



COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Progress Report: January 2020-July 2021



Executive Summary

US\$27

Million granted

21

Million people reached

168

Grantees

23

Countries

As of July 15, 2021

In January 2020, as the world was hearing the first reports of a novel coronavirus outbreak in China, Give2Asia launched its first COVID-19 response fund focused on Hubei Province. Thanks to the timely generosity of donors, we were able to fund significant emergency relief efforts in the first six months of the global pandemic.

As the pandemic has dragged on into a long-term crisis, individual, foundation, and corporate donors stepped up to provide vital medical equipment, protective gear, and food assistance. On behalf of our grantees and beneficiaries, we thank you for your boundless generosity to help those in need.

While both the pandemic and our grant-making work continue in full force, we wanted to share this descriptive snapshot of the work funded to date. We hope this report inspires further positive investment in local nonprofits to continue their positive impact during these challenging times.



Photo courtesy of Sano Paila

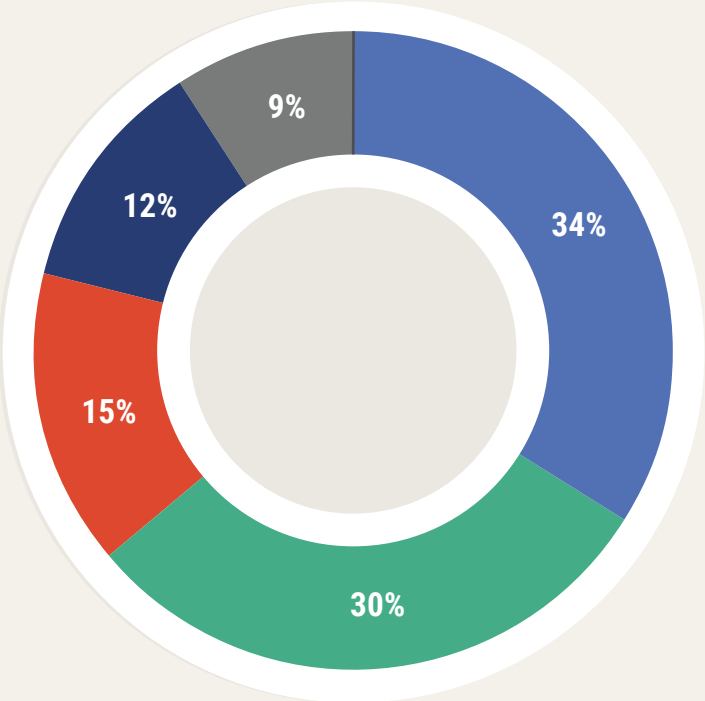
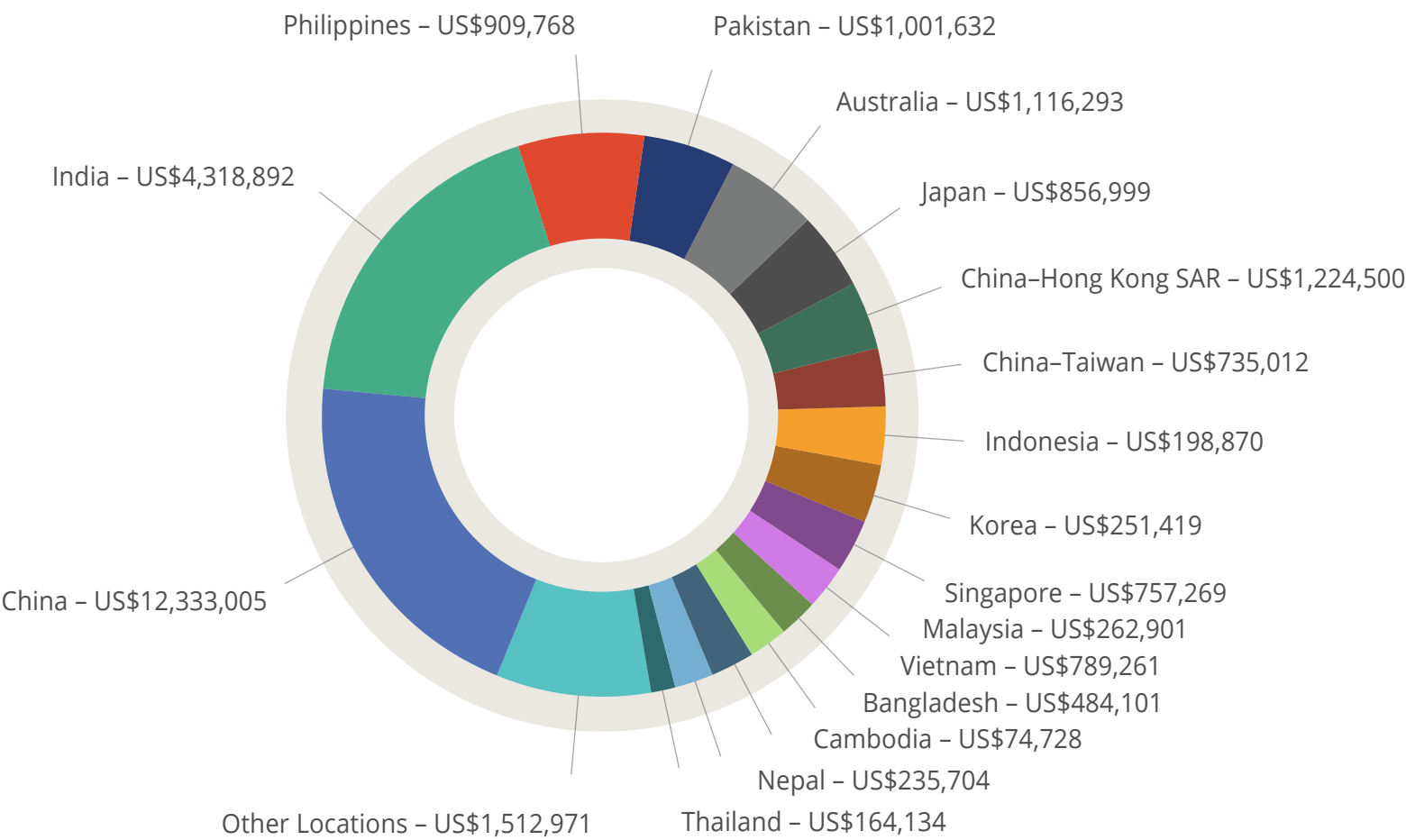


Sincerely,
Birger Stamperdahl
President & CEO, Give2Asia

Total Grants by Location

As of July 15, 2021

Total grants: US\$27 million



Total Grants by Issue Area

- Medical and Hospital Supplies (34%)
- Food Security (30%)
- Capacity Building (15%)
- Education Support (12%)
- Assistance to Frontline Workers (9%)
- Health Assistance (<1%)

Introduction

When disasters strike, careful stewardship of international donations becomes more important than ever both because of the urgency and the need for careful oversight. Thus, when the COVID-19 pandemic began in January 2020, donors turned to Give2Asia to support those most at risk in communities across the Asia-Pacific region.



Photo courtesy of Hope Bridge

Give2Asia's approach to disasters is to promote local practices and in-country organizations that

meet the immediate needs of affected communities. We also support long-term recovery and prevention activities to help communities heal, rebuild, and reduce future risks. Over the last 20 years, Give2Asia has delivered more than US\$420 million to projects in 23 countries.

To provide the best coordination between donors and in-country projects, Give2Asia relies on our in-country staff and advisors to monitor local needs, assess NGOs' capacity to respond, and vet potential projects. Once a grant begins, our advisors coordinate with each grantee or nonprofit partner to monitor progress and respond to changing conditions.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, GiveAsia's donors enabled our largest humanitarian response effort in our organization's history. From Afghanistan to New Zealand, we have made 307 grants totaling US\$27 million in the first 18 months of our campaign to all 23 locations where we operate—meeting the needs of everything from emergency health supplies to food insecurity and health worker training.

As one of the first NGOs to fund COVID-19 relief efforts, Give2Asia was able to leverage early lessons in China to benefit funders and grantees across the region.

Funding Priorities

We also honed our own funding to focus on three funding priorities:

Supporting frontline health workers

Due to their constant exposure to a novel and highly contagious virus, healthcare workers face extreme risks to care for their communities. Give2Asia continues to fund personal protective gear (PPE), food, lodging subsidies, mental health treatment, and compensation to workers' families.

Addressing critical food security and health needs

COVID-19 is causing unprecedented economic disruption, with government-imposed lockdowns restricting work and mobility. Give2Asia funding provides urgent assistance to vulnerable groups such as day laborers, migrants, children, women, and the elderly.

Facilitating long-term recovery

The effects of this pandemic will last long after new infections decline. Give2Asia is identifying and funding initiatives to meet a wide range of mid- to long-term recovery needs, including: livelihood support, psychological treatment, strengthening health systems, caring for families of fallen health workers, preventing future outbreaks.

While this work remains ongoing, we want to reflect on the impact our donors, local projects, and partners over the past 18 months.



Photo courtesy of Spreeha Foundation



Photo courtesy of Friends International



The Early Days

On January 26, 2020, two weeks after the first confirmed COVID-19 death in China and three days after Wuhan went into lockdown, Give2Asia launched its campaign to support frontline health workers and hospitals responding to the outbreak in Hubei Province.

Give2Asia has had a local presence in China for almost 20 years. As one of the first international NGOs registered to support local causes in China under the 2016 ONGO Law in China, Give2Asia was well positioned to effectively respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

As the world watched Wuhan – a city of 11 million – go into lockdown, Give2Asia’s donors mobilized resources to help. Within just three days, corporations, foundations, and individuals committed US\$1 million for the effort and raised millions more in the subsequent weeks. Thanks to emergency permission from Chinese officials, Give2Asia was given unique access to rapidly transfer funds to Chinese organizations on the frontlines.

Since the early days of the pandemic, Give2Asia’s China Representative Office in Beijing has been in daily communication with local NGOs to identify emerging needs, evaluate program capacity and timing, facilitate implementation, and monitor the usage of grant funds.

COVID-19 Grants to China

January 2020 – January 2021

First 30 days	Next 90 days	Next 8 months	Total 1 year
US\$3,070,074	US\$2,157,392	US\$5,221,751	US\$10,449,217
9 grants	18 grants	43 grants	70 grants

Grantmaking Highlights:

Thanks to rapid scoping by our Beijing team and our network of charities, we identified three pillars of need. The following list is a small sample of the 70+ projects our donors supported in China.

Protecting healthcare workers and patients

Meals and Hospital Disinfection in Wuhan

Grantee: Hubei Red Cross Foundation (HRCF)

Grant Amount: US\$725,000

Activities: Provided 50,000 meals to medical staff and patients. Delivered 20,000 liters of hospital-grade disinfectant.

Care Packages for Frontline Workers

Grantee: China Women's Development Foundation

Grant Amount: US\$216,000

Activities: Assembled and delivered approximately 4,500 care for frontline medical workers and their families



Photo courtesy of PepsiCo / HRCF

Providing essential medical equipment for at-risk groups

Ventilators for Critically Ill Patients in Hubei

Grantee: China Women's Development Foundation

Grant Amount: US\$672,000

Activities: Delivered 20 ventilator machines to 7 hospitals in 5 cities to provide life support to critically ill COVID-19 patients

Oxygen Concentrators for At-home Care

Grantee: Beijing Chunmiao Charity Foundation & Gingko Foundation

Grant Amount: US\$45,000

Activities: Purchased and delivered 86 reusable oxygen generators and 860 nasal tubes to community health service centers and home quarantine patients in need



Supporting long-term recovery and prevention

Epidemic Prevention Training and Psychological Support

Grantee: Hubei Red Cross Foundation (HRCF)

Grant Amount: US\$260,000

Activities: Providing psychological support to healthcare workers affected by the pandemic and providing epidemic prevention training to avoid future outbreaks

A Growing Need

Shortly after the outbreak in Wuhan, the prevalence of COVID-19 cases across the Asia-Pacific region began to increase. In March 2020, to meet this growing need, Give2Asia expanded its campaign to all 23 countries where Give2Asia works in the region.

Give2Asia's region-wide campaign follows the same programmatic priorities originally set in Wuhan. At the same time, we contextualize funding to the specific needs of each community by listening to in-country partners, who provide insight on where the charitable sector in their country can play a role.



Photo courtesy of Project HOPE

Protecting healthcare workers and patients

Delivering infection control training to healthcare workers in Indonesia

Grantee: Project HOPE

Grant Amount: US\$80,000

Activities: Deliver healthcare worker training programs to rapidly scale COVID-19 preparedness and response across Indonesia

Providing food security and livelihood support

Stocking food pantries to feed low-income households in Japan

Grantee: Second Harvest Japan

Grant Amount: US\$39,439

Activities: Purchase food for 11 food pantries, deliver hot meals and grocery packages

Supporting long-term recovery

Increasing availability of mental health services in Nepal

Grantee: KOSHISH Nepal

Grant Amount: US\$19,496

Activities: Providing short-term psychosocial support and counseling services to COVID-19 patients and their families



Case study: Localized COVID-19 training for healthcare workers in Indonesia

Grantee: Project HOPE

Funder: Johnson & Johnson

Healthcare workers reached: ~34,000



Photo courtesy of Project HOPE

As part of an effort to strengthen Indonesia's healthcare capacity, Johnson & Johnson Foundation collaborated with Project HOPE on the "Training Healthcare Workers for COVID-19 Response in Indonesia" project. The project delivered a Train-the-Trainer program to scale health care workers' and hospitals' capacity for COVID-19 preparedness and response, as well as Infection Preparedness and Control (IPC).

Demand for the trainings among healthcare workers was significant, and the project's reach quickly exceeded expectations. In four online Training of Trainer sessions, 1,413 participants from 10 hospitals attended. Those trainers cascaded that knowledge to nearly 32,000 other healthcare workers, providing vital information to protect themselves and their patients from COVID-19.

In times of crisis, leveraging proven partnerships can help with swift and impactful response. The knowledge gained by the trainers and staff will help strengthen Indonesia's healthcare system—and provide frontline workers a valuable skill set for ongoing infectious disease prevention.

Read the full case study at <https://give2asia.org/project-hope-covid-indonesia/>

Case study: Give2Asia Food Security Campaign

COVID-19 disrupted the lives of everyone. Yet for families in extreme poverty, the economic disruption caused by COVID-19 has often led to hunger. The pandemic is causing critical malnutrition for an estimated 7 million children under age 5. Many of these children live in Asia, where 350 million people are already undernourished.

In response to this growing food security crisis, hundreds of local nonprofit organizations mobilized to deliver emergency food rations and livelihood support. To facilitate their work, Give2Asia launched a fundraising campaign in November 2020 to raise awareness of this need and generate donations. As an added incentive, Give2Asia matched the first US\$100,000 in donations during the campaign with funding provided by an anonymous donor.



Photo courtesy of PBSP



Photo courtesy of Sano Paila

Thanks to thousands of generous individual and corporate donors, Give2Asia's COVID-19 Response Funds will deliver US\$619,000 in food security grants to more than two dozen charities across all 23 countries where we operate. Through their hard work on the front lines, hundreds of thousands of at-risk families have received dry rations or hot meals to support them through the pandemic.

The Long Haul

Thanks in part to their aggressive control measures, many Asia-Pacific nations prevented catastrophic COVID-19 outbreaks in 2020. However, this came at a significant cost. As the pandemic became not only a health crisis but an economic crisis, the pandemic threatened the well-being of millions.

With supply chains halted, local businesses closing, and travel restricted, everyone's lives were disrupted. However, the greatest burden fell on the poorest and most vulnerable families who were often dependent on daily wage labor, unable to self-isolate, and lacking savings to tide them over. The World Bank [estimated](#) that COVID-19 would push as many as 150 million people back into extreme poverty worldwide.

Then, in 2021, the situation worsened further. A highly contagious new virus variant caused a catastrophic surge in cases and deaths. India was the first country to suffer this devastating second wave. The sheer number of cases caused widespread collapse of the healthcare system and a desperate search for oxygen and medical supplies. While the official death toll reached 400,000 by mid-year, [the true number](#) could be ten times higher. The same wave soon hit Nepal, and is now reaching South-East Asia.

To blunt the harm caused by the pandemic to communities in Asia, Give2Asia's team assessed specific needs in each location and identified local nonprofits with the capacity to respond. Thanks to generous contributions from thousands of donors, our grantees worked tirelessly to care for those most in need.

Our grants included:



Photo courtesy of AGAHE / PepsiCo

Ensuring basic food security for at-risk families

PepsiCo Millions of Meals Program

Grantees: The Orange Tree Foundation, Al-khidmat Foundation, People's Primary Healthcare Initiative Baluchistan, Association for Gender Awareness & Human Empowerment, Network of Organizations Working with People with Disabilities, Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust, Mehnaz Fatima Educational & Welfare Organization, National Rural Support Program, Akshaya Patra Foundation India, Smile Foundation India, BRAC, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, Lost Food Project, Raks Thai, The Beautiful Foundation, Foodbank Australia, Salvation Army New Zealand, Vietnam Youth Federation, SOS Children's Villages Vietnam, OzHarvest, CARE

Grant Amount: US\$3,666,866

Activities: Alleviated food insecurity among vulnerable individuals through the distribution of food rations and food vouchers



Photo courtesy of AGAHE / PepsiCo

Providing targeted support for health systems

Oxygen Generation Facility in India

Grantee: Indian Red Cross Society - Maharashtra State Branch

Grant Amount: US\$100,000

Activities: Purchase an oxygen generating plant for Bel-Air Hospital in Maharashtra with the capacity to serve 300 severe COVID-19 patients on a monthly basis

Case study: Compensation for families of deceased healthcare workers in Bangladesh

Grantee: SAJIDA Foundation

Funder: MetLife Foundation

Grant amount: US\$150,000



Photo courtesy of SAJIDA Foundation

Healthcare workers in Bangladesh face one of the highest COVID mortality rates in the world. Yet few receive sufficient financial compensation for their service.

Recognizing the extreme sacrifices by healthcare workers during the pandemic, MetLife Foundation partnered with SAJIDA Foundation—a Bangladesh-based charity—to create a pilot program to financially support families of frontline workers who passed away due to COVID. As of November 2020, 33 families of deceased healthcare workers received BDT 200,000 each (about US\$2,400).

The grant also provided monthly risk allowances to workers in SAJIDA's COVID-19 isolation center in Narayanganj. In addition to incentivizing workers facing high levels of COVID-19 exposure, the allowances helped some find lodging closer to the hospital to avoid potentially exposing their family members to the virus at home. Lastly, the funding covered personal protective gear (PPE) for staff at the isolation center, which serves COVID-19 patients from primarily low-income communities.

This project demonstrated how NGOs can swiftly deploy a transparent payout program, identify eligible beneficiaries, and address vulnerable families' pressing needs, even during a crisis. To strengthen its efforts against COVID, SAJIDA is now looking to set up a COVID-19 patient treatment unit at its hospital in Keraniganj and to expand financial support to frontline staff unable to work while recovering from COVID-19.

Read the full case study at <https://give2asia.org/sajida-covid-bangladesh/>



Photo courtesy of SAJIDA Foundation

Pandemic Grantmaking to Date

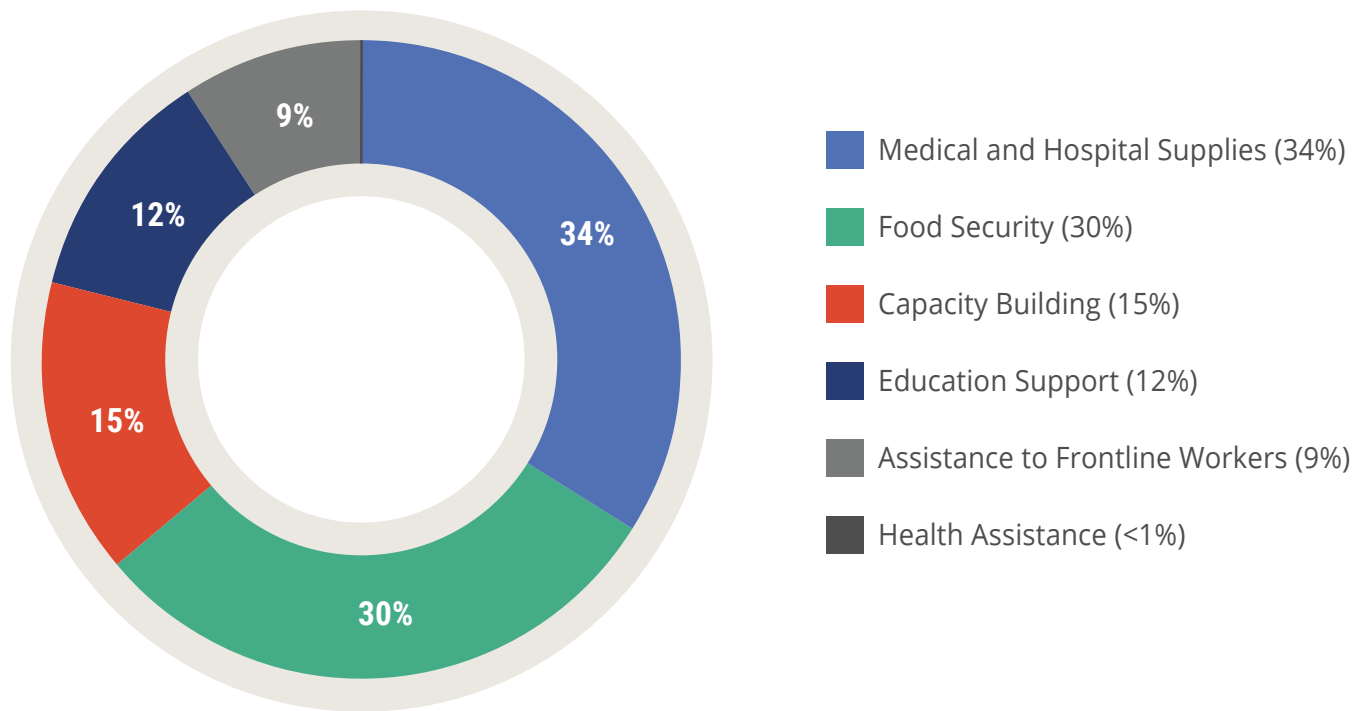
The following charts summarize Give2Asia's COVID-19 grantmaking activities. These statistics include both donor-advised grants (funds directed by the donor to a specific grantee) and grants from Give2Asia's COVID-19 response funds. All figures are as of July 15, 2021 unless otherwise noted.

Since donors select a preferred location and/or grantee for most disaster donations, the destinations funded largely reflect donor interest. Thanks to donor support for our COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, Give2Asia was able to ensure that every location where we work received at least one food security grant.

Total Grants by Location

Location	Number of grants	Total amount (US\$)
Afghanistan	2	\$22,956
Australia	16	\$1,116,292
Bangladesh	7	\$484,100
Bhutan	2	\$20,080
Cambodia	7	\$74,728
China	64	\$12,333,005
China-Taiwan	11	\$735,012
China—Hong Kong SAR	12	\$1,224,500
India	58	\$4,318,892
Indonesia	10	\$198,870
Japan	14	\$856,999
Korea, Republic Of	10	\$251,418
Malaysia	8	\$262,900
Mongolia	2	\$20,180
Nepal	7	\$235,703
New Zealand	2	\$202,514
Pakistan	17	\$1,001,632
Philippines	22	\$909,768
Singapore	10	\$757,268
South Korea	1	\$97,000
Sri Lanka	3	\$29,508
Thailand	5	\$164,133
Timor-Leste	2	\$20,139
Vietnam	7	\$789,260
Other Locations	8	\$1,100,593
Grand Total	307	\$27,227,460

Total Grants by Issue Area



Source of Funds

As of January 31, 2021

Disaster Response Funds (Pooled)

US\$3,719,031

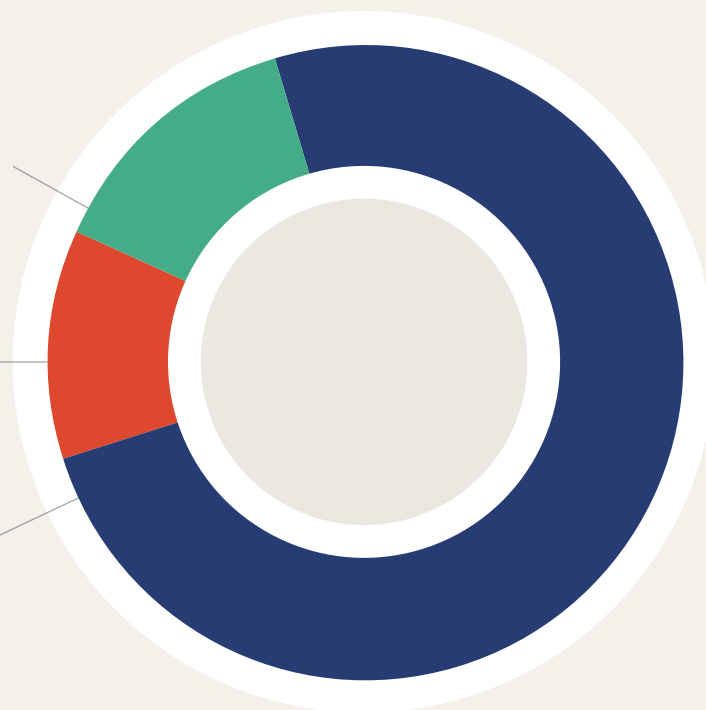
Friends Funds

US\$3,155,474

Donor-Advised Funds

US\$20,352,955

Total: US\$27,227,460



Case study: Addressing diverse health and economic needs in Nepal

Grantees: Sano Paila, Nyaya Health Nepal, Nepal
Goodweave Foundation, KOSHISH

Funder: The McConnell Foundation

Grant amount: US\$100,000



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nepal has recorded 750,000 confirmed cases with over 10,000 deaths. At one point, the country had one of the world's highest positivity rates.

The McConnell Foundation has funded work in Nepal since 1999, supporting projects related to rural development, leadership capacity for rural women, and countering domestic violence through community-level justice systems. To help address the many health and economic impacts of the pandemic, the Foundation made a US\$100,000 grant to benefit four organizations battling COVID-19 on different fronts:

In the far west of Nepal, the grant will support Nyaya Health Nepal's work to reduce COVID-19 morbidity and mortality at Bayalpata Hospital in Accham District. The project will help people like 34-year old Harka Saud, a migrant worker and main breadwinner of his family who recently returned from India and recovered at Bayalpata Hospital after he tested positive for COVID-19. Sano Paila's project focuses on Birgunj and surrounding areas on the Indian border near the main conduit to Kathmandu. Their comprehensive project is providing underserved communities with a wide



Photo courtesy of Nyaya Health Nepal

variety of needs, ranging from isolation beds and oxygen concentrators to hygiene kits and food supplies.

In Kathmandu, Nepal Goodweave Foundation (NGF) will use funds to promote disease prevention and provide relief supplies for vulnerable textile workers and children. And KOSHISH will deliver special health and emotional outreach to people with mental disabilities and to individuals experiencing mental health problems due to the many stressors of the pandemic.

By supporting a variety of trusted Nepalese charities, The McConnell Foundation is leveraging diverse local knowledge and resources to provide rapid pandemic relief. Thanks to their long-term investments and familiarity with the region, the Foundation is well-positioned to make a positive impact.



Photo courtesy of KOSHISH



Photo courtesy of Sano Paila

Future Funding Needs

The COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in modern times. More than 18 months since the first case was diagnosed, new variants of the virus continue to cause severe disruption around the globe.

While the international aid community and governments alike have come together in meeting critical needs this past year, continued and deeper intervention is necessary to ensure the impact of the pandemic on particularly vulnerable groups does not deepen.

In many parts of Asia, vaccination rates remain low. As a result, many communities (both rich and poor) remain at risk for outbreaks and lockdowns. As restricted movements become part of everyday life, the disruption to children's education and social-emotional development is also significant. Each new wave of the virus brings additional needs for healthcare, food security, livelihood support, and long-term recovery.

Give2Asia continues to drive attention to our COVID-19 campaign to meet the widening crisis. The need for support remains immense, creating an opportunity for donors to make an outsized impact. As one of our staff members wrote [in a recent op-ed](#), "there has never been a better time to give."

As of August 2021, the major funding needs identified by Give2Asia include:

Food Security to avert a nutrition crisis

COVID-19 threatens to reverse decades of progress in the fight against hunger in Asia. Extended lockdowns, closed businesses, and restricted movement are causing loss of incomes, remittances, and livelihoods. As the prolonged pandemic threatens to pull vulnerable communities back into extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition are rising. Food security programs can solve the short-term need until economic activity recovers.

[Learn more about COVID-19 food insecurity in Asia](#)



Photo courtesy of Oxfam India

Vaccine education and access

Vaccines are our best tool to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet many barriers exist to delivering doses to remote communities and under-served populations. More investment in vaccine education and equitable access will help ensure that all people can benefit from effective vaccines—and prevent ongoing infections that can enable new variants to emerge.



Livelihood support to help workers provide for their families

Lockdowns are also adversely impacting farmers and small business owners. Unable to bring their crops to market or serve customers, many entrepreneurs are losing their ability to sustain their families. By providing modest economic assistance or skills training, livelihood programs run by our nonprofit partners like Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) in India are helping communities return to productive work.



Photo courtesy of IGSSS

Long-term support for families of COVID-19's fallen heroes

While every COVID-19 death is a tragedy, the loss is especially acute for families of frontline health workers who sacrificed their lives caring for patients in their community. Programs like the Heroes Legacy Program by Shenzhen Henghui Charity Foundation seek to honor these fallen heroes of the pandemic by caring for their families.

[Learn more about the Heroes Legacy Program](#)



Conclusion

The past 18 months have demonstrated how connected and interdependent our world has become. From new variants to supply chain disruptions, we are seeing how unmet needs in one part of the world can affect us all.

Despite its challenges, the pandemic has also brought people together to care for each other. In communities around the world, neighbors and local organizations are mobilizing to help those in need. This generosity knows no geographic bounds. Donors around the world are stepping up to help.

Indeed, COVID-19 has made clear that the greatest impact donors can make is often across borders. By giving where the need is greatest during COVID-19, corporations and individuals are both serving the communities that matter to them—and often accomplishing far more with their gift than they could at home.

Give2Asia is honored to connect donors with trusted charities across the Asia-Pacific, and we are humbled by your trust and generosity. In the coming months, we will continue to identify new opportunities and steward grants to ensure that your gifts achieve their intended goal.

If you have questions about any of our COVID-19 grantmaking, please don't hesitate to contact your Give2Asia philanthropy advisor.

You can also [request a meeting online](#) or reach us directly:

Give2Asia (U.S.)

Phone: +1.415.967.6300

Email: info@give2asia.org

Give2Asia Australia

Phone: +61 3 7036 7843

Email: australia@give2asia.org

Give2Asia Foundation Limited (China – Hong Kong SAR)

Phone: +852 3963 9639

Email: hk@give2asia.org

