Over the course of the year, humanitarian needs and human vulnerabilities have grown across countries in Asia and the Pacific due to the health and economic shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. The region was also battered by particularly harsh period of monsoon rains, tropical cyclones, floods, and landslides, resulting in a doubly difficult year for the world’s most densely populated and disaster-prone region. In the context of COVID-19, humanitarian agencies are overcoming increasingly complex challenges to reach the most vulnerable people affected by the mutually compounding socio-economic and humanitarian consequences of the pandemic, climatic disasters, and ongoing conflicts.

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

**COVID MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE PLANS (MSRP) IN THE GHRP**

7 countries included in the $10 billion Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for COVID-19

- **Afghanistan**
  - Plan Line: $1.2B
  - Funding Required: $1.2B
  - $581M Received
  - 46% Funded
  - People Targeted: 11.1M

- **Bangladesh**
  - Plan Line: $1.1B
  - Funding Required: $1.1B
  - 45% Funded
  - People Targeted: 13.4M

- **Philippines**
  - Plan Line: $1.1B
  - Funding Required: $1.1B
  - 45% Funded
  - People Targeted: 10.2M

**COVID MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE PLANS NOT IN THE GHRP**

19 countries with COVID response plans, not included in the GHRP

- **Indonesia**
  - Plan Line: $466M
  - Funding Required: $466M
  - 43% Funded
  - People Targeted: 10.9M

- **Malaysia**
  - Plan Line: $137M
  - Funding Required: $137M
  - 45% Funded
  - People Targeted: 1.7M

- **Nepal**
  - Plan Line: $358M
  - Funding Required: $358M
  - 43% Funded
  - People Targeted: 1.0M

- **Pacific (15 countries)**
  - Plan Line: $205M
  - Funding Required: $205M
  - 38% Funded
  - People Targeted: 2.3M

**HUMANITARIAN AND REGIONAL RESPONSE PLANS (HRP/HRP)**

19 countries with 2020 HRP plans, not included in the GHRP

- **Afghanistan**
  - Plan Line: $1.9B
  - Funding Required: $1.9B
  - 30% Funded
  - People Targeted: 11.1M

- **Bangladesh**
  - Plan Line: $1.0B
  - Funding Required: $1.0B
  - 30% Funded
  - People Targeted: 10.2M

- **Philippines**
  - Plan Line: $586M
  - Funding Required: $586M
  - 77% Funded
  - People Targeted: 3.7M

**COORDINATED RESPONSE PLANS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS**

9 responses were launched in response to natural disasters (Plans or CERF)

- **Cambodia**
  - Funding Required: $174M
  - 12% Funded
  - People Targeted: 0.3M

- **Lao PDR**
  - Funding Required: $170M
  - 12% Funded
  - People Targeted: 0.3M

- **Pakistan**
  - Funding Required: $504M
  - 11% Funded
  - People Targeted: 0.6M

- **Philippines**
  - Funding Required: $504M
  - 10% Funded
  - People Targeted: 0.6M

- **Samo**
  - Funding Required: $504M
  - 12% Funded
  - People Targeted: 0.3M

- **Vanuatu**
  - Funding Required: $504M
  - 12% Funded
  - People Targeted: 0.3M

- **Viet Nam**
  - Funding Required: $504M
  - 12% Funded
  - People Targeted: 0.3M

**Country with a Response Plan**

- **Afghanistan**
  - Funding Required: $3.9B
  - 55% Funded
  - People Targeted: 28M

- **Viet Nam**
  - Funding Required: $2.2B
  - 55% Funded
  - People Targeted: 28M

Over the course of 2020, the region faced multiple challenges, including COVID-19, climate-related disasters, and ongoing conflicts. Despite the unprecedented challenges, humanitarian agencies were able to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations. The funding received was crucial in ensuring that critical assistance was delivered, particularly in countries with high levels of need.

For more information, please visit [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int)
The year 2020 has been defined by the human cost of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on public health systems and national economies. Humanitarian needs globally have surged to unprecedented levels. At the beginning of the year, four countries in Asia and the Pacific had active response plans for protracted humanitarian crises. By the end of 2020, a total of 28 countries have response plans due to the impacts of the pandemic and to respond to natural disasters that have affected the region. This is the highest number of active response plans in Asia and the Pacific since the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

As well as exacerbating humanitarian needs, the pandemic has also increased challenges for responders, including travel and access restrictions, and has reinforced the need for new approaches to better support local and national humanitarian action.

Not every COVID-19 response region falls under the umbrella of the GHRP. An additional 19 countries, including 14 Pacific Island Countries, have launched multi-sector response plans to address country-specific impacts of the pandemic. For example, migrant workers, refugees, stateless people, and other undocumented people are among the most vulnerable and most affected groups in countries such as Malaysia and Nepal. In Nepal, an estimated 755,000 to 800,000 migrant workers returned to the country, with thousands caught in border areas and quarantine centres. The Nepal COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) outlined requirements of $108.4 million to support the Government of Nepal’s response to COVID-19 and to improve the situation in quarantine centres and assist migrant workers.

Investments in preparedness and contingency planning by humanitarian organizations and country teams, allowed countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines¹ and Timor-Leste to launch their COVID-19 response plans even before the release of the GHRP.

The COVID-19 pandemic had severe impacts on the lives of the most vulnerable people in countries already facing humanitarian crises. In March 2020, the United Nations launched the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) to respond to the humanitarian impact of the pandemic and to complement existing response plans for ongoing humanitarian crises. Seven countries in Asia and the Pacific were included in the GHRP over the course of the year, requesting a total of US$1.2 billion for humanitarian action.

In Bangladesh, the JRP for 2020 included requirements of $187.7 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of 1.3 million people, including Rohingya refugees and people from the host community. The GHRP extended this appeal by adding another half million people from the host community and calling for an additional $181 million to address the immediate health impacts and multi-sectoral needs resulting from COVID-19. A further $200 million GHRP plan was later added to address the wider humanitarian impact of Covid-19 in other areas of Bangladesh, including compounded natural disaster responses to cyclones and flooding in Covid-19 affected areas.

By addressing the humanitarian impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the GHRP complements national public health plans for COVID-19 and WHO’s Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP). Together with national and UN frameworks for socio-economic recovery, the GHRP is part of the wider multilateral response to the pandemic.

Natural disasters continued to affect a number of countries across Asia and the Pacific in 2020. It is expected that due to climate change, the frequency, severity, and impact of weather phenomena will continue to be exacerbated. Some countries in Asia like Vietnam and the Philippines were affected by widespread flooding, storm surges, landslides, and wind damage due to a series of tropical cyclones. The response plans for the three countries called for a total of $102 million to assist more than 692,000 of the most affected people. Four further response plans for Bangladesh were launched to respond to the impacts of Cyclone Amphan in May, and to the devastating impact of the worst monsoon floods in years.⁸

As well as these response plans, a number of CCREF allocations supported coordinated responses, including to the measles outbreak in Samoa, Cyclone Harold in Vanuatu and Fiji, and severe floods in Pakistan. The figures for these coordinated responses have been included in this overview.

A number of other coordinated humanitarian responses without formal plans are ongoing, including activities to address residual humanitarian needs in the Philippines resulting from a series of earthquakes in late 2019 and the ongoing conflict with armed groups in Mindanao.

In addition, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has launched 14 emergency appeals in Asia and the Pacific and the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated emergency funding on 23 occasions this year. The figures from these responses have not been included in the total figures of this overview.

**COVID-19 MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE PLANS**

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**OUTLOOK FOR 2021**

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to affect public health and exacerbate humanitarian needs across Asia and the Pacific. In 2021, the combined effect of the pandemic and climate shocks is likely to increase food insecurity in several countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

The Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) for 2021 includes Humanitarian Response Plans for Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan¹, and a Refugee Response Plan for Bangladesh. The total funding requirements for the four plans in the coming year amount to more than $2.8 billion to address the needs of over 21 million people.

Updated response plans to address humanitarian needs arising from COVID-19 are already being planned in many countries, including Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Nepal. In addition, a number of existing response plans will carry into next year, including the cyclone and flood response plans in Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines as well as emergency appeals by the International Federation of the Red Cross. This brings the projected humanitarian caseload for Asia and the Pacific in 2021 to a minimum of 37 million people with funding requirements of $3.3 billion. These figures are expected to significantly rise over 2021, starting with the impacts of the Pacific cyclone season which began when Tropical Cyclone Yasa struck Fiji in mid-December 2020.