81st Commission Session

21–25 April 2025 Bangkok | THAILAND

Agenda Item 5:
Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission

Ms. Lin Yang
Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP

Regional Cooperation

Future-Oriented Approach

People-Centered Development

Partnerships

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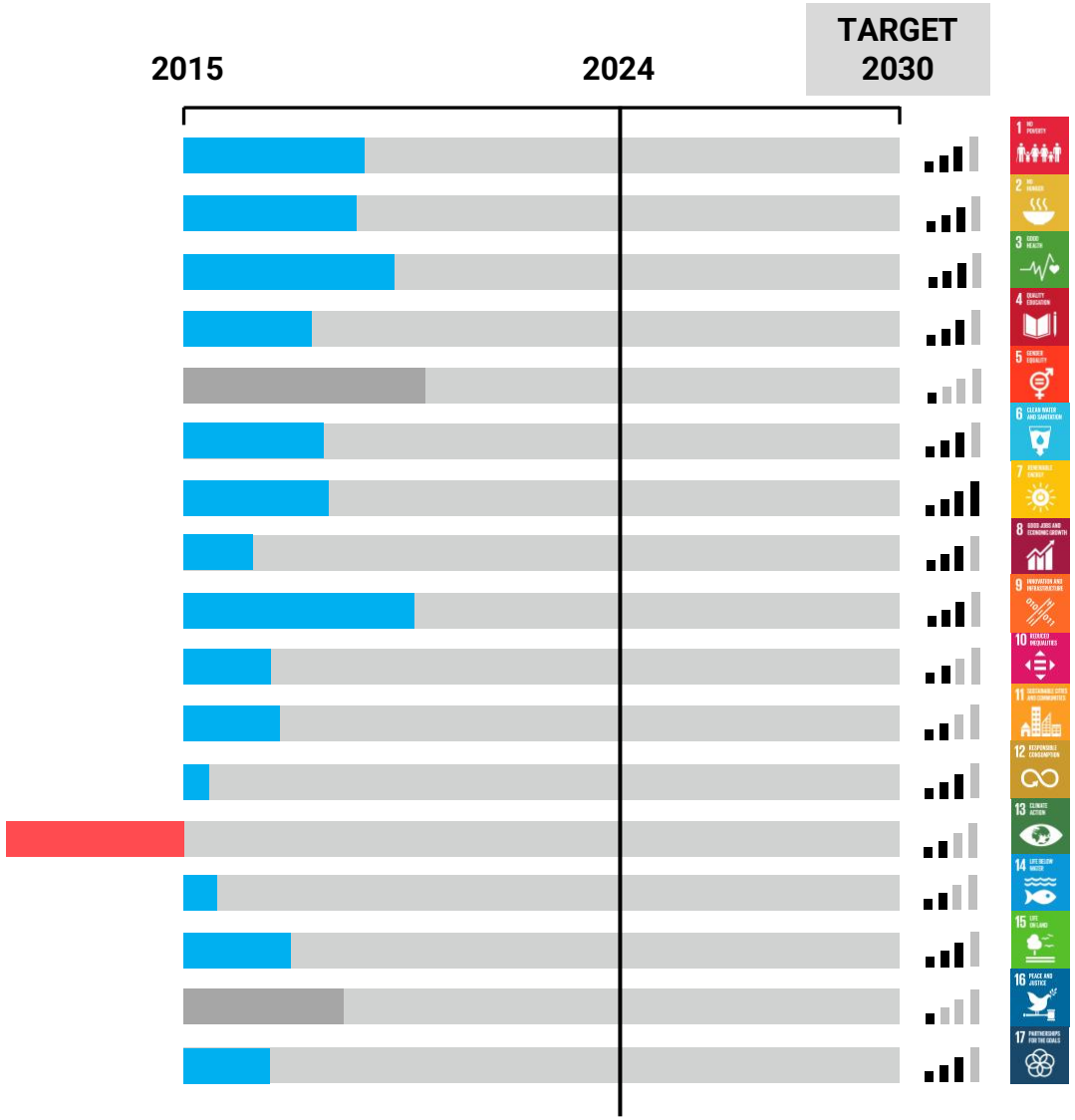
SDG Progress in Asia and the Pacific



No poverty
Zero Hunger
Good health and well-being
Quality education
Gender equality
Clean water and sanitation
Affordable and clean energy
Decent work and economic growth
Industry, innovation and infrastructure
Reduced inequalities
Sustainable cities and communities
Responsible consumption and production
Climate action
Life below water
Life on land
Peace, justice and strong institutions
Partnerships for the Goals

Environment Targets Showing Negative Trends



6.6 Water-related ecosystems
7.2 Share of renewable energy
8.4 Material resource efficiency
11.5 Resilience to disasters
12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources
13.2 Climate change policies
14.7 Marine resources for SIDS and LDCs
15.5 Loss of biodiversity

Progress
Regression
Insufficient indicators
Evidence strength

Source: ESCAP (2025), 2025 SDG Progress Report

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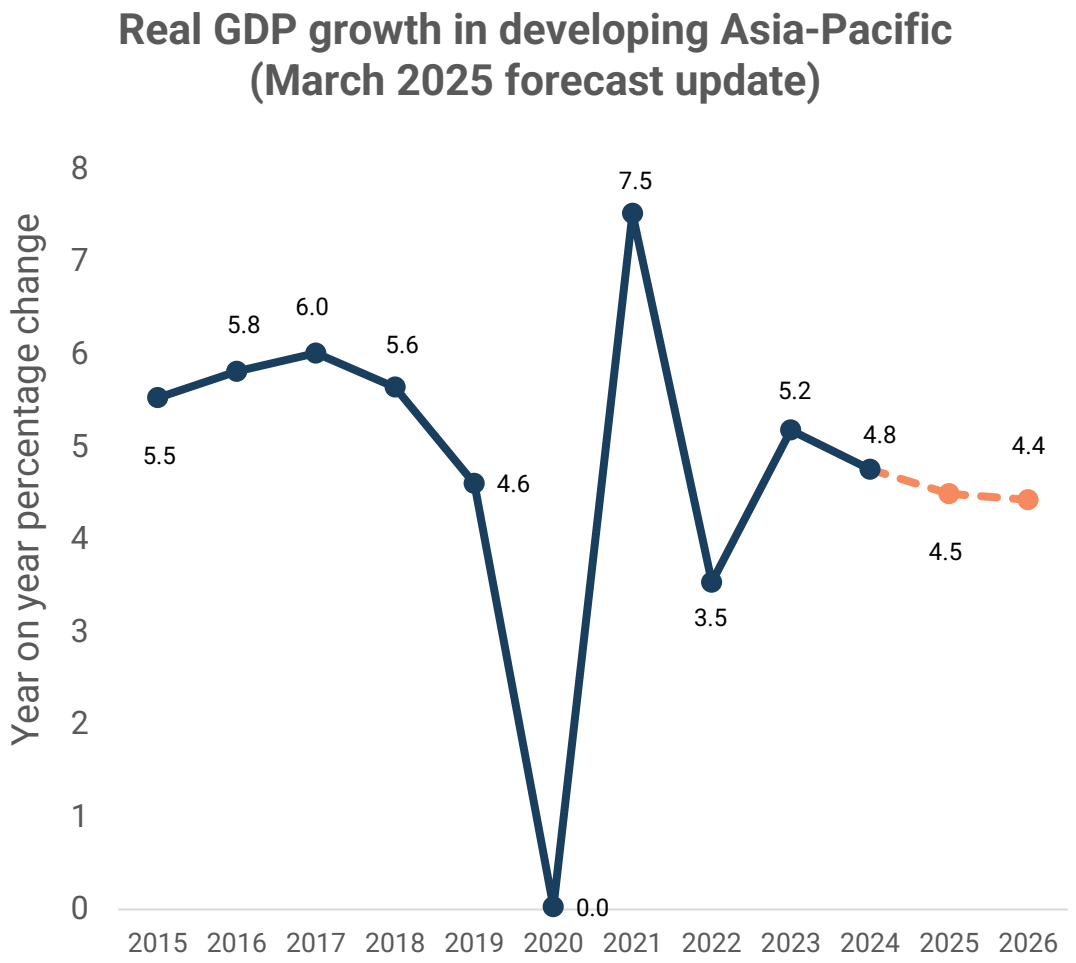
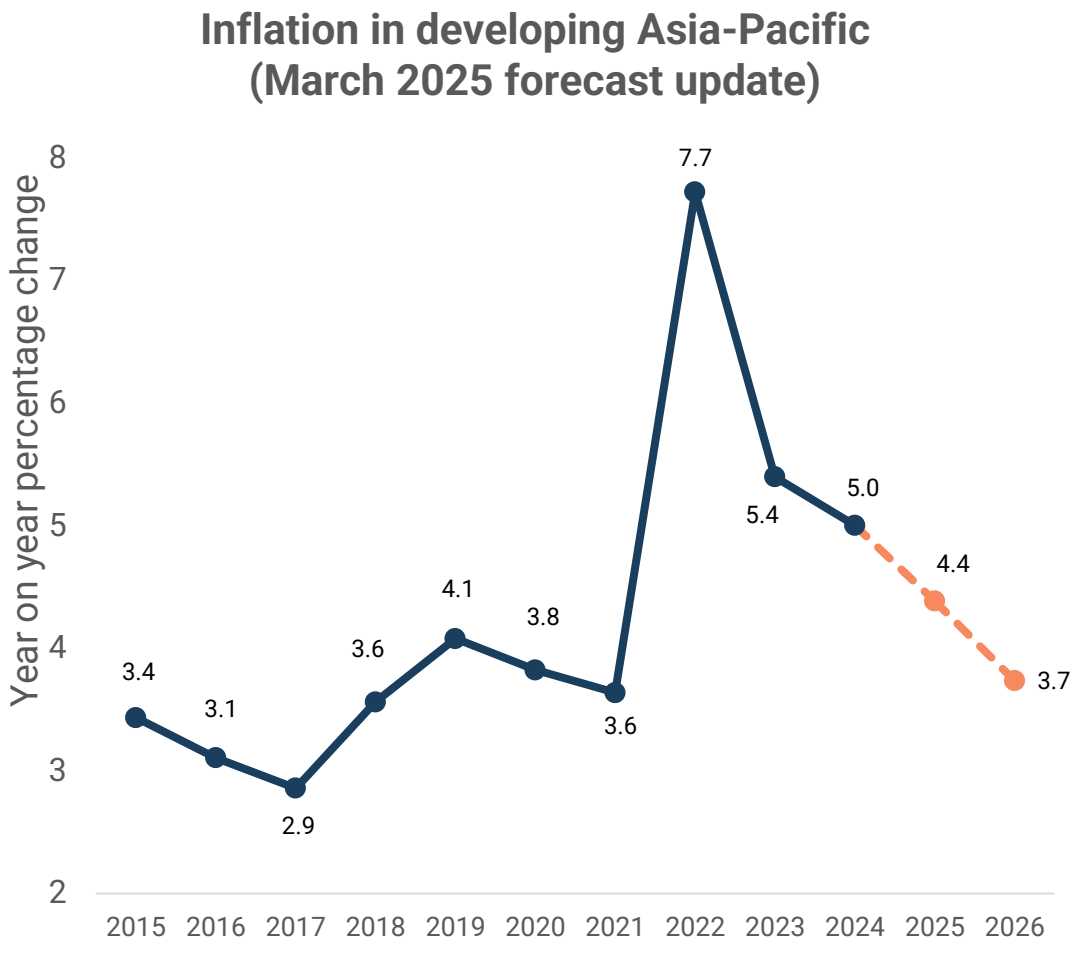
Macroeconomic Snapshot of the Region





Source: ESCAP (2025), 2025 Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific

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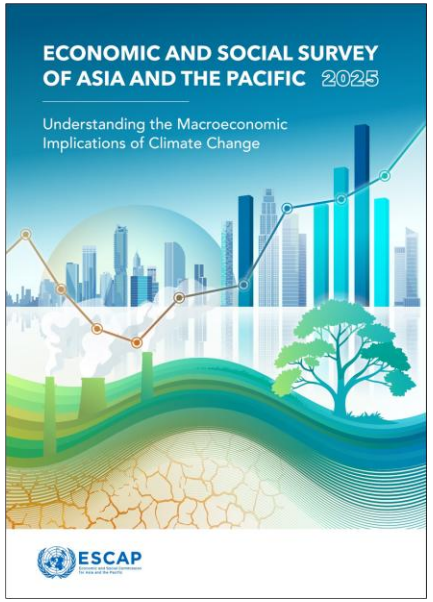
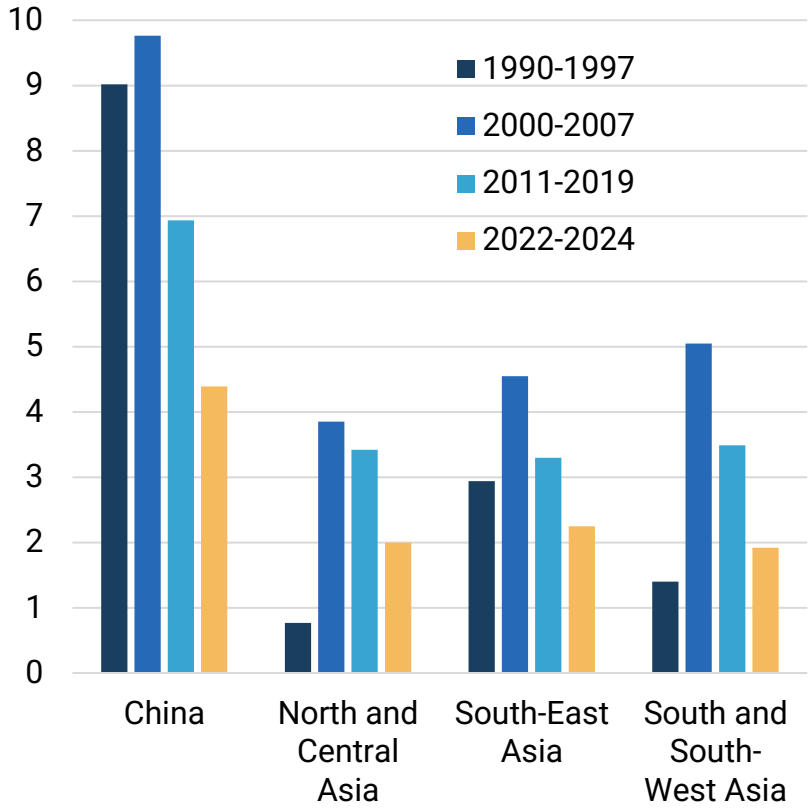
Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific



- Despite the relatively steady economic outlook, **rising global trade tensions and economic uncertainty** pose major headwinds for Asia-Pacific economies.
- A **deeper understanding** of the **complex macroeconomic-climate nexus** is needed by the fiscal and monetary authorities to manage risks.
- **Challenge:** *sustaining long-term economic growth*
  - Slower labor productivity growth and income convergence with developed economies
  - Increasingly hard to diversify into sectors with high value addition
- **Solutions:**
  - Prioritize productivity enhancement and sectoral upgrading
  - Embrace regional green value chains
  - Promote inclusive regionalism
- **Our work:**
  - Recurring chapter on macro assessments in *Quarterly Economic Update*
  - "Future of economic growth" chapter in *Survey* 2025

Labor productivity growth (percentage)



Source: 2025 Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

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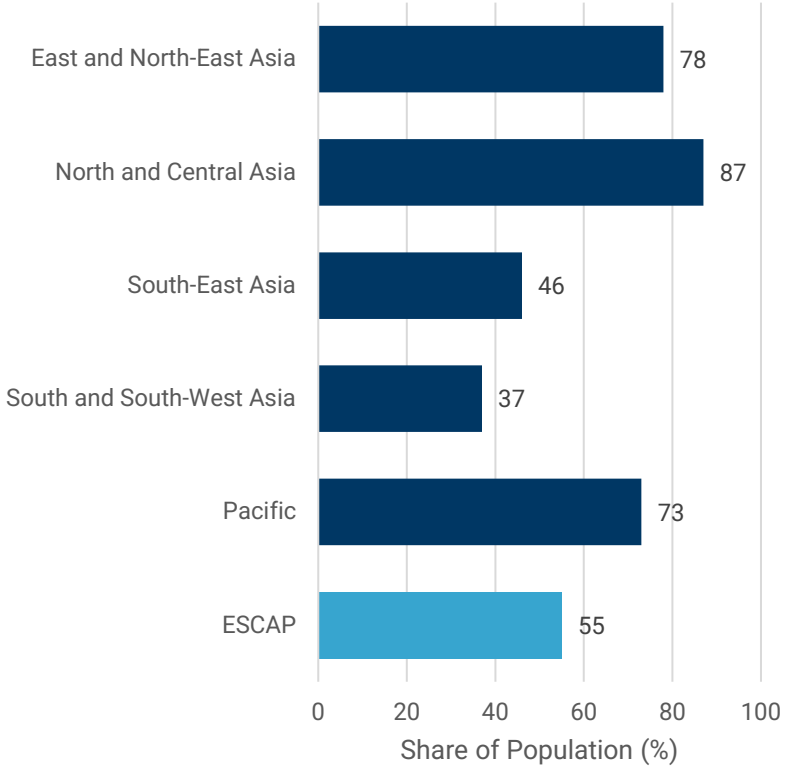
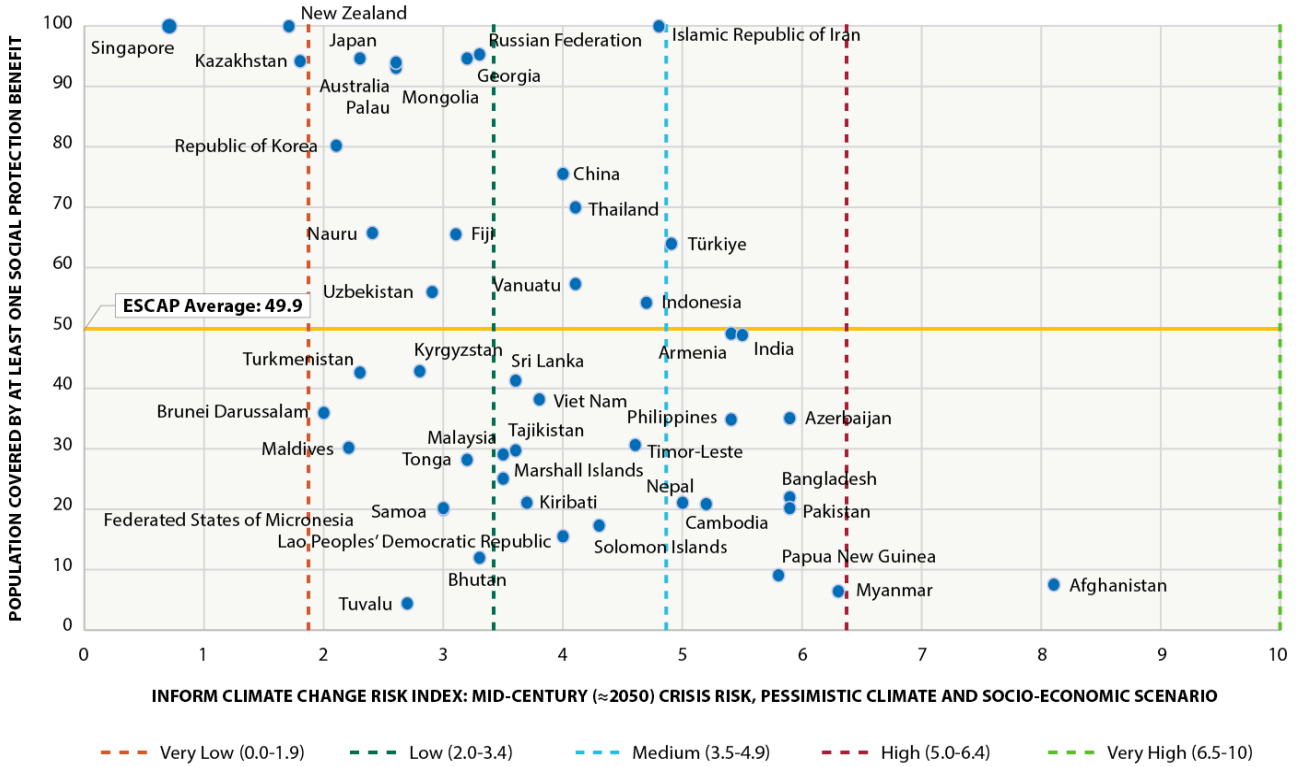
Social Development

Share of population covered by at least one social protection benefit (excluding healthcare), by subregion, latest available year



Share of population covered by at least one social protection benefit and the projected level of climate change induced risk by mid-century in a pessimistic climate and socioeconomic scenario



Source: ESCAP (2024), Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific 2024: Protecting Our Future Today

Environment and Development

Air Pollution

Working to implement the **Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution**, taking regional approaches to transboundary airsheds and developing partnerships

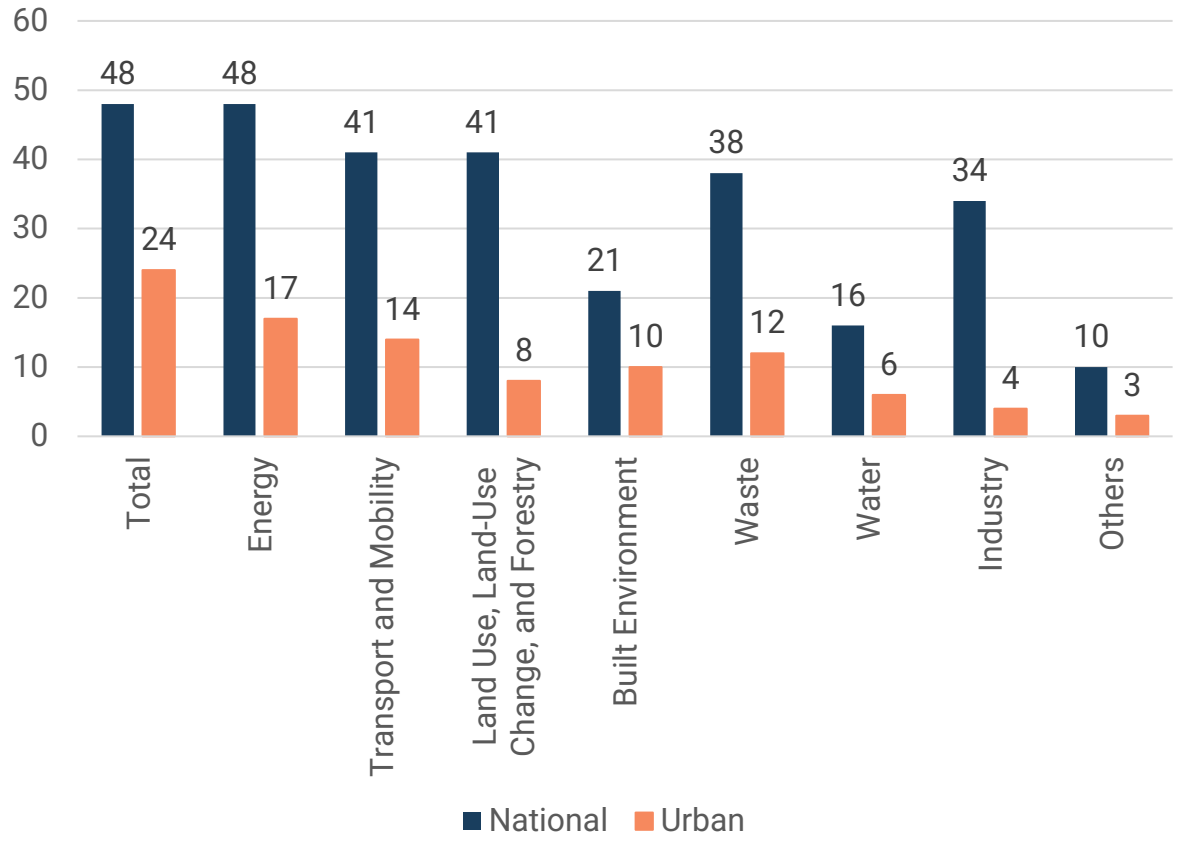
Oceans and Climate Change

Supporting the **regional voluntary initiative for Ocean-based Climate Actions,** including through blue carbon ecosystems

Sustainable Urban Development

Supporting the **localization of SDGs and climate commitments** at the city-level

Number of Nationally Determined Contributions with mitigation responses in Asia-Pacific (National vs Urban)



Source: ESCAP calculations based on global data from United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Sustainable Urbanization in the Paris Agreement: Comparative Review for Urban Content in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (Nairobi, 2017); UN-Habitat, Urban Climate Action: The Urban Content of the NDCs – Global Review 2022 (Nairobi, 2022); and UN-Habitat, Urban Content of NDCs: Local Climate Action Explored through In-Depth Country Analyses – 2024 Report

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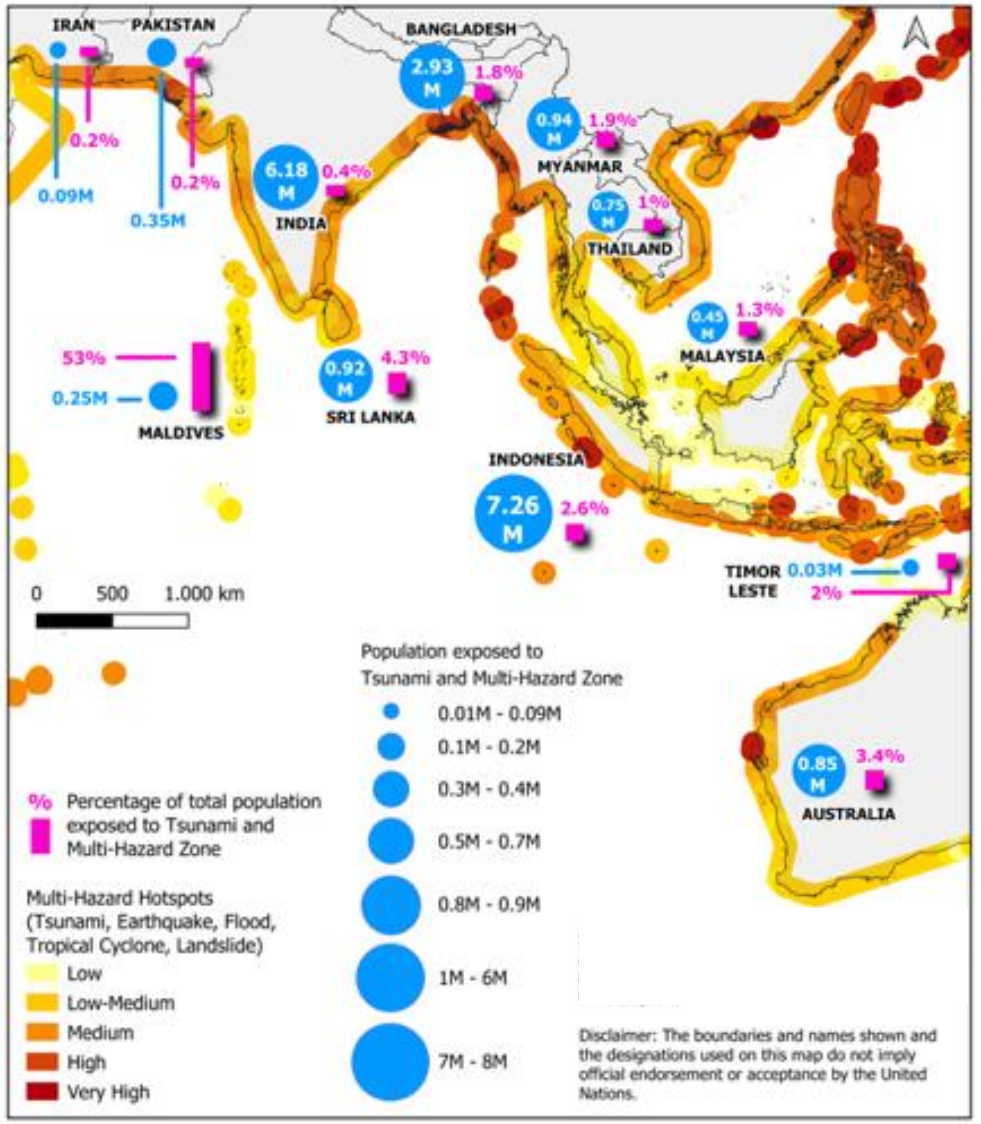
Disaster Risk Reduction

Multi-hazard early warning and **investments** in **mitigation** and **adaptation** are the way forward for a more resilient Asia-Pacific region





ESCAP's Role: ESCAP's resource mobilization, regional climate outlooks forums enhance regional cooperation supporting early warning for all in the region.

Source: ESCAP calculations based on Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) Risk Atlas, 2015; GIRI CDRI (2023); WorldPop 2020; UN Geospatial

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Energy

SDG 7 and Sustainable Energy Transition Roadmaps

Supporting national and sub-national governments to increase energy access, renewables and energy efficiency

Power Grid Connectivity

Working with member States toward a pan-Asian grid offering a more reliable, affordable, sustainable electricity supply.

Minerals

Supporting member States in building sustainable practices for material production, including the Critical Energy Transition Minerals Toolkit

Emerging Focus: Sustainable Cooling

Supporting the development and implementation of National Cooling Action Plans, National Cool Cities Action Plans and Building Energy Codes; prioritizing passive strategies in building and urban designs to reduce the need for energy-intensive mechanical cooling



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Transport

Regional Transport Connectivity

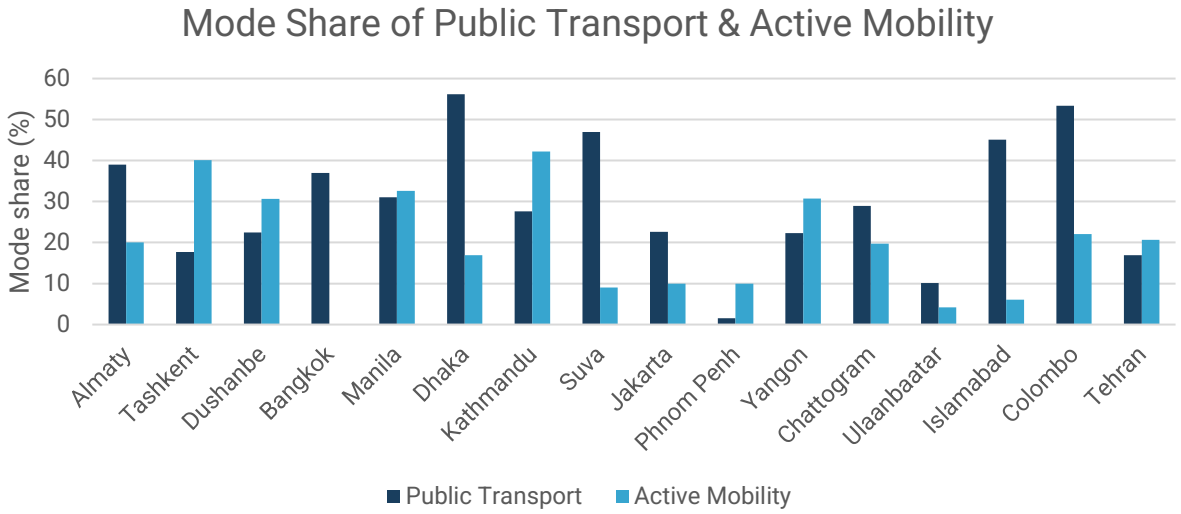
ESCAP has facilitated the development of the region's networks of highways, railways, and dry ports

Road Safety

Noting the high level of casualties among vulnerable road users, ESCAP supports the SAFE system approach in improving road safety in the region

Low Carbon Transport and Electric Mobility

Working with countries to realize and implement plans to lower emissions in the transport sector and supporting national policies on electric mobility



- Rapid urbanization, low accessibility and low mode share of public transport lead to growing transport emissions and rise in climate events. ESCAP has been supporting on SUTI assessments
- Rapid digitalization requires a regional response to take advantage of innovations in improving transport systems and operations

Source: ESCAP calculation based on sustainable urban transport (SUTI) index reports, most recent year available
SUTI is a framework of indicators to summarize, track and compare the performance of sustainable urban transport systems in cities. The index is based on ten indicators representing social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable urban transport.

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Trade Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation



Trade Facilitation

Supporting ESCAP members to adopting the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) and capacity building around trade policy using TINA



Enhancing Investment

Promoting inclusive and green investments in the region and supporting the development of investment action plans in the region



Sustainable Business

Continuing to draw in more signees of the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business and interacting with the private sector through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

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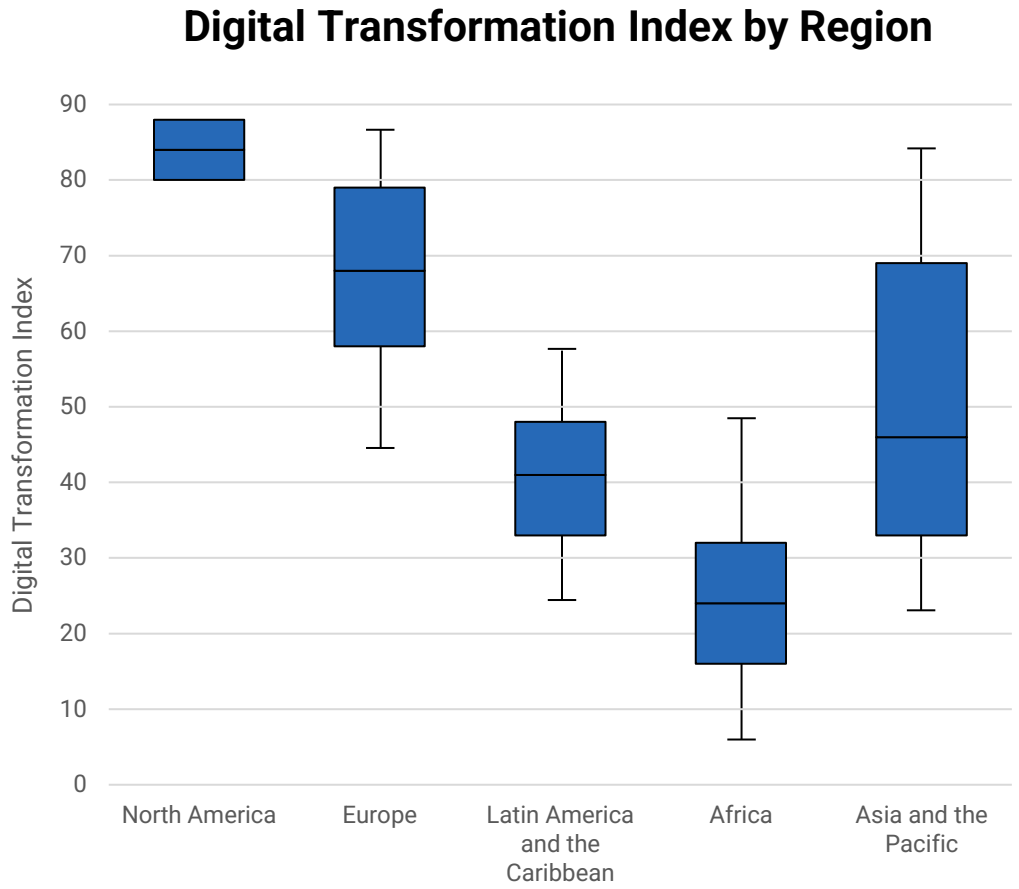
Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation

- Asia and the Pacific continues to show widest digital divide, increasing risks that digitalization will accelerate and deepen inequalities
- Tailored investments in AI supporting infrastructure, AI skills and regional sharing of digital solutions are key.
- Astana Ministerial Declaration is a visionary blueprint that mobilizes regional policy-making coordination and cooperation at the highest level
- Consequently, accelerated implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026 is a policy urgency



Source: Asia-Pacific digital transformation report 2022: shaping our digital future (United Nations publication, 2022)

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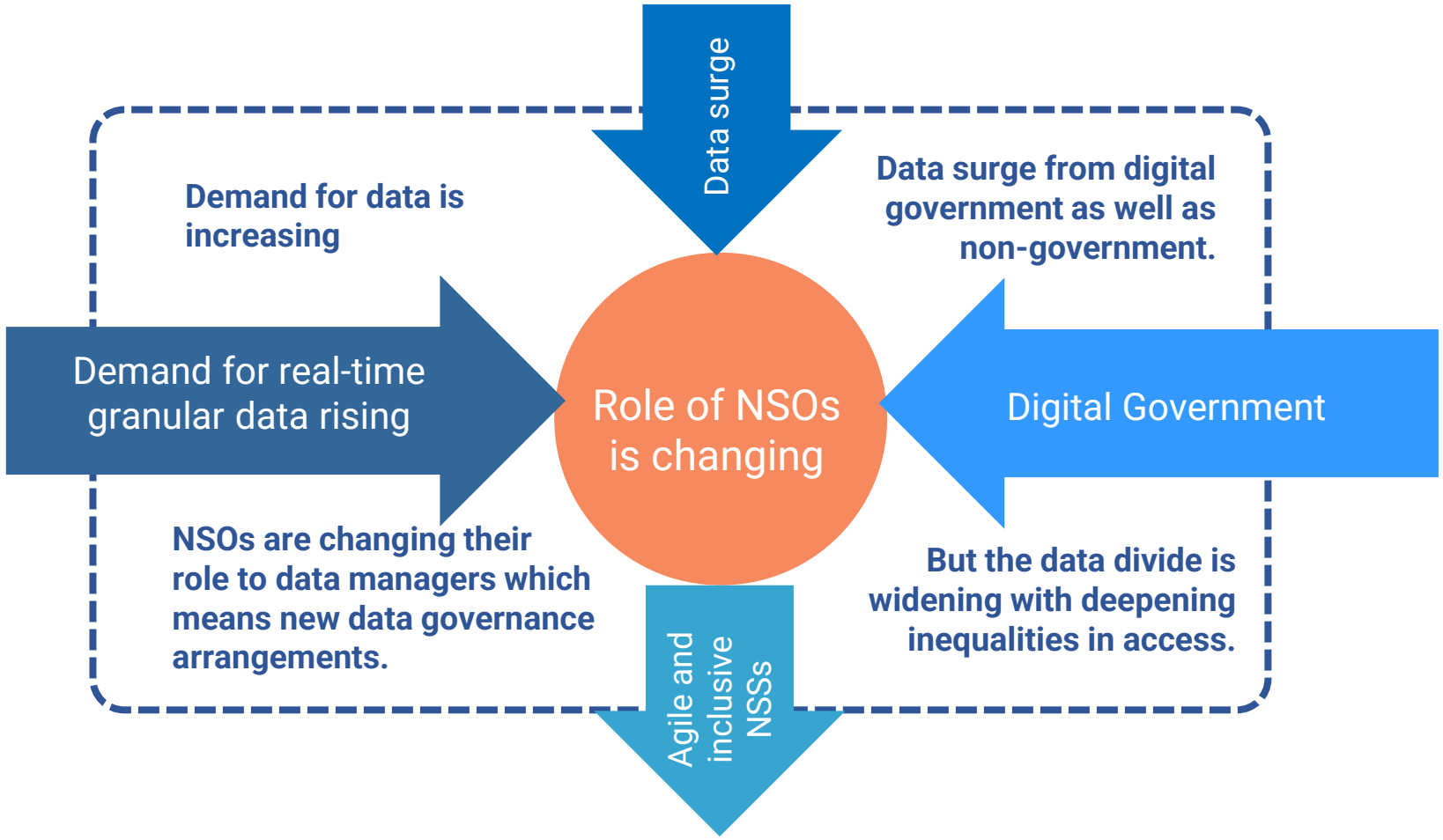
Statistics

- 9th session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics agreed to promote a **whole-of-society approach** to statistics for informed, transparent and inclusive decision-making.
- ESCAP will continue to support capacity building and peer learning for NSOs and work towards an inclusive approach in civil registration and vital statistics



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Support to Global Processes



Beijing Declaration and Plaform for Action: 30-year Review

- Hosted the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review, ahead of the global review at CSW69

UN Ocean Conference

- Organized Oceans Week 2024, as well as a Regional Dialogue on Ocean-Based Climate Action and SEA of Solutions 2024

4th International Conference on Financing for Development

- Hosted the High-Level Regional Consultation for the FfD Conference to prepare countries for discussions, focusing on key issues facing the region

2nd World Summit on Social Development

- Organized a multi-stakeholder dialogue to draw regional insights for the global conference on the sidelines of the 12th APFSD

COP 30 UN Climate Change Conference

- Continue to develop the Climate Ambition Review to inform climate advocacy

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