe An provinces.
2. ***01 baseline assessment was finalized*** and is currently under review by UNDP and TCI
3. ***01 kick-off and consultation workshop*** was organized on 6 August 2025 to introduce this initiative to relevant stakeholders and gather feedback for selection of remediations that will be implemented in the upcoming phase. Especially, during this workshop, the formalisation of these junkshops and aggregation under new financial regulations was a topic that attracted interest from business owners (*See Annex for photos and detailed information*).

A key highlight of this output is the commitment from the largest recycler in Northern Viet Nam to join the initiative. Their supply chain includes over 1,000 small-scale collectors and approximately 12,000 informal waste workers (IWWs) who collect waste at the source and sell it to junk shops. Through the Responsible Supply Initiative (RSI), targeted interventions will be implemented to support these IWWs, aiming to drive systemic change by improving their working conditions, enhancing livelihoods, and promoting more sustainable practices aligned with evolving government systems. The kick-off workshop attracted around 40 stakeholders, including large and small aggregators along the plastic waste value chain in the North, as well as NGOs, financial institutions, businesses, and development partners, all of whom expressed interest in supporting efforts to strengthen economic capacity.



Photo 3. An informal worker is sorting plastic waste at source, surrounded by towering piles of scrap in an aggregator in Bac Ninh province – during the baseline survey along the supply chain of Vikohasan, May 2025

Output 4.6: SES and ESMP investigation and report

The SES and ESMP investigation and reports have been completed, following the regional framework and scanning (see annex for further information).

Regional

Output 1: Strengthening joint regional actions.

Multi-country Project Launch

The official launch of the partnership was held in Delhi, India, on 23 January 2025, officiated by the leadership from TCCF, UNDP, and the Indian government. The launch ceremony was followed by a high-level panel discussion on “Advancing an Inclusive Circular Economy in South and South-East Asia” and a field visit in Delhi. The project was virtually launched by the 8 countries and UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub

on the same day, with extensive media coverage and social media postings promoting the project widely across the region.

Support countries in their national policy review and assessment and provide technical quality assurance review

A Regional Policy and Technical is providing the following support to the country teams: 1) Technical assistance and quality assurance for country project teams in their national policy reviews and capacity-building activities; 2) Stocktaking of regional and national plastic waste management policies, with a focus on cross-border plastic pollution; and 3) Facilitation of thematic working group agendas and activities. Consultations were held with all 10 countries to align the regional activities with the country-level implementations, and identify areas for technical support required by project teams in the 10 countries. Specific support was provided to Bangladesh, where the regional team provided inputs to the TOR for three technical assessments under the project: Baseline Study on plastic waste in three cities; Analysis of the informal waste sector and market value chain; and Gender analysis of the waste value chain. For Bhutan, technical quality assurance was provided to three reports: GIS Mapping of Waste Facilities, National Waste Inventory Report; and GHG Emissions from the Waste Sector.

Engage in dialogues with targeted national and regional counterparts

In Year 1, collaborations were initiated WWF and TCI through a series of knowledge exchange meetings:

- WWF-US: Three rounds of discussions were held to explore potential collaboration between the UNDP-TCCF project and WWF's Plastic Smart Cities initiative. These discussions identified opportunities for joint thematic trainings and other learning exchanges, with potential engagement from TCI.
- TCI: A partnership framework with TCI is being developed, which aims to leverage UNDP's regional presence and TCI's data-driven approach to plastic waste solutions. The collaboration will focus on scaling knowledge exchange, exploring co-organization of regional events, and supporting country-level interventions through the existing tools. The collaboration aims to drive systemic change in waste management and transition to a circular economy, enhancing equity and sustainability, particularly for informal waste workers.

Additionally, a regional plastic pollution landscape assessment, including stakeholder mapping, is in progress. This will help identify relevant regional bodies and opportunities for collaboration. The project countries were consulted on their current engagement efforts, and the final report is expected by September. This assessment will further support the alignment of regional policies and regulatory frameworks related to plastic waste management.

Output 2: Provide technical assistance to countries.

Develop and deliver targeted training and technical materials to support country-level capacity building

This activity was implemented in two ways: 1) the regional team provided capacity building support to country office project teams through relevant technical experts on specific themes; and 2) the regional team offered technical assurance reviews to support country-level capacity building activities.

For the first approach, a meeting with TCI and all country teams was held on 2 May to introduce the Responsible Sourcing Initiative and its tools. The meeting included a presentation by the Circulate Initiative on RSI and regional tools, along with inputs from TCI's partnership countries, followed by a brainstorming session. Additionally, after bilateral calls with countries that provided interim progress updates, the regional team identified and provided relevant information and materials based on country team's requests.

For the second approach, a regional platform was developed for knowledge exchange on country-level capacity-building materials. This platform allows countries to share requests for technical assurance on their capacity-building activities and to access materials from other countries, facilitating the exchange of resources that may be relevant for similar target audiences.

Develop and propose knowledge and materials to support countries in formulating and/or revising strategies and policies:

A knowledge brief, based on the Thematic Groups Meeting, and a regional plastic pollution landscape assessment will be developed by the end of September. The regional plastic pollution landscape assessment will provide a comprehensive stocktaking of both regional and cross-border aspects of plastic pollution in Asia and the Pacific, including stakeholder mapping, regional cooperation mechanisms, and an analysis of national policy landscapes and gaps.

Output 3: Facilitating cross-pollination of knowledge and solutions.

Create and Operationalize Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)

This regional initiative supports national efforts by enhancing knowledge exchange, providing technical guidance, and enabling peer learning to amplify impact. As part of this effort, Thematic Working Groups are established to foster dialogue, share good practices, and collaboratively address technical and policy challenges across the participating countries. The Terms of Reference for the TWGs were developed and circulated to Country Offices. Four initial TWGs have been established based on the priorities of the countries and the needs of the project. These themes will continue to evolve as the project progresses, adapting to the emerging interests and priorities of the participating countries.

<u>Strengthening Infrastructure Capacities</u>

- Planning, siting, and operationalizing plastic waste infrastructure (e.g. MRFs, sanitary landfills).
- Leveraging renewable energy and low-carbon technologies technologies, (e.g. electric vehicles and renewable energy to enhance infrastructure capacities).
- Applying PPP models to design, build and manage plastic waste facilities.

- Strategies to ensure sustainability, efficiency, and community ownership of infrastructure systems

Innovation and Private Sector Engagement

- Developing and scaling circular economy business models for plastics
- Exploring the use of digital tools and technologies (e.g. waste tracking apps, incentive systems)
- Enhancing access to green finance, venture capital, or blended finance models for start-ups and MSMEs.
- Engaging the private sector in waste reduction and recycling

Policy and Regulatory Frameworks

- Sharing country experiences in developing and implementing responsible sourcing frameworks.
- Bridging gaps between policy and implementation.
- Conducting policy reviews to identify gaps and opportunities in solid waste and plastic management.

Responsible Sourcing Framework

- Developing and institutionalizing a Responsible Sourcing Framework for ethical, transparent, and traceable plastic waste value chains.
- Engaging stakeholders to identify gaps, contextual challenges, and opportunities for responsible sourcing.
- Designing and testing business models that enable responsible sourcing of plastic waste.
- Piloting the implementation of harmonized responsible sourcing approaches.

These TWGs serve not only as platforms for sharing knowledge but also as collaborative spaces to identify scalable best practices, and jointly develop tools, frameworks, and pilot models that strengthen institutional responses to plastic pollution.

Conduct regular virtual meetings & webinars

Country-level inception meetings were held from 16 December 2024 to 22 January 2025 to facilitate bilateral dialogue between the regional and country teams, supporting project start-up in nine participating countries. The primary objective was to address key comments raised during the RPAC, ensuring smooth implementation by discussing progress, challenges, and next steps.

Additionally, bilateral meetings between the regional team and country project teams were conducted to provide periodic progress updates for 10 countries.

In 2025, the first meeting of TWG 1: Responsible Sourcing Framework will be held by the end of August, and the first meeting of TWG 2: Strengthening Infrastructure Capacities is scheduled for Q4 2025.

Output 4: Engaging partners and donors on resource mobilization and collective action.

This activity will be initiated in Year 2 and 3.

4. Barriers and Challenges

Bangladesh

Despite steady progress, the project has encountered several challenges that have slowed implementation across key areas. One of the most significant has been changes in municipal governance and business leadership, which temporarily disrupted ongoing dialogues and delayed the formalization of partnerships—particularly the signing of MoUs with key stakeholders such as FBCCI-IRC and local authorities. These leadership shifts have necessitated renewed engagement, additional consultations, and revised timelines for activities dependent on institutional collaboration. Similarly, the roll-out of health and safety interventions for women waste workers and their children has been delayed pending the completion of assessment studies and formal agreements with local bodies.

Engagement with academic institutions and private sector actors has also required more time than anticipated, due to the need to align expectations, overcome coordination challenges, and address limited prior collaboration experience in the plastic waste recycling sector. Furthermore, embedding gender-sensitive approaches across technical and market-based interventions remains a complex process, requiring capacity building and continuous sensitization among partners.

Despite these barriers, the project team continues to adjust timelines and refine strategies to sustain momentum, ensuring the necessary groundwork is in place for long-term, sustainable outcomes.

Bhutan

Operation:

Non-Compliance with Technical Specifications have led to significant delays in procuring waste compactor trucks. This disrupts planned timelines and affects operational readiness at the project landscapes.

Implementation:

- Overlapping mandates among government agencies, CSOs, and local governments hinder cohesive planning and execution of the project. Stakeholders' lack of foundational knowledge of circular economy models and technical expertise on plastic waste management affects the quality and scalability of interventions.

Cambodia

The project encountered several challenges during the implementation. Firstly, there were delays in identifying suitable partner organizations to support the establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in the target provinces. Secondly, the project team faced limitations in staffing, administrative workload and some competing priorities during the early implementation phase, including stakeholder consultations and coordination with government counterparts. Lastly, these factors contributed to delays in procuring of relevant equipment (e.g., MRF equipment, water filtration equipment, bins, water dispenser) since there was insufficient information available regarding local implementation context and partner capacity needs.

India

While the TCCF initiative has made measurable progress across its key components, several operational and contextual challenges have emerged during the reporting period:

Responsible Sourcing – Emerging Landscape: Responsible sourcing in the plastic waste sector remains an evolving domain, particularly with regard to integrating informal waste workers (Safai Saathis) into formal supply chains. Developing a robust framework that is inclusive, transparent, and aligned with national standards is complex and time-intensive. The evolving regulatory environment and need for multi-stakeholder buy-in further compound this challenge.

Partner Identification and Onboarding: Identifying and onboarding suitable implementation partners, especially those with experience in inclusive value chain development and capacity building for waste pickers, has proven to be a bottleneck. Ensuring alignment with both TCCF goals and government expectations requires careful due diligence and additional time in the procurement cycle.

Procurement Delays Due to Low Bid Response and Non-Compliance: The project faced delays in onboarding key partners, especially for Communication and PR activities, due to low or non-responsive bids in published RFPs. In the case of Responsible sourcing, RFP bids received by the last date resulted in an extension of the RFP timelines. Vendors also requested deadline extensions, citing internal constraints. Addressing these challenges is critical to maintain momentum and ensure the timely delivery of project components related to responsible sourcing and awareness building.

Government Convergence and Alignment: Coordinating with multiple government stakeholders for convergence under schemes like NAMASTE requires sustained engagement and formal alignment. Given the diversity of institutional priorities and procedural frameworks, formalizing partnership, such as the Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, took longer than anticipated. This has, in turn, contributed to delays in field-level implementation and data validation, underscoring the need for early and strategic engagement across ministries to streamline execution.

Inter-ministerial Coordination: Even though government collaboration is central to the initiative's success (e.g., under NAMASTE), aligning priorities and processes across multiple ministries and agencies (MoSJE, MoHUA, MoEFCC, local bodies) remains a work in progress.

Maldives

A major challenge for the project has been the tranche-based fund allocation by the regional initiative, which limits the ability to initiate key procurements in the earlier years and places pressure on implementation in the final year. To address this issue, the project team worked with the regional office to unlock spare funds ahead of the second tranche, enabling early procurement.

Additionally, securing consistent attention from the Implementing Partner (WAMCO) has been difficult, given their mandate to establish over 50 new waste management operations this year. Regular follow-ups and meetings have helped refocus the implementing partner attention, though response times remain slow. To avoid delays, UNDP has taken over all procurement responsibilities, ensuring greater control and efficiency. Moving forward, the project will need to work closely with stakeholders to have all necessary documentation and prerequisites (specifications, TORs) ready ahead of tranche releases.

Nepal

TCCF Plastic Circularity Project in Nepal, while promising and well-aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), likely faces several barriers and challenges common to plastic circularity and solid waste management efforts. Based on the typical context of project implementation in Nepal, the key challenges and barriers may be depicted as:

Institutional and Policy Challenges: Coordination among three tiers of Governments (federal, provincial, local), which leads to fragmented implementation-resulting in inconsistent policies, overlapping responsibilities and enforcement of existing waste management laws and regulations.

Land acquisition: There is a significant constraint in securing adequate land for establishing Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). These facilities require relatively large areas for processing plastic and other solid waste. Metropolitan cities such as Kathmandu and Lalitpur, as well as municipalities located in mountainous regions such as Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality – The Mount Everest Region, are facing considerable challenges in allocating or acquiring suitable land for this purpose.

Infrastructure and Technology Constraints: Several municipalities in Nepal are operating with inadequately equipped MRFs infrastructure and insufficient facilities for sorting, shredding, and recycling of solid waste. For example, Inadequate transportation facilities pose a significant barrier to the efficient transfer of plastic waste to dedicated recycling or processing units, especially in mountain regions, e.g., Namche, Lukla etc.

Market Barriers: The essential machines and equipment are not available in the local market. As a result, it compels to importation of them from countries like India and China, significantly increasing costs and delivery times, while also creating persistent challenges in accessing timely maintenance, after-sales service, and spare parts.

Environmental and Geographical Challenges: Plastic leakage in environmentally sensitive areas, such as the Everest region, has been posing a threat to biodiversity. Ensuring waste collection and transportation from geographically dispersed areas remains extremely difficult in Nepal. For example, the absence of road connectivity to Namche makes airlifting the only viable option, thus it significantly increases the operational cost and other associated risks.

Technical capacity at Local Governments and among the private sectors: The capacity gaps persisted in the Local Government hinder the effective operation and management of MRFs and engage and support private sector participation, foster entrepreneurship, and conduct awareness campaigns essential for pollution reduction and sustainable waste management.

Philippines

Early project implementation faced delays due to competing priorities, particularly the need for extensive consultations and bilateral coordination. These activities, while critical for stakeholder alignment, pushed back the procurement of service providers and the finalization of technical specifications for waste management equipment. Progress was further slowed by a two-month pause (April-June) during the local election period, which limited coordination with local government partners. In response, the team is recalibrating timelines, refining engagement strategies, and deploying more staff on the ground (Field Coordinator (hired in June 2025) and a Communication Associate (hiring underway) to lead coordination and SBCC efforts) to regain momentum and lay the groundwork for long-term, sustainable results.

Sri Lanka

While the project continues to make steady progress toward its objectives, several implementation challenges have emerged that may influence the pace and effectiveness of planned interventions. These challenges are being proactively addressed through adaptive planning and stakeholder engagement to safeguard long-term impact and scalability.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) Complexity: Establishing PPPs for Local Authority-led MRFs has proven complex due to limited private sector engagement and misalignment on operational models. This presents a risk to timely infrastructure deployment. To mitigate this, the project is intensifying stakeholder consultations and exploring flexible partnership frameworks that better reflect local market dynamics and operational realities.

Land Identification & Community Buy-In: Securing suitable land for Resource Banks has encountered procedural delays and potential community resistance. These factors could affect the timely establishment of the planned centers. In response, the project is implementing participatory planning approaches and conducting targeted feasibility studies to ensure community alignment and minimize delays.

Technical Integration of Circular Economy Principles: Embedding circular economy models into existing waste management systems presents technical challenges, particularly in areas where infrastructure and operational practices are not yet aligned. To address this, the project is leveraging capacity-building initiatives and technical advisory support to facilitate gradual system transformation and institutional readiness.

Supply Chain Viability for Resource Centers: Ensuring consistent material flow across the planned network of 300 Resource Centers is a critical consideration. Preliminary assessments indicate potential gaps in supply chain reliability, which may impact operational sustainability. The project is currently conducting in-depth feasibility studies to map supplier networks and identify strategies for securing adequate volumes of recyclable materials.

To overcome these challenges, the project has adopted a suite of adaptive measures, including:

- Enhanced stakeholder engagement to build consensus and foster ownership.
- Flexible implementation strategies tailored to local contexts.
- Evidence-based feasibility assessments to inform decision-making.

These measures are designed to ensure that implementation remains responsive, inclusive, and aligned with the project's overarching goals of promoting circularity, sustainability, and institutional resilience.

Vietnam

Although most of the activities are on-going and promising with the strong engagement from the donor, particularly Coca-Cola Viet Nam, and the government authorities, there are some foreseen some barriers/challenges that can encounter, including:

1. The Viet Nam's provinces are still ***under the post-restructuring*** with many adjustments in government administrations and new appointments of new focal points of the projects, update regulations and priorities in implementing waste sorting at source, improved waste management system and circular economy. This may postpone some project implementation, especially for the replication of models at local sites since it requires the ownership and engagement of local authorities.
2. The revision of existing policies, such as regulations on taxes, business registrations and finance of micro-small and SMEs, or updated regulations on EPR, waste management might require further adjustments on current model that have been tailored and finalised from this stage, even after the consultation with local authorities
3. A losing commitments and engagement of innovators during the Acceleration phase, especially some solutions that implements in various locations of Viet Nam.

5. Conclusions and Way Forward

Bangladesh

The project has laid a strong foundation toward promoting plastic waste circularity through strategic partnerships, capacity development, and digital innovation. Progress across all four output areas reflects growing engagement with industry associations, academic institutions, and local authorities, with promising initiatives such as the Circularity Hub, ecopia app, and gender-responsive interventions moving steadily forward. The successful completion of the “Sea to Summit” campaign also highlights the project's potential to drive behavioural change and youth engagement at the community level.

However, external factors particularly the unexpected changes in government and local leadership have posed challenges to the timeline, especially in formalizing partnerships and initiating on-ground implementation. Procurement delays and the complexity of aligning diverse stakeholders have further highlighted the need for flexible, adaptive project management.

Moving forward, the project will prioritize re-engagement with public sector partners to accelerate MoU signings and unblock delayed processes. Early initiation of planned studies will be critical for generating the evidence-based need to guide targeted interventions. Strengthening coordination with academic institutions and private sector actors will also be key to scaling business models and market linkages. Additionally, efforts will be intensified to integrate gender across all activities and to ensure that health and safety interventions for women waste workers and their families are implemented without further delay.

The next phase will focus on transitioning from planning to execution, maintaining momentum through strengthened collaboration, streamlined procurement, and community-driven outreach to ensure long-term, inclusive, and sustainable impact.

Bhutan

As the project enters its second year of implementation, UNDP, in close collaboration with implementing partners and key stakeholders, remains committed to delivering the planned results in a timely and impactful manner. Recognizing the urgency of addressing Bhutan’s growing waste challenges particularly the environmental and health risks posed by plastic waste, the project will prioritize comprehensive capacity-building initiatives. These will include targeted training sessions and advocacy campaigns focused on health, hygiene, and the importance of adopting sustainable waste management practices at the community and institutional levels.

In parallel, UNDP will actively explore opportunities to scale up successful components of the project, ensuring that momentum is sustained and that innovative, context-appropriate solutions are expanded to other regions of Bhutan. This strategic approach aims not only to strengthen local capacities but also to foster long-term behavioral change and policy alignment, contributing to a cleaner, healthier, and more

resilient environment for all. Currently, UNDP and SACEP are co-developing technical concept note for wastewater inventory and exploring funding support from SACEP PLEASE Project.

Cambodia

Building on the progress achieved, the next phase of the project will focus on strengthening partnerships with identified organizations to reduce plastic leakage in target provinces. This includes the procurement and installation of relevant equipment, such as MRF equipment, water filtration system, waste bins, to support circular plastic initiatives that promote effective waste segregation, collection and recycling. In addition, the project will collaborate with relevant partners and stakeholders to enhance the knowledge and capacity of subnational governments for sound waste management practices. Another key component of this phase will be the promotion of gender-sensitive strategic communication and awareness raising efforts, ensuring that interventions are inclusive and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups, particularly informal waste collectors.

India

As TCCF transitions into its next phase, the programme will prioritise accelerated field-level implementation, the finalisation and roll-out of the Responsible Sourcing Framework, and the strengthening of real-time, gender-disaggregated monitoring systems. With implementing partners onboarded, key interventions—including social protection linkages, helpline services, and plastic waste channelization—will move into active deployment. Concurrently, sustained policy engagement will support the development of inclusive national guidelines, while targeted visibility and knowledge dissemination efforts will enhance outreach and impact. These strategic actions will ensure the programme remains adaptive, scalable, and firmly aligned with its sustainability and inclusion objectives.

Maldives

As the project moves forward, the focus will be on maintaining momentum and ensuring timely delivery of key activities. Close collaboration with the Implementing Partner (WAMCO) and other stakeholders will be essential to complete remaining procurements and prepare for upcoming trainings and workshops. This includes initiating pre-engagements and policy-level discussions with the Waste Management Department of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, the Local Government Authority, and other relevant entities. Additionally, the project is exploring ways to engage active civil society organizations (CSOs) and communities to inform and enrich project activities, ensuring they are locally grounded and inclusive. These steps will help build a strong foundation for the next phase of implementation and support the achievement of long-term project goals.

Nepal

Conducting Detailed Feasibility Studies (DFS) and Social and Environmental Screenings (SES) in close coordination with local governments has been instrumental in identifying suitable sites for Material

Recovery Facilities (MRFs), determining appropriate tools and technologies, and addressing social and environmental concerns through targeted mitigation measures.

By strengthening institutional capacity, equipping MRFs with best available technologies, and empowering key stakeholders, including waste workers, municipal officials, elected representatives, and the private sector, the project would contribute a strong foundation for a sustainable waste management and effective plastic circularity model in Nepal. These efforts are expected to contribute significantly to long-term environmental sustainability, inclusive economic opportunities, and improved urban waste management systems.

Philippines

Building on the gains from Year 1, the second year of the PH Plastic Circularity Project will fast-track on the ground implementation in Iloilo Province. Key activities include finalizing the design of the pilot LGU's waste recovery and recycling facility, along with procuring and installing critical waste management infrastructure. The Project will roll out business models for improved plastic waste recovery and diversion, alongside a strong SBCC campaign targeting communities, LGUs, and schools. Capacity building will be provided to key local government staff to integrate CE principles into LGU plans and investments. Year 2 will also strengthen partnerships to position Iloilo Province as a leader in plastic circularity and solid waste management, unlocking opportunities and resources to sustain these gains.

Sri Lanka

The project has successfully laid a strong foundation for transformative action in plastic waste management across the Western Province. With all major regulatory approvals secured, stakeholder coordination mechanisms firmly established, and key preparatory activities initiated, including baseline studies, capacity-building frameworks, and strategic communication planning, the project is now well-positioned to transition into full-scale implementation.

The integration of data collection, infrastructure development, digital innovation, strategic communications, and inclusive training programs reflects a holistic and results-oriented approach. This approach is fully aligned with national development priorities and the principles of circular economy, ensuring both relevance and sustainability.

Immediate priorities include finalizing procurement processes to launch field-level activities, commencing baseline data collection, and rolling out the training programs targeting 1,500 stakeholders. These efforts will be complemented by the operationalization of MRFs to enhance local waste processing capacity, and digital tools to improve waste tracking, coordination, and data-driven decision-making. The phased communication campaign will drive behavioural change and public engagement.

These efforts will be supported by the establishment of resource banks and stakeholder platforms, which will serve as anchors for long-term institutionalization and community ownership.

Collectively, these interventions are expected to deliver measurable impact in terms of improved waste management practices, enhanced stakeholder capacity, and increased public awareness. They also lay the groundwork for a scalable model of circular plastic waste management that can be replicated across Sri Lanka's 341 Local Authorities, contributing to national and global sustainable development commitments, including climate goals.

Vietnam

To address current challenges and barriers, several risk mitigation measures have been put in place. These include ***strong engagement with government focal points*** across project components and ***leveraging resources from ongoing UNDP Viet Nam initiatives*** under the Circular Economy, Waste and Chemicals portfolio, such as the Global Plastics Innovation Programme, National Plastic Action Partnership, and the Viet Nam Flagship Programme with AEPW, etc. These efforts not only amplify the impact of the TCCF project but also offer alternative solutions for implementation.

Aligning regional and national project objectives is also key to enhancing national team capacity, expanding networks for knowledge sharing, and strengthening stakeholder engagement from national to regional levels. This can support the advancement of the introduced solutions through replication and fundraising opportunities.

Moving forward, the project will continue delivering key milestones as outlined in the AWP, including:

1. *Support innovators through the Acceleration Phase* to implement their projects and expand their networks regionally for collaboration and market access.
2. *Collaborate with local authorities to upgrade waste collection systems* on fishing boats and implement pilot models for bringing waste ashore.
3. Deepen engagement with informal waste collectors and aggregators, and *implement remediation measures that strengthen the Responsible Sourcing Initiative*.
4. *Start to design a national campaign to promote plastic waste reduction solutions*, aligned with waste sorting at source programs.

Regional

Building on the progress made in Year 1, the team will focus on strengthening partnerships and ensuring continued collaboration with key regional and international stakeholders. Support to Country Offices will remain a priority, with particular emphasis on leveraging the established Thematic Working Groups as a platform for knowledge exchange and peer learning, in close collaboration with project teams in the countries. This approach will enable more tailored support at the country level and enhance the overall impact of country-level efforts. Additionally, the development of a strategic action framework for regional cooperation will be prioritized. Based on a comprehensive stocktaking of regional needs and priorities, this framework will propose targeted interventions to strengthen regional collaboration, enhance cross-border efforts, and align national and regional policies on plastic waste management.

6. Year 1 Expenditure Summary

Country	Budget 2025 (as approved by PB)	Expenditure 2025 (AAA report)	TOTAL Expenditure	NEX advance (FIN PBB report	Open Pos (Fin PBB report) Includes GMS	Projection for Aug-Sep 2025 (payrolls, NEX, non PO payments)	Total Consumption (L+M+N+O)	Remaining Balance (Year 2025)	Year 1 delivery (%)
Regional	462,473.00	**166,175.67**	166,175.67	0.00	95,615.80	94,251.60	356,043.07	**106,429.93**	**77%**
Bangladesh	844,486.00	**71,809.79**	71,809.79	0.00	24,745.27	754,583.33	851,138.39	**(6,652.39)**	**101%**
Bhutan	293,173.00	**74,957.60**	74,957.60	19,904.11	166,495.93	10,000.00	271,357.64	**21,815.36**	**93%**
Cambodia	114,607.00	**76,413.76**	76,413.76	0.00	17,264.01	20,193.38	113,871.15	**735.85**	**99%**
India	1,346,946.00	**137,603.39**	137,603.39	65,392.24	285,202.23	388,570.00	876,767.86	**470,178.14**	**65%**
Maldives	267,351.00	**56,209.87**	56,209.87	0.00	0.00	155,991.74	212,201.61	**55,149.39**	**79%**
Nepal	428,927.00	**45,435.55**	45,435.55	0.00	127,173.14	210,973.00	383,581.69	**45,345.31**	**89%**
Philippines	424,629.00	**109,926.76**	109,926.76	1.54	59,954.66	140,395.95	310,278.91	**114,350.09**	**73%**
Sri Lanka	238,117.00	**55,607.60**	55,607.60	0.00	12,299.37	130,444.00	198,350.97	**39,766.03**	**83%**
Vietnam	529,786.00	**73,527.02**	73,527.02	0.00	76,336.38	215,246.92	365,110.32	**164,675.68**	**69%**
Total	**4,950,495.00**	**867,667.01**	**867,667.01**	**85,297.89**	**865,086.79**	**2,120,649.92**	**3,938,701.61**	**1,011,793.39**	**80%**

7. Annex 1: Communications and Media Coverage

Bangladesh

Platform	Link
Podcast link	*https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1F3iBF1JoY/?mibextid=wwXIfr*
News Coverage	UNDP Youth Advocate Shakil scales Summit to champion plastic-free future | The Daily Star
News Coverage	Ikramul Hasan Shakil Youngest Bangladeshi Everest Climber 2025 | Shakil makes History
News Coverage	কক্সবাজার থেকে পায়ে হেঁটে এভারেস্ট জয় করবেন পর্বতারোহী শাকিল
News Coverage	প্লাস্টিক দূষণ রোধে ইউএনডিপির সঙ্গে কাজ করবেন পর্বতারোহী শাকিল
News Coverage	Mountaineer Shakil joins UNDP as youth advocate for plastic pollution | The Business Standard

BHUTAN

Platform	Link
website	https://www.undp.org/bhutan/stories/moving-towards-circular-economy-tackle-waste-challenge
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/UNDPBhutan/posts/pfbid0gd4hFs2TYnvgS3aUoJJFbQAG8eqjZnpHDFniJwZxeTHEdy3Ucw2CjtcXEj1mMJXql?rdid=mFaUALaRaNIOB28n
website	Bhutan InFocus | Quarterly Newsletter

INDIA

Platform	Organisation	Link
Twitter (X)	UNDP in Asia and the Pacific	https://x.com/UNDPasiapac/status/1882325037140861156
Twitter (X)	UNDP in Asia and the Pacific	https://x.com/UNDPasiapac/status/1882707963477119426

Twitter (X)	Indian Retailer	https://x.com/Indian_Retailer/status/1883089337081889086
Twitter (X)	Indi food bev	https://x.com/indifoodbev/status/1883817479681835128
UNDP in Asian and the Pacific website (Press release)	UNDP in Asia and the Pacific	https://www.undp.org/asia-pacific/press-releases/undp-and-coca-cola-foundation-tccf-partner-to-scale-up-plastic-waste-management-in-asia
Times of India Digital (article)	Times of India	https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/technology/tech-news/coca-cola-foundation-undp-collaborate-to-tackle-plastic-waste-crisis-in-asia/articleshow/117553723.cms#:~:text=The%20Coca%2DCola%20Foundation%20and%20UNDP%20are%20launching,policy%20changes%2C%20and%20improving%20waste%20workers'%20livelihoods.
CSR journal website	CSR journal website	https://thecsrjournal.in/corporate-social-responsibility-csr-news-un-development-programme-undp-and-the-coca-cola-foundation-tccf-partner-to-scale-up-management-of-plastic-waste-in-asia/

NEPAL

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PHILIPPINES

Press Release	Iloilo Deepens Commitment To Plastic Waste Solutions Through UNDP Circularity Project
Press Release	IPG Joins UNDP's Plastic Circularity Inception Workshop To Advance Sustainable Waste Management

SRI LANKA

Press Release:	https://www.undp.org/srilanka/press-releases/government-sri-lanka-facilitates-new-project-through-undp-sri-lanka-and-coca-cola-foundation-multi-year-project-plastic-waste
News Articles	https://economynext.com/undp-coca-cola-give-sri-lanka-usd1-1mn-to-tackle-plastic-waste-215603/
News Articles	https://owsa.in/sri-lanka-gets-1-1-million-boost-to-combat-plastic-waste-under-regional-undp-coca-cola-initiative/
World Environment Day Paper Article	World Environment Day 2025 | United Nations Development Programme https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpsrilanka_didyouknow-plastic-worldenvironmentday2025-activity-7336254890177982465-Bli8?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAFPog6ABBiEoLXXTsPA3ZmJcihlJhqwzXLM

VIETNAM

Plastics Innovation Programme 2025	Call announcement: https://www.undp.org/vietnam/news/plastic-innovation-programme-call-announcement Launching Programme: Media Coverage Announcement of 25 shortlisted team: Post Kick-off Incubation Phase of the programme: Post List of coaches and mentors from the Incubation phase: Post Incubation Phase recap video: LINK Final Pitching Event: Media Coverage and event indicators
Responsible Sourcing Initiative expanded to the North of Viet Nam	Kick-off and consultation workshop: Post1, Post2 and Agenda Baseline Assessment (first full draft): 5. EN_Baseline Assessment Report_6Aug25 GreenU.pdf RSI flyer under TCCF project: 4.1. TCCF_RSI_Flyer_EN.png
Model of bringing waste from fishing boats back to shores	Baseline assessment report: LINK Commitment letter/MOU from three Sub-department of Fisheries at project sites: LINK

8. Annex 2: Breakdown of partnership target indicator by area and by country

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total target	TCCF project target	Actual Year 1	Status as of August 2025	Overall Percentage to Year 1 target
1. Plastics collected	**Bangladesh (Output 2 , indicator 2.2)**	3000	5000	7000	15000	15000	0	The plastic recycling activities have not yet started; however, all necessary preparatory work is well underway. The MoU with Chattogram City Corporation is in process, and project beneficiaries (CMSMEs) are expected to begin receiving support from September 2025, with plastic recycling activities commencing thereafter.	
	Bhutan (Output 2, indicator 2.2)	2000	2000	1500	5500	5500	272.5	Plastic waste collected during the waste inventory in 6 districts and 1 cleaning campaign. Plastic waste data henceforth will be maintained once the compactor trucks are deployed.	
	Cambodia (Output 3, Indicator 3.2)	1000	2000	1500	4500	4500	0	Identified 2 potential partner organizations, TonToTon and River Ocean Clean-up to support plastic collection and treating hard-to-recycle plastics. Agreements are being formalized with both organizations, with completion expected by Oct 2025. The Y1 target will be accumulated in Y2.	
	India (Output 3.2 , Indicator 3.2.5)	2000	3000	3000	8000	8000	0	The process to onboard Recyclers as verified value chain partners for implementation of the responsible sourcing framework in its value chain is ongoing. This value chain partner will adopt the responsible sourcing framework for channelizing plastic waste.	
	Maldives (Output 3)	0	4500	4500	9000	9000	n/a		
	Nepal (Output 1,	500	400	250	1150	1150	100	100 tones (Butwal-40 tonnes, Lumbini-20 tonnes & Dhangadhi-40 tonnes) by December 2025	

	indicator 1.2)								
	Philippines (Output 2, indicator 2.1)	300	250	910	1460	1460	55.93	Collection from community clean up drives post-election clean up and improved collection frequency and schedules following orientation of CE, plastic circularity and sustainable waste management	
	Sri-Lanka (Output 1 , Indicator 1.1)	500	3000	3500	7000	1820	105	This is the total plastic waste collected in all the 7 LAs under the project scope up to the end of July 2025.	
	Vietnam (project objectives)	1000	2000	4500	7500	7500	0	We are still in progress, especially with piloting and implementing innovative solutions starting in September. 11 innovations will launch activities on 1st September focused on waste collection and prevention. The Responsible Sourcing Initiative will also begin working with about 20 - 30 aggregators to apply a harmonized framework across their collection and sorting practices. More detailed data will be available at that time	
	Total	10300	22150	26660	59110	53930	533.43		5%

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	**Total**	**TCCF**	**Actual Year 1**	**Status as of August 2025**	Overall Percentage to Year 1 target
2. Direct beneficiaries (men)	**Bangladesh (output 4, indicator 4.1)**	400	500	500	1400	1400	0	The process of engaging a partner NGO to facilitate beneficiary selection is currently underway and is expected to be completed by October 2025, after which the selection process will commence. For Year 1, the plan is to select 400 beneficiaries (men) out of the total target of 600. Should there be any shortfall in achieving this target within Year 1, the	

								remaining beneficiaries will be carried over to Year 2; however, the expectation is to complete the selection by December 2025.	
	Bhutan (Output 3, indicator 3.1)	100	100	100	300	300	175	Facilitated multiple consultations and workshops to formal, informal and private waste actors focused on reducing plastic waste leakage into the environment, promoting sustainable waste management, enhancing occupational safety, proper segregation of waste and advancing the principles of a circular economy.	
	Cambodia (Output 1, indicator 1.3)	50	50	100	200	200	0	To achieve the indicator, we have explored potential collaboration opportunities with both TonToTon and River Ocean Clean up. This included conducting field visits to better understand their engagement with informal waste collectors within the plastic value chain, especially in collection and recycling. We are in the progress of formalizing the agreement with both organization, with completion expected by Oct 2025. The Y1 target will be accumulated in Y2.	
	India (output 2.3 indicator 2.3.1)	6000	11500	12500	30000	30000	6762	A total of 6762 waste pickers benefited from NAMASTE. 2876Male/2601Female/1285 Not identified	
	Maldives (Output 5)			540	540	540	n/a		
	Nepal (Output 2, indicator 2.1)	337	337	276	950	950	220	-120 Waste workers (men) from Lumbini & Butwal received safety and livelihood support by September 2025 -100 Waste workers (men) from Dhangadhi received safety and livelihood support by December 2025	

	Philippines (Output 4, indicator 4.3)	100	200	75	375	375	13	13 men during the CE 101, plastic circularity and sustainable waste management	
	Sri-Lanka (Output 1, indicator 1.3, Output 3, indicator 3.2)	50	100	450	600	100	50	No. of waste workers: Aims to reach 100 people (50 men and 50 women) to be directly benefited before the end of 2025 though the training and awareness programmes for resource banks .	
	Vietnam (Project objectives, core indictor 2)	500	1000	1000	2500	2500	246	Plastic Innovation Programme: #188 (through various activities: Coaching and mentoring sessions, launching and pitching events, Incubation activities from Feb - June 2025) Responsible Sourcing Initiative: 46 (through field surveys, interviews from May - June 2025, kick-off and consultation workshop on 6 Aug 2025) Model of bringing plastic waste from fishing boats back to shore: 12 (from June - July 2025)	
	Total	7537	13787	15541	36865	36365	7466		99%

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	**Total**	**TCCF**	**Actual Year 1**	**Status as of August 2025**	Overall Percentage to Year 1 target
3. Direct beneficiaries (women)	**Bangladesh (output 4, indicator 4.1)**	200	200	200	600	600	0	The process of engaging a partner NGO to facilitate beneficiary selection is currently underway and is expected to be completed by October 2025, after which the selection process will commence. For Year 1, the plan is to select 200 beneficiaries (women) out of the total target of 600. Should there be any shortfall in achieving this target within Year 1, the remaining beneficiaries will be	

								carried over to Year 2; however, the expectation is to complete the selection by December 2025.	
	Bhutan (Output 3, indicator 3.1)	100	100	100	300	300	242	Facilitated multiple consultations and workshops to formal, informal and private waste actors focused on reducing plastic waste leakage into the environment, promoting sustainable waste management, enhancing occupational safety, proper segregation of waste and advancing the principles of a circular economy.	
	Cambodia (Output 1, indicator 1.3)	50	100	100	250	250	0	To achieve the indicator, we have explored potential collaboration opportunities with both TonToTon and River Ocean Clean up. This included conducting field visits to better understand their engagement with informal waste collectors within the plastic value chain, especially in collection and recycling. We are in the progress of formalizing the agreement with both organization, with completion expected by Oct 2025. The Y1 target will be accumulated in Y2.	
	India (output 2.3 indicator 2.3.1)	6000	11500	12500	30000	30000	2601	A total of 6762 waste pickers benefited from NAMASTE. 2876Male/2601Female/1285 Not identified	
	Maldives (Output 5)			260	260	260	n/a		
	Nepal (Output 2, indicator 2.1)	213	213	174	600	600	200	At least 110 beneficiaries (women) from 2 municipalities, Butwal & Lumbini by September 2025 & 90 beneficiaries (women) from Dhangadhi will receive safety and livelihood supports by December 2025.	
	Philippines (Output 4,	100	100	175	375	375	67	67 during the CE 101, plastic circularity and sustainable waste management	

	indicator 4.3)								
	Sri-Lanka (Output 1, indicator 1.3, Output 3, indicator 3.2)	50	100	450	600	100	50	The procurement process is currently underway to engage a service provider for designing and delivering a comprehensive training program targeting seven Local Authorities. Also establishment of the 10 resources banks will be completed in the Q4 2025.	
	Vietnam (Project objectives, core indictor 3)	150	300	300	750	750	516	Plastic Innovation Programme: #325 (through various activities: Coaching and mentoring sessions, launching and pitching events, Incubation activities from Feb - June 2025) Responsible Sourcing Initiative: 186 (through field surveys, interviews from May - June 2025, kick-off and consultation workshop on 6 Aug 2025) Model of bringing plastic waste from fishing boats back to shore: 5 (from June - July 2025)	
	Total	6863	12613	14259	33735	33235	3676		54%

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	**Total**	**TCCF**	**Actual Year 1**	**Status as of August 2025**	Overall Percentage to Year 1 target
4. MRF facilities implemented	**Bangladesh (Output 2, Indicator 2.1)**	0	0	1	1	1	n/a		
	Bhutan (Potentially matches Output 2, indicator 2.1)	3	3	3	9	9	3	3 compactor trucks will be deployed in September, 2 to MRF in Paro and 1 for MRF for Gelephu)	

	Cambodia (not identified as a separate output, refer to output 3 (ind 3.1)	0	0	1	1	1	n/a		
	India	0	0	0	0	0	n/a		
	Maldives (output 3)	0	1	1	2	2	n/a		
	Nepal (Output 1, indicator 1.2)	3	2	1	6	6	3	Two MRFs (Lumbini & Butwal) equipped by September 2025 and one MRF (Dhangadhi) equipped by December 2025	
	Philippines (Output 3, indicator 3.2)	2	0	0	2	2	0	1 MRF to be fully equipped by Dec 2025 as finalization of equipment's specifications underway.	
	Sri-Lanka (output 2, indicator 2.1)	0	1	1	2	1	n/a		
	Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0	n/a		
	Total	8	7	8	23	22	6		75%

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	**Total**	**TCCF**	**Actual Year 1**	**Status as of August 2025**	Overall Percentage to Year 1 target
5. Business models /mgt systems	**Bangladesh (output 3.1)**	1	1	1	3	3	0	Though we have targeted 1 plastic market system development in year-1, but the project is on process to have agreement with 3 academic institutes to develop 3 market system at three	

created /strengthened								cities. Hope to onboard those institutes by October'2025 and all three market system will be developed in Y-2.	
	Bhutan (output 3 , indicator 3.2 and 3.3)	1	0	0	1	1	0	Business model and SoP will be developed once the compactor trucks are to be deployed in Q2 of 2026.	
	Cambodia (output 1, indicator 1.1)	2	3	0	5	1	0	1) Cambodia roadmap towards Circular Economy will be finalized in October 2025. 2) Field visits to two potential partner organizations, namely TonToTon and River Ocean Cleanup have been conducted to how these organizations engage with informal waste collectors within the plastic value chain, particularly in the areas of collecting and recycling. These two activities will inform further actions such as design CE solutions to support innovative business solutions	
	India	0	0	1	1	1	n/a		
	Maldives Output 5	0	1	0	1	1	n/a		
	Nepal (output 1, indicator 1.3)	2	1	1	4	4	2	Two MRFs (Lumbini & Butwal) Draft Business Plans developed and Data-base Management Systems strengthened by December 2025	
	Philippines (output 1, indicator 1.2)	2	2	0	4	4	2	Foundational activities conducted such as: engaging community-based organizations (waste recyclers, small businesses, vendors, local NGOs) in co-designing business models, ensuring alignment with local needs and capacities. Conducted business mapping and developed 3 draft models in collaboration with LGUs. As of now, only foundational activities are being conducted and three business models are being drafted. To date, two business models IPG and Dumangas models has been developed this year.	

	Sri-Lanka (output 2, indicator 2.3 , but not explicitly mentioned)	0	1	1	2	2	n/a		
	Vietnam (Output 3.6 , indicator 1)	0	2	0	2	2	n/a		
	Total	8	11	4	23	19	4		50%

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	**Total**	**TCCF**	**Actual Year 1**	**Status as of August 2025**	Overall Percentage to Year 1 target
6. Awareness/ Training programmes launched	**Bangladesh (output 4, indicator 4.2)**	2	2	2	6	6	1	As part of the TCCF Plastics Circularity Project, UNDP Youth Advocate Ikramul Hasan Shakil completed the “Sea to Summit” expedition, trekking over 1,300 km from Inani Beach, Cox’s Bazar, to Mount Everest’s peak on May 19, 2025. The journey advocated the fight against plastic pollution and championed youth-led clean advocacy, earning wide recognition across Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.	
	Bhutan (Output 1, indicator 1.1)	2	2	2	6	6	2	2 advocacy program conducted. 1. Mass cleaning campaign and advocacy program conducted on Bhutan's Environment Day celebrated on 4 June in honour of her Majesty the Queen of Bhutan, Royal Patron of the environment. The program mobilised 259 volunteers, and collected 7.3 MT of waste along the road covering 125 kilometres. 2. Under National River Cleaning Initiative , river	

								cleaning and advocacy program was conducted in 5 districts with 29 dedicated volunteers	
	Cambodia (output 2, indicator 2.2 and output 3, indicator 3.4)	1	1	3	5	5	3	- Co-organized the National Plastic Action Roadmap validation workshop with NPAP Cambodia secretariat to share the project achievements and increase knowledge and capacity on plastic and waste management. - Organized 2 consultation workshops, facilitate knowledge exchange and gather stakeholders' inputs to inform the design of inclusive and effective interventions that support a sound waste management practice in Cambodia.	
	India	0	0	5	5	5	n/a		
	Maldives (Output 1)	1	1	1	3	2	0	Workshop planned for year 1 has been postponed to 2026. One key reason is for project to focus on ensuring procurements are done earlier on, to ensure that more riskier activities are done beforehand. Additionally, with council elections planned for 2026 Q1, the project thought best to conduct workshops with incoming councils rather than outgoing councils.	
	Nepal (output 2, indicator 2.2)	1	2	1	4	4	4	1 event of awareness campaign is scheduled to organize by September 2025 at Butwal MRF and 3 events of awareness campaigns will be organized by December 2025 at Lumbini, Dhangadhi & Namche	
	Philippines (Output 4, indicator 4.1, 5.1,5.3	3	0	1	4	4	1	Training on CE 101 highlighting circular practices in addressing plastic wastes conducted in Passi City from 20 barangays/ communities	

	Sri-Lanka (output 3, indicator 3.3)	4	2	4	10	10	0	The procurement process is currently underway to engage a service provider for designing and delivering a comprehensive training program targeting seven Local Authorities. The program aims to reach 10 Programme.	
	Vietnam (Output 3.6 , indicator 2)		1	4	5	5	2	VN launch 1 Plastics Innovation Programme on 26 Feb 2025 Under this programme: - 50hrs coaching and 25hrs mentoring sessions were conducted - 2 training workshop organized to incubate ideas for 25 innovation teams from May - June 2025 - 18 experts engaged during to provide training/coaching activities during this time	
	Total	14	11	23	48	47	13		93%

		Actual Year 1	**Status as of August 2025**
Amount spend per informal worker	**Bangladesh**	0	In Year 2, we will be able to provide separate training, refresher training, health insurance, and other personal protective materials for informal workers. The related calculations are yet to be finalized and will be shared accordingly.
	Bhutan		
	Cambodia	0	The target will be accumulated in Y2
	India	0	45000 USD committed towards PO generated for the social inclusion of 3000 informal waste workers
	Maldives	0	No informal workers in Maldives
	Nepal	0	Accumulated data will be shared in Y2
	Philippines		
	Sri-Lanka		
	Vietnam	n/a	
	Total		

Note: Calculated by dividing the total project funding by the number of informal waste workers supported. Please provide additional information on the type of support provided under the status column.

		Co-financing Target (USD)	Actual Year 1	Status as of August 2025
Co-financing mobilized from other funding sources	**Bangladesh**	**2,710,000**	167,000	National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) project funded by World Economic Forum, signed on May 2025
	Bhutan	**600,000**	51,872	Bhutan CO mobilized co-financing of USD 51,872 from SACEP PLEASE Project which is funded by World Bank
	Cambodia	**30,440,000**	30,440,000	Cambodia CO mobilized co-financing of USD 30,440,000 from Ministry of Environment, World Bank and GIZ under GEF8 Plastic F&B project.
	India	**2,500,000**	-	
	Maldives	**1,650,000**		
	Nepal	**500,000**	50,000	UNDP TRAC to cover the project enabling and management cost
	Philippines	**4,500,000**		
	Sri-Lanka	**500,000**	79,600	PMU salary cost sharing from other ongoing UNDP GEF VII chemical Project
	Vietnam	**3,500,000**	150,000	VN CO mobilized co-financing from GPIP project (funded by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund)
	Total	**46,900,000**	30,938,472	

		Actual Year 1	Status as of August 2025
Total hours of training of	**Bangladesh**	0	Training not yet started but the ToT, training module and other will be done by October 2025. The related data will be shared in year-2

informal waste worker	**Bhutan**	75	Awareness on plastic waste, micro plastic pollution, sustainable waste management, health and hygiene, occupational safety and circular economy, behavioral change
	Cambodia	0	The target will be accumulated in Y2
	India	0	Training module and application have been prepared, training shall start from September 2025 onwards.
	Maldives	0	No informal workers in the Maldives
	Nepal	0	Data will be shared in December 2025
	Philippines		
	Sri-Lanka	0	Not yet initiated.
	Vietnam	6	Update national financial regulations and consult the baseline assessment with aggregators along the plastic waste supply chain of a recycler in Northern Vietnam, including a field visit to observe standard recycling processes
	Total	81	