



## Philippines Begins Attack On Garbage Challenge

Issues of solid waste management in the Philippines involve small family industries as well as just garbage. Families augment their income by scavenging in the city dump. Usually mothers and often children will rotate days with other mothers and children, wading into the mountains of waste to collect marketable refuse, then weighing it with the dump manager, and taking home the meager earnings. As the Philippines population grows so does the amount of solid waste which has become an environmental hazard, with as much as 50 percent finding its way into the ocean. A program was needed to address environmental as well as social concerns of solid waste building up for decades.



Photo: USAID/Virginia Foley

Toledo city officials characterize local garbage which is one step in a new environmental program.

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***- Cayetano Yray, Danao City's environmental management specialist***

### Results

Toledo City has completed the first three steps of the program by establishing and training a waste management board and technical working group, and conducting a survey of local waste management practices. City officials, working under a bridge along the river, characterized their garbage, discussing possible management ideas for each of the different types of garbage identified.

Danao City's environmental management specialist Cayetano Yray is enthusiastic about the program. He's observed how composting is being implemented in other communities and is happy that expensive landfills aren't Danao's only solution. "We felt overwhelmed before. Now that we've seen the finished project, we know we can do it."

### Initiative

USAID helps to fund the Philippine Environmental Governance (EcoGov) Program which stimulates local government planning for solid waste as well as improves management of coastal waters and forestland.

With initial focus on specific pilot areas, a multi-step process was developed to assess, plan, design and implement strategies to dispose of garbage in Toledo City and Danao City.

USAID supported training on integrated solid waste management throughout the process. The EcoGov Program fosters good governance by stressing transparency and accountability of national and local leaders, and participatory decision-making.

