1 NO POVERTY

NO POVERTY

I.   SUMMARY

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development aims to end poverty in all forms, including income and non-income dimensions such as health, education and nutrition, without leaving anyone behind. This profile revisits SDG 1 to take stock of progress achieved since its last review in 2021 and assess future challenges. Having passed the midpoint to 2030, achieving SDG 1 requires accelerated progress in alleviating non-monetary forms of poverty. This includes access to vital resources such as basic water and sanitation and extending social protection coverage. This profile is organized into four sections. Section I presents the current status of SDG 1, highlighting areas with progress and those requiring attention, amid rising inequalities and environmental pressures. Section II focuses on human rights and gender equality considerations, presenting evidence on those the 'furthest behind' in several dimensions of poverty. Section III introduces several promising initiatives worth

I. SUMMARY

scaling up for accelerated progress towards SDG 1. Section IV concludes with a proposal of six priority actions: (i) adopt integrated policy planning that supports inclusive and adaptive social protection, to ensure no one is left behind amid complex global shocks, climate change and demographic trends, (ii) strengthen implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies at national and local levels, (iii) upgrade skills to support access decent jobs during just transition and investing in the care economy, (iv) harness digitalization to build resilience, (v) invest in data-collection and disaggregation while building capacity for data analysis for evidence-based policymaking and (vi) improve domestic resource mobilization and leverage emerging external sources.

II. CURRENT STATUS

The Asia-Pacific region was making considerable progress in poverty reduction until 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic reversed hard-won gains, compounded by the cost-of-living crisis in 2022. An estimated 47 million people in the region have been pushed into extreme poverty (Ecker *et al.*, 2023). Elevated and sustained inflation continues to erode purchasing power. South and Southwest Asia is particularly vulnerable to extreme monetary poverty (Figure 1). Poverty headcount ratios reached 48 per cent in Afghanistan, 13.5 per cent in Bangladesh, 11 per cent in India, 8 per cent in Nepal, and 4.9 per cent in Pakistan.
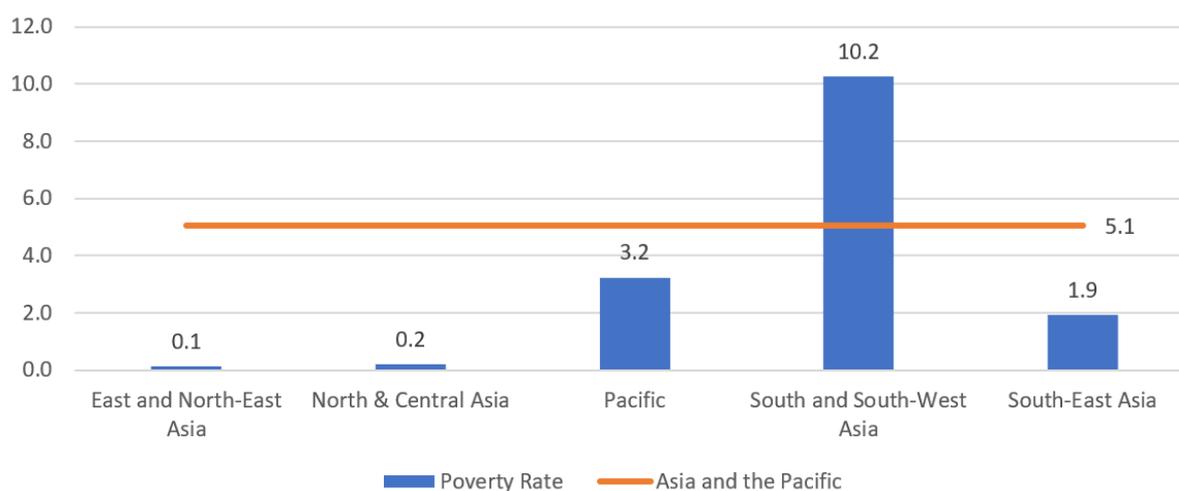

*Figure 1 – Share of population in extreme poverty (%)*

Source: ESCAP estimates based on World Bank data (2023).

Note: Estimates follow ESCAP definitions of subregions and are based on the latest international poverty line of US$2.15 a day in 2017 purchasing power parity. As such, 25 countries with data available for 2017–2022 are included.

Monetary poverty is also high in the Pacific: over 20 per cent of the population in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu live in extreme poverty. External shocks and natural disasters exacerbated by climate change continue to threaten livelihoods in the Pacific and slow poverty eradication.

Overall, the current status of Goal 1 differs little from its last review in 2021. Of the ten SDG 1 indicators, only three are on track to be achieved by 2030. These include monetary poverty at national and international poverty lines, and the adoption and implementation of disaster risk reduction policies. The remaining seven indicators are unlikely to be achieved by 2030. Four indicators are critical status (red in Figure 2). They are related to the human and economic impact of disasters, ODA grants for poverty reduction, and government spending on education, health and social protection (ESCAP, 2024).
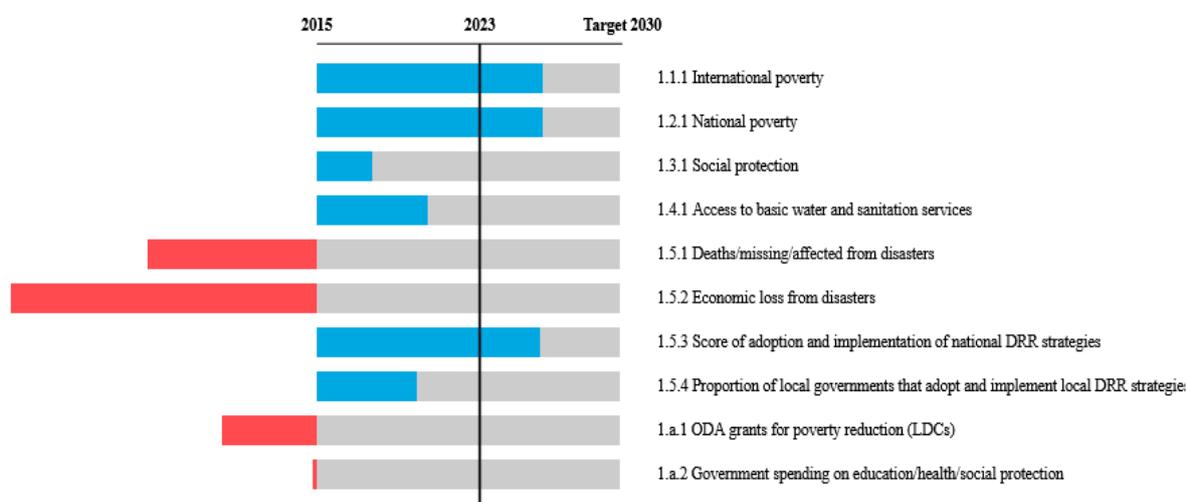
Figure 2 – Progress on Goal 1 indicators towards the 2030 targets

Source: ESCAP (2024).

A. AREAS WITH PROGRESS

MONETARY POVERTY

Over the last three decades, monetary poverty, estimated by income or consumption at international and national poverty lines, decreased substantially in the Asia-Pacific

region. According to the latest estimates, several countries in the region, including Bhutan, China, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Türkiye, had eliminated extreme poverty as of 2022.

While this is commendable progress, the impacts of COVID-19 and the increasing number of climate change-induced disasters show that progress can easily be halted or reversed. Millions of households live just above the poverty line. Working poverty remains high, with high informality in employment, reducing workers' ability to collectively bargain for living wages. Without access to social protection, their livelihoods are constantly at risk of falling back into poverty. The 'hidden poor,' i.e., individuals living within households above the poverty line but who are already poor, are often invisible in terms of household-level poverty measures.

Poverty is also a multidimensional phenomenon, with lack of money just one of the disadvantages seen by people experiencing poverty. Others related to education, health, nutrition and living conditions should also be considered when monitoring progress in poverty eradication. Figure 3 presents levels of severe poverty (dark orange) and moderate poverty (light orange bar) at the household level. Non-monetary poverty exceeds monetary poverty (the black dot) in almost all countries. The region hosts half of the world's multidimensionally deprived people, about 500 million (UNDP, 2023).
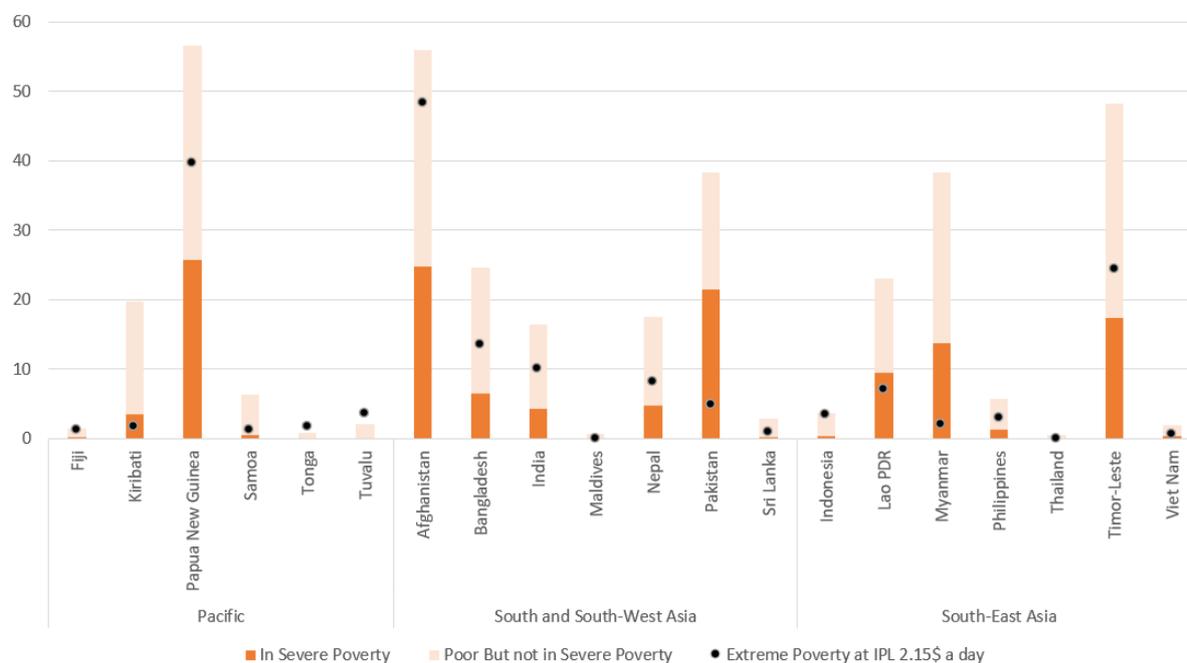

Figure 3 – Share of population in monetary versus non-monetary poverty in Asia and the Pacific (%)

Source: ESCAP elaborations based on data from the World Bank (2023) and the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) (Alkire et al., 2023).
Note: Household-level results do not allow individual-level disaggregation.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES

The adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework is the third indicator on track to be achieved by 2030. Many countries have seen significant progress, particularly since 2017. This progress is proxied by a country-specific score ranging from 0 to 1, where 1 represents a full alignment of national risk reduction strategies with the Sendai Framework. The Asia-Pacific region has an average score of 0.80, ahead of the 2019 world average of 0.67 (Figure 4).

While progress is commendable at national levels, there is a dire need to boost the proportion of local governments adopting and implementing DRR strategies, especially given the strong positive relationship between DRR and poverty alleviation in Asia-Pacific (Okuda *et al.*, 2022).
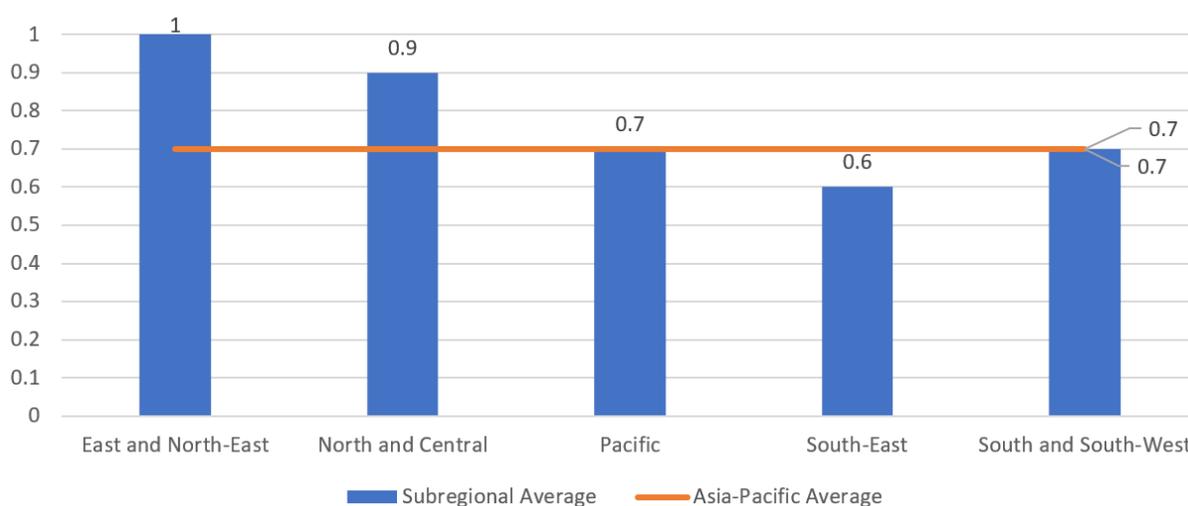

Figure 4 – Average score of adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework

Source: ESCAP elaborations based on the Sendai Framework monitoring platform (UNDRR, 2023).

B. AREAS REQUIRING ATTENTION AND ASSOCIATED KEY CHALLENGES

ACCESS TO BASIC WATER AND SANITATION

While access to basic drinking water at the national level exceeded 90 per cent of the total population in 19 of 30 Asia-Pacific countries, many have a long way to go to ensure no one is left behind in accessing clean drinking water. The situation regarding access

to sanitation is worse, with 90+ per cent access to basic sanitation only present in 9 out of 30 countries (ESCAP, 2023c). Inequality in access to basic services by gender, location and other dimensions is equally concerning and further discussed in section II.

ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

Less than half of the population in the region has access to at least one social protection benefit (Figure 5). The Pacific, North and Central Asia; and East and Northeast Asia have made significant strides in improving access to social protection. Major challenges remain in South and Southwest Asia and Southeast Asia where only 25 per cent and 33 per cent of the population have access to at least one social protection benefit, respectively. There are numerous key barriers to accessing social protection: (i) legal barriers, (ii) lack of policy coherence and coordination, (iii) portability, especially for migrant workers, (iv) burdensome, lengthy and inaccessible administrative procedures and processes, and (v) limited contributory capacities (ILO, 2019; ESCAP and ILO, 2021). Underinvestment in social protection exacerbates the situation. The region's investment in social protection, excluding health care, is just 7.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), significantly lower than the global weighted average of 11 per cent (UNDP, 2023). Providing universal transfers across lifecycle schemes could reduce poverty by an average of 47 per cent at an average cost of around 3.5 per cent of GDP (ESCAP, 2023a).
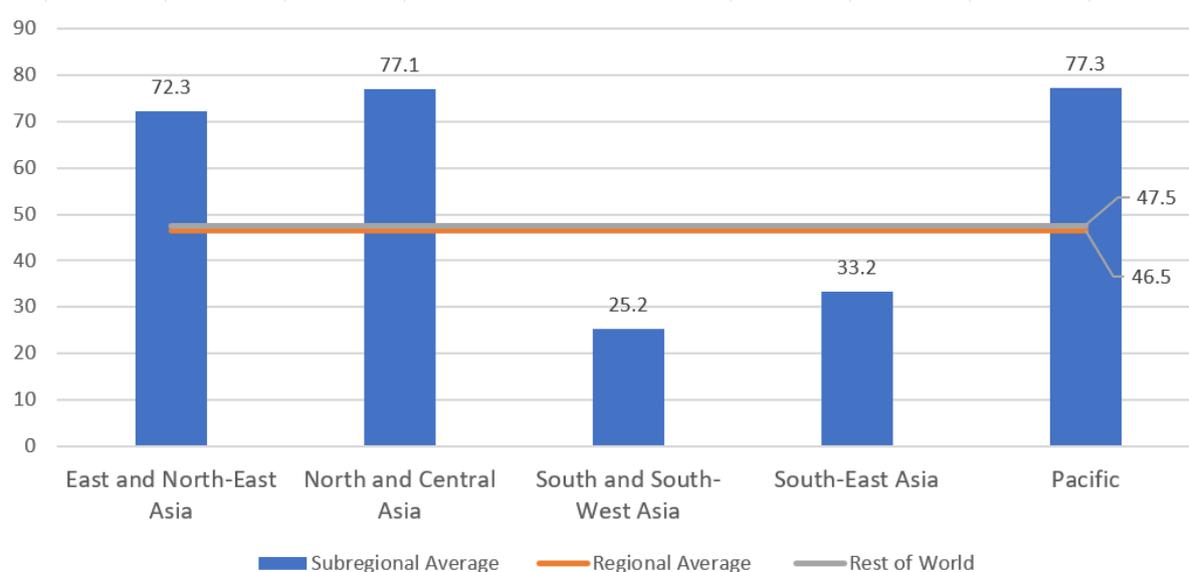

Figure 5 – Share of population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)

Source: ILO modelled estimates based on the ILO (2020) social security inquiry database.

II. CURRENT STATUS
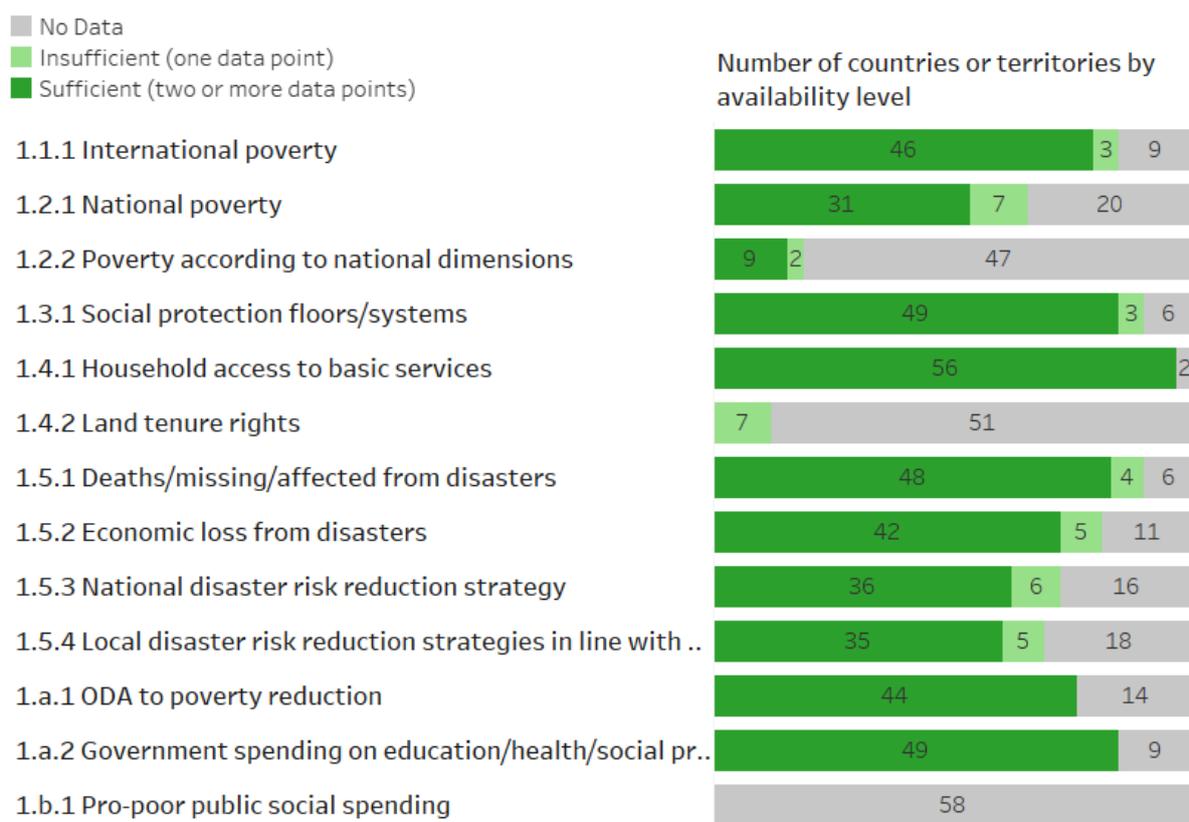
EXPOSURE TO AND IMPACT OF DISASTERS

While the number of people affected by disasters has steadily declined from 2015 to 2019, the number of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters has been rising since 2020 (ESCAP, 2023b). While the misclassification of the COVID-19 pandemic as a natural disaster may have contributed to this rise, the intensity of climate change-induced natural disasters, including tropical cyclones, floods and heatwaves, are also factors. The Asia-Pacific region suffers from more natural disasters than other developing regions. In 2022, over 140 disasters struck Asia-Pacific, leading to over 7,500 deaths, affecting over 64 million people and causing economic damage estimated at US$57 billion (UNDP, 2023).

In 2022, disaster-related internal displacements rose to 32.6 million, 41 per cent higher than the annual average of the previous 10 years, mostly due to weather-related hazards such as storms and floods (UNDP, 2023). In the long run, the negative impact of disasters on people and infrastructure is expected to increase multidimensional poverty through disruptions in access to basic services and opportunities, as evidenced during the 2022 floods in Pakistan where over 20,000 schools were destroyed and millions of children and youth were displaced (UNICEF, 2022).

C. AVAILABILITY OF DATA

Data availability to support SDG 1 monitoring has improved significantly (Figure 6). Most Asia-Pacific countries regularly conduct household surveys and censuses. However, efforts are needed to close the gaps, especially in national-dimension poverty and land tenure rights. Addressing gaps in SDG 1.2.2 is a key since country-specific non-monetary poverty data offers a much clearer picture of poverty status.

Legend:
- No Data
- Insufficient (one data point)
- Sufficient (two or more data points)

Number of countries or territories by availability level

Indicator	Sufficient	Insufficient	No Data
1.1.1 International poverty	46	3	9
1.2.1 National poverty	31	7	20
1.2.2 Poverty according to national dimensions	9	2	47
1.3.1 Social protection floors/systems	49	3	6
1.4.1 Household access to basic services	56		2
1.4.2 Land tenure rights		7	51
1.5.1 Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	48	4	6
1.5.2 Economic loss from disasters	42	5	11
1.5.3 National disaster risk reduction strategy	36	6	16
1.5.4 Local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with ..	35	5	18
1.a.1 ODA to poverty reduction	44		14
1.a.2 Government spending on education/health/social pr..	49		9
1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending			58

Figure 6 - Data availability for indicators in Goal 1

Source: ESCAP (2024).

III. HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

SDG 1 covers issues related to respecting and protecting all internationally agreed human rights. It is particularly relevant to the progressive realization of the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to social security and women's equal rights in economic life. The call of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to 'leave no one behind' and to 'reach those furthest behind first' is founded on a human rights-based approach to inclusive and sustainable development. This approach emphasizes the right to development, which advocates for a holistic approach to tackling poverty. It addresses poverty's systemic and structural causes by adhering to the human rights principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability.

Despite the international legal and normative frameworks firmly in place, millions of individuals and groups—including children, women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and ethnic, language or religious minority groups—remain in vulnerable situations on the margins of society. The gaps between the 'furthest ahead' and 'furthest behind' remain wide in the region (Figure 7). The largest gaps are observed in information and communication technologies, underlining the digital divide in the region. Access to clean fuel is one of the most unequally accessed opportunities, indicating that a large share of the population still faces indoor air pollution and associated health risks. Those responsible for cooking, usually women, are at greatest risk. Poverty, measured by household wealth, is a key driver of inequality of opportunity, often exacerbated by factors like residence and educational level.
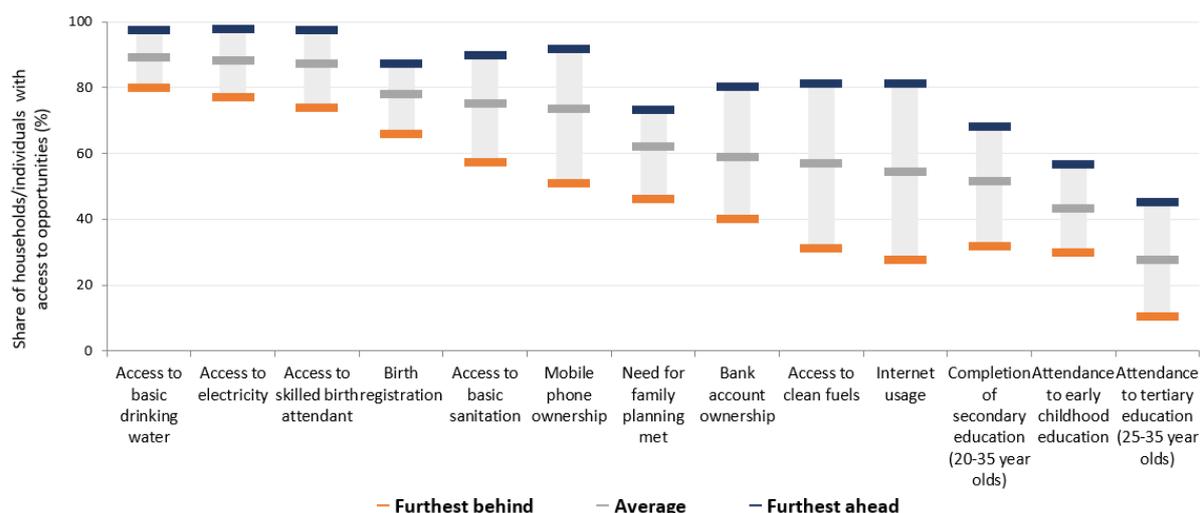
Figure 7 – Gaps in SDGs and poverty's role in widening opportunity inequality in Asia-Pacific

Source: ESCAP (2023c).
Note: ESCAP LNOB Platform data is based on the latest demographic and health surveys and/or multiple indicator cluster survey data from 30 countries.

Gender inequalities remain deeply rooted in the Asia-Pacific region, which recently experienced its worst gender equality decline in two decades. Despite high educational enrolment, approximately 800 million women are not part of the workforce. Promoting women's equality could boost the region's annual GDP by US$4.5 trillion by 2025 (Woetzel *et al.*, 2018). In terms of poverty reduction strategies, there is an urgent need for accelerated progress in enhancing women's economic empowerment and their participation in decision-making processes (Figure 8). The collection of individual-level, sex-disaggregated, multidimensional poverty data is crucial. This should be accompanied by accelerated action on issues that prevent women and girls from realizing their full potential. A key priority area is addressing the disproportionate amount and impact of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by women and girls (ESCAP, 2021). This focus is essential to empower women in the labour-market and elevate them from the informality that often characterizes their labour-market participation. The existing digital divide, particularly in terms of gender, age and disability, is also a major concern for the future world of work, where digital technologies will play a transformative role.
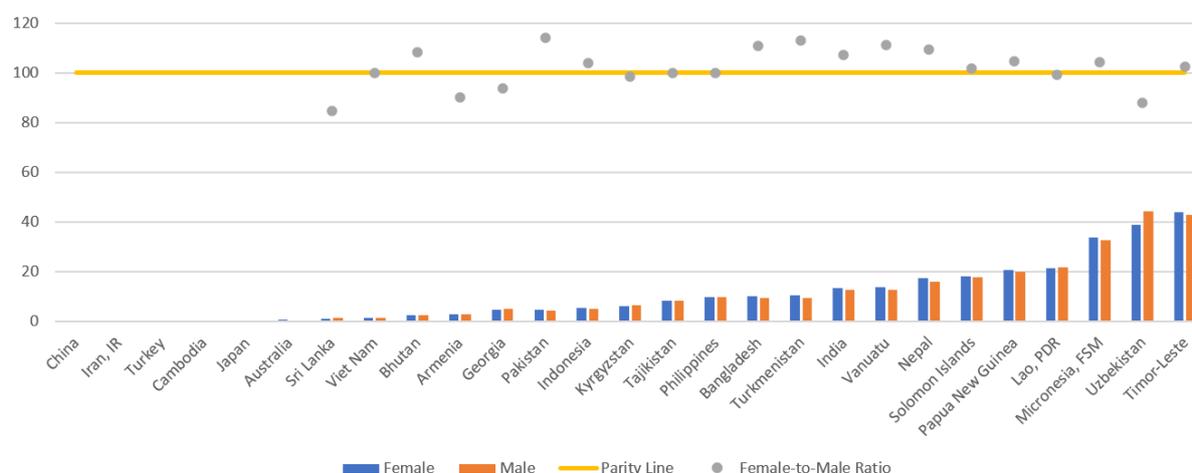
Figure 8 – Proportion of population living in extreme poverty, by sex (aged 15+)

Source: UN Women, UNDP and Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures (2020).

Addressing poverty through a multidimensional lens is crucial for unlocking the potential of those most at risk of being left behind. The benefit to our economies and societies when analysing intersectional vulnerabilities are immense. For example, including persons with disabilities in employment could raise GDP by 1–7 per cent (UNDP, 2023). Older women are another particularly vulnerable group, often prone to chronic poverty, as women tend to live longer without social protection.

While climate change impacts threaten everybody in Asia-Pacific, some groups are more vulnerable than others. Women and children, particularly older women, girls and persons with disabilities, ethnic and gender minorities and those living in rural areas, are most affected. They face significant challenges regarding food and nutrition security, access to clean water and health (ESCAP, 2023d).

Climate change-induced migration, rising inequalities and geopolitical tensions continue to increase vulnerabilities in the region, which are challenging to assess without granular data. Displacements usually coincide with individuals losing their employment, livelihood, assets and land. Consequently, displaced populations across Asia-Pacific, as elsewhere in the world, face a particularly high risk of poverty. Refugees who settle in socio-economically depressed areas are especially at risk. Many refugees have specific vulnerabilities that distinguish them from other poor populations, increasing their risk profiles.

IV. PROMISING INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES

In this section, we discuss several promising innovations and practices implemented by the governments of this region.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Since adopting the Action Plan on Strengthening Regional Collaboration on Social Protection in 2020, Member States have reviewed their existing social protection systems and implemented strategies for improvements in Cambodia, Mongolia, the Maldives and the Philippines. Some countries adopted new schemes with particular emphasis on extending coverage. The new Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2023, is a first-of-its-kind social security law targeting fast-growing platform-based gig work. It calls for establishing a welfare board and a dedicated social security fund for the state's platform-based gig workers. It will be financed by a one and two per cent levy on each platform-based transaction.

Additionally, the Global Social Protection Accelerator (GSPA), on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (UN Women, 2023) was launched in September 2021 by the Secretary-General. It aims to direct investments to create at least 400 million decent jobs globally, primarily in the green, digital and care economies and to extend social protection coverage to over 4 billion people who are currently excluded. In Asia-Pacific, the GSPA is currently implemented in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan.

TRANSFORMING THE CARE ECONOMY

Care work — including care for children, the elderly and the sick — is the backbone of thriving families, communities, economies and societies. This work is often unpaid and disproportionately borne by women: in the Asia-Pacific region, women do four times more unpaid care work than men, at the cost of their own health, well-being and prosperity. This leaves women with little time to engage in economic and political activities, fuelling gender wage gaps and preventing participation in paid work, making escaping poverty harder.

Access to childcare is positively associated with women's labour-market outcomes and time spent on paid work. This suggests that the availability of childcare services can help mitigate the adverse labour-market impacts of motherhood, thereby

impacting their social and economic well-being and empowerment (World Bank, 2021). In Asia-Pacific, UN Women has expertise in transforming the care economy through research and advocacy for care delivery models. These models represent a promising pathway for redistributing women's unpaid care burden as means to drive economic empowerment.

UN Women has researched innovations in the care economy and the importance of digitally-enabled care enterprises as drivers of decent work for care workers. Additionally, UN Women collaborates with local partners to develop and test locally driven childcare models tailored to the specific needs of communities at the 'base of the pyramid' in India and Bangladesh. Innovations include a model that integrates skilling and livelihood opportunities with on-site childcare provision. These initiatives will provide insight into how different models can provide accessible, affordable and quality care while offering women decent opportunities in the labour force. Doing so addresses both monetary and time poverty issues, supporting women, children and their families (World Bank, 2021).

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Google AI for Social Good is a promising initiative that is already scaled up in Asia-Pacific and beyond to advance access to and availability of early warning systems for all. Google's flood early warning service started in Bangladesh in 2018. The new forecasting model doubled the lead time of many alerts, giving governments more notice and tens of millions of people an extra day to prepare. It also provided people with information about when and by how much flood waters were likely to rise. The information is provided through mobile phones in different formats so that people can both read their alerts in local languages and see them presented visually. Following the success of its flood early warning system, Google expanded its services in India, a country prone to severe flooding during monsoon seasons. In the first three years, Google covered the entire country. By 2021, the service covered 360 million people in India and Bangladesh, resulting in over 115 million alerts. This important technological breakthrough enhances predictive capacity and the overall outreach of flood forecasting.

IV. PROMISING INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN ASIA-PACIFIC

Youth entrepreneurship and climate action are key areas that the UNDP Youth Empowerment Portfolio prioritizes across the Asia-Pacific region. Co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab is an initiative that aims to establish a common agenda for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to empower and invest in young people. Doing so can accelerate SDG implementation through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship. Since 2017, Youth Co:Lab has supported young, aspirational entrepreneurs and youth champions in 28 countries and territories. The national dialogues, regional summits, and social innovation challenges have reached over 280,000 participants. The initiative's Springboard Programme has supported over 19,000 young social entrepreneurs, strengthened over 2,600 youth-led social enterprises, established transformative partnerships with over 210 key ecosystem players through its Youth Empowerment Alliance, and built the capacity over 50 entrepreneur support organizations, making their services more inclusive for young entrepreneurs.

On climate action, #Movers4Climate is a joint initiative between the Movers Programme and the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP). It has engaged over 2,000 young people across Asia-Pacific on green jobs and just transition, with the support of International Labour Organization (ILO) and youth networks. This initiative addresses SDG 1 by equipping young people with modern skills and climate knowledge to enhance their employability and prepare them for future work in a green economy. While exploring promising innovative practices for youth empowerment, it is important to note that the Youth Empowerment Portfolio also advances initiatives on modern digital skills, youth civic engagement and political participation to ensure no one is left behind and that every young person's potential is fully realized.

BUILDING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

Following the Taliban takeover in 2021, Afghanistan plunged into a new era. The economy contracted by 30 per cent with devastating impacts on incomes, employment and livelihoods. International assistance was suspended, public expenditure halted and urban and rural poverty soared. Women and girls — half the population — are almost entirely excluded from public life. Despite improved day-to-day security, half of the 42 million population now experience extreme poverty. In this

context, the World Bank and the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund initiated the Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project (CRLP), managed by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The project directly engages with poor communities to enhance community and household resilience, increase income, improve basic services and preserve community institutions. CRLP provides short-term employment, offering a lifeline for vulnerable households, while the benefits of the work activities extend to entire communities. Social grants are also extended to 132,000 particularly vulnerable households unable to participate in work, prioritizing women-headed households, people with disabilities and drug addicts. In rural areas, 774,000 poor households are engaged in cash-for-work projects, benefiting 6.8 million residents, with 5 per cent being women. In urban areas, 115,000 households are employed in 520 labour-intensive works, benefiting 2.5 million residents, 10 per cent being women. Overall, 9 million people will benefit from the services improved by the projects, which include roads, canal drainage and agroforestry. The CRLP, amid a challenging environment, showcases progress, exemplifies initiatives that directly engage the poorest in the economy and promote resilience.

CATALYSING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Women's entrepreneurship is an engine for employment creation and poverty reduction. When accompanied by labour protections that reflect decent work standards and address unpaid work, entrepreneurship provides an essential channel for gender equality and women's empowerment. Entrepreneurial enterprises are the largest employers in the Asia-Pacific region and can play a decisive role in giving women access to work.

Although the number of women entrepreneurs is increasing, they often face more barriers than their male counterparts. As such, one pillar of ESCAP's strategy to advance gender equality is supporting efforts to foster enabling conditions for women's entrepreneurship. The Catalysing Women's Entrepreneurship programme aims to advance women's entrepreneurship and market participation in the Asia-Pacific region, by creating an enabling environment for women to start and/or expand their businesses. This results in poverty reduction, improved livelihoods and economic growth.

The programme facilitates women entrepreneurs' access and use of financial services, strengthening their use of ICT and digital solutions to support their

businesses, and assisting through policy and advocacy initiatives. The programme undertakes on-the-ground implementation activities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa and Vietnam, with policy and advocacy support across South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Improved access to finance and acquiring enhanced digital skills to grow their business helped women significantly. As of March 2023, 176,000 women entrepreneurs had benefited directly from the programme, as did 650,000 indirect beneficiaries. exceeding the target by double. The innovative financing mechanisms have increased their outreach to women entrepreneurs by 327 per cent over the previous year. Furthermore, ESCAP has unlocked US$89.7 million in capital for women entrepreneurs and invested in 15 start-ups.

UN Women supports women entrepreneurs holistically by involving all stakeholders in an ecosystem approach. Collaborating with the private sector, governments, civil society and women entrepreneurs, UN Women has created evidence-based programming for the most vulnerable women. For example, in the Pacific, microenterprise-focused Markets for Change programme supported over 700 market vendors, rural farmers and others involved in market vendor associations. Additionally, programmes such as WeLearn in Indonesia built capacity in women-run SMEs and enhanced skill development, supporting nearly 8,000 women in business development and digitization to prepare for and leverage the changing world of work.

Additionally, UN Women's WeEmpowerAsia programme created an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs through policy change and support to improve their business skills, knowledge and networks. The programme assisted over 16,000 officials from public, private and civil society organizations in Asia-Pacific by providing business, financial and technical training to over 3,000 women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses. It fostered partnerships with 23 European Union and Asian social impact/innovation funds, entrepreneurship accelerators and incubators. Moreover, it increased the number of regional company signatories to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) to over 1,700 companies.

DATA AND STATISTICS

Countries increasingly invest resources to measure multidimensional poverty and identify those left behind. Sri Lanka, Samoa and India have recently published their Multidimensional Poverty Reports with UNDP support. Using the same data sources,

Member States, including Cambodia, Fiji, the Maldives and Mongolia, have built capacity to identify the furthest behind individuals and households in various SDG indicators. Several Member States published key insights in the Voluntary National Reviews to support evidence-based policymaking in the future. In 2023, reports based on a new, individual-level, gender-sensitive phone survey of multidimensional poverty, Equality Insights Rapid, were published for Tonga (Carroll *et al.*, 2023) and the Solomon Islands (Riveros-Morales *et al.*, 2023), supported by the Australian Government.

V. PRIORITY ACTIONS

The following priority actions are recommended to accelerate progress on delivering SDG 1 and reversing the current regression of some targets.

PRIORITY 1: ADOPT INTEGRATED POLICY PLANNING FOR INCLUSIVE AND ADAPTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The region must urgently shift from overstretched and uncoordinated social protection systems coping with multiple shocks. It should transition towards agile systems that build on coordination with different actors, provide anticipatory and post-shock/disaster transfers, and facilitate longer-term inclusive sustainable and net-zero development. Concerted efforts are needed to broaden the reach of social protection systems given demographic changes and the impacts of climate change. The aim is to cover people who are more exposed to vulnerabilities, including children, persons with disabilities, older persons, women, informal workers and migrant workers. Member States should deliver coherent and complementary contributory and non-contributory social protection schemes. They should invest in adaptive social protection schemes to build resilience. Considering regular, predictable, reliable and inclusive non-contributory cash transfers is also essential. Such transfers can facilitate savings, ensure food security and help households diversify their livelihood sources. Digital technologies offer immense opportunities to enhance the design and delivery of social protection, helping to gain efficiency and minimize waste.

V. PRIORITY ACTIONS

PRIORITY 2: STRENGTHEN IMPLEMENTATION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Member States should invest in transformative adaptation (ESCAP 2023b) as global temperatures rise to build a resilient future for all. This would include (i) conducting comprehensive disaster and climate risk assessment, particularly in multi-hazard risk hotspots, (ii) transitioning from a sectoral to system approach whereby social protection and climate change interventions align to strengthen vulnerable populations' capacity to adapt, absorb and transfer risks, (iii) implementing comprehensive disaster and climate risk management, which is critical for resilient food systems, (iv) investing in the Global Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All by leveraging emerging technologies, (v) building local capacities to respond effectively and rapidly to early warning alerts, (vi) ensuring the meaningful participation of marginalized groups in disaster risk reduction and management, and (vii) expanding global satellite data use and strengthening early warning networks and dissemination services and (viii) using the Gender Action Plan for Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, a midterm review outcome, to guide implementation of prioritized actions.

PRIORITY 3: UPGRADE SKILLS TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO DECENT JOBS DURING A JUST TRANSITION, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Most workers in the region lack access to decent jobs with fundamental labour rights, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, social protection and social dialogue. This is particularly the case for young people, who have much higher unemployment rates than other age groups. Climate change and digitalization are increasing the demand for green and digital jobs, likely creating a considerable share of decent jobs. Workers' skill sets need upgrading to meet this demand, especially the youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. Active labour-market policies (ALMPs) have a strong role in equipping the workforce with skills and prioritizing those already left behind with timely and tailored programmes (ESCAP, 2022a). Member States should expand and improve the quantity and quality of vocational, life, technical, business and entrepreneurial skills training. Training programmes should accommodate the needs of intended beneficiaries and be developed through collaboration with the private sector. Other ALMPs, including labour-market services,

can complement skills trainings, especially for youth transitioning from school to work.

The positive impact of ALMPs depends on whether women's time and labour in care work are valued and recognized. Expanding ALMPs should be complemented by investments in the care economy. This requires efforts at multiple levels with policies (ESCAP, 2022b) and programmes that reduce, recognize, redistribute and adequately reward care work. Member States should adopt measures in four care policy categories: (i) building and ensuring access to care infrastructure, (ii) expanding non-contributory programmes in the form of unconditional cash transfers without income targeting, (iii) mandating and providing care services, including childcare, older person care and care provisions for persons with a disability or illness and (iv) providing employment-related care, e.g., parental leave policies and benefits and family-friendly working arrangements.

PRIORITY 4: HARNESS DIGITALIZATION TO BUILD RESILIENCE AND REDUCE POVERTY

Addressing structural obstacles is crucial to fully unlocking the potential of digital innovation for transformative development outcomes for all. This includes obstacles to social protection, public employment schemes, digital labour platforms, support for micro and small-sized enterprises, and the digital divide by age, gender, disability and location. Several steps are needed to achieve connectivity, meet marginalized groups' diverse needs, and maximize online operations' opportunities. Member States should establish and improve digital infrastructure in offline marginalized communities to enable high-speed and unlimited connection. They should make digital devices and services more affordable for marginalized groups through measures like targeted financing schemes. Improving digital accessibility by conducting accessibility audits is crucial, alongside applying universal design principles to the development of digital products and services. Engaging vulnerable people through co-design and addressing their diverse needs throughout the development cycle of digital products and services are key strategies. Incentivizing private sector entities to invest in gender-sensitive, age-friendly and disability-inclusive digital technologies is also important. Additionally, harnessing the potential of youth as early adopters of digital technologies to support older persons should be considered.

V. PRIORITY ACTIONS

PRIORITY 5: INVEST IN DATA-COLLECTION AND BUILDING CAPACITY FOR DATA ANALYSIS

Member States should continue to invest in collecting high-quality, timely and reliable data through various nationally representative surveys, which allow for multiple levels of disaggregation, including income, gender, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location. Disaggregated data enables understanding of the intersectional circumstances that leave population groups behind in indicators associated with SDG 1, including access to basic resources, social protection and exposure to disaster. Disaggregated data is crucial for evidence-based policymaking, from design to monitoring and evaluation. As shown in Figure 5, data-collection efforts must accelerate for indicators SDG 1.4.2 and SDG 1.b.1. In addition to data-collection, Member States should continue building capacity to analyse data following rigorous methodologies. Monitoring and evaluating policies and programmes at national and subnational levels requires local capacity to analyse data and inform decision-making processes promptly.

PRIORITY 6: IMPROVE DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND LEVERAGE EMERGING SOURCES OF EXTERNAL FINANCING

Synergies with climate change measures open new opportunities for Paris-aligned investments. These investments, coupled with domestic resource mobilization efforts, have the potential to build comprehensive social protection systems gradually. These systems can provide adequate benefits and respond to current lifecycle contingencies and new and exacerbated risks in the wake of a changing climate. Domestically, progressive taxation is key. Intelligently designed taxation can reduce extreme inequalities in wealth and income and raise sufficient revenue to support a sustainable transition to a greener economy. This requires broadening the tax base and taxing incomes, wealth and profit while moving away from taxing consumption. The government must also tackle illicit financial flows. Externally, there is an urgent need to reform the international financial architecture to resolve the growing debt burden in developing countries. Currently, neither development nor climate finance are suitable for these countries. Concessional finance is not easily accessible, with debt finance remaining the main instrument (UNDP, 2023).

VI. CREDITS AND REFERENCES

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