

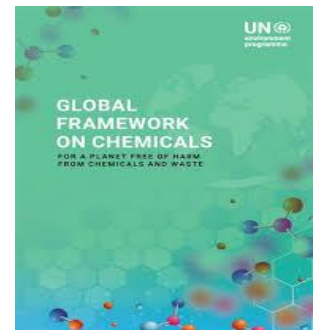
CWFPPF ROUNDTABLE MEETING

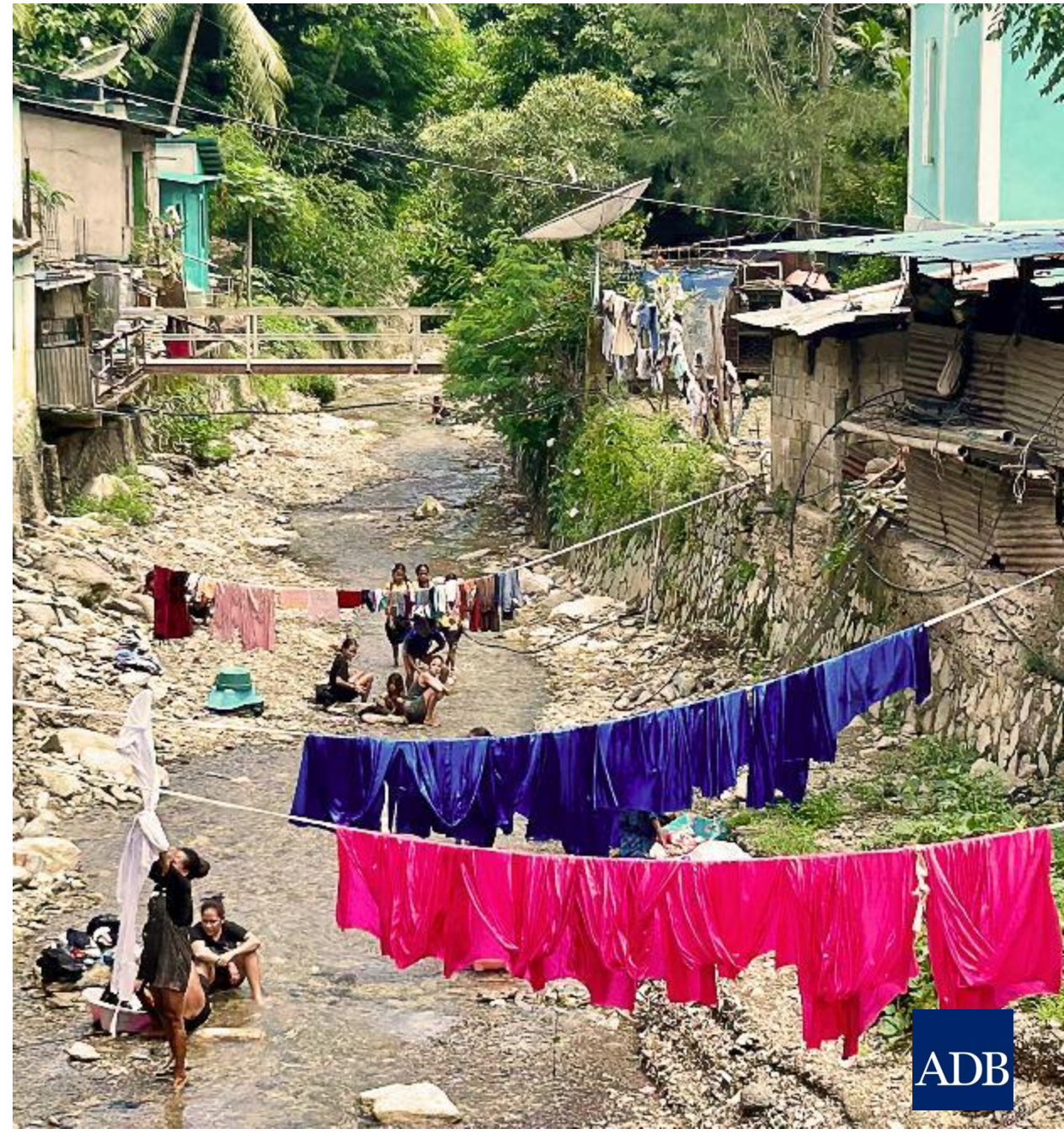
The Laundry Transformation Chemicals Waste

Tanya Huizer

Senior Water Resilience Specialist, ADB

The views expressed in this presentation are the views of the author/s and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this presentation and accepts no responsibility for any consequence of their use. The countries listed in this presentation do not imply any view on ADB's part as to sovereignty or independent status or necessarily conform to ADB's terminology.





DID YOU KNOW?

ADB

About 4 billion people worldwide wash their clothes by hand, which is nearly 50% of the planet's population.¹

Women devote up to 20% of their weekly active time to manual laundry. Each step of the laundry process demands effort, from soaking and scrubbing to drying and folding. This is equivalent to 10–15 hours per week, and is often done without proper tools, which can lead to chronic pain and skin problems.

Cleaning clothes amounts to the annual carbon dioxide emissions from 136 coal-fired power plants. This is 530 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year due to washing, drying, ironing, and dry cleaning, according to the Carbon Trust.

Over 700,000 microplastic fibers could be released per wash. This is from an average 6-kilogram load of laundry with clothes made from synthetic materials like polyester. These microplastic fibers end up in the environment, affecting both biodiversity, food, and human health.

The first electric washing machine came out in 1908. Called Thor, it was invented by Alva J. Fisher using a drum-type washer with a steel tub powered by an electric motor. It was seen as a game changer, ready to revolutionize hand-powered tubs and actual handwashing to reduce time and effort spent for manual laundry—except, even a century after, many still wash by hand today.

- 
1. **Microfiber, detergents pollution** from laundry practices and textiles in water systems ?
 2. **Circular economy** for textile waste, laundry solutions ?
 3. **Health impacts** of polluted water by laundry practices ?

¹ Stellar Market Research. 2024. *Laundry Detergent Market: Global Market Outlook and Forecast (2025–2032) Trends, Statistics, Dynamics, Segmentation by Product, Application, Distribution Channel, and Region.*



The Laundry Transformation

May 2025: ADB Water & Urban Forum



Aug 2025: Stockholm World Water Week 2025

Thank you!

