

# AIR POLLUTION

Ambient air pollution is the world's single greatest environmental health threat. It is a public health crisis.

Most affected are vulnerable urban populations:

youngest

poorest

oldest

Ambient air pollution is responsible for

1 IN 8 DEATHS GLOBALLY

and

2.6M DEATHS IN ASIA

Air pollution is a major cause of disease and death. It is linked to

- Strokes
- Heart disease
- Lung cancer
- Asthma
- Bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Type 2 diabetes
- Dementia
- Birth defects
- Low birth weights in children
- Impairments to children's mental and physical development

Asia has the largest share of ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub>-related deaths worldwide

## 2 OUT OF 3 AIR-POLLUTION-RELATED DEATHS

occur in the WHO's South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions

Southeast Asia has among the highest urban air pollution levels in the world, with annual mean levels often 5-10 times higher than WHO limits.

In Southeast Asia, levels of urban air pollution have risen by

**MORE THAN 5%**

in more than two-thirds of cities.

Emissions of nitrogen dioxide from vehicles, power plants, and industries rose steeply from 2005 to 2014 in Southeast Asia. Sulfur dioxide levels doubled in the same period due to the growing number of coal-fired power plants. (NASA)

Air pollution primarily emanates from the burning of fossil fuels (oil, gas, coal). The main sources of air pollution in Asia are



Harmful emissions include Carbon dioxide, Sulfur oxides, Nitrogen oxides, Ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Volatile organic compounds

## SOLUTIONS

Integrated urban planning



Improved public transportation



Safe sidewalks and roads for walking and cycling



Improved vehicle fuel and emissions standards



Cleaner sources of energy such as wind and solar power

