PROTECTING A MARINE RESERVE THROUGH HOUSEHOLD SANITATION

In the Philippines, families from Sagay City residing within Sagay Marine Reserve benefitted - from an innovative financing scheme for household sanitation piloted by USAID and DAI, through Safe Water, to protect the marine reserve, an ecosystem that provides for eco-tourism livelihoods to coastal communities.

**What Are We Addressing:** USAID recognizes the challenges faced by poor coastal communities whose livelihoods depend mainly on an ecosystem at risk from water pollution.

Coastal communities depend mainly on vulnerable ecosystems for their source of income.

Water pollution, due to lack of household sanitation, endangers Sagay Marine Reserve.

Families desire their own toilets, but many, especially the poor, are constrained by limited resources and competing expenses.

**Piloting the OBA-BF:** USAID and DAI, through Safe Water, introduced the OBA-BF as an innovative means for households below the poverty line to afford their own toilets.

Output-based aid: DAI provided grant resources to subsidize the cost of septic tanks compliant with the standards of the Philippine Sanitation Code.

Blended finance: Households paid for the toilet superstructure sourced through loans from Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, an MFI.

OBA-BF: This scheme makes toilets more affordable to poor families dependent on the vulnerable marine reserve.

**What We’ve Learned:** USAID and DAI underlined lessons learned in the pilot implementation of OBA-BF in Sagay City in relation to stakeholder collaboration, women’s empowerment, adaptation of the implementation to local conditions.

- Strengthened collaboration with LGUs, MFIs, and POs to encourage households to participate in the program
- Empowered women to manage their sanitation loans and protect their livelihoods from ecotourism
- Adapted to conditions related to spatial limits and weather conditions through adaptive design and construction method of septic tanks
- Promoted use of innovative water-efficient latrines as an alternative to conventional toilet bowls

**OBA-BF PILOT AT A GLANCE**

- DAI Grants for Septic Tanks
- Household Equity Loans for Toilet Structure

- P0.75M

Around 200 people from 40 households now enjoy affordable sanitary toilets and the multiple benefits they provide for their health and the environment. This was made possible through a multi-sectoral partnership that mobilized PHP0.75M/$15,000 of investments from DAI that helped subsidize the cost of septic tanks, and technical assistance from USAID, with commitment and cooperation from pioneering local government unit of Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

- Syrac Island Mangrove Eco-Park
- Sagay City

Thanks to OBA-BF pilot activity, the cost of a sanitary toilet becomes affordable for every Filipino.

**Adopt OBA-BF now**

and improve the quality of life for Filipino families!