AIR POLLUTION
CHOKING ASIA'S PROSPECTS

Outdoor and indoor air pollution is a serious issue for the region, increasing inequalities and holding back socioeconomic development.

ADB

Asia is home to **54% of the world's urban population**, and by 2050 **more than 3.4 billion** people will live in its urban areas[1]

97% of cities in low- and middle-income countries with more than 100,000 inhabitants do not meet the air quality guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO)[2]

Asia dominated the global AirVisual most polluted city rankings for 2018 with cities in **India, the People's Republic of China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh** occupying the top 50[3]

Deaths per 100,000 population attributable to outdoor and indoor air pollution in 2016[4]

Ranking among world's most polluted countries in 2018[5]

Ranking among world's most polluted cities in 2018[6]

WHO annual PM2.5 guideline[7]

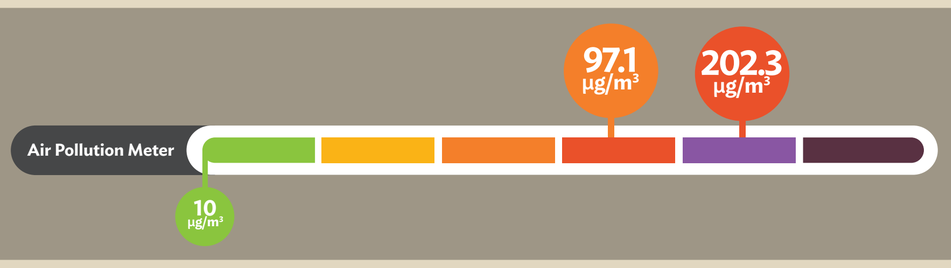
Annual average PM2.5 level

Maximum monthly average PM2.5 level

0-12.0	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk.
12.1-35.4	Sensitive individuals should avoid outdoor activity as they may experience respiratory symptoms.
35.5-55.4	General public and sensitive individuals in particular are at risk to experience irritation and respiratory problems.
55.5-150.4	There is a higher likelihood of adverse effects and aggravation to the heart and lungs among the general public.
150.5-250.4	General public will be noticeably affected. Sensitive groups should restrict outdoor activities.
250.5+	General public is at high risk to experience strong irritations and adverse health effects. Everyone should avoid outdoor activities.

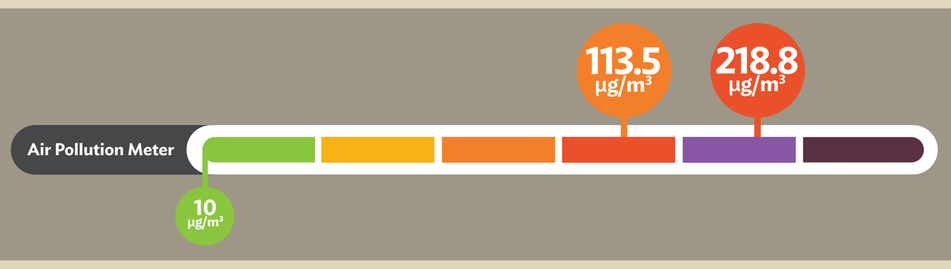
DHAKA, BANGLADESH

103 DEATHS | 1st | 17th



DELHI, INDIA

141 DEATHS | 3rd | 11th

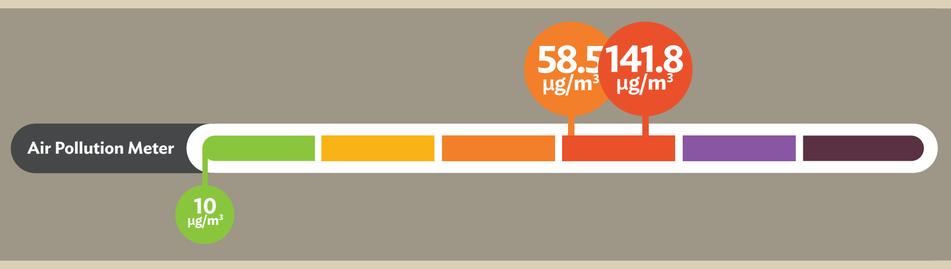


JAKARTA, INDONESIA

81 DEATHS | 11th | 160th

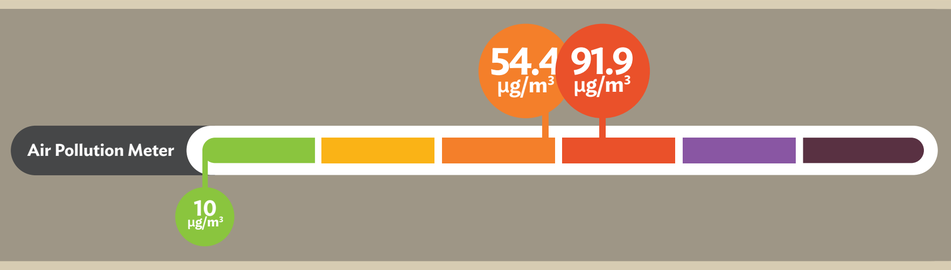
ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

97 DEATHS | 6th | 72nd



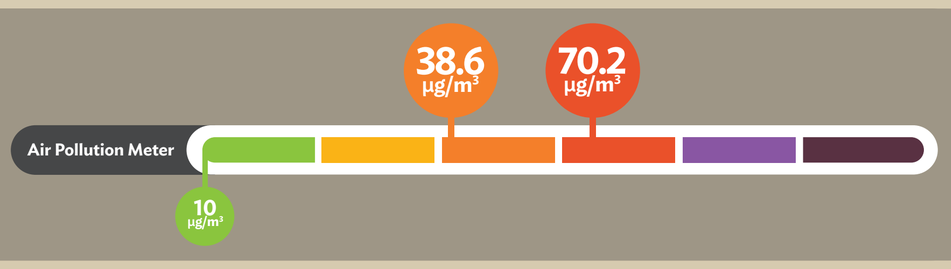
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

133 DEATHS | 8th | 100th



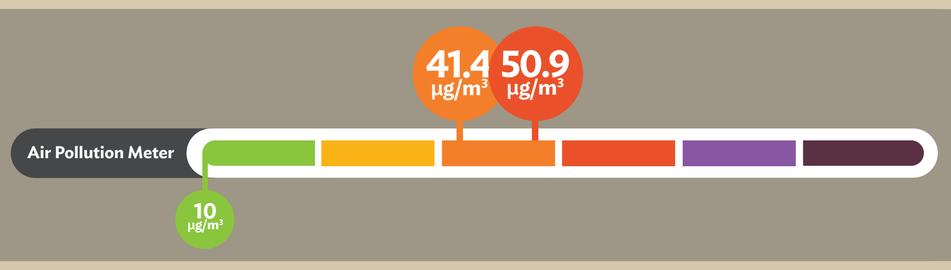
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

113 DEATHS | 2nd | 239th



BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

140 DEATHS | 12th | 122nd



PM2.5 = fine particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter, µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter

[1] *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.* 2018. 68% of the World Population Projected to Live in Urban Areas by 2050, says UN. 16 May. https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/2018-revision-of-world-urbanization-prospects.html.
[2] WHO. 2018. WHO Global Ambient Air Quality Database (update 2018). https://www.who.int/airpollution/data/cities/en/ (accessed 23 May 2019).
[3] AirVisual. 2018. World Air Quality Report, Region and City PM2.5 Ranking.
[4] WHO. Global Health Observatory Data Repository: Joint Effects of Air Pollution, Data by Country. http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.ENVHEALTHJOINTAAPHAP?lang=en (accessed 23 May 2019).
[5] Based on annual average PM2.5 levels using available city data weighted by population. AirVisual. 2018. World Most Polluted Countries 2018 (PM 2.5). https://www.airvisual.com/world-most-polluted-countries (accessed 27 May 2019).
[6] Based on annual average PM2.5 levels. AirVisual. 2018. World Most Polluted Cities 2018 (PM 2.5). https://www.airvisual.com/world-most-polluted-cities (accessed 27 May 2019).
[7] Guideline recommended by WHO to minimize the risk of health impacts, while advising that no level of exposure has been shown to be free of health impacts.