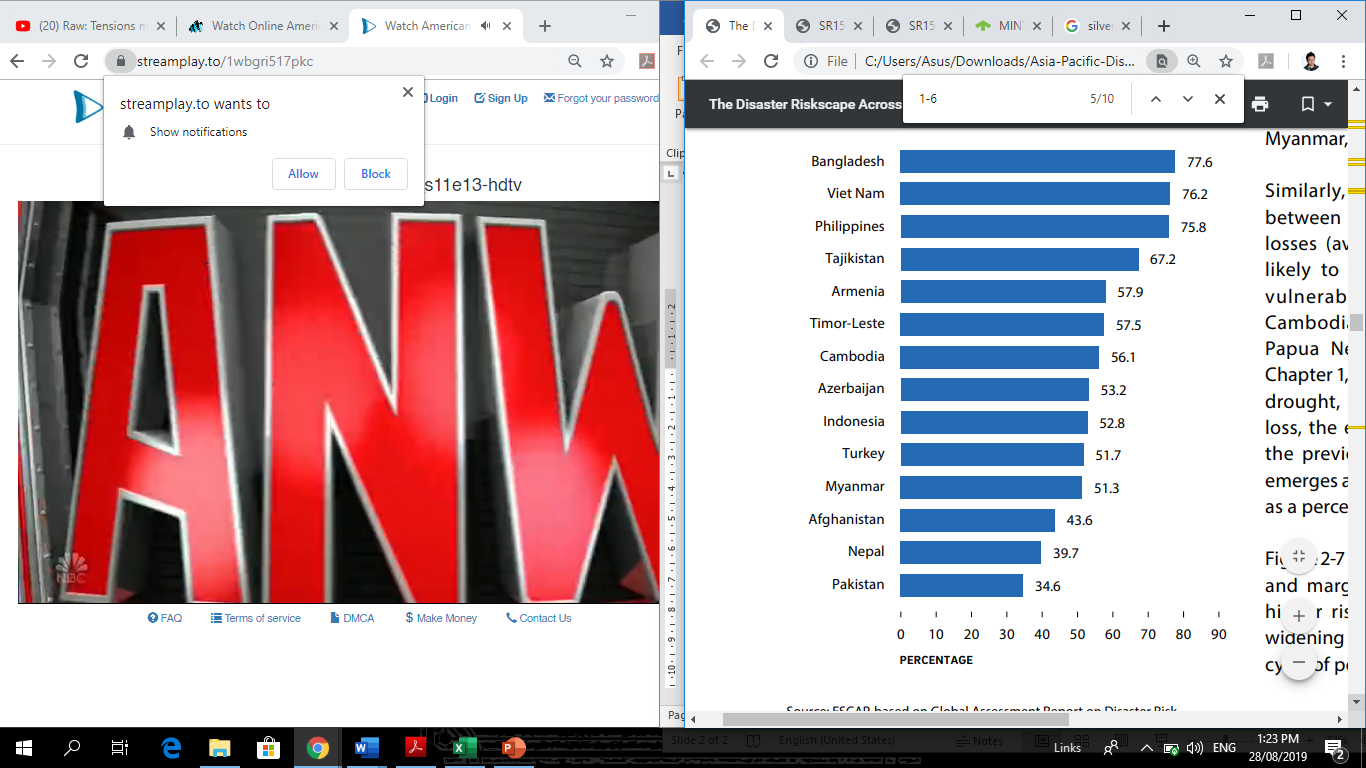
Developing countries in the Asia-Pacific have some of the most exposed populations to climate and disaster risk. Five Southeast Asian countries, namely, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, and, Myanmar, have more than half of their populations residing in high-multi-hazard-risk areas. And, nearly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



Source: ESCAP, 2019, Figure 2-6

Many of these communities live in poor conditions worsened by climate change impacts and with limited access to services and livelihood opportunities. They have the lowest capacity 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, especially 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 supporting ecosystem services, among others.**

**The** current greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere intensify the 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.**

**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; 2) legislate and finance the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energies in a manner that do not sacrifice climate justice and well-being of communities and ecosystems and do not promote false climate solutions; and, 3) enhance action and provide public finance on co-beneficial nature-based solutions for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience to avert losses and damages.**

**We finally call on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and private banks to stop supporting projects that increase GhG emissions and worsen climate risks. Rather, shift all their investments to mitigation efforts through renewable energy as well as to resilience and adaptation efforts.**