



BANK
INFORMATION
CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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Dear Friends and Supporters,



As we reflect on 2024, we at the Bank Information Center (BIC) remain focused on addressing the pressing need for environmentally sustainable, inclusive, and accountable

policies within Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). This year, we launched a new [strategy](#) that envisions a world in which development benefits both people and the planet and lays out a theory of change by which this vision can be realized. The new strategy focuses BIC's work on areas in which we have the greatest added value, including around accountability, transparency, climate, and social inclusion.

Development projects should work for everyone. Yet, in reality, marginalized groups and disadvantaged communities often experience the brunt of the negative impacts of development projects and are excluded from their benefits. In 2024, we prioritized partnerships with grassroots organizations and communities in borrowing countries to monitor MDB-financed projects. Together, we identified gaps in implementation of MDB projects and advocated for the institutions to uphold and strengthen social and environmental standards in projects.

BIC's monitoring efforts, conducted in collaboration with local partners, focused on assessing the social and environmental impacts of MDB-funded projects. This work not only highlighted areas for improvement but also empowered communities with the resources and information needed to advocate for their rights. Such efforts have proven crucial in making development initiatives more inclusive and effective.

A significant focus this year was strengthening mechanisms for accountability and transparency in MDB operations. By organizing workshops, facilitating dialogues, and engaging directly with MDB decision-makers, we helped amplify critical local perspectives. These efforts informed discussions on improving policies that prioritize community engagement and environmental safeguards.

With the world facing climate change, biodiversity loss, and growing inequality, MDBs are uniquely positioned to play a transformative role. This year, we concentrated on urging MDBs to adopt stronger climate policies and align their financing with global sustainability targets. While there is a need for increased levels of climate finance, it is equally critical that climate finance through the MDBs be of high quality. Advocating for transparency in climate finance remains a cornerstone of our work, as it is critical for evaluating the effectiveness and equity of these investments.

We acknowledge that none of this work would be possible without our partners and supporters. Collaboration lies at the heart of our mission. As we move into 2025, we are committed to building on these partnerships to push the MDBs ever closer to a development model that prioritizes equity, sustainability, and accountability.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we will keep working toward a more just and sustainable world.

Sincerely,

ELANA BERGER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REGIONAL WORK AND CAMPAIGNS - LAC

This map displays countries where BIC has been monitoring projects in the Latin America region over the past year.



ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

BIC started the year by pushing for more transparency from the IDB. After many years of requesting that the IDB open space for civil society at the IDB Annual Meeting, the IDB finally created such a space at the 2024 Annual Meeting in the Dominican Republic. BIC and partners in the IDB Working Group participated in the meetings and had an opportunity to engage with high-level officials, including a meeting with the IDB President to discuss systemic issues that the IDB needs to prioritize to become a more accountable and effective institution. Some of the issues raised by civil society were mentioned as priorities in Goldfajn's inaugural address, including that the IDB promote greater and more effective dialogue with civil society.

In addition, BIC and the members of the IDB Working Group developed a joint submission with [recommendations](#) to the IDB on how to strengthen the Access to Information Policy and the new [IDB Institutional Strategy](#). The final Policy and Strategy included many of these recommendations. BIC has spent several years pushing the IDB to open its Amazon Forever Program to Amazon peoples, including Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and Traditional Communities (IP/AD/TC). One of the recommendations made by BIC and allied organizations was to make at least 23% of funds directly available to Indigenous Peoples to enable them to implement forest conservation initiatives. The Bank agreed to increase the percentage to 25% and include other marginalized forest communities. Many Indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations are now presenting proposals to receive direct funding from the IDB Amazon Forever Program

ENVIRONMENT

BIC's environment program focused much of its work on the World Bank and IDB's private sector lending, especially areas affecting forest and land use. BIC played a central role in the Stop Financing Factory Farming campaign, which brought significant attention to the impacts and risks of MDBs' financing of industrial animal agriculture. This has resulted in reduced lending to this sector by IDB Invest and additional application of performance standards by IFC. BIC also led in creating a joint CSO-IFC working group focused on IFC's agribusiness strategy, which will maintain pressure to shift IFC's portfolio in the sector to more regenerative and agroecological alternatives.

At the same time, BIC's advocacy led to the World Bank significantly increasing its public sector forests and landscapes lending to conserve forests and other sensitive ecosystems. This shift has been institutionalized with the Bank's creation of the Global Challenge Program: Forests for Development, Climate, and Biodiversity.

Through our project monitoring, BIC helped communities negatively impacted by the World Bank Group and IDB Group file petitions for inclusion in project activities and bring official complaints to get redress for harms. Examples include the petition filed by the Batwa, Indigenous forest peoples in Uganda, seeking to work in some of the protected areas supported by a World Bank project, and the complaints filed by residents of Eleme, Nigeria, with the accountability mechanisms of IFC and DFC over environmental degradation suffered from the operations of the Indorama chemical fertilizer plant. In Guatemala, BIC's partners secured an agreement from IDB Invest client CMI Alimentos to address environmental damages and provide local infrastructure investments.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CAMPAIGN WINS



Fossil fuel Ban

ADB officially prohibits coal, oil and gas investments in new projects



Measuring climate impact

The World Bank's corporate scorecard now tracks GHG emissions & renewable energy



Win for Indigenous People

A quarter of IDB's Amazon Forever initiative funds will be administered by Indigenous communities

**STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT AND
TRANSPARENCY WINS**



**Expanding
Stakeholder
Engagement**

The World Bank committed to revisiting its Development Policy Finance (DPF) policy to improve stakeholder engagement.



**Transparency
commitment:**

World Bank will now disclose the methodology behind its Corporate Scorecard indicators.

CLIMATE

BIC's climate program made significant progress on policy and process to improve MDB impacts on the climate, especially at the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The World Bank's new [corporate scorecard](#) will now include access to the methodologies behind all of its indicators, as BIC advocated for. Climate indicators in the scorecard include net GHGs, renewable energy, and climate resilience. The new scorecard also includes, for the first time, an indicator measuring the impact on accessibility and sustainability of its transportation investments (in particular SDG 9.1 and 11.2). The Bank has committed to publish project-level data behind each aggregate indicator, and the WBG methodology will include reporting on baselines, which was also not done in previous renditions of the scorecard, including for GHGs with each project. The Bank has acknowledged significant gaps in climate accounting, such as regarding the impact of Development Policy Finance, and it has subsequently published additional information and committed time for continuing discussion.

Additionally, we promoted better MDB climate finance, including through engagement on the World Bank's [climate adaptation portfolio](#) and [Paris alignment](#). We also conducted reviews of five of the World Bank's Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs), bringing attention to the potential benefits of natural climate solutions, especially in the cases of [Brazil](#) and [Peru](#).

With respect to the ADB, its new Environmental and Social Framework has integrated stronger and more explicit requirements regarding climate risk, including a stand-alone safeguard on climate that could be a precedent for other MDB safeguards. The ADB expanded its Prohibited Investment Activities List to include new coal-fired power generation and coal-fired heating plants; coal mining, processing, storage, or transportation; upstream or midstream oil projects; and natural gas exploration or drilling. This again reflects our advocacy, coordinated with partners, and is a major step forward for curbing fossil fuel finance by the ADB and its partners and clients.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, BIC supported civil society organizations with resources and training on using entry points to engage with MDBs through their requirements on consultation, inclusion, and transparency. This work included co-organizing a regional civil society workshop and strategy session on the AfDB in Nairobi, Kenya, and training CSOs on MDB engagement in Ukraine, Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, and elsewhere.

With CSOs in The Gambia, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Philippines, we reviewed how the World Bank engages with stakeholders in policy reform projects supported through its Development Project Finance (DPF) instrument. The Bank committed to revisit its DPF policy to strengthen the requirements and guidance for stakeholder engagement.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

BIC advocated for stronger MDB policies on stakeholder engagement, transparency, and accountability. At IFC, we provided input to the Responsible Exit Principles and Remedial Action Framework, which will be the first policies of their kind among MDBs once approved. At the World Bank, we engaged in the external review of the Accountability Mechanism, successfully pushing for a structure change that preserves the Inspection Panel and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Dispute Resolution Service.

BIC accompanied civil society groups in raising their complaints about harm resulting from MDBs' failures to follow policies at the institutions' IAMs in a number of cases. This year, we have supported groups in accountability processes in Bolivia, Ecuador, Nigeria, Togo, and Guatemala with technical advice and advocacy with the institutions and other influential actors.

CHILD RIGHTS

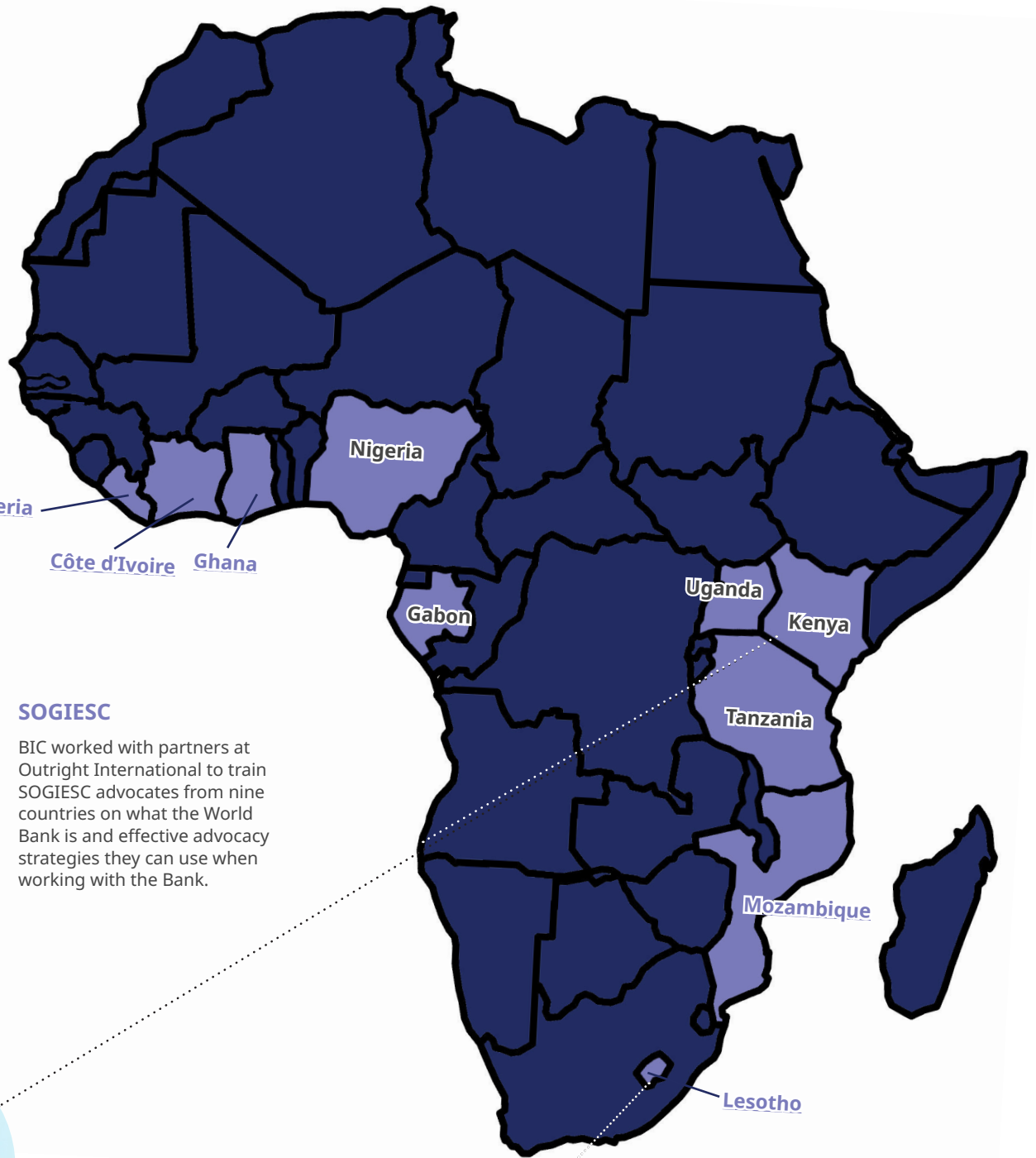
BIC's Child Rights Campaign achieved significant milestones in advancing measures to prevent and respond to child sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment (SEA/H) prevention in IFI projects. Our advocacy and monitoring efforts led to the inclusion or commitment to incorporate child SEA/H prevention and response measures in World Bank projects in [Nepal](#), [Mozambique](#), and [Colombia](#). Additionally, we are seeing advancements in what the World Bank's high-risk projects include in their risk assessments, with at least four high-risk projects explicitly referencing child-specific SEA/H risks. Moreover, in countries where we have worked—such as Bolivia, Nepal, and Mozambique—the Bank is adopting a portfolio approach, incorporating lessons learned from our advocacy into new projects approved in 2024 or currently in the pipeline. We empowered communities in [Kenya](#) and [Liberia](#) with connections and technical knowledge to engage the AfDB on child SEA/H, and our efforts in Liberia prompted the European Investment Bank (EIB), a project co-financer, to commit to investigating GBV/SEA issues. BIC also developed a [checklist and FAQ](#) on child SEA/H for Executive Directors to use when considering projects for approval and strengthening child SEA/H prevention and response.

DISABILITY

This year, the Asian Development Bank released its new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), which now explicitly addresses disability, reflecting input from BIC during consultations and advocacy meetings with the ADB's safeguards team. In February, BIC participated in a Disability-Inclusive Climate Finance Workshop organized by the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), developing connections and relationships. Building on these relationships, BIC organized a panel on Investing in Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure at the World Bank Annual Meetings, which included World Bank staff from the Global Facility for Disaster Reconstruction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the CIF. Following the panel, BIC connected with a Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist to explore a project design analysis that is being piloted in the Pacific. Additionally, Bank staff requested our partners' presentations to disseminate within their team. Along with the Lesotho National Federation of Organizations of the Disabled, BIC successfully advocated for a specific target for the percentage of beneficiaries receiving economic inclusion interventions, including grants, be persons with disabilities, a target that did not exist previously.

REGIONAL WORK AND CAMPAIGNS - AFRICA

BIC monitored a range of projects in Africa, from roads projects in Liberia and Mozambique to child protection projects in Tanzania.



SOGIESC

BIC worked with partners at Outright International to train SOGIESC advocates from nine countries on what the World Bank is and effective advocacy strategies they can use when working with the Bank.



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)

BIC and members of the AfDB CSO working group organized a two-day workshop during the AfDB annual meetings in Nairobi, which was attended by over 40 CSOs and officials from AfDB.



DISABILITY

In Lesotho, BIC's work led to persons with disabilities being named a specific target of the Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods Project.

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AFDB)

BIC made strong progress this year in its work with the AfDB CSO working group, forming a strong coalition to lobby for changes in the AfDB. In May, BIC and members of the working group organized a two-day workshop during the AfDB annual meetings in Nairobi, which was attended by over 40 CSOs and officials from AfDB. Discussions revolved around the need to bring back CSO space at the annual meetings, challenges and opportunities with the updated ISS rollout, the role of the IRM in advancing remedy, shrinking civic space, and more. BIC also joined with the working group to engage with AfDB on their CSO engagement action plan and submitted [recommendations](#). The final plan, [launched](#) in October 2024, included several CSO recommendations. BIC and the working group sent a [letter](#) to the AfDB EDs on the recruitment of the new IRM director. Following this advocacy, CSOs were granted two seats on the interview panel. BIC supported in publishing the first AfDB CSO working group [newsletter](#) aimed at advocacy with the AfDB.

With our partner LSD, BIC met with the IRM team and AfDB EDs in Abidjan to discuss the challenges CSOs face in engaging with the AfDB, child SEAH cases in AfDB projects, and OHS issues in AfDB projects. Following this advocacy, the head of CODE will convene an ED-CSO meeting in 2025 to foster ED-CSO engagement. Furthermore, during the AfDB mission in Mombasa, the team met with CSOs monitoring the East Africa Coastal Road project, which opened engagement doors between CSOs and the consultant implementing the GBV action plan.

SOGIESC (SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, GENDER EXPRESSION, AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS)

BIC's work on SOGIESC maintained a focus on gaining more inclusion of marginalized groups in MDB projects. We organized a CSPF session on [prioritizing marginalized groups](#) in social protection projects. Panelists talked about the need for social protection projects to be more inclusive of LGBTQI+ people and persons with disabilities and a need for child protection elements to be incorporated into project design. Furthermore, they recommended that the Bank should draft a technical note on LGBTQI+ inclusion in its social protection projects. BIC also worked with partners at Outright International to train SOGIESC advocates from nine countries on what the World Bank is and effective advocacy strategies they can use when working with the Bank.

AFDB CAMPAIGN ACHIEVEMENTS



40+ CSOs Engaged

40+ CSOs and AfDB officials attended a two-day workshop during the AfDB annual meetings in Nairobi.



Annual Meetings win

AfDB commits to re-opening space for civil society at Annual Meetings



IFI WORKING GROUP

BIC continued to lead the International Financial Institutions (IFI) Working Group as one of the founding members and co-chairs. Much of the IFI Working Group's activities over the last year focused on the [International Development Association's 21st replenishment](#) (IDA21) and the role of Congress, the Biden Administration, and the World Bank in negotiating an ambitious financing and policy package, culminating in a historic \$4 billion IDA21 pledge from the U.S. In 2024, the IFI Working Group's respected reputation among policymakers and IFI management was demonstrated by multiple meeting requests from U.S. Government and IFI officials. For instance, the Treasury Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Development Finance and Policy requested five meetings with the IFI Working Group throughout 2024 to discuss U.S. priorities for IDA21. In these meetings and other outreach opportunities with the World Bank and Congress, BIC remained one of the group's strongest reform-oriented voices, emphasizing the need for the U.S. to push for an IDA21 policy package that provides additional value to recipient countries and does not simply duplicate the Corporate Scorecard. While we have yet to see the finalized IDA21 policy package, BIC and the IFI Working Group's engagement with DAS Kuhlow pushed the U.S. to champion the importance of quality IDA financing that includes marginalized groups in project benefits.

The Secretariat, consisting of BIC, Bread for the World, and a government affairs consultant, organized congressional outreach opportunities for IFI Working Group members, including more than 50 meetings with Members of Congress. Through these meetings, the IFI Working Group continued to develop congressional IFI champions, building a strong foundation ahead of the next Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress. Over the last year, BIC and the Secretariat supported the Caucus in planning two in-person briefings on Capitol Hill for congressional staff on IDA21 and how the IFIs address global food insecurity, contributing to increased knowledge and support for the IFIs on the Hill.



DFC

BIC focused its advocacy toward DFC this year around the implementation of its revised Environmental and Social Policies and Procedures (ESPP), released in April 2024, and the development of procedures for its Independent Accountability Mechanism (IAM), approved in December 2024. Notably, in November 2024, BIC partnered with Accountability Counsel in outreach with DFC Agency Board leads and successfully blocked two problematic management-led proposals to the IAM procedures, which would have infringed upon the IAM's independence. BIC also supported communities and CSOs in Nigeria in filing a complaint with the DFC IAM and IFC's accountability mechanism, the CAO, on Indorama Eleme III, a fertilizer project in Port Harcourt, co-financed by DFC and IFC. As a co-financed project with IFC, outcomes from both accountability processes support BIC's overarching advocacy priority around the need for consistent and high standards across the MDBs and DFC.

CHILD RIGHTS CAMPAIGN ACHIEVEMENTS



New Policy Tool

BIC developed a child SEA/H Checklists & FAQ for projects approvals

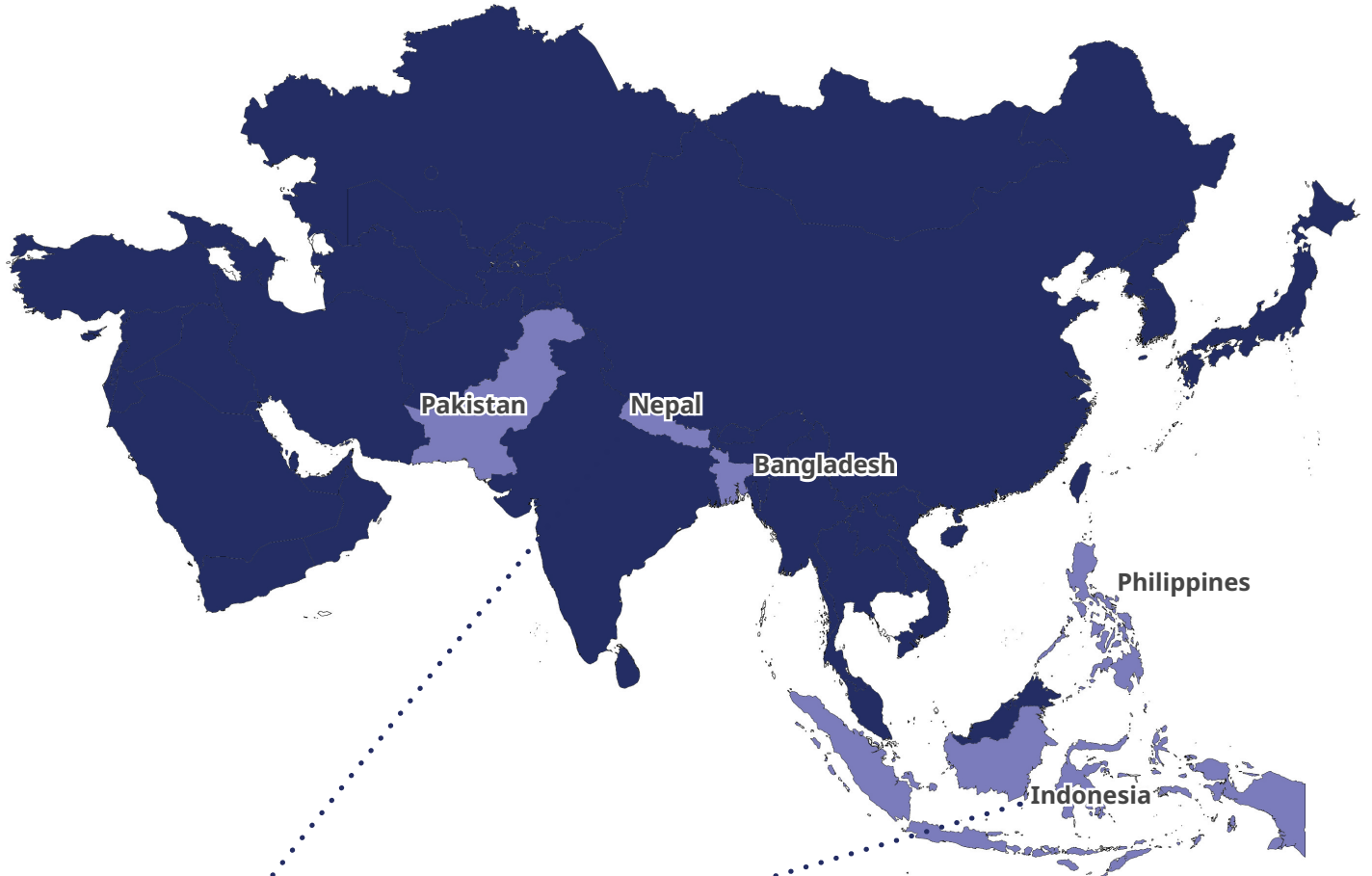


Protecting vulnerable children

4+ high-risk World Bank projects now include child SEA/H protections

REGIONAL WORK AND CAMPAIGNS - ASIA

In the Asian region, BIC supported CSOs in the Philippines and Pakistan in their push to phase out fossil fuels in World Bank projects. We also engaged in monitoring work on a disaster recovery project in Indonesia and a roads project in Nepal.



ASIA

BIC also worked on a roads project in [Nepal](#) and a disaster recovery project in [Indonesia](#).



CLIMATE

BIC's advocacy led to stronger and more explicit requirements regarding climate risk in the ADB's Environmental and Social Framework.

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