

Asia

Constellation: APME South Asia C1

India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan, Nepal



NEEDS

Continent: **Asia**

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Country: **India**

Cry of the Earth

- Deforestation
- soil erosion
- overgrazing
- desertification
- air pollution from industrial effluents and vehicle emissions
- water pollution from raw sewage and runoff of agricultural pesticides
- tap water is not potable throughout the country
- huge and growing population is overstraining natural resources
- preservation and quality of forests
- biodiversity loss

Cry of the Poor

- discrimination against women and girls
 - Numerous cases of rape across the country once again exposed the failures of the criminal justice system
- an inefficient power generation and distribution system
- ineffective enforcement of intellectual property rights
- decades-long civil litigation dockets
- inadequate transport and agricultural infrastructure
- limited non-agricultural employment opportunities
- inadequate availability of quality basic and higher education
- Under the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party government, pro-BJP vigilantes have committed violence against religious minorities, marginalized communities, and critics of the government
 - Mob violence by extremist Hindu groups affiliated with the ruling BJP against minority communities, especially Muslims, continued throughout the year amid rumors that they traded or killed cows for beef

Commitments

Continent: **Asia**

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Country: **Bangladesh**

Cry of the Earth

- many people are landless and forced to live on and cultivate flood-prone land
- waterborne diseases prevalent in surface water
- water pollution, especially of fishing areas, results from the use of commercial pesticides
- ground water contaminated by naturally occurring arsenic
- intermittent water shortages because of falling water tables in the northern and central parts of the country
- soil degradation and erosion
- deforestation
- destruction of wetlands
- severe overpopulation with noise pollution
- Bangladesh is low-lying and vulnerable to flooding and cyclones
- It stands to be badly affected by any rise in sea levels.

Cry of the Poor

- Bangladesh government has intensified its crackdown on civil society, media, and critics
 - Authorities have killed and disappeared members of the political opposition, while failing to protect bloggers, gay rights activists, and religious minorities from violent and often fatal attacks by militant groups
- The government's response to extremist violence has perpetuated security forces' long-standing use of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings
- Rights to freedom of speech and assembly are under sustained attack by the increasingly authoritarian government
- Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world

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Country: **Sri Lanka**

Cry of the Earth

- Deforestation
- soil erosion
- wildlife populations threatened by poaching and urbanization
- coastal degradation from mining activities and increased pollution

- coral reef destruction
- freshwater resources being polluted by industrial wastes and sewage runoff
- waste disposal
- air pollution in Colombo

Cry of the Poor

- Forced labor and sex trafficking
 - some Sri Lankan adults and children who migrate willingly to the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Afghanistan to work in the construction, garment, and domestic service sectors are subsequently subjected to forced labor or debt bondage (incurred through high recruitment fees or money advances)
 - some Sri Lankan women are forced into prostitution in Jordan, Maldives, Malaysia, Singapore, and other countries
 - within Sri Lanka, women and children are subjected to sex trafficking
 - children are also forced to beg and work in the agriculture, fireworks, and fish-drying industries
- Despite government pledges, there has been little progress in prosecuting those responsible for wartime abuses or providing justice for victims from its three-decade-long civil war, which ended in 2009
- The draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act remains in effect, facilitating torture and other abuse.
- The government has failed to establish accountability for police abuses or bring criminal laws in line with international standards
- Muslims and other religious minorities face ongoing threats and violence from ultra-nationalist groups

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Country: **Myanmar (Burma)**

Cry of the Earth

- Deforestation
- industrial pollution of air, soil, and water
- inadequate sanitation and water treatment contribute to disease; rapid depletion of the country's natural resources

Cry of the Poor

- Living standards have not improved for the majority of the people residing in rural areas
 - Burma remains one of the poorest countries in Asia – approximately 26% of the country's 51 million people live in poverty
- Forced labor and sex trafficking

- some military personnel and armed ethnic groups unlawfully conscript child soldiers or coerce adults and children into forced labor
- domestically, adults and children from ethnic areas are vulnerable to forced labor on plantations and in mines
- children may also be subject to forced prostitution, domestic service, and begging
- Since August 2017, the military has committed mass killings, sexual violence, and widespread arson against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State that amount to crimes against humanity, forcing several hundred thousand to flee to Bangladesh
- Armed conflict between the military and ethnic armed groups in northern Myanmar has intensified, causing mass displacement
- Under Aung San Suu Kyi's de facto leadership, prosecutions of journalists, activists, and critics have increased.

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Country: **Pakistan**

Cry of the Earth

- water pollution from raw sewage, industrial wastes, and agricultural runoff
- limited natural freshwater resources
- most of the population does not have access to potable water
- deforestation
- soil erosion
- desertification
- air pollution and noise pollution in urban areas

Cry of the Poor

- Enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and torture take place with impunity, while security forces exercise undue political influence over civilian authorities
 - Pakistan is one of the world's deadliest countries for journalists, with 14 media workers being killed in 2014 alone.
- Blasphemy-related violence against religious minorities, fostered in part by government persecution and discriminatory laws, is frequent
- Authorities have failed to establish adequate protection or accountability for abuses against women and girls, including “honor” killings and forced marriage
- Over 490 people have been executed since the government ended an unofficial ban on the death penalty in late 2014.

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Country: **Nepal**

Cry of the Earth

- deforestation (overuse of wood for fuel and lack of alternatives)
- forest degradation
- soil erosion
- contaminated water (with human and animal wastes, agricultural runoff, and industrial effluents)
- unmanaged solid-waste
- wildlife conservation
- vehicular emissions

Cry of the Poor

- among the least developed countries in the world, with about one-quarter of its population living below the poverty line
- The government has failed to disburse relief funds to victims of the devastating 2015 earthquakes
- Poverty and lack of access to education have led to high rates of child marriage
- Government has made little progress on accountability for abuses during the 1996-2006 civil war, which claimed more than 13,000 lives