

# How much do ambitions cost? Investment needs for achieving the SDGs in Asia-Pacific

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# Why are we assessing the investment needs?

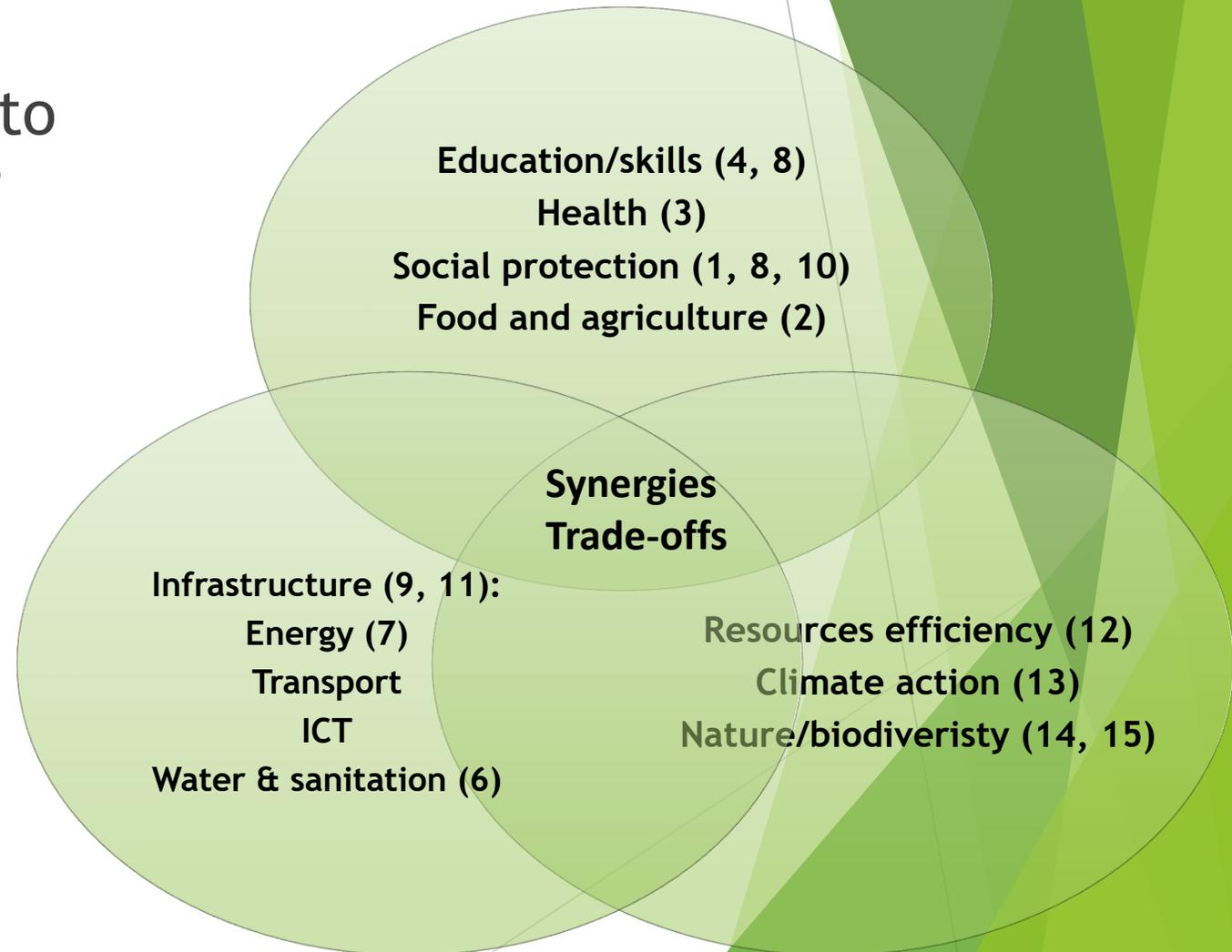
- ▶ SDG progress report found that Asia-Pacific region would miss most targets by 2030 without increased effort.
- ▶ Alongside better policies, increased investment is required across sectors ranging from health to climate action ... but by how much?
- ▶ Beyond sectoral estimates, a comprehensive quantitative assessment would be useful for policy makers, not least for planning, budgeting and mobilizing funds.

# How do we intend to do it?

- ▶ Two goals:
  - ▶ Estimate a headline cost according to investment areas: How much do countries need to spend to achieve the SDGs?
  - ▶ Perform a cross-country benchmarking exercise: Is financing the issue, stupid? Or are there some structural constraints?

# Contribution of ESCAP Survey 2019

- ▶ Turn 17 Goals/169 targets into major investment areas (see figure).
- ▶ Partner with specialized agencies to apply a suitable costing methodology.
  - ▶ E.g. UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO on education/skills
- ▶ Recognize the diversity of Asia-Pacific region.
  - ▶ Subregional consultations
  - ▶ Country case studies



# Some cross-cutting challenges

- ▶ **Measurement and target-setting**
  - ▶ e.g. for education/skills, how to measure “relevant skills” or set a target for vocational and tertiary education
- ▶ **Specifying interventions and costing them**
  - ▶ e.g. for universal health coverage, required services and ability to scale up would vary by countries
  - ▶ e.g. for sustainable energy, uncertainty over fossil fuel investments and cost of renewables
- ▶ **Accounting for synergies**
  - ▶ e.g. health co-benefits of climate action; but hard to quantify systematically across all SDGs or investment areas

# Progress so far - Social dimensions

	Methodology	Goal/target coverage/ interventions	Country coverage
Education/skills	UNESCO GEMR 2015	Universal pre- to secondary schooling; does not yet cover vocational and tertiary	27 (LIC, LMIC)
Health	WHO/Lancet 2017	Universal health coverage; selected non-health sector	19 (LIC, MIC)
Social protection	ILO Social Protection Floors cost calculator	Targeted cash transfers; pensions; public works	27 (LIC, MIC)
Food and agriculture	FAO/IFAD/WFP 2015; Agriculture orientation index, etc.	Zero hunger; does not yet cover climate-resilient agriculture	25 (LIC, MIC, HIC)

# Progress so far - Infrastructure

- ▶ “Top down” estimates based on panel regression to project future demand and unit costs from the literature
  - ▶ Based on Fay (2000)
  - ▶ ADB (2017) covers 45 countries
  - ▶ ESCAP (2017) covers 36 LDC, LLDC, SIDS and incorporates universal access
- ▶ Better align with SDG targets
  - ▶ For energy, consider IEA (2017) sustainable development scenario
- ▶ Complement with sectoral/regional studies

Sector	Indicators
Energy	Electricity consumption; electricity access (kilowatt of installed capacity per capita)
Transport	Road (paved, unpaved); rail; air port; ports (kilometers per land area; passengers/TEU per population)
ICT	Telephone; mobile; broadband (number of subscriptions)
Water and sanitation	Access to water; access to sanitation

# Progress so far - Environment/climate

## ▶ Climate action

- ▶ Energy transition ranging from power generation to end-users (transport, industry, buildings, etc.)
- ▶ Other climate mitigation actions such as in agriculture and through carbon sinks (forestry)
- ▶ Climate adaptation (thin line with development)

## ▶ Biodiversity/nature

- ▶ CBD 2012 estimates for Aichi targets

## ▶ Resources efficiency

- ▶ Potential collaboration with IRP/CSIRO

# What you can do? Country experiences!

- ▶ Has your government conducted a quantitative assessment on SDG investment needs?
- ▶ If so, for which SDGs or SDG investment areas?
- ▶ Could you share how such assessment was conducted? (by which ministry, using which methodology, etc.)
- ▶ What were the results and how were they used, for instance, in national planning or budgeting?
- ▶ If no such assessment exists, does your government plan to conduct it in the near future?
- ▶ **We would like to feature country experiences! We also welcome any suggestions!**

## Next steps ... thank you!

September 2018	APFSD sub-regional consultations
October	Follow up questionnaires
November	Responses
	Analysis and integration into overall investment needs assessment
	Peer review of preliminary results
March 2019	APFSD
April	Launch of Economic & Social Survey 2019
May	Commission session