

The UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste

Empowering Change: The Aling Tindera Revolution



Zero waste good practice

CityNet

Various locations in the Philippines

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About

Synopsis

The Aling Tindera Program empowers women micro-entrepreneurs in the Philippines by turning plastic waste into income, promoting sustainable waste management, and fostering community development.



Implementation
period

2020 - now

Country

Philippines

Location

various

Stakeholders and Partners: 1. Plastic Credit Exchange (PCX), 2. PepsiCo Foundation, 3. Local Government Units, 4. World Bank and 5. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Connection to Zero Waste

The key objectives of the Aling Tindera Program are to:

Divert plastic waste away from nature and promote responsible waste management practices.

Provide incremental income to women micro-entrepreneurs and their households.

Encourage behavior change and educate the public about responsible plastic waste management.

Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1: No Poverty: The program aligns with the Philippine Development Plan's goal of reducing poverty by providing income opportunities for women micro-entrepreneurs through the waste-to-cash mechanism, helping alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of participating households.

SDG 5: Gender Equality: The Aling Tindera Program supports the Philippine Development Plan's objective of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment by targeting women-owned sari-sari stores and empowering women micro-entrepreneurs.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: The program contributes to the Philippine Development Plan's aim of fostering inclusive economic growth and decent work opportunities by supporting women micro-entrepreneurs and promoting responsible waste management practices and the circular economy.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: The Aling Tindera Program aligns with the Philippine Development Plan's focus on sustainable urban development by encouraging responsible waste management practices in local communities and partnering with local governments.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: The program supports the Philippine Development Plan's objective of promoting responsible consumption and production by incentivizing the collection and recycling of post-consumer plastic waste, reducing plastic pollution, and fostering a circular economy.

Background, Challenges and Objectives

The Aling Tindera Program addresses the challenges of plastic waste reduction, community empowerment, and environmental protection in Cebu City, Philippines.

Cebu City, with a population of over 964,000, is one of the country's largest cities and faces significant waste management issues. The program aims to provide income opportunities for women micro-entrepreneurs by turning plastic waste into income, promoting sustainable waste management, and fostering community development. Cebu City's history, population size, and location have influenced the need for this initiative. The city has experienced rapid urbanization and industrialization, leading to increased waste generation and inadequate waste management practices.

The Aling Tindera Program was chosen as a localized approach to address these challenges by engaging local communities and empowering women micro-entrepreneurs.

The key objectives of the Aling Tindera Program are to:

- Divert plastic waste away from nature and promote responsible waste management practices.
- Provide incremental income to women micro-entrepreneurs and their households.
- Encourage behavior change and educate the public about responsible plastic waste management.

Contribute to the Philippines' national-level SDG strategies, including SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

By addressing these challenges and objectives, the Aling Tindera Program contributes to Cebu City's efforts to improve waste management practices, empower local communities, and protect the environment.

“The Aling Tindera Program aims to provide income opportunities for women micro-entrepreneurs by turning plastic waste into income, promoting sustainable waste management, and fostering community development.”



Actions and Implementation

In the actions and implementation chapter, the steps taken to achieve sustainable waste management are outlined.

The Aling Tindera Program addresses key challenges in plastic waste reduction, community empowerment, and environmental protection in cities like Manila, San Juan, and Cebu City in the Philippines. Factors such as rapid urbanization, industrialization, and population growth have led to increased waste generation and inadequate waste management practices in these cities. The program aims to provide income opportunities for women micro-entrepreneurs by turning plastic waste into income, promoting sustainable waste management, and fostering community development.

The key actions taken under this initiative include:

- Identifying and partnering with women-owned sari-sari stores to become collection points for post-consumer plastic waste.
- Establishing community infrastructure for aggregating, storing, and efficiently transporting the waste to partner processing facilities.
- Providing incentives for women micro-entrepreneurs and community members to participate in responsible waste management practices.
- Collaborating with local governments, private sector organizations, and NGOs to secure funding, resources, and support for the program.
- Engaging in community outreach and education to promote responsible waste management practices and encourage behavior change.

The program's implementation timeline has involved the expansion of Aling Tindera stations across various cities in the Philippines, with over 100 sites established to date. Community engagement and participatory planning processes have been integral to the program's success, with local communities actively involved in plastic waste collection and selling it to Aling Tindera stations. Monitoring and evaluation measures have been put in place, such as collaborating with the World Bank to conduct a study on the socioeconomic vulnerabilities of informal waste sector workers and assess the effectiveness of the program. The strategy to keep this practice going over the mid- and long-term involves addressing financial, institutional, and policy challenges, adapting the program to local contexts, and promoting community engagement.

Outcomes and Impact

The Aling Tindera Program has made significant strides in three major areas:

Waste Reduction: The program has successfully diverted over 1,000 metric tons of plastic waste from nature by 2022. This was achieved through a waste-to-cash mechanism that incentivizes residents to collect and sell plastic waste, fostering responsible waste management and contributing to the circular economy.

Partnerships: The program has forged strong partnerships with various organizations, including PCX, PepsiCo Foundation, local governments, the World Bank, and USAID. These partnerships have been instrumental in providing the necessary funding, resources, and technical expertise for the program's implementation and maintenance.

Empowerment of Marginalized Women: Over 1,000 women micro-entrepreneurs have been empowered by the program as of 2022. By focusing on women-owned sari-sari stores and women micro-entrepreneurs, the program promotes gender equality and women's economic empowerment, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 5.



Over 1,000 tons

of plastic waste diverted from nature by 2022.

More than 1,000 women

micro-entrepreneurs empowered by the program as of 2022.

Partnerships

Collaboration with organizations like PCX, PepsiCo

Replicability and Scaleability

The Aling Tindera Program is an initiative that addresses the challenges of plastic waste reduction, community empowerment, and environmental protection in cities like Manila, San Juan, and Cebu City in the Philippines. The program is suitable for replication and scaling up in other urban contexts, as it has demonstrated adaptability and scalability in various cities. However, parties interested in replication should consider several factors and risks during the planning of similar projects.

Identifying suitable locations: The program's success depends on finding locations with a strong need for improved waste management practices and a supportive community. Assessing local waste management situations, community engagement, and infrastructure availability in potential cities is crucial for determining the feasibility of implementing the program and maximizing its impact. **Securing funding and resources:** Expanding the program to other locations requires additional resources, infrastructure, and support from local governments and communities. Collaborating with local governments, private sector organizations, and NGOs to secure funding and resources for program expansion is essential for overcoming financial challenges and ensuring the necessary resources are available for implementation and growth. **Establishing partnerships with local stakeholders:** Fostering strong partnerships with local governments, community organizations, and industry groups is vital for ensuring support and cooperation in implementing the Aling Tindera Program. Collaborating with local stakeholders can help leverage local expertise, resources, and networks to achieve the program's goals and overcome potential challenges. **Adapting the program to local contexts:** Customizing the Aling Tindera Program to address unique local challenges and barriers, such as varying waste management practices and community engagement, is crucial for successful replication. By adapting the program to the specific needs and circumstances of each location, the program can maximize its impact and ensure long-term sustainability.

Training and empowering women micro-entrepreneurs: Providing participating women with the necessary resources, such as a container, manual baler, and starting capital, as well as training on waste management and program operations, is essential for replicating the Aling Tindera Program. Empowering women micro-entrepreneurs and equipping them with the skills and resources needed to succeed can be challenging, but it is crucial for the program's success in new locations. **Promoting community engagement:** Raising awareness and encouraging community members to participate in plastic waste collection and selling it to Aling Tindera stations is crucial for the successful replication of the program. Engaging local communities and fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility can be challenging, but it is essential for ensuring long-term behavioral changes and sustainable waste management practices.

By considering these factors and risks, parties interested in replicating the Aling Tindera Program can plan and implement similar projects in other urban contexts, contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and improving waste management practices, community empowerment, and environmental protection.

Inclusion and Innovation

The key proponent of the practice is community empowerment by lifting up women micro-entrepreneurs and formalizing their work. Due to stations being located in urban areas across the Philippines, project success hinges on participatory planning and community engagement

Accountability and Sustainability

The strategy to keep this practice going over the mid- and long-term involves addressing financial, institutional, and policy challenges, adapting the program to local contexts, and promoting community engagement.

Despite challenges such as identifying suitable locations and securing resources, these achievements highlight the program's success in addressing plastic waste reduction, community empowerment, and environmental protection in various Philippine cities.

(Other ways to address gaps and challenges are listed in the replicability section)



Financial Data

The Aling Tindera Program is an initiative that addresses plastic waste reduction, community empowerment, and environmental protection in cities like Manila, San Juan, and Cebu City in the Philippines. The program has received external resources and support from organizations such as the Plastic Credit Exchange (PCX), PepsiCo Foundation, local governments, the World Bank, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). These partnerships have provided funding, resources, and technical expertise to implement and maintain the program.

The budget for the Aling Tindera Program is allocated across several key areas. Although it was not explicitly mentioned, the cost per metric ton of plastic waste managed is \$300 which covers the collection, transportation, and processing of the waste.

In terms of resources for women micro-entrepreneurs, the costs can vary. These costs include providing each woman with a container, a manual baler, and starting capital. The exact amount depends on the number of women involved in the program and the specific costs of these items in the local market.

Another significant part of the budget goes towards community engagement, training, and education. This includes conducting workshops, producing educational materials, and other related expenses. The exact cost for this would depend on the scale and frequency of these activities.

	Item	Unit	Price (in USD)	Total Cost
1	Waste Management Cost per Metric ton of plastic waste (Collection, Transporting and Processing)	1 metric ton [varies]	300	300
2	Resources for Women Micro-entrepreneurs	1,000 women	100	100,000
3	Community Engagement, Training and Education	12 monthly workshops	750	9,000
4	Monitoring and Evaluation (Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting)	1 year	10,000	10,000
5	Program Expansion	10 locations per year	5,000	5,000

Contact

UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Zero:
advisoryboardzerowaste@un.org

Email: sdgplatform@citynet-ap.org

Website: sdgplatform@citynet-ap.org

Website: <https://www.cebucity.gov.ph/>

Facebook: [/cebucitygovph](https://www.facebook.com/cebucitygovph)