

COVID-19 Crisis: Analysis of Risk in Australia's Neighborhood



It starts with equal

Using data from the INFORM Global Risk Index, CARE Australia has analysed which countries in our region are most at risk from the COVID-19 crisis. This analysis helps predict which countries may struggle the most — health-wise and economically — in the long term. Higher numbers indicate a higher level of risk.

	Exposure to epidemics	Access to healthcare	Existing health conditions	Vulnerable groups	Food insecurity	Socio-economic vulnerability	Communications capacity	Overall risk
Papua New Guinea	6.4	6.7	5.7	4.5	3.9	5.7	7.0	5.7
Timor-Leste	6.1	6.6	6.4	3.2	6.5	5.0	5.0	5.5
Myanmar	6.6	5.3	3.9	5.3	3.1	5.3	5.2	5.0
Marshall Islands	3.7	6.9	6.2	2.2	5.0	5.3	4.2	4.8
Micronesia	3.1	5.3	5.0	3.5	5.0	5.6	5.9	4.8
Kiribati	4.5	5.5	8.8	2.5	0.6	5.6	5.6	4.7
Solomon Islands	5.6	5.6	4.8	1.4	2.8	6.0	6.3	4.6
Tuvalu	4.2	5.5	7.2	2.0	4.2	5.1	4.0	4.6
Cambodia	6.4	6.1	2.7	1.6	4.7	5.7	4.1	4.5
Laos	6.3	5.8	1.7	2.5	4.9	5.2	5.0	4.5
Philippines	6.8	4.7	3.9	5.4	3.4	4.0	2.6	4.4
Nauru	3.8	4.7	2.3	4.0	5.0	5.2	3.4	4.1
Vanuatu	4.4	5.7	3.7	1.4	1.8	6.0	5.1	4.0
Tonga	3.8	5.5	2.1	3.5	4.2	5.4	2.9	3.9
Indonesia	7.1	6.0	2.7	2.8	2.2	3.5	2.6	3.8
Fiji	3.5	4.4	3.7	3.5	1.6	3.2	3.4	3.3
Iran (comparison)	6.3	3.1	0.1	6.8	1.3	2.3	3.0	3.3
Samoa	2.7	6.4	1.9	0.6	1.3	5.0	3.7	3.1
Thailand	5.7	4.1	1.3	3.9	2.7	2.3	2.0	3.1
Vietnam	6.9	4.6	1.0	0.9	2.3	3.3	2.6	3.1
China (comparison)	5.8	3.4	0.4	3.4	1.8	2.7	2.6	2.9
Malaysia	5.3	3.3	0.7	4.0	1.7	2.0	1.7	2.7
Palau	2.3	3.9	1.0	1.0	5.0	3.1	1.5	2.5
USA (comparison)	4.0	1.1	0.1	4.5	0.2	0.8	2.2	1.8
Brunei Darussalam	4.3	2.5	0.4	0.5	1.9	1.2	1.4	1.7
Singapore	4.3	1.5	0.4	0.3	1.7	0.2	1.3	1.4
Australia	2.2	0.5	0.1	3.6	1.2	0.5	1.9	1.4
Italy (comparison)	2.1	0.4	0.2	4.0	0.4	0.7	1.8	1.4
UK (comparison)	1.5	1.5	0.3	3.6	1.0	0.5	1.1	1.4
New Zealand	2.1	0.9	0.1	1.2	1.4	0.5	1.5	1.1

Specific risk indicators

The risk ranking is based on seven indicators related to COVID-19 — exposure to epidemics generally, access to healthcare, existing health conditions, vulnerable groups, food insecurity, social-economic vulnerability and communications capacity. When broken down by each indicator, the most at-risk countries are as follows:

Exposure to epidemics
1. Indonesia
2. Vietnam
3. Philippines

Access to healthcare
1. Marshall Islands
2. Papua New Guinea
3. Timor-Leste

Existing health conditions
1. Kiribati
2. Tuvalu
3. Timor-Leste

Vulnerable groups
1. Philippines
2. Myanmar
3. Papua New Guinea

Food insecurity
1. Timor-Leste
2. Nauru
3. Micronesia

Socio-economic vulnerability
1. Solomon Islands
2. Vanuatu
3. Cambodia

Communications capacity
1. Papua New Guinea
2. Solomon Islands
3. Micronesia

Basis for risk indicators

Exposure to epidemics: includes prevalence of dengue, malaria, Lassa Fever, zoonotic diseases, Zika and others; access to safe drinking water, toilets and handwashing facilities; population density; urban population; prevalence of slums; and household size, among other factors

Access to healthcare: includes physicians per capita; access to vaccines; immunisation rate; public and private health expenditure per capita; and maternal mortality

Existing health conditions: includes HIV; tuberculosis; malaria; and number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases

Vulnerable groups: includes people with health conditions (as above); children under 5; people experiencing recent shocks; people who are food insecure (as below); and other vulnerable groups

Food insecurity: includes Food Availability Score; and Food Utilisation Score

Socio-economic vulnerability: includes Human Development Index; Multidimensional Poverty Index; Gender Inequality Index; Gini Index (inequality); and reliance on overseas aid and remittances

Communications capacity: includes adult literacy rate; access to electricity; internet users; and mobile phone subscribers

For more information, visit the [INFORM Global Risk Index website](#).