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# The 2022 Global Philanthropy Environment Index Region Report: Southern and Southeastern Asia

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## SUMMARY

Beyond sharing strong socio-cultural foundations for philanthropy, the countries included in the Southern and Southeastern Asia region for the GPEI—India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam—demonstrate distinct philanthropy environments and trends from 2018 to 2020. Overall, there was a modest increase in the score for the region, with all countries except for the Philippines staying close to their overall scores from 2018 or showing some improvement. Outside of Singapore and Pakistan, the countries in this region recorded developments supporting philanthropy and developments inhibiting philanthropy. Still, all the country narrative reports and ratings are overshadowed by the ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19. While it is clear the pandemic is having a significant impact on the philanthropy environment in each of these countries, whether these effects will be short-lived or transformative will likely depend, at least in part, on the actions taken by philanthropy organizations and governments in their respective responses.

Singapore continues to stand out as offering a particularly enabling environment for philanthropy in the region while Nepal and Vietnam continue to present the most obstacles. Pakistan and Myanmar experienced important improvements to their respective philanthropy environments; however, the February 2021 military coup in Myanmar appears to be reversing many recent advances. Outside of Singapore and Pakistan, countries in this region experienced both positive and negative changes to their philanthropy environment, presenting a mixed picture for the region overall. One illustration of this mixed environment is the ranking of Indonesia and Myanmar on two recent philanthropy studies. While Indonesia (#1) and Myanmar (#4) continue to top the Charities Aid Foundation's (CAF) World Giving Index 2021 for the high proportion of their respective populations engaging in philanthropic actions, they simultaneously rank low for the region on the Centre for Asian Philanthropy & Society's (CAPS) Doing Good Index 2020 due to limitations placed on philanthropy in both countries.

While there is a regional trend toward professionalization of the sector and the adoption of market models, what that looks like is different in each country. Access to resources and the type of organizations supporting these trends are also quite varied. India, the Philippines, and Singapore offer comparatively more support services within the sector and/or through cross-sector support

organizations. There is also a small but growing number of regionally oriented philanthropy support organizations, including, but not limited to: Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC) for high net worth philanthropists, Asia Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) for organizations pursuing market models, CAPS, and two regional networks of academic associations focused on philanthropy research (ISTR Asia-Pacific and ARNOVA Asia). While philanthropy organizations across the region are adopting one or more market models, there are concerns about the growing market influence on philanthropy in Asia.

**Trends Observed at the Regional Level between 2014-2017 and 2018-2020**

<b>Ease of Operating</b>	<b>Tax Incentives</b>	<b>Cross-Border Philanthropic Flows</b>	<b>Political Environment</b>	<b>Economic Environment</b>	<b>Socio-Cultural Environment</b>	<b>Overall</b>
Mixed	Mixed (slightly positive)	Mixed (slightly positive)	Mixed	Mixed	Positive	Mixed (more positive)

Source: Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, 2022 *Global Philanthropy Environment Index*

## KEY FINDINGS

### I. Formation/Registration, Operations, Dissolution of a Philanthropic Organization (PO)

To what extent can individuals form and incorporate the organizations defined?

- A common challenge, across the region, is that there can be different registration procedures for different types of philanthropy organizations (India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam). Moreover, the process and experience of registration varies depending on the organization's approach and thematic area of interest. Specifically, organizations engaged in issues deemed political, including but not limited to claims-making and advocacy organizations, face more difficulties in the registration and appeals process compared with organizations focusing on non-political issues or those working to support the national discourse.
- The registration and appeals process in Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam is particularly challenging due to bureaucratic requirements, a multi-level process, and ambiguity in the law, which leads to broad discretion by government authorities and can become costly, particularly for smaller organizations. Moreover, Myanmar and Vietnam are facing increasing securitization of the registration process (ICNL, 2019).
- The Philippines and Singapore are the only two countries in the region with a centralized registration process; however, the Philippines government added a new layer to the registration process in 2018, requiring philanthropy organizations to now also register with a local government agency.

To what extent are POs free to operate without excessive government interference?

- For registered philanthropy organizations, freedom from excessive interference depends on the organization's approach and thematic area of work. Specifically, organizations engaged in issues deemed political, including but not limited to claims-making and advocacy organizations, face more interference into their operations and challenges complying with operational requirements compared with organizations that focus on non-political issues or that work to support the national discourse.
- Many countries in this region point to excessive reporting requirements and requirements to seek advance permission to undertake certain activities, and problems with inconsistent application of such requirements. In Pakistan, organizations must seek permission before conducting surveys or data collection. Organizations supporting human rights and democratic freedoms in India are facing increasing regulatory action. Vietnamese organizations must seek permission to conduct research, hold public events, disseminate newsletters, engage foreign experts, and travel to foreign countries. In Indonesia, foundations receiving more than IDR 500 million (around USD 35,000) in one fiscal year must submit an audit to the government and publish its financial statements in a local newspaper. Governments across the region are increasingly interested in managing international partnerships and international financial transactions. In 2019, the Philippines' SEC introduced new provisions on the receipt and disbursement of funds, ostensibly to promote good governance but likely to prove excessive for small philanthropy organizations to comply. Vietnam philanthropy organizations receiving foreign funding face increasing interference from the government with the promulgation of Decree 80/2020/ND-CP. Meanwhile, government interference in Singapore

is considered clear, reasonable, and with the primary intention to preserve and build public trust in philanthropy organizations.

- While informal philanthropy organizations are constitutionally protected in all countries except Singapore, unregistered organizations can face political, economic, and legal challenges, making it difficult to operate. Informal organizations in Myanmar report instances of harassment, interference, and restrictions; meanwhile, the country is drafting new laws that would inhibit freedom of speech and expression.

To what extent is there government discretion in shutting down POs?

- The laws on dissolution tend to be quite clear, particularly in comparison with laws regulating other aspects of philanthropy organization operations (ICNL, 2019).
- The process for voluntary termination is straightforward in Indonesia, Singapore, Pakistan, and the Philippines. In India, Nepal, and Vietnam, the process is also clear but is considered more bureaucratic. In India, a court approval is required for two trusts to be able to merge.
- Involuntary dissolution occurs either for political or technical reasons, both of which allow for government discretion. Political reasons include operating against the law or operating against the public interest, both of which leave room for government discretion. In the case of technical reasons, organizations may be given an opportunity to correct the violation, such as for failing to submit a report or audit, and they may be able to appeal a determination (Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore). However, in Nepal, philanthropy organizations find that these procedures are unclear and inconsistently applied. In Indonesia, groups suggest that current provisions for involuntary dissolution, as stipulated in the 2013 Law on Societal Organizations, do not adhere to the country's constitution.

## II. Domestic Tax and Fiscal Issues

To what extent is the tax system favorable to making charitable donations?

- The tax systems for making donations in this region are quite mixed. Pakistan, the Philippines, and Singapore, report favorable tax systems, while India, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam suggest room for improvement. Although Vietnam joins Singapore as the only two countries that do not limit eligible income for tax deductions, these incentives are limited to certain types of donations and donee organizations. In India, the 2020 tax regime removed previously existing tax incentives.
- Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore reported some positive changes to their respective tax systems during this period. In 2019 and 2020, the Indonesian government introduced incentives for investment in vocational programs and COVID-19 relief efforts respectively. In the Philippines, the 2018 Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion law simplified tax procedures for individual donors. And, during COVID-19, the government made cash and in-kind donations from individuals and corporations fully deductible and exempt from both tax and VAT. In Singapore, the 250 percent tax deduction (to approved organizations) was extended until the end of 2023.

To what extent is the tax system favorable to POs in receiving charitable donations?

- Except for Singapore, countries in this region require a separate registration process for a philanthropy organization to be eligible to receive a tax exemption for donations received. This process is difficult in Nepal and Myanmar due to a lack of standardization and inconsistent application despite new guidelines (Notification 79/2020) on tax registration issued in Myanmar. The 2020 Finance Act in India requires all philanthropy organizations to apply for tax-exempt status, beginning in 2021, and to re-apply every five years thereafter. Indonesian POs must submit detailed records of donations and reports to the Ministry of Finance to be eligible for tax exemptions. In the Philippines, only organizations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission are eligible for tax deductible donations. Still, they must also register with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and obtain certification from the Philippine Council for NGO Certification. As of July 2021, a total of just 385 organizations received this certification.
- In Vietnam, only some philanthropy organizations and donations are eligible for tax-deductible donations, and there are different regulations guiding the exemptions. As a result, there is a lack of clarity when it comes to tax exemptions on the receipt of charitable contributions. Despite challenges in the past, however, some aid agencies have lobbied for philanthropy organizations to receive the VAT exemption, even offering grantee partners guidance on how to claim the exemption (USAID, 2021).

### III. Cross-Border Philanthropic Flows

To what extent is the legal regulatory environment favorable to sending cross-border donations?

- The Philippines and Singapore both offer a favorable legal environment for sending cross-border donations. While most donations overseas are tax deductible from the Philippines, Singapore does not offer tax incentives for cross-border donations.
- It is extremely difficult to send cross-border donations from Myanmar and Vietnam and illegal to do so in Nepal. Since 2019, Myanmar required new procedures and paperwork to send cross-border donations. Although it is not explicitly prohibited in Vietnam, there is a lack of legal guidance on how to send donations overseas.
- Both India and Pakistan have limits to the amount of donations sent overseas (up to USD 250,000 in India and up to USD 1,000 in Pakistan).
- The Indonesian government actively monitors and manages the distribution of aid sent overseas, in part to prevent the funding of terrorist groups and money laundering.

To what extent is the legal regulatory environment favorable to receiving cross-border donations?

- Most governments in the region are stepping up efforts to manage donations coming into the country, whether to stop illicit funds from entering the country or to restrict unwanted influences. This is evident by new and revised laws and procedures in several countries. In India, the Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment of 2020 prohibits sub-granting of foreign funds and lowers the cap on administrative expenses from 50 percent to 20 percent. In Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Thailand, prior approval from relevant authorities (or an MOU) is required, which can be onerous. And, in Vietnam, the laws and required procedures to receive cross-border donations were recently updated (Decree 56/2020/ND-CP, Decree

80/2020/ND-CP, Decree 50/2020/ND-CP) but continue to lack clarity in terms of the process while privileging state-managed agencies over non-state philanthropy organizations.

- The Philippines and Thailand stand out for their efforts to facilitate incoming donations. Specifically, the Philippines makes in-kind donations exempt from import duties and VAT while cash donations to exempt organizations are duty free. In Thailand, the government has eased procedures for organizations engaged in disaster relief to receive cross-border donations.
- POs in Indonesia are permitted to accept donations originating from countries with existing diplomatic relations so long as they are legally registered. And new regulations provide tax incentives for foreign contributions towards disaster relief in Indonesia.

#### IV. Political Environment

To what extent is the political environment favorable for philanthropy?

- Philanthropy organizations have a tenuous relationship with governments in India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam. In general, these governments can be quite supportive of non-political philanthropy organizations, but they appear to be growing increasingly hostile to claims-making and advocacy organizations. In Myanmar, despite difficult relations in the past and again this year, philanthropy organizations have collaborated well with the government in response to disasters, including COVID-19. Similarly, the philanthropic community in India has provided key support during COVID-19. Moreover, the 2014 government requirement for companies to allocate two percent of their budgets to corporate social responsibility (CSR) has made more domestic money available to POs. On the flip side, new legal regulations and reporting requirements in India demonstrate growing government distrust of philanthropy while there is a lack of transparency on government collaborations with philanthropy organizations. In Nepal and Vietnam, the government's relationship with philanthropy organizations is largely regulatory. A 2018 Communist Party resolution suggests that there is growing government intolerance to civil society in Vietnam.
- The relationship with governments is positive in both Singapore and Pakistan. While the Singaporean government appears to be most focused on supporting good governance and transparency of philanthropy organizations, it also demonstrates an interest in and appreciation for collaboration with philanthropy organizations to address national needs and to support development. Similarly, in Pakistan, the government acknowledges the important role of philanthropy and has formed collaborations with philanthropy organizations to address COVID-19, to promote microfinance, and ensure social protections.
- The Philippines faces a mixed environment: although the current administration operates in tension with human rights and opposition groups, many philanthropy organizations report having a positive and constructive relationship with their counterparts in government agencies. Similarly, in Indonesia, while political leaders demonstrate increased appreciation for philanthropy, government policies and narratives on philanthropy can suggest otherwise.
- COVID-19 appears to be having a positive effect on the political environment for philanthropy, as formal and informal philanthropy organizations aid government or address arising needs in their communities. In several countries, laws and restrictions on philanthropy have been temporarily lifted or delayed, facilitating more philanthropy during the pandemic. Whether this experience has a lasting effect remains to be seen. (Please refer to section VIII. *Philanthropy's response to COVID-19.*)

To what extent are public policies and practices favorable for philanthropy?

- Myanmar and Singapore have reported positive policy changes since 2018. In Myanmar, the transition to a democratic nation in 2016 notably improved conditions for philanthropy—allowing for increased democratic freedom, participation in development planning, and greater opportunities for philanthropy organizations to receive funds and interact with foreign donor agencies. (Note: This situation changed dramatically in 2021.) In Singapore, the National Council of Social Service facilitates information and resource exchanges for philanthropy organizations. The government has done a lot to foster transparency and build trust in formal philanthropy organizations, including its latest effort to require organizations to complete an annual Governance Evaluation Checklist, which is made available to the general public.
- India and Vietnam both reported policy changes that negatively affect the philanthropy environment. In India, recent changes in public policies (FCRA Amendment 2020, Finance Act 2020, CSR Amendment 2020) reflect the government’s growing distrust in philanthropy organizations. In Vietnam, the already-challenging legal environment was made more challenging with renewed efforts to limit and better control spaces in which philanthropy can operate (Resolution 04-NQ/TW; Decree 56/2020/ND-CP; Decree 80/2020/ND-CP; Decision 06/2020/QD-TTg).
- In Indonesia, the government is promoting blended finance as a public-private approach towards supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One state-owned financing entity even established a blended finance.

## V. Economic Environment

To what extent is the economic context favorable for philanthropy?

- India, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Singapore reported favorable economic context for philanthropy through 2020, each focusing on distinct reasons. India reports a significant increase in domestic philanthropy due to growing wealth, the rising number of high net worth individuals, and contributions from the country’s CSR mandate. Ironically, the rise in philanthropic capacity in India is attributed, in part, to growing inequality. Myanmar’s report on its economic context focuses on the country’s continued top 10 position in the World Giving Index (CAF, 2021), owing to the high proportion of its population that gives to charity and their readiness to give. Singapore reports several economic factors supporting philanthropy, including stable economic growth (through 2020), clear and fair economic policies, low corruption, foreign investment, and the 2020 Variable Capital Company legal structure to attract single family offices.
- Indonesia, Pakistan, and Thailand referred to a downturn, or expected economic downturn, due to the effects of COVID-19 on their economies, which they anticipate will reduce philanthropic contributions, particularly from the private sector.
- In Vietnam, the growing influence of the business sector, both on the government and philanthropy sectors, is seen to be crowding out or undermining the limited space in which civil society organizations must operate.
- In Nepal, the unstable economy, combined with corruption, limits to foreign investment, and COVID-19 present a difficult environment for philanthropy.

## VI. Socio-Cultural Environment

To what extent are socio-cultural values and practices favorable for philanthropy?

- Philanthropy is deeply rooted in religious, cultural, and traditional practices across Southern and Southeastern Asia. Each of the countries cites religious influences (Buddhism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Islam, and others), cultural values (i.e., solidarity, collective giving, and mutual assistance or "bayanihan" in the Philippines and "arisan" in Indonesia), traditions and practices (e.g., zakat, temple offerings, "gotong royong," and more). In each country, the philanthropic response to crises, such as natural disasters and COVID-19, serves to further strengthen existing beliefs, values, and practices of philanthropy.
- Generally, there is more trust and engagement with faith-based groups and informal philanthropy compared with formal philanthropy organizations in this region. Singapore is the outlier, as the only country in the region where there may be more trust in formal forms of philanthropy. This may be attributed to the government and philanthropy sector's focus on professionalization, governance, and transparency while allocating less time and attention toward core philanthropic values.
- In Indonesia, there is growing societal respect for individuals engaged in philanthropy as a career while millennial philanthropists introduce new forms of philanthropy and activism.
- In Myanmar and Nepal, offline crowdfunding is becoming more common and is often initiated by youth groups (such as collecting funds at traffic lights).

## VII. Future of Philanthropy

Summary of the future development trends in the philanthropic landscape

- Several countries indicate a trend toward professionalization of the philanthropic sector. The Indonesian Philanthropy Association updated its Code of Ethics and created an ethics advisory council to help enforce it. In the Philippines, there is a need for intermediary organizations that can channel resources derived from economic growth at home and abroad, such as community foundations. Pakistan also noted a need to facilitate diaspora giving. Adoption and adaptation of technology to strengthen the sector is perceived to be emerging but still in the early stages. For example, online crowdfunding continues to gain momentum in a handful of countries (India, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Singapore) but remains underdeveloped in most parts of this region. In Singapore, there is an opportunity for service organizations to learn how to engage in advocacy, and vice versa.
- There are conflicting views in the region regarding the market's growing influence on the philanthropic sector. The number of social enterprises in Indonesia has risen steadily, India is planning to launch the first social stock exchange, and many countries have observed an increase in CSR, venture philanthropy, impact investing, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) initiatives, and more. However, whereas some are excited about the blending and blurring of the business and philanthropy sectors, others express serious concerns. Does this blending and blurring strengthen or weaken efforts to achieve the social mission? Does it help to speed up social change efforts or help to protect the *status quo*? These are questions some are asking as the market continues to influence philanthropy in the region.



- A handful of countries noted an increase in cross-sector collaborations, such as India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, and to a limited extent the Philippines and Nepal. This includes government and philanthropy, business and philanthropy, and government-business-philanthropy arrangements. In some countries, like Indonesia and Vietnam, collaborations tend to be oriented around the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- While philanthropy infrastructure is at varying levels in each country, there is an emerging number of regionally oriented philanthropy support organizations, including, but not limited to: Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC) for high net worth philanthropists, Asia Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) for organizations pursuing different market models, the Centre for Asian Philanthropy & Society (CAPS), and two Asian regional networks of academic associations focused on philanthropy research (ISTR Asia-Pacific and ARNOVA Asia).

### Key recommendations to improve the environment for philanthropy in the region

- All but two countries, namely Singapore and Thailand, are calling for a more enabling legal framework for philanthropy. While Pakistan seeks centralization of the registration process, India, Nepal, and Vietnam would like to see the legal framework reduce obstacles and simplify incentives for giving and receiving at home and overseas. More generally, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam are seeking greater clarity and standardization of policies and procedures to reduce ambiguity and state discretion, which would support more effective operation of philanthropy organizations. Both Myanmar and Nepal are also seeking legal changes to ensure greater philanthropic freedom.
- All countries recommend building the capacity of philanthropy organizations to be able to realize their potential for impact. Different countries prioritize different capacities and strategies to achieve impact. In Myanmar, the government could offer core funding to philanthropy organizations. Philanthropy capacity in Nepal might benefit from developing crowdfunding capacity. Some countries recommend investing in different market models, such as impact investing for the Philippines and social enterprises for Nepal. Building networks and platforms to facilitate collaboration within or across sectors and with international organizations is recommended in Indonesia, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. In the Philippines and Singapore, staff of philanthropy organizations might benefit from online or offline guidance in service delivery, advocacy, sustainability planning, and a greater focus on impact. In Thailand, philanthropy organizations are recommended to build capacity to raise awareness about their work.
- A third recommendation is for philanthropy organizations to pay attention to and reflect on the short- and long-term advantages and disadvantages of growing market influences on philanthropy in the region. How might market models affect the strong socio-cultural environment for philanthropy in this region? What are the differences between the philanthropic and business sectors in this region and how might the blending of the two sectors enhance or inhibit transformative social change? Are market models based on indigenous practices or imported from other countries with different cultural contexts?

### VIII. Philanthropic Response to COVID-19

What are the areas where the nonprofit sector and philanthropy are playing a role in responding to COVID-19 in the region?

- Across this region, informal and formal philanthropy organizations are playing a critical role in filling gaps and/or supporting government to raise awareness about the pandemic, deliver services, and identify issues and communities in need. In India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines, philanthropy organizations are helping the government to share information and dispel misinformation. Philanthropy organizations are showing up as first responders to address the urgent needs of migrants, the elderly, and the digitally disadvantaged. Across the region, people are volunteering to serve on the frontlines of the pandemic, such as delivering food and medical equipment, monitoring delivery, and supporting contact tracing. The youth have proven to be particularly proactive in Nepal and Pakistan. In several countries, philanthropy organizations are helping to coordinate mental health, well-being, and psychological support for frontline workers and the general public. In many of these countries, mental health and trauma-informed services are limited but the philanthropic sector has stepped in to offer resources and *pro bono* support to frontline workers and the general public. In some countries, philanthropy organizations are also gathering and sharing real-time data on the situation to help identify issues and to connect resources to needs.
- A second key area of support from the philanthropic sector is its role in raising cash and in-kind contributions to support individuals and communities in need as well as promoting government initiatives to stop the spread of COVID-19. In India, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam, philanthropy has raised money to address the needs of migrants and individuals facing poverty during or as a result of COVID-19. In Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam, philanthropy has contributed to health supplies for frontline staff. Philanthropy is also supporting various government initiatives, such as national funds for vaccines in Vietnam and Myanmar, and efforts to repair or purchase health equipment in India, Myanmar, and Nepal.

What are the innovations and new trends in the nonprofit sector and philanthropy related to COVID-19 responses?

- In the Philippines, a couple of innovations were reported. Small-scale distributors of agricultural products made it possible for people to shop online or through neighborhood networks to avoid large public places.
- Across the region, COVID-19 forced the philanthropic sector to significantly boost the adoption of information technology. Philanthropy organizations in India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Vietnam took greater advantage of online giving and fundraising platforms. In India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam, many philanthropy organizations learned to transition more of their work online, including hosting webinars and meetings or crowdsourcing resources online. In Nepal, philanthropy organizations used low-cost technology to develop Apps to help monitor and track at-risk groups and to disseminate health messages. Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Singapore also adopted new technology to support communications.
- Also noted as an innovation was the development of collaborations and partnerships including philanthropy organizations to ensure a more coordinated or integrated service delivery

response in India, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam. In some countries, collaborations were limited to pooling funds. However, in Myanmar, collaborations involved substantive partnerships such as philanthropy staff serving as frontline volunteers, philanthropy organizations helping to develop and disseminate important information (such as through songs and street theatres), establishing pop-up wash stations and quarantine centers, and training young volunteers to operate an ambulance service.

What have been the main impacts of COVID-19 on the philanthropic environment in the region?

- On the positive side, several countries noted that the role philanthropy organizations are playing during COVID-19 may be helping to improve the overall image of the sector, including in India, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam. Through their efforts, philanthropy organizations may have helped to reinvigorate religious beliefs and cultural values of solidarity and mutual aid, demonstrating that philanthropy is an instinct and can be quite effective.
- On the other hand, the sector is facing strong and negative impacts due to financial problems, the inability to continue work as planned, and staffing challenges. Some organizations have closed, and more are expected to be at risk of closing (Thailand). Programs and services have been reduced, postponed, or cancelled due to COVID-19 (Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam). Investment incomes for some organizations have dropped (the Philippines) and it has become more difficult to raise funds domestically (Indonesia and Nepal). Ingrid Srinath describes the situation in India as a “triple crisis,” because it is affecting people’s health, the economy, and society overall. Meanwhile, philanthropy organization staff face major challenges themselves, such as the real or potential loss of their job, having to work in unsafe conditions (often without access to vaccines), working without health insurance or with inadequate health insurance, and some staff losing their life to COVID-19. These issues are likely to have a lasting effect on the philanthropic sector.

What is the anticipated impact of COVID-19 on the philanthropic environment in 2021?

- Many countries expect a financial impact on philanthropy organizations in 2021. In the Philippines and Nepal, philanthropy organizations may want to aim for survival rather than growth.
- India reported an increase in individual giving in 2020, with new donors giving larger amounts. It is expected that giving norms may change, such as a shift toward more flexible giving (core funds and funds allocated for capacity), as well as an increase in online giving.
- Nepal anticipates a loss of frontline staff to COVID-19.
- Indonesian nonprofits are expected to discontinue programs reliant on corporate donors.
- Singapore is anticipating the need to review health and safety measures in service delivery organizations, and to enhance their use of technology.
- Myanmar expects that COVID-19 will raise the importance of cross-sector collaborations moving forward.

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