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**THE STATE
OF GLOBAL
AIR QUALITY
FUNDING
2026**



Air quality is critical for health, economies and climate

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7.9 million

premature deaths are caused by air pollution every year.

9 out of 10

deaths attributed to outdoor air pollution are in low- and middle-income countries. [\(WHO\)](#)

5%

of global GDP is lost to air pollution through health impacts, lost productivity, and reduced life expectancy. [\(WBG\)](#)

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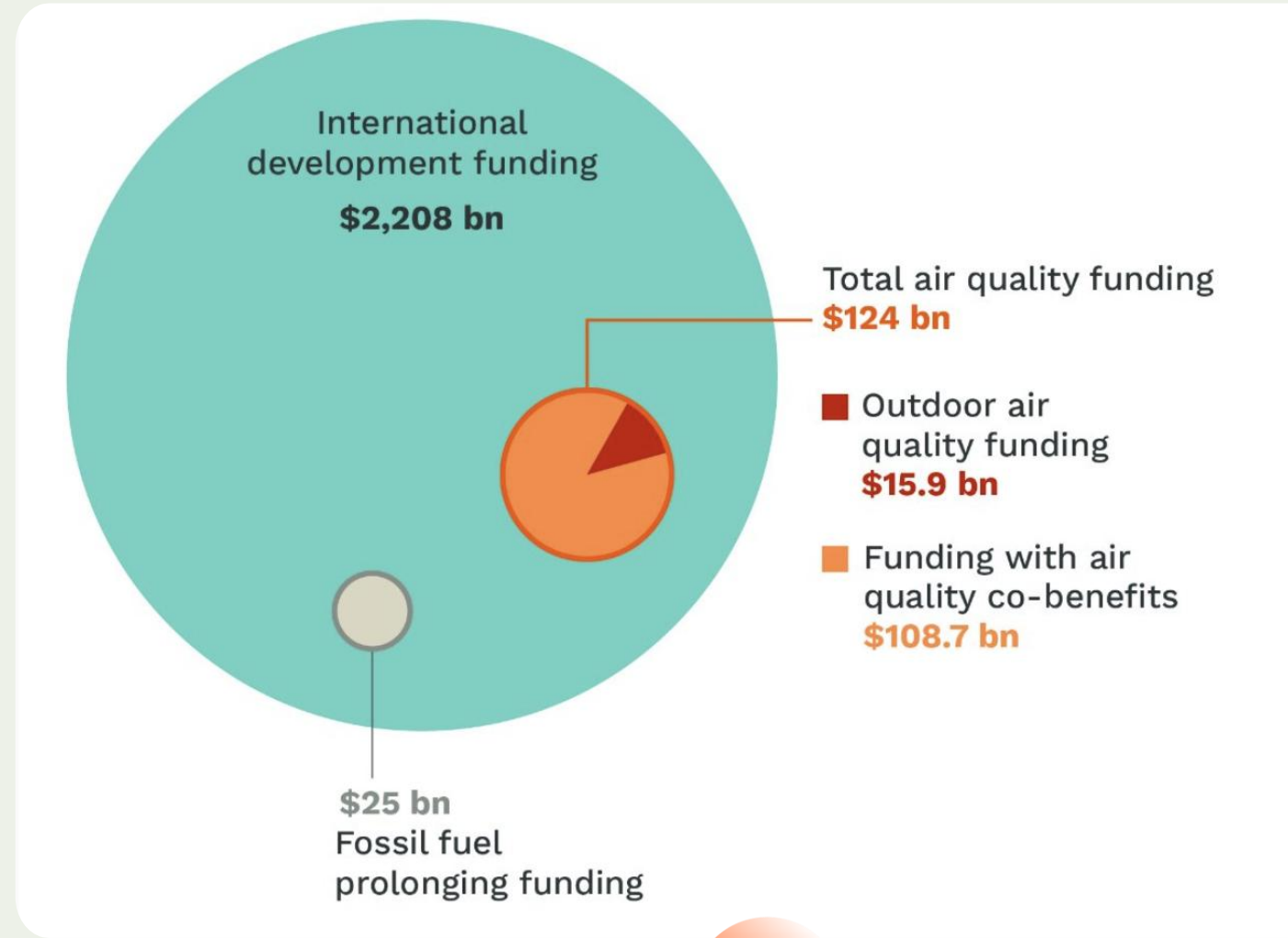
The State of Global Air Quality Funding 2026:
Published by the Clean Air Fund with data and
analysis from Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), the
only global analysis of international development
funding for tackling air pollution.

Key Definitions

- **Outdoor Air Quality Funding:** Funding committed to projects where improvements to outdoor air quality are an explicit objective and benefit.
- **Funding with Air Quality Co-Benefits:** Funding committed to projects where improvements to outdoor air quality are a co-benefit of the investment. This also includes indoor air quality projects, which indirectly improve outdoor air quality.
- **Fossil Fuel-Prolonging Funding:** Finance committed to projects involving the construction of assets and infrastructure that: (a) directly cause air pollution or (b) lead to the creation or promotion of air polluting activities.

Outdoor air quality funding rebounded in 2024, but still received less than 1% of development funding

Outdoor air quality funding increased by \$1.7 billion between 2023 and 2024, almost returning to its 2022 peak.

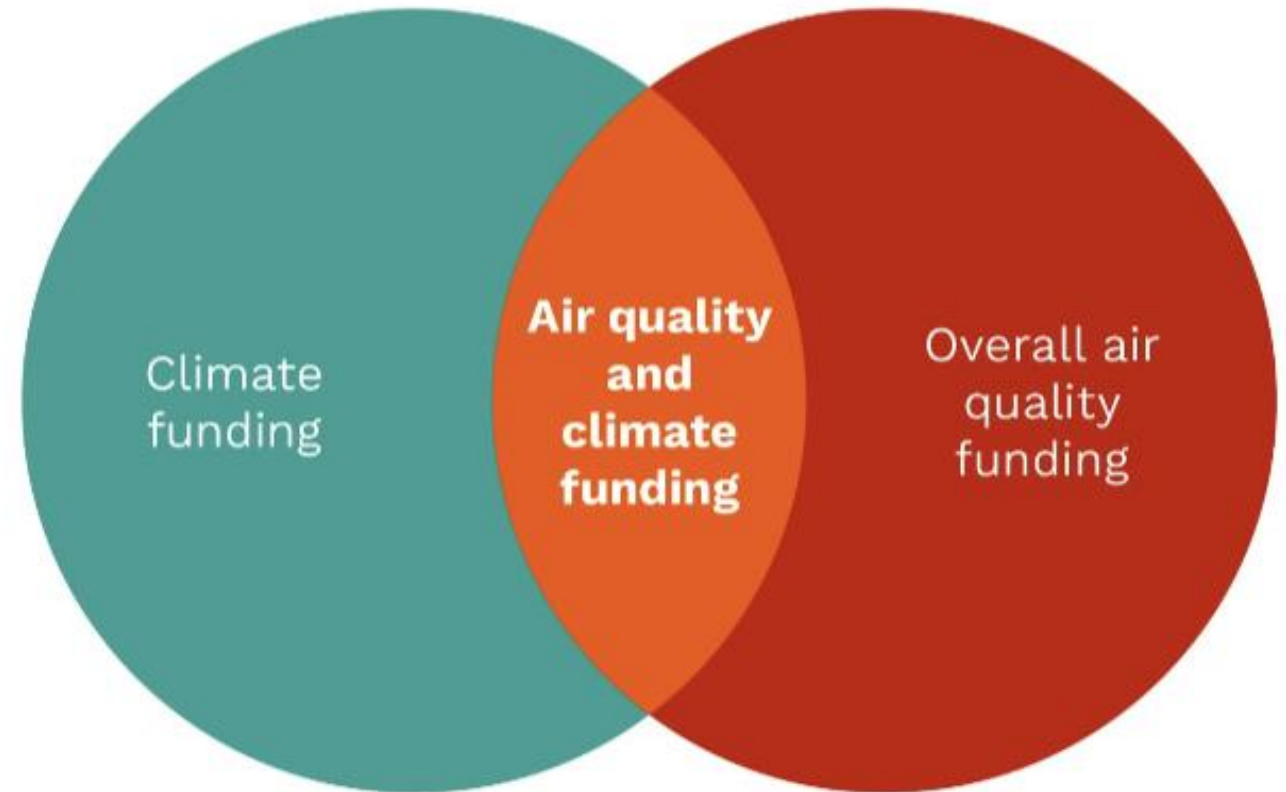


Non-climate-related air quality funding rose by around 80% in 2024

In 2024 non-climate-related air quality funding rose from \$4.4 billion in 2023 to \$7.9 billion in 2024.

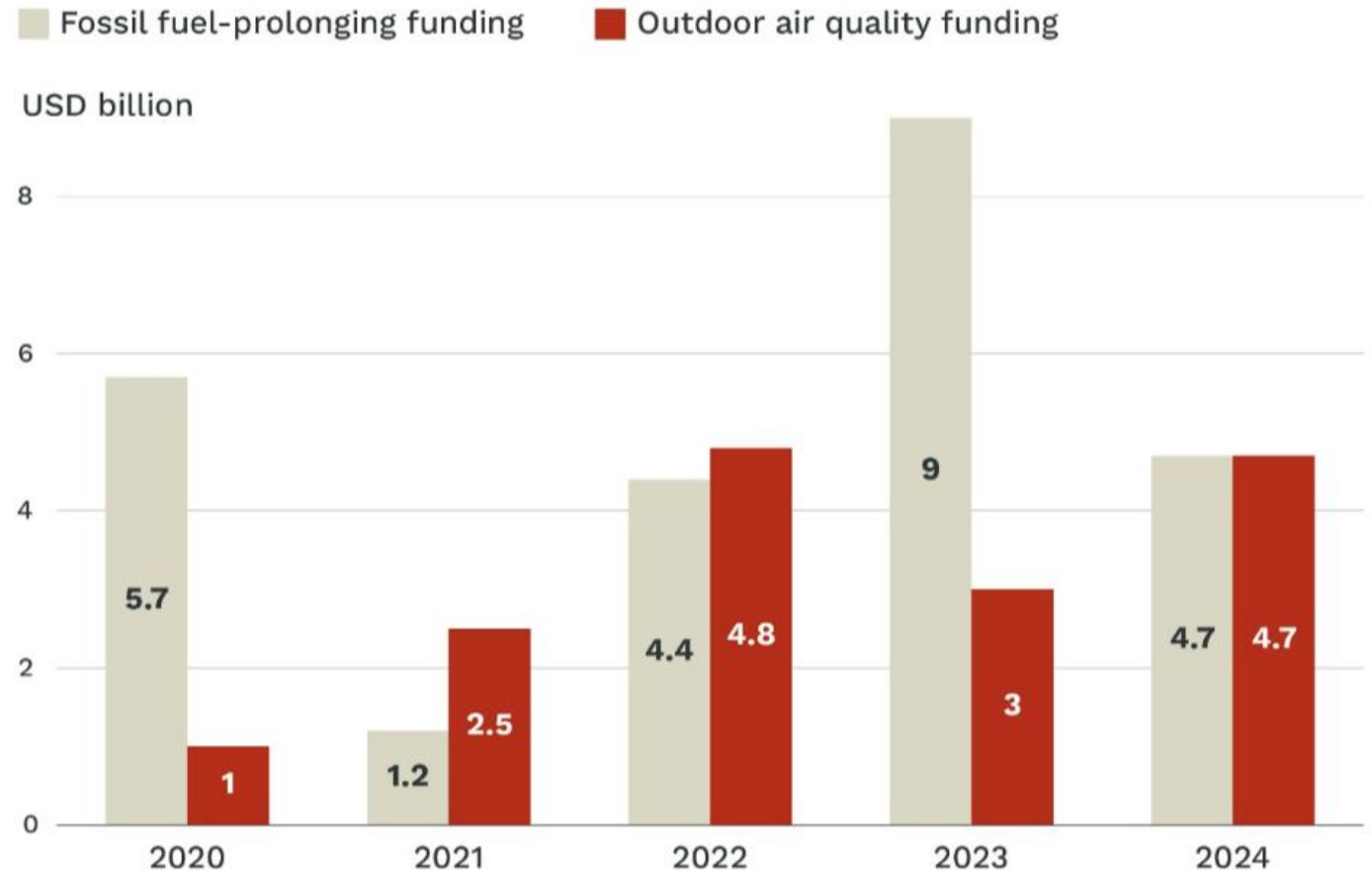
This may signal that some funders are beginning to prioritise air quality as an issue in its own right.

By contrast, total climate-related air quality funding fell from \$26.0 billion to \$20.8 billion over the same period.



Fossil fuel prolonging decreased by 48% in 2024

This decrease brought it level with outdoor air quality funding, although it is too early to determine whether this represents a longer-term structural change.



Total air quality funding decreased for the first time in five years.

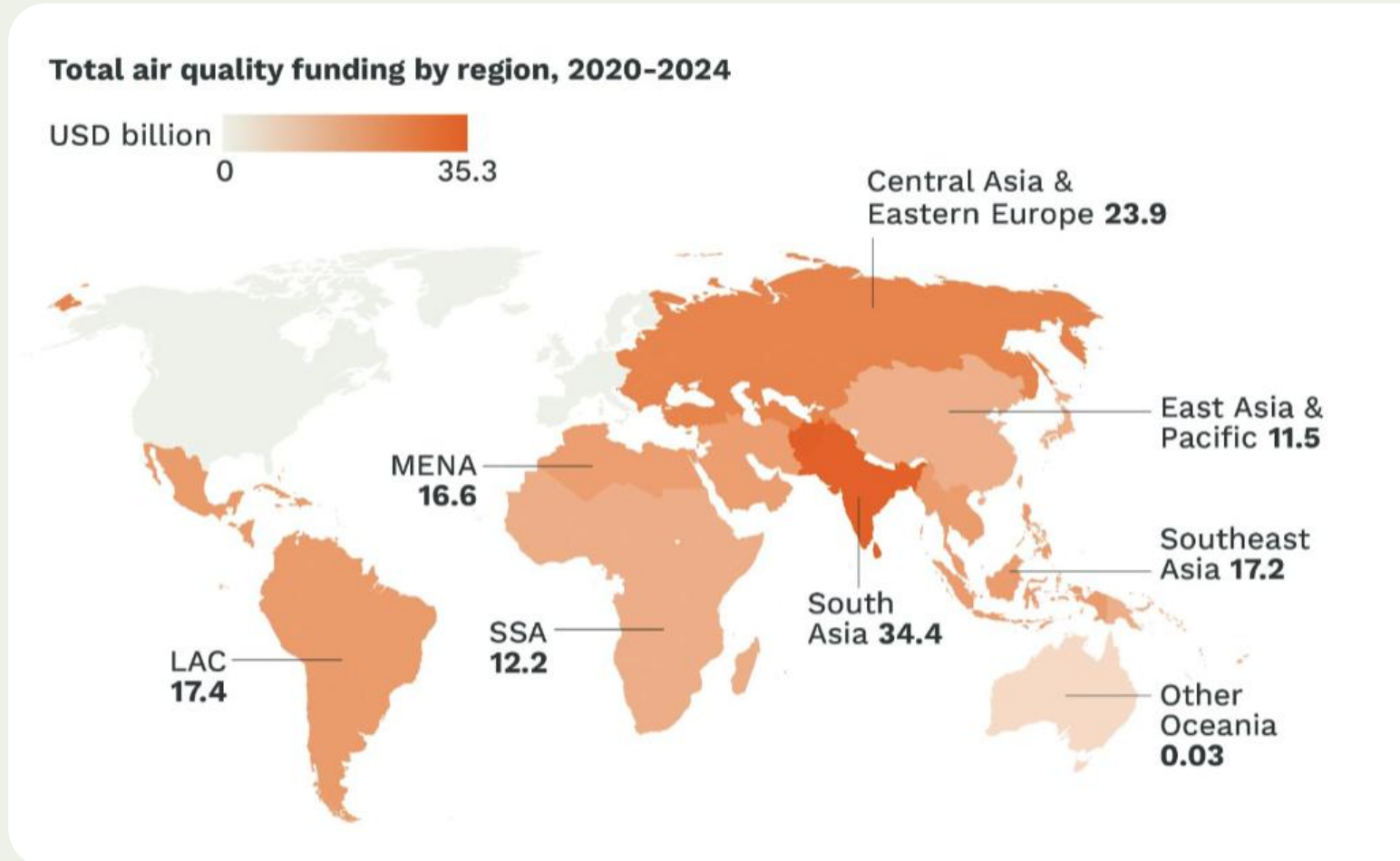
- Total air quality funding amounted to \$28.7 billion in 2024, a **fall of 6%**
- **\$124.6bn was committed over 2020 – 2024**, 9% more than over the previous five-year period.
- **13% fall in funding with air-quality co-benefits in 2024**, driving the overall fall

The data does not yet reflect the sharp contraction in official development assistance (ODA) seen in 2025.



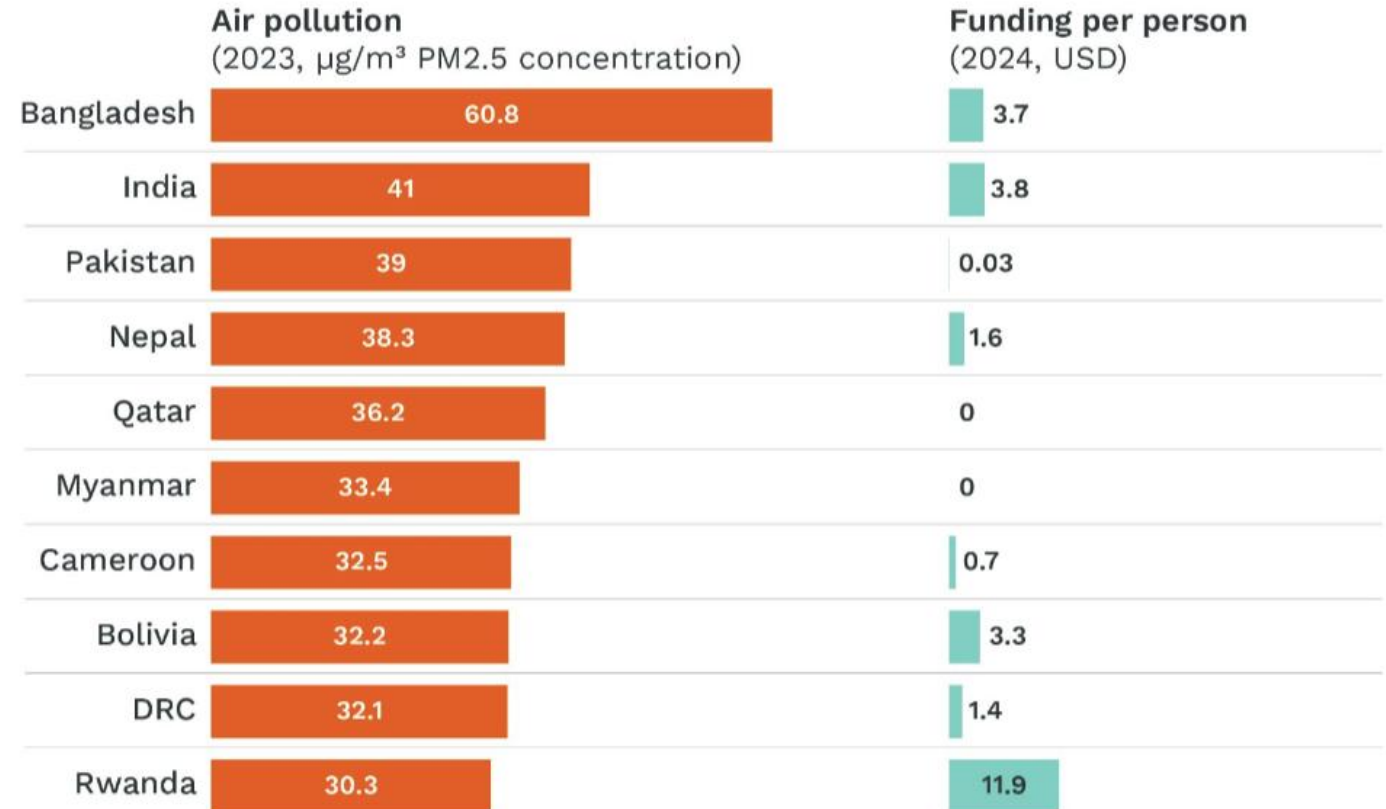
Air quality funding is becoming more geographically diverse.

- South Asia received nearly a third of total air quality funding in 2020-2024.
- Sub-Saharan Africa was the only region to see consistent year on year growth across 2020- 2024.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, regional funders played increasingly prominent roles in financing projects with air quality benefits.



Air quality funding remains misaligned with pollution exposure

In 2024, five of the world's most polluted countries received less than \$2 per person in total air quality funding.



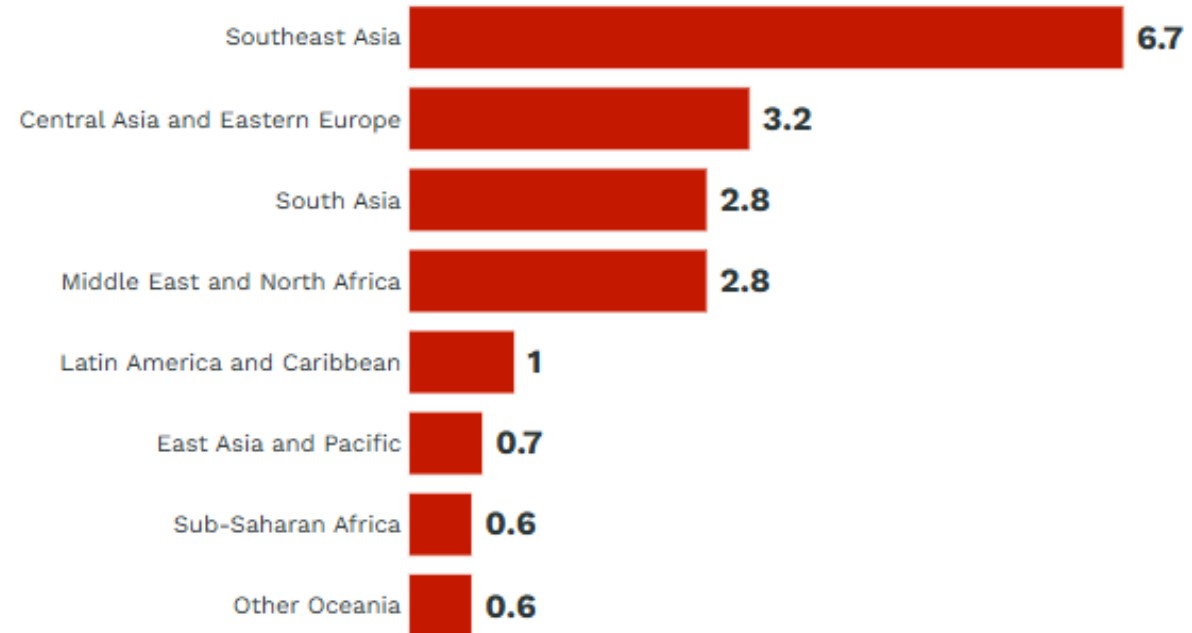
Southeast Asia has become a leading destination for outdoor air quality funding.

- Southeast Asia received more than double the amount of per capita outdoor air quality funding than the next largest region.
- More than a quarter of all outdoor air quality funding went to the region in 2020-2024, equating to \$4.4bn.
- It is the second-largest recipient of combined ADB and JICA funding.

Outdoor air quality per capita by region

2020-2024

\$ per capita



Yet, air quality funding remains heavily concentrated within regions, with loans the dominant instrument.

Five countries lead:

India, the Philippines, Egypt, Türkiye and Bangladesh received around half of total air quality funding across 2020 to 2024.

Domestic capacity matters:

Leading destinations tend to have stronger domestic capacity and market maturity to absorb large-scale investments.

Debt dominates:

Loans accounted for 89% of total air quality funding over the same period, potentially limiting access for countries with limited fiscal space.

Air quality funding should target major sources of pollution, not just where impacts are the greatest.

In Southeast Asia, flows are misaligned with sources of pollution.

Thailand's transport sector made up a large share of their national greenhouse gas emissions – the largest share in the region – but less than 1% of transport investments in Southeast Asia went to Thailand.

As air pollution can cross borders, funding should target major sources of pollution, not just where its impacts are felt most acutely.

Country	Total air quality funding 2020-2024 (\$ million)	PM _{2.5} rank 2023*	Transport GHG share rank 2024**	% of transport sector flows in Southeast Asia 2020-2024
Philippines	11,607	7	3	81%
Indonesia	2,987	6	5	12%
Viet Nam	1,044	3	7	4%
Cambodia	590	5	4	2%
Thailand	361	4	1	<1%
Lao PDR	29	2	8	<1%
Myanmar	8	1	6	<1%
Timor-Leste	2	8	2	<1%

*1 = most polluted

**1 = transport sector has the highest share of national GHG emissions

Super Pollutants remain largely overlooked by funders.

Black carbon and tropospheric ozone damage health and economies and accelerating global warming.

- Black carbon funding reached \$7.5bn in 2024.
- Only a miniscule share explicitly targeted black carbon reduction: 99.9% of this funding treated black carbon as a secondary benefit.
- In 2024 only 0.4% of total air quality funding went to tropospheric ozone abatement, all of it secondary funding.

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Recommendations

to turn air quality finance into
greater impact

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Make air quality an explicit target of project design.

Embed air quality objectives and improvement metrics into project appraisal, monitoring, and evaluation to strengthen accountability and measure impact.

Tailor financing to overcome barriers to access.

Expand concessional finance, technical assistance and blended finance to help countries with less developed financial markets and limited borrowing capacity access air quality funding.

Embed air quality into national policy frameworks and funder strategies.

Integrate air quality objectives into national frameworks and long-term financing strategies, supported by predictable, multi-year financing to sustain and scale interventions.

Expand regional financing approaches to address transboundary pollution.

Use regional, airshed and transboundary financing approaches to pool resources and risks, reduce reliance on country-level debt and direct investment towards pollution at the geographic scale at which it occurs.

Prioritise super pollutants to maximise the impact of air quality funding.

Target black carbon, tropospheric ozone and its precursors to deliver rapid air quality improvements alongside climate and health benefits, supported by local understanding of ozone formation and monitoring.

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