Session #2: South-East Asian perspectives on the 2022 Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and High-Level Political Forum Theme
UNESCAP-ADB-UNDP SDG PARTNERSHIP

- 5 ANNUAL THEMATIC REPORTS
- 1 OUTLOOK REPORT
- SDG DATA PORTAL

https://sdgasiapacific.net

2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2021 REPORT: KEY MESSAGES

1. **The Covid-19 pandemic** is an **asymmetric shock**, reinforced by existing vulnerabilities linked to uneven progress on the SDGs. This could lead to further widening the gaps between countries.

2. **Digitalization, including digital finance**, is a **powerful force** for transforming societies and economies, but needs to be equitable.

3. **Renewed regional cooperation with a focus on people and planet** can create the foundation for inclusive, resilient and sustainable development, and ensure no country is left behind.
THE RISK OF A K-SHAPED RECOVERY

EXISTING VULNERABILITIES

- High informality
- Low social security coverage
- Weak health system
- Environmental stresses
- Climate change and natural hazards
- High disparities:
  - Income & wealth
  - Women and vulnerable groups
- Opportunities: education; health; digital access; financial inclusion

COVID-19 PANDEMIC CONTAINMENT MEASURES

- Income erosion
  - Loss in businesses and agriculture
  - Adverse health impacts
  - Inadequate relief
- Job loss in informal sector
  - Further disempowerment of women and vulnerable groups
  - Lack of social security
  - Lack of savings and insurance
  - Lack of attention to environmental issues and climate change
- Food insecurity and deteriorating nutrition
- Loss of education

- Stimulus packages for big businesses
- Benefits for government employees
- Job security in formal sector

Accumulation of wealth and power

Rise in inequality and polarisation

New poor
New vulnerable

Adverse social impacts:
- Drug abuse
- Violence against women and children
- Human trafficking
- Worsening the condition of existing poor
BUILD BACK BETTER FOR THE 2030 AGENDA AFTER COVID-19

PEOPLE CENTRED DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS
- Stronger social protection
- Skills and education for a new era
- Health security and preparedness

REFOCUSING ECONOMIC COOPERATION
- Inclusion of the poorest countries
- Digitalizing trade
- Emphasizing social and environmental issues

FINANCIAL COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY
- Tax cooperation and stability
- Encouraging SDG aligned investment
- Promoting inclusive FinTech

ENHANCING DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY
- Bridging digital divides
- Environmentally and socially sustainable connectivity
- Policy and regulatory coordination

REGIONAL COOPERATION AND NATIONAL POLICIES

INCLUSIVE
ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE
RESILIENT

Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership
UNDP
ESCAP
ADB
2022 REPORT OBJECTIVES

• Examine the effects of COVID-19 in Asia-Pacific
• Highlight good practices for a resilient, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
• Identify policy pathways that can address inequalities within and between countries, help achieve the SDGs.
KEY ELEMENTS

• Analyse underlying factors shaping countries recovery trajectories based on available data

• Use country examples and in-depth cases studies to highlight the effects of COVID 19 on countries, with a focus on 2022 HLPF priority goals:
  ➢ SDG 4 Quality Education          Inclusion
  ➢ SDG 5 Gender Equality            Empowerment
  ➢ SDG 14 Life below water           Investing in nature, ecosystems
  ➢ SDG 15 Life on Land               and biodiversity

• Identify policies and practices that can address inequalities within and between countries, help achieve the SDGs.