

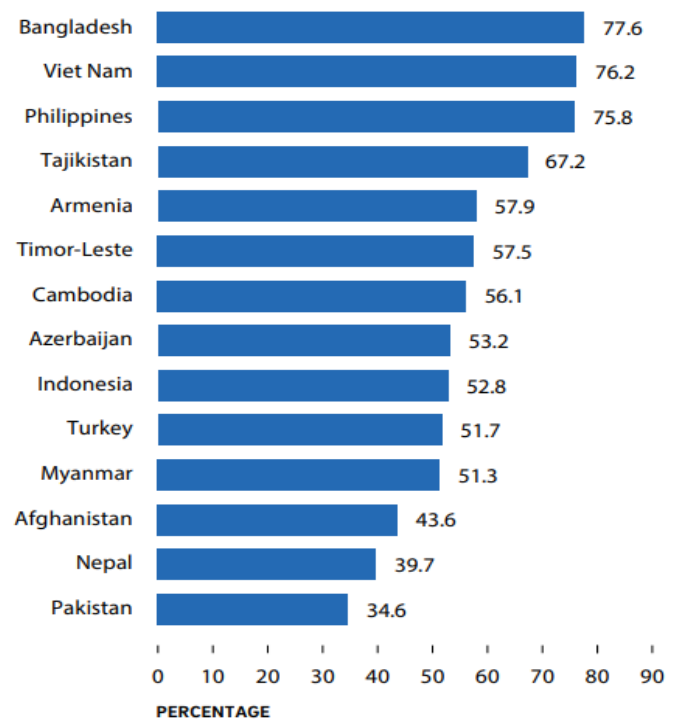
Developing countries in the Asia-Pacific have some of the most exposed populations to climate and disaster risk. Five Southeast Asian countries, namely, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, and, Myanmar, have more than half of their populations residing in high-multi-hazard-risk areas. And, nearly 78% of the population of Bangladesh live in high-risk areas.

Many of these communities live in poor conditions worsened by climate change impacts. They have limited access to services and livelihood opportunities with very low capacities to adapt to climate change impacts.

Furthermore, these changes and risks are not independent of each other as their interaction with human interventions and other natural processes may add to the possible worsened impacts on communities, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalized. Thus, **addressing these would require a holistic, integrated, and multi-disciplinary approach involving a synergistic collaboration between national and local governments, businesses, the academe, and grassroots communities.** We emphasize that even if countries can implement climate change mitigation measures to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, **it should not ignore that the evolving climate hazards due to historical emissions continue to cause tremendous loss and damage on lives and assets, both human and natural.** Of significance are the scientific assessments of the IPCC on 1.5°C affirming **the deeply rooted causes of vulnerabilities, namely socio-economic inequities and inequalities, and, the degradation of natural environments that support ecosystem services, among others.**

The current greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere intensify climate hazards and worsen adverse impacts especially on vulnerable communities necessitating he urgent work on **increasing the adaptive capacity and resilience of communities around Asia. This is the only way for its inhabitants to survive and thrive through current and future climate change.** However, these solutions must be suitable for each locality and region to deal with the unique hazards facing them.

It is, therefore, imperative that limiting the global warming to 1.5°C instead of 2°C or above would lessen the adverse impacts and subsequent risks on both communities and ecosystems. This would likewise provide vulnerable communities more opportunities to strengthen their respective adaptive capacities and resilience to disasters caused by climate-enhanced sudden onset events and impacts of slow onset events.



Source: ESCAP, 2019, Figure 2-6

Thus, we call on governments, especially from the more developed ones, to explicitly and, therefore, publicly state in their respective

NDC's their commitment to 1) higher ambitions for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and for adaptation with stronger protection of people and the environment; 2) legislate and finance the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energies in a manner that does not sacrifice climate justice and the well-being of communities and ecosystems and does not promote false solutions and geo-engineering; 3) enhance action and provide public finance on co-beneficial nature-based solutions for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience to avert losses and damages; and 4) ensure direct access of communities, including women and other vulnerable groups, to climate finance.

We finally call on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and private banks to stop supporting projects that increase GhG emissions and worsen climate risks.