

6 July 2022

## **HSBC Malta employees use voluntary leave scheme to clean beaches**

HSBC Bank Malta employees have made use of the Bank's voluntary leave scheme to participate in two beach clean-ups organised by Nature Trust – Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Malta. Acting on behalf of the HSBC Malta Foundation, the team of employees gathered almost 75 kilogrammes of waste from Għadira Bay in Mellieħa and Għajjn Tuffieħa in Manikata.

As part of HSBC Bank Malta's commitment to the community, the 'Volunteer Leave Day' scheme allows employees to apply for a day of leave, which is additional to the regular annual leave entitlement. This day must be used to work for and help communities and NGOs across Malta and Gozo. Volunteering opportunities are also made available to employees through the HSBC Volunteering Platform.

During the two clean-up days, HSBC Malta volunteers collected a wide range of litter and trash from the two beaches, such as construction materials; metal and wooden objects; street signs, cigarette butts; remnants of fishing equipment, nets and ropes; and different plastic waste.

This initiative aligns with the Bank's unwavering commitment to a net zero future. HSBC is playing a leading role in mobilising the transition to a global net zero economy, not just by financing it, but by helping to shape and influence the global policy agenda. HSBC recognises that our planet urgently needs drastic and lasting action to protect our communities, businesses and natural environment from the damaging effects of climate change.

Glenn Bugeja, Corporate Sustainability Manager at HSBC Bank Malta, said: "These two clean-up days served as a real eye-opener on the work that still needs to be done to ensure we take collective responsibility for our environment. HSBC has always encouraged volunteering as a way for the Bank to remain an integral part of the community and the commitment of our employees continues to deliver real benefits to the community."

Angelique Lofaro, Honorary General Secretary at Nature Trust – FEE Malta, said, "Marine debris and litter all have a detrimental effect on our wildlife and ourselves. Whilst clean ups help to reduce the burden in one area, more effort needs to be made by every single individual to reduce our negative impact on the environment. We need to reduce drastically our use of plastics, re-use an object as many times as possible, and dispose of it well when we can't use it anymore. When in nature, we also have to shift to a mentality to leave the area cleaner than how we found it, even if it means picking up litter which is not ours. It may not be our litter, but it's our planet."



*HSBC Bank Malta employees, during their Voluntary Leave Day, attend a clean-up session at Għajn Tuffieħa beach by Nature Trust - FEE Malta to support the community.*

**HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.**

HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. is a member of the HSBC Group, whose ultimate parent company is HSBC Holdings plc. HSBC Malta provides a comprehensive range of financial services which are all designed to meet the expanding requirements of its large client base of personal and corporate customers. These include Wealth and Personal Banking, Commercial Banking and Global Markets. Registered in Malta number C3177. Registered Office: 116, Archbishop Street, Valletta VLT 1444, Malta. HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. is regulated and licensed to carry out the business of banking and investment services in terms of the Banking Act (Cap. 371 of the Laws of Malta) and the Investment Services Act (Cap. 370 of the Laws of Malta) by the Malta Financial Services Authority.

**HSBC Holdings plc**

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of HSBC, is headquartered in London. HSBC serves customers worldwide from offices in 64 countries and territories in its geographical regions: Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$3,022bn at 31 March 2022, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.