CITIZENS ATLAS ON FALSE CLIMATE AND CIRCULARITY SOLUTIONS

In Focus: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

This factsheet assesses 14 false solutions projects by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank from January 2015 to August 2026.

False solutions projects incorporate actions, technologies, or policies that fail to tackle pollution and climate change while harming human or ecosystem health, delaying production reduction measures, and violating the Zero Waste Hierarchy.

Financial figures indicated pertain to total approved project amounts, viewing false solutions as embedded in systems.

PROJECT COMPOSITION: FALSE SOLUTIONS



12 out of 13

support waste incineration with or without energy conversion (waste-to-energy incineration), including pyrolysis and gasification

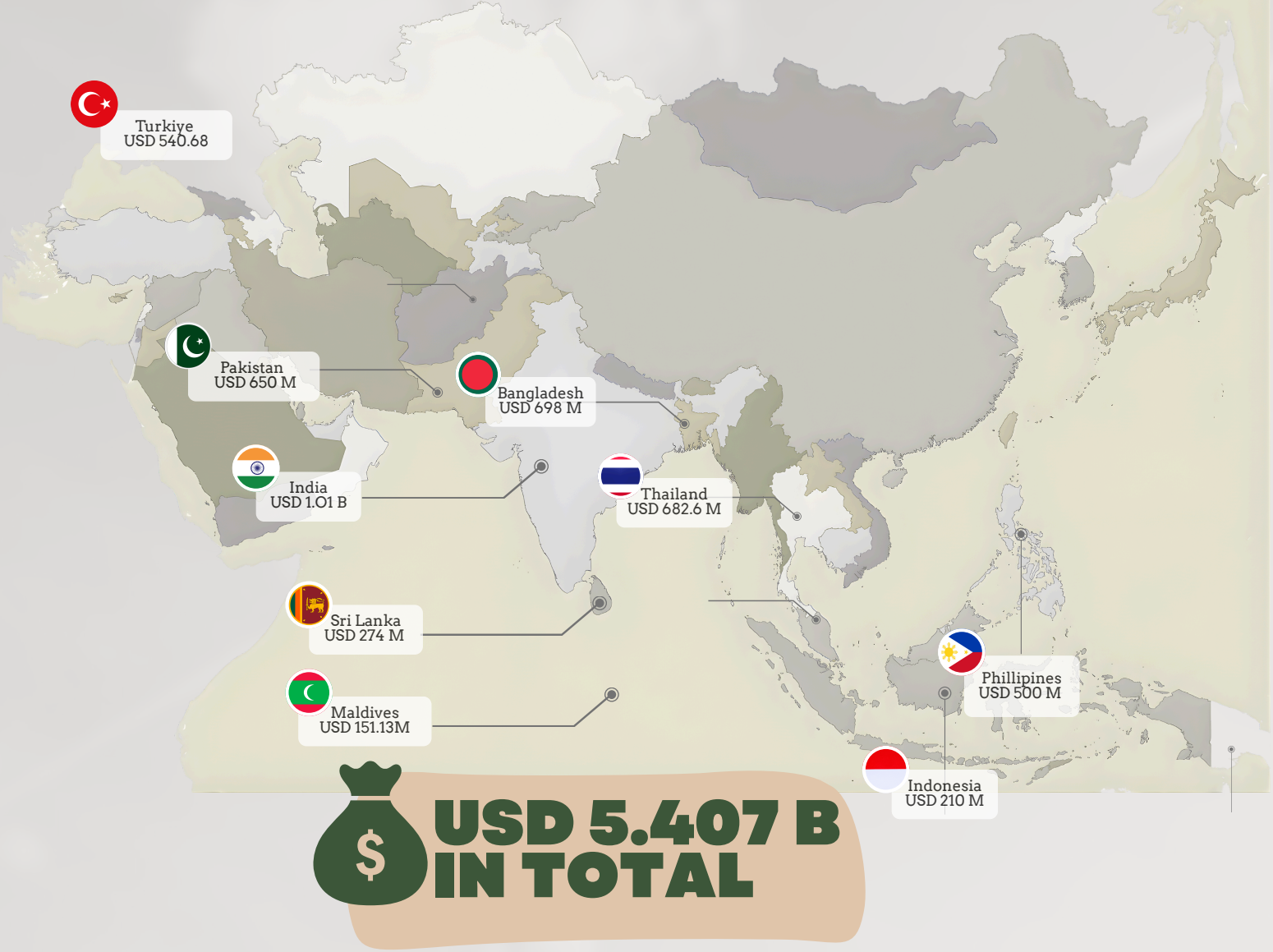


2 out of 13

include refuse-derived fuel (RDF) or processed waste burned in waste incinerators, cement kilns, or other industrial facilities (typically as pellets, bricks, and fluff)



13 TOTAL PROJECTS



USD 5.407 B IN TOTAL

HOW RISKY ARE THESE PROJECTS?

	Category A	Category B	Category C	Financial Intermediary
Environment or Social Risk	10	2	0	1

*Some project risk ratings are unknown or not publicly available

Around 77 percent of the project is in category A or having significant, sensitive, irreversible, or unprecedented adverse environmental and social impacts. Another 15 percent of the project has potential adverse environmental and social impacts that are less severe, fewer, and more localized .

In project sites were communities do not have access to information and consultation spaces which are safe and meaningful, there is a high possibility that category B projects may be underreported and may bear significant harm.

IIn Thailand, the 12 plants in the GWTE project proceeded despite the intimidation of environmental defenders. In Manila, the Smokey Mountain project left an estimated 67,000 affected community members completely out of its project assessment, leaving them vulnerable to harassment and displacement.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THESE PROJECTS?

Status	Active	Cancelled or Halted	Proposed	Completed or Closed
Number of Projects	8	2	1	2

*Some project risk ratings are unknown or not publicly available

HOW ARE FALSE SOLUTIONS FINANCED?

AIIB Financing Snapshot

- 11 Loan
- 6 Grant
- 3 Equity
- 6 Technical Assistance
- 1 Bonds

AIIB supports waste burning projects majority through 11 loans, 6 grants, 3 equity investments, 6 technical assistance initiatives, and 1 bond. Large loans and long-term power purchase agreements can commit public resources to incineration for decades, diverting money from community-led Zero Waste alternatives.

Heavily anchored by sovereign and non-sovereign loans co-financed with other international financial institutions (IFIs), these projects transform these sites into long-term sacrifice zones.

Public sector frameworks weaponize massive sovereign guaranteed loans and project based grants paired with multi-decade, state-backed Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) that legally bind cash-strapped municipalities to mandatory waste delivery quotas and guaranteed energy payments.

HOW IS JUSTICE ADDRESSED IN TRANSITION PLANS?

Gender

While 8 out of 13 projects tokenistically mention gender, the portfolio reduces women to a compliance checkbox or a reactive shield against construction-site harassment rather than driving substantive socioeconomic advancement.

While 8 out of 13 projects cynically check the "gender box," the portfolio predominantly treats women as an afterthought, weaponizing superficial gender compliance to legitimize destructive infrastructure.

Rather than fostering genuine socioeconomic advancement, Southeast Asian waste-to-energy projects reduce gender frameworks to reactive anti-harassment and gender-based violence (GBVH) policies solely designed to manage the influx of male construction laborers, leaving local women entirely stripped of measurable targets or economic opportunity.

While a handful of initiatives like India's Kerala project and Pakistan's city improvement program implement formal Gender Action Plans (GAPs) with numeric targets to fund women's waste groups or elevate them into governance, the vast majority of the portfolio across Thailand, Turkey, and Bangladesh relegates women's safety and labor to a hollow checkbox.

Waste Worker Inclusion

Only 6 of 13 projects mention or include plans to address concerns of waste workers

Informal waste workers face drastically different treatment depending on the project: they are completely omitted from safeguards in municipalities highly reliant to informal waste workers like Dhaka and Manila, they suffer severe economic and physical displacement, leading to coercive evictions, loss of livelihoods for thousands of ragpickers, and subsequent civil society protests.

Conversely, projects in India demonstrate a push toward conditional integration and formalization by conducting census surveys of ragpickers, issuing official identity cards, and creating mandates to integrate them into the formal value chain or provide healthcare screening to mitigate occupational hazards.

Involuntary Resettlement

Despite only three of the thirteen projects being classified as having involuntary resettlement issues, the bank's implementation safeguards reflect a systemic failure.

The implementation of involuntary resettlement safeguards reveals a systemic failure to protect vulnerable populations, with only a fraction of projects incorporating formal Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) or Resettlement Planning Frameworks (RPFs). While most project assessments conveniently claim zero physical or economic displacement by citing the use of government-owned or pre-acquired industrial land, numerous initiatives quietly trigger involuntary displacement risks that threaten informal waste workers, non-titled occupants, and local communities. In the Metro Manila Flooding Project, the involuntary resettlement of around 800 families in the 8-hectare project site in Smokey Mountain was completely unaccounted, leaving communiites without resettlement plans and access to remedies.

Just transition remains a clear gap across all 13 projects.

@2026 Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives-Asia Pacific
Unit 330, Eagle Court Condominium, 26 Matalino St, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100,
Metro Manila, Philippines
www. no-burn.org

@zerowasteasia