**Summary**

This paper summarizes voluntary national survey responses submitted by member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific. The responses were submitted in preparation for the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference. As of August 2023, 33 ESCAP member States had responded to the survey, focusing on achievements, challenges and lessons learned concerning the 11 priority actions identified in the Ministerial Declaration and the future needs that may result.

The paper is intended to inform deliberations during the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference to be held in Bangkok and online from 15 to 17 November 2023.

* ESCAP/APPC(7)/1.Rev.1.
** The present document is being issued without formal editing.
I. Introduction

1. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994, is the global guiding document on population and development. It calls for enhancing the quality of life and well-being of every individual, as well as promoting human development, focusing on the interrelationships between development policies and programmes, human rights, and economic and social development. In 2013, at the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, coinciding with the 20-year review and appraisal of the Programme of Action in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP member States adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. The Declaration identifies 11 priority actions and provides region-specific guidance on population and development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. At the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, ESCAP member States agreed that relevant national authorities should regularly monitor and evaluate progress towards implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its related follow-up outcomes, as well as the recommendations contained in the Ministerial Declaration. In response and to inform the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, ESCAP, supported by UNFPA, developed a voluntary national survey focusing on the 11 priority actions identified in the Ministerial Declaration. The survey was launched in Chinese, English and Russian in November 2022. The survey aimed to evaluate countries’ progress in all priority action areas, along with key achievements, challenges, lessons learned and future needs regarding implementation and monitoring. In addition, the survey contained broad questions about progress and achievements over the preceding 30 years.

3. This summary note assesses progress and challenges related to the 11 priority actions identified in the Ministerial Declaration:

   (a) Poverty eradication and employment
   (b) Health
   (c) Sexual and reproductive health
   (d) Education
   (e) Gender equality and women's empowerment
   (f) Adolescents and young people
   (g) Population ageing
   (h) International migration
   (i) Urbanization and internal migration
   (j) Population and sustainable development
   (k) Data and statistics

4. To complete the survey, some countries organized consultations with different government entities, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations. As of August 2023, 33 countries had carried out reviews and submitted survey responses, as listed in the table. In the majority of countries,
the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health took the lead in distributing and completing the surveys.¹

5. The 33 countries that took part represent about 58 per cent of the population in Asia and the Pacific, so the analysis of their responses, including identification of exemplary policies and initiatives, is not fully representative of the region. Responses used in the analysis of this paper are cited as “ESCAP 2022/23 Survey responses”; moreover, some countries were not able to provide answers to all questions.²

Countries that submitted voluntary national surveys, by Asia-Pacific subregion (November 2022–August 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>East and North-East Asia</th>
<th>South-East Asia</th>
<th>South and South-West Asia</th>
<th>North and Central Asia</th>
<th>Pacific</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democratic People’s Republic of Korea</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
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<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic</td>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>Kiribati</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Marshall Islands</td>
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<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>Micronesia (Federated States of)</td>
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<td>Viet Nam</td>
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<td>Nauru</td>
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¹ Based on the information provided in the surveys, where available, the following ministries took the lead in completing the surveys: Ministry of Planning and Finance (or equivalent) (Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Armenia, Australia, Cook Islands, Samoa, Micronesia (Federated States of), Russian Federation and Thailand); National Bureau of Statistics (or equivalent) (Bangladesh, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste); Ministry of Social Services (Niue); Ministry of Health and Welfare (Republic of Korea), Ministry of Health and Population (Nepal), National Health Commission (China); Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (Mongolia); National Population and Family Planning Board (Indonesia); Office of Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination (Bhutan); Commission on Population and Development (Philippines); National SDG Task Force (Samoa).

² If countries agreed, survey responses were posted on the meeting website at: www.unescap.org/events/2023/seventh-asian-and-pacific-population-conference. Survey responses submitted after the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference will still be uploaded on the meeting website.
II. Revisiting priority actions of the Ministerial Declaration

A. Poverty eradication and employment

6. In recent decades, both extreme and absolute poverty have declined in Asia and the Pacific, but disparities among countries persist. Women continue to be more likely to be engaged in informal and vulnerable work than men, and youth unemployment has persisted across subregions.

7. Eradicating poverty and creating full and productive employment and decent work for all remains high on the agenda of countries in Asia and the Pacific. A total of 31 of 32 countries reported having included measures to eradicate poverty and strengthen employment and decent work for all in national development strategies since adopting the 2013 Ministerial Declaration. Moreover, 29 of 32 countries reported having amended or improved their legislation, programmes and plans for addressing poverty and employment. Of 28 respondents on the issues in question, 57 per cent reported having introduced and/or improved social protection mechanisms, 46 per cent reported poverty reduction and alleviation programmes, 39 per cent reported job creation, and 29 per cent reported creating skills development programmes.

8. Some countries noted major achievements in poverty eradication over recent years, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. Among the reasons given for the reductions in poverty were land reforms and support for family businesses; increased access to services, including education, water and sanitation; infrastructure investments, including through public-private partnerships and opening countries to foreign direct investment; strengthened microfinance and entrepreneurships, including those of women and providing them access to markets; and investments in skills, employment and decent work.

9. In some countries, including China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Pakistan and Viet Nam, grassroots poverty alleviation was emphasized. Countries reported support to infrastructure investments and special funding schemes in underserved villages and remote areas, and the recruitment of government officials and youth from outside those areas to enhance capacity for implementing projects that lift people out of poor living conditions.

10. Countries also reported having invested more in social protection programmes targeting different geographic areas and different subpopulations, such as older persons, caregivers, children, youth, persons with disabilities or women and girls. Such programmes provided support in the form of subsidies, cash payments and overall social assistance. Some countries reported making innovations to existing services, including in Armenia, which established the “Unified Social Service” under the Ministry of Labor and Social Services in

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<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
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2021. The new entity combined the provision of four types of social protection services: social security (the payment of pensions), social support (benefits and various other services), assessment of function, and the implementation of active employment programmes.

11. Some countries had enshrined in law and policy the rights of people to adequate food and housing, decent work, relevant and quality education, and the highest attainable standards of health. In the Philippines, for example, the Magna Carta of the Poor was signed into law in 2019, requiring the Filipino Government to establish a system and creating the conditions and opportunities for poor people to fully enjoy their rights.\(^3\) In the Cook Islands, in addition to offering certain social protection programmes, the country adopted the Family Protection Support Act, in 2017, to ensure that families and children were protected when families were in turmoil due to separation of partners, divorce, or violence.\(^4\) By reducing domestic violence in households and protecting victims, the Act also permitted people, especially women, to seek work outside the home.

12. Thirty-one countries reported that the top 5 obstacles to eradicating poverty and creating decent work for all were (a) lack of financial resources; (b) lack of human resources; (c) insufficient capacity to develop and implement programmes; (d) long-term effects of COVID-19 and of other disasters; and (e) lack of data (figure I). Some countries, such as the Cook Islands and Fiji, reported that such obstacles exacerbated each other. For example, due to COVID-19 and other natural disasters, funds had been diverted away from addressing poverty and creating decent work for all.

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Figure I
Key challenges in eradicating poverty and achieving employment and decent work for all since 2013 (n=31)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of overall political support</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>51.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of international support</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>51.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of development partner coordination</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of cross-ministerial coordination</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>43.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bottom-up approach not followed</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>41.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of public awareness and understanding</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>37.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of data, particularly disaggregated data</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of human resources</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of financial resources</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ESCAP 2022/23 Survey responses.

13. Looking ahead, 30 countries said that for eradicating poverty and creating decent work for all in the future, they needed (a) data for monitoring and planning; (b) capacity-building for data collection and analysis; (c) resource mobilization; (d) advocacy and awareness raising; and (e) creation of public-private partnerships.

B. Health

14. In recent decades, the population of Asia and the Pacific has made substantial gains in the domain of health, as reflected by some health-related indicators. Universal health coverage is fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It is related not just to enhancing health and well-being, but also to eradicating poverty, ensuring quality education, reducing inequalities, providing decent work and economic growth, and ensuring peaceful and inclusive societies. Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that good health and well-being cannot be taken for granted, and investments in universal health coverage are needed to maintain and build upon recent gains.

15. A total of 31 countries reported having prioritized health in their national development strategies, while 24 countries reported having amended or improved existing legislation on health since adopting the Ministerial Declaration in 2013. As for key achievements in the area of health over the previous 10 years, of the 29 countries reporting on this: 66 per cent noted

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5 ESCAP/APPC(7)(2) and ESCAP/APPC/INF/4.
having implemented targeted disease eradication; 62 per cent noted reductions in infant and maternal mortality, and fertility, as well as increased life expectancy; and 52 per cent noted improvements in capacity of health-care providers and health infrastructure.

16. Experiences regarding key achievements, however, varied according to subregion (figure II). For example, all respondents from East and North-East Asia reported achievements in healthcare capacity and infrastructure, while only 14.3 per cent of respondents from South-East Asia recognized any achievements in this area.

Figure II
**Key achievements in the area of health since 2013, by subregion (n=29)**

17. COVID-19 has caused many premature deaths, predominantly among older persons,\(^7\) and it has had devastating effects on mental health and general well-being. In Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Russian Federation, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Viet Nam, for example, health service provisions for non-COVID-19 related needs were diverted or stalled due to COVID-19. Furthermore, in several countries, such as Sri Lanka, the provision of sexual and reproductive health services and targeted community health-care programmes were delayed or temporarily abolished.

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18. Despite these challenges, COVID-19 has also had the effect of fast-tracking health agendas and providing lessons learned and best practices. The Government of Viet Nam, for example, developed digital platforms to monitor COVID-19 cases and vaccination rates that are still used today. During the peak periods of COVID-19, cross-sectoral task forces were established in Indonesia, Nauru and Sri Lanka to connect experts in areas of health and disease with experts in other sectors, such as social protection, gender-based violence, and education. These task forces are still operating, and the telehealth systems are still in use.

19. Innovations and digital solutions in health were reported by many countries, such as Cambodia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines, Russian Federation and Samoa. Positive outcomes were reported with regard to providing health-related information online, including through social media, offering telehealth consultations and interventions, and collecting health-related information through health information management systems.

20. Several countries reported having strengthened decentralized health services including Bangladesh, China, the Cook Islands, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Maldives, the Philippines and Thailand. This included government officers being deployed to community hospitals and small hospitals in remote and rural areas. Some countries, such as Fiji and the Philippines, also reported on the negative effects of a “brain drain” of health workers on national health systems.

21. There was also progress regarding national health insurance schemes, such as those offered in Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which featured low co-payments for non-insured citizens and exemptions for the poor, mothers and children under five. Other examples of national health insurance programmes were reported by China, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

22. The top five challenges in health reported by 31 countries included (a) lack of human resources; (b) lack of financial resources; (c) lack of data; (d) long-term effects of COVID-19 and other disasters; and (e) lack of public awareness and understanding related to health. Advocacy and awareness raising were identified as pressing needs by 97 per cent of countries.

C. Sexual and reproductive health, services and rights

23. Fertility rates have decreased across the region, in some countries more than others. Although this can be partially attributed to increased access to family planning, in some countries there are persistent unmet needs for contraception, especially among unmarried youth, women and persons in vulnerable situations, sometimes due to restrictive national laws.

24. Several countries noted that access to family planning was found to have contributed to the decline in maternal mortality, as did a general increase in the number of deliveries performed by skilled providers in the region.

25. About 87 per cent of 32 countries that responded to the survey reported including sexual and reproductive health in their national development strategies. All respondents from East and North-East Asia and South-East Asia

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had included this topic in their national development strategies since the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration in 2013. About 75 per cent of countries reported having improved and/or amended their policies in this priority area, with countries in South and South-West Asia, North and Central Asia and the Pacific less inclined to do so (figures III).

Figure III
Amendments and improvements in national legislation regarding sexual and reproductive health, services and rights since 2013, by subregion (n=32)

Source: ESCAP 2022/23 Survey responses.

26. The top challenge in implementing the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health, services and rights was a lack of public awareness and understanding, followed by a lack of human resources and data. When asked to select future needs for policy implementation, 97 per cent of all 31 respondents in this domain selected advocacy and awareness raising, followed by resource mobilization and data for monitoring and planning.

27. One possible explanation for the lack of public awareness could be the prevailing societal standards and stigma experienced in the region regarding this topic. Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam all listed cultural and religious beliefs as factors influencing reproductive health policy.

28. Education and awareness raising on this topic was reported as having been implemented in several countries. For example, as part of its campaign for improved youth awareness, Indonesia, had provided reproductive health education to children and adolescents through formal school channels and informal channels outside of school. Collaboration between the Ministries of Health and Education and Culture and UNFPA resulted in the Better Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for All Indonesia Programme. The initiative
advocated for better health education competency in schools and provided teacher training across nine cities from seven provinces.\(^9\)

29. The Russian Federation had launched a subregion-wide reproductive health project to improve medical literacy. To understand norms surrounding reproductive health, the project evaluated attitudes toward reproduction among citizens of different age groups, as well as the general state of reproductive health. In Timor-Leste, the topic of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights had been integrated into the Ministry of Education’s national curriculum, and in Samoa, the topic of comprehensive sexuality education had been included in the education curriculum. China had carried out pilot projects on “Sexual and Reproductive Health for Key Populations” to improve the capacity of grass-roots sexual and reproductive health services and had promoted sexual and reproductive health education, with a particular focus on women of childbearing age and adolescents in underdeveloped regions with ethnic minorities.

30. Technology and innovation had also improved services in this priority area. Cambodia, for example, had introduced an e-learning course on sexual reproductive health and rights under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and in partnership with the Cambodia Midwives Association and other partners in 2022, and many health-care professionals had already taken the course.

D. Education

31. Significant progress has been achieved in education, with most countries having achieved universal primary school enrolment. However, access to education by income level, urban/rural residence, gender and disability status continues to vary considerably. Moreover, digital divides among groups in vulnerable situations can limit access to quality education. In many countries, lifelong learning, reskilling and upskilling and vocational training are relatively recent developments.

32. A total of 29 out of 33 countries had recognized the importance of education in national development strategies. Since 2013, 22 countries had amended or improved legislation and policies on education. Bangladesh, China, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, for example, had taken account of the educational needs of persons with disabilities. In Mongolia, for instance, the “Education, Health, and Social Protection Branch Commission for Children with Disabilities” had been established to address developmental issues of children with disabilities. In 2022, the Government of Mongolia developed the “Guidelines for Inclusive Education”, to ensure that schools address the special needs of youth, in particular those with disabilities or in remote areas, as well as migrant children, persons with diverse gender identities, and victims of abuse.

33. Curricula had been broadened over time, by, for example, including the following topics: climate change and environmental disasters (Bangladesh, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu); health and nutrition (Indonesia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Sri Lanka) and mental health (China); HIV, abuse and gender (Viet Nam); gender (Solomon Islands); comprehensive sexuality education (Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Niue, the Philippines, Samoa); global

citizenship (Bangladesh and Bhutan); technology (Bangladesh, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Russian Federation, Solomon Islands).

34. In the Philippines, education had been integrated into poverty reduction strategies. One criterion of the country’s conditional cash transfer programme (“Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program”) required that children attend school and complete primary level education.

35. Countries identified the lack of qualified teachers and professors as a major challenge in education, in part due to low teacher salaries. There was also a lack of teachers in remote areas. The Maldives, Niue and Vanuatu had experienced high turnover rates in the education sector. In some small island developing states, such as Tuvalu, schools were often used as evacuation centers in times of climate-related disaster – resulting in classes being suspended for long periods of time. Countries also mentioned lack of financial resources and the negative impact of COVID-19 on educational achievements.

Figure IV
Key challenges in providing education since 2013 (n=31)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of overall political support</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>77.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of international support</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>61.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bottom-up approach not followed</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>54.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of development partner coordination</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>48.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of public awareness and understanding</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of cross-ministerial coordination</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of data, particularly disaggregated data</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of financial resources</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of human resources</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>9.7</td>
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</table>

Source: ESCAP 2022/23 Survey responses.

36. A number of countries acknowledged transitioning to online education on a regular basis. China reported having launched the “National Smart Education Platform”, in 2022, to encourage the use of digital technologies at all educational levels: basic education, vocational education and higher education. It was noted that the platform consolidated different learning resources and provided “one-stop” education-related services for teachers, learners and families. It also monitors online user activities to gather data, track feedback, and better customize resources. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea reported having introduced online education in science and technology in 2016, and Kiribati reported using e-learning since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Maldives reported distributing tablets and providing internet access in schools. Fiji reported introducing the “Fiji Education Management Information System”, including personal data on
students and information on schools to allow administrators to keep track of student progress and the status of schools, with the personal details available in emergencies to provide targeted support.

E. Gender equality and women’s empowerment

37. Achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment remains a major challenge for many countries in the region. Moreover, there are significant data gaps that make it difficult to gauge progress in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is hindering evidence-based policymaking. Yet, many countries reported having championed gender equality and women’s empowerment. All of the 31 countries that answered this question, 93 per cent had included gender considerations in their national development strategies, and 28 countries had amended existing laws and programmes to make them more gender inclusive.

38. For example, Fiji had launched the Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development Programme in 2021, intended to advance technical knowledge, resources, and understanding of gender mainstreaming into national and subnational policies, programmes, budgets and reports. The National Gender Equality Action Plan (2022–2026) of the Maldives, comprised of 5 main goals had been launched in 2022. A high-level steering committee had been established in 2023 to oversee the implementation of the action plan.

39. Many countries reported that female labour force participation was lower than that of males. COVID-19 had both worsened labour market conditions for women and stalled the implementation of programmes and initiatives to advance women’s rights in general. As a good practice, Armenia and UNDP had launched “Accelerator 5”, a programme to empower women and children in using technology in school and in the workplace and for developing their own startup projects. As part of this programme, weekly workshops/trainings were organized and mentorship sessions were offered with field experts, as well as targeted events and meetups. Women-led businesses were supported in digital transformation, market positioning and increasing sales.

40. Climate change has a particularly negative effect on women and girls. During disasters, women and girls are more likely to have limited access to health services and experience violence; their already unequal access to basic services is also exacerbated during disasters. Some countries had already incorporated mechanisms in their national development strategies to reduce the social and economic costs women might incur as a result of climate change. For example, Cambodia’s National Strategic Development Plan 2019–2023 and National Action Plan on Violence Against Women 2019–2023 both incorporated climate change concerns. Resilience amidst climate change served as one of the targets of Lao People’s Democratic Republic’s 4 to 5 Year National Plan of Action on Gender Equality (2021–2025). One of the three thematic themes of Fiji’s Women’s Plan of Action was disaster risk reduction.

41. There continued to be insufficient gender-disaggregated data for policy design and analysis, an observation supported by the ESCAP SDG progress report for 2023,10 noting significant data gaps in Sustainable Development Goal 5 across the region. Lack of gender-disaggregated data was identified as

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10 ESCAP, Asia and the Pacific SDG progress report 2023: Championing sustainability despite adversities. (Bangkok, 2023).
a significant challenge. In their survey responses, countries indicated that capacity-building in data collection and analysis was of utmost importance.

42. In summary, member States reported the need for disaggregated data, capacity-building, public-private partnerships, and resource mobilization as priorities for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment.

F. Adolescents and young people

43. Young people aged 15–24 currently constitute about 15 per cent of the population in Asia and the Pacific. By 2050, that share is projected to decline to 11 per cent. However, at the national level, countries in the region display significant diversity, with some countries still showing large and growing numbers and shares of youth in their populations.

44. A total of 26 out of 28 countries reported having included policies on adolescents and young people in their national development strategies or other development plans. Moreover, 24 out of 28 countries reported having made amendments to legislation since adopting the 2013 Ministerial Declaration.

45. Countries reported that young people still faced significant challenges, particularly those related to quality education and finding decent work at the start of their careers. Also, the region’s major enrollment gains in primary, secondary and tertiary level education had not always translated into employment security.

46. Because youth unemployment rates have generally been higher than those of adults, a number of the countries surveyed, specifically Armenia, Bhutan, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao's People Democratic Republic, Maldives, Pakistan, Thailand, Tuvalu and Viet Nam had integrated training and skill development into their education curricula. Pakistan had launched initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme, the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, and Startup Punjab, to provide vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and job placement services for young people. Another notable example of skills training was Mongolia’s Hub Innovation Center, which had taught code-writing and digital literacy skills to young people.

47. Several countries reported incorporating youth participation at various levels of the decision-making process since 2013. Good practices were noted by China, Mongolia, the Philippines and Thailand, where local youth councils had coordinated and implemented programmes for and with youth. Vanuatu had provided funding to its National Youth Authority, a forum for discussing youth needs, issues and aspirations. Many governments had also embraced civil society organizations as active advocates for the needs and rights of youths, including Kiribati, Mongolia, Pakistan and Vanuatu. Furthermore, law enforcement in Bhutan and Maldives had partnered with youth in addressing concerns like drug use.

48. Another important youth-related matter is access to sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents. Countries reported varying degrees of declines in pregnancy among adolescents as a result of integrating sexual and reproductive health, rights and services into their policies on youth. While some countries, such as the Philippines, had use social media to raise awareness on these issues, others, namely Kiribati and Timor-Leste, reported coordinating on these issues with schools, churches and youth development centres.
49. China and Viet Nam had implemented strategies related to youth development statistical monitoring systems and a youth development index to monitor and regularly report on the situation of young people. The information had been then shared with relevant ministries, government offices, sectors and localities to enhance youth development at all levels.

50. Countries reported that the top three challenges to implementing priority actions for adolescents and young people were: 1. lack of financial resources, 2. lack of disaggregated data, and 3. lack of human resources (figure V). Regarding lack of financial resources, multiple countries stated that they needed comprehensive budget strategies and more transparent reporting on youth-related activities in programme plans, monitoring frameworks and budgets. Some countries noted that qualified counsellors were needed to work with young people on sensitive topics.

Figure V
Key challenges in implementing priority actions related to adolescents and youth since 2013 (n=27)\(^{11}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Always (%)</th>
<th>Sometimes (%)</th>
<th>Never (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of overall political support</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of development partner coordination</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bottom-up approach not followed</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>59.3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of international support</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of public awareness and understanding</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of cross-ministerial coordination</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of human resources</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of data, particularly disaggregated data</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of financial resources</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of countries

\(^{11}\) Categories are arranged from least to most challenging, based on the overall tally of countries responding “always”, “sometimes”, and “never”.

G. Ageing

51. The region’s population has been ageing due to declining fertility and rising longevity. Compared to other regions in the world, population ageing in Asia and the Pacific is particularly rapid, giving countries little time to develop relevant policies, programmes, and action plans.
52. A total of 28 out of 31 countries reported having integrated population ageing in national development strategies. Meanwhile, only 23 out of 31 countries had amended or improved legislation on ageing since adopting the Ministerial Declaration in 2013.

53. All 31 countries reported that the well-being of older persons was a government priority. Social protection systems, including welfare and pension programmes and healthy ageing initiatives had been revised and updated in recent years. China, for example, had developed a national basic pension for urban and rural residents and had also piloted several projects on long-term care insurance.

54. Many countries also stressed the importance of providing enabling environments for older persons. Some had renovated existing residential homes for older persons or built new ones, as in Armenia, Maldives, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, while others, such as the Philippines, reported on joining the network of age-friendly cities. Countries also reported on local initiatives to support ageing-in-place. For example, in Indonesia, community groups had been delivering food to older persons who lived alone and/or away from their families. In China, day care centers for older persons had been built, and as part of the Action Plan “Active Longevity”, Kazakhstan had established active longevity centres which offered computer training, language courses, legal and psychological consultations and cultural activities for older persons.

55. Other countries had invested in strengthening the participation and independence of older persons. In 2016, for instance, the Government of Viet Nam, building on the initial idea of HelpAge Viet Nam and national partners, rolled out a national strategy for self-help clubs to improve the quality of life of older persons by promoting healthy lifestyles and providing homecare services and financial support. These clubs have since been well established in many parts of the country and have proven particularly valuable for older persons at risk of being left behind.

56. There has also been progress in integrating aged care into primary care, such as in Australia, where general practitioners are awarded additional payments for providing special services to older persons. Australia, moreover, introduced the Code of Conduct for Aged Care in 2022, which improves aged care service by instituting minimum standards of behaviour for providers.

57. Some countries reported recognizing the knowledge and experience that older workers could transmit to younger people. Consequently, some had taken measures to increase workforce participation of older persons, by eliminating ageism in employment. Mongolia’s Elderly Employment Support Programme was reported to achieve this through data collection, mentorship services and intergenerational connections. However, in many countries of the region, ageism and age-discrimination persist, at home, in the workplace, and in public life.

58. Regarding major challenges for implementing actions related to population ageing in the Ministerial Declaration, countries reported that a lack of human resources was by far the biggest challenge. Attention to older persons’ needs was still inadequate in health care, reskilling and training, and housing, and there was a high turnover among caregivers. The second biggest challenge was a lack of financial resources. Countries also identified a lack of data, specifically age-disaggregated data and data analysis, as affecting the implementation and monitoring of policies on ageing.
H. International migration

59. Countries in Asia and the Pacific are countries of origin, destination and transit of international migrants. Most international migrants move to other countries within the region, with South and South-West Asia and North and Central Asia hosting the largest number of foreign born in Asia and the Pacific.

60. About 66 per cent of 32 countries reported including international migration considerations in their national development strategies or other development plans, and 78 per cent reported having amended or improved legislation regarding international migration. Some of these initiatives had been also motivated by the Global Compact for Migration, which the majority of countries in Asia and the Pacific had adopted.

61. Since 2013, a number of countries had re-organized their work on migration. The Philippines, for example, reported on having consolidated all migration-related work under the Department of Migrant Workers, founded in 2022. In China, the National Immigration Administration had been established in 2018. It oversaw all immigration management, including entry and exit of Chinese citizens, issues related to foreigners studying or working in China and undocumented migration.

62. Countries reported on various initiatives to protect the rights of migrants and their families. For example, Bangladesh had introduced mandatory insurance coverage for Bangladeshi migrant workers. Pre-deployment training was recognized as needed to ensure safe and regular pathways for migrant workers, and Cambodia, Nauru and Sri Lanka reported on such training for people who planned to work in other countries. Labour attaches had also been appointed and posted to embassies and consular offices of Cambodia in all main countries of destination.

63. In recent years, twelve countries had addressed human trafficking and migrant smuggling by enacting laws and the establishment of specialized bodies. Examples include Mongolia’s Anti-Trafficking Sub-Council and Indonesia’s Law No. 21/2007 on the Eradication of Human Trafficking, or Viet Nam signing the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in 2015 or acceding to ILO Convention No. 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labor in 2020. Australia had developed a five-year National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020–2025.

64. Several countries noted that bilateral memoranda of understanding on migration or temporary/seasonal worker programmes had been an effective means of managing labour migration. For instance, in South-East Asia, the Philippines reported on having partnered, for example, with Bahrain on the issuance of flexible visas. Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam had comparable agreements to facilitate migration. In North and Central Asia, the Russian Federation had also signed numerous memoranda of understanding with other countries in the subregion, such as Armenia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In the Pacific, Vanuatu, for example, had signed seasonal worker schemes with Australia and New Zealand.

65. Several countries reported having enacted policies to aid migrants during COVID-19. China had extended the residence period for all foreigners and had issued multilingual guidelines on its exit and entry regulations. Maldives had ensured that migrant workers could access the same services as locals, including vaccination and relief assistance.
66. Capacity-building to collect, analyse and disseminate data on migrants was considered by many countries to be the main priority in terms of guiding policymaking. To this end, several countries in the Pacific and in other parts of Asia and the Pacific, including Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam, had implemented a technology-based border management system (ASYCUDA Passenger Processing Module (ASYPX)), to improve their data collection systems. Kiribati, Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu were looking toward this system to be implemented in their countries in the foreseeable future. Other countries, such as Armenia and Nepal, were developing other systems to digitalize admission documents of migrants and asylum seekers.

I. Urbanization and internal migration

67. Asia and the Pacific is highly urbanized. The number of urban residents and their overall share of the total population is increasing rapidly. Reporting on progress since 2013, 92 per cent of countries indicated that issues pertaining to urbanization and internal migration had been included in national development strategies, and 75 per cent of countries (24 countries in total) had amended and improved existing legislation.

68. Countries reported that new urban planning laws had been introduced and improved urban living standards had been established. The number of public transportation projects had expanded. For example, in Mongolia, public transportation had improved, through more spacious and accessible vehicles, and an upgraded road infrastructure network. Maldives reported having created an efficient transport network across the nation. The Cook Islands and Pakistan had improved water systems and sanitation. Roads, agricultural developments, schools, health centres, waste management systems, and sewage systems, among other infrastructure, were reportedly being built in Bhutan and Cambodia.

69. To withstand the effects of earthquakes, cyclones and climate change, climate-resilient infrastructure had been developed throughout the region. Some 8 countries reported on having incorporated climate change considerations into national development strategies, and 7 countries had made climate-related improvements and amendments to policies on urbanization. Tuvalu, for example, had been implementing a National Strategy for Sustainable Development which involved making current structures disaster-proof. Countries also reported having developed policies to conserve natural resources and green spaces within cities and to promote sustainable land and coastal planning.

70. Regarding rural to urban migration, some countries reported reducing the disparities in services and resources between urban and rural areas that had been exacerbated by people moving to cities. Countries noted working towards increasing access to services and increasing connectivity in rural areas. The 12th Five-Year Plan of Bhutan, for example, included objectives to improve rural infrastructure, such as roads, agriculture, schools and health centres. Samoa and Solomon Islands had been working to decentralize retail and wholesale businesses and services to make them available throughout the country instead of in urban areas alone. Pakistan and Nepal had pursued affordable housing options and slum upgrading to accommodate the growing urban population and improve the quality of urban life.

71. Countries identified the key challenges related to urbanization and migration, as being the impacts of COVID-19 and other disasters, the lack of financial and human resources, and the lack of data. Countries, such as Maldives, Marshall Islands, Nepal and Thailand, highlighted a lack of cohesion between local and national governments in overcoming the urban and rural divide as hindering access to services and improvements in connectivity. Moving forward, countries emphasized data, capacity-building, and engagement with non-governmental organizations as top priorities.

J. Population and sustainable development

72. The links between population and sustainable development are a major consideration for countries in the region. These links are of particular importance given that Asia and the Pacific is the world’s most climate change and disaster-prone region. Moreover, its people are highly dependent on natural resources and agriculture and often live in densely populated coastal areas.

73. Since adopting the Ministerial Declaration, all countries reported including population and sustainable development considerations in national development strategies or other development plans. About 63 per cent of countries (or 27 countries in total) had amended or improved existing legislation or adopted new policies or action plans on population and sustainable development. The lack of financial resources for population and sustainable development was reported as the biggest key challenge, followed by the lack of human resources. The other three key challenges were the lack of capacity development, data and public awareness.

74. Countries reported aligning many of their policies and programmes to the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. For example, Vanuatu had developed a National Sustainable Development Plan entitled “Vanuatu 2030 (The People’s Plan)”. While the plan listed development targets that were in line with the Sustainable Development Goal targets, it included additional objectives such as conserving a “vibrant cultural identity” and “strengthening rural communities”. In 2019, Viet Nam published a set of statistical indicators for sustainable development. A Statistical Working Group had then been established to monitor and supervise the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Federated States of Micronesia maintained a Sustainable Development Goal dashboard. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea had adopted a sustainable development strategy that identified South-South Cooperation as a priority.

75. Countries had also established dedicated government units to monitor and oversee implementation of 2030 Agenda-related policies, such as the National Steering Committee for the Implementation of the SDGs in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic or the National Economic and Development Authority in the Philippines. Countries also reported having mainstreamed the 2030 Agenda into development planning at the national as well as provincial, district and city levels, and some, like Indonesia and Sri Lanka, had involved civil society, the private sector, academia and the media in implementation. Localizing population and development considerations were also noted as important in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Philippines, Tuvalu, and Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

13 Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination, Vanuatu 2030: The People’s Plan (Port Vila, 2016).
76. Kiribati had adjusted its policy and programme monitoring and evaluation mechanisms using Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Between 2018 and 2019, with the support from UNFPA and UNICEF, it launched the Kiribati Social Development Indicator Survey to collect relevant data. In Maldives, local councils had conducted 2030 Agenda training and advocacy by using social media and reaching out to civil society.

77. Climate mitigation and adaptation remained crucially important to sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Countries reported including climate considerations in legislation and programmes. For example, Samoa had developed the National Environment Sector Plan to serve as a roadmap for sustainable management and development of natural resources as well as for the preservation and protection of the environment. The Samoa Climate Change Policy 2020\(^{14}\) had been developed to effectively support responses to the Impacts of climate change. It contained measures to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and included them in national planning and monitoring activities. It also called for sustainable financing mechanisms, and improvement in data and information management on climate change. The 2017 Sustainable Development Act, No. 19 of Sri Lanka had promoted ecologically efficient use of natural resources and the balancing of environmental, economic, and social factors in policymaking.

78. Countries identified the following top future needs in implementing population and sustainable development considerations: (a) capacity-building; (b) data for monitoring and planning, and (c) engagement with non-governmental organizations (figure VI).

Figure VI
Future needs in implementing and monitoring the priority actions on population and sustainable development according to the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (n=27)

Source: ESCAP 2022/23 Survey responses.

K. Data and statistics

79. To achieve the priority actions of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration, data must be gathered and analysed to assess the situation and to accelerate the implementation of the Declaration.

80. About 83 per cent of 30 countries reported that they had included data collection, analysis and dissemination in national development strategies and other development plans. About the same number of countries also reported having amended existing policies and programmes to include stronger requirements for data collection.

81. Several countries reported using new technologies for data collection and processing. For example, Computer Assisted Personal Interview systems had been used for administering surveys in Bangladesh, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and Samoa. Geographic Information Systems had been used for georeferenced data collection and analyses in the Marshall Islands and Mongolia. Tablets had been used for census activities in Fiji, Niue and Vanuatu. Maldives reported on digitalizing population and housing information at the local level, including with regard to voter registrations and death and birth registrations. In 2018, the Russian Federation collected data on births, deaths, and marriages through paper forms for the last time. Such data, at the time of reporting, were collected through a computerized federal information system, the Unified State Register of Civil Status Acts.
82. In addition to data collection and analysis, countries had invested in making data and analysis publicly available. In Thailand, for example, official data of the agencies under the National Statistics Office had been consolidated, translated, and published in multiple formats such as infographics for mobile applications. National database policies, too, had been refined across the region. Through the Family Data Collection Act of 2014, Indonesia had created a national family database. It had since been used in national policy planning for eradicating extreme poverty and reducing the instance of stunting. Indonesia also reported on the benefits of data sharing and integration between and within government sectors and using multi-dimensional analysis to address social and economic challenges.

83. Countries also reported seeking advice and support from experts in building capacities of national statistical systems. Lao People’s Democratic Republic, for example, noted that it had established technical and steering committees for the census and other national surveys. These committees had provided expert advice but also supported advocacy campaigns and community participation.

84. For many of the priority actions of the Ministerial Declaration, countries mentioned the lack of data as one of the top five challenges for its implementation. A lack of human resources was identified as the biggest challenge in implementing policies relating to data and statistics, followed by a lack of financial resources. When asked to elaborate on the lack of human resources, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Maldives and Mongolia cited a lack of statistical capacity of staff working in national statistical offices.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

85. Thirty-three countries in Asia and the Pacific submitted responses to the voluntary national survey on the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, as well as of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation in Asia and the Pacific.

86. A total of 15 of the 33 countries indicated that they had national coordination mechanisms on population and development, and half of these had been established after the Ministerial Declaration was adopted in 2013. Moreover, 12 of these coordination mechanisms were reported as either being led by a minister or the head of government, while 12 countries indicated that civil society organizations were members of the coordination mechanisms.

87. The majority of countries reported having established population and development policies or amended existing policies since 2013. For example, Solomon Islands noted that it had adopted its first National Population Policy in 2016. Moreover, priority actions of the 2013 Ministerial Declaration had been included in most national development strategies (figure VII). Other countries reported that population issues featured prominently in national development plans focusing on the 2030 Agenda, such as Vanuatu’s Sustainable Development Plan 2016–2030 (“Vanuatu 2030 (People’s Plan 2030”).
Figure VII
Inclusion of the priority actions of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration in national development plans of countries in Asia and the Pacific

Source: ESCAP 2022/23 Survey responses.

88. In addition, several countries reported having sectoral policies related to priority actions of the Ministerial Declaration. Cambodia, for example, had a National Strategic Development Plan, 2019–2023; a National Population Policy, 2016–2030; a National Ageing Policy, 2017–2030; a Policy on Labour Migration, 2015–2018; a National Social Protection Policy Framework, 2016–2025 and a National Action Plan on Youth Development, 2022–2026. Some countries reported implementing these types of policies in an integrated manner at national and local levels, with support from other sectors of society.

89. Countries also recognized intersectionalities of population and development issues and had pursued policies that addressed different issues simultaneously. Nepal, for example, had mainstreamed education for sustainable development, including resilience to climate change, in the national education policy and in primary, secondary and tertiary curricula. Mongolia had adopted the Intersectoral Strategic Plan for Gender Equality (2022–2031), which introduced gender-sensitive budgeting in development financing and the implementation of special measures to ensure gender balance in employment and professional education, as well as gender mainstreaming in all policies and actions of all sectors. The Philippines recognized the life course approach to well-being and development of all age groups. In some countries, these changes had prompted a reorientation towards cross-sectoral coordination on policy development and implementation at different political and geographic levels.
90. Regarding achievements in the area of population and development, countries noted that their main achievements since adopting the Ministerial Declaration in 2013 had been the development and implementation of national policies, the eradication of poverty and creation of decent work for all, and improvement in general health, and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (figure VIII). At the same time, the establishment of policies, working with partners and poverty eradication and decent work for all were identified as major challenges. In some areas, challenges had been emphasized over achievements, such as in the area of population and sustainable development, data and statistics, and international migration.

Figure VIII
Challenges and achievements in implementing the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration ((n=20 (achievements) and n=22 (challenges))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of policies</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty eradication and employment</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners, governance, funding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender equality and women's empowerment</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population and sustainable development</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data and statistics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanization and internal migration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents and young people</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International migration</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ageing</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ESCAP 2022/23 Survey responses.

91. When asked to rank the priority areas needing further attention and action in the future from least important (1) to most important (10), 23 countries ranked health the highest, followed by education and poverty eradication. International migration scored lowest, followed by urbanization and internal migration, and ageing. Countries also indicated that the following topics were inadequately covered in the Ministerial Declaration and needed further attention: climate change and disasters, food security and digital transformation.

92. Countries noted that COVID-19 and disasters, emergencies and crises consistently had been among the top 5 challenges for implementing 10 out of the 11 priority actions of the Ministerial Declaration in recent years. However, COVID-19 was also identified as an opportunity to build back better and stronger. It had contributed to resilience-building and had led many countries to prioritize population issues when developing policies.
93. Since adopting the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, in 2013, countries have made much progress in addressing the challenges and opportunities of population and development interactions, but much remains to be done. The voluntary national surveys responses summarized in this paper constitute a wealth of data, information, policy examples, best practices and methods of collaboration and partnerships to advance the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration. Asia and the Pacific, the most populous region in the world, must address new and emerging issues and challenges in order to build a more inclusive, just, and sustainable future in the region, with people, in all their diversity, at its centre. The present document is intended to inform deliberations during the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference to be held in Bangkok and online from 15 to 17 November 2023.