TECHNICAL COOPERATION HIGHLIGHTS
2020-2021

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

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region. The Commission promotes cooperation among its 53 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges. ESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

The ESCAP secretariat supports inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region by generating action-oriented knowledge, and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION HIGHLIGHTS

2020-2021

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

PHOTO CREDITS:

FOREWORD

Technical Cooperation Highlights 2020-2021 tells the story of how ESCAP has drawn upon several decades of experience in fostering regional cooperation and deepening partnerships to support its member States over the past two years towards recovering sustainably from the pandemic and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Highlights provide a diverse selection of projects that ESCAP has implemented with impact at the regional, subregional and country levels and, as such, paints a portrait of ESCAP as a strong development partner and provides a reference for good practices to achieve shared development goals.

It is now clear that unless we can activate transformative and accelerated change in the countries, Asia and the Pacific will fall short of reaching many of the SDG targets come 2030. Certainly, since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has derailed much of the progress made by the region towards sustainable development, widened inequalities and added further layers of complication and cost to the achievement of the SDGs. Seeing this risk in the early days of the pandemic, ESCAP repositioned its offer to the region by devising the ESCAP Framework: Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. The Framework has three pillars: (i) protecting people and enhancing resilience; (ii) supporting economic recovery, and (iii) restoring supply chains and supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

In the same vein, the Commission adopted two resolutions during its last two sessions emphasizing the need to respond to the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic through multilateral cooperation and solidarity. Since then, in ESCAP's intergovernmental, analytical and technical cooperation work, sustainable recovery from the pandemic has become an objective and a constant lens through which its capacity development operations are conducted. Actions under these three streams of work all contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and complement the Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Our member States recognize that the development challenges they face are too big and too complex to address alone, on their own. As ESCAP celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary, the importance of multilateralism and enhancing targeted South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the region is even more pronounced. As a region, we need to take away lessons from our experiences as vigorously as we look back and celebrate our achievements. The Technical Cooperation Highlights 2020-2021 is an opportunity for us to do just that based on rich evidence and data.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

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

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Protecting People and Enhancing Resilience

■ Success Stories

■ Building Back Better Stories

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■ Success Stories

■ Building Back Better Stories

Chapter 3:
Restoring Supply Chains and Supporting SMEs

■ Success Stories

■ Building Back Better Stories

Chapter 4:
Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Collaboration

■ Success Stories

Annex
List of Donors in 2020-2021

ACRONYMS

AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDIM	Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management
APFSD	Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
AP-IS	Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COP26	United Nations Climate Change Conference (26th Conference of Parties summit)
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease of 2019
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CSAM	Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems
DA	United Nations Development Account
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRS	Disaster-Related Statistics
DRSF	Disaster-Related Statistics Framework
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EFC	Energy Foundation China
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FEALAC	Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Gender Marker
GEEW	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GVC	Global Value Chain
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IXP	Internet Exchange Points
KTI	Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran Railway Corridor
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean

LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LLDCs	Landlocked Developing Countries
MIPAA	Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEXSTEP	National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
ReCAMA	Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific
RIVA	Regional Integration and Value Chain Analyzer
RPES	Regional Programme on Economic Statistics
RPTC	United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation
RVC	Regional Value Chain
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SPC	The Pacific Community
TWG-DRS	Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia-Pacific
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
XB	Extrabudgetary Funds

ESCAP AT A GLANCE

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional arm of the United Nations, playing a unique role as the most inclusive intergovernmental forum for countries and territories of Asia and the Pacific.

53 Member states

9 associate members

4.6 billion People

5 Subregional Offices

5 Regional Institutions

ESCAP was established in 1947, and forms the largest of the United Nations' regional commissions (in terms of population served). ESCAP's mandate, as broadly defined in its terms of reference, is to promote economic and social development among countries of Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP's 75th anniversary arrives during an unprecedented period of worldwide upheaval, with the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the importance of inclusive and networked multilateralism, and strong commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals and global solidarity. ESCAP's unique position, promoting multidisciplinary cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, has allowed it to pivot easily to respond to crises that are cross-boundary in nature.

How We Work

Regional Offices

1. **South and South-West Asia**, New Delhi
2. **North and Central Asia**, Almaty
3. **South-East Asia**, Bangkok
4. **East and North-East Asia**, Incheon
5. **The Pacific**, Suva

Institutions

1. **Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**, Chiba
2. **Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development**, Incheon
3. **Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**, Beijing
4. **Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology**, New Delhi
5. **Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management**, Tehran

From its headquarters in **Bangkok,** ESCAP provides a forum for its member States that promotes regional cooperation and collective action, assisting countries in building and sustaining shared economic growth and social equity. ESCAP provides good development practices, knowledge-sharing and technical assistance to member States in the implementation of policy recommendations. The norm setting and policy work of ESCAP ultimately affects people's lives in a positive way by assisting countries to shape and implement a more balanced and inclusive development agenda for the region.

ESCAP Added Value

ESCAP supports its member States to achieve development results such as:

Effective policies and strategies for integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, mindful of the diversity and different levels of development between countries.

Measuring progress in achieving the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

A stronger, more representative and coherent regional voice to influence internationally agreed development commitments at the global level.

Enhanced capacities to engage in regional cooperation and economic integration mechanisms.

ESCAP Core Functions

On critical and emerging issues

1. Research and Analysis

2. Consensus-building

3. Technical Cooperation

Through intergovernmental processes to deliberate and build regional consensus on key development priorities and global norm
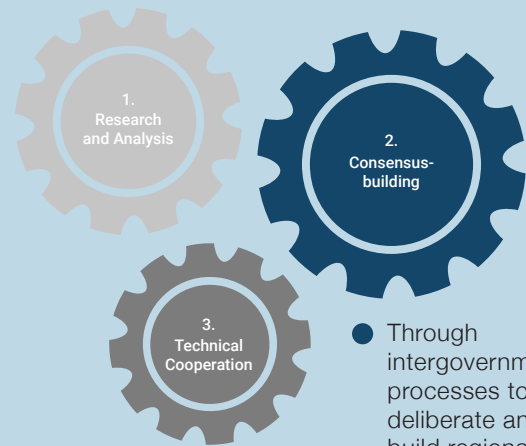
Based on decisions made by member States, support implementation and service capacity development requirements

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

contains 17 goals and 169 targets for protecting the planet, ensuring human prosperity, and fostering peace, to be achieved through revitalizing global partnerships.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The *UN Comprehensive Response to Covid-19* outlines the three-point UN system approach of:

- Health response
- Safeguarding lives and livelihoods
- Transformative recovery

REGIONAL

ESCAP 75
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific was developed by ESCAP member States for Asia and the Pacific and identifies 11 priority areas of regional cooperation for implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19: ESCAP Framework aligns ESCAP's priorities and activities to better support Asia and the Pacific in the pandemic recovery process.

ESCAP AREAS OF WORK

Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development

Trade, Investment & Innovation

Transport

Environment and Development

Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction

Social Development

Statistics

Energy

How We Deliver Capacity Development

NORMATIVE & ANALYTICAL WORK

✔ Mandates
✔ Intergovernmental Agreements
✔ Regional Frameworks
✔ Research & Analysis

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

✔ Policy Advice
✔ Training
✔ Advisory Services
✔ Policy Dialogue
✔ Knowledge Networking
✔ Pilot Projects

REGIONAL IMPACT

NATIONAL IMPACT

Based on the mandates given by member States, its intergovernmental and analytical work, ESCAP designs capacity development interventions. The scope of these interventions can be regional, subregional or at the country level.

At the national level, ESCAP supports member States **under seven thematic areas**, that are linked with the implementation of the global and regional frameworks. ESCAP provides targeted assistance through three complementary modes of support – namely **products and services**, **technical expertise**, and **online platforms and databases** – to help accelerate the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable recovery from the pandemic, especially for countries in special situations.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

With its dedicated Goal 17, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the important role of partnerships in achieving these ambitious global targets. Partnerships are integral for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources. They also bring together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector and other actors to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As noted in the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022, based on current progress, none of the SDGs will be achieved in the region by 2030. This emphasizes the urgent need for regional collaboration and partnerships, such as those fostered by ESCAP, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Partnerships Towards Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

During the 2020-2021 period, ESCAP continued to enhance and to expand partnerships with a focus on supporting sustainable recovery from the pandemic, while still accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ESCAP promotes partnerships that are tailored to the needs of individual partners, providing support to member States through targeted technical assistance and capacity-building activities. Throughout 2020-2021 ESCAP experienced an 80 per cent increase in number of implementing partners, serving to further highlight the impact of the pandemic on project delivery modalities.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are the foundation of ESCAP's technical cooperation programme

OUR PARTNERS

- Private Sector
- United Nations System
- Governments
- Non-Government Organizations
- Development Banks
- Academia and Think Tanks

60 Active Partnerships in 2021

90+ Implementing Partners 2020/2021

ESCAP also works closely with United Nations development system entities, in particular through its five Issue-based Coalitions established under the Regional Collaborative Platform.

Climate Change Mitigation
(co-led by ESCAP and UNEP)

Building Resilience

Inclusion and Empowerment

Human Mobility and Urbanization

Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Partnership Impacts

The need to address transboundary, multi-country and inter-country issues can provide targeted technical cooperation solutions that lend themselves to adaptation and replication across the region. Facilitated through the partnership with ESCAP, many countries in Asia and the Pacific harnessed South-South cooperation to respond to and recover from the pandemic. They collaborated on bilateral and multilateral efforts when opportunities arose, they shared information, good practices and lessons learned in addressing the pandemic, and as a result, many countries emerged stronger due to such partnerships.

2020 FUNDING

US$ 22,711,782

- 20.5% *Regular Budget Resources*
- 79.5% *Extrabudgetary funds*

344 Seminars, Workshops, and Trainings.

225 Publications and Knowledge Products

2021 FUNDING

US$ 24,043,074

- 27.3% *Regular Budget Resources*
- 72.7% *Extrabudgetary funds*

Top 10 Donors 2020-2021 (US$)

1. Republic of Korea
2. China
3. Japan
4. Canada
5. Russian Federation
6. India
7. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
8. Switzerland
9. Kazakhstan
10. The Philippines

Rank	Amount
10	156,750
9	268,500
8	299,975
7	1,390,264
6	1,961,891
5	2,400,000
4	3,120,632
3	4,924,010
2	6,002,260
1	9,196,145

ESCAP RESPONSE TO COVID-19

● COVID-19
● in the Asia-Pacific Region

The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly impacted the Asia-Pacific region during 2020-2021. Alongside the significant health impacts of the virus itself, the pandemic, and responses to it, wreaked havoc on economies, societies, and the environment on a global scale. Asia and the Pacific is home to large populations of people considered particularly vulnerable to the social and economic implications of the pandemic. This includes those already marginalized by structural barriers, and gender and wealth inequalities, even before the onset of the health crisis. Communities in Asia and the Pacific that felt such additional negative impacts include informal sector workers, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, women and girls, and older persons, and many at the intersection of one or more of those groups became increasingly vulnerable as the pandemic took hold.

The economic fallout of COVID-19 includes considerable disruption and contraction in economic activity, a steep decline in government and business revenues, loss of livelihoods for informal daily workers, resulting in a severe blow to poverty alleviation. There has also been a heavy human cost, through illness and death, along with increased gender-based violence, and interruptions to school and university learning, to maternal health services and immunization programmes. The repercussions of the pandemic are estimated to set poverty reduction efforts in Asia and the Pacific back by 5 to 10 years, and perhaps more in South Asia[1].

Women and Girls [2]
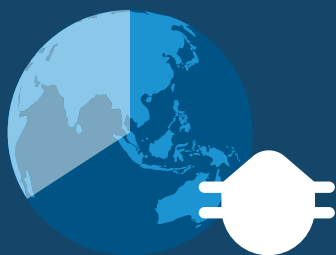
Comprise over 2/3 of the **global health and social sector** workforce, increasing their risks at the forefront of the pandemic response.

Often forced to be confined with abusers due to lockdowns and quarantine measures.

11 HRS

Spend up to **11 hours a day** on unpaid care and domestic work — four times more than men (before pandemic).

Persons with Disabilities [3]

Asia and the Pacific is home to over

690 million

persons with disabilities who have more acute health care needs.

Restrictions limited access to required services, particularly quality **health care.**

Informal Workers [4]

Around

829 million

informal workers faced adverse impacts as a result of lockdowns.
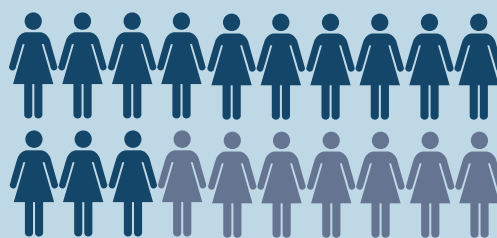
65%

of working **women in Asia and the Pacific** are employed in the informal sector.

Older Persons [5]

Asia-Pacific region has more **persons 60 years or over** than any other region (630 million persons or 14%).

Particularly susceptible in a pandemic due to weakened **immune systems.**

Lack of access to necessary medication and health care facilities can critically endanger older persons.

Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19: ESCAP Framework

Stream 1	Stream 2	Stream 3
Protecting People and Enhancing Resilience	Supporting Economic Recovery	Restoring Supply Chains and Supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

The United Nations system mobilized early and comprehensively to the COVID-19 pandemic, leading the global health response, providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable, establishing instruments for rapid responses to the socio-economic impact, and defining a broad policy agenda for action on all fronts. ESCAP member States also came together, calling upon ESCAP to promote regional cooperation on trade and investment, improve social protection systems, and enable universal, equitable and timely access to quality, safe, effective and affordable diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines and essential health technologies for all countries.

As a result, ESCAP's priorities and activities were urgently aligned to better support Asia and the Pacific in the pandemic recovery process, with all elements of ESCAP's work covered within its *Socioeconomic Response to COVID-19: ESCAP Framework*. This framework consists of three streams of work, united by the overarching and cross-cutting principle of building back better. It also promotes forging regional and subregional solutions across these three broad working areas, and in line with the priorities of the Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, particularly related to the means of implementation.

Ensuring Impact for an Increasingly Complex and Complicated World

Since the launch of the *Socioeconomic Response to COVID-19: ESCAP Framework*, ESCAP re-oriented its work programme for 2020 and 2021, within its existing human and budgetary resources, to incorporate COVID-19 related issues. Specifically, ESCAP has provided support along its three main business lines: knowledge products, that are based on solid research and analysis; intergovernmental meetings and policy dialogues; and programmed on-demand capacity development and technical assistance activities.

Knowledge Products

ESCAP published 225 knowledge products, ranging from reports, policy briefs, working papers, manual and training materials, journals and maps.

Accelerating COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in the Asia-Pacific region: A checklist to facilitate imports of vaccines during a pandemic

RAPID POLICY ASSESSMENT: The Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh — 2020

Green and Climate Finance Options to Support the Post COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and Climate Action

REGIONAL CONVERSATION SERIES ON BUILDING BACK BETTER

REGIONAL CONVERSATION SERIES — A COMMON AGENDA TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Intergovernmental Meetings and Policy Dialogues

- The 8th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (2021) focused on Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific.
- A series of ten Regional Conversations events, that enabled diverse groups of eminent personalities and senior-ranking government officials to share insights and experiences, inspire action and advocate solutions on how to reinvigorate multilateralism to recover better from COVID-19 and achieve the SDGs.

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2021

Capacity Development and Technical Assistance

Stats Café — Good coffee makes your day, but good data helps you decide.
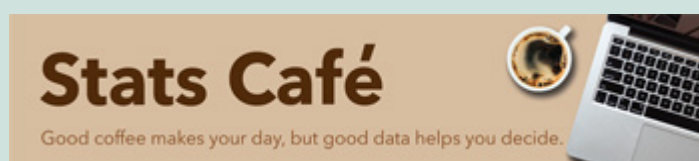
A Stats Café webinar series was launched by ESCAP in 2020, with 49 webinars held to respond to country requests for advice, assistance and an opportunity to share experiences related to the impact of COVID-19 on National Statistical Systems.

Enhancing our Common Principles and Standards

ESCAP is continually exploring ways to enhance the processes, principles and standards governing the way it implements and delivers technical cooperation work with the aim of maximizing impact.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation serves to generate knowledge of how ESCAP can become more effective in serving its member States. This is done through the development of an evaluation system that ensures ESCAP's programme of work, including the work of divisions, subregional offices, and regional institutions, is subject to periodic, independent and credible evaluation. During 2020 and 2021, ESCAP successfully commissioned two subprogramme and nine capacity development project evaluations, with results now utilized to inform future programming and drive improvements to the way ESCAP works.

Recent Evaluations

Evaluation of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation led to development of new funding modalities.

Evaluation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific used as a basis for developing the new Regional Action Programme (2022-2026).

Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women: ESCAP Gender Marker

The gender marker (GEM) is a financial tracking mechanism for gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW), which was first pioneered by the OECD-Development Assistance Committee. It is now a systematic requirement for all institutions within the UN system to implement the GEM mechanism to track financial allocation of resources towards GEEW. Recognizing the multiplier effects of GEEW on achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, UN entities take steps to track resource allocation based on gender equality measures.

The ESCAP GEM was successfully rolled out in November 2019, and as of 1 September 2021, it was determined that all ESCAP projects should at least contribute to GEEW in some way, and have a minimum rating of GEM1.

GEM 0
Not expected to contribute to GEEW

GEM 1
Contributes to GEEW in a limited way

GEM 2a
GEEW is a significant objective

GEM 2b
GEEW is the principle objective

TECHNICAL COOPERATION HIGHLIGHTS

2020-2021

Chapter 1
Facts and Figures

190
PROJECTS

60.9%
OF TOTAL
CONTRIBUTIONS
RECEIVED

DA: 9.4%
RPTC: 16.3%
XB: 74.3%

**% EXPENDITURE BY
FUND TYPE**

GEM0: 25.2%
GEM1: 34%
GEM2a: 23.2%
GEM2b: 17.6%
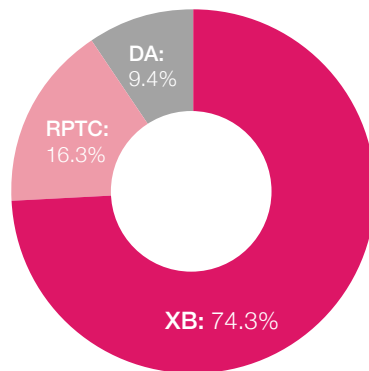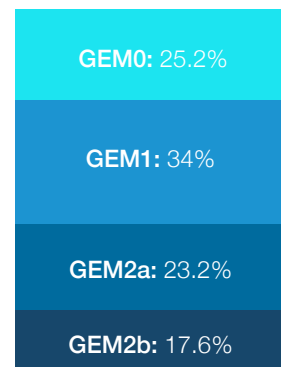
**% EXPENDITURE BY
GENDER MARKER**

CHAPTER 1:
Protecting People and Enhancing Resilience

The technical cooperation projects and activities highlighted in this chapter relate to protecting and investing in people and enhancing resilience of societies and communities focusing primarily on women and other vulnerable groups. Initiatives and projects are delivered across a number of thematic areas, such as social development, information communication technology (ICT), and disaster risk reduction (DRR), and prioritize protecting communities, enhancing inclusiveness, resilience and emergency preparedness, and ensuring policy responses and development strategies are human-centred. In general, projects and activities aim to redress various imbalances, inequalities and gaps that have been magnified and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic – a shock event that has had a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged groups.

SUCCESS STORIES

Inclusive Societies for All Ages through Evidence-Based Policy Design

The Asia-Pacific region is ageing rapidly, with an over-60 population of around 630 million people (14 per cent) projected to increase to 873 million (18 per cent) by 2030. Thus, governments and other stakeholders have less time to respond to the challenges and opportunities associated with the ageing of their populations. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented and disproportionate threat to the health, lives, rights and well-being of older persons. With women already over-represented among older persons and persons in vulnerable situations, they are even more disproportionally affected by the pandemic.

Period
2019-2021

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States, primarily Bhutan, Cambodia, Maldives, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan

Funding
◆ *Government of China*
◆ *United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation*

Objective
Governments ensure inclusive and active ageing in society through the design of related evidence-based policies.

SDG
10

Regional Roadmap
Leaving no one behind

Gender Marker
GEM2a

Project Highlights

Launched a survey to review national progress on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) across Asia and the Pacific. The survey and related consultations with member States led to an enhanced understanding of the situation of older populations across Asia and the Pacific, policy options, policy gaps and steps to be taken to further implementation of the MIPAA.

Compiled publicly available information on older persons for all countries in Asia and the Pacific and made it available on a dedicated website.

Supported Bhutan, Cambodia, Maldives, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan to assess the situation of their older populations and identify next steps to mainstream ageing into forward-looking national policy frameworks.

Read more:

Voluntary National Survey to Inform the Fourth Review and Appraisal of Madrid International Plan on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Older Persons

ESCAP website: Population Ageing

ESCAP website: Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Protecting and Empowering Persons with Disabilities Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

Many of the Asia-Pacific region's approximate 690 million persons with disabilities already face barriers to full and effective participation in the society, with the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbating existing inequalities and hindering progress towards achieving disability-inclusive development. With resources of governments and civil society organizations under severe strain, there are significant gaps in capacity to fully address the diverse needs of persons with disabilities amidst the pandemic and beyond. Therefore, ESCAP is supporting disability rights and inclusion mainstreaming within short and long-term COVID-19 responses, thereby ensuring persons with disabilities experience improved access to essential information, support and services.

Period
2020-2022

Beneficiary Countries
Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand

Funding
Rehabilitation International

Objective
Enhance the protection and empowerment of persons with disabilities in facing adverse impacts during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SDG
1 ◆ 3 ◆ 8

Regional Roadmap
Leaving no one behind
Policy coherence

Gender Marker
GEM2a

Project Highlights

Developed a dedicated webpage on the ESCAP *Make the Right Real* portal to compile and share information on disability-inclusive COVID-19 responses by Asia-Pacific governments, as well as other disability-related COVID-19 resources. The compilation promotes good practices, innovative approaches and effective measures in supporting and empowering persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region.

Provided seed funding and technical assistance to pilot initiatives that supported:

- **Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (Thailand)**

  Enhanced capacity of persons with intellectual disabilities to lead health, food-secure and independent lives through training workshops and online support.

- **Centre for Disability in Development (Bangladesh)**

  Strengthened community-based mental health services for persons with disabilities reaching 360 persons with disabilities through door-to-door visits and teleservices.

- **National Council for the Blind (Malaysia)**

  Trained persons with diverse disabilities in web accessibility auditing and accessible e-publishing to accelerate disability-inclusive digitalization.

- **Samarthyam (India)**

  Established 6 district-level accessibility auditor groups to integrate disability perspectives into institutional structures and processes, and also amended community network by-laws to facilitate the participation of women with disabilities.

- **Zhumadian Disabled Persons' Federation (China)**

  Surveyed livelihood status of 400 persons with disabilities, provided vocational training for 140 participants, and established 8 self-help support groups for sustainable employment.

Read more:

Make the Right Real

Addressing Unpaid Care Work to Economically Empower Women and Girls

Even before the pandemic struck, women and girls across the Asia-Pacific region spent on average up to 11 hours per day doing unpaid care and domestic work – a number four times greater than for men. With the onset of COVID-19, women took on essential roles in the response, doing so both on the frontline as health workers, as well as within their own homes as lockdowns, mobility restrictions and school closures greatly increased the time women spent caring for their family members and the home they live in. ESCAP swiftly responded to this unfolding situation with an array of research, reporting and collaborations across the Asia-Pacific region. ESCAP led the development of frameworks and policies to support the region's care economy, and quickly established itself as an ideas leader, with the ability to bring together the diverse range of stakeholders required to improve empowerment and equality for women and girls.

Period
2018-2022

Beneficiary Countries
Cambodia, the Philippines, and other ASEAN nations

Funding
◆ *Government of China*
◆ *United Nations Development Account*

Objective
Advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls towards achieving the SDGs, through gender-responsive budgeting and addressing unpaid care work.

SDG
5

Regional Roadmap
Leaving no one behind
Finance

Gender Marker
GEM2a

Project Highlights

Developed the ESCAP/ASEAN *Addressing Unpaid Care Work in ASEAN* report, launched at the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women resulting in the adoption of the ASEAN Comprehensive Framework on Care Economy to guide the development of the ASEAN's care economy through complex crises.

Successfully implemented an Online Regional Forum Addressing Women's Unpaid Care and Domestic Work in Asia and the Pacific, with key actors and experts sharing knowledge, experience, and good practices related to the care economy and building back more inclusive and gender equal societies.

Developed the *ESCAP COVID-19 and the Unpaid Care Economy in Asia and the Pacific* report in 2021, that ensured evidence-based research for further engagement and technical cooperation at subregional and country levels.

Published case studies to support policy development with the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Cambodia, and the Philippines Commission on Women, resulting in the first inter-ministerial stakeholder dialogue on the care economy convened in Phnom Penh, aiming to establish a national strategy and action plan on the care economy.

Established a partnership with Oxfam in the Philippines for advocacy campaigns and policymaker capacity development, targeted to ensure policies and legislation that address the care economy, including scaling up national investment in care infrastructure, care services, and gender-responsive social protection measures.

Read more:

Online Regional Forum Addressing Women's Unpaid Care and Domestic Work in Asia and the Pacific

COVID-19 and the Unpaid Care Economy in Asia and the Pacific Report

ESCAP/ASEAN Addressing Unpaid Care Work in ASEAN report

Re-Defining Social Protection for Pandemic Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has compelled governments to adapt, to re-examine their existing systems and to respond innovatively to social protection needs, and do so quickly, efficiently and adequately, often by extending or scaling-up measures. Overcoming capacity bottlenecks and improving engagement between primary stakeholders is a key necessity for strengthening social protection systems. As the United Nations worked with all relevant actors in order to mobilize a coordinated global response to social, economic, and financial impact, this project – co-implemented between all five UN Regional Commissions and UNCTAD – provided support to a broad range of national social protection actions being undertaken by member States during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Period
2020-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Member States in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia

Funding
United Nations Development Account

Objective
To increase effectiveness and inclusiveness of COVID-19 response and resilience policies among member States, while accelerating recovery, economic growth and improved well-being of people in Asia and the Pacific.

SDG
1 ◆ 3

Regional Roadmap
Leaving no one behind
Policy coherence

Gender Marker
GEM1

Project Highlights

Supported social protection policymakers in 19 countries by providing simulations of impacts and costs related to non-contributory social protection schemes across Asia and the Pacific.

Informed policy discussions with research on universal child benefits, and how Mongolia's Child Money Programme could impact levels of coverage, consumption, poverty and inequality, as well as cost implications.

Established a composite indicator on COVID-19 to help policymakers identify groups least able to protect themselves against the risk of contracting COVID-19.

Published policy papers on the middle class and COVID-19, good practices in response to COVID-19, and other technical materials on longer-term policy changes and the implications of building more resilient social protection systems.

Read more:

ESCAP Social Protection Simulator

ESCAP Policy Report: Mongolia's Child Money Programme

ESCAP Policy Guide: How to Design Inclusive Social Protection Systems

Reducing Inequality through Innovative Policymaking that Leaves No One Behind

Millions of people in the 36 FEALAC countries continue to live in poverty, with many more at risk of falling into poverty, as the gap between rich and the poor remains at concerningly high levels and in some cases continues to grow. To continue strengthening national capacities to design and to implement policies that effectively reduce inequality, ESCAP conducted research and leveraged the findings to identify the impact of public policy responses to COVID-19 on target populations, as well as private sector initiatives to ensure continued support and services to lower income communities. Information and findings are compiled on an online platform aimed to build knowledge and capacity to mitigate inequality across ESCAP and ECLAC member States, especially during crises such as COVID-19.

Period
2018-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Member countries of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC)

Funding
Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC)

Objective
To strengthen the capacity of policymakers in FEALAC member countries on identifying, prioritizing and designing effective policies to reduce inequality.

SDG	Regional Roadmap	Gender Marker
1 ◆ 10	Leaving no one behind Policy coherence	GEM2a

Project Highlights

Developed policy reports, including *Business Initiatives to Reduce Poverty and Inequality: Strengthening the Evidence Base to Leave No One Behind* and *Public Sector Initiatives for Reducing Inequality: Strengthening the Evidence Base to Leave No One Behind*, that present initiatives, identify impacts, and highlight best practices by both private and public sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Created an online knowledge tool to build capacity on data and policies to reduce inequality in FEALAC member States, that presents innovative data in a user-friendly format, policy guides to support the online tool, and highlights a range of policies and initiatives to mitigate inequality through social protection.

Read more:

ESCAP Leave No One Behind database

Business Initiatives to Reduce Poverty and Inequality Policy Report

Public Sector Initiatives to Reduce Inequality Policy Report

Building Resilience in the Face of Sand and Dust Storms

Sand and dust storms are a natural phenomenon, and are an essential element within continental and maritime ecosystems. However, these storms can negatively impact food security and human health, causing significant economic and environmental loss, while damaging agricultural, energy, and transport infrastructure. As governments strive to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, the risk to electricity generation posed by sand and dust storms is likely to increase. People's lives and livelihoods are also at risk, as large areas of farmland are affected by dust deposition, much of which is toxic to plants, which then reduces yields and represents a significant threat to the production of irrigated cotton and other crops. Cities are also significantly impacted across South-West Asia, facing high exposure to sand and dust storms, which contributes heavily to poor air quality.

Period
2020-2021

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States

Funding
Pooled Extrabudgetary (XB) - Institutional support for the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM)

Objective
To support policymakers for concerted action at the regional level to reduce risk and strengthen resilience to sand and dust storms

SDG

3 ◆ 13 ◆ 15

Regional Roadmap

Leaving no one behind
Policy coherence

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

Published a report titled *Sand and Dust Storms Risk Assessment in Asia and the Pacific*, a world-first effort to assess and analyse the risks posed to society and the environment by sand and dust storms in the region.

Utilized the findings of the report in the development of a regional plan of action, which will provide a strategic framework and reference for countries in Asia and the Pacific taking action at the national and regional level.

Produced the *Guideline on Monitoring and Reporting the Impact of Sand and Dust Storms*, which provides ESCAP member States with a practical step-by-step guide to support their efforts monitoring and reporting impacts of sand and dust storms under Sendai Framework monitoring.

Read more:

Sand and Dust Storms Risk Assessment in Asia and the Pacific

Guideline on Monitoring and Reporting the Impact of Sand and Dust Storms

BUILDING BACK BETTER STORIES

Localizing Climate Science for Climate Action

High-level policy decisions on disaster risk reduction can be strongly supported by innovative risk information, thereby supporting the achievement of SDGs that are inextricably linked to disasters, such as poverty reduction, food security and inequality. Innovative utilization of risk information can help to identify drivers and sources of risk, and to clarify how said risks interact with vulnerabilities both within and across sectors. ESCAP is supporting countries to enhance their access to emerging technologies and innovations in data and information, including effective early warning systems and services, while also providing in-depth technical and advisory support and opportunities for regional knowledge exchange and learning.

Period
2020-2023

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States, primarily Armenia, Bhutan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea

Funding
United Nations Development Account

Objective
To strengthen the capacity of selected Asia-Pacific countries in mitigating the impacts of climate-related risk in their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG

1 ◆ 9 ◆ 13

Regional Roadmap

Disaster risk reduction and resilience

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

Developed the *Risk and Resilience Portal* to provide actionable and user-friendly information on building resilience related to disaster-health-climate risks. The portal helps bridge existing science-policy gaps, and can be used by countries to monitor climate and disaster-related SDG targets, and make better risk-informed decisions.

Delivered targeted capacity development training to participating countries on accessing emerging technologies, and supported countries to demonstrate how risk-informed mechanisms could better contribute to leaving no one behind.

Developed customized decision support systems for five member States providing contextual analysis of variety of hazard, risk, vulnerability and socio-economic information to support informed decision making.

Read more:

ESCAP Risk and Resilience Portal

Decision Support System of the Risk and Resilience Portal

Connecting the Digital Divide through Capacity Development for Asia and the Pacific

There remains a persistent digital divide in the Asia-Pacific region, which manifests itself not only in terms of access to technology and connectivity, but also in the human and institutional capacities to fully leverage information and communication technologies (ICT) in national development efforts. As new technologies spread rapidly and transform the ICT landscape, many countries are still unable to cope with the technological changes, or to capitalize on the opportunities offered. While ICTs are universally acknowledged as enabling tools for socio-economic development, their benefits are not being extended to all sectors and groups in society. In an effort to address these challenges, ESCAP, though its Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT) endeavours to develop the human and institutional capacity of ESCAP member States on leveraging digital technologies for sustainable development.

Period
2020-ongoing

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, and the Philippines.

Funding
◆ *Pooled XB – Institutional support for the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development*

Objective
To build and strengthen the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members in leveraging information and communication technology (ICT) for the purpose of socio-economic development.

SDG
4 ◆ 5 ◆ 8

Regional Roadmap
Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Gender Marker
GEM2a

Project Highlights

APCICT flagship programmes were integrated into human resource development initiatives of training institutions by governments and civil society in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, and the Philippines.

Regardless of pandemic challenges, APCICT's national partners delivered capacity-building activities utilizing the Centre's programmes, with over 150 workshops conducted in 2020-2021. There were approximately 7,000 people trained by partner institutions annually.

The Women ICT Frontier Initiative, a training programme on ICT for women's entrepreneurship, benefitted over 2,000 women in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Samoa, and Viet Nam.

● **Read more:**

APCICT Programme Details

Smart Mobility Approaches Improve Traffic Conditions in South-East Asian Cities

Rapid urbanization has brought heavy traffic congestion, serious safety issues and growing urban inequality. The transport sector in South-East Asia expends approximately 25 per cent of final energy consumption, which is directly linked to high CO_2 emissions, and the overall impact on air quality is significantly concerning, with the situation expected to worsen in the coming years if no measures are taken. There is a need for a speedy shift towards integrated user-oriented transport systems and services that can make traveling safer, smarter and greener using innovative technologies. While such smart mobility is recognized throughout ESCAP member States, its development and application still lag due to a lack of detailed guidelines and data required to take the next steps. ESCAP undertook in-depth data collection, and investigation of current and emerging trends of smart mobility including case studies, before transferring the findings into guidelines to enhance smart mobility development and utilization.

Period
2019-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

Funding
Government of the Republic of Korea

Objective
To increase the utilization of smart mobility approaches for the improvement of traffic conditions in urban areas of the South-East Asia subregion.

SDG
7 ◆ 9 ◆ 11

Regional Roadmap
Technology Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Gender Marker
GEM0

Project Highlights

Compiled in-depth data and information on current and emerging trends of smart mobility, which were analysed from both economic and environmental perspectives.

Developed and implemented two indices (Mobility Boost Power Index and Mobility Boost Equity Index), with all data utilized to develop case studies on the cities of Bangkok, Hanoi, Jakarta and Singapore. The case studies found that smart mobility improves accessibility, interconnectivity, reliability and convenience of mobility services for vulnerable areas in these cities.

With all information and data, ESCAP developed a set of guidelines to address urban traffic challenges in South-East Asia. The guidelines engaged all stakeholders, including governments, Intelligent Transport Systems associations, multilateral development banks, research institutes and the private sector. Meetings and forums were also convened to raise awareness of the results, and to discuss the practical application of the guidelines.

◦ Read more:

Increasing the Use of Smart Mobility Approaches to Improve Traffic Conditions in Urban Areas in the South-East Asia Subregion

Statistics Ensure a More Targeted COVID-19 Response and Recovery with Everyone in the Picture

Since 2014, ESCAP has been spearheading a regional initiative to 'Get Every One in the Picture' when it comes to Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific. The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the importance of CRVS, by revealing the stark inequalities and fragility of our health care and social protection systems. The pandemic also exposed the many weaknesses that remain in official civil registration systems, resulting in knowledge gaps about the population, ultimately affecting how authorities respond to crises and reach those in greatest need. Alongside informing countries on tools and guidance available for CRVS during the COVID-19 pandemic, ESCAP continued to raise awareness of the critical role of CRVS and lessons learned from the pandemic. These lessons, and demand from countries for support, have compelled ESCAP to develop additional technical support and capacity strengthening activities to facilitate the implementation of CRVS inequality assessments and to ensure ongoing improvements to CRVS systems.

Period
2014-ongoing

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States

Funding
- ◆ *Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Programme*
- ◆ *Vital Strategies*
- ◆ *United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation*

Objective
Support member States to strengthen their Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems, and harness commitment from governments, civil society and the international community to accelerate the improvement of CRVS systems in Asia and the Pacific.

SDG

16 ◆ 17

Regional Roadmap

Data and statistics
Leaving no one behind

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

In collaboration with UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia and SPC, the project initiated the creation of a global guidance note, resulting in the *United Nations Legal Identity Agenda Task Force Guidelines*.

Supported Maldives, Niue and Samoa to complete an analysis and redesign of their CRVS processes. Results underlined issues for improvement to a new digital civil registration platform in the Maldives, with Niue implementing a new pilot digital civil registration platform. Findings in Samoa highlighted the need for strengthening the role of the health sector in civil registration.

Supported Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, and Vanuatu to produce and to present vital statistics through an online course, as well as providing individual technical support for each country. The five countries had not previously produced vital statistics on a regular basis, and because of this intervention, began updating and reporting vital statistics on births and deaths on a regular basis for the first time.

Facilitated discussions and consultations with 561 children and youth from 11 countries across Asia and the Pacific. The views, experiences and recommendations emanating from these consultations were captured in a report *Getting Children and Youth in the Picture 2021*, and presented to governments at the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS.

Read more:

Maintaining Civil Registration and Vital Statistics during the COVID-19 Pandemic Guidelines

ESCAP Get Everyone in the Picture Initiative

Getting Children and Youth in the Picture 2021 Report

Transforming Statistics by Training the Statisticians

With a focus on capacity building, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) provides statistical training to government officials in Asia and the Pacific, and improves their skills on statistical topics in collaboration with UN entities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, SIAP continued to deliver its training and courses online, and ensured that their training content was flexible and adaptable to the needs of ESCAP member States during the crisis. SIAP not only delivered training on statistics to regional participants, but also developed tools and platforms, and implemented high-level seminars to ensure broad understanding and engagement in their capacity development efforts.

Period
Ongoing

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States

Funding
◆ *Pooled XB – Institutional support for Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific*

Objective
Strengthen the capability of official statisticians to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics, as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and establish or strengthen capacity to deliver statistical training.

SDG
All

Regional Roadmap
Data and statistics

Gender Marker
GEM1

Project Highlights

Delivered 45 online training courses to a total of 5,787 participants during the 2020-2021 period, with content flexible and responsive to specific needs of ESCAP member States.

Developed and rolled-out an online learning management system with interactive functions on SIAP's website, which offers courses on various aspects of statistics as well as self-paced learning materials that are provided in some languages.

Implemented a dedicated seminar for heads of National Statistical Offices to address the roles of national statistics systems in responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. It ensured participants have the expertise to determine effective approaches to statistical activities and understand the role of chief statisticians in implementing new approaches in the context of unforeseen crises.

Read more:

SIAP E-Learning Site

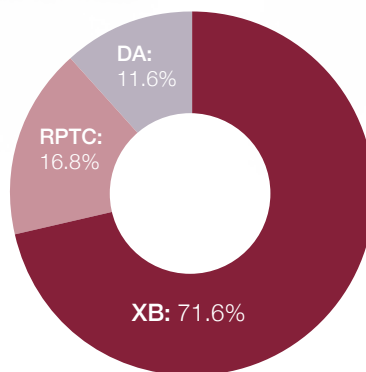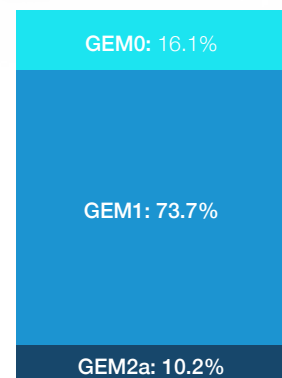# Chapter 2
Facts and Figures

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PROJECTS

14.5%

OF TOTAL
CONTRIBUTIONS
RECEIVED

DA:
11.6%

RPTC:
16.8%

XB: 71.6%

% EXPENDITURE BY
FUND TYPE

GEM0: 16.1%

GEM1: 73.7%

GEM2a: 10.2%

% EXPENDITURE BY
GENDER MARKER

CHAPTER 2:
Supporting Economic Recovery

,,

Government and business revenues suffered significantly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting employment across the Asia-Pacific region, and resulting in record 4 per cent economic contraction. This saw vulnerable groups, including the elderly and those working in the informal sectors, experience ever greater hardship. Challenges already faced by Asia-Pacific countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and meeting their commitments to the Paris Agreement increased because of the pandemic, which has pushed many member States further away from their targets. ESCAP's technical cooperation work on economic recovery centred on developing and sharing knowledge, information and lessons learned, as well as providing advisory services and capacity development activities to facilitate sustainable and inclusive economic recovery efforts. Multi-disciplinary projects and activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of member States to identify and implement strategies and policies to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, all while still pursuing the SDGs.

SUCCESS STORIES

Developing Capacities of Policymakers in Countries in Special Situations

Countries in special situations – of which there are 37 in Asia-Pacific – are classified as least-developed countries, landlocked developing countries, or small island developing States, and are home to economies that require specific and additional support. ESCAP has been supporting Bhutan, Cambodia and Vanuatu by undertaking analytical studies, and developing training materials and knowledge products, with a focus on designing national policies and strategies to allocate and to utilize existing resources effectively. These resources have been used to help ensure a better understanding of existing financial resources in the countries, and to develop mechanisms that support them in the mobilization of additional resources.

Period
2018-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Bhutan, Cambodia and Vanuatu

Funding
United Nations Development Account

Objective
Strengthen the capacity of policymakers in selected countries to identify gaps and design appropriate policy options that effectively allocate and utilize existing financial resources, as well as mobilize additional financing for achieving the SDGs.

SDG
17

Regional Roadmap
Finance ◆ Policy coherence

Gender Marker
GEM1

Project Highlights

Undertook 23 analytical policy studies and conducted 16 national and regional workshops, training 2,000 policymakers and related stakeholders.

Provided national and regional studies and advisory services that identified concrete policy actions, particularly to improve access to external finance, including capital market development and climate and digital finance.

Supported Vanuatu's development of a *Smooth Transition Strategy*, which aims to ensure a smooth and sustainable move out of the least developed country category.

Organized project validation workshops with Vanuatu decision and policymakers leading to the nation's successful graduation from least developed country status – the sixth country in the world to achieve this milestone since 1971.

Laid the foundation for Bhutan to pursue its first-ever sovereign bond to support economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and diversify its financial resources through ESCAP's technical assistance – including developing bond issuance rules and regulations, and establishing a Committee on Government Bond Issuance.

Read more:

Resource Mobilization in Countries in Special Situations

Building Bhutan's Capacity for Resource Mobilization through Bond Market Development

Responding to a request from the Royal Government of Bhutan, and building on the work undertaken by the UN Development Account project, ESCAP supported Bhutan to implement necessary reforms and to establish the institutional infrastructure for sovereign bond issuance and local bond market development. Specifically, ESCAP has provided technical assistance and capacity-building support, including the development of a cross-departmental task force to oversee the process, advice on legal frameworks that guide sovereign bond issuance, and capacity building through research studies, training workshops and study tours for Bhutan officials to other member States through a South-South exchange.

Period
2020

Beneficiary Countries
Bhutan

Funding
United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

Objective
Strengthening national technical capacities to mobilize financial mechanisms for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SDG
8 ◆ 17

Regional Roadmap
Finance
Policy coherence

Gender Marker
GEM1

Project Highlights

★ In September 2020 the Government of Bhutan successfully issued its first sovereign bond of US$ 41 million with a 3-year maturity, to boost its fiscal capacity for its COVID-19 pandemic response.

★ In February 2021 Bhutan issued bonds for the second time, with a longer 10-year maturity, as well as ensuring the establishment of institutions and capacity base for future sovereign bond issuances.

★ Included Bhutan as a target country in new projects that explore options for resource mobilization in Asia and the Pacific, targeted to improve financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises within post-COVID-19 recovery efforts.

Read more:

Bhutan's First Sovereign Bond: Financing Lessons During the Pandemic

An Introduction to Issuing Thematic Bonds

Regulatory Sandboxes and Policy Experimentation to Promote Frontier Technology Adoption in Countries with Specific Needs

Slow digital technology development progress of many countries with special needs has raised concerns over widening digital divides among and within Asia-Pacific countries. Such divergent growth trends, if not addressed, will further exacerbate social and economic divides. Asia and the Pacific stands as the most digitally divided region in the world. On the other hand, the speed, complexity and associated risks of disruptive digital technology innovation development also trigger policy and regulatory challenges, with a number of regulators in relatively advanced countries implementing regulatory sandboxes and policy experimentation to facilitate growth of frontier technology adoption in a controlled regulatory environment. This approach allows live, time-bound testing of innovations under a regulator's oversight, and practitioners have been engaged as learning partners within member States. These partnerships work towards improving the institutional capacity of target countries to develop policy experimentation and regulatory sandboxes on new technologies.

Period
2021-2024

Beneficiary Countries
Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and the Maldives

Funding
United Nations Development Account

Objective
To improve the institutional capacity of selected countries with specific needs in undertaking policy experimentation and developing regulatory sandboxes on frontier technologies, as an innovative approach to accelerate the progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SDG	Regional Roadmap	Gender Marker
9	Finance	GEM1

Project Highlights

In collaboration with UN DESA, supported the establishment of regulatory sandboxes in Bangladesh to ensure small business access to information about new skills, markets (especially digital markets), finance, technology and innovation, and business support services, as well as a focus on initiatives to improve access to the Internet, particularly in rural communities.

The Government of the Maldives is developing "Central Bank Digital Currency" and "Stable Coins" in its pilot implementation of regulatory sandboxes, with the ultimate goal to adopt a digital currency as a key component of its digital economic development. The outputs of the regulatory sandbox experiences are being developed into policy documents and implementation strategies to establish a safe and transparent monetary policy.

Kazakhstan is developing regulatory sandboxes for autonomous vehicles, as part of its efforts to create a more inclusive digital society. A second regulatory sandbox is exploring the potential to support Kazakhstan's energy sector in accelerating its efforts towards decentralization, digitalization, and decarbonization through regulatory frameworks.

Regulatory Sandbox Framework
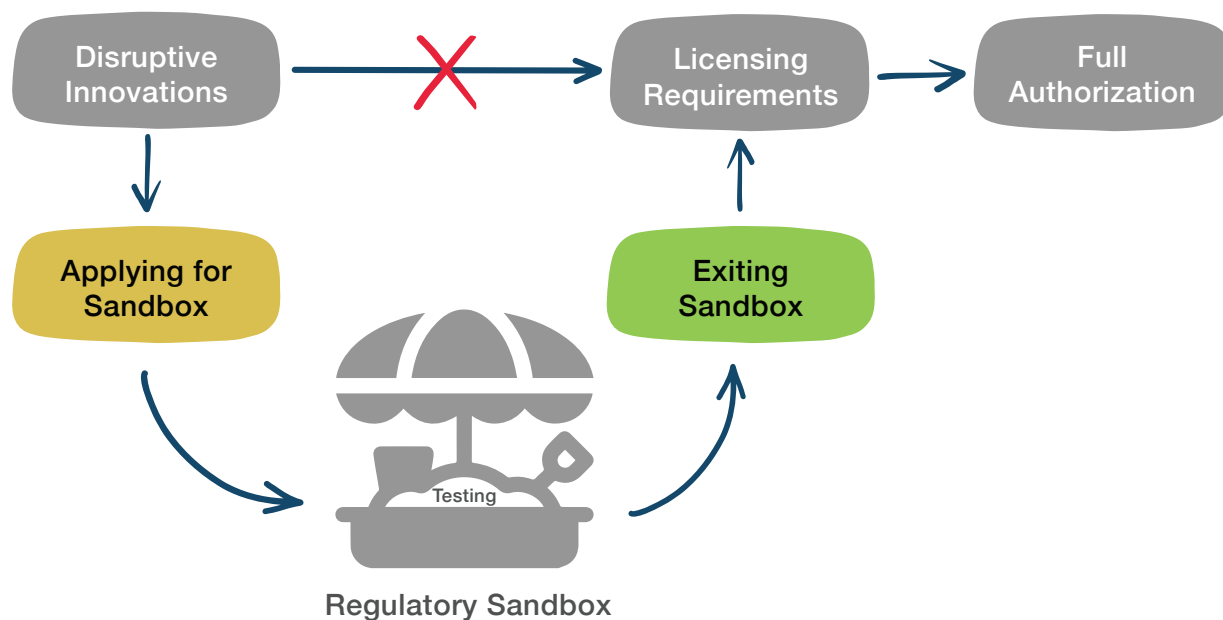
Adapted from: Assylbek Davletov, Astana International Financial Centre (2022)

Read more:

Policy Brief

Sensitization Workshop on Frontier Technology Policy Experimentation and Regulatory Sandboxes for Sustainable Development

National Consultation for the Maldives on Frontier Technology Policy Experimentation and Regulatory Sandboxes for Sustainable Development

Strengthening Financial Capacity for Accelerated SDG Progress in North and Central Asia

Mobilizing sufficient financing remains a major challenge in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the socio-economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has further hampered efforts to address this challenge. The United Nations system introduced Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) to facilitate a systemwide integration from a financing perspective, and to overcome existing impediments to financing sustainable development at the national level. INFFs are a planning and delivery tool that helps countries to strengthen planning and budgeting processes and to mobilize additional financing and match it with the most appropriate needs for achieving a more significant impact. ESCAP supports promoting and aligning global, regional and country-level efforts by providing capacity building on the INFF, and on additional and innovative financing modalities at subregional level in North and Central Asia.

Period
2020-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Funding
United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

Objective
Strengthen the subregion's financial capacity to allow countries to mobilize and align financing from all sources for their national sustainable development priorities.

SDG

1 ◆ 8

Regional Roadmap

Finance

Gender Marker

GEM0

Project Highlights

Alongside UN DESA, UNDP and UNITAR, the project developed INFF materials and training to ensure a coherent approach and common messaging across country, regional, and global levels.

Over 250 participants increased their knowledge on INFFs in the training sessions and through use of materials, with government officials, civil society, and UN country teams engaged.

Created awareness of INFFs in an associated event during the 2021 Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, and other forums and events within the UN system and beyond.

Read more:

Subregional Introductory Training for Countries of North and Central Asia on INFF for Sustainable Recovery from the COVID-19 Crisis and for Achieving the 2030 Agenda

BUILDING BACK BETTER STORIES

Strengthening Climate Readiness in the Asia-Pacific Region

Stepping up commitments to the Paris Agreement is particularly important for the Asia-Pacific region, as it is both the largest emitter of greenhouse gasses, and one of the most vulnerable to climate change. Similar to the case of the SDGs, the COVID-19 pandemic shifted the focus of governments away from climate action, and put on hold the review, updates and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, there are considerable opportunities for bringing together COVID-19 and NDC responses, and through green recovery strategies, knowledge products, dialogues, technical support and capacity building, ESCAP has been supporting member States to assess enabling factors that can help them rekindle the ambition of their climate action and pledges.

Period
2019-2021

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States

Funding
- *Government of Republic of Korea*
- *Government of Russian Federation*

Objective
To strengthen the capacity of policymakers to identify opportunities and specific actions that can accelerate implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions and commitments to the Paris Agreement.

SDG

7 ◆ 11 ◆ 13

Regional Roadmap

Climate change

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

Developed and released a range of assessment reports and training guides delivering simulation tools for developing scenarios, case studies and best practices to support policymakers accelerate implementation of NDCs across the region.

Released Methodologies for *GHG Emissions Inventories and Paris Agreement Reporting: A Practical Handbook*, that provides methodological recommendations and guidance on how to collect and estimate data on greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

Facilitated several technical training workshops for Central Asian experts on including carbon pricing mechanisms, needs-based climate financing strategies, GHG emission inventories and Paris Agreement reporting, with over 200 participants made up of national government representatives and GHG emissions inventories experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

> ★ All eight countries in Central Asia have improved their GHG emissions inventories, with four submitting updated NDCs prior to COP26, and the others at various stages of completion including two submitting climate neutrality pledges.

Read more:

Progress of NDC Implementation in Asia-Pacific

Accelerating Implementation of the Paris Agreement in Asia-Pacific: A Guide for Policymakers

Is 1.5°C within Reach for the Asia-Pacific Region?

Methodologies for GHG Emissions Inventories and Paris Agreement Reporting: A Practical Handbook

Methodologies for GHG Emissions Inventories and Paris Agreement Reporting: Online Tool

Accounting for the Value of the Oceans

Oceans hold significant importance for community livelihoods around the world. At the same time, oceans are increasingly impacted by conflicts and misuse on a global scale. Overall, integrating data from the social, environmental and economic domains is vital for sustainable development of ocean resources. Ocean accounts provide a means to overcome the fragmentation of ocean data, offering a structure to collate data in a coherent and transparent manner. Countries can leverage ocean accounts to measure, manage and develop the ocean economy in an inclusive and sustainable way. Based on its experience in the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, ESCAP's programme focused on enhancing partnerships on ocean-related statistics and governance, providing reliable statistical guidance on ocean accounting, and building capacity to produce and apply ocean accounts for national ocean policy and priorities.

Period
2019-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Fiji, Palau, Samoa and Viet Nam

Funding
◆ *Government of Australia*

◆ *United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation*

Objective
To strengthen national capacities of selected developing countries in the ESCAP region for the sustainable management of oceans and marine resources, by strengthening ocean governance, data, and statistics.

SDG

14

Regional Roadmap

Data and statistics
Management of natural resources

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

In China, Malaysia, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam, the project provided technical guidance and training on ocean accounts to statisticians, scientists and policy experts who are engaged in national pilot projects.

Founded the *Global Ocean Accounts Partnership* coordination and communication platform to share experiences and lessons learned in developing ocean accounts.

Extended the pilot for ocean accounts in Samoa, resulting in a set of geospatial waste accounts and an analysis of waste flows, including first ever estimates of residual outflows to rivers and the ocean of plastic and non-plastic waste.

Launched new pilot ocean accounts with the Government of Palau.

Launched the *Ocean Accounting Sustainable Development Portal and Dashboard*, with customized visualisations demonstrating the usefulness of ocean accounts, using Quang Ninh Province in Viet Nam as an example to outline the role of ocean accounts in balancing the importance of economic activities and ecosystems.

Read more:

Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

Ocean Accounting Portal and Dashboard Video

Promoting Sustainable Energy to Achieve SDG 7 and the Paris Agreement

More decisive steps need to be adopted by countries to advance policy measures related to universal energy access, enhanced energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy in Asia and the Pacific. Taking advantage of new technologies, new sources of finance and the interlinkages between sustainable energy with other SDGs and climate action is also imperative, as is the need to develop an appropriate policy framework aimed at realizing SDG 7. Through this project, ESCAP and EFC provided policymakers with tools, knowledge products and forums to expand their capacity, and then supported them to develop roadmaps on energy transition toward achieving SDG 7 targets.

Period
2019-2021

Beneficiary Countries
South-East Asia, Central Asia and North-East Asia countries in special situations

Funding
Energy Foundation China (EFC)

Objective
Enhance the capacities of developing countries in the region to develop and implement evidence-based policies towards achieving the interlinked targets of SDG 7.

SDG
7

Regional Roadmap
Energy

Gender Marker
GEM0

Project Highlights

- Rolled-out a customized web tool called NEXSTEP to support SDG 7 policy implementation and to promote clean energy development in member States.

- Strengthened the capacity of policymakers to use tools for energy transition and SDG 7 implementation, resulting in the development of national and sub-national roadmaps on energy transition in countries such as Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, and cities such as Jakarta in Indonesia, Iskandar in Malaysia, and the City of Cauayan in the Philippines.

- Launched the Asia-Pacific Network of Energy Think-Tanks, and implemented policy dialogues, analytical frameworks, e-learning programmes, technical reports and policy briefs on SDG 7 localization.

- Developed a methodology in support of national cooling action plan and national cooling assessment development, which was presented to stakeholders from over 70 countries, with Cambodia being the first pilot country to apply this methodology.

Read more:

National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP)

Tackling Marine Plastic Pollution in ASEAN Cities

Plastic waste in waterways endangers marine ecosystems and wildlife, as well as local livelihoods. Plastic pollution is a transboundary issue requiring a response and cooperative action plans on a regional level. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the plastic waste problem by dramatically changing patterns of plastic use and management. There was a significant increase in the use of single-use plastics, both due to hygiene concerns and a shift to take away/home delivery meals. There was also a dramatic increase in the use of personal protective equipment, particularly outside of the home, in environments where access to waste infrastructure is more limited. The management of plastic waste also changed due to the pandemic's adverse effects on waste management workforces and operations, particularly due to the numbers of informal workers in the sector. To combat the issue, ESCAP provided technical cooperation support towards the prevention of plastic pollution in four Asian countries.

Period
2020-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Viet Nam

Funding
Government of Japan

Objective
Reduce the environmental impact of cities in ASEAN by addressing plastic waste pollution and leakages into the marine environment.

SDG

11 ◆ 12 ◆ 14

Regional Roadmap

Management of natural resources

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

Undertook baseline assessments of four ASEAN coastal cities (Surabaya, Indonesia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand; Danang, Viet Nam) to determine the key causes and characteristics of plastic pollution, identify pollution hotspots, and contribute to the development of policy and investment strategies.

Developed evidence-based city level action plans to address plastic pollution, including tools to monitor plastic pollution using digital technology, in order to implement the *ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris (2021 – 2025)*.

Launched a self-paced, free eLearning programme, *Cities and Marine Plastic Pollution, Building a Circular Economy*, which has already engaged over 450 trainees. The seven-module course includes three animated videos that show how to measure, monitor and manage urban plastic pollution.

Established a new regional platform for collaboration on cities and marine plastic waste mitigation with a wide range of complementary agencies and institutions, such as Alliance to End Plastic Waste, IUCN, WWF, and World Bank.

Read more:

Cities and Marine Plastic Pollution, Building a Circular Economy E-Learning

Danang Project

Kuala Lumpur Project

Surabaya Project

Nakhon Si Thammarat Project

Art Exhibition

Celebrating a Decade of Action to Improve Economic Statistics and Beyond

Convened by ESCAP in 2010, the ESCAP Committee on Statistics agreed on a programme to improve economic statistics. A Core Set of Economic Statistics was developed by a Technical Advisory Group, and the programme set as its goal that by 2020 national statistical systems in the region would have the capacity to produce and disseminate the Core Set, in accordance with internationally agreed statistical standards and good practices. The programme strategy focused on coordination of national statistical statistics, advocating for enhanced use of statistics, strengthening statistical infrastructure, and developing technical skills, with the national statistical systems in the region having the main responsibility for achieving the programme goal. ESCAP coordinated the programme and provided continuous technical support together with other development partners including on peer review assessments, in-depth topic assessments, research and knowledge exchange, development of training materials, and training of trainers.

Period
2010-2020

Beneficiary Countries
Asia-Pacific region

Funding
- *Government of the Russian Federation*
- *Government of the United Kingdom*

Objective
Improving the capacities of National Statistical Offices across the Asia-Pacific region to produce and disseminate a Core Set of Economic Statistics in line with international standards by 2020.

SDG

1 ◆ 8

Regional Roadmap

Data and statistics

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

Established the annual Asia-Pacific Statistics Week, a forum for practicing statisticians to present and get feedback on their latest research and innovation.

By 2017, just past the mid-point of the programme, 50 countries in the region produced, on average, 1.2 additional Core Set items compared to 2013.

Rolled out the curriculum and training package based on RPES Core Set of Economic Statistics in Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives and Nepal. The prospective trainers were trained to design and deliver training using the RPES package. They subsequently went on to use the training package to conduct a total of five national trainings.

Foundational economic statistics training package, developed and quality assured under the programme, is now publicly accessible and available at no cost for national trainers.

Some notable national results include:

- *Bhutan now regularly produces import and export price indices, and have standardized classifications of economic activities among relevant ministries, which improves the quality of GDP estimates and use of data for other official statistics.*

- *Myanmar established their first Statistical Business Register, a core piece of statistical infrastructure for low cost, high quality economic surveys.*

- *Viet Nam improved the quality and granularity of their energy balances and underlying statistics, providing better evidence for energy sector planning.*

- *Maldives reviewed their national statistical system, including the legal and institutional structures, data sources, IT infrastructure, and dissemination policy, as well as successfully implementing the establishment of a new regulatory framework for official statistics in the country.*

Read more:

Country Reports

Video: Statisticians Sharing Accomplishments

Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series:

The Small BIG, Unlocking the Power of Administrative Data

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Revelations from Reviews of National Statistical Systems
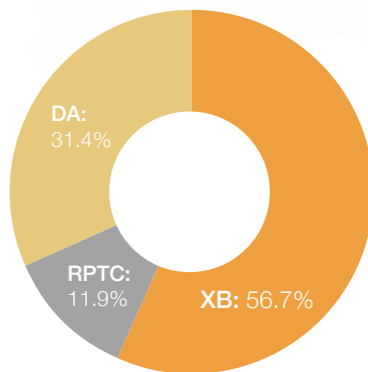
Connecting the World with Data We Can Trust
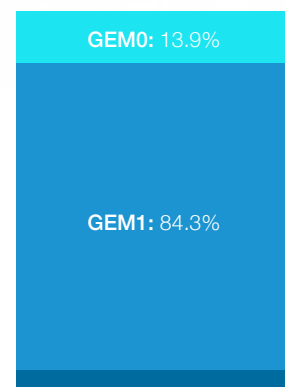
Chapter 3
Facts and Figures

87
PROJECTS

24.6%
OF TOTAL
CONTRIBUTIONS
RECEIVED

DA:
31.4%

RPTC:
11.9%

XB: 56.7%

% EXPENDITURE BY
FUND TYPE

GEM0: 13.9%

GEM1: 84.3%

GEM2a: 1.6%
GEM2b: 0.1%

% EXPENDITURE BY
GENDER MARKER

CHAPTER 3:
Restoring Supply Chains and Supporting SMEs

COVID-19 significantly impacted global and regional trade, as the cost of trading across international borders rose significantly, while global chains were disrupted due to ad-hoc border measures and lockdown of production and logistic facilities throughout the pandemic. Services and labour-intensive manufacturing sectors, that comprise over 80 per cent of the region's informal sector and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), were some of the most significantly affected by the rising costs and trade obstacles. Through its programmes, ESCAP contributed to restoring and building resilience in supply chains utilizing regional and subregional coordination on trade, investment, transport and digital connectivity. Through ESCAP's analytical and capacity building work within wider interventions, these initiatives have contributed to overcoming transboundary challenges in various areas, utilizing regional cooperation to promote trade facilitation, enhance transport, digital and energy connectivity, and push for sustainable logistics.

SUCCESS STORIES

FDI for Sustainable Development During and Post-COVID-19

Foreign direct investment (FDI) was significantly halted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and with it so were investments in an expanding digital sector. However, the pandemic also caused an accelerated digital transformation, which has occurred amidst what is known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, or Industry 4.0. Industry 4.0 brings with it a number of opportunities and challenges to attract, to promote, and to facilitate FDI within the digital sector. Therefore, as FDI begins to flow once more, new approaches are required to ensure significant investment within the digital sector in Asia and the Pacific. Through this project, ESCAP promoted a focus on building a digitalization-friendly investment climate, targeting country-specific digital investment goals, and leveraging new FDI models that focus on collaborations and partnerships between businesses and countries.

Period
2021

Beneficiary Countries
Bhutan, Mongolia, and Pakistan

Funding
United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

Objective
Support countries to promote foreign direct investment in the new digital era during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

SDG
8 ◆ 9

Regional Roadmap
Technology

Gender Marker
GEM1

Project Highlights

Undertook a series of national capacity building workshops in Bhutan, Mongolia, and Pakistan on leveraging FDI and developing national digital investment strategies, with participants collectively drafting tailored, sector-specific roadmaps for a digital investment policy.

Alongside Bhutan, the project developed an FDI strategy to support long-term FDI promotion and to enable Bhutan to attract and promote FDI in green technology, as well as supporting the development of a realistic and achievable implementation plan.

Supported Mongolia to develop an FDI strategy for attracting and promoting sustainable FDI – with a key focus on attracting investment outside of the mining sector – as well as a realistic implementation plan for the strategy.

Read more:

The Future of FDI: Reaping the Benefits of FDI 4.0 for Bhutan

The Future of FDI: Reaping the Benefits of FDI 4.0 for Mongolia

The Future of FDI: Reaping the Benefits of FDI 4.0 for Pakistan

Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Midst of a Pandemic

The impact of the pandemic on lives and livelihoods, in particular unemployment and access to basic needs, is significantly influenced by transport and trade from the local to global levels. Therefore, offering contactless, seamless and collaborative solutions for trade and transport connectivity formed a priority for ESCAP and its partners in supporting nations facing connectivity challenges. Throughout this project, ESCAP worked to provide government officials and other stakeholders with access to knowledge and analysis on how to identify and monitor the emerging best trade facilitation practices in times of crisis and pandemic, as well as build the capacity of policymakers on trade negotiations in the pandemic context. Regional and sectoral collaboration was also a priority, leading to several new regional cooperation initiatives responding to the pandemic-related trade and transport challenges.

Period
2020-2022

Beneficiary Countries
Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam

Funding
United Nations Development Account

Objective
Implement UN solutions, including standards, tools, methodologies and policy recommendations, with immediate effect to keep transport and borders operational, facilitating the international flow of goods, while containing the further spread of the COVID-19 virus.

SDG	Regional Roadmap	Gender Marker
8 ◆ 9 ◆ 17	Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda	GEM1

Project Highlights

Delivered, alongside an array of stakeholders, the *2021 Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation,* which included an additional component on trade facilitation in times of crisis, and formed the basis for numerous international reports that support evidence-based policy making for sustainable and resilient trade facilitation.

Supported Azerbaijan, the Philippines, Tonga and Tuvalu to conduct legal and technical readiness assessments on cross-border paperless trade, focusing on trade facilitation measures that are most effective and relevant in times of crisis.

Launched a *Handbook on Provisions and Options for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic* at the WTO Public Forum aimed at enhancing understanding and guidance on Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs).

The Parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network supported an initiative to develop a regional framework to deepen digitalization among the railways of the region, particularly for the benefit of the landlocked developing countries and least developed countries.

The *COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines for Resilient and Sustainable International Road Freight Transport Connectivity in ASEAN* was adopted by ASEAN.

Trained 144 policy makers in South and South-West Asia, North and Central Asia and South-East Asia on the evidence- and scenario-based sustainable transport policymaking in the pandemic and post-pandemic context.

Read more:

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Guidelines for Resilient and Sustainable International Road Freight Transport Connectivity in ASEAN

2021 Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

Readiness Assessments for Cross-Border Paperless Trade

Handbook on Provisions and Options for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic

Results of the Seventh Biennial Meeting of the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network (20-21 May 2021)

Value Chain Development for Deeper Integration of East Asia and Latin America

Intraregional merchandise exports within Latin America have declined while intraregional trade in Asia and the Pacific has somewhat stagnated over the last few years. In order to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by greater market integration, the assessment of regional value chains (RVCs) and global value chains (GVCs) is critical. Accordingly, this project aimed to assess the potential for the inclusion of FEALAC countries within various RVCs and GVCs, thereby promoting structural transformation and integration in and between the two regions. Project interventions were centred on knowledge product development and dissemination to ensure policymakers, researchers and analysts are equipped with the information and tools to develop policies into Global Value Chains.

Period
2018-2020

Beneficiary Countries
Member countries of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC)

Funding
Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC)

Objective
To enhance the integration of FEALAC countries into bi-regional value chains.

SDG

8 ◆ 17

Regional Roadmap

Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Gender Marker

GEM0

Project Highlights

Published a number of knowledge products to support policymakers and researchers in trade integration and value chain development, including a set of multiregional input-output tables for both Asia-Pacific region and Latin American FEALAC member countries, and a global input-output table covering 71 economies, including 18 LAC countries and 23 Asian countries.

Launched *Regional Integration and Value Chain Analyzer* (RIVA), an online tool to better inform policymakers in FEALAC member States, as well as trade-policy analysts and researchers supporting them, of their economy's integration through the global value chains. Between its official launch in June 2021 and April 2022, 2,386 users visited RIVA.

Implemented a technical workshop on *Value Chain Development for Deeper Integration of FEALAC: Asian Perspectives*, bringing together experts, policy analysts, researchers and policymakers from FEALAC countries across Latin America and Asia.

Empowering Women-led MSMEs

Even before the pandemic, only 18 per cent of South Asian businesses were owned by women, and most women-owned businesses are micro, small or medium enterprises (MSMEs). Often it is legal, cultural, and financial barriers that discourage women from starting a business, alongside other hurdles such as access to technology, finance, and ICT knowledge. Many women entrepreneurs are not able to expand their businesses and become part of wider regional and global supply chains, often due to lack of knowledge and limited business scale. With the pandemic propelling women entrepreneurs into the digital economy, they now have the opportunity to reach across national boundaries to establish partnerships and target new customers. E-commerce platforms and use of digital marketing tools can be a powerful catalyst for empowering South Asian women socially and economically, as such tools address challenges due to geographic isolation and limited access to information and financing.

Period
2019-2023

Beneficiary Countries
All countries in South and South-West Asia subregion with focus on Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal

Funding
Enhanced Integrated Framework

Objective
To enhance the knowledge and capacity of women entrepreneurs in utilizing e-commerce platforms to expand their business exports and participate in local, regional and global supply chains.

SDG

5 ◆ 8

Regional Roadmap

Leaving no one behind
Technology

Gender Marker

GEM2b

Project Highlights

Launched a self-paced introductory online e-learning course that teaches participants to use digital marketing tools to advertise and to promote their business, and to register and to upload their products/services to various e-market platforms. 204 women completed the course in 2021.

Implemented regional online training courses in addition to national trainings that provided hands-on sessions on how to register and link businesses to e-commerce platforms, including the creation of product and service catalogues, to use social media platforms and e-commerce and digital marketing tools to promote businesses. By December 2021, around 1,300 women from the South and South-West Asia subregion had received training.

Created WeSellOnline.org, an online e-commerce training platform to upload profiles, products, services and generate online queries from potential customers. Although not a sales platform itself, it allows for hands-on training for participants as a part of wider learning activities. 316 women entrepreneurs from South Asian countries (including 104 from LDC beneficiary countries) have registered and updated their product/service profile.
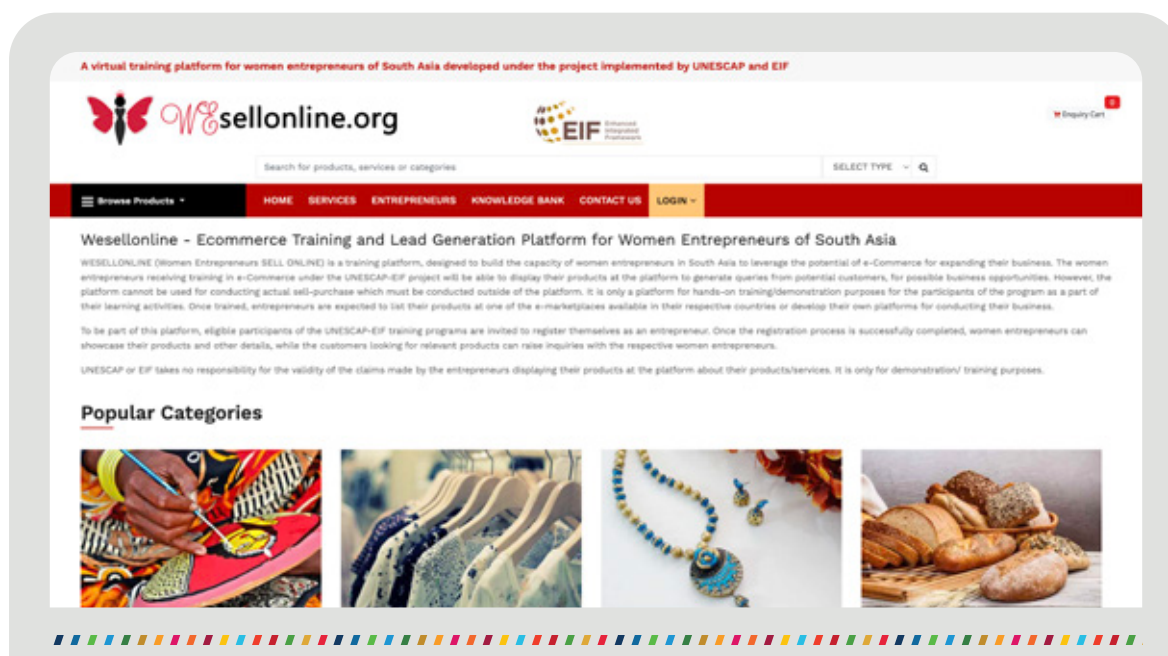
Read more:

Online Course on E-commerce and Digital Marketing

WeSellOnline: Online E-commerce Training Platform

Accelerating the Implementation of the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor

During the COVID-19 pandemic, countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including in East and North-East Asia, further recognized the importance of unhindered operational connectivity and supply chains, as well as coordination within and across countries to ensure seamless and sustainable trade. The China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor Program aims to expand and develop the trilateral partnership through the implementation of joint projects, and while some progress has been made over the previous few years, there remains limitations and obstacles in the project's realization. ESCAP's technical cooperation support developed a training series to develop the specific skills required to accelerate the implementation of priority projects identified under the programme. Initial target recipients have been government officials in Mongolia involved in the Program, with plans to expand to involve officials from China and Russia to support implementation of joint activities.

Period
2020

Beneficiary Countries
Mongolia and other ESCAP member States

Funding
United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

Objective
To build capacity of East and North-East Asian countries to accelerate the implementation of the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor Program to advance sustainable development.

SDG

9 ◆ 17

Regional Roadmap

Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda
North-South, South-South,
International and regional partnerships

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

- Delivered three training workshops for Mongolia, combining self-paced learning and interactive lecture sessions, focused on: (i) transport corridors, dry ports and energy transit; (ii) railway transport, project management and trade facilitation, and; (iii) cross-border infrastructure financing and institutional issues on the economic corridor.

- Strengthened coordination among government entities in Mongolia involved with the economic corridor.

- Developed knowledge resources that were also adapted for use in capacity building activities by other subregions.

Read more:

Manuals and Training Material for Effective Economic Corridor Management

Promoting Co-deployment of ICT and Transport Infrastructure Corridors for Enhanced ICT Connectivity and E-Resilience Readiness Dashboard

The need for access to high-speed, reliable, and affordable Internet in least developing countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) is critical. Primary challenges to this include the lack of adequate physical infrastructure, costs of laying fibre-optic cables, and challenges to consistent connectivity due to geographic features. Co-deployment, the deployment of internet infrastructure at the same time as the construction of other infrastructure (such as new roads, highways, railways, and power transmission lines), offers a unique opportunity to optimise the economic costs and resource allocation for building ICT infrastructure. Many member States experience the benefit of such initiatives which improve e-resilience readiness, therefore ESCAP aims to build upon such outcomes on a larger scale to ensure that ICT services are used better to achieve SDGs.

Period
2018-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia

Funding
United Nations Development Account

Objective
Increasing access to ICT by promoting development and maintenance of transport and modern ICT connectivity infrastructure through co-deployment.

SDG

9 ◆ 11

Regional Roadmap

Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Gender Marker

GEM1

Read more:

Infrastructure Corridors Simulator

Partnership Portal on Co-deployment of ICT Infrastructure

E-Resilience Monitoring Dashboard

Toolkit Working Paper

Thematic Information

Project Highlights

Launched a new web toolkit that targets the integrated planning of infrastructure corridors, and consists of three innovative products designed to provide potential solutions, namely the *Infrastructure Corridors Simulator*, the *Partnership Portal on Co-deployment of ICT Infrastructure with Road Transport and Energy Infrastructure and the E-Resilience Monitoring Dashboard*.

Utilised the toolkit to calculate three infrastructure corridors that connect Almaty in Kazakhstan with Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan, Semey in Kazakhstan with Rubtsovsk in Russia, and Urzhar in Kazakhstan with Chuguchak in China.

Established online networking groups as part of the *SDG Help Desk Community of Practice*, and promoted exchange of regular, timely and relevant information with subregional and national networks.

Digital Connectivity and Digital Infrastructure: Affordable Broadband for All

Five years into the launch of ESCAP's Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative with the aim of narrowing the digital divide and expanding broadband Internet access in the region, relatively low levels of fixed-broadband subscriptions persist in some member States. While countries have seen rapid growth in the mobile broadband segment, insufficient wired network infrastructure and inefficient Internet traffic management have contributed to a high cost structure and low levels of subscription for fixed broadband. Therefore, through the new action plan of API-S, a blueprint to facilitate cooperative actions among member States for transformation to digital economies and sustainable development, ESCAP is looking to strengthen transboundary digital infrastructure connectivity to improve Internet access in the least connected ASEAN countries.

Period
2021-2023

Beneficiary Countries
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam and Thailand

Funding
Government of Republic of Korea

Objective
To strengthen transboundary digital infrastructure connectivity to support the achievement of affordable broadband for all.

SDG
9 ◆ 17

Regional Roadmap
Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Gender Marker
GEM1

Project Highlights

Undertook an analysis to review the regulatory regimes, policies and practices on transboundary/national digital connectivity and infrastructure in the least connected ASEAN countries, focusing on improvement of the Internet exchange points (IXPs).

Developed a draft cooperative framework to promote digital connectivity and seamless regional infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, and shared findings among member States to raise awareness and knowledge on regional digital connectivity and infrastructure.

Delivered working group meetings to strengthen awareness, knowledge and capacity of ICT policy makers and regulators on the rising need and concerns of transboundary connectivity, culminating in a consensus among participating countries on the establishment of IXPs to improve transnational connectivity in the region.

Read more:

Action Plan for Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (2022-2026)

Railway Corridors for Sustainable Transport Connectivity

The Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KTI) is a North-South railway corridor that passes through three countries along the eastern shores of the Caspian Sea. It consists of approximately 940 km of track, with 142 km in Kazakhstan, 700 km across Turkmenistan, and 100 km in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The construction was completed in 2014 with cost of around USD 1.4 billion. Despite infrastructure connectivity being in place, the freight operations along the KTI rail corridor remain sub-optimal, and therefore its potential is not fully realized. Accordingly, ESCAP together with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and with financial support of the Islamic Development Bank, implemented a project on commercialization of the railway corridor between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran from 2018-2021.

Period
2018-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan

Funding
Islamic Development Bank

Objective
To enhance the capacity of railway officials in three countries on commercializing a railway corridor to foster sustainable transport.

SDG
9 ◆ 11

Regional Roadmap
Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Gender Marker
GEM0

Project Highlights

In 2020, two comprehensive studies identified the persisting transport barriers and analysed freight flows along the KTI railway corridor. This provided a basis for comprehensive stakeholder consultations to discuss the railway corridor's commercialization potential and pave the way for a strengthened corridor management mechanism.

In 2021, the railway administrations of the three countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the implementation of KTI rail freight corridor, which established a permanent working group as a new corridor management mechanism. The working group will address physical and non-physical barriers along the corridor and implement a marketing strategy for the rail corridor, strengthening the collaboration among the stakeholders to attract freight.

The implementation of the MOU would benefit the landlocked countries such as Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, encouraging more cargo on rail through linkages with larger economies including China, Europe, India and the Russian Federation.

BUILDING BACK BETTER STORIES

Effective Implementation of 2030 Agenda through Evidence-Based Innovation Policy

Weak evidence-based, inclusive innovation and technology policies are commonplace in Asia-Pacific developing countries, with broad and costly impacts. While governments have multiple avenues to promote more inclusive innovation and technology policies, there remain many gaps and obstacles in policy development and implementation. Challenges include limited understanding of inclusive innovation policy mechanisms, limited participation of vulnerable communities in the process, limited evidence on the positive and negative socio-economic impacts that different technologies and innovations trigger, the rapid pace of change of technologies, and inadequate incentives to develop and adopt technologies and innovations that specifically support the needs of vulnerable communities. ESCAP works to address these issues by developing knowledge products, offering consultations, workshops and advisory services, as well as the implementation of a community of practice and policy forum.

Period
2018-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

Funding
United Nations Development Account

Objective
Strengthen the capacity of developing countries to adopt evidence-based, integrated and inclusive innovation and technology policies for effective implementation and achievement of the SDGs.

SDG

8 ◆ 9

Regional Roadmap

Technology

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

★ The ten ASEAN member States adopted regional guidelines for promoting inclusive business in ASEAN.

★ Cambodia adopted a more inclusive national science technology and innovation policy, and developed a Science, *Technology and Innovation (STI) Roadmap 2030* to support the implementation of the policy.

★ Viet Nam adopted the *2022-2025 Programme on Support for Private Enterprises in Sustainable Business*, which includes the promotion of inclusive business.

★ The Philippines adopted a *Grassroots Innovation for Inclusive Development Framework Plan* and had two inclusive business bills filed for deliberation in its upper house and lower house.

★ In supporting Myanmar to formulate its national Science Technology Innovation Policy, an innovative process was utilized that engaged multiple stakeholders within many stages of the policymaking process and resulted in the work being recognized for its innovativeness in the Best of United Nations Innovation 2020.

★ Bhutan included the blueprint of the national technology request database as a part of the country's Cottage and Small Industry Policy.

Read more:

Community of Practice

Guidelines for the Promotion of Inclusive Business in ASEAN

Sustainable Logistics to Support the SDGs

Sustainable transport connectivity is a key contributor to economic growth, prosperity and societal well-being, with the demand for transport services in Asia and the Pacific expected to grow significantly in the coming years. It is also recognized that sustainable transport connectivity can help define the region's economic growth, poverty alleviation, and inclusive development. Many ESCAP member States continue to suffer from relatively high freight transport costs, undermining community purchasing power and adversely impacting the quality of life and the livelihood of people. In addition, freight and logistics account for a significant portion of total energy use, and a correspondingly large share of CO_2 emissions. Significant gains in efficiency and reduction of carbon emissions, as well as transport costs, are achievable by optimizing the design of a logistics network, using digital solutions to determine the right combination of the available modes of transportation and managing efficiently the load capacities and routes. Therefore, building the capacity of the logistics sector to design and to promote efficient, safe and environmentally sustainable, as well as socially inclusive, logistics systems is imperative.

Period
2020

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States

Funding
United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

Objective
To increase awareness and technical capacity of member States to formulate policies and deploy smart transport technologies.

SDG
9 ◆ 11 ◆ 13

Regional Roadmap
Technology Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Gender Marker
GEM0

Project Highlights

Alongside key logistics stakeholders, the project designed and implemented a capacity building programme to raise awareness on sustainable logistic solutions, through the use of digital and technological innovations, as well as the importance of inclusive and sustainable logistics operations.

Produced dedicated publications and training materials on the potential of smart and digital solutions for enhancing the sustainability in the transport sector, as part of a range of workshops on smart solutions for sustainable and inclusive logistics.

Read more:

Brunei Darussalam: Freight Forwarders Association Training of Trainers Workshop

Cambodia: Freight Forwarders Association Training of Trainers Workshop

Indonesia: Freight Forwarders Association Training of Trainers Workshop

Green and Sustainable Logistics Network: Micro-mobility in the First and Last Mile

Mainstreaming Inland Waterways into National Logistics Network: National Experience of Bangladesh

Interconnection and Connectivity within Regional Transition to Clean and Renewable Energy Systems

While a series of rapid technological advances in the energy sector are providing opportunity for increasing renewables within the regional energy mix, the role of transboundary power trade and grids in this transformation is not well understood. Increased transboundary power trade and grids requires consultation amongst governments and development partners to address common concerns and challenges such as political, financial and regulatory barriers to transboundary power trade, as well as mapping potential transmission routes. To begin removing these barriers, the project aimed to facilitate the development of a shared vision and approach to regional interconnectivity across all of Asia, in the form of a regional road map on power system connectivity.

Period
2018-2021

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States

Funding
◆ *Government of China*
◆ *United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation*

Objective
Remove technical and institutional barriers that hinder energy connectivity in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SDG

7 ◆ 13

Regional Roadmap

Energy Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

Developed four subregional background papers examining the status of power system connectivity in four ESCAP sub-regions: South and South-West Asia, East and North-East Asia, South-East Asia, North and Central Asia.

Organized four sessions of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity to engage expert input into the background papers and the development of a draft *Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity*.

Facilitated the endorsement of the Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity by the member States at the third session of ESCAP's Energy Committee and at the seventy-seventh session of the ESCAP Commission.
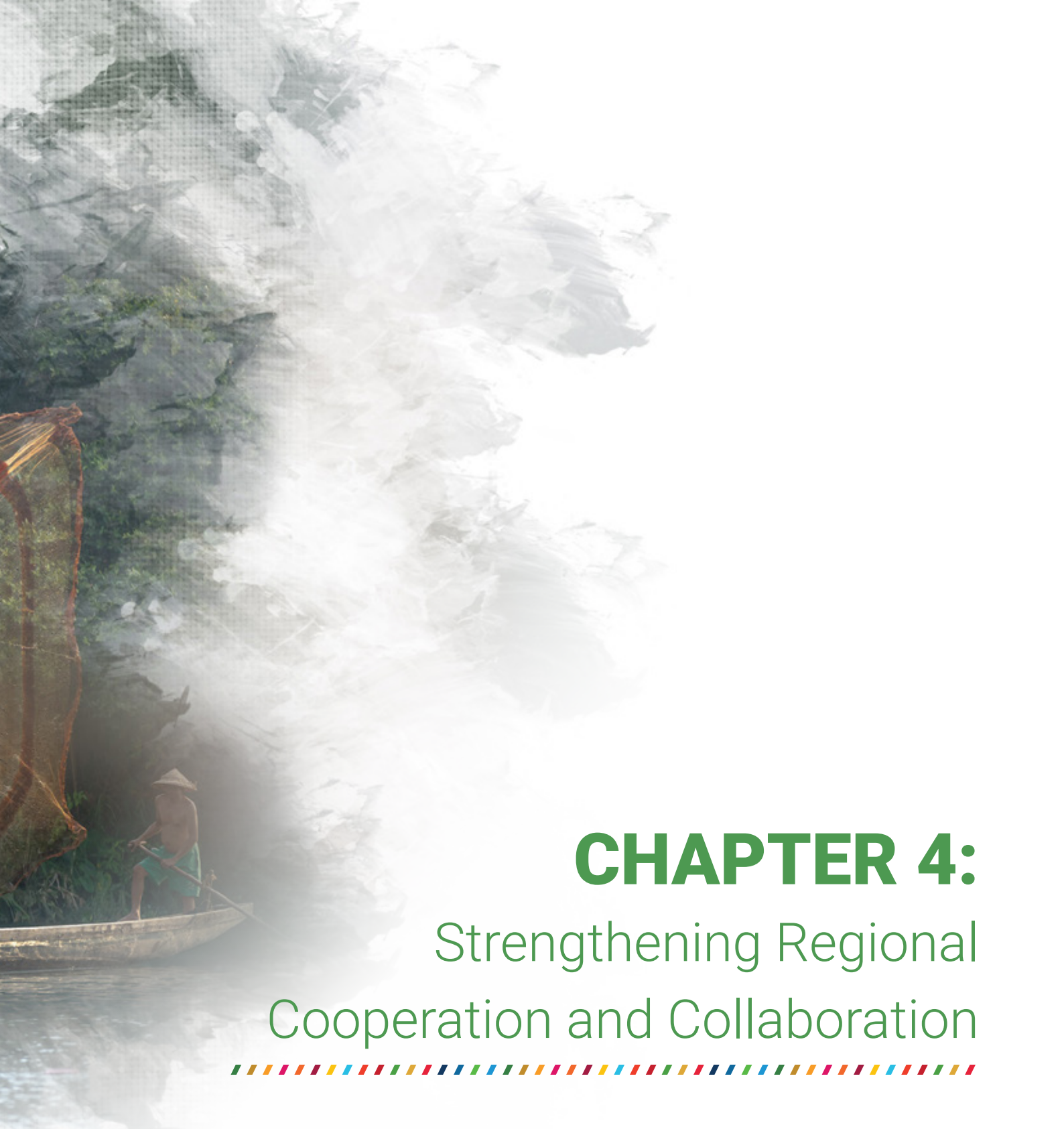
Read more:

Electricity Connectivity Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific: Strategies Towards Interconnecting the Region's Grids

Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity: Promoting Cross-border Electricity Connectivity for Sustainable Development

CHAPTER 4:
Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Collaboration

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted numerous perils and vulnerabilities of an integrated global economic system. To mitigate such issues, and to maximize the benefits of an integrated global economic system, strong regional and subregional cooperation and multistakeholder collaborations are critical. During emergency situations, regional and subregional collaborations and partnerships play a crucial role in coordinating policy interventions and the sharing of knowledge and best practices. ESCAP's technical cooperation work on urban transport, climate change mobility, disaster related statistics, public participation, technology transfer and energy, continues to demonstrate the benefits of the various partnerships ESCAP has engaged in to enhance capacities on COVID-19 response and recovery.

SUCCESS STORIES

Promoting Green, Safe and Smart Urban Transport for Asia-Pacific

As the Asia-Pacific region experiences rapid urbanization, national and local policymakers are searching for solutions to address multiple urban transport challenges, that can positively enhance social and economic development. Addressing multiple cross-cutting critical factors such as integrated planning, climate change, air quality and road safety requires not only national, but also regional approaches. One way to address such issues at the regional level is through the development of a regional multi-sector and cross-cutting policy framework.

Period
2019-2021

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States

Funding
Government of Russian Federation

Objective
To equip member States with a set of sustainable urban transport recommendations to facilitate the implementation of sustainable transport policies and programmes, and strengthen regional cooperation.

SDG
3 ◆ 11 ◆ 13

Regional Roadmap
Technology Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Gender Marker
GEM0

Project Highlights

Undertook research on issues and challenges for the development of sustainable transport systems, producing case studies in China, India, Russian Federation and Viet Nam, with a focus on green, smart and safe transport.

Facilitated the commitment to sustainable urban transport policies and implementing measures for green, smart and safe urban transport through the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on the *City and Transport: Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability*, with the participation of 30 ESCAP member countries and 28 international organizations, academia, research institutions and civil society organizations.

Equipped member States with a set of sustainable urban transport recommendations to facilitate the implementation of sustainable transport policies and programmes and strengthen regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

Read more:

Bangkok Declaration: Regional Meeting for Asia and the Pacific on the "City and Transport: Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability"

Sustainable Urban Transport Recommendations

Towards a Regional Framework Instrument on Access Rights

In 2021, the Human Rights Council recognised, for the first time, that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right. Human rights and the environment are intertwined, as human rights cannot be enjoyed without a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and sustainable environmental governance cannot exist without the establishment of and respect for human rights. Environmental rights are composed of substantive rights and procedural rights, with procedural rights forming the focus of ESCAP's technical cooperation work on environmental governance. Within this, there are three fundamental access-centred rights, being access to information, public participation, and access to justice. In the pandemic recovery process, the exercise of access rights can enable the enjoyment of environmental rights, which could become a catalyst in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, mainstreaming environmental access rights is key with in the post-pandemic context.

Period
2018-2021

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States

Funding
Government of Sweden

Objective
To improve the understanding and engagement of target stakeholders on the impacts and value of empowerment, including public participation, for strengthening implementation of SDGs in Asia and the Pacific, particularly on environment-related SDGs.

SDG

5 ◆ 16 ◆ 17

Regional Roadmap

Leaving no one behind
Policy coherence

Gender Marker

2a

Project Highlights

Developed the *Environmental Change through Participation: a closer look at how Inclusive Engagement can achieve Environmental Outcomes* compendium report, which identifies factors that lead to impactful engagement of vulnerable groups around environmental issues, highlights successful cases of engagement, and presents recommendations for moving forward on participation in environmental decision-making in Asia and the Pacific, at both policy and practice levels.

Subsequently developed a technical briefing paper, *An Assessment of Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Decision-Making in Asia-Pacific*, stemming from the compendium report.

Established intergovernmental dialogue with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), by highlighting the feasibility of a regional framework instrument on access rights in environmental matters.

Developed a partnership with the regional offices of UNEP and OHCHR to continue to support the promotion of access rights in the region, to whom AICHR has requested technical support in the development of a roadmap for a regional rights instrument.

Read more:

Environmental Change through Participation: A Closer Look at How Inclusive Engagement Can Achieve Environmental Outcomes

An Assessment of Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Decision-Making in Asia-Pacific

Promoting COVID Response and Recovery through Regional Technology Transfer

Asia-Pacific countries experienced severe stress on their healthcare systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in shortages of key medical goods and services. As well as being demand-related, the situation was exacerbated by low production capacities, limited access to affordable technologies, limited availability of raw materials, and supply chain constraints. However, there have been several low-cost, innovative and effective technologies developed by countries to respond to their emergency needs. Therefore, there was a highlighted need to further support member States through the facilitation of regional technology cooperation in response to the pandemic and beyond.

Period
2020-2021

Beneficiary Countries
Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand

Funding
◆ *Pooled XB - Institutional support for the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)*

Objective
To increase understanding of needs and existing technologies and innovations for addressing the COVID-19 challenges, explore opportunities and strategies for transfer of COVID-related technologies, and strengthen regional technology cooperation to jointly combat the pandemic.

SDG

3 ◆ 9 ◆ 17

Regional Roadmap

Technology

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

- Implemented a technology facilitation consultative meeting aimed at understanding the needs and availability of reliable and cost-effective healthcare technologies for responding to the pandemic and provided a platform for member States to identify opportunities for technology cooperation and transfer.

- Through the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), facilitated the matching of identified needs and national capabilities, promoting bilateral and multilateral technology cooperation and transfer.

- Potential partners conducted subsequent exchanges to facilitate cross-border technology collaboration on mutually agreed terms and conditions, and sought out opportunities for partnerships to ensure the feasibility and sustainability of jointly developed or improved solutions.

Read more:

APCTT Website

Forced Out by Climate: Towards a Regional Framework for Climate Mobility

Climate change is causing a reduction in land, livelihood and habitat security for many Pacific communities. These impacts may affect internal or even international migration flows, as many Pacific island environments become unable to support the communities that depend on them, resulting in the decision to migrate. ESCAP has been collaborating with international and regional partners to deliver technical cooperation activities under the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme, and has played an important role in driving the development of a regional rights-based framework on climate change-related displacement, migration and planned relocation.

Period
2019-2022

Beneficiary Countries
Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Funding
United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

Objective
To enhance protection and empowerment of migrants, peoples and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region.

SDG

13 ◆ 16 ◆ 17

Regional Roadmap

Climate change
North-South, South-South,
International and regional partnerships

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

Established a Technical Advisory Group comprising 17 experts from across the Pacific region with a focus on climate mobility and development of key messages on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation to inform policy in the Pacific region.

Implemented six Regional Policy Dialogue webinars attended by 13 Pacific Governments with the aim to inform the development of a regional rights-based framework.

Supported the establishment of a Joint-Working Group on Climate Mobility with the aim to oversee the development of a draft regional framework, and to seek opportunities for endorsement by Pacific Island Leaders.

Advocated for the integration of climate mobility into regional and global meetings, including the current draft of the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*.

Read more:

Side Event on Climate-related Mobility to COP26

APFSD Side Event on Climate Mobility Framework Design in the Pacific

Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization through Regional Cooperation

The Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific (ReCAMA) is a participatory network of private sector agricultural machinery associations established by ESCAP's Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM). It has contributed to scaling up the availability, adoption and sustainable use of agricultural machinery at the regional level through South-South cooperation, using a demand-driven model closely engaging the private sector. The network delivers capacity building, facilitates the creation of business linkages and knowledge exchange, and develops knowledge products to support decision making across the Asia-Pacific region.

Period

2014-ongoing

Beneficiary Countries

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam

Funding

◆ *Pooled XB - Institutional Support for the Asian and Pacific Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM)*

Objective

To promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in the region through strengthening the capacity of national agricultural machinery associations, facilitating exchange of knowledge and good practices, and enhancing collaboration and business linkages among the associations and their members.

SDG	Regional Roadmap	Gender Marker
1 ◆ 2 ◆ 17	Technology	GEM1

Project Highlights

Established cooperation arrangements between private sector agricultural machinery associations from four countries (China, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka), for regular engagement and linkage development for promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization.

Facilitated private sector donations of agricultural machinery to women farmers and farmers' cooperatives in China and Nepal, to support poverty alleviation and demonstrate appropriate technologies for rural areas.

Supported the Government of Cambodia to establish the country's first national agricultural machinery association, as a platform to provide services for the agricultural machinery industry and smallholders.

Read more:

ReCAMA Website

CSAM Website

Implementing Outcomes of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

Although progressing, Asia-Pacific nations still have a significant way to go to achieve the SDG 7 vision of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. National governments have a critical role to play in creating well-designed national policies, including more integrated and long-term energy planning, and better market design for energy sector transformation. As a result, Asia-Pacific member States have agreed to mainstream SDG 7 within national development and energy policies, plans and strategies. ESCAP and other international organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, have been urged to assist developing countries in building capacity to produce, analyse, and utilise various forms of quantitative and qualitative data for the implementation, follow-up and review of SDG 7.

Period
2019-2022

Beneficiary Countries
Asia-Pacific countries in special situations

Funding
Government of Russian Federation

Objective
Effective implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific.

SDG

7

Regional Roadmap

Energy

Gender Marker

GEM0

Project Highlights

Supported Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan apply the National Expert Sustainable Development Goal Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP) that assists policymakers to develop optimized strategies to implement SDG 7 by 2030, taking into consideration resource availability, economic growth, national development objectives and interlinkages between Goal 7 and other SDGs.

Enhanced the *Asia Pacific Energy Portal* to provide energy stakeholders with increased access to knowledge and information, including updating energy datasets and SDG 7 indicators, with the energy policies of 38 member States now collected and uploaded on the Portal.

Developed knowledge products including *Regional Trends Report 2021: Shaping a Sustainable Energy Future in Asia and the Pacific, Sustainable Cooling in the Asia-Pacific Region: Tackling Climate Change and Enhancing Quality of Life*, and a regional study on the role of natural gas in achieving SDG 7 in Asia and the Pacific.

Read more:

Asia Pacific Energy Portal

Risk-Informed Development: Disaster-Related Statistics and Sendai Framework Ambitions

The seven-year collective effort, led by ESCAP, to implement a programme of work on disaster-related statistics culminated in the creation of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia-Pacific (TWG-DRS). The TWG-DRS functions as a community of practice, consisting of experts from both the fields of statistics and disaster risk reduction. It supports and develops the capacity of member States to implement a Disaster-related Statistics Framework (DRSF) that is aligned with national priorities, is internationally comparable across countries, and is coherent with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Period
2020-2021

Beneficiary Countries
ESCAP member States

Funding
- *Government of the United Kingdom*
- *United Nations Development Account*
- *United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation*

Objective
To improve the production, accessibility, use and dissemination of quality disaster-related statistics to support risk-informed development in Asia and the Pacific.

SDG

1 ◆ 11 ◆ 13

Regional Roadmap

Data and statistics
Disaster risk reduction and resilience

Gender Marker

GEM1

Project Highlights

Conducted a regional situation analysis on production, sharing and utilizing disaster-related statistics, which highlighted increased demand for disaster-related statistics (DRS) and informed the development of the TWG-DRS strategic plan.

Developed a 5-year strategic plan of the TWG-DRS, that brings a greater focus to DRSF implementation and will guide the TWG-DRS members through identification of DRS issues, demonstration of integrating DRSF into national statistical systems, replication of good practices of DRSF integration, endorsement of DRSF by member States, and expansion of DRSF into different levels, including subnational, regional and international levels.

Facilitated the Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on Disaster-related Statistics, that provided a space for government officials, experts, and other stakeholders to engage on progress, commitments, and plans on disaster-related statistics, with almost 1,400 people participating from across the region.

Delivered three key capacity building workshops on: a) Catalysing the Policy Impetus for Disaster-related Statistics; b) Determining the Scope of the Basic range of disaster-related statistics, and; c) Coordinating the DRSF Business Process.

Read more:

Disaster Related Statistics Framework Manual

TWG-DRS 5-Year Strategic Plan

Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on Disaster-related Statistics

ANNEX

List of Donors in 2020-2021

BILATERAL DONORS

Bangladesh

Brunei Darussalam

Cambodia

Canada

China

Fiji

Germany

Hong Kong, China

India

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Japan

Kazakhstan

Macao, China

Malaysia

Mongolia

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Mongolia

Myanmar

New Caledonia

Pakistan

Philippines

Republic of Korea

Russian Federation

Samoa

Singapore

Sri Lanka

Switzerland

Thailand

Uzbekistan

Viet Nam

UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund

United Nations Road Safety Fund

United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

International Maritime Organization

Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund

World Meteorological Organization

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Development Bank

Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Energy Foundation

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development

International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Inc. (Vital Strategies)

Korea Disabled People's Development Institute

Korea Maritime Institute

Korea Ports and Harbours Association

Nippon Foundation

Office of National Higher Education Science

Research and Innovation Policy Council

Rehabilitation International

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As the regional arm of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) promotes cooperation among countries in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges across the Asia-Pacific region. ESCAP's support to its member States is multifaceted, and includes action-oriented knowledge, technical assistance, and capacity-building services that support national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2020, ESCAP repositioned its support to countries as they responded to the socio-economic crisis presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19: ESCAP Framework, outlines this strategy. The Framework consists of three streams of work united by the over-arching and cross-cutting principle of building back better. In addition, ESCAP's Framework promotes forging regional and subregional solutions across the three broad areas, and in line with the priorities of the Regional Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda, especially the means of implementation.

The Technical Cooperation Highlights 2020-2021 tells the story of how ESCAP, drawing on over seventy years of regional cooperation and partnerships, has supported its member States over the past two years work towards the dual and interrelated objectives of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals while also recovering sustainably from the impacts of the global pandemic.