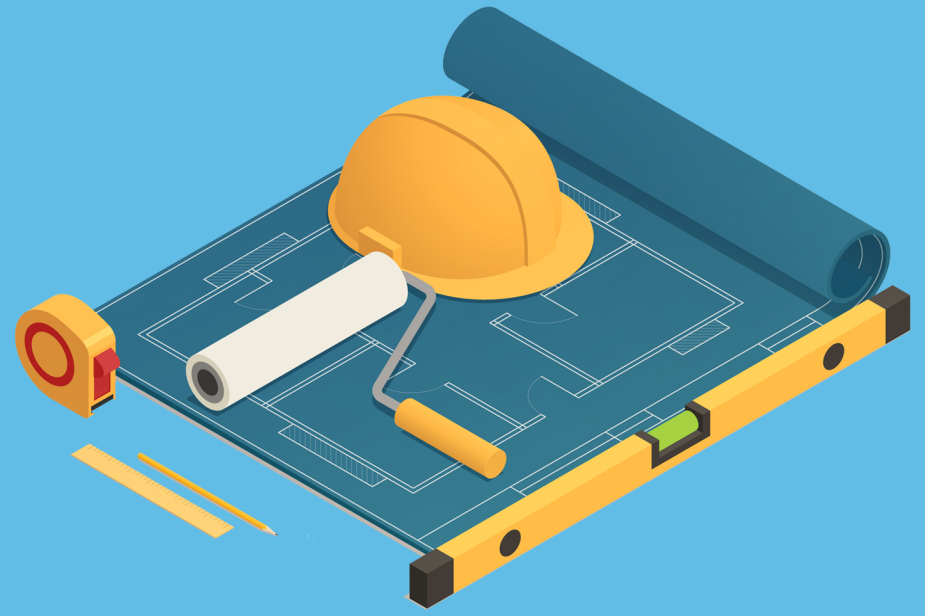


# DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

## AND THE PLASTIC POLLUTION PROBLEM

As it turns out, plastic pollution is most prominent in African and Asian developing countries. **Due to poor waste management systems, low recycling rates, and other challenges**, these countries have been overwhelmed by the huge amounts of plastics they've generated.

In addition, **many developed countries have collectively decided to ship their plastic waste to developing countries** so they don't have to deal with the problem anymore (even though developing countries lack the resources required for proper waste management). This is why **solutions to address challenges in developing countries have the most potential to reduce plastic waste in the long run.**



## QUICK FACTS

-  **Over 80% of global mismanaged plastic waste is found in developing countries in Asia.** This is the result of both poor waste management and the large amounts of plastic waste shipped to developing nations.
-  Wastepickers act as key players in waste management in developing nations - they collect recyclable plastic in return for compensation. That being said, they only collect around **20% of waste** from open dumps.
-  It is estimated that by 2050, the generation of municipal solid waste will increase by 70%, according to the World Bank. In developing countries, however, **they predict that waste generated will triple by 2050.**
-  While plastic waste is recycled by private companies or waste pickers, a large portion is informally sent back to open dumps anyways, thus escaping the waste management system. This is called **plastic leakage.**
-  **Up to 93% of waste is disposed of in open dumps in low-income countries**, which have poor environmental safety standards. This leads to chemicals and plastic leaking into surrounding land and water bodies.
-  In 2017, China implemented bans on certain plastic imports. As a result, **around 110 million tonnes of plastic will be displaced by 2030.** This means the waste will have to be dealt with domestically or shipped somewhere else.

## NEW SOLUTIONS

### HELPING WASTEPICKERS



To improve working conditions for wastepickers, companies and organizations (ex. Plastic Bank) have been partnering with wastepickers. The goal is to provide safer jobs with better monetary incentive so more plastic waste is collected.

### FEWER OPEN DUMPS



In order to prevent plastic leakage, Ocean Conservancy recommends building better enclosures around open dumps. They've also suggested for countries to situate these dumps far from waterways to reduce environmental impacts.

### RESTRICTING IMPORTS



Huge amounts of plastic waste are shipped to developing nations each year even though they're extremely unprepared. If we restrict/ban these imports, countries with better waste management facilities can deal with the plastic instead.

**DESIGNED BY THE PLASTIC SHIFT**

To learn more about plastic pollution in developing countries, visit [www.theplasticshift.com](http://www.theplasticshift.com)  
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