ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SDG PROGRESS REPORT 2020

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UNITED NATIONS ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

*The shaded areas of the map indicate ESCAP members and associate members.**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations' regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members, ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region. The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which it does by reinforcing and deepening regional cooperation and integration to advance connectivity, financial cooperation and market integration. ESCAP's research and analysis coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to governments aims to support countries' sustainable and inclusive development ambitions.

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Foreword

The *Asia and the Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report 2020* measures whether our region is on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the United Nations embarks on a Decade of Action for sustainable development, we have used the latest data on global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators to determine where additional effort is needed and where momentum for future progress is building.

The report highlights that on its current trajectory our region remains unlikely to meet any of the 17 Goals by 2030. While many countries are moving decisively to improve the quality of education and provide access to affordable and clean energy, progress in other areas is slow. Sustained economic growth is occurring in the absence of adequate measures to combat climate change, protect our ocean or preserve our forests. Uneven progress is being made to reduce inequalities, support the responsible consumption and production needed for a healthy planet, or achieve peace, justice and strong institutions. Progress towards gender equality and building sustainable cities and communities has been far too slow. Greater support is needed to strengthen the means of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

It is increasingly clear that the achievement of progress has been uneven across the five Asia-Pacific subregions. At the current pace, no subregion is likely to meet any of the 17 Goals by 2030. Inequalities, responsible consumption and production, and achieving peace, justice and strong institutions are not progressing evenly across subregions. While the increasing cooperation across subregions are noteworthy, all subregions are making very slow progress on goals related to gender equality, sustainable cities and communities, the environment and the means of implementation. This report makes a compelling case for greater action across the SDGs.

The number of globally agreed indicators with sufficient data to measure progress has increased from 25 per cent in 2017 to 42 per cent of indicators in 2020. It is good news. Yet, closing the data gap on more than half of the SDG indicators remains a challenge for the national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific. This report therefore highlights the importance of strengthening national statistical systems for improving the quality of data and statistics in measuring the SDGs progress.

UN ESCAP is working closely with the UN family, including the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Population Fund in Asia and the Pacific. This enhanced partnership can support the growing needs of member States to avail timely and reliable evidence for impactful analysis and transparent decision-making.

I hope this report contributes to our collective push to achieve sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

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Contents

Abbreviations

ATM	automated teller machine
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CO2	carbon dioxide (emissions)
CSO	civil society organizations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (under OECD)
DESA	(UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DQAF	Data Quality Assessment Framework
ENEA	East and North-East Asia
EPIC	Every Policy is Connected
ESCAP	(UN) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
FPOS	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GDP	gross domestic product
GHG	greenhouse gas (emissions)
GNI	gross national income
HIV	human immunodeficiency viruses
ICT	information and communications technologies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LDC	least developed country
NCA	North and Central Asia
NCD	non-communicable disease
NEET	not in education, employment, or training
NSDS	national sustainable development strategy
NSO	national statistical office
NSS	national statistical system
ODA	official development assistance
ODIN	Open Data Inventory Index
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHI	Ocean Health Index

PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
PM2.5	particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometres of less
PPP	purchasing power parity
R&D	research and development
SCP	sustainable consumption and production
SD	sustainable development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange
SEA	South-East Asia
SIAP	(UN) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SO2	sulphur dioxide (emissions)
SSWA	South and South-West Asia
TVET	technical, vocational education and training
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States dollars
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Readers guide

Who should read this report?

The report is intended for three audiences:

- **Stakeholders** involved in regional high-level policy dialogues on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They include government officials and representatives of intergovernmental groups, civil society, non-governmental organizations, the media, academia and businesses.
- **Regional analysts** who would like to identify priority issues that require further analysis.
- **National experts** who develop methodologies for measuring national progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

How to interpret the results?

Readers are encouraged to keep the following points in mind while using the findings of this report[1]:

- **Every country counts equally** in the analysis. The report considers the progress of the region and its subregions towards the SDG targets, irrespective of the size of the population, economy and/or land area of the constituent countries. To avoid influence of country size, median values are used to assess progress towards targets in the region and each of its subregions. The progress, therefore, is representative of a "typical country" in the region or subregion.
- Results in this report are **not comparable with previous reports** because an expanding set of SDG indicators and updated historical data are used for the analysis every year as new data become available.
- Two different measures are used in the report: the Current Status Index (snapshot of progress so far at goal level); and the Anticipated Progress Index (dashboard of progress gaps, at target and indicator levels). The current status index analyses where the Asia-Pacific region stands on each of the SDGs and the anticipated progress index examines how likely it is the region will achieve individual SDG targets judging by the pace of progress thus far. Therefore, the **snapshot and dashboard results are not comparable** due to their different measurements.
- The snapshot of progress so far measures **progress since 2000**. The choice of 2000 is to assess how the region has progressed during the period of the Millennium Development Goals until today. Evidence shows the contribution of ongoing development trends to all the SDGs, even to goals that are not directly carried over from the previous development agenda. Moreover, the alternative choice of 2015 would not have provided enough time lag to observe significant progress.

Where do the data come from?

- Data for countries in the Asia-Pacific region were drawn from the Global SDG Indicators Database maintained by Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Only SDG indicators with at least two data points available for more than half of the countries in the region were included in the calculations. For 18 SDG targets for which no SDG indicator was available, additional indicators from global SDG data custodian agencies were used to assess progress towards those targets (see annex 3).
- The indicators used in the boxes are not necessarily included in the progress assessment due to lack of data. The purpose of the boxes is to provide in-depth analysis and highlight certain issues.
- Disaggregated statistics on 24 indicators were incorporated in the analysis to account for unequal progress across different population groups. This is done as a starting point for identifying which groups are being or vulnerable to being left behind.

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1 See annex 2 for more information on these and other details

Executive summary

At the start of the decade of action for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific region is not on track to achieve any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Yet progress towards the SDGs is not a linear process. A basis for accelerated progress in the future is emerging.

The data clearly show the Asia-Pacific region cannot expect to achieve the SDGs by 2030 without accelerated action.

Despite significant progress on some goals such as quality education (Goal 4), without extra efforts, the region is likely to miss all 17 goals by 2030. In particular, the region needs to reverse trends on responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) and climate action (Goal 13) where the region is going backwards.

For most of the indicators for which data is available, the region is likely to fall short of the targets set for 2030. For 20 per cent of those indicators, conditions in 2030 will be worse than they were in 2015 unless immediate actions are taken to reverse current trends.

The region is making good progress on SDG targets related to economic growth. Real GDP per capita growth in the region was more than double the world average in 2017, and at the same time, many countries in the region are experiencing less income inequality. Yet, to grow more sustainably and equitably, the current economic progress of the region must be coupled with human well-being and a healthy environment.

To achieve its social development ambitions, the region must respond to the multiple dimensions of deprivation and address the most basic rights of its people.

Despite great success in meeting income poverty targets, the region is likely to miss all measurable SDG targets related to other forms of poverty, hunger and gender equality and reduced inequalities within and between countries by 2030. The good news is that the region has made promising progress in many target areas (such as food security, women's role in decision-making, and access to basic sanitation services) thus building a strong basis for future acceleration.

There is some basis for optimism that goals which focus on basic needs of the population for health and well-being, education, water and sanitation, and safe and just societies (Goals 3, 4, 6 and 16) can be achieved.

More than half of the measurable targets on which the Asia-Pacific region is on track fall under those four goals. Yet even within them, the region lacks progress on critical targets, including health coverage and access to health facilities and personnel, learning outcomes, access to safely managed drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene, and human trafficking.

The region's lack of progress on environmental sustainability is striking.

To achieve its 2030 ambitions, the region needs to significantly accelerate its progress or reverse trends on most of the measurable environmental targets. Among the top priority targets are ones related to climate action, including energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy in total energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, climate-related hazards and natural disasters, air quality and waste management in cities, and the impact of human activities on marine and coastal ecosystems.

Progress has not been equal across the five Asia-Pacific subregions.

The most diverse patterns of progress across Asia-Pacific subregions are observed in three goals: reduced inequalities (Goal 10), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12), and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16). Even in targets where all subregions are making good progress, no subregion can expect to achieve success without sustaining or accelerating current progress into the next decade.

The Asia-Pacific region needs to revitalize partnerships at all levels and across all stakeholders in sustainable financing, inclusive and sustainable trade, technologies, capacity building and evidence-based coherent policymaking.

Despite some progress, the Asia-Pacific region is unlikely to achieve any of the measurable targets under Goal 17 by 2030 without extra efforts. To accelerate its overall progress, the region needs to redouble its efforts to strengthen the means of implementation. In particular, supporting lower income countries, especially LDCs, to diversify government revenue and mobilize additional resources for sustainable financing for development; strengthening existing bilateral and triangular regional and international cooperation mechanisms, and building new ones to facilitate science, technology and innovation transfer; supporting the LDCs of the region to ensure long-term and unrestricted access to the global market; and increasing investment in, and building capacity for statistical development, especially in LDCs and small island developing States.

Lack of effective communication of statistics and insufficient demand for indicators are two sides of the same coin that undermine the evidence-base for monitoring progress on the SDGs.

Data availability on the SDGs indicators has substantially increased over the past few years in Asia and the Pacific (from 25 per cent in 2017 to 42 per cent in 2019). Yet data are lacking on over half of the SDG indicators. Data availability is very limited on those goals with slow progress, highlighting the need for strengthening the policy-data nexus. This could be achieved by more effective communication and engagement with data users to increase demand for, and investment in, statistics. Investigating nine capacity areas needed for national statistical systems to respond to the current demand for data shows that communication and statistical literacy, together with statistical advocacy and awareness-raising, are the biggest challenges for countries in the region.

PART I –

REGIONAL PROGRESS

1.1 How much progress has the Asia-Pacific region made on the Sustainable Development Goals?

Most of the 2030 targets are within reach for quality education (Goal 4) and affordable and clean energy (Goal 7) but the region must accelerate its efforts.

The analysis of progress in the Asia-Pacific region against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) shows that the glass is half full (figure 1). The most remarkable progress since 2000 has been made on quality education (Goal 4) and some elements of affordable and clean energy (Goal 7). The assessment of anticipated progress towards the targets by 2030 (figure 2) suggests that achieving these two goals could even be within reach, providing the region accelerates its efforts. Nevertheless, the target-level analysis reveals areas of concern that need urgent action. In particular, more must be done to reach targets for increasing the share of renewable energy and enhancing the quality of education (box 1) as well as equal access to education for all.

More than half of the SDG targets are not measurable due to lack of data.

It is important to keep in mind that these results are based on limited information (sufficient data are available for less than half of the SDG targets) and more data are required to show a full picture of progress on the 17 goals. In some goals, progress may be skewed by data for very few targets only (such as Goals 13 and 14). In others, the availability of data is unbalanced across targets and therefore the results do not reflect the full picture of progress in all dimensions.

Urgent action is needed to protect the environment, reduce the risk of natural disaster and take climate action (Goal 12 and Goal 13).

The Asia-Pacific region has struggled the most in advancing responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) and climate action (Goal 13). In fact, the region is not even moving in the right direction (figure 1). These findings sound the alarm for the Asia-Pacific region to urgently foster sustainable use of natural resources, improve the management of chemicals and wastes, increase its resilience against and capacity to reduce the risk of natural disasters, and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change through integrated policies (figure 2).

Despite progress on some goals, business as usual in the region will not be enough to achieve the goals by 2030.

Development efforts in the region have resulted in significant gains on no poverty (Goal 1), zero hunger (Goal 2), good health and well-being (Goal 3), gender equality (Goal 5), clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), life on land (Goal 15), peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16) and partnership for the goals (Goal 17). However, the Asia-Pacific region cannot expect to achieve these goals by 2030 without extra efforts. If the region continues business as usual, by 2030 it will not succeed in providing adequate social protection for its most vulnerable population groups, it will be home to more people without any health coverage, there will not be enough decent work and productive employment with informal

and vulnerable employment remaining at high levels, and the number of human trafficking victims, refugees and displaced persons will likely increase (figure 2).

Greater acceleration is needed in SDG targets where progress is stagnant.

There has been very little progress on industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9), reducing inequalities (Goal 10), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), and life below water (Goal 14). To achieve these goals, the region needs to scale up its progress in diversifying its economy, improving transportation infrastructure, reducing inequalities of income and opportunities, and preserving marine and coastal ecosystems (figure 2).

The basis is set to accelerate progress on several goals.

Despite insufficient progress or regression since 2000, recent trends give hope for an acceleration of progress on several goals in the coming decade. The recent increase in labour productivity (box 9), sustained economic growth, increased access to banking, reductions in income inequality in many countries, increased resource flow for development, a slight decline in material footprint and domestic material consumption, and a substantial reduction in fossil-fuel subsidies all provide examples that the Asia-Pacific region has built a basis for acceleration in many targets. If the region continues and doubles its concerted efforts, the future may be brighter for target areas where progress has been slow.

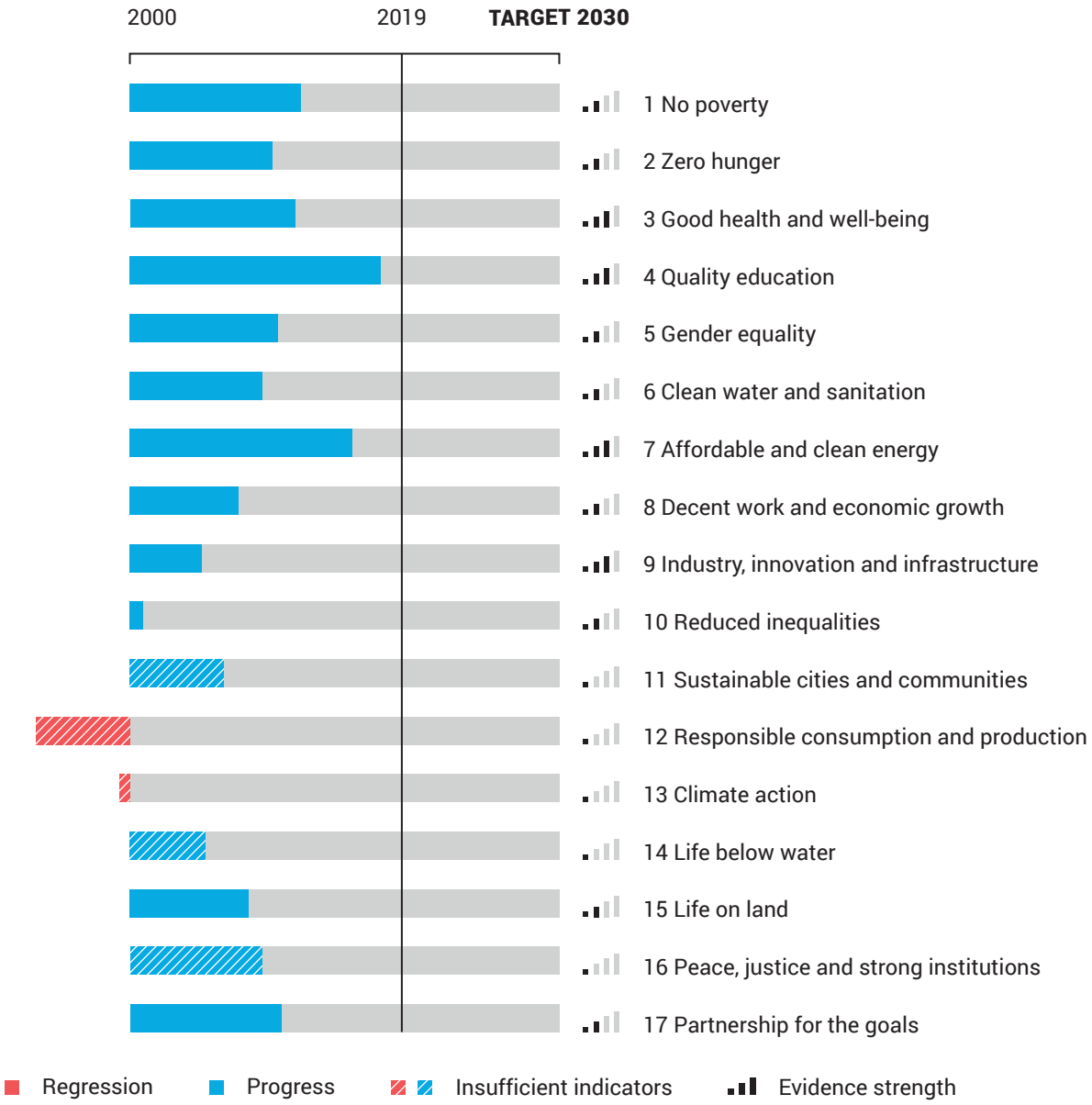


Figure 1. Snapshot of SDG progress in 2019 in the Asia-Pacific region

GOAL 1
- 1.1 International poverty
- 1.2 National poverty
- 1.3 Social protection
- 1.4 Access to basic services
- 1.a Resources for poverty programs
- 1.5 Resilience to disasters
- 1.b Poverty eradication policies

GOAL 2
- 2.1 Undernourishment and food security
- 2.2 Malnutrition
- 2.3 Small-scale food producers
- 2.4 Sustainable agriculture
- 2.a Investment in agriculture
- 2.5 Genetic resources for agriculture
- 2.b Agricultural export subsidies
- 2.c Food price anomalies

GOAL 3
- 3.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.2 Child mortality
- 3.9 Health impact of pollution
- 3.b R&D for health
- 3.d Management of health risks
- 3.3 Communicable diseases
- 3.4 NCD & mental health
- 3.6 Road traffic accidents
- 3.7 Sexual & reproductive health
- 3.8 Universal health coverage
- 3.a Tobacco control
- 3.c Health financing & workforce
- 3.5 Substance abuse

GOAL 4
- 4.b Scholarships
- 4.c Qualified teachers
- 4.1 Effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 Early childhood development
- 4.3 TVET & tertiary education
- 4.4 Skills for employment
- 4.5 Equal access to education
- 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy
- 4.7 Sustainable development education
- 4.a Education facilities

GOAL 5
- 5.1 Discrimination against women & girls
- 5.5 Women in leadership
- 5.2 Violence against women & girls
- 5.3 Early marriage
- 5.4 Unpaid care and domestic work
- 5.6 Reproductive health access & rights
- 5.a Equal economic rights
- 5.b Technology for women empowerment
- 5.c Gender equality policies

GOAL 6
- 6.b Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.
- 6.1 Safe drinking water
- 6.2 Access to sanitation & hygiene
- 6.6 Water-related ecosystems
- 6.a Int. cooperation on water & sanitation
- 6.3 Water quality
- 6.4 Water-use efficiency
- 6.5 Transboundary water cooperation

GOAL 7
- 7.1 Access to energy services
- 7.a Int. cooperation on energy
- 7.3 Energy efficiency
- 7.b Investing in energy infrastructure
- 7.2 Share of renewable energy

GOAL 8
- 8.1 Per capita economic growth
- 8.2 Economic productivity & innovation
- 8.3 Formalization of SMEs
- 8.4 Material resource efficiency
- 8.6 Youth NEET
- 8.10 Access to financial services
- 8.5 Full employment & decent work
- 8.7 Child & forced labour
- 8.8 Labour rights & safe working env.
- 8.9 Sustainable tourism
- 8.a Aid for Trade
- 8.b Strategy for youth employment

GOAL 9
- 9.4 Sustainable & clean industries
- 9.c Access to ICT & the Internet
- 9.5 Research and development
- 9.b Domestic technology development
- 9.1 Infrastructure development
- 9.2 Sustainable/inclusive industrialization
- 9.3 Small-scale industries access to finance
- 9.a Resilient infrastructure

GOAL 10
- 10.1 Income growth (bottom 40%)
- 10.2 Inclusion (social, economic & political)
- 10.b Resource flows for development
- 10.c Remittance costs
- 10.3 Eliminate discrimination
- 10.4 Fiscal & social protection policies
- 10.5 Regulation of financial markets
- 10.6 Inclusive global governance
- 10.7 Safe migration & mobility
- 10.a Special & differential treatment (WTO)

GOAL 11
- 11.1 Housing & basic services
- 11.2 Public transport systems
- 11.6 Urban air quality & waste mgmt.
- 11.5 Resilience to disasters
- 11.3 Sustainable urbanization
- 11.4 Cultural & natural heritage
- 11.7 Urban green & public spaces
- 11.a Urban planning
- 11.b Disaster risk management policies
- 11.c Sustainable & resilient buildings

GOAL 12
- 12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies
- 12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources
- 12.4 Managing chemicals & wastes
- 12.1 Programmes on SCP
- 12.3 Food waste & losses
- 12.5 Reduction in waste generation
- 12.6 Corporate sustainable practices
- 12.7 Public procurement practices
- 12.8 Sustainable development awareness
- 12.a Support for R&D capacity for SD
- 12.b Sustainable tourism monitoring

GOAL 13
- 13.1 Resilience & adaptive capacity
- 13.2 Climate change policies
- 13.3 Climate change awareness
- 13.a UNFCCC commitments
- 13.b Climate change planning & mgmt.

GOAL 14
- 14.1 Marine pollution
- 14.5 Conservation of coastal areas
- 14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems
- 14.3 Ocean acidification
- 14.4 Sustainable fishing
- 14.6 Fisheries subsidies
- 14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
- 14.a Research capacity & marine technology
- 14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing
- 14.c Implementing UNCLOS

GOAL 15
- 15.b Resources for forest management
- 15.2 Sustainable forests management
- 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems
- 15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems
- 15.5 Loss of biodiversity
- 15.3 Desertification and land degradation
- 15.6 Utilization of genetic resource
- 15.7 Protected species trafficking
- 15.8 Invasive alien species
- 15.9 Biodiversity in national & local planning
- 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems
- 15.c Protected species trafficking (global)

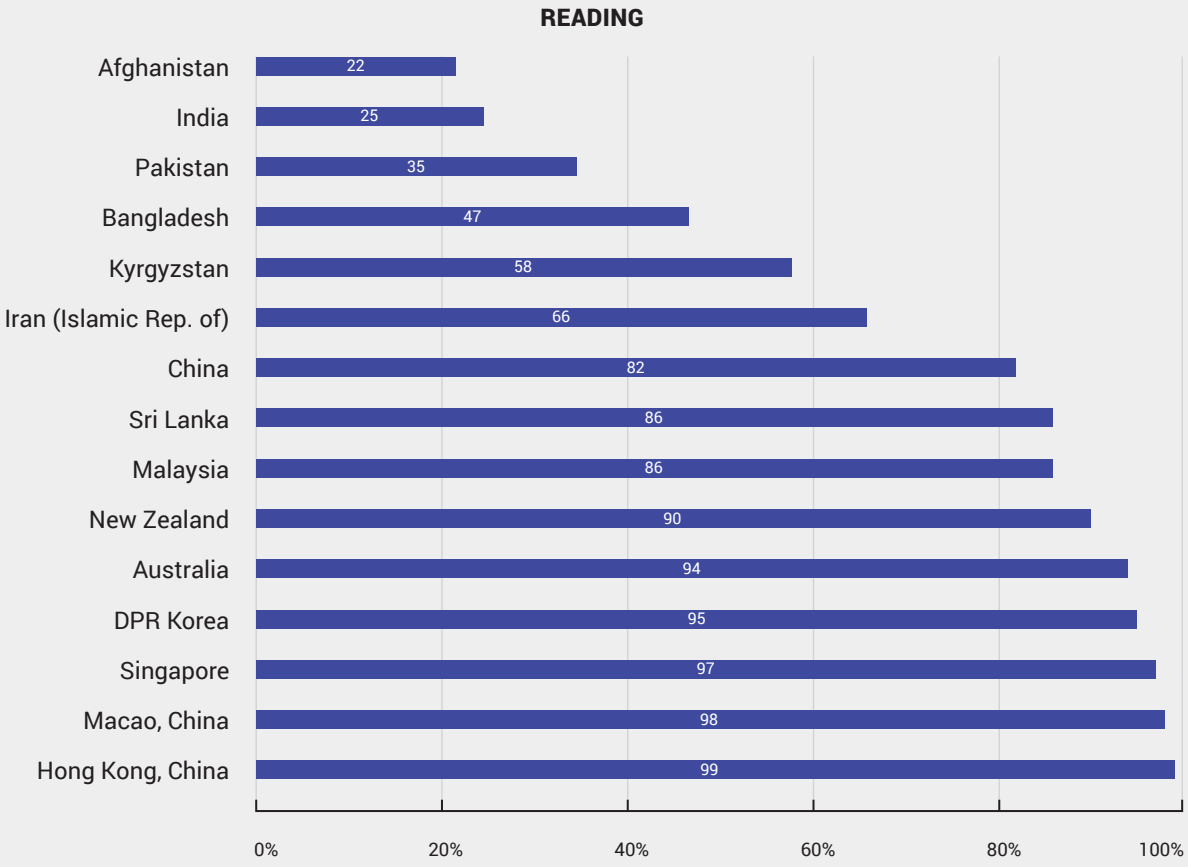
GOAL 16
- 16.1 Reduction of violence & related deaths
- 16.6 Effective institutions
- 16.2 Human trafficking
- 16.b Non-discriminatory laws
- 16.3 Justice for all
- 16.4 Illicit financial & arms flows
- 16.5 Corruption and bribery
- 16.7 Inclusive decision-making
- 16.8 Inclusive global governance
- 16.9 Legal identity
- 16.10 Public access to information
- 16.a Capacity to prevent violence

GOAL 17
- 17.1 Tax & other revenue collection
- 17.3 Additional financial resources
- 17.4 Debt sustainability
- 17.6 Science and tech int. cooperation
- 17.8 Capacity building for ICT
- 17.9 Capacity building for SDGs
- 17.10 Multilateral trading system (WTO)
- 17.11 Exports of developing countries
- 17.12 Duty-free market access for LDCs
- 17.19 Statistical capacity
- 17.2 ODA commitment by dev. countries
- 17.5 Investment promotion for LDCs
- 17.7 Transfer of technologies
- 17.13 Global macroeconomic stability
- 17.14 Policy coherence for SD
- 17.15 Respect country's policy space
- 17.16 Global partnership for SD
- 17.17 Partnerships (public, private, CSO)
- 17.18 National statistics availability

MAINTAIN progress to achieve target | **ACCELERATE** progress to achieve target | **REVERSE** trend | Cannot be measured

Figure 2. Dashboard of anticipated progress in 2030, Asia-Pacific region

BOX 1. COUNTRIES IN THE REGION ARE STRUGGLING TO EQUIP STUDENTS WITH NECESSARY LEARNING COMPETENCIES

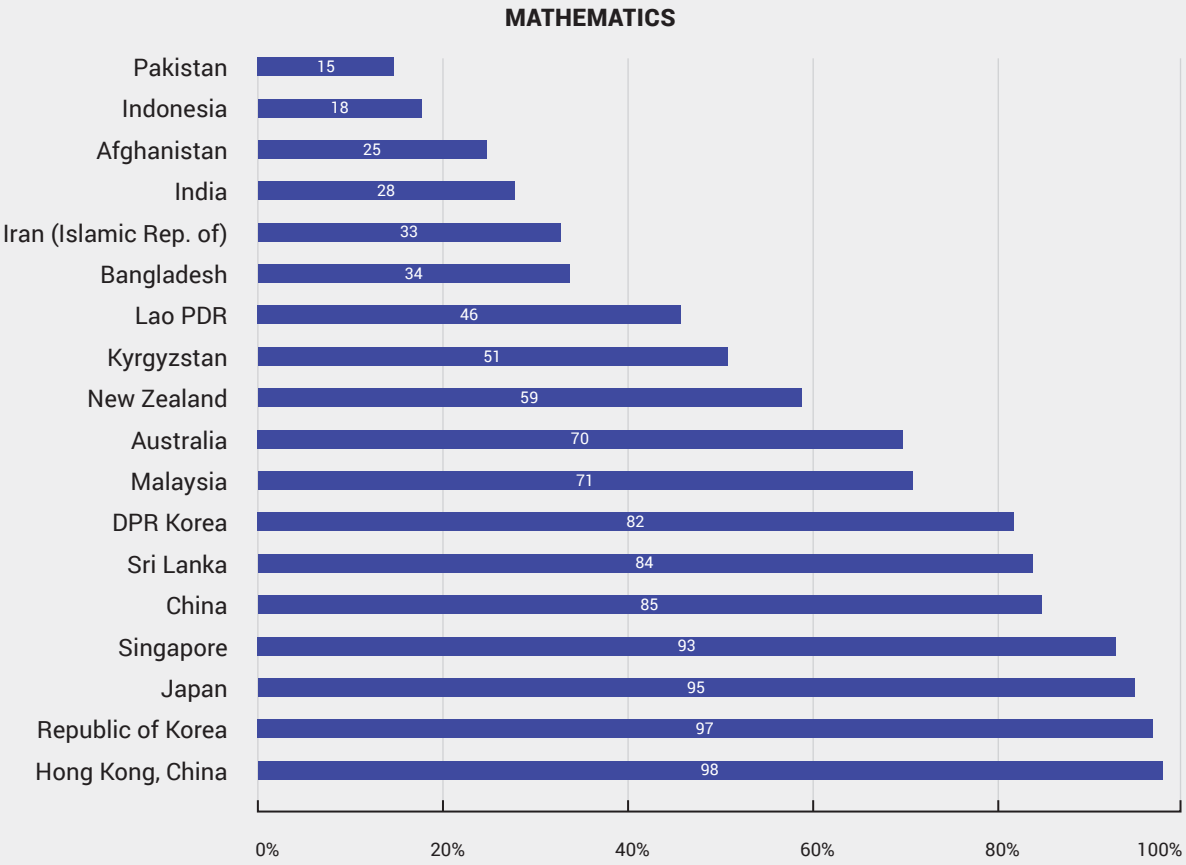


Students achieving minimum proficiency in reading at primary grade 2 or 3, 2018 (percentage)

Over the past couple of decades, countries in Asia and the Pacific have been tremendously successful in expanding access to and enrolment in primary and secondary education to all children. However, progressing through and completing basic education is only one part of the learning equation. More than 617 million children and adolescents worldwide are not achieving the minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics (SDG indicator 4.1.1). Nearly half of these children are from the Asia-Pacific region.[a/]

In 40 per cent of the countries with data, at least one in three children are not achieving the minimum proficiency in reading at grade 2 or 3 of primary education. In some countries this proportion is more than 75 per cent (e.g. India and Afghanistan). The situation is even worse for mathematics, in which in half of the countries with data, more than 40 per cent of students at grade 2 or 3 are not achieving minimum proficiencies.

a/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS). (2018). Skills and innovation in G20 countries (Montreal, Canada).



Students achieving minimum proficiency in mathematics at primary grade 2 or 3, 2018 (percentage)

Despite wide recognition of the critical role teachers play in delivering quality education, teachers in some countries still fall short on the national minimum training or qualifications. Of the countries in the region with available data, 63 per cent have a larger ratio of pupils to trained teachers than the ratio of pupils to teacher in primary education, which means that there are fewer trained teachers in service than those who are untrained.[b/]

This clearly implies that there are significant problems with the quality of education provided in the region and to assure achieving SDG 4, focus should be given to the key elements in teaching and learning (such as curriculum, teachers, and school resources).

Source: UNESCO, UIS data centre (retrieved on 10 December 2019).

b/ UNESCO. (2018). Paving the Road to Education: A target-by-target analysis of SDG 4 for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok).

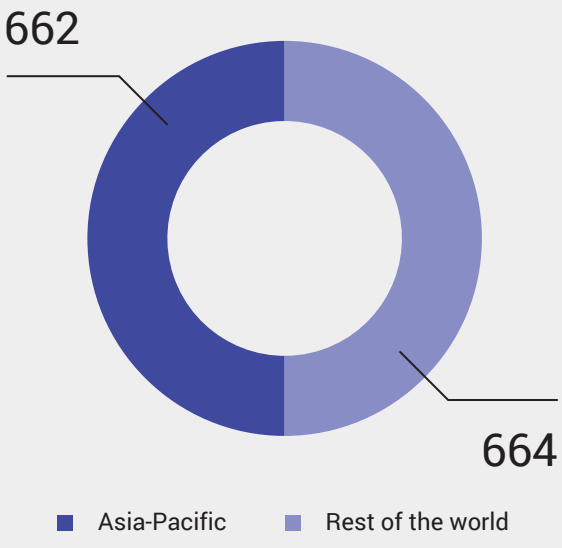
1.2 Social development

Efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and reduce inequality must respond to the multiple dimensions of deprivation.

Measures of monetary and material poverty often fail to show how poor people experience multidimensional deprivations (box 2). At the heart of the 2030 Agenda is ending hunger and all forms of poverty for all and ensuring that no one is left behind. The dashboard of anticipated progress (figure 2) shows the Asia-Pacific region is on track to achieve its targets on eradicating income poverty according to both internationally and nationally defined thresholds. With the current pace of progress, however, the region is likely to miss all measurable targets related to other forms of poverty, hunger and gender equality and reducing within and between country inequalities by 2030.

In the majority of countries with data, less than half of the population in the poorest quintile is covered by social assistance programmes. In at least 20 countries the proportion of children under age 5 who are moderately or severely overweight has increased since 2000, and in some cases the rate has more than doubled. Apart from few exceptions (Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Samoa and Thailand), in countries with data, the average wage of male employees is higher than that of female employees. Women and girls of the region are experiencing high rates of violence from their intimate partners (box 3). In 4 out of every 10 countries in the region, the income gap between poor and rich continues to widen.

BOX 2. BEYOND INCOME POVERTY, MULTIPLE DEPRIVATIONS



Number of multidimensional poor in 2017 (millions)

Globally, the number of the extreme poor (people living below $1.90 a day) dropped from 1.9 billion to 730 million from 1990 to 2015. Most of the decline was in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in China where the number of poor people has decreased from 780 million to less than 10 million.

Despite such a rapid decline in extreme poverty, the multidimensional poverty index created by the United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative[a/] shows that in 2017, globally, the multidimensionally poor population was double the population of the extreme poor. Despite its reduction from almost 33 per cent to 23 per cent during 2008–2017, still there are more than 1.3 billion multidimensionally poor people in the world, and almost half of them live in Asia and the Pacific. Of the 1.3 billion people who are multidimensionally poor, two thirds live in middle-income countries, about half are children under age 18, and a third are children under age 10.

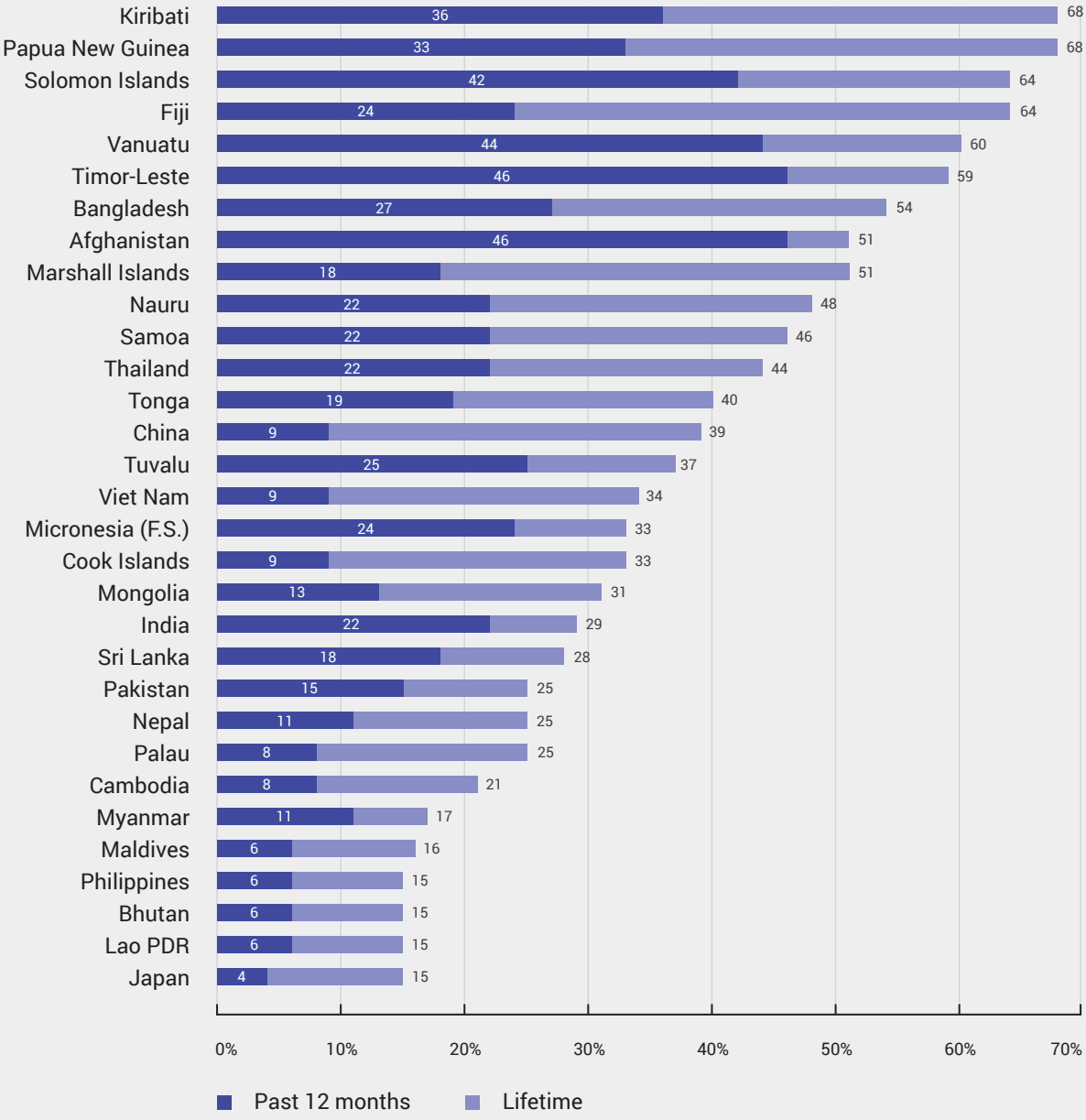
The proportion of the multidimensional poor people in the general population varies widely in Asia-Pacific countries,[b/] ranging from less than one per cent (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Thailand and Turkmenistan) to over 40 per cent (Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Timor-Leste). The majority of the countries with multidimensional poverty of over 30 per cent are least developed countries (LDCs).

Source: United Nations Development Programme, 2019.

a/ The 2019 release of the multidimensional poverty index used population count of 2017 as well as that of the survey year, but in 2010 it used the data of the survey year ranging between 2000–2008. The measurement of multidimensional poverty uses data from national household surveys, such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Demographic and Health Survey and others.

b/ The multidimensional poverty rate has not been computed for most of the Pacific countries in 2019 because of the lack of data. Vanuatu is the only Pacific country included in the 2019 multidimensional poverty index.

BOX 3. INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Women who experienced physical and/or intimate partner violence, 2000–2019

Data[a/] between 2000 and 2019 from 31 countries in the Asia-Pacific region show that between 4 and 46 per cent of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older have experienced physical and/or sexual violence during the previous 12 months (SDG indicator 5.2.1).

a/ The data reflect the most recent (if available national) prevalence data collected with the methodology developed for the World Health Organization multi-country study on violence against women, the domestic violence module of the Demographic and Health Survey, or the violence against women module of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, from publicly available survey reports, by May 2019.

The comparison of data on intimate partner violence in the past 12 months with data on lifetime prevalence enhances the understanding of women's experience of violence and the success of prevention programmes. For example, in both Afghanistan and the Marshall Islands 51 per cent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. In Afghanistan most of these women experience such violence continuously or repeatedly, but almost two thirds of the women in the Marshall Islands who ever experienced intimate partner violence were able to reduce or stop the violence, and/or break out of the violent relationship.

To date, out of all countries with data, only eight have completed more than one national prevalence survey with comparable methods. More data are needed to draw conclusions on progress towards eliminating violence against women and girls for the region.

Source: Henrica A.F.M. Jansen/kNOwVAWdata (2019). "Regional Snapshot: Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence, 2000–2019." United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia and the Pacific Pacific Region.

In addition to the reduction in income poverty, the region has registered promising progress in several SDG targets that could build a strong basis for acceleration in the future. For example, the prevalence of undernourishment has dropped from 17 per cent in 2000 to 11 per cent in 2017 (but this rate of progress is not fast enough to achieve the 2030 target of ending hunger). The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments has increased to 19 per cent, from 13 per cent in 2000 (yet the proportion remains below the world average of 24 per cent). The proportion of the population using basic sanitation services has increased from 48 per cent to almost 75 per cent since 2000 (although this is a faster rate of progress than the global average, the rate of progress is inadequate for the region to achieve its targets by 2030).

The region needs to accelerate efforts to meet its ambitions by 2030 in the following targets: increasing the resilience of vulnerable groups to adverse impacts of natural disasters; providing social protection for the poorest population groups; increasing access to basic drinking water and sanitation services for rural populations; reducing the prevalence of stunting and malnutrition among children under age 5 (box 4); empowering women to participate in leadership and decision making; equal employment opportunities and equal compensation for men and women (in particular for the population age 15–24); closing income gaps; and increasing development assistance especially to the least developed countries (LDCs).

BOX 4. STUNTING, WASTING AND OVERWEIGHT AMONG CHILDREN

- The prevalence of stunting and wasting in the region remains high – indeed, stunting rates exceed 20 per cent in a majority of the region's countries. According to the latest data available, at least 93 and 38 million children under five years of age were stunted (SDG indicator 2.2.1) and wasted (SDG indicator 2.2.2), respectively, in Asia and the Pacific in 2018.
- Asia and the Pacific has the world's highest prevalence and number of wasted children, with nearly one in 11 children at an increased risk of death due to wasting. Of the nearly 38 million children suffering from wasting in Asia and the Pacific, more than one third have severe acute malnutrition (SAM). In Asia and the Pacific, an estimated 19 million children under five years of age were considered overweight (SDG indicator 2.2.2) in 2018.
- The triple burden of malnutrition[a/] is driven by the poor quality of children's diets: 2 in 3 children globally are not fed the minimum recommended diverse diet for healthy growth and development. Poor diets are now the main risk factor for the global burden of disease. Nutrition needs to be embedded across health, water and sanitation, education and social protection systems through a multi-system and multi-stakeholder approach. Returns from investment in nutrition are high. For example, every dollar invested in reducing stunting generates an economic return equivalent to about 18 USD in high-burden countries.

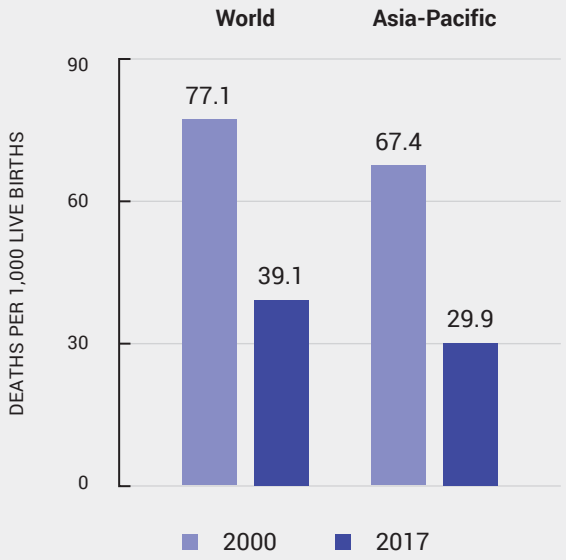
Source: UNICEF.

a/ Presence of overweight and obesity and micronutrient deficiencies along with child undernutrition within the same household or in the same person is referred to as the "Triple Burden" of malnutrition.

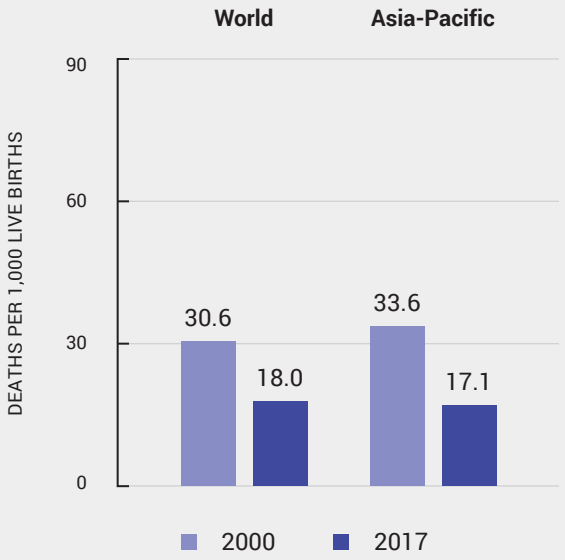
Despite remarkable successes, the region is facing serious challenges in addressing the most basic needs of its population by 2030.

Good health and well-being, quality education, clean water and sanitation, and living in safe and just societies are the most basic needs that the SDGs aim to fulfil for everyone everywhere. More than half of the measurable targets on which the Asia-Pacific region is on track fall under these four goals (figure 2). For example, since 2000, the region has significantly reduced maternal mortality; neonatal and child mortality have declined substantially and at a faster pace than the world average (box 5); the health impact of pollution has reduced; deaths caused by intentional homicide have significantly declined; and the number of qualified teachers has increased.

BOX 5. NEWBORN AND CHILD MORTALITY



Under-5 mortality rates, Asia-Pacific region and the world



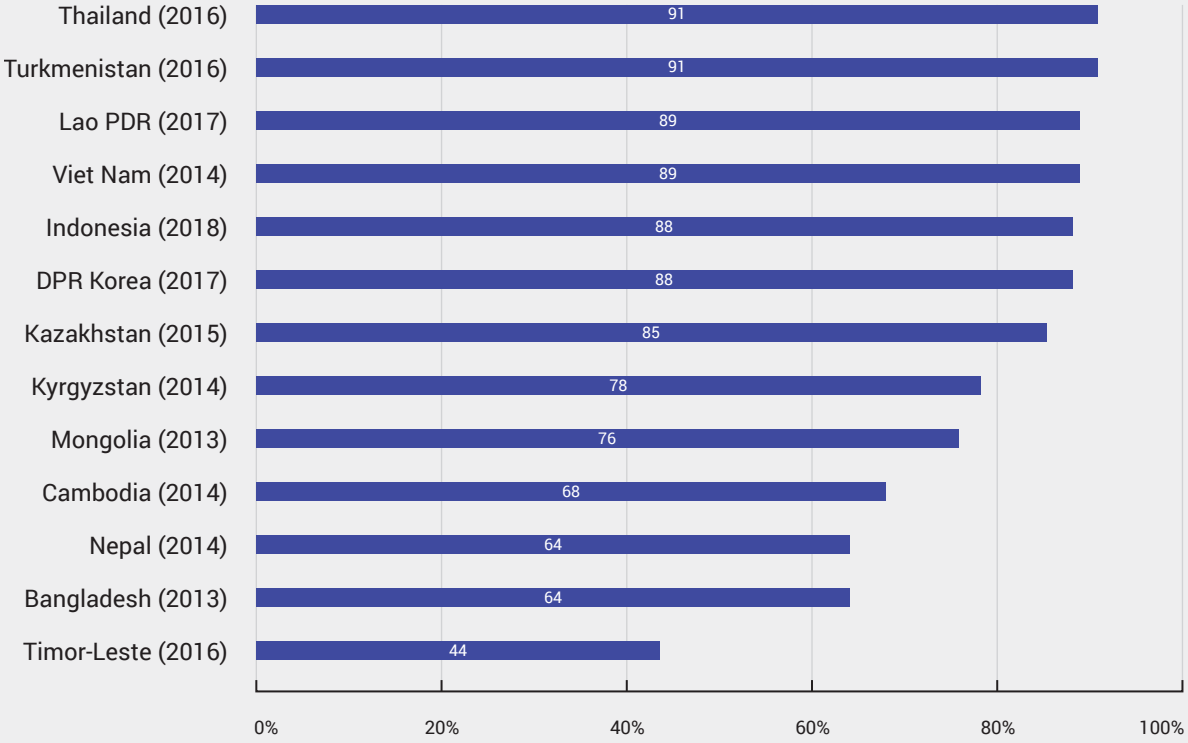
Neonatal mortality rates, Asia-Pacific region and the world

More children in the region are surviving to their fifth birthday than ever before. In 2017, the under-5 mortality rate (SDG indicator 3.2.1) and the neonatal mortality rate (SDG indicator 3.2.2) in the region were 29.9 and 17.1 per 1,000 live births, declining by 55.7 and 49.1 per cent respectively between 2000 and 2017. The total number of under-5 deaths dropped from 4.95 million in 2000 to 2.17 million in 2017. More than 1.77 million (82 per cent) under-5 deaths in 2017 occurred in the first 28 days of life. Most newborn deaths are due to preterm birth, intrapartum related complications (birth asphyxia), infections and birth defects.

Source: UNICEF.

Despite its remarkable success, the region is facing challenges in meeting SDG targets on the most basic needs of its population by 2030. The rate of death attributed to household and ambient air pollution in the Asia-Pacific region is 25 per cent higher than the world average. Suicides occur at an annual rate of almost 12 per 100,000 population (the average rate is nearly 20 in higher income countries). In the majority of countries with data, less than 80 per cent of students acquire minimum proficiency in mathematics by the end of lower secondary education (box 1). In the LDCs of the region, half of the rural population lacks access to safely managed drinking water. In some countries in the region birth registration of children under age 5 is still below 50 per cent (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).

BOX 6. ARE YOUNG CHILDREN IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC READY FOR SCHOOLING?



Under-5 children who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, in selected countries (percentage), latest year

Pre-primary and early childhood educational development play an important role in developing a child's ability to learn throughout life. The scores on the 2016 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) for 15-year-old students showed that, in 58 of 65 participating countries worldwide, students who attended at least one year of pre-primary schooling scored higher than students who did not.[a/]

The data show that in nearly half of countries with data, more than 20 per cent of children under the age of five years are not developmentally on track (SDG indicator 4.2.1), which means they are not ready for schooling or learning.

Despite the known benefits of investing in early childhood care and education and despite the recent global commitment to increase the quality of early childhood care and education, it remains the most underfunded sector in most countries of the region. Also, despite the call in Goal 4 for 10 years of free and compulsory education with one year of pre-primary education, very few countries in the region have legal provisions for compulsory pre-primary education.

Source: UNESCO, UIS data centre (retrieved on 10 December 2019).

a/ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). (2016). *Education Indicators in Focus. What are the benefits from early childhood education?* (Paris).

The region needs to scale up and accelerate its efforts in targets where the evidence shows a lack of progress. Preventing the spread of communicable diseases, enhancing mental health and reducing substance abuse, reducing road traffic deaths, increasing health coverage and access to health facilities and personnel, improving learning outcomes and access to early childhood development (box 6), increasing the access of populations, especially in rural areas, to safely managed drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene (box 7), and ending all forms of violence against and torture of children (box 8) are among measurable targets that are expected to remain out of reach (to varying degrees) by 2030.

BOX 7. PROGRESS ON DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Overall, the Asia-Pacific region has made good progress in improving **access to safe drinking water services** in the past decade. Only one per cent of the population now use surface water for drinking purposes and around 92 per cent now have access to basic drinking water. However, when considering the three criteria that define "safely managed" drinking water (SDG indicator 6.1.1), this percentage drops in the Asia-Pacific region from 97 per cent to 89 per cent, pointing to larger issues around water quality. In Bhutan, for example, while the access to *improved* drinking water sources is 100 per cent, only 34 per cent of the drinking water sources are free from contamination.

The region has made significant progress in reducing **open defecation** and improving **access to basic sanitation**. For instance, India and Nepal achieved a remarkable reduction in open defecation rates and Nepal was declared free of open defecation in October 2019. Other countries had greater success in eliminating open defecation in urban areas compared to rural areas. Although poverty may be one determinant of access to water, sanitation and hygiene services, poor urban dwellers may, nonetheless, have better access than wealthier rural inhabitants. However, there has been some success within the region in reducing inequalities in basic sanitation more broadly. In Cambodia, for instance, there was an increase of urban coverage of basic sanitation from 46 per cent to 96 per cent from 2000 to 2017 and the gap between the richest and poorest was reduced by over 60 percentage points over the same period.[a/] Investment in water, sanitation and hygiene is essential and challenging. A recent study by the World Bank estimated that the "capital investments required to achieve the water supply, sanitation and hygiene (SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2) amount to about three times the current investment levels".[b/]

Source: UNICEF.

a/ World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme. (2019). Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2017 (New York), p. 35.

b/ Guy Hutton and Mili Varughese. (2016). The costs of meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal targets on drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. Water and Sanitation Program: Technical Paper (Washington, D.C., World Bank), p. 7.

BOX 8. VIOLENCE AGAINST AND TORTURE OF CHILDREN

The average percentage of children (ages 2–14) experiencing **physical discipline or psychological aggression** from a caregiver (SDG indicator 16.2.1.) is 70 per cent across Asia-Pacific countries with data, ranging from 37 to 85.5 per cent. Addressing violence in the home requires a combination of legal prohibition, awareness raising, and parenting support to promote alternatives and social norm change. Since 2016, only two additional countries – Mongolia (2016) and Nepal (2018) – have passed a full prohibition of all forms of violence against children in all settings.[a/] Meanwhile, there has been an increase in the number of countries implementing parenting support programmes. For example, half of the ASEAN member States now have parenting support programmes specifically focused on reducing violent discipline.[b/]

The number of countries with data on **sexual violence** for SDG indicator 16.2.3 (on the proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18) remains woefully low, hampering efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

Source: UNICEF.

a/ Global Initiative to End All Forms of Corporal Punishment, see https://endcorporalpunishment.org/.

b/ ASEAN secretariat (2019). Ending violence against children in ASEAN Member States: Midterm review of priority areas under the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children 2016–2025.

1.3 Economic development

Balancing its fast-growing economy with measures to protect human well-being and a healthy environment is the best means for the region to succeed across the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda aims for responsible economic growth that respects people and the planet while bringing prosperity to all. The current trends show good progress on economic growth and infrastructure development. For instance, the region is on track to achieve its SDG targets on real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita growth (in 2017, it was 4.2 per cent per annum, more than double the world average), universal access to mobile network and banking, and has made a significant progress in increasing medium and high-tech industry value added. However, the economic growth of the region is not without environmental and social costs. The region is consuming 60 per cent more natural resources than the world average per unit of GDP, and it emits 20 per cent more carbon dioxide to produce one unit of manufacturing value added.

At the same time, economic growth is not proving adequate expansion of decent work. Employment in the informal sector exceeds

70 per cent of total employment in some countries, and vulnerable employment in the region remains above the world average. In most of the countries with data, employed females are paid less than their male counterparts and the unemployment rate among females aged 15–24 is higher than that among males. In the Asia-Pacific region, labour productivity, measured as real GDP per employed person (based on purchasing power parity (PPP) in 2011 dollars), is below the world average.

But there is reason for hope. By accelerating efforts, the region can balance its fast-growing economy with human well-being and a healthy environment. In 2018, nearly 90 per cent of the population of the Asia-Pacific region were covered by at least a 4G mobile network (10 percentage points higher than the world average) and the region has adopted clean and environmentally sound technologies to reduce the intensity of carbon dioxide emissions from its manufacturing sector. Of the countries with data, 80 per cent have reduced carbon dioxide emissions per one unit of manufacturing value added since the year 2000. Also, for every million inhabitants in the region, there are nearly 1,000 full-time researchers (a 50 per cent increase from 2000, but still less than one third of the European average).

To grow more sustainably and more evenly, the region needs to prioritize SDG targets for economic productivity, full employment and decent work, affordable and equitable access to reliable infrastructure, economic growth for the LDCs as well as the share of industries in LDC economies, while improving resilience to disasters, integrating climate change measures into national policies, sustainably managing chemicals and wastes, and efficiently using natural resources.

1.4 Environmental development

The evidence is overwhelming that the Asia-Pacific region is not on track to achieve the sustainable use of the planet's shared resources (air, water, soil and energy).

To achieve its 2030 targets, the region needs to reverse the current trends of depleting and degrading environmental resources. The share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption in Asia and the Pacific has dropped from 23 per cent in 2000 to 16 per cent in 2016, one of the lowest rates among world regions. In 2018, the lives of at least 24 million people in the region were affected by natural disasters. The region emits half of the world's total greenhouse gas, and the number has doubled since 2000. Although the total forest area of the Asia-Pacific region has slightly increased compared to 2000, 35 per cent of countries continue to lose their forests.

The region needs to significantly accelerate its progress or reverse trends on most of the measurable environmental targets of the 2030 Agenda. Significant steps have been taken in some target areas. For instance, open defecation in urban populations has dropped to 1.5 per cent from 8 per cent in 2000 (box 7). The total capacity of the region to produce renewable electricity has increased almost fivefold since 2000, faster than any other region in the world. This gives hope that it is not too late to rectify environmental degradation.

Substantial improvement is still needed in energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy in total energy consumption, hazardous waste generation, greenhouse gas emissions, impact of climate-related hazards and natural disasters on all population groups (in particular poor and vulnerable groups), air quality and waste management in cities, evidence on marine pollution and the impact of human activities on marine and coastal ecosystem, preserving biodiversity, and protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems (figure 2).

1.5 Partnerships, data, technology, connectivity, and financing to reach the goals

In the face of declining ODA and FDI, regional partnerships and cooperation are crucial to bridge the gaps in finance, data, technology and connectivity for development.

The 2030 Agenda is an integrated path to sustainable development. It requires the revitalization of partnerships at all levels and across all stakeholders in sustainable financing, inclusive and sustainable trade, transforming technologies, capacity building and evidence-base for coherent policymaking. Goal 17 provides a framework to monitor success in building partnerships for regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Despite some progress, the Asia-Pacific region is unlikely to achieve any of the measurable targets under Goal 17 by 2030 without extra efforts (figure 2). In one out of three Asia-Pacific countries with data, less than half of the domestic budget is funded by revenue from domestic tax (below the world average of 65 per cent). In countries with special needs in Asia and the Pacific, the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) (measured as a share of GDP) has been declining since 2010, net external debt is over 40 per cent of GDP, and total official development assistance (ODA) has dramatically declined since 2012 back to its 2008 value (approximately 9 million USD). The region has seen a significant increase in access to the Internet since 2000, but progress is insufficient and more than half of the population of the region still is not using the Internet.

Significant progress in several targets provides grounds for optimism that the region can scale up its overall progress on partnership for the goals (Goal 17). The Asia-Pacific region is the only region in the world with a share of commercial services exports that has increased since 2000, and the share among LDCs in the region has increased even more sharply. The inflow of personal remittances as a share of GDP has doubled for LDCs of the region since 2000. Three out of four countries with data in the region have achieved above 90 per cent completeness of birth registration.

The 2030 Agenda could still be within reach for the Asia-Pacific region providing it accelerates efforts to strengthen the means of implementation. The region needs to strengthen domestic capacity of its developing countries to diversify government revenue and also mobilize additional financial resources for sustainable development from multiple sources. Developed countries need to double their efforts in implementing their international commitment of 0.7 per cent of ODA as share of their gross national income (GNI), currently at 0.3 per cent for most of the developed countries in the region. Strengthening existing bilateral and triangular regional and international

cooperation mechanisms, and building new ones, should be prioritized to facilitate science, technology and innovation transfer. The LDCs of the region need further support to ensure long-term and unrestricted access to the global market. Increasing investment in and building capacity for statistical development, especially in LDCs and small island developing States, are key to successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Asia-Pacific region.

1.6 High priorities in the region

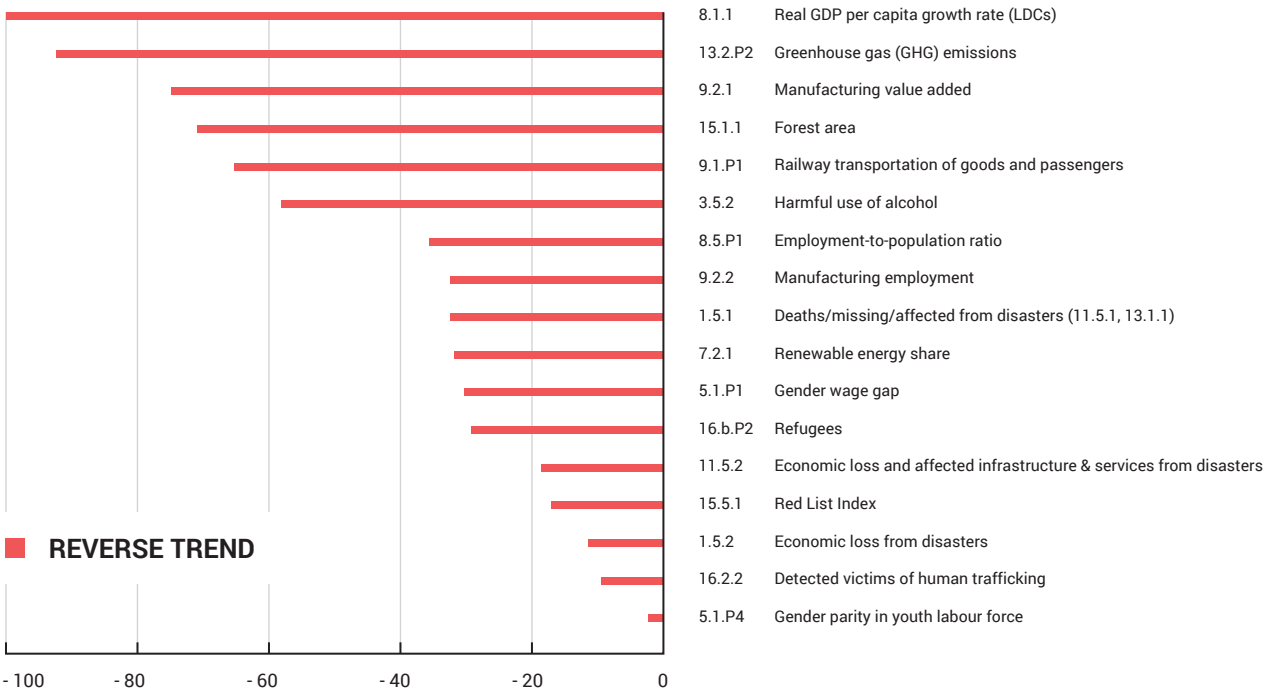


Figure 3. Anticipated progress gaps by 2030 in the Asia-Pacific region: trends to be reversed

Figures 3 and 4 show progress gaps[2] for each of the SDG indicators on the scale of -100 (the biggest regression) and 100 (no significant progress). Red bars in figure 3 indicate size of regression and yellow bars in figure 4 show the size of progress gap to be filled. Indicators with a progress gap value between 0 and 10 are considered on-track and listed in figure 5 in green.

2 More information on anticipated progress index in Annex 2 - Technical notes.

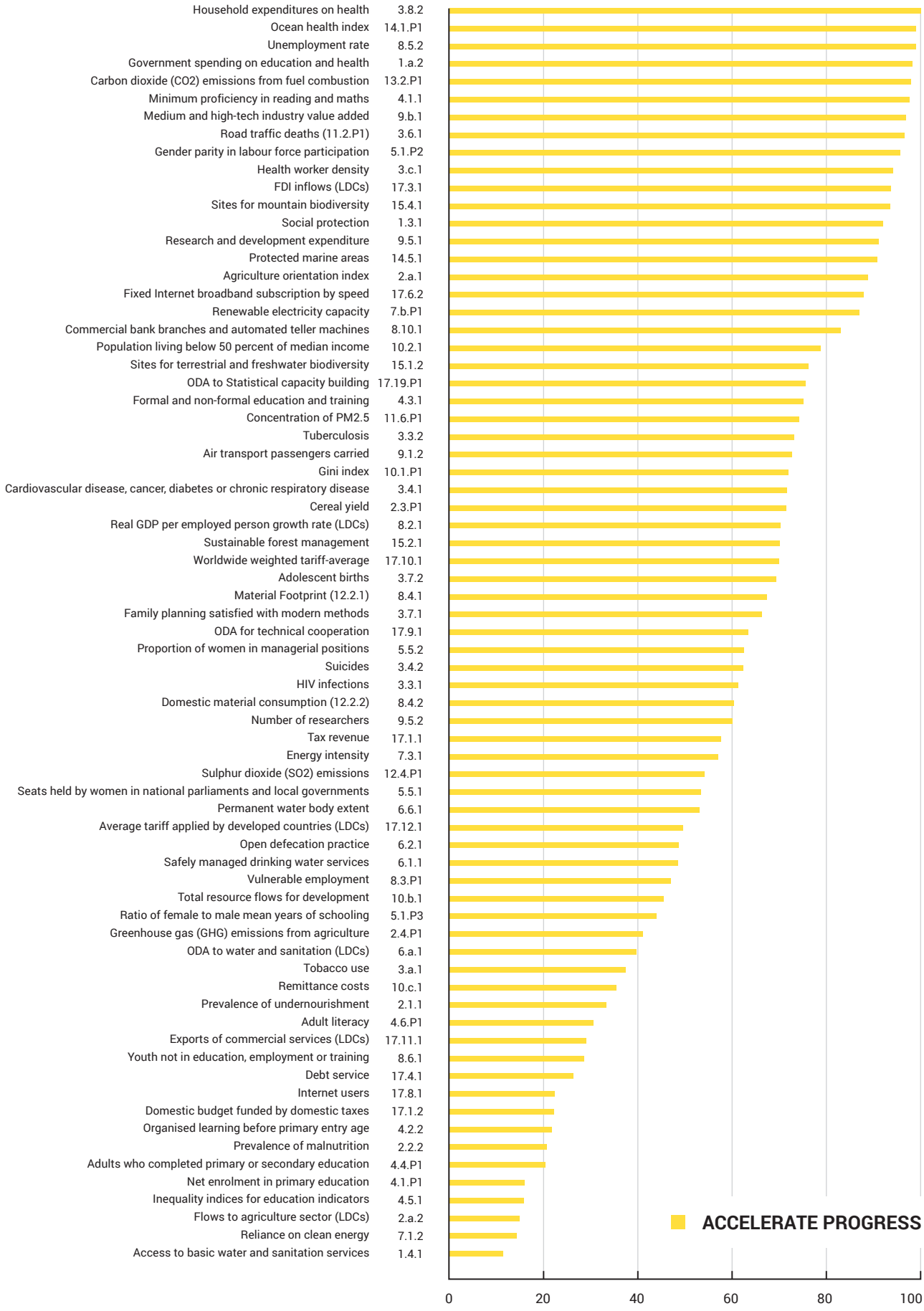


Figure 4. Anticipated progress gaps by 2030 in the Asia-Pacific region: trends to accelerate

ON-TRACK INDICATORS

- 1.1.1 International poverty
- 1.2.1 National poverty
- 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting
- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.1.2 Births attended by skilled health personnel
- 3.2.1 Under-five mortality
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality
- 3.3.3 Malaria
- 3.9.3 Unintentional poisoning
- 3.b.1 Population covered by all vaccines in national programme
- 3.d.1 Health capacity and emergency preparedness
- 4.1.P2 Out-of-school children
- 4.1.P3 Gross intake ratio
- 4.b.1 ODA for scholarships (LDCs)
- 4.c.1 Organized teacher training
- 5.5.P1 Women researchers
- 6.b.1 Policies and procedures for participative water and sanitation management
- 7.1.1 Access to electricity
- 7.a.1 International support for clean and renewable energy (LDCs)
- 8.1.P1 Real GDP per capita growth rate
- 8.2.P1 Real GDP per employed person growth rate
- 8.10.2 Adults with a bank account
- 9.4.1 CO2 emission intensity
- 9.c.1 Population covered by a mobile network
- 11.1.P1 Open defecation practice (urban)
- 12.c.P1 Fossil-fuel subsidies
- 15.b.1 ODA for biodiversity (LDCs)
- 16.1.1 Intentional homicides
- 16.6.1 Government expenditure
- 17.3.2 Personal remittances
- 17.19.1 Financial resources to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

Figure 5. On-track SDG indicators in the Asia-Pacific region

SDG goals and targets are interlinked and negative trends must be reversed on every development dimension.

Overall, the region will fall short of most SDG targets for which data is available (figure 3). The red bars in figure 3 show that for 20 per cent of indicators the region is off-track, conditions in 2030 will be worse than they were in 2015 unless immediate actions are taken to reverse current trends.

It is clear that some trends in every development pillar in the Asia-Pacific region must be reversed. The top challenges for course correction include:

- **Economic indicators** - economic growth for the LDCs; share of manufacturing in total employment and production; productive employment opportunities, in particular for the youth population; and transportation infrastructure;
- **Environmental indicators** - greenhouse gas emissions; loss of forest areas; impact of natural disasters; insufficient share of renewable energy; and the loss of bio-diversity as measured by the Red List Index;
- **Social indicators** - number of refugees as well as victims of human trafficking; gender wage gap; and harmful alcohol consumption.

Among the indicators with negative trends, some are highly interlinked and cross cutting, such as impact of disasters on population, economy and infrastructure, and gender gap in employment and wage.

The pace of positive trends must be maintained to reach 28 SDG targets by 2030.

The Asia-Pacific region is on track on a quarter of the indicators available to assess progress, many of which fall under good health and well-being (Goal 3) and quality education (Goal 4). It is likely the region can achieve its 2030 targets by maintaining the current pace of progress measured by 31 indicators for 28 targets.

1.7 Data availability for assessing progress on the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific

Data availability is steadily increasing and progress toward the goals is linked to the availability of good data.

In 2017, only 25 per cent of the SDG indicators had sufficient data for progress assessment. Data availability has steadily increased, reaching 42 per cent of SDG indicators in 2019 (figures 5). This increase demonstrates the statistical community in the Asia-Pacific region is responding to the call to boost data to monitor the SDGs.

Nevertheless, the number of indicators without any data – currently 71 out of 232 – indicates the statistical community still has challenges to overcome and further investment is required (figure 6).

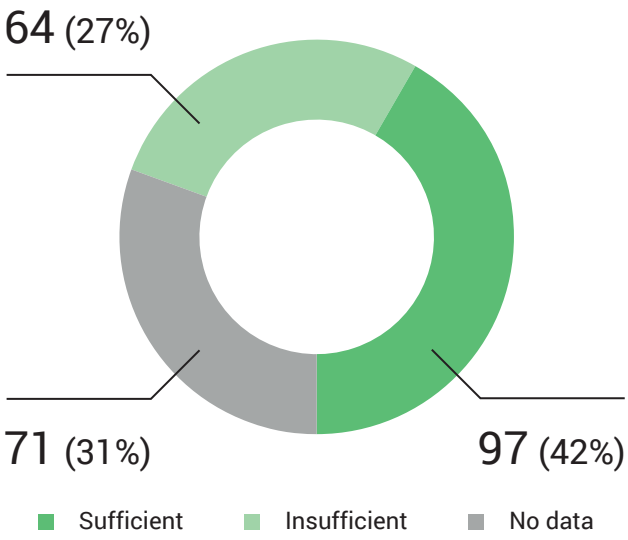


Figure 6. Data availability for SDG indicators in the Asia-Pacific region, 2019

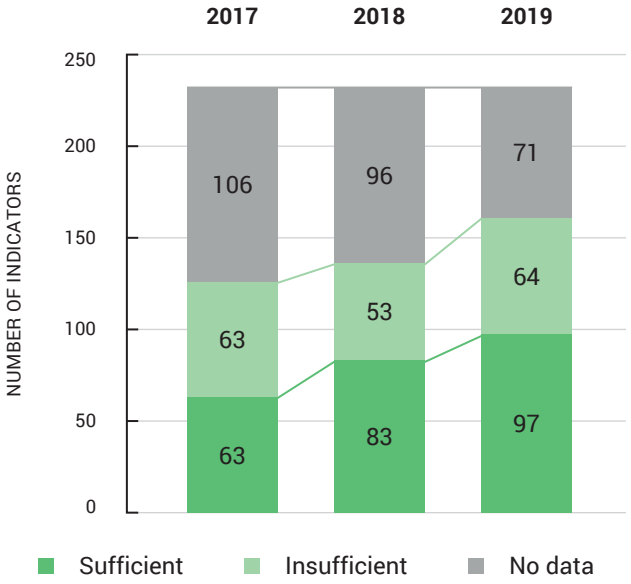


Figure 7. Data availability for SDG indicators in the Asia-Pacific region, 2017–2019

Some of the goals have higher data availability than others (figure 7), and it should be noted that the most progress has been made on goals that have higher data availability when compared to goals where progress has been limited. This highlights that policy prioritization and investment in data and statistics are highly interlinked.

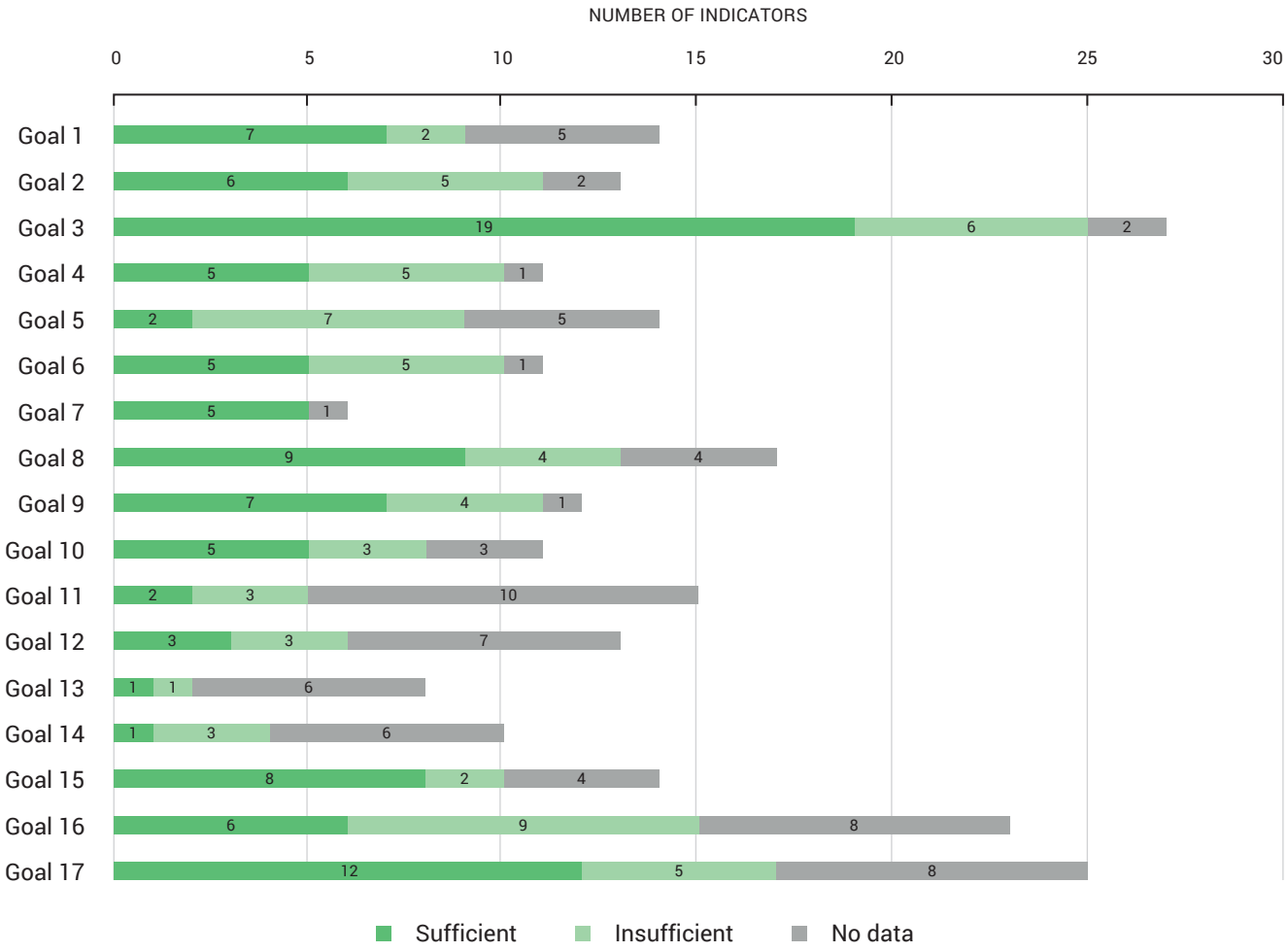


Figure 8. Data availability for SDG indicators in the Asia-Pacific region by goal, 2019

Figures 6, 7 and 8 illustrate aspects of data availability in Asia and the Pacific, according to the following classifications.

- **Sufficient data**: Indicators with at least an underlying data series with two data points or more between 2000 and 2019 for at least half the countries in the region. This is the minimum required to estimate a historical trend.
- **Insufficient data**: Indicators with an underlying data series with at least one data point but not sufficient for estimating historical trend. Indicators with such limited data availability may still be useful to shed light on the current status of the region.
- **No data**: Indicators with no data for any of the 58 countries in the region.

1.8 Summary and conclusions

The Asia-Pacific region needs to accelerate its progress on all 17 SDGs.

Despite significant success on quality education (Goal 4) and affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), without extra efforts, the region is likely to miss all 17 goals by 2030. In particular, the region needs to reverse negative trends on responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) and climate action (Goal 13).

There is reason for hope the region can accelerate progress on several targets.

Current trends show the Asia-Pacific region has created momentum to accelerate progress on several targets. For instance, the region has sustained its economic growth, at least 18 countries experience less income inequality, and the total capacity of the region to produce renewable electricity has increased more than in any other region of the world. The region now sees a slight decline in its material footprint and domestic material consumption after decades of resource intensive production, the proportion of the population using basic sanitation services has significantly increased and the region has substantially reduced maternal, neonatal and child mortality. The coverage of the population of the Asia-Pacific region by at least a 4G mobile network has increased, carbon dioxide emissions intensity from the manufacturing sector has been reduced and the practice of open defecation has substantially dropped among the urban population of the region.

Only 42 per cent of the SDG indicators are available for assessing progress in the region.

Data availability on the SDG indicators has substantially increased over the past few years, yet data are lacking on over half of the SDG indicators. In particular, data availability is very limited on those goals with slow progress, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen the policy-data nexus.

PART II – SUBREGIONAL PROGRESS

From industrial powerhouses and trading hubs to remote island States, the Asia-Pacific region is home to an unparalleled diversity of countries. The achievement of progress has not been equal across the five Asia-Pacific subregions. Part 2 highlights where subregions have made good progress and where they are lagging behind in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Progress across the subregions has been uneven.

Across Asia-Pacific subregions, progress has been most uneven in reducing inequalities (Goal 10), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16), shown in figure 9.

North and Central Asia has progressed more than any other subregion in reduced inequalities (Goal 10) and is considered on track, while **South-East Asia** is the only subregion that has regressed on Goal 10, based on available data from two SDG indicators.

Similarly, **the Pacific** is the only subregion on track in responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) while **South and South-West Asia** has registered a considerable regression.

The greatest progress in peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16) has been made by **North and Central Asia** while **the Pacific** along with **South-East Asia** and **South and South-West Asia** are regressing and moving further from achieving the goal.

East and North-East Asia has made the largest progress among the subregions in zero hunger (Goal 2) and clean water and sanitation (Goal 6). Progress toward zero hunger, however, is held back by a stark increase in the percentage of children under age 5 who are overweight. **South-East Asia** and **South and South-West Asia** made less progress than the other subregions in no poverty (Goal 1). Similarly, **the Pacific** has lagged behind the rest of the region on zero hunger (Goal 2), quality education (Goal 4) and clean water and sanitation (Goal 6).

A positive example of collective progress across all five subregions is on access to electricity, where steady improvement is noticeable, particularly in rural areas. If the trend continues, all subregions will achieve the target of universal access to energy by 2030.

Progress toward other targets is less uniform among subregions. For example, the rate of road traffic deaths has diminished in **the Pacific**, while it has remained virtually unchanged in other subregions since 2000; labour productivity continues to increase at different rates across five subregions (box 9); and the gender gap in the share of youth not in education, employment or training remains high in the region, but ranges from two per cent in **the Pacific** to 36 per cent in **South and South-West Asia** (box 10).

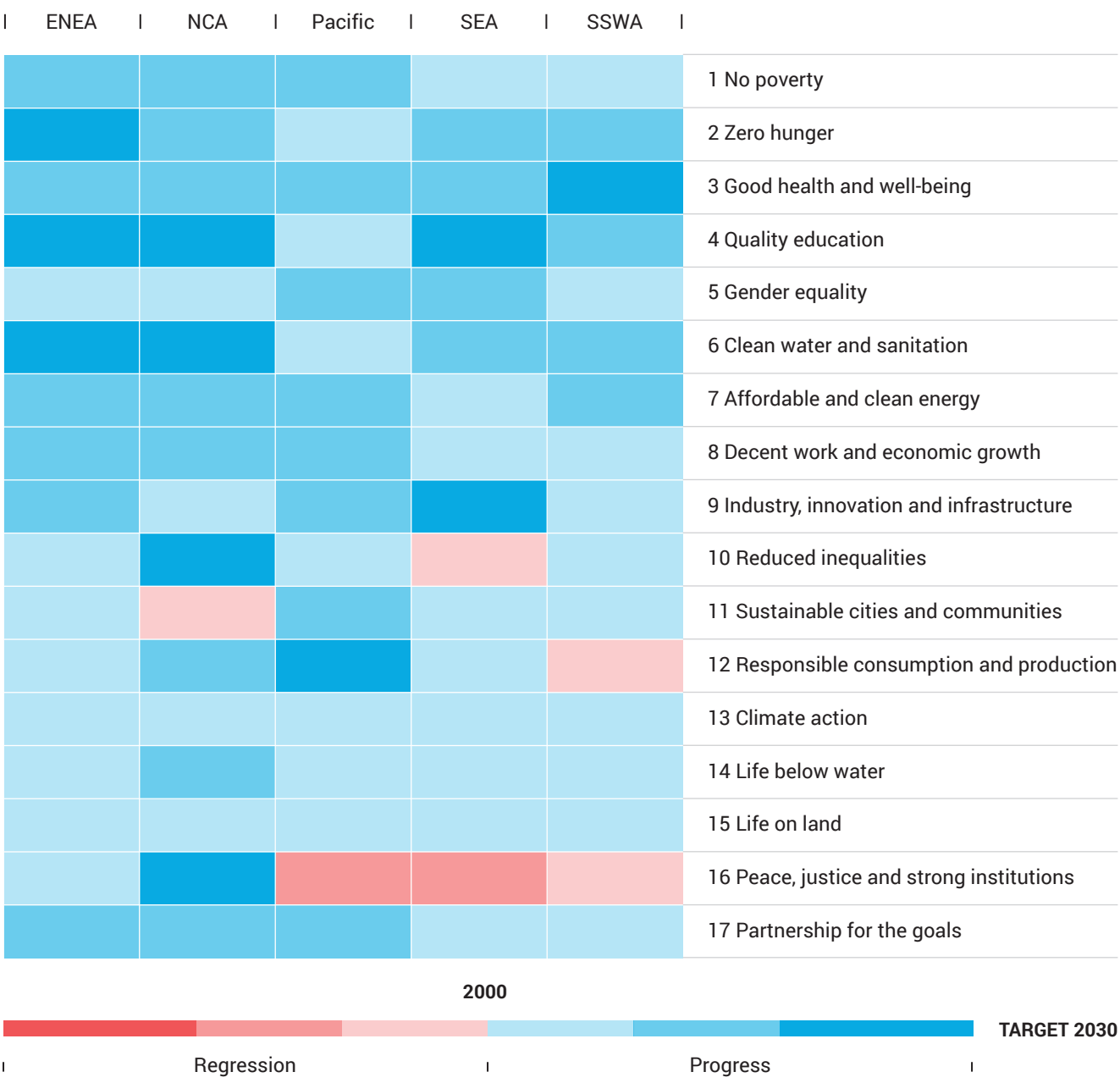
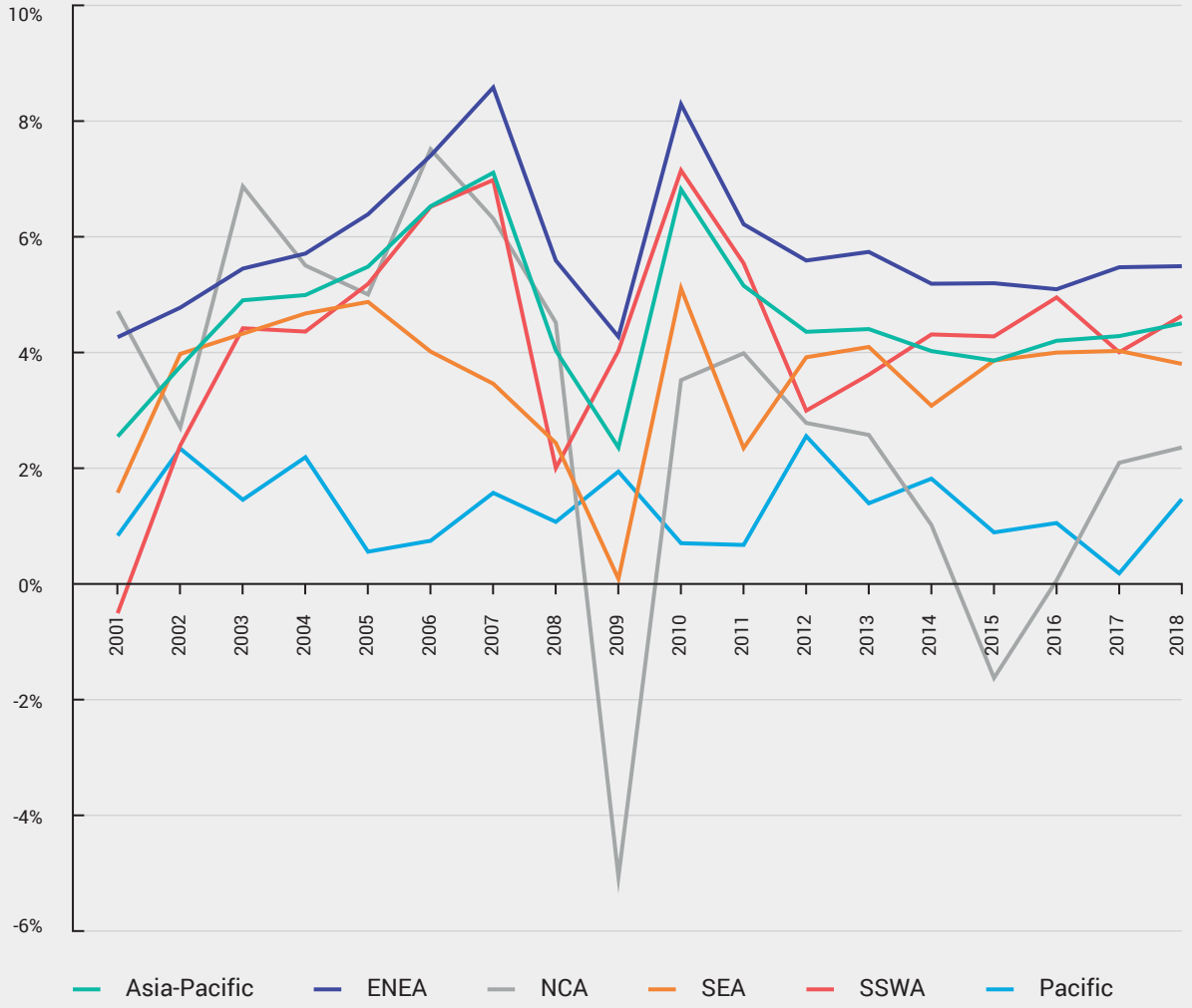


Figure 9. Snapshot of SDG progress, subregional comparison

BOX 9. LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY



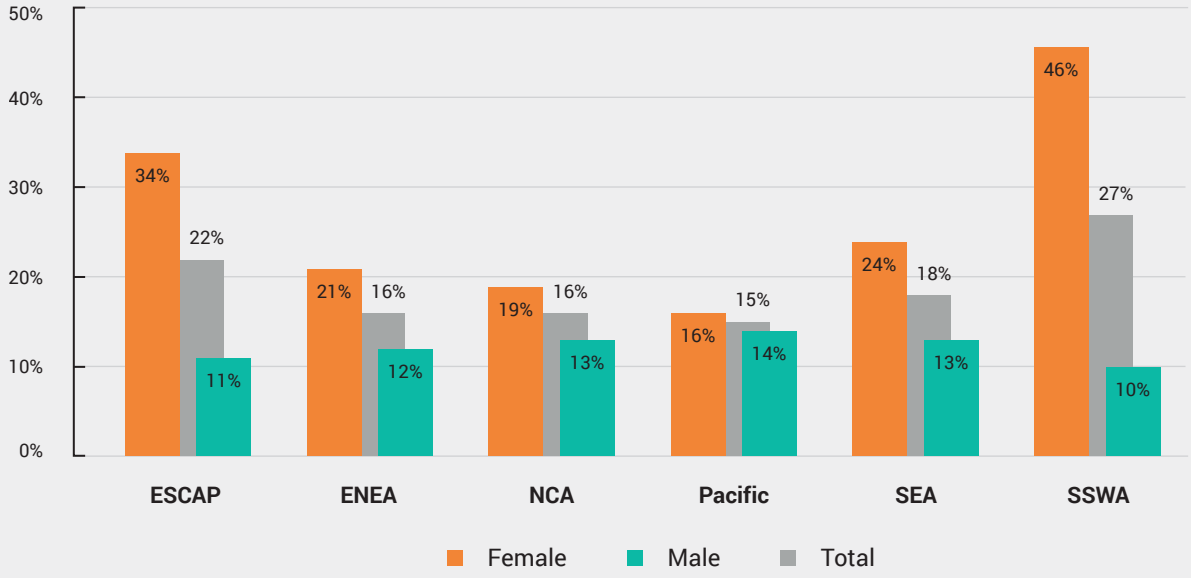
Annual growth rate of labour productivity, 2001–2018
(GDP per employed person in 2011 PPP USD)

Labour productivity (measured as GDP per employed person in SDG indicator 8.2.1) remains positive in the region, although the growth rate in 2018 remained below that of 2010. At 4.5 per cent between 2017 and 2018, the Asia-Pacific labour productivity growth rate is more than double the world average (2.1 per cent).

Disparities are observed, however, across Asia and the Pacific: between 2017 and 2018, the average annual output per worker saw the highest increase in East and North-East Asia (5.5 per cent) and in South and South-West Asia (4.6 per cent), whereas it increased only slightly in North and Central Asia (2.3 per cent) and in the Pacific (1.5 per cent). In fact, labour productivity in the Pacific remains lower than the world average.

Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2018.

BOX 10. YOUTH NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING



Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training in the Asia-Pacific region and subregions by sex, 2018

In 2018, around one out of every five youth were neither gaining professional experience through jobs nor acquiring or developing skills through educational or vocational programmes (SDG indicator 8.6.1). This signals an urgent need for targeted policies to address this issue, including through the development and operationalization of a national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy (SDG indicator 8.b.1).

The situation of youth is the most alarming in South and South-West Asia, where more than one quarter of the young population (27 per cent) are not in education, employment or training.

Special efforts should be devoted to improving the situation of young women in Asia (the Pacific subregion is an exception), as more young women than young men are not in education, employment or training (34 per cent of young women against 11 per cent of young men). While South and South-West Asia had the lowest rates of young men not in employment, education or training (10 per cent), it had the highest rates for young women (a startling 46 per cent, meaning almost half of all young women in the subregion were jobless and not in education or training, which puts them at risk of future social and economic exclusion). The gender gap in the share of youth not in education, employment or training was at 36 per cent in South and South-West Asia and 11 per cent in South-East Asia, compared to only 2 per cent in the Pacific. Thus, to be successful, strategies for youth employment, education or vocational training must consider the gender dimension to account for issues particularly affecting young women.

Discouragingly, there has been little to no progress in decreasing the share of youth not in education, employment or training, or in reducing the gender gap in that indicator since 2015.

Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2018.

Progress has been slow in all subregions on goals related to gender equality, sustainable cities and communities, the environment and the means of implementation.

Progress across the subregions has been slow or regressing on gender equality (Goal 5), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), climate action (Goal 13), life below water (Goal 14), life on land (Goal 15), and partnership for the goals (Goal 17).

The Pacific leads other subregions in progress on gender equality (Goal 5), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11) and partnership for the goals (Goal 17), even though progress itself has not been significant. Nevertheless, the Pacific has lagged behind other subregions on climate action (Goal 13) measured by emissions and the impact of disasters.

East and North-East Asia is behind other subregions in life below water (Goal 14) and life on land (Goal 15), and it shows stagnation or regression in most environment-related indicators.

North and Central Asia is the only subregion regressing on sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11). The increasing concentrations of particulate matter (specifically PM 2.5) is a factor contributing to this regression.

The percentage of seats held by women in national parliaments is below the world average in every Asia-Pacific subregion. Even though limited progress has been made over the years, the pace has not followed the world average. At the present rate, by 2030 women's representation will remain well below 30 per cent in the Asia-Pacific region.

The following sections contain a deeper analysis of the progress of each subregion.

2.1 East and North-East Asia

East and North-East Asia is on track or made significant progress on no poverty (Goal 1), zero hunger (Goal 2), good health and well-being (Goal 3) and quality education (Goal 4) as well as clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), and industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9). Even though more data are needed to strengthen the analysis, insufficient progress is noted for the remaining goals. In particular, the subregion needs to intensify its efforts on partnership for the goals (Goal 17).

The East and North-East Asia subregion has achieved much progress in eradicating extreme poverty (less than one per cent of the population is living on an income below $1.90 per day in 2011 PPP dollars) and providing access to services, such as basic drinking water (94 per cent have access) and basic sanitation (85 per cent have access). Similar progress has been achieved regarding undernourishment, except for in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea where nearly 50 per cent of the population are undernourished. Some progress has been accompanied by a reduction of inequalities. Household income growth for the bottom 40 per cent of the population at 9.1 per cent for China in 2015 (which is higher than the growth rate for the total population) is expected to drive East and North-East Asia toward a reduction of inequalities.

The subregion has also achieved great progress in good health and well-being (Goal 3). It has the lowest subregional averages for maternal, neonatal and infant mortality rates and the under-5 mortality rate. However, the share of the population spending a substantial portion of their income on health care is increasing. The empowerment of women is progressing in the East and North-East Asia, which now has the highest proportion of women in parliament among Asia-Pacific subregions. More than 50 per cent of women of the corresponding age group were enrolled in tertiary education in 2017, a rate that has doubled over the past decade.

The GDP per capita in the subregion, expressed in constant 2010 United States dollars, has doubled from 2000 to 2017. The rapid economic growth of the subregion has been supported by important inflows of resources for development in the form of ODA, FDI and other private flows averaging 43 billion USD per year from 2010 to 2017 (more than three times higher than the previous decade). However, rapid economic growth has been accompanied by a rapid increase in energy needs and reliance on fossil fuels which has resulted in a sharp increase in emissions of carbon dioxide from fuel combustion, which have more than doubled since 2000. However, on a more positive note, the growth in fossil fuel emissions is slowing down, from an average annual growth of 7.2 per cent for the period 2000–2009 to 2.2 per cent after 2010.

The East and North-East Asia subregion is also stepping up efforts to protect the environment. Protected marine areas as share of total marine area (3.8 per cent) is the highest in the region after the Pacific subregion. Forest areas as a share of land area have increased by over 300,000 km^2, from 19.6 per cent in 2000 to 22.2 per cent in 2015. However, air pollution remains a critical issue for the subregion with high levels of mean concentration of PM 2.5 at 45.1 micrograms/m^3. Also, the volume of hazardous waste generated has increased fivefold between 2000 and 2015 to reach nearly 40 million tons. Furthermore, most of the countries in the subregion for which data are available have a low level (less than 50 per cent) of compliance with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants regarding reporting on national measures and their effectiveness to eliminate or restrict the pollutants covered by the convention.

The East and North-East Asia subregion has been a large beneficiary of FDI, with over 280 billion USD per year on average over the past five years, which is half of the regional total. In parallel to FDI in the subregion, exports of goods have increased fourfold since 2000 to reach 22.6 per cent of total world exports. In terms of Internet connectivity, countries in East and North-East Asia have fast connections for the highest percentage of their populations. Nearly one person in three connects through fixed broadband with speed greater than 10 Mbit/s, which is more than double the regional average, and 57 per cent of the population has access to the Internet.

2.2 South-East Asia

With the current pace of progress, the South-East Asia subregion is on track on quality education (Goal 4) and industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9). It is also making a good progress on several other goals, such as zero hunger (Goal 2) and good health and well-being (Goal 3). It needs, however, to strengthen efforts for the remaining goals to accelerate progress, in particular on reduced inequalities (Goal 10), and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16), where negative trends need to be reversed.

The South-East Asia subregion has achieved vast progress in fighting extreme poverty as measured by the share of the population living on an income below the international poverty line of $1.90 per day in 2011 PPP dollars. The proportion of the population in the subregion living below the international poverty line has decreased from 30 per cent in 2000 to 5 per cent in 2017. Extreme poverty will be eradicated in the subregion by 2030 if progress continues at the same pace. However, progress in the subregion has been uneven. In Timor-Leste extreme poverty still affected 30.7 per cent of the population in 2014. Although progress has been made, some population groups remain vulnerable. Only 29.2 per cent of the population above statutory pensionable age receives a pension, a challenge likely to become more severe in the context of ageing societies. Similarly, for the five countries with data, nearly 80 per cent of the employed population is not covered in the event of a workplace injury.

Regarding health care, South-East Asia offers a very mixed picture. For example, maternal mortality in some countries (Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Timor-Leste) could be 10 times higher than others (Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, Singapore). While South-East Asia has made huge progress in its fight against malaria, only limited progress has been achieved in eliminating tuberculosis. New and relapse cases of tuberculosis still affect 300 people per 100,000 population, a rate double that of the Asia-Pacific region. Neglected tropical diseases still constitute a burden on the development of the subregion with 31.3 per cent of the population, or over 200 million people requiring interventions in the form of mass treatment (large scale preventive drug treatment) or individual treatment. Child malnutrition presents a contrasted picture. Although it is in decline, some of the highest rates of stunting are found in the subregion with over one third of children affected in some countries. At the same time, the proportion of overweight children has increased threefold since 2000. Education facilities provide a safe and effective learning environment for all. While most of the primary schools in higher income countries in South-East Asia have access to electricity, about two thirds of such schools in Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic are without electricity.

In the South-East Asia subregion, the average growth rate of GDP per capita, at 3.8 per cent per annum over the period 2000–2017, is somewhat lower than the Asia-Pacific average growth rate, but it is still double the world growth rate. Economic development has been made possible by strong export growth with a tenfold increase in the volume of merchandise exports from South-East Asia since 2000, accounting for 7.4 per cent of world merchandise exports in 2018. The subregion has a relatively low level of investment in research and development at 0.7 per cent of GDP in 2016 (less than one-third of East and North-East Asia), and this is a cause of concern in terms of upgrade of technological capabilities of the subregion in support of further economic development of the subregion.

The growing need for energy also constitutes a drawback to the sustainable economic development of the subregion. At the regional level, the share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption has stabilized since 2010 after a decade of a declining trend, but the share of renewable energy in South-East Asia has continued to decline. Another environmental concern is the forest area. While South-East Asia has the highest proportion of forest area in the region (48 per cent of its land area), it is the only subregion with declining share of forest areas. The net change rate of forest area is negative in four countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Timor-Leste.

Trade remains a crucial mean of implementation for the subregion in achieving the 2030 Agenda. South-East Asia has been the recipient of about 30 per cent of all Asia-Pacific aid-for-trade ODA over the past five years. The subregion also benefited from large personal remittances representing 2.8 per cent of GDP in 2017 (more than 60 billion USD). The subregion is lagging behind the region overall in terms of Internet connectivity with a still relatively low proportion of the population (4.4 per cent in 2018) having access to fixed broadband with speed greater than 10 Mbit/s against a regional average of 12.2 per cent.

2.3 South and South-West Asia

The South and South-West Asia subregion has made good progress on zero hunger (Goal 2), good health and well-being (Goal 3) and affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), and it can even hope to achieve its 2030 targets for Goal 3 if the same pace of progress continues. More limited progress has been achieved for the other goals, except for the current negative trend in responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) that the subregion needs to reverse.

The South and South-West Asia subregion is experiencing slower progress than the rest of the region in several social aspects. Poverty remains a critical issue with 10 per cent of the population of the subregion living below $1.90 per day in 2011 PPP dollars, representing 220 million people out of 290 million people in the Asia-Pacific region who are extremely poor. In all five countries with data, income inequality is widening. Moreover, nearly 40 per cent of the population of the subregion lacks access to basic sanitation and undernourishment (impacting 14.4 per cent of the population) remains the highest of all Asia-Pacific subregions. The South and South-West Asia presents a contrasted picture on gender equality. While it has some of the highest levels of the representation of women in deliberative bodies of local governments at over 40 per cent, the subregion also has the highest levels of violence against ever-partnered women by their current or former partners.

Much progress has been achieved on maternal, neonatal and under-5 mortality rates (which have been halved since the early 2000s), even if the subregion is still lagging behind the rest of the region. Despite the subregion receiving half of all regional ODA to medical research and basic health sectors, it lacks access to some basic services. For instance, mortality attributed to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene services (16.4 per 100,000 population) is double the regional average; the physician density is lower than the rest of the region and the ambient air pollution is responsible for nearly 100 deaths per 100,000 population (well above the regional average).

In terms of economic development, progress in the subregion is mixed. While GDP per capita remains the lowest of all Asia-Pacific subregions, South and South-West Asia has outperformed other subregions in terms of the growth rate for the past five years. This indicates the economy is catching up with the rest of the region, however, some concerns remain. There is a high rate of occupational injuries (although data are very limited), some of the countries in the subregion have among the highest levels of informal employment, a high level of young people are neither working nor studying and some of the highest levels of child labour are found in the subregion. The subregion needs to accelerate progress or reverse current trends in those SDG targets. The subregional economy is also still carbon-dependent and energy intensive with the high levels of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of manufacturing value added, higher than regional and global averages, and a declining share of renewable energy consumption (although it is still double the Asia-Pacific average).

The subregion has achieved great progress in terms of access to electricity (access has nearly doubled since 1990). However, over half of the population relies primarily on solid fuels or kerosene paired with inefficient technologies (e.g. open fires, stoves, space heaters or lamps) for their household energy needs. The subregion also includes some countries with the highest levels of PM 2.5 concentration, and the number of people affected by natural disasters is increasing.

While FDI inflows have been growing since 2010, growth has been slower in South and South-West Asia than in East and North-East Asia and South-East Asia. The share of merchandise exports in total world exports remains relatively low, and it is growing at a slower rate than in East and North-East Asia and South-East Asia. For some countries (Bangladesh and India) the ratio of debt services to exports of goods and services has been dropping since the 1990s from 25 per cent to less than five per cent, but for other countries, including Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the ratio of debt services to exports of goods and services is the highest in the Asia-Pacific region and has risen to around 20 per cent. Some of the economies in the subregion heavily rely on personal remittances to finance their development (27 and 8 per cent of GDP in Nepal and Sri Lanka respectively). ODA has more than doubled since the early 2000s and this level must be sustained to support economic, social, as well as environmental development.

2.4 North and Central Asia

The North and Central Asia subregion is on track to achieve goals on quality education (Goal 4), clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), reduced inequalities (Goal 10) and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16). Progress on the remaining goals is insufficient, in particular on sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11) where the subregion is regressing and has very slow progress on gender equality (Goal 5), climate action (Goal 13) and life on land (Goal 15).

There is a lack of data for recent years on the poverty situation for North and Central Asia. While most countries in the subregion have reduced extreme income poverty to very low levels, with less than five per cent of the population living below $1.90 per day in 2011 PPP, the latest data stood at 51.4 per cent for Turkmenistan in 1998 and 62.1 per cent for Uzbekistan in 2003. The share of the poorest quintile of the population covered by social assistance programmes ranges from less than 15 per cent in some countries (such as Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) to nearly 80 per cent in others (such as Georgia, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation). In 2017, the share of the population of the subregion affected by undernourishment was 3.4 per cent, among the lowest of Asia-Pacific subregions. However, in half of the countries in North and Central Asia with data, the rates of moderate or severe over-weight children are greater than 10 per cent and are among the highest rates in the Asia-Pacific region.

The North and Central Asia subregion is among the best performers regarding health indicators such as the maternal mortality and under-5 mortality rates. Starting from a lower base than the rest of the region, the maternal mortality rate decreased gradually from 65.7 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 (compared to a regional average of 330) to 29.1 per 100,000 live births in 2017 (compared to a regional average of 114.8). Similar patterns can be observed for neonatal, infant and under-5 mortality rates. Such progress has been enabled by strong health infrastructure. For example, the subregion has the highest physician density at 36.2 per 100,000 population in 2014, more than double the Asia-Pacific average. However, some concerns remain in terms of health indicators. While new HIV infections are declining in the rest of the region and in other parts of the world, the number of new infections keeps rising in North and Central Asia and reached 50.9 per 100,000 population in 2017, double the world average. New HIV cases appear to affect men more particularly with the rate of new cases in men at double the rate of new cases in women. Social development of the subregion is also supported by a strong education system. In 2016, net enrolment rates in primary, secondary and tertiary education were among the highest in the region at 95.1 per cent for primary school, 99.5 per cent for secondary school and 52.7 per cent for tertiary school.

While North and Central Asia experienced some of the fastest annual growth rates in the region for GDP per capita, averaging 7.8 per cent from 2000 to 2007, it averaged 2.2 per cent from 2008 to 2014 and has been virtually zero from 2015 to 2017. Consequently, the subregion also suffers from a high level of unemployment, in particular for the population age 15–24 for which unemployment in 2017 reached 38.2 per cent in Armenia, 28.9 per cent in Georgia and 16.2 per cent in the Russian Federation. Parallel to the slowing of economic growth, the export of merchandise from the subregion is also experiencing a sharp deceleration. Annual growth was more than 15 per cent from 2000 to 2010, and the subregion had the highest growth in the Asia-Pacific region, but annual growth is now down to 1 per cent, the slowest of the region. As a result, the share of North and Central Asia in total world merchandise exports has been declining since 2010.

The economy of the subregion is also facing strong challenges from an environmental perspective. Even though energy intensity has been declining since the year 2000, the North and Central Asia economy is still highly energy intensive. Its economy requires 8.4 megajoules of energy per dollar of value added (2011 PPP dollars), the highest subregional average in the Asia-Pacific region. At the same time, the share of renewable energy in the total final energy consumption is very low at 3.8 per cent against a regional average of 16 per cent and showing no progress over the past two decades.

The North and Central Asia subregion has more than half of all forested area in Asia and the Pacific, so it is crucial to the environment through the provision of goods (wood and others) and services (biodiversity, carbon sequestration and water conservation and other). After a decline from 2000 to 2005, the subregion saw a slight increase in forest area as a proportion of land area.

2.5 The Pacific

The Pacific subregion is on track or making significant progress on goals on good health and well-being (Goal 3), industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9) and responsible consumption and production (Goal 12). The Pacific subregion needs, however, to accelerate progress in several goals such as quality education (Goal 4), climate action (Goal 13) as well as the life on land and below water (Goals 14 and 15).

While most countries in the Pacific have reduced extreme poverty to very low levels, the latest data still show that 38 per cent of the population in Papua New Guinea (2009) and 25.1 per cent in Solomon Islands (2013) live below $1.90 per day in 2011 PPP dollars. Those same countries have either no social safety net or a very limited social safety net for the most vulnerable groups. Less than five per cent of the poorest quintile of the population is covered by social assistance programmes in the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Similarly, in terms of access to basic water and sanitation services, the Pacific subregion is regressing, dragged down by the worsening situation in the poorest countries with relatively large populations.

The subregion has made substantial progress regarding maternal and child mortality, but this is mainly due to progress in its high-income economies. After excluding high-income economies, the average infant and under-5 mortality rates in the Pacific remain the highest of all Asia-Pacific subregions. Similarly, the tuberculosis incidence rate remains a critical issue for some countries, with the new cases above 300 per 100,000 population, and there has been no sign of progress since the year 2000. The Pacific subregion is also particularly affected by chronic hepatitis B prevalence. In seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region more than two per cent of children under age 5 are affected, and six of the seven countries are in the Pacific subregion. Excluding its high-income economies, the Pacific is lagging behind the region on the adult literacy rate (64 per cent in 2010). The good news is that these countries are catching up with the rest of the region, as youth literacy is close to 100 per cent for most countries with data for recent years.

The Pacific subregion is trailing behind the rest of the Asia-Pacific region in terms of women's empowerment. In nine of 14 countries in the subregion with 2018 data, the share of seats held by women in national parliaments was less than 10 per cent, with only a very modest improvement since 2000. Violence against women is equally an issue of concern. The five countries in the region with the highest proportion of women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence are in the Pacific subregion (see box 3).

There is a high level of disparity in economic progress among Pacific countries. The GDP per capita expressed in constant 2010 USD ranges from less than 2,000 USD to more than 20,000 USD. Overall the annual growth rate of the GDP per capita in the subregion is one third of the regional average. Similar gaps exist regarding infrastructure development. For example, while nearly 90 per cent of the population of Asia and the Pacific was covered by a 4G mobile phone network, that proportion was still less than 50 per cent in the Pacific in 2017. There is reason to hope that the Pacific could accelerate its economic development in the coming decade. For instance, the export of merchandise as a proportion of GDP stood at nearly 30 per cent for developing economies in the Pacific subregion in 2018, above the Asia-Pacific average. Also, a number of countries in the Pacific experienced an average annual growth rate of 8.4 per cent for exports of commercial services as a share of GDP, well above the regional average.

With a number of countries vulnerable to rising sea levels, the Pacific subregion needs to strengthen its effort to combat climate change. Measured in terms of carbon dioxide emission from fossil fuels per capita, the Pacific subregion is the worst performing subregion in the Asia-Pacific region at 11.1 tons of carbon dioxide per capita annually or more than double the regional average (in part due to the high level of emissions from developed economies in the subregion). The good news is that the subregion has reduced that figure from more than 13 tons per capita in 2005 and can hope to accelerate this progress. The Pacific is also making a remarkable effort in terms of protected marine areas, with 21.2 per cent of territorial water (Exclusive Economic Zone) under protection status, which is double the regional average. However, there are still 10 countries in the subregion with less than one per cent of their territorial water protected. Moreover, the Pacific subregion has reversed the declining trend of total forest areas since 2010 (mainly because of an increase in forest area in Australia).

Sustainable financing of development efforts is key to successful implementation of the SDGs in the Pacific. For instance, ODA for technical cooperation is an important means of implementation for many countries in the subregion, representing more than 3 per cent of the GDP for seven countries. While personal remittances have increased in all Asia-Pacific subregions over the past two decades, the level has remained stable in the Pacific and was about 0.2 per cent of GDP in 2017 or 10 times lower than some other Asia-Pacific subregions (although personal remittances remains at very high levels for some countries in the subregion).

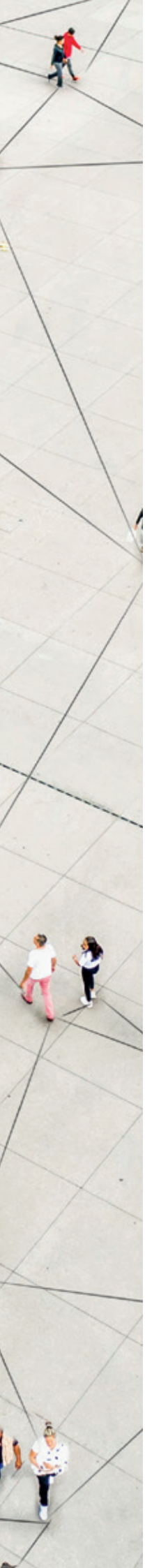
2.6 Summary and conclusions

Obstacles to progress differ across subregions.

In every subregion, several targets remain challenging including the rule of law and inequalities, greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, domestic material consumption and material footprint. All subregions need to take urgent actions in accelerating progress to achieve these SDG targets by 2030. On the other hand, every subregion has made gains in lifting populations out of poverty, reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality and ensuring access to basic services for electricity, drinking water and sanitation. On these targets, the subregions must sustain the pace of progress.

Cooperation and exchange among subregions can accelerate progress toward the goals.

Every subregion is leading progress in at least one of the goals. For instance, East and North-East Asia is leading progress in zero hunger (Goal 2) and clean water and sanitation (Goal 6) and the Pacific in responsible consumption and production (Goal 12). This provides an opportunity for inter-governmental policy forums to harness lessons learned in each subregion and adopt subregional best-practices across all Asia and the Pacific.



PART III – STRENGTHENING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

The data availability assessment in part 1 showed the Asia-Pacific region faces a big challenge to fill data gaps in the decade ahead to achieve the SDGs. The national statistical systems (NSS) of the region hold the key to overcoming this challenge.

The 2030 Agenda is guided by a set of principles, including that the review of progress towards the goals will be based primarily on national official data sources. Furthermore, annual progress reports on the SDGs to inform the follow-up and review at the high-level political forum follow the global indicator framework using data produced by NSS and information collected at the regional level.

This section addresses the following questions:

- How ready are NSSs in Asia and the Pacific to monitor the SDGs?
- How can they be prepared to support implementation of the SDGs?
- What are some activities already underway in the region?
- What is the role of partnerships for statistical development?

3.1 Navigating policy with data to leave no one behind

Reliable and timely statistics are indispensable for evidence-based decision-making and they are of principal value for transparency, accountability and inclusive societies. Transformative shifts in the production and use of official statistics are critical for successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, Asia and the Pacific adopted a declaration, Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind[3], reaffirming the responsibility of countries to ensure official statistics are available, accessible and used for impactful analysis and transparent decision-making, consistent with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.[4]

The declaration commits countries to collaborative and integrated efforts between policy-makers and statistics producers in nine areas below.

The nine commitments can be mapped to publicly available data to identify strengths of national statistical systems in Asia-Pacific and areas in need of improvement (for details of the mapping, see Annex 5). Values for 2018 are presented in figure 10.

3 The Declaration is available from www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/ESCAP_CST_2018_7_Declaration.pdf.

4 More information is available from https://unstats.un.org/fpos/.

a. Integrate statistics development with national development policies and plans;[5]

b. Strengthen and develop, where appropriate, a national **monitoring** framework;

c. Establish a high-level **advisory body**, where appropriate, to the national statistical system;

d. Specify **roles**, **responsibilities** and coordination mechanisms of the national statistical system, where necessary;

e. Empower heads of national statistical offices (NSOs) to assume the lead role in developing and coordinating their respective integrated NSS;

f. Develop necessary **legislative provisions** and institutional mechanisms to enable NSS to take full advantage of new, innovative, and frontier technologies;

g. Improve **communication** with regard to statistics and to strengthen statistical literacy and culture;

h. Advocate for the expanded use of official statistics for evidence-based policymaking and transparent governance; and

i. Revisit national policies, strategies and legislation, as appropriate, to **enable** implementation of the commitments.

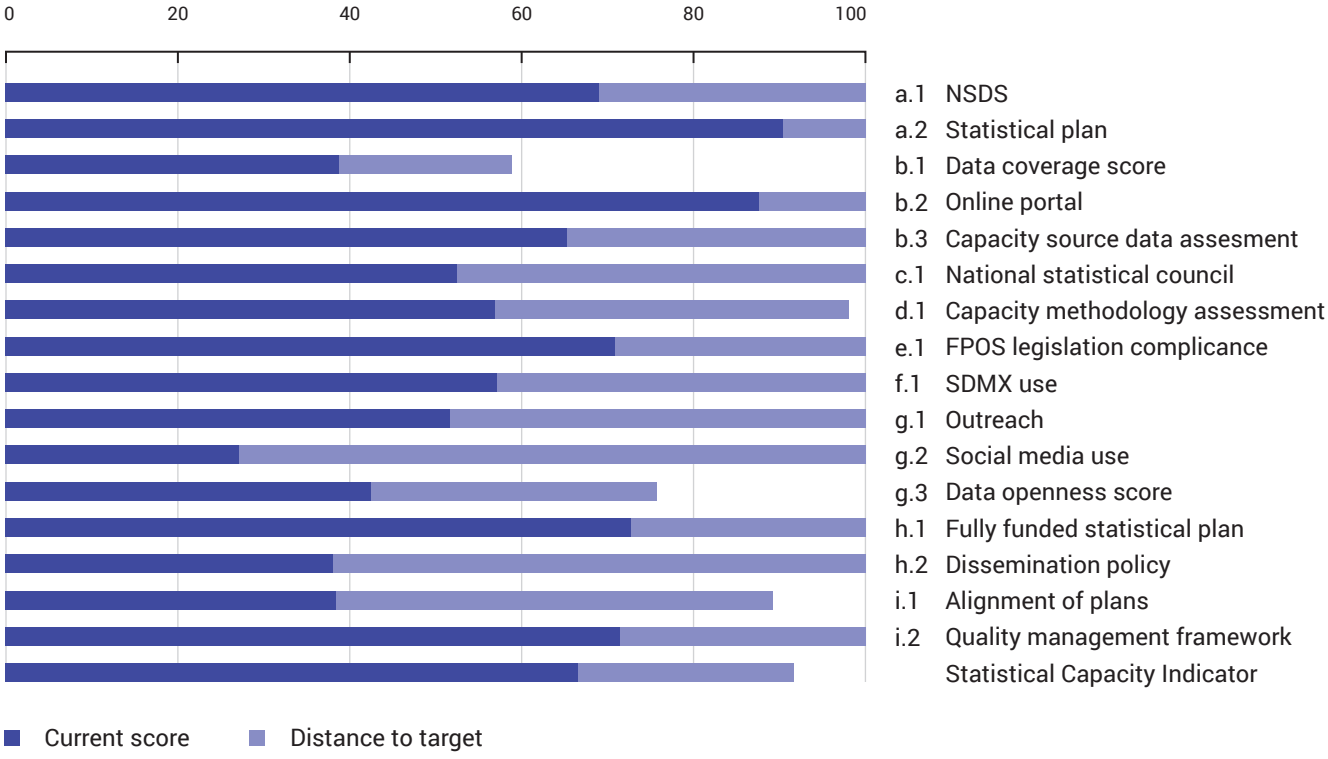


Figure 10. Current status and distance to target for NSS strengthening, 2018

5 Noting that the structure, function and terminology of national development policies and plans vary from country to country and that efforts to integrate statistics development therefore will take a variety of forms and shapes depending on the country context.

3.2 The biggest gaps: communication, advocacy and awareness raising

Only 27 per cent of NSOs in Asia and the Pacific used social media (Facebook and/or Twitter) to disseminate data and information (indicator g.2); only 38 per cent have a data dissemination policy (indicator h.2) and only half actively reached out to users (indicator g.1), shown in figure 10.

Furthermore, the use of statistical terms and indicators in national policy documents, currently at 38.4, is far from the regional target of 89.2 (indicator i.1), highlighting the need for a focus on communication and statistical literacy, in particular when it comes to ensuring national strategies and policies are aligned with data and evidence.

To tackle this challenge, ESCAP has developed the tool called Every Policy is Connected (EPIC)[6] to enhance engagement and dialogue between producers and users of official statistics. EPIC is based on the assumption that every public policy is connected to the socioeconomic wellness of people and the environment they live in. Policies are also connected by indicators that enable benchmarking of progress in implementation. EPIC was developed in the context of achieving the 2030 Agenda and has been successfully piloted in 14 policy sectors in Samoa, and with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Philippines and Viet Nam.

3.3 Ensuring statistics exist and are used for policymaking

Efforts are also needed in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen and develop, where appropriate, a national monitoring framework, including an indicator set to produce robust evidence for policy development and monitoring and to integrate the framework into planning and budgeting processes (commitment b), establish a high-level advisory body to NSS to represent users (commitment c) and take advantage of innovative technologies and build partnerships for data sharing (commitment f).

In order to ensure robust evidence for policy development, the availability of data as well as openness and access to data is needed. Open Data Inventory Index (ODIN) assesses the coverage and openness of official statistics to help identify gaps, promote open data policies, improve access and encourage dialogue between NSOs and data users. Two ODIN scores are included in the monitoring framework: data coverage (b.1) and data openness (g.3).

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6 See www.unescap.org/resources/working-paper-series-sdwp09september-2019-every-policy-connected-epic-generic-tool-policy.

The average score on data coverage for the top five countries in Asia and the Pacific on ODIN is 38.8, or 20 points below the regional target of 58.8 (indicator b.1).

Globally, NSS are becoming more open and increasing public access to data. Again, using the ODIN scores, Singapore had the highest score for openness in 2018 (box 10).

BOX 10. SINGAPORE: OPEN DATA IMPROVEMENTS

Between 2017 and 2018, the overall ODIN score of Singapore increased by 21 points as a result of increased availability and openness of data. With a nearly perfect openness score of 99 out of 100, the website of the Singapore NSO (SingStat)[a/] serves as a great example for other countries. In 2018, Singapore launched a completely redesigned website with many features, such as a table builder and information briefs describing concepts, methods and applications used for production of statistics. The new website has increased accessibility and openness. In addition, Singapore has updated their terms of use for data to conform to open data standards, resulting in a fully open data use policy.[b/]

a/ See www.singstat.gov.sg/.

b/ See https://odin.opendatawatch.com/Report/annualReport.

More user-producer dialogues are also needed in Asia and the Pacific, exemplified by a national statistical council or related high-level body that advises the chief statistician on NSO activities, particularly programme priorities (commitment c). Currently this kind of mechanism exists in only half the countries in Asia and the Pacific (indicator c.1). Such an advisory body should represent the interest and demands of policymakers and other users of statistics, such as the media, the private sector and the general public, to support the development and monitoring of a system-wide statistical programme responding to users' needs.

Another way to make data more accessible by improving the exchange of data is using the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX), an international initiative that aims at standardizing and modernizing ("industrializing") the mechanisms and processes for the exchange of statistical data and metadata among international organizations and their member countries. Currently information is only available about the use of SDMX in 21 countries in Asia and the Pacific, and of these only 12 use SDMX (indicator f.1).[7]

7 See https://sdmx.org/.

3.4 Equipping countries to fulfil their commitments to the regional vision

While the Asia-Pacific region scores relatively well (66.5) on the Statistical Capacity Indicator[8] compared with other regions across the globe, the region's score is still more than 25 points below the target of 91.6. Considerable effort is still required to strengthen statistical capacity. Training is a core element of the Commission's efforts in Asia and the Pacific.

3.5 Development partners support for the success of the 2030 Agenda

Countries in Asia and the Pacific called on development partners to make three commitments:

- Provide coordinated technical, financial, technological and capacity building assistance.
- Consult NSO/NSS before conducting any statistical study or survey.
- Continue to strengthen international statistical standards and provide technical support.

According to the 2019 Partner Report on Support to Statistics, official development assistance to data and statistics rose 11 per cent, from 623 million USD in 2016 to 689 million USD in 2017, largely driven by the adoption of the SDG monitoring framework. Africa received the largest share of statistical support at 50 per cent in 2015–2017, while the share of commitments received by the Asia-Pacific region was 18 per cent, a much lower share than the 32 per cent received in 2011–2013. A further 13 per cent was committed to global projects and programmes that were not region-specific (see figure 11).

8 The Statistical Capacity Indicator provides an overview of the capacity of a country's national statistical system based on a diagnostic framework thereby assessing three dimensions: methodology, source data, and periodicity and timeliness.

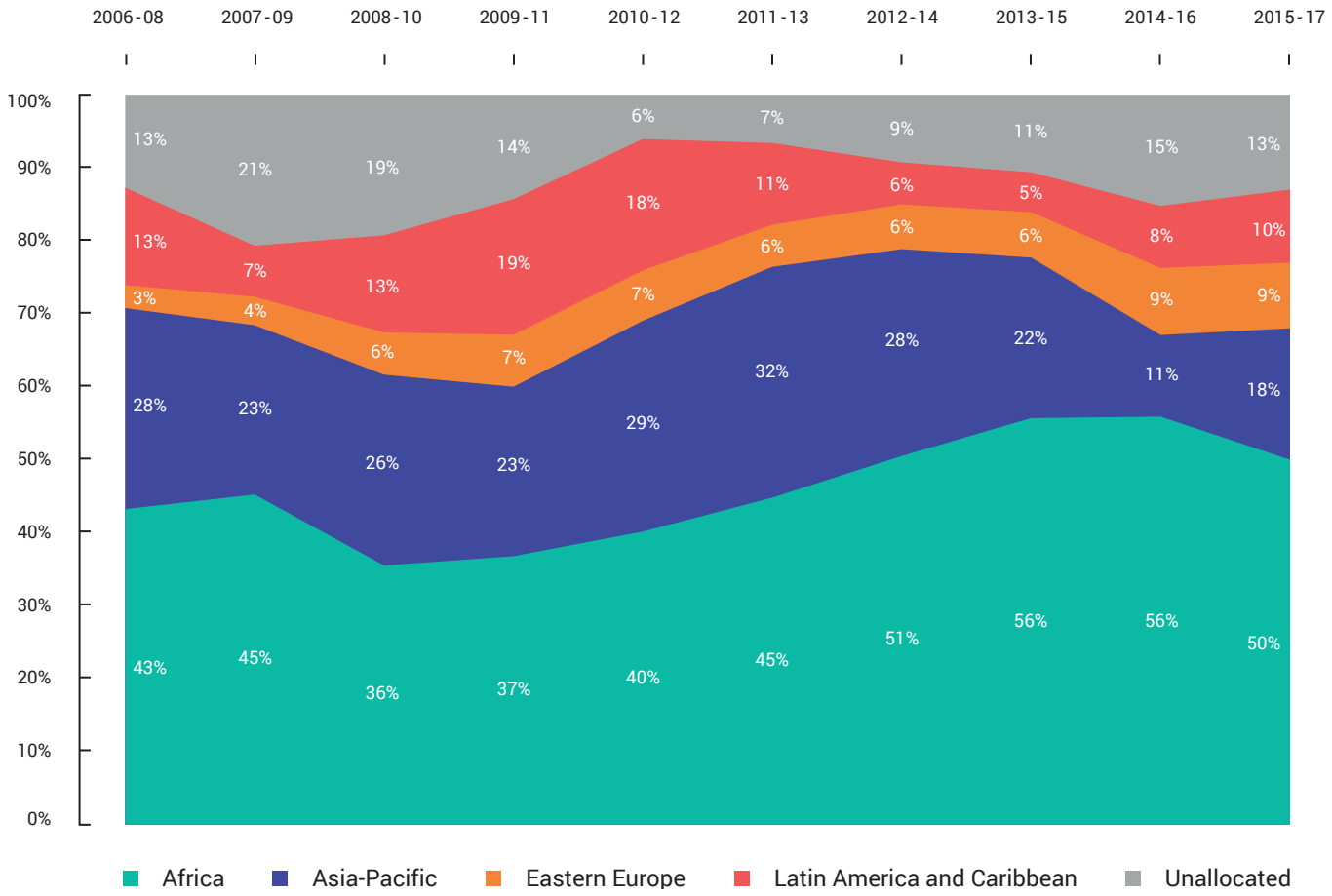


Figure 11. International commitments to statistical support by geographical region, 2006–2017 (percentage)

Note: Reproduced from https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/PARIS21_Press%202019_WEB.pdf.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Figures on SDG progress across Asia and the Pacific by subregion

EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIA

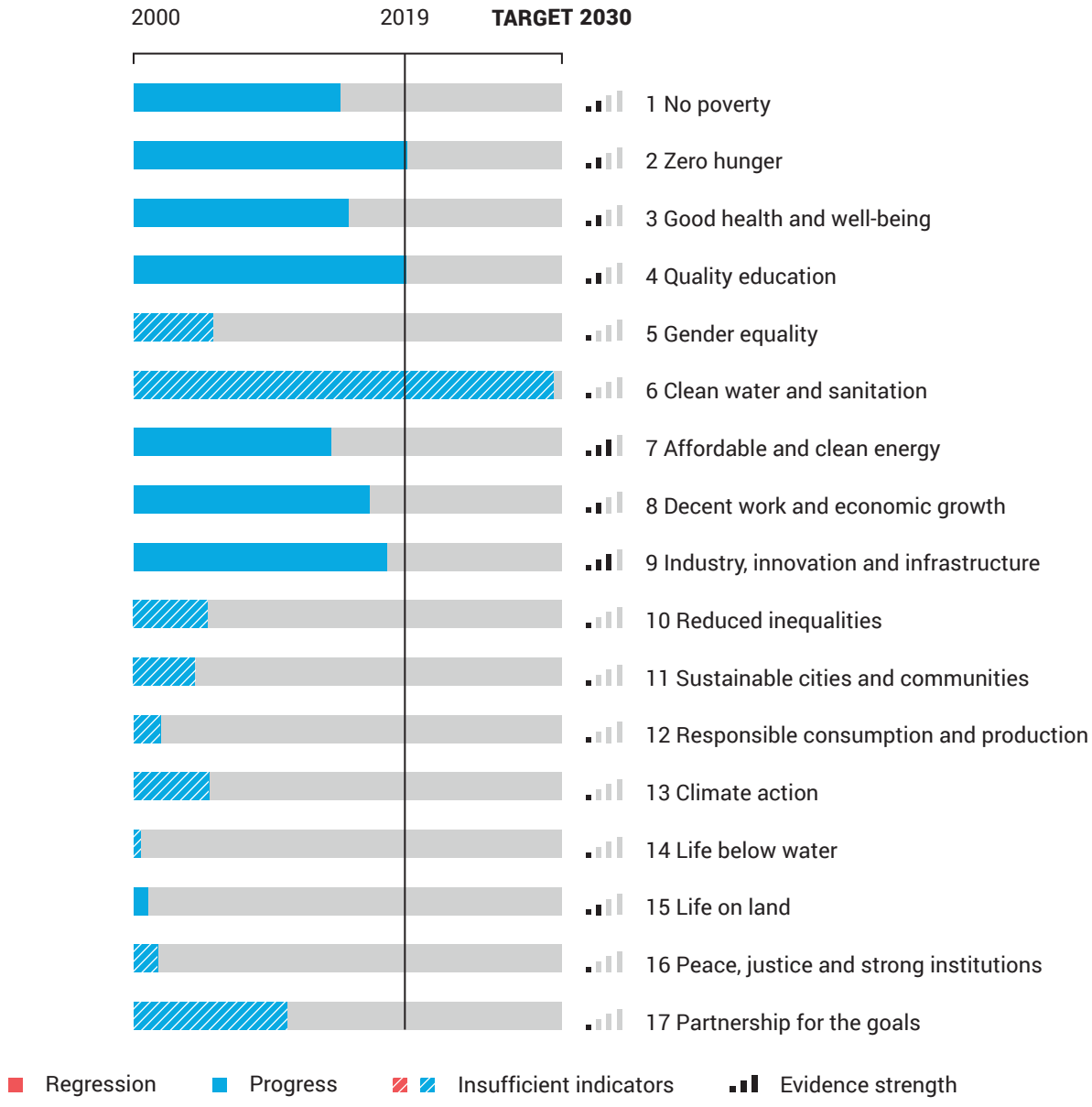


Figure 12 – Snapshot of SDG progress in 2019: East and North-East Asia

Figure 13 – Dashboard of anticipated progress in 2030: East and North-East Asia

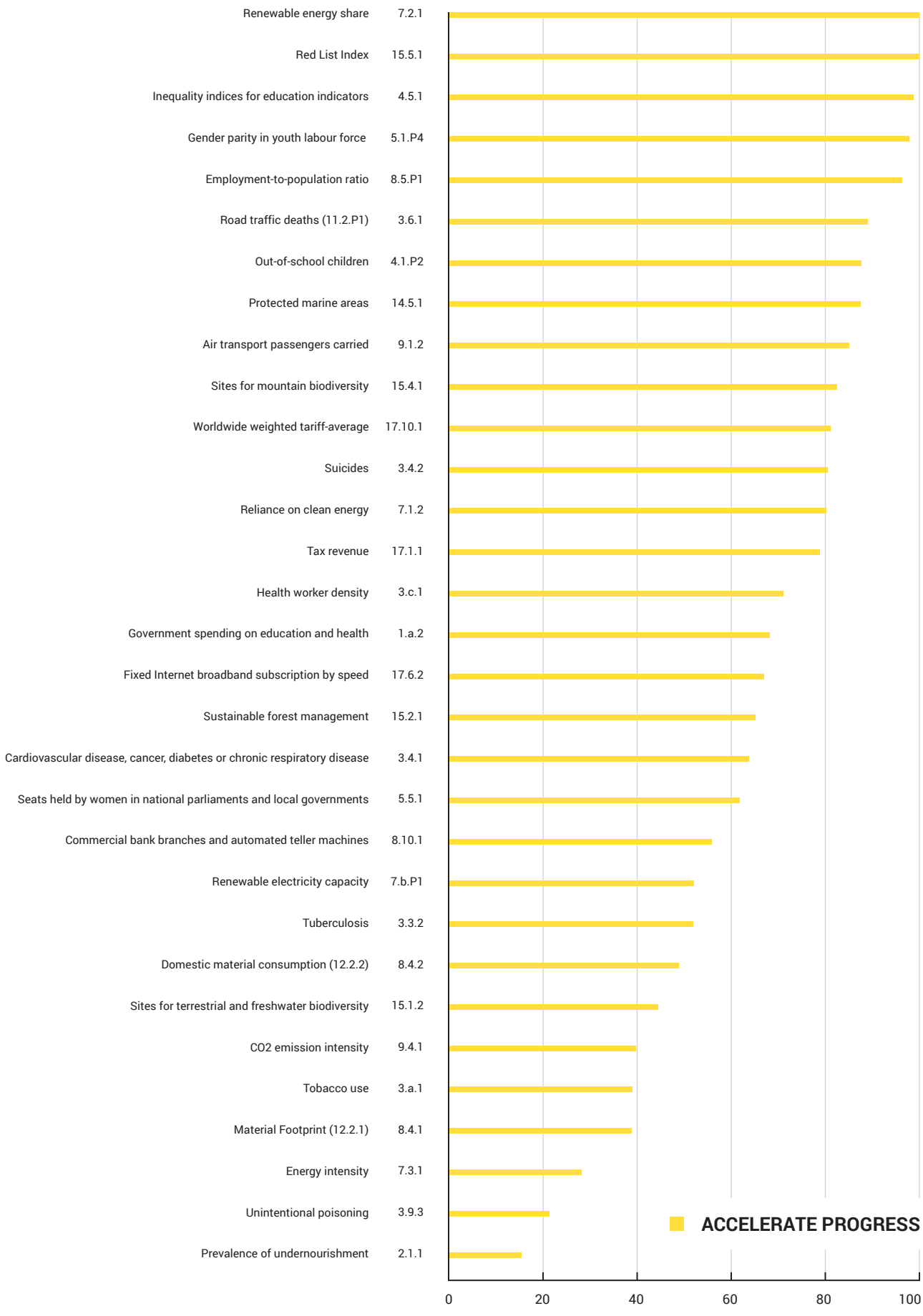
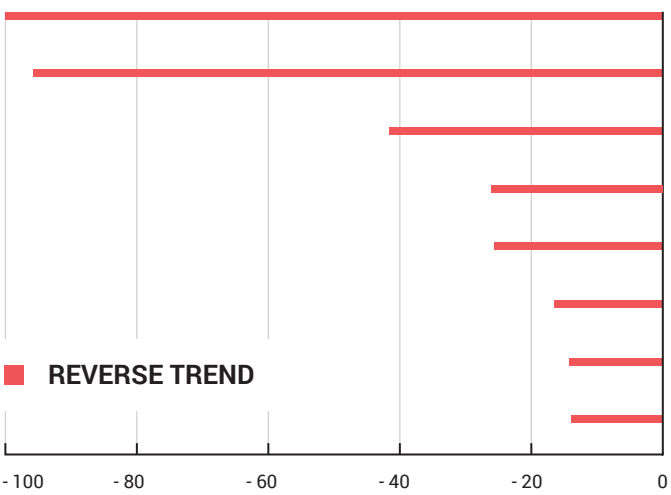


Figure 14 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: East and North-East Asia



15.1.1 Forest area
16.b.P2 Refugees
11.6.P1 Concentration of PM2.5
13.2.P1 Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from fuel combustion
14.1.P1 Ocean health index
5.1.P2 Gender parity in labour force participation
12.4.P1 Sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions
3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol

ON-TRACK INDICATORS

- 1.4.1 Access to basic water and sanitation services
- 2.3.P1 Cereal yield
- 2.4.P1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture
- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.1.2 Births attended by skilled health personnel
- 3.2.1 Under-five mortality
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality
- 3.7.2 Adolescent births
- 3.b.1 Population covered by all vaccines in national programme
- 3.d.1 Health capacity and emergency preparedness
- 4.1.P1 Net enrolment in primary education
- 4.1.P3 Gross intake ratio
- 4.2.2 Organised learning before primary entry age
- 4.3.1 Formal and non-formal education and training
- 6.1.1 Safely managed drinking water services
- 6.2.1 Open defecation practice
- 6.6.1 Permanent water body extent
- 7.1.1 Access to electricity
- 8.1.P1 Real GDP per capita growth rate
- 8.2.P1 Real GDP per employed person growth rate
- 8.3.P1 Vulnerable employment
- 8.10.2 Adults with a bank account
- 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added
- 9.5.1 Research and development expenditure
- 9.5.2 Number of researchers
- 9.b.1 Medium and high-tech industry value added
- 9.c.1 Population covered by a mobile network
- 11.1.P1 Open defecation practice (urban)
- 16.1.1 Intentional homicides
- 17.8.1 Internet users

Figure 15 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: East and North-East Asia

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

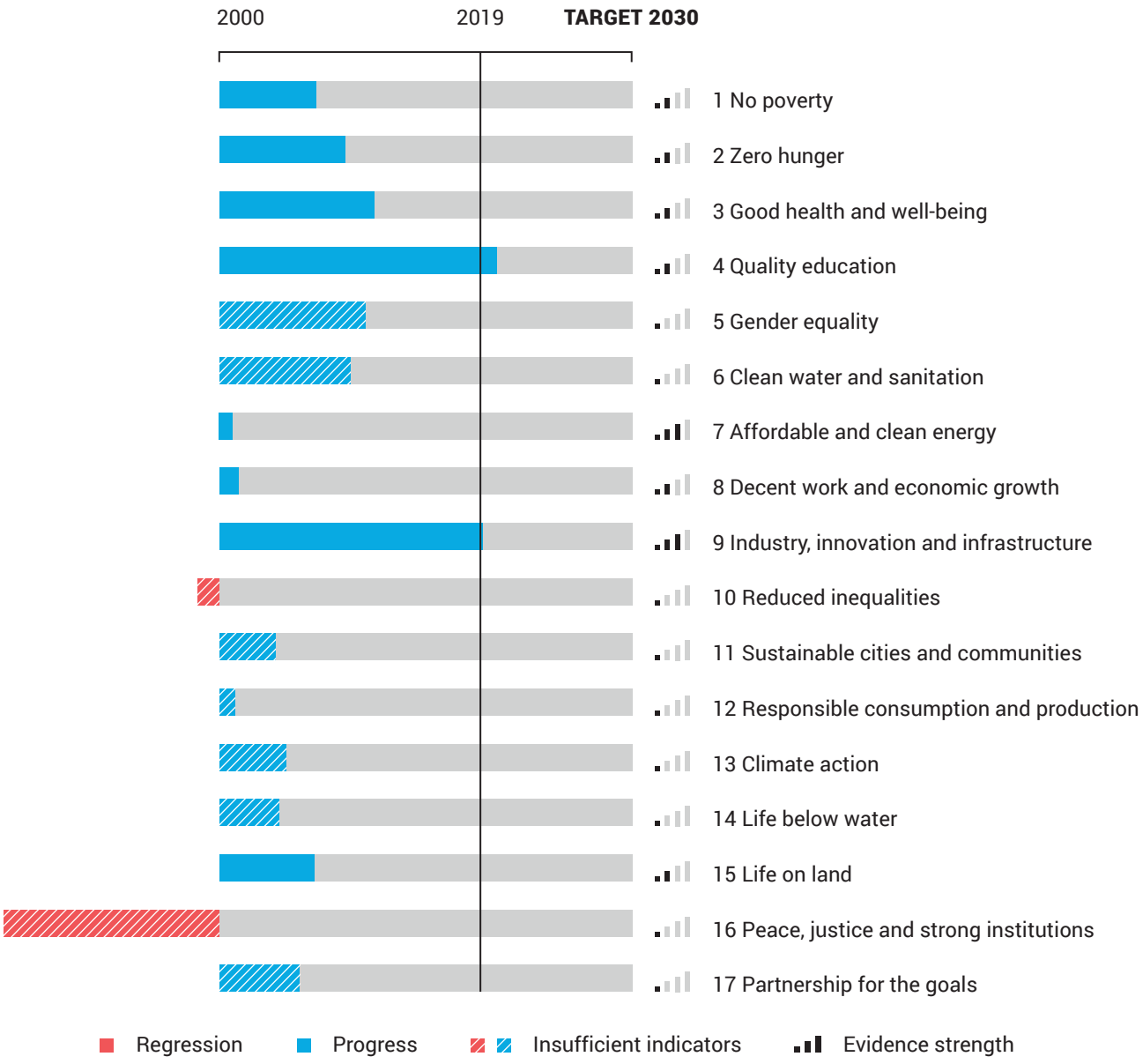


Figure 16 – Snapshot of SDG progress in 2019: South-East Asia

Figure 17 – Dashboard of anticipated progress in 2030: South-East Asia

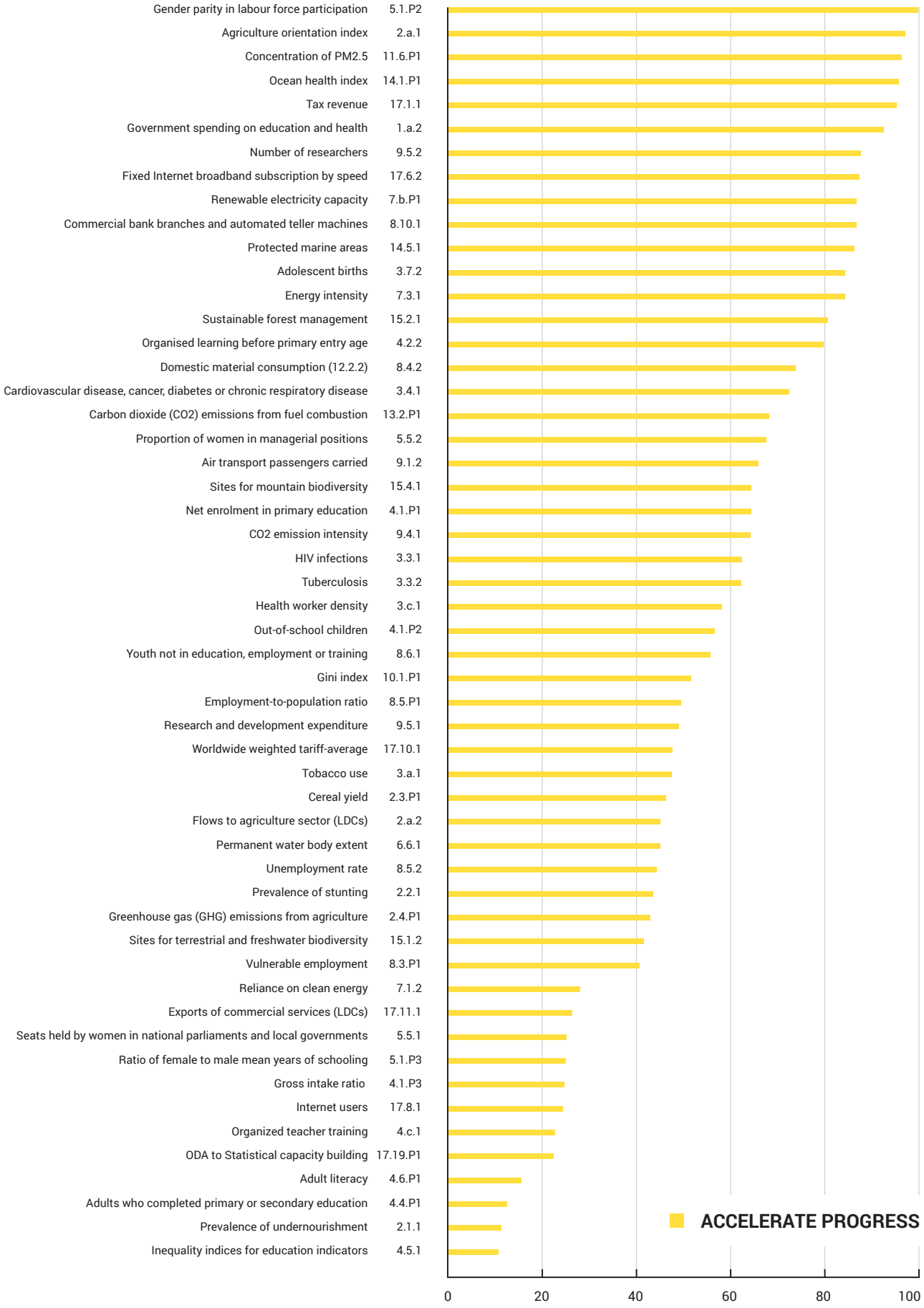
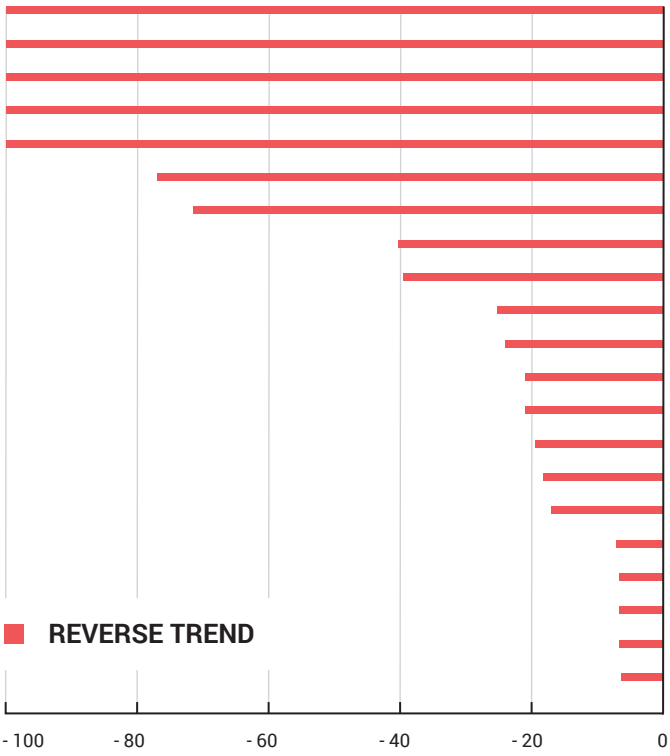


Figure 18 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: South-East Asia



3.5.2	Harmful use of alcohol
7.2.1	Renewable energy share
8.1.1	Real GDP per capita growth rate (LDCs)
8.2.1	Real GDP per employed person growth rate (LDCs)
16.b.P2	Refugees
15.1.1	Forest area
10.2.1	Population living below 50 percent of median income
16.1.1	Intentional homicides
3.4.2	Suicides
15.5.1	Red List Index
2.2.2	Prevalence of malnutrition
1.5.2	Economic loss from disasters
11.5.2	Economic loss and affected infrastructure & services from disasters
1.5.1	Deaths/missing/affected from disasters (11.5.1, 13.1.1)
9.2.2	Manufacturing employment
8.4.1	Material Footprint (12.2.1)
16.2.2	Detected victims of human trafficking
3.6.1	Road traffic deaths (11.2.P1)
17.9.1	ODA for technical cooperation
5.1.P4	Gender parity in youth labour force
12.4.P1	Sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions

ON-TRACK INDICATORS

- 1.1.1 International poverty
- 1.4.1 Access to basic water and sanitation services
- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.1.2 Births attended by skilled health personnel
- 3.2.1 Under-five mortality
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality
- 3.3.3 Malaria
- 3.9.3 Unintentional poisoning
- 3.b.1 Population covered by all vaccines in national programme
- 3.d.1 Health capacity and emergency preparedness
- 4.3.1 Formal and non-formal education and training
- 5.1.P1 Gender wage gap
- 6.2.1 Open defecation practice
- 7.1.1 Access to electricity
- 8.1.P1 Real GDP per capita growth rate
- 8.2.P1 Real GDP per employed person growth rate
- 8.10.2 Adults with a bank account
- 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added
- 9.b.1 Medium and high-tech industry value added
- 9.c.1 Population covered by a mobile network
- 11.1.P1 Open defecation practice (urban)
- 17.19.1 Financial resources to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

Figure 19 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: South-East Asia

SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA

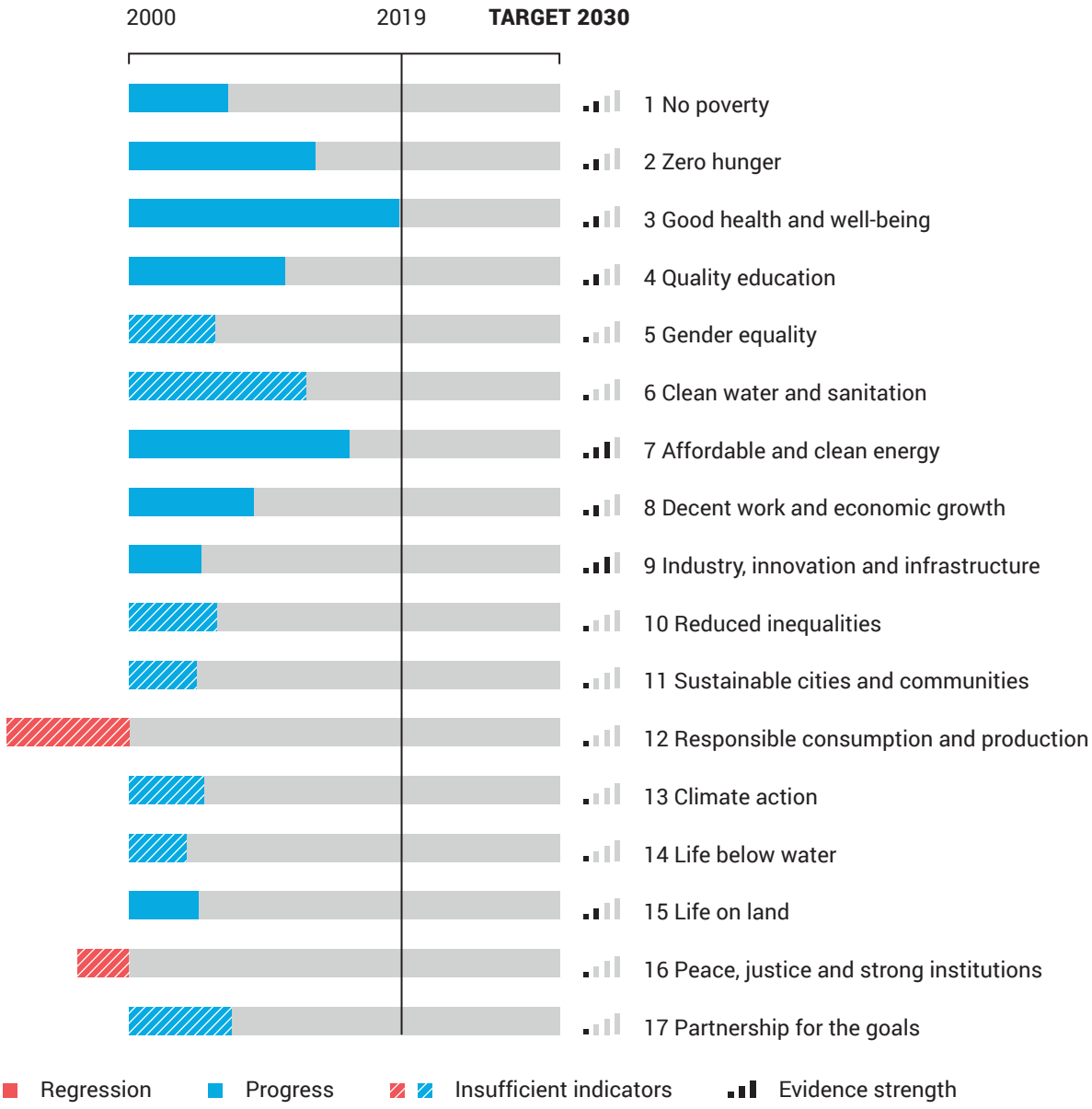


Figure 20 – Snapshot of SDG progress in 2019: South and South-West Asia

Figure 21 – Dashboard of anticipated progress in 2030: South and South-West Asia

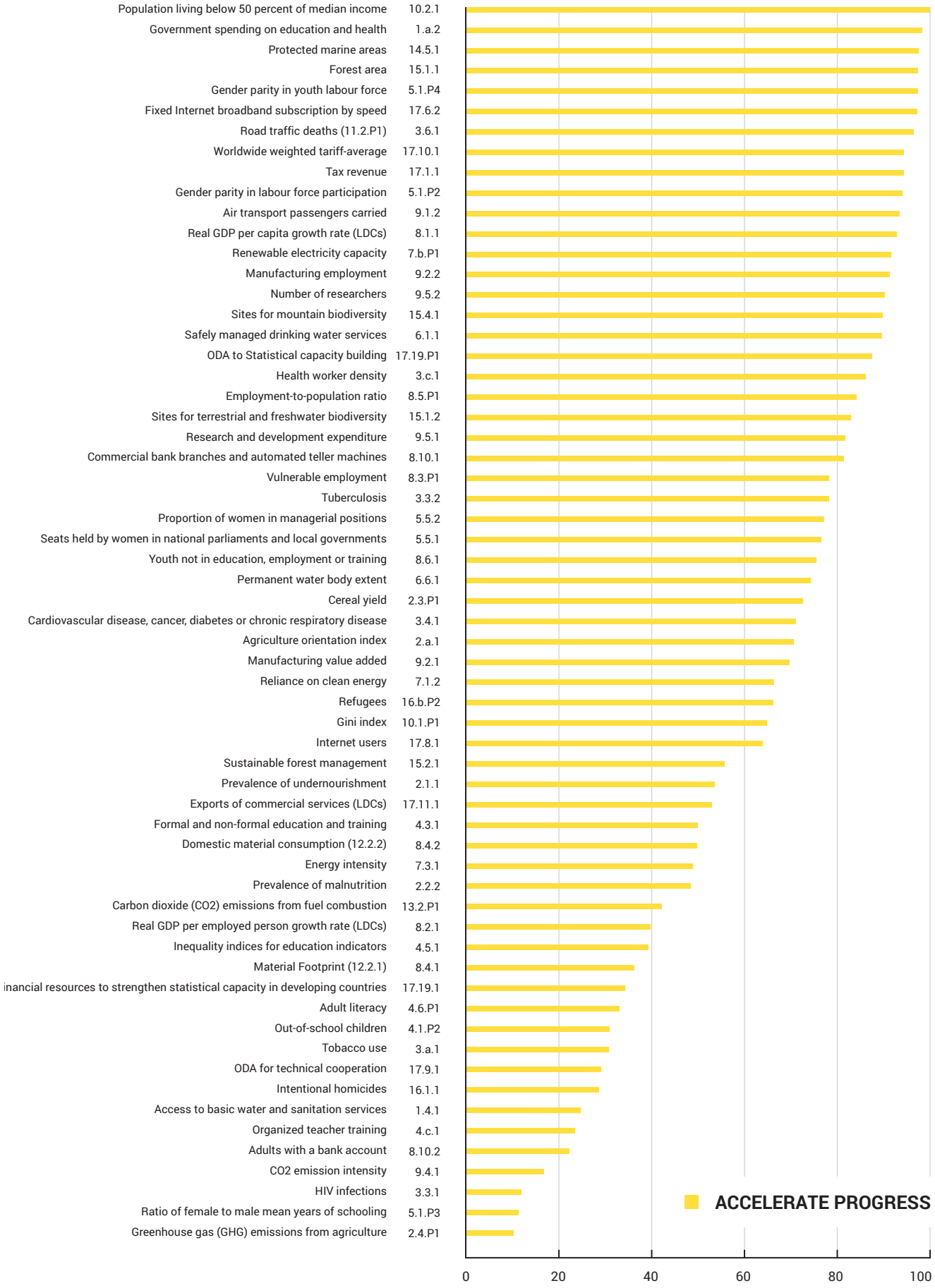
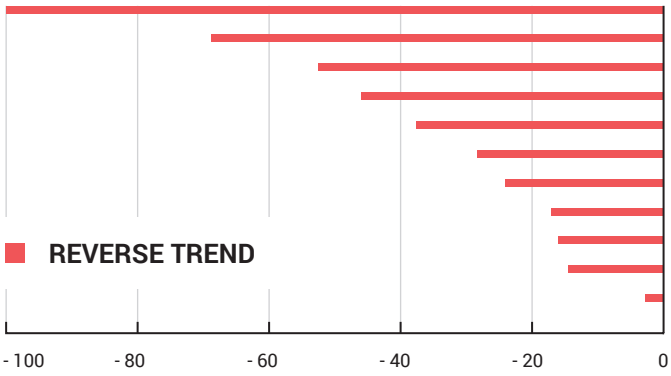


Figure 22 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: South and South-West Asia



16.2.2	Detected victims of human trafficking
14.1.P1	Ocean health index
12.4.P1	Sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions
8.5.2	Unemployment rate
1.5.1	Deaths/missing/affected from disasters (11.5.1, 13.1.1)
7.2.1	Renewable energy share
15.5.1	Red List Index
9.b.1	Medium and high-tech industry value added
11.6.P1	Concentration of PM2.5
11.5.2	Economic loss and affected infrastructure & services from disasters
1.5.2	Economic loss from disasters

ON-TRACK INDICATORS

1.1.1	International poverty
2.2.1	Prevalence of stunting
2.a.2	Flows to agriculture sector (LDCs)
3.1.1	Maternal mortality
3.1.2	Births attended by skilled health personnel
3.2.1	Under-five mortality
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality
3.3.3	Malaria
3.4.2	Suicides
3.5.2	Harmful use of alcohol
3.7.2	Adolescent births
3.9.3	Unintentional poisoning
3.b.1	Population covered by all vaccines in national programme
3.d.1	Health capacity and emergency preparedness
4.1.P1	Net enrolment in primary education
4.1.P3	Gross intake ratio
6.2.1	Open defecation practice
7.1.1	Access to electricity
8.1.P1	Real GDP per capita growth rate
8.2.P1	Real GDP per employed person growth rate
9.c.1	Population covered by a mobile network
11.1.P1	Open defecation practice (urban)

Figure 23 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: South and South-West Asia

NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

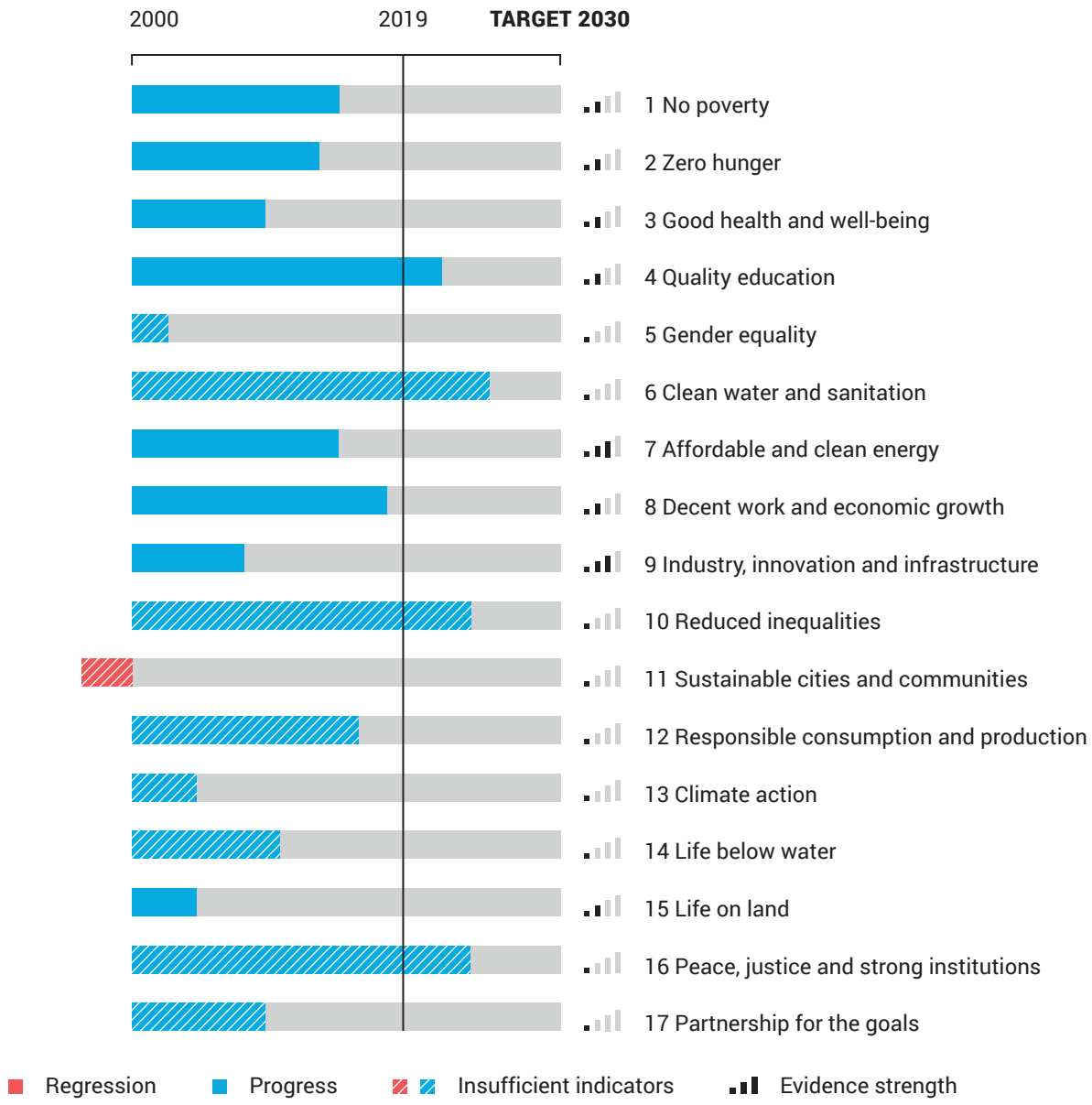


Figure 24 – Snapshot of SDG progress in 2019: North and Central Asia

GOAL 1
- 1.1 International poverty
- 1.4 Access to basic services
- 1.a Resources for poverty programs
- 1.2 National poverty
- 1.3 Social protection
- 1.5 Resilience to disasters
- 1.b Poverty eradication policies

GOAL 2
- 2.1 Undernourishment and food security
- 2.2 Malnutrition
- 2.3 Small-scale food producers
- 2.4 Sustainable agriculture
- 2.a Investment in agriculture
- 2.5 Genetic resources for agriculture
- 2.b Agricultural export subsidies
- 2.c Food price anomalies

GOAL 3
- 3.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.2 Child mortality
- 3.b R&D for health
- 3.3 Communicable diseases
- 3.4 NCD & mental health
- 3.6 Road traffic accidents
- 3.9 Health impact of pollution
- 3.a Tobacco control
- 3.c Health financing & workforce
- 3.d Management of health risks
- 3.5 Substance abuse
- 3.7 Sexual & reproductive health
- 3.8 Universal health coverage

GOAL 4
- 4.1 Effective learning outcomes
- 4.3 TVET & tertiary education
- 4.2 Early childhood development
- 4.5 Equal access to education
- 4.c Qualified teachers
- 4.4 Skills for employment
- 4.6 Adult literacy & numeracy
- 4.7 Sustainable development education
- 4.a Education facilities
- 4.b Scholarships

GOAL 5
- 5.1 Discrimination against women & girls
- 5.5 Women in leadership
- 5.2 Violence against women & girls
- 5.3 Early marriage
- 5.4 Unpaid care and domestic work
- 5.6 Reproductive health access & rights
- 5.a Equal economic rights
- 5.b Technology for women empowerment
- 5.c Gender equality policies

GOAL 6
- 6.2 Access to sanitation & hygiene
- 6.6 Water-related ecosystems
- 6.1 Safe drinking water
- 6.3 Water quality
- 6.4 Water-use efficiency
- 6.5 Transboundary water cooperation
- 6.a Int. cooperation on water & sanitation
- 6.b Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.

GOAL 7
- 7.1 Access to energy services
- 7.3 Energy efficiency
- 7.2 Share of renewable energy
- 7.b Investing in energy infrastructure
- 7.a Int. cooperation on energy

GOAL 8
- 8.1 Per capita economic growth
- 8.2 Economic productivity & innovation
- 8.6 Youth NEET
- 8.3 Formalization of SMEs
- 8.4 Material resource efficiency
- 8.10 Access to financial services
- 8.5 Full employment & decent work
- 8.7 Child & forced labour
- 8.8 Labour rights & safe working env.
- 8.9 Sustainable tourism
- 8.a Aid for Trade
- 8.b Strategy for youth employment

GOAL 9
- 9.4 Sustainable & clean industries
- 9.c Access to ICT & the Internet
- 9.1 Infrastructure development
- 9.2 Sustainable/inclusive industrialization
- 9.5 Research and development
- 9.b Domestic technology development
- 9.3 Small-scale industries access to finance
- 9.a Resilient infrastructure

GOAL 10
- 10.1 Income growth (bottom 40%)
- 10.2 Inclusion (social, economic & political)
- 10.3 Eliminate discrimination
- 10.4 Fiscal & social protection policies
- 10.5 Regulation of financial markets
- 10.6 Inclusive global governance
- 10.7 Safe migration & mobility
- 10.a Special & differential treatment (WTO)
- 10.b Resource flows for development
- 10.c Remittance costs

GOAL 11
- 11.1 Housing & basic services
- 11.2 Public transport systems
- 11.6 Urban air quality & waste mgmt.
- 11.3 Sustainable urbanization
- 11.4 Cultural & natural heritage
- 11.5 Resilience to disasters
- 11.7 Urban green & public spaces
- 11.a Urban planning
- 11.b Disaster risk management policies
- 11.c Sustainable & resilient buildings

GOAL 12
- 12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources
- 12.4 Managing chemicals & wastes
- 12.1 Programmes on SCP
- 12.3 Food waste & losses
- 12.5 Reduction in waste generation
- 12.6 Corporate sustainable practices
- 12.7 Public procurement practices
- 12.8 Sustainable development awareness
- 12.a Support for R&D capacity for SD
- 12.b Sustainable tourism monitoring
- 12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies

GOAL 13
- 13.2 Climate change policies
- 13.1 Resilience & adaptive capacity
- 13.3 Climate change awareness
- 13.a UNFCCC commitments
- 13.b Climate change planning & mgmt.

GOAL 14
- 14.1 Marine pollution
- 14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems
- 14.3 Ocean acidification
- 14.4 Sustainable fishing
- 14.5 Conservation of coastal areas
- 14.6 Fisheries subsidies
- 14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
- 14.a Research capacity & marine technology
- 14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing
- 14.c Implementing UNCLOS

GOAL 15
- 15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems
- 15.2 Sustainable forests management
- 15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems
- 15.5 Loss of biodiversity
- 15.3 Desertification and land degradation
- 15.6 Utilization of genetic resource
- 15.7 Protected species trafficking
- 15.8 Invasive alien species
- 15.9 Biodiversity in national & local planning
- 15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems
- 15.b Resources for forest management
- 15.c Protected species trafficking (global)

GOAL 16
- 16.1 Reduction of violence & related deaths
- 16.2 Human trafficking
- 16.b Non-discriminatory laws
- 16.3 Justice for all
- 16.4 Illicit financial & arms flows
- 16.5 Corruption and bribery
- 16.6 Effective institutions
- 16.7 Inclusive decision-making
- 16.8 Inclusive global governance
- 16.9 Legal identity
- 16.10 Public access to information
- 16.a Capacity to prevent violence

GOAL 17
- 17.8 Capacity building for ICT
- 17.1 Tax & other revenue collection
- 17.6 Science and tech int. cooperation
- 17.9 Capacity building for SDGs
- 17.10 Multilateral trading system (WTO)
- 17.19 Statistical capacity
- 17.2 ODA commitment by dev. countries
- 17.3 Additional financial resources
- 17.4 Debt sustainability
- 17.5 Investment promotion for LDCs
- 17.7 Transfer of technologies
- 17.11 Exports of developing countries
- 17.12 Duty-free market access for LDCs
- 17.13 Global macroeconomic stability
- 17.14 Policy coherence for SD
- 17.15 Respect country's policy space
- 17.16 Global partnership for SD
- 17.17 Partnerships (public, private, CSO)
- 17.18 National statistics availability

MAINTAIN progress to achieve target | **ACCELERATE** progress to achieve target | **REVERSE** trend | Cannot be measured

Figure 25 – Dashboard of anticipated progress in 2030: North and Central Asia

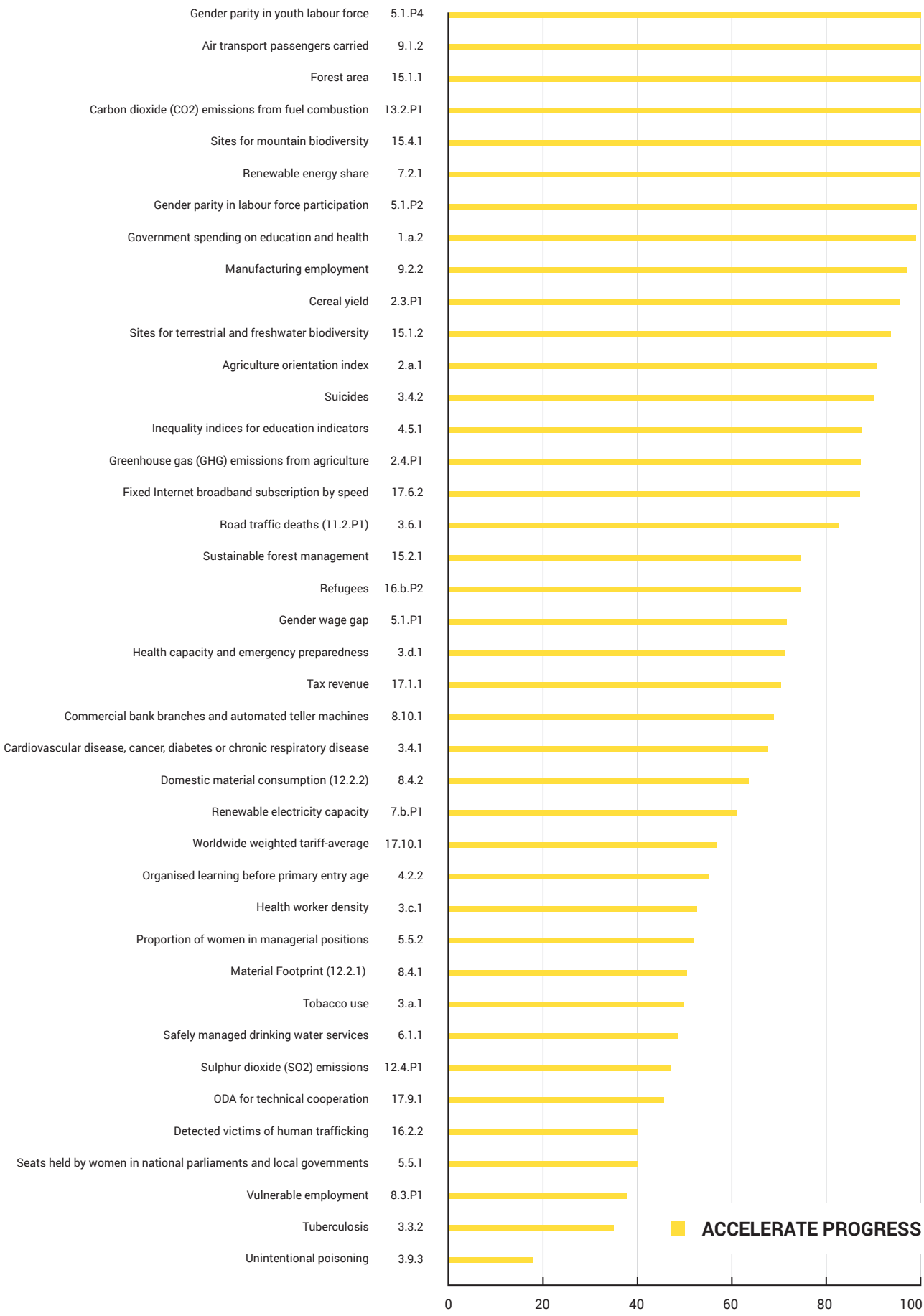
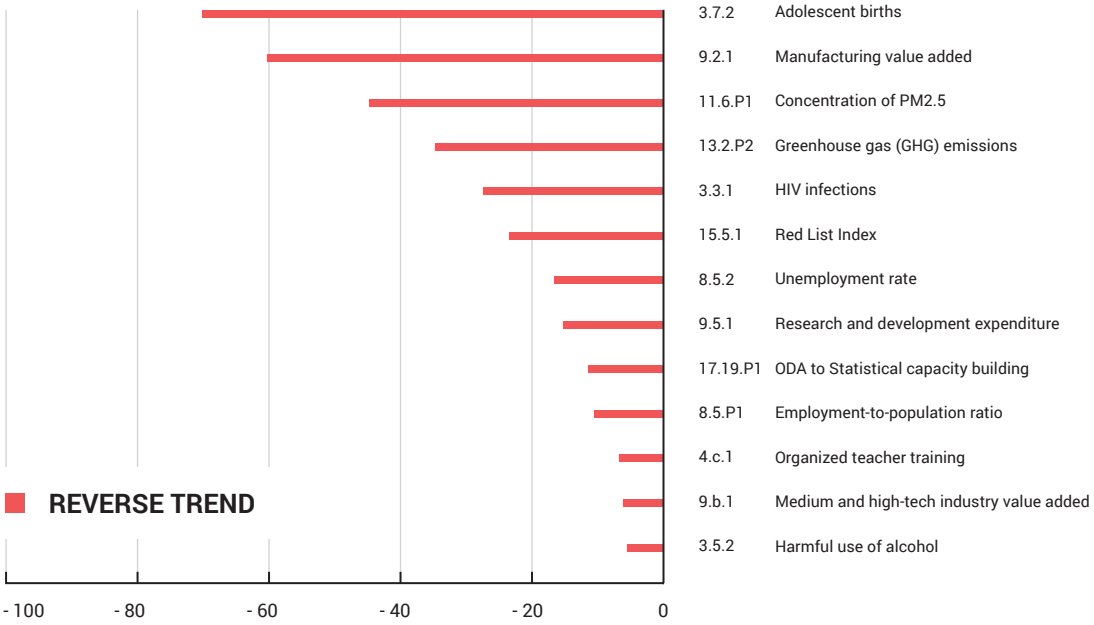


Figure 26 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: North and Central Asia



ON-TRACK INDICATORS

- 1.1.1 International poverty
- 1.4.1 Access to basic water and sanitation services
- 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment
- 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting
- 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition
- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.1.2 Births attended by skilled health personnel
- 3.2.1 Under-five mortality
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality
- 3.3.3 Malaria
- 3.b.1 Population covered by all vaccines in national programme
- 4.1.P1 Net enrolment in primary education
- 4.1.P2 Out-of-school children
- 4.1.P3 Gross intake ratio
- 4.3.1 Formal and non-formal education and training
- 6.2.1 Open defecation practice
- 6.6.1 Permanent water body extent
- 7.1.1 Access to electricity
- 7.1.2 Reliance on clean energy
- 7.3.1 Energy intensity
- 8.1.P1 Real GDP per capita growth rate
- 8.2.P1 Real GDP per employed person growth rate
- 8.10.2 Adults with a bank account
- 8.6.1 Youth not in education, employment or training
- 9.4.1 CO2 emission intensity
- 9.c.1 Population covered by a mobile network
- 10.1.P1 Gini index
- 10.2.1 Population living below 50 percent of median income
- 11.1.P1 Open defecation practice (urban)
- 16.1.1 Intentional homicides
- 17.8.1 Internet users
- 17.19.1 Financial resources to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

Figure 27 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: North and Central Asia

PACIFIC

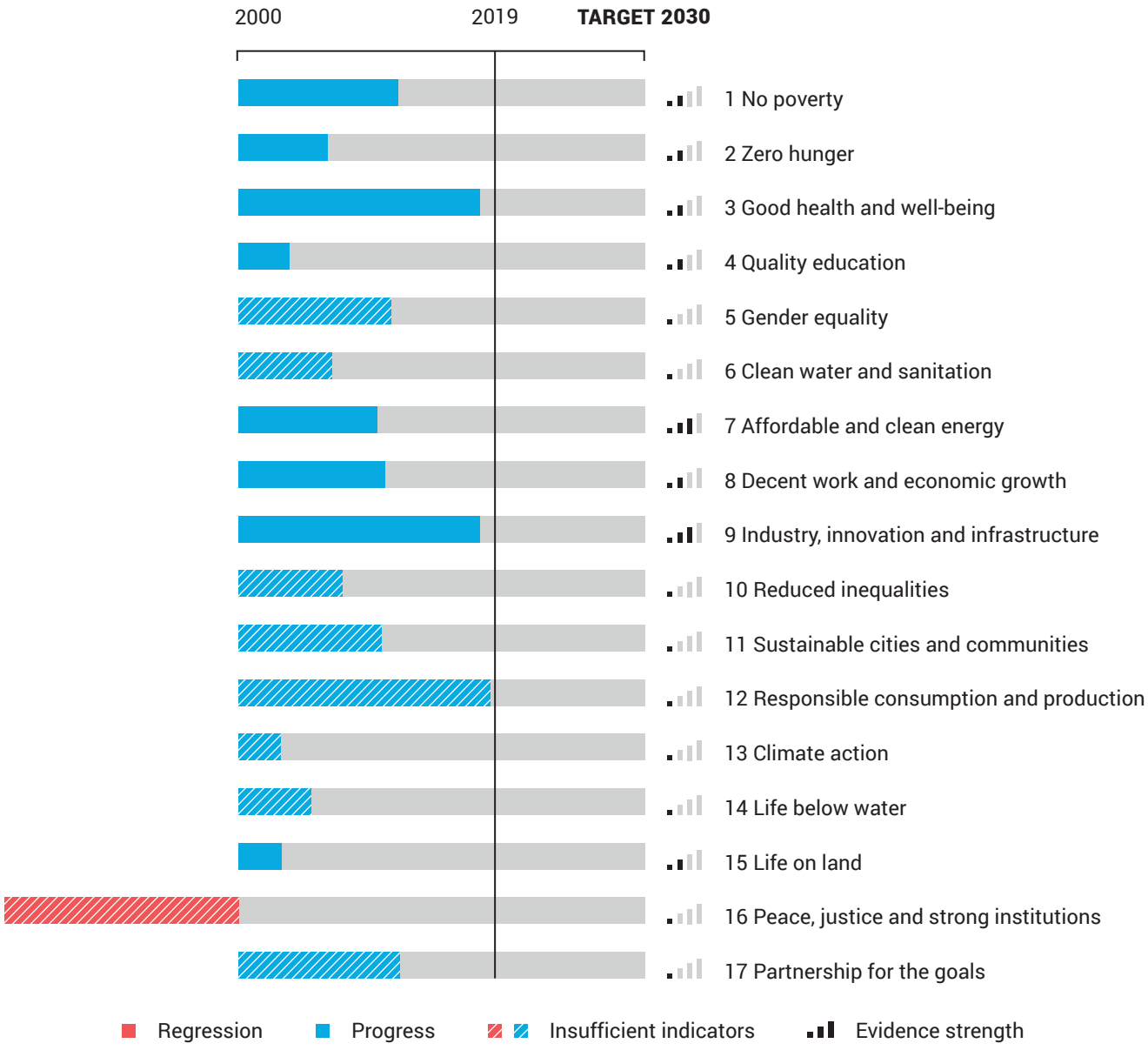


Figure 28 – Snapshot of SDG progress in 2019: Pacific

Figure 29 – Dashboard of anticipated progress in 2030: Pacific

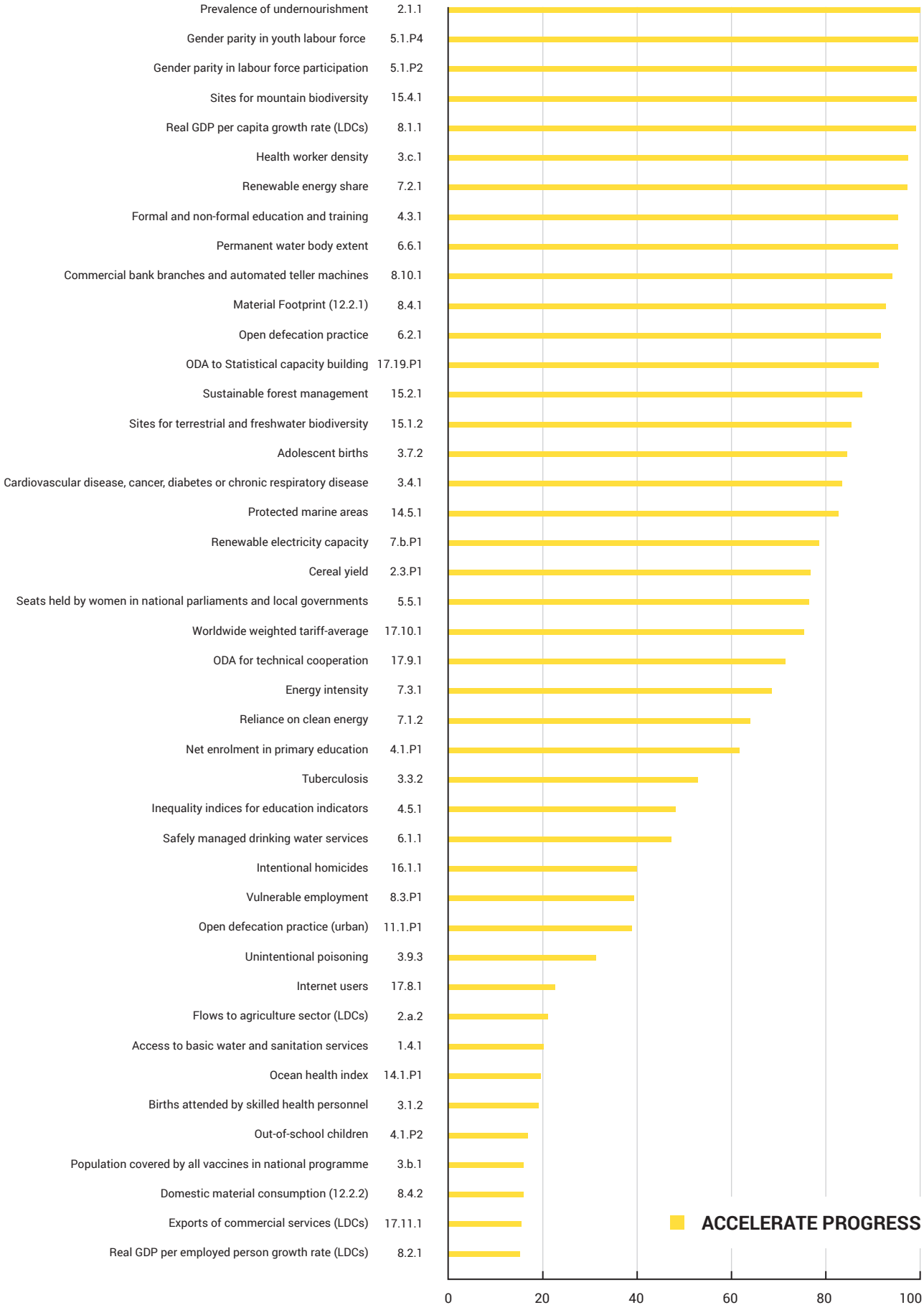
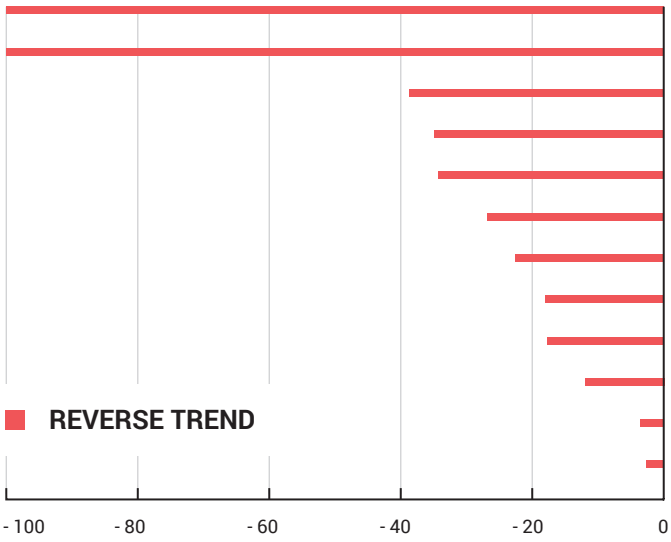


Figure 30 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: Pacific



1.5.2	Economic loss from disasters
16.b.P2	Refugees
13.2.P2	Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
11.5.2	Economic loss and affected infrastructure & services from disasters
1.5.1	Deaths/missing/affected from disasters (11.5.1, 13.1.1)
1.a.2	Government spending on education and health
15.5.1	Red List Index
3.4.2	Suicides
9.2.1	Manufacturing value added
9.2.2	Manufacturing employment
8.5.P1	Employment-to-population ratio
2.a.1	Agriculture orientation index

ON-TRACK INDICATORS

- 2.4.P1 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture
- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.2.1 Under-five mortality
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality
- 3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6.1 Road traffic deaths
- 3.a.1 Tobacco use
- 3.d.1 Health capacity and emergency preparedness
- 4.1.P3 Gross intake ratio
- 4.2.2 Organised learning before primary entry age
- 7.1.1 Access to electricity
- 8.1.P1 Real GDP per capita growth rate
- 8.2.P1 Real GDP per employed person growth rate
- 9.1.2 Air transport passengers carried
- 9.c.1 Population covered by a mobile network
- 11.2.P1 Road traffic deaths
- 11.6.P1 Concentration of PM2.5
- 12.4.P1 Sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions
- 15.1.1 Forest area
- 17.1.1 Tax revenue
- 17.19.1 Financial resources to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

Figure 31 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: Pacific

Annex 2 – Technical notes

Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress assessment is based on the global indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017. Subregional and regional indicator values were compiled from the ESCAP Statistical Online Database.[9] When sufficient data on a defined SDG indicator are not available, the report uses additional indicators from internationally recognized sources. Information on country groupings and definitions of indicators are available on the ESCAP website.[10]

Median value of indicators at the regional and subregional levels are used instead of weighted aggregates to avoid bias towards bigger countries/economies.[11]

This section provides basic information on the methods used for SDG progress assessment. More detailed discussions are provided in two working papers: Tracking progress towards the SDGs: measuring the otherwise ambiguous progress;[12] and A weighted extrapolation method for measuring SDG progress.[13]

Selection of indicators

Indicators are selected based on three criteria:

1. Availability of two or more data points for more than 50 per cent of the countries in the corresponding region or subregion;
2. Ability to set a transparent target value;
3. The metadata are clear and well-explained.

If any indicator fails to fulfil any of these criteria, it is excluded from the analysis.

Measures for tracking progress

Two principal measures are used to assess regional and subregional progress towards the SDGs: Current Status Index and Anticipated Progress Index. The indices answer two different questions:

1. Current Status Index: How much progress has been made since 2000?
2. Anticipated Progress Index: How likely will the targets be achieved by 2030?

The Anticipated Progress Index measures the gap between predicted value of the indicator and specified target value. Both indices are constructed at the level of sub-indicator (a series, disaggregation, or subcomponent of an indicator) and can be aggregated at indicator, target and goal levels as desirable.

In this analysis, the Current Status Index is presented at the goal level (snapshot) and Anticipated Progress Index at the target and indicator levels (dashboard and progress gap).

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9 See http://data.unescap.org/escap_stat/.

10 See http://data.unescap.org/escap_stat/#methodDefinition.

11 Bidarbakht-Nia, A. (2018). "Regional aggregates: Masking change in regional disparities?", ESCAP, Working Paper Series. Available from www.unescap.org/resources/working-paper-series-sdwp06march-2018-regional-aggregates-masking-regional-disparities.

12 Bidarbakht-Nia, A. (2017). "Tracking progress towards the SDGs: measuring the otherwise ambiguous progress", ESCAP Working Paper Series. Available from www.unescap.org/resources/working-paper-series-sdwp05may-2017-tracking-progress-towards-sdgs-measuring-otherwise.

13 Bidarbakht-Nia, A. (2017). "Tracking progress towards the SDGs: measuring the otherwise ambiguous progress", ESCAP Working Paper Series. Available from www.unescap.org/resources/working-paper-series-sdwp05may-2017-tracking-progress-towards-sdgs-measuring-otherwise.

Current Status Index

Given a specified SDG target value for each indicator, the values for the current year and the year 2000 can be used to measure the progress made since 2000, in relation to the progress needed to reach the SDG target by 2030.

The Current Status Index is constructed in two steps:

Step 1 - A metric is developed for each indicator to measure the progress made (blue bar in Figure 1) which can be compared with the entire progress needed from 2000 to 2030.

Step 2 - To see how much progress has been made – and still needs to be made – to achieve the goal, the metrics computed in step 1 are combined into one index that indicates the "average progress made" and the "average progress required" on a fixed scale.

Denoting indicator values for 2000 and the current year by I_0 and I_{cv} and the target value for 2030 by TV, and setting the normalized values of the indicator at 2000 and 2030 at 0 and 10, respectively, the normalized value for the indicator at the current year on the scale of 0 to 10 can be calculated as:

$$I_{cv}^{N} = \frac{I_{cv} - I_0}{|TV - I_0|} \times D \quad in\ which$$

$$D = \begin{cases} 10 & increasing\ is\ desirable \\ -10 & decreasing\ is\ desirable \end{cases}$$

when a desirable direction is clear.

For parity indicators, the value is:

$$I_{cv}^{N} = 10 - \frac{|TV - I_{cv}|}{|TV - I_0|} \times 10$$

If the region (or subregion) has progressed since 2000, the average over all normalized values under each goal provides an index that is between 0 and 10. But if the region has regressed, the value is negative, indicating the size of regression.

If the current value for an indicator has already reached or exceeded the target value, the Current Status Index does not need to be calculated and is automatically is set to 10.

In an ideal situation, data would be available for all indicators associated with each goal and the Current Status Index would provide a robust measure comparable across all 17 goals. However regional data are available for less than 42 per cent of the defined SDG indicators, and coverage is uneven across the 17 goals. Since the assessment is sensitive to the addition of new indicators, the results must be interpreted with caution. The number of indicators and availability of data have substantially increased since the previous edition of this Report, thus the results of this analysis should not be compared with those of previous years.

Anticipated Progress Index

This index compares predicted (anticipated) progress with targeted progress. By predicting the indicator value for the target year and benchmarking the predicted value against the target value, the index provides a measure of how much progress towards the target will still be required by the end of the target year (2030), assuming the pace of progress is sustained. This can be interpreted as an anticipated gap in the target.

Denoting the predicted value of indicator *I* for the target year by I_t, and value in the base year by I_b, one can approximate the progress gap by *P* when no regression has occurred, and by 100 – *P* when the indicator value has regressed since the base year. If a desirable direction is clear from the target, the value of *P* is defined as:

$$P = \frac{|TV - I_t|}{|TV - I_b|} \times 100$$

In the case of parity indicators, we consider no regression has occurred if $|TV - I_t| \leq |TV - I_b|$.

The Anticipated Progress Index is only calculated for indicators that are not expected to achieve the target. When the predicted value has already reached or exceeded the target or is expected to reach the target by 2030, the indicator is automatically classified as "will be achieved" and Anticipated Progress Index is set to 0.

Based on expected progress, the value of P ranges from 0 to 100. If there is a predicted regression from the current level, P will be greater than 100.

P may be interpreted as the extra effort or acceleration needed to meet the target when the value is less than or equal to 100, 100 - *P* and is size of regression when it is greater than 100.

Indicators are classified into three predefined achievement levels:

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P \leq 10 & (Will\ meet\ the\ target\ with\ current\ rate\ or\ minor\ extra\ effort) \\ 10 < P \leq 100 & (Need\ to\ accelerate\ the\ current\ rate\ of\ progress\ to\ achieve\ the\ target) \\ P > 100 & (Regression\ or\ no\ progress\ expected) \end{cases}$$

Aggregation

In total, 134 indicators are used to compute the Current Status Index for SDG progress assessment in 2020. Of these, however, 10 indicators did not provide sufficient data for 2030 predictions and were not used for Anticipated Progress index calculations. When more than one variation for an indicator exists (for example health worker density), all variants are used in calculations. Each variant of indicator is weighted such that the sum of the weights under each indicator is 1. Finally, a weighted average of the progress indices is computed as progress index for that indicator.

Disaggregated statistics

Disaggregation by sex, location or combination of age and sex was available for 24 indicators. To take disaggregated statistics into account, a vulnerable group for each indicator was identified as the group that had made slower progress than the entire reference population. For instance, if the unemployment rate has decreased by 3 per cent since 2000 among an entire labour force population and this rate is 4 per cent among males and 2.5 per cent among females, then the female group is considered vulnerable. Under each indicator, the series for vulnerable groups and other series (the series for total population or other types of the indicator) are weighted so the sum of weights is 1 for each indicator. By counting for vulnerable groups, progress on each indicator is penalized for slow progress on one or more subpopulations.

In applying both measures of tracking progress, an acceptance threshold of minimum 2 per cent change was considered for progress/regression at indicator level. In other words, only if overall change over the period was more than a 2 per cent increase or decrease (depending on the actual and desired direction of change), the change was accepted.

Extrapolation methods

Producing the two measures of progress requires prediction as well as imputation of missing values in the current and previous years. These values were estimated using a weighted regression model that uses time-related weights, assuming the importance attached to the indicator values should be proportional to how recent the data are.

Suppose that n data points are available on indicator I for a given region over a period of T years, and we are interested in estimating the indicator value for the year t.

$T=t_n - t_1$ where t_n and t_1 are the latest and the earliest years, respectively, for which data on indicator *I* are available. The time-related weights work as multipliers that inflate/deflate the rate of change in each period in proportion to its temporal distance to the target year (t). The time-related weight for the i^{th} data points for a given country/region for estimating indicator values of the year t is:

$$w_i = \frac{(t - t_1)}{(t - t_i)} \quad (t_1 < t_i < t_n)$$

Weights are then incorporated into a regression model used for different indicators. In a few exceptions where indicator is time-independent, time-related weights were not used (e.g. disaster-related indicators, ODA and other financial aids, etc.).

Setting regional target values

Of 169 SDG targets, only 30 per cent have specific (implicit or explicit) target values. For the rest, this report sets target values using a "champion area" approach. This is based on what has been feasible in the past and optimizes the use of available data. The idea is to identify the top performers in the region and set their average rate of change as the region's target rate. If we imagine all the top performers as belonging to one hypothetical area, this can be labelled as the region's champion area whose rate of change equals the average for the top performers for one specific indicator. This can then be considered the target rate for the region. In other words, if the region as a whole can perform as well as its champion area over the 15 years (SDGs era), we should expect to achieve the target value. Subsequently, the universal target value for the region can be derived by applying the rate of change in the champion area to the regional value in the base year. In this report, the regional value is the median value of the indicator over all countries for which data are available.

The main challenge with the champion area approach arises when dealing with two types of indicators:

Type i: Indicators for which there are insufficient data to estimate the rate of change at the country level

Type ii: Indicators for which most the countries started from a very low level and made such rapid progress over the past 15 years that the observed growth rate cannot reasonably be applied to the future. Examples of this include the proportion of parliamentary seats held by women, the proportion of marine areas protected and the percentage of the population using the Internet. These rapid changes may have been due to technological advances, exploitation of untapped resources, or a paradigm shift brought about by a development agenda such as Millennium Development Goals.

For these two types of indicators, an alternative approach is taken. Rather than using the rate of change, the top five performers are identified based on the latest available data. The region's target value for the champion area is then the average value for those five countries – using the largest or smallest values depending on whether the desirable direction of change is an increase or a decrease. Before identifying the top five performers, outliers were dropped to avoid bias.

Assume we set a target value for indicator I:

Case 1. At least two data points are available since 2000 for a number of countries that show a diverse range of changes. In this case, the earliest and latest available data for the five countries with the highest rates of change are used to calculate r, the average annual rate of change over the five highest rates of increase/decrease.

r is calculated in two steps. The first step is to estimate the geometric mean of average annual growth rate for each country based on the earliest and the latest indicator values. The second step is to take a geometric mean over the top five rates of change. It is often the case that one or few countries experienced exceptional growth. These outlier countries are dropped from calculations in order to ensure the average of the top five performers is a realistic and achievable, yet aspirational target for the rest of the countries.

Case 2. For indicators for which there are insufficient data to estimate country-level rates of change, the latest data for each country are used to calculate the target value:

Target value: Average over indicator values for the five countries with the largest or smallest values depending on whether the desirable change is an increase or a decrease, respectively (after dropping outliers as in case 1).

Finally, the target value for the indicator is calculated as:

$$TV = \begin{cases} tv & Indicators\ of\ type\ (i)\ and\ (ii) \\ (1+r)^{15} \times I_{2015} & other\ indicators \end{cases}$$

When unavailable, the indicator value for the base year (I_{2015}) can be estimated by applying an appropriate extrapolation method (as described above).

EVIDENCE STRENGTH – SUFFICIENCY OF INDICATORS AT GOAL LEVEL

Due to limitations on the availability of indicators, the results aggregated at the Goal level are based on a percentage of the total Global SDG indicators along with indicators from internationally recognized sources. While the latter are not intended to substitute the former, they shed light on targets where otherwise no analysis would have been possible. Therefore, they are taken into consideration when assessing the completeness of the evidence at the Goal level. The strength of the used evidence is thus defined as the following ratio:

$$Evidence\ Strength\ factor = \frac{T_{Used} + P_{Used}}{T_{Global} + P_{Used}}$$

Where T_{Global}, T_{Used} and P_{Used} represent, respectively, the total number of indicators in the Global SDG framework, the number of Global indicators used in the calculations, and the number of indicators from widely recognized international data sources used.

For ease of analysis, a strength symbol denotes the evidence strength factor according to the table below.

Symbol	Evidence strength factor	Interpretation
	0	No indicators available
	Between 0 and 1/3 (including 1/3)	Insufficient indicators
	Between 1/3 and 2/3 (including 2/3)	Moderate availability
	Between 2/3 and 1	High availability
	1	Complete set of indicators

Annex 3 – Table of indicators selected for SDG progress assessment

The list of SDG indicators that have been used in the analysis along with respective target values and source of data.

Indicator Short Name	Source	Indicator	Target (Rate)†
GOAL 1			
International poverty	SDG	**1.1.1** Proportion of population living on less than $1.90 a day, % of employment [by sex, age and employment status]	**0**
National poverty**	SDG	**1.2.1** Percentage of population living below the national poverty line [by urbanization]	**7**
Social protection	SDG	**1.3.1** Population covered by, % of population – Social assistance programmes [by quintile] – Social insurance programmes [by quintile] – Unemployment benefit – Pension	 **87.2** **31.3** **100** **100**
Access to basic water and sanitation services	SDG	**1.4.1** Population using basic drinking water and sanitation services, Percentage [by urbanization]	**100**
Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	SDG	**1.5.1** Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters, Per 100,000 population	**0**
Economic loss from disasters	SDG	**1.5.2** Direct economic loss attributed to disasters, Million USD	**0**
Government spending on education and health	SDG	**1.a.2** Proportion of total government spending on essential services, % of government expenditure – Education – Health	 **25.5** **23.8**
GOAL 2			
Prevalence of undernourishment	SDG	**2.1.1** Prevalence of undernourishment, % of population	**0**
Moderate or severe food insecurity in the population** ††	SDG	**2.1.2** Moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, % of population	**6.3**
Prevalence of stunting	SDG	**2.2.1** Children moderately or severely stunted, % of children under 5	**(0.5)**‡
Prevalence of malnutrition	SDG	**2.2.2** Prevalence of malnutrition, % of children under 5 [moderately or severely overweight, moderately or severely wasted]	**3**
Cereal yield	FAO	**2.3.P1** Cereal yield, kg per hectare	**5500**
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture	FAO	**2.4.P1** Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture, – Tons per 1,000 (2010) USD GDP from agriculture	 **(0.9)**
Agriculture orientation index	SDG	**2.a.1** Agriculture orientation index, Index	**1**
Flows to agriculture sector (LDCs)	SDG	**2.a.2** Official flows to the agriculture sector (LDCs), by recipient, Million 2017 US dollars	**(2)**

Indicator Short Name	Source	Indicator	Target (Rate)†
GOAL 3			
Maternal mortality	SDG	**3.1.1** Maternal mortality, Deaths per 100 000 live births	**70**
Births attended by skilled health personnel	SDG	**3.1.2** Births attended by skilled health personnel, % of live births	**100**
Under-five mortality	SDG	**3.2.1** Under-five mortality rate, Deaths per 1 000 live births [by sex]	**25**
Neonatal mortality	SDG	**3.2.2** Neonatal mortality rate, Deaths per 1,000 live births	**12**
HIV infections	SDG	**3.3.1** New HIV infections, Per 100,000 population [by age and sex]	**0**
Tuberculosis	SDG	**3.3.2** Tuberculosis incidence rate, Per 100,000 population	**0**
Malaria	SDG	**3.3.3** Malaria incidence rate, Per 1,000 population at risk	**0**
Cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	SDG	**3.4.1** Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases, Probability (%) [by sex]	**7.8**
Suicides	SDG	**3.4.2** Suicide, Per 100,000 population [by sex]	**4.3**
Harmful use of alcohol	SDG	**3.5.2** Alcohol per capita consumption, Litres per annum	**2.1**
Road traffic deaths	SDG	**3.6.1** Road traffic deaths, Per 100,000 population	**7.8**
Family planning satisfied with modern methods**	SDG	**3.7.1** Demand for family planning satisfied with modern methods, % of women of reproductive age	**100**
Adolescent births	SDG	**3.7.2** Adolescent fertility rate, Live births per 1 000 women (aged 15-19)	**13**
Household expenditures on health**	SDG	**3.8.2** Population with large household expenditure on health, % of population – More than 10% – More than 25%	 **5.2** **1.1**
Unintentional poisoning	SDG	**3.9.3** Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning, Per 100 000 population [by sex]	**0.3**
Tobacco use	SDG	**3.a.1** Prevalence of current tobacco use, % of population aged 15 and above [by sex]	**14.2**
Population covered by all vaccines in national programme	SDG	**3.b.1** Target population with access to vaccines, % of population, 3 doses vaccination against diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DPT3); Pneumococcal conjugate 3rd dose vaccination (PCV3); Measles (MCV2)	**100**
Health worker density	SDG	**3.c.1** Health worker density, per 10,000 population – Dentistry personnel – Nursing and midwifery personnel – Pharmaceutical personnel – Physicians	 **8.2** **74.8** **6.5** **23.1**
Health capacity and emergency preparedness	SDG	**3.d.1** International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacity index, Index	**100**
GOAL 4			
Minimum proficiency in reading and maths**	SDG	**4.1.1** Minimum proficiency for lower secondary, Percentage [by sex] – Mathematics – Reading	 **91.7** **89**
Net enrolment in primary education	UNESCO	**4.1.P1** Net enrolment in primary education, % of primary school age children	**99.3**

Indicator Short Name	Source	Indicator	Target (Rate)†
Out-of-school children	UNESCO	**4.1.P2** Out-of-school children and adolescents in primary and lower secondary education, Percentage [by sex]	**0**
Gross intake ratio	UNESCO	**4.1.P3** Gross intake ratio to the last grade of lower secondary general education and to the last grade of primary education, Percentage [by sex]	**100**
Organised learning before primary entry age	SDG	**4.2.2** Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), Percentage [by sex]	**100**
Formal and non-formal education and training	SDG	**4.3.1** Proportion of 15 to 24 year-olds enrolled in vocational secondary education, Percentage	**11.7**
Adults who completed primary or secondary education	UNESCO	**4.4.P1** Educational attainment, Percentage [by sex] – Completed primary education or higher – Completed upper secondary education or higher	 **100** **91**
Inequality indices for education indicators	SDG	**4.5.1** Gender parity indices, Female-to-male ratio – Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) – Teachers in pre-primary, primary, lower secondary, and secondary education who are trained – Proportion of 15-24 year-olds enrolled in vocational secondary education – Adult literacy rate	**1**
Adult literacy	UNESCO	**4.6.P1** Adult literacy rate, % of population aged 15 and above [by sex]	**100**
ODA for scholarships (LDCs)**	SDG	**4.b.1** Volume of ODA flows for scholarships (LDCs), Million 2017 USD	**(2)**
Organized teacher training	SDG	**4.c.1** Trained teachers in lower secondary, pre-primary, primary and secondary education, Percentage [by sex]	**100**
GOAL 5			
Gender wage gap	ILO	**5.1.P1** Gender wage gap, employees, Percentage	**0**
Gender parity in labour force participation	ILO	**5.1.P2** Labour force participation (aged 25+), Female-to-male ratio	**1**
Ratio of female to male mean years of schooling	SDG§	**5.1.P3** Ratio of female to male mean years of schooling, population 25+ year, Female-to-male ratio	**1**
Gender parity in youth labour force	ILO	**5.1.P4** Youth labour force (15-24), Female-to-male ratio	**1**
Seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments	SDG	**5.5.1** Seats held by women in national parliament, % of seats	**30.9**
Proportion of women in managerial positions	SDG	**5.5.2** Women share of employment in managerial position, Percentage	**50**
Women researchers**	UNESCO	**5.5.P1** Women researchers, % of R&D headcount	**50**
GOAL 6			
Safely managed drinking water services	SDG	**6.1.1** Population using safely managed drinking water, % of population [by urbanization]	**100**
Open defecation practice and handwashing facilities	SDG	**6.2.1** – Population practicing open defecation, % of population [by urbanization] – Population with basic handwashing facilities on premises, % of population [by urbanization]	 **0** **100**

Indicator Short Name	Source	Indicator	Target (Rate)†
Water stress** ††	SDG	**6.4.2** Total freshwater withdrawal, % of total renewable water per annum	**16.9**
Permanent water body extent	SDG	**6.6.1** Water body extent, % of land area – Permanent – Permanent and maybe permanent	 **1.6** **1.4**
ODA to water and sanitation (LDCs)**	SDG	**6.a.1** ODA to water and sanitation (in Least Developed Countries), Million 2017 US dollars	**(2)**
Policies and procedures for participative water and sanitation management**	SDG	**6.b.1** – Countries with procedures in law or policy for participation by service users/communities in planning program: rural drinking-water supply, 10 = Clearly defined; 5 = Not clearly defined; 0 = N/A – Countries with users/communities participating in planning programs in rural drinking-water supply, 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = N/A	 **10** **3**
GOAL 7			
Access to electricity	SDG	**7.1.1** Access to electricity, % of population	**100**
Reliance on clean energy	SDG	**7.1.2** Population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technologies, % of population	**100**
Renewable energy share	SDG	**7.2.1** Renewable energy consumption (SDG), % of total final energy consumption	**25.7**
Energy intensity	SDG	**7.3.1** Energy intensity (2011 PPP), Megajoules per unit of GDP in 2011 PPP	**2**
International support for clean and renewable energy (LDCs)**	SDG	**7.a.1** International support for clean energy and renewable energy (in Least Developed Countries), Million 2016 US dollars	**(2)**
Renewable electricity capacity	IRENA	**7.b.P1** Renewable electricity capacity, total, Kilowatts per capita	**468**
GOAL 8‡‡			
Real GDP per capita growth rate (LDCs)	SDG	**8.1.1** GDP per capita growth rate (2010 USD, average annual, in Least Developed Countries), % change per capita per annum	**7**
Real GDP per capita growth rate	SDG	**8.1.P1** GDP per capita growth rate (2010 USD, average annual), % change per capita per annum	**0**
Real GDP per employed person growth rate (LDCs)	SDG	**8.2.1** GDP per employed person (in Least Developed Countries), % change per annum	**5.3**
Real GDP per employed person growth rate	SDG	**8.2.P1** GDP per employed person, % change per annum	**0**
Vulnerable employment	ILO	**8.3.P1** Vulnerable employment, % of total employment [by sex]	**30.8**
Material Footprint	SDG-UNEP	**8.4.1** Material Footprint, Kg per 1 USD (2010) GDP – Total – Biomass – Fossil Fuels – Metal Ores – Non-metallic minerals – Tons per capita	 **1.3** **0.4** **0.1** **0.1** **0.5** **6.6**

Indicator Short Name	Source	Indicator	Target (Rate)†
Domestic material consumption	SDG	**8.4.2** Domestic material consumption, Kg per 1 USD (2010) GDP – Total intensity – Biomass – Fossil fuels – Metal ores – Non-metallic minerals – Tons per capita	 **1.1** **0.4** **0.1** **0.02** **0.4** **6.6**
Unemployment rate	SDG	**8.5.2** Unemployment rate (15+ years), % of labour force [by sex]	**2.6**
Employment-to-population ratio	ILO	**8.5.P1** Employment-to-population ratio, total, % of population aged 15 and above [by sex]	**62.8**
Youth not in education, employment or training	SDG	**8.6.1** Not in Employment, Education, Training (NEET), % of population aged 15-24 [by sex]	**9.7**
Occupational injuries** ††	SDG	**8.8.1** Frequency rates of fatal occupational injury, Cases per year per 100,000 workers	**0**
Commercial bank branches and automated teller machines	SDG	**8.10.1** Access to banking, insurance and financial service, Per 100,000 adults – Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) – Number of commercial bank branches	 **200** **42**
Adults with a bank account	SDG	**8.10.2** Adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank, % of population [by sex]	**100**
GOAL 9			
Air transport passengers carried	SDG-WB	**9.1.2** Air transport passengers carried, per 1000 population	**1378**
Railway transportation of goods and passengers**	WB	**9.1.P1** Railways – Goods transported, Ton-km per 1000 dollar of GDP – Passengers carried (WB), Thousand passenger-km per capita	 **50.9** **160**
Manufacturing value added	SDG	**9.2.1** GDP by activity: Manufacturing, % of GDP	**14.1**
Manufacturing employment	SDG	**9.2.2** Manufacturing employment (SDG), % of total employment	**26.8**
Small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit** ††	SDG	**9.3.2** Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit, Percentage	**38.3**
CO2 emission intensity	SDG	**9.4.1** Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, Kg per 1 USD (2010) GDP – Per unit of manufacturing value added – From fuel combustion	 **0.3** **0.1**
Research and development expenditure	SDG	**9.5.1** Gross domestic expenditure on research and development, % of GDP	**0.8**
Number of researchers	SDG	**9.5.2** Researchers, full-time equivalents, Per million inhabitants	**3000**
Medium and high-tech industry value added	SDG	**9.b.1** Medium and high-tech industry value added, % of total value added	**30**
Population covered by a mobile network	SDG	**9.c.1** Population covered by at least 2G, 3G and 4G mobile networks, % of population	**100**

Indicator Short Name	Source	Indicator	Target (Rate)†
GOAL 10			
Gini index	WB	**10.1.P1** Gini index, Income equality coefficient	**29.5**
Population living below 50 percent of median income	SDG-WB	**10.2.1** Population living below 50 percent of median income, % of population	**4.4**
Labour income share of GDP** ††	SDG-ILO	**10.4.1** Labour income share of GDP, % of GDP	**55.2**
Total resource flows for development**	SDG, UNCTAD	**10.b.1** – Total resource flows for development, by recipient (in Least Developed Countries), by donor, Million US dollars – FDI inflows (in Least Developed Countries), % of GDP	 **(2)** **(1.5)**
Remittance costs**	SDG	**10.c.1** Remittance cost as a proportion of the amount remitted, Percentage	**2.7**
GOAL 11			
Open defecation practice (urban)	SDG§	**11.1.P1** Population practicing open defecation, % of urban population	**0**
Road traffic deaths	SDG§	**11.2.P1** Road traffic deaths, Per 100,000 population	**7.8**
Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	SDG	**11.5.1** Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters, Number	**0**
Economic loss and affected infrastructure & services from disasters	SDG	**11.5.2** Direct economic loss attributed to disasters, Million USD, and damaged critical infrastructure and disruptions to basic services attributed to disasters, Number	**0**
Concentration of PM2.5	WB	**11.6.P1** – Annual mean concentration of PM2.5, Micrograms per m^3 – Population exposed to PM2.5 air pollution at levels exceeding WHO Interim Target-2 guidelines (25 microgram per cm^3), % of population	 **12** **45**
GOAL 12			
Material Footprint	SDG-UNEP	**12.2.1** Material Footprint, Kg per 1 USD (2010) GDP – Total – Biomass – Fossil Fuels – Metal Ores – Non-metallic minerals – Tons per capita	 **1.3** **0.4** **0.1** **0.1** **0.5** **6.6**
Domestic material consumption	SDG	**12.2.2** Domestic material consumption, Kg per 1 USD (2010) GDP – Total intensity – Biomass – Fossil fuels – Metal ores – Non-metallic minerals – Tons per capita	 **1.1** **0.4** **0.1** **0.02** **0.4** **6.6**
Hazardous waste generated/treated** ††	SDG	**12.4.2** Hazardous waste generation, Kg per capita	**27**
Sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions	EU	**12.4.P1** Sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions, Kg per capita	**2.5**
Fossil-fuel subsidies**	IEA	**12.c.P1** Total energy subsidies, % of GDP	**0**

Indicator Short Name	Source	Indicator	Target (Rate)†
GOAL 13			
Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	SDG	**13.1.1** Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters, Number	**0**
Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from fuel combustion	SDG§	**13.2.P1** Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from fuel combustion – Kg per 1 USD (2010) GDP – Metric tons of CO2 equivalent per capita	 **0.3** **2.9**
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions	EU	**13.2.P2** Total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – Metric tons of CO2 equivalent per capita – Million metric tons of CO2 equivalent	 **1.1** **(0.8)**
GOAL 14			
Ocean health index	OHI	**14.1.P1** Ocean health index, Scores	**80**
Protected marine areas	SDG	**14.5.1** Proportion of marine key biodiversity areas covered by protected area status, Percentage	**75**
GOAL 15			
Forest area	SDG	**15.1.1** Forest area, % of land area	**43.9**
Sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity	SDG	**15.1.2** Important sites that are covered by protected areas, Percentage – For fresh water biodiversity – For terrestrial biodiversity	 **43.6** **91.4**
Sustainable forest management	SDG	**15.2.1** Progress towards sustainable forest management – Forest area net change rate, Percentage – Forest area with a long-term management plan, Percentage – Forest area within legally established protected area, Percentage – Above ground biomass in forest, Tons per hectare	 **0.7** **58.9** **19.8** **127.3**
Sites for mountain biodiversity	SDG	**15.4.1** Important sites for mountain biodiversity, Percentage	**93.3**
Red List Index	SDG	**15.5.1** Red list index total, Index	**1**
ODA for biodiversity (LDCs)**	SDG	**15.b.1** Total ODA for biodiversity (in Least Developed Countries), by recipient, Million 2017 US dollars	**2**
GOAL 16			
Intentional homicides	SDG	**16.1.1** Intentional homicide, Per 100,000 population [by sex]	**(0.6)**
Detected victims of human trafficking	SDG	**16.2.2** Detected victims of human trafficking	**0**
Unsentenced detainees††	SDG	**16.3.2** Unsentenced detainees (Pre-trial), % of prison population	**0**
Bribery** ††	SDG	**16.5.2** Bribery incidence (business asked for bribery), Percentage	**3.7**
Government expenditure**	SDG	**16.6.1** Primary government expenditures as share of original approved budget, Percentage	**100**
Internally displaced persons** ††	UNHCR	**16.b.P1** Internally displaced persons, Thousand people	**0**
Refugees	UNHCR	**16.b.P2** Refugees by country of origin, Thousand people	**(0.6)**

Indicator Short Name	Source	Indicator	Target (Rate)†
GOAL 17			
Tax revenue	SDG-IMF	**17.1.1** Revenue, % of GDP – Tax revenue – Government revenue (budgetary central government)	 **33** **42.1**
Domestic budget funded by domestic taxes**	SDG	**17.1.2** Domestic budget funded by domestic taxes, % of GDP	**71.3**
ODA from OECD-DAC** ††	SDG	**17.2.1** ODA from OECD-DAC, % of GNI – Least Developed Countries – All countries	 **0.2** **0.7**
FDI inflows (LDCs)**	UNCTAD	**17.3.1** FDI inflows (in Least Developed Countries), % of GDP	**(1.5)**
Personal remittances**	SDG	**17.3.2** Personal remittances received (LDCs), % of GDP	**4**
Debt service**	SDG	**17.4.1** Debt service, % of exports of goods, services and primary income	**0.8**
Fixed Internet broadband subscription by speed	SDG	**17.6.2** Fixed-broadband equal to or above 10 Mbit/s subscriptions, Per 100 population	**100**
Internet users	SDG	**17.8.1** Internet users, % of population	**100**
ODA for technical cooperation	SDG	**17.9.1** Official development assistance (gross disbursement) for technical cooperation, Million 2017 USD	**(2)**
Worldwide weighted tariff-average	SDG	**17.10.1** Tariff rate for LDCs under most favoured nation and preferential rate, all products, Percentage	**0**
Exports of commercial services (LDCs)	SDG-WTO	**17.11.1** Exports from LDCs for commercial services and merchandise, % of world services exports	**(2)**
Average tariff applied by developed countries (LDCs)**	SDG	**17.12.1** Average tariff rate for LDCs applied by developed countries under most-favoured nation and preferential rate, all products, Percentage	**0**
Financial resources to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries	SDG	**17.19.1** Resources made available to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, Million USD	**(2)**
ODA to Statistical capacity building	OECD	**17.19.P1** ODA to Statistical capacity building, Million 2017 USD	**(2)**

† The rates in parenthesis are utilized as a multiplier of the indicator level in the year 2015 for calculating the target value.

‡ The target value is derived by multiplying the rate and the indicator level in the year 2012

§ Indicator sourced from the Global SDG database, but used under a different SDG Target, thus considered supplementary

** Indicator not used for subregional progress assessment due to lack of data

†† Indicator not used for Anticipated Progress Index (dashboard) due to lack of data

‡‡ The regional labour market indicators in this report are derived from the November 2018 edition of the ILO modelled estimates series. This edition does not reflect the labour statistics from India's 2017/18 Periodic Labour Force Survey, which presents important revisions in comparison with previous surveys. For the latest global and regional estimates, please refer to ILOSTAT, (https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/).

Annex 4 – List of countries in the Asia-Pacific region and subregions

The following table provides the regional and subregional groupings used in this analysis along with the corresponding countries under each of them.

REGION: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Afghanistan; American Samoa; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; French Polynesia; Georgia; Guam; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Niue; Northern Mariana Islands; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; Viet Nam

SUBREGION: EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIA (ENEA)

China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Macao, China; Mongolia; Republic of Korea

SUBREGION: NORTH CENTRAL ASIA (NCA)

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

SUBREGION: THE PACIFIC (PACIFIC)

American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

SUBREGION: SOUTH-EAST ASIA (SEA)

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam

SUBREGION: SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA (SSWA)

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey

Annex 5 – Indicators for monitoring the declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

In adopting the declaration, Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, countries requested a biennial progress report be produced. The initial edition of the report will be published in 2020 based on a monitoring and evaluation framework aimed at minimizing the effort and resources for monitoring while relying upon already available information to the greatest extent possible. Key sources of information for monitoring include resources developed by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), such as the Statistical Capacity Monitor[14], Open Assessment Repository[15] and the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS),[16] as well as the Statistical Capacity Indicator from the World Bank[17] and the Open Data Inventory Index (ODIN) from Open Data Watch[18]. Table 1 provides a mapping of indicators in the monitoring and evaluation framework on nine commitments from declaration.

14 See www.statisticalcapacitymonitor.org/indicator/.

15 The Open Assessment Repository is under development. See http://oar.paris21.org/.

16 See https://paris21.org/press.

17 See http://datatopics.worldbank.org/statisticalcapacity/.

18 See https://odin.opendatawatch.com/.

Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind (commitments)	Monitoring and evaluation framework (indicators)	Target	Current score
(a) Integrate statistics development with national development policies and plans	**a.1** Existence of a NSDS or national statistical plan (% of countries)	**100**	**69.0**
	a.2 Whether there is a national statistical plan under implementation (SDG 17.18.3) (% of countries)	**100**	**90.3**
(b) Develop national monitoring framework and indicator set and integrate with budgeting	**b.1** ODIN overall data coverage score (average index score, 0 - 100; target = avg top 5 countries)	**58.8**	**38.8**
	b.2 Existence of official country-operated, dedicated online portal for reporting SDG progress (% of countries)	**100**	**87.5**
	b.3 Source data assessment of statistical capacity (average score; target = avg top 5 countries)	**100**	**65.2**
(c) A high-level advisory body to NSS to represent users	**c.1** Existence of a National Statistical Council or related body that advises the Chief Statistician on NSO activities, primarily on programme priorities (% of countries)	**100**	**52.4**
(d) Specify NSS roles and responsibilities and transform business processes	**d.1** Methodology assessment of statistical capacity (average score; target = avg top 5 countries)	**98.0**	**56.9**
(e) Empower heads of NSOs to assume lead role in NSS	**e.1** Whether the national statistical legislation complies with FPOS (SDG 17.18.2) (% of countries)	**100**	**70.8**
(f) Take advantage of new, innovative technologies and build partnerships for data sharing	**f.1** Use of the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange, SDMX (% of countries)	**100**	**57.1**
(g) Communication and statistical literacy	**g.1** Whether the NSO has active outreach to users (% of countries)	**100**	**51.7**
	g.2 Whether the NSO uses social media (Facebook and/or Twitter) to disseminate data and information (% of countries)	**100**	**27.1**
	g.3 ODIN overall data openness score (average score; target = average top 5 countries)	**75.7**	**42.5**
(h) Statistical advocacy and awareness raising	**h.1** Whether the national statistical plan is fully funded (SDG 17.18.3) (% countries)	**100**	**72.7**
	h.2 NSO data dissemination policy (% of countries)	**100**	**38.1**
(i) National strategies/policies aligned with commitments	**i.1** Use of statistics index* (average index score; target = avg top 5 countries)	**89.2**	**38.4**
	i.2 Follow international quality management framework best practice (e.g. GDDS, DQAF, Total Quality Management, ISO EN 9001) (% countries)	**100**	**71.4**

Table 1- Mapping of declaration commitments on the monitoring framework indicators

* The composite indicator in reference to statistical terms and indicators in national policy documents. The sub-index of this indicator includes the level of complexity, disaggregation, sector distribution, and monitoring and evaluation framework

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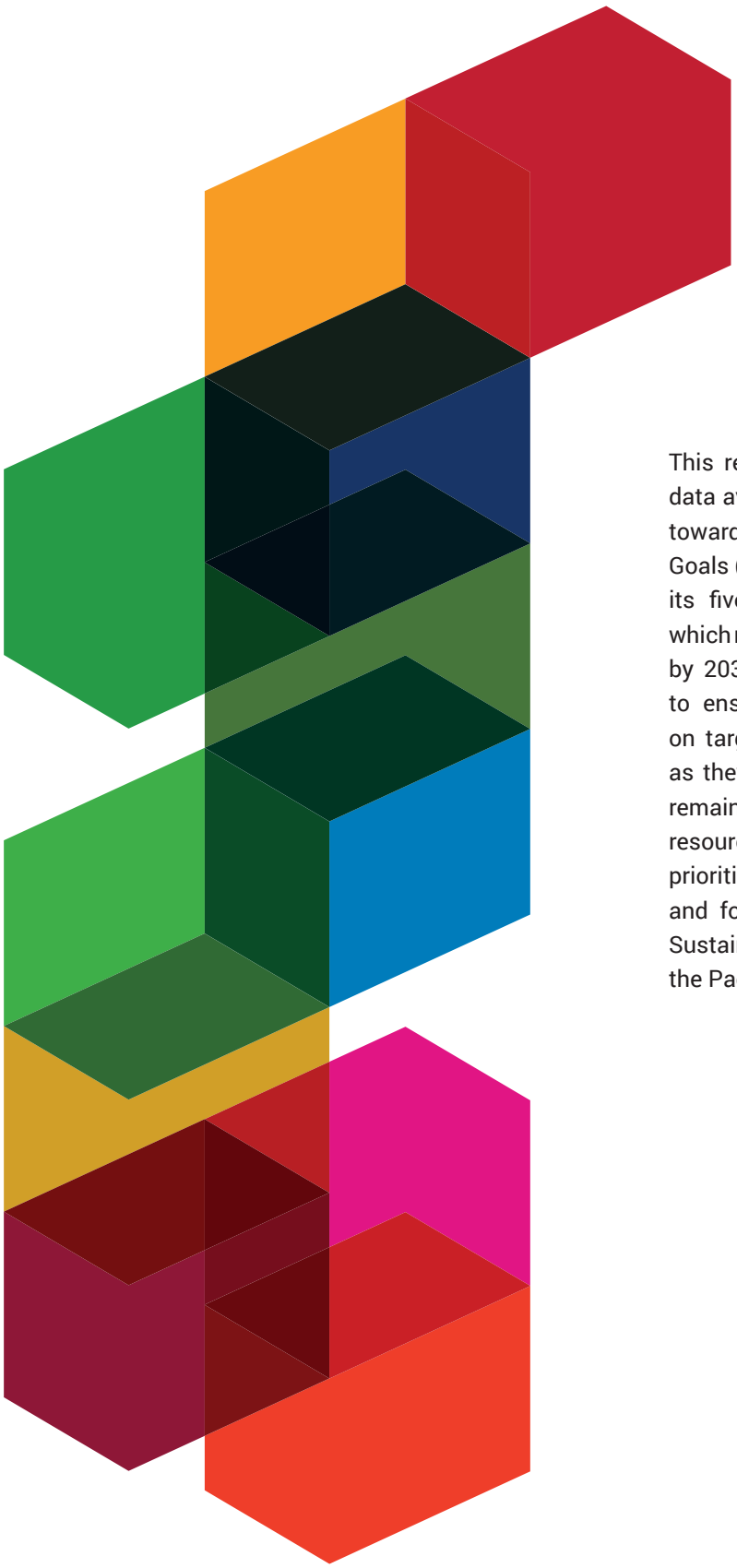

This report analyses trends as well as data availability for monitoring progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific and its five subregions. It assesses gaps which must be closed to achieve the goals by 2030. This assessment is designed to ensure the region's actions remain on target, shortcomings are addressed as they arise, and all interested parties remain engaged. It is an invaluable resource for all stakeholders involved in prioritization, planning, implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

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