The impacts of COVID-19 on the plastic recycling value chain in South and Southeast Asia

Immediate interventions from investors, brand owners, nonprofits and governments are needed to prevent lasting damage to the plastic recycling value chain.

More than 80% of the recycling value chain



was not operating at the height of the pandemic

in Vietnam, India and The Philippines, resulting in an increase of plastic entering landfills and, likely the environment.

more than

40% of actors in the recycling value chain are at risk

of permanent closure or bankruptcy.

There has been a



50% drop in demand for recycled plastics

and a 21% drop in sales prices experienced by recyclers.



As well as a 65% reduction in plastic volumes collected

and sorted by the informal sector

affecting the most vulnerable workers in the value chain.



