ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SDG PROGRESS REPORT
Championing sustainability despite adversities
2023

UNITED NATIONS ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
2023 will be the 7th in a series of annual publications

Special thanks to the following United Nations partners:

- IOM
- UN Migration
- UN
- environment
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- The UN Refugee Agency
- unicef
- for every child
- UNODC
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UN
- WOMEN
Key messages

- At the midpoint, the region made less than 15% of the necessary progress.

- Asia-Pacific recorded strongest progress in affordable and clean energy (Goal 7) and industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9).

- Significant efforts are required to assist countries in special situations to achieve the SDGs, especially on climate action (Goal 13).

- 70% of the pace leaders in Asia-Pacific are countries in special situations.

- To bridge the data gaps, poor and rich countries alike must demonstrate their commitments to SDG monitoring, in particular for Goals 5 and 16.
The average progress towards achieving all SDGs has increased slowly from 4.4% in 2017 to 14.4% in 2022.

Sustainable Development Goals

2022 Progress

14.4%

Estimated time remaining: 42 years
SDGs 7 & 9 made the greatest progress. SDG 13 is regressing.

Progress in Asia-Pacific 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>TARGET 2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 No poverty</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Zero Hunger</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Good health and well-being</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Quality education</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Gender equality</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Clean water and sanitation</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Affordable and clean energy</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Decent work and economic growth</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Reduced inequalities</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Sustainable cities and communities</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Responsible consumption and production</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Climate action</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Life below water</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Life on land</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Peace, justice and strong institutions</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Partnerships for the Goals</td>
<td><img src="progress_icon" alt="Progress" /></td>
<td><img src="insufficient_icon" alt="Insufficient indicators" /></td>
<td><img src="strength_icon" alt="Evidence strength" /></td>
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</table>
Asia-Pacific will miss 90% of the 118 measurable targets by 2030
Targeted assistance is needed for these countries to achieve the SDGs, especially on climate action (Goal 13).

Progress in Countries in Special Situations

- Least Developed Countries
- Landlocked Developing Countries
- Small Island Developing States
COVID-19 impacted People: *poverty, food prices, health*

Georgia and Kyrgyzstan recorded an increase in poverty rates.

The countries with the highest food price anomalies as of 2020 were Australia, Pakistan, and Bhutan.
**COVID-19 impacted Planet: renewable energy, waste**

Despite assumptions that COVID-19 lockdowns had a positive impact on the environment, available data cast this into doubt.

Although the amount of renewable electricity per capita steadily increased between 2019 and 2021, the rate of growth reduced from 14% in 2020 to 10% in 2021.

Beach litter originating from national land-based sources that washes ashore from the ocean increased from 3.36 mil tons in 2019 to 3.92 mil tons in 2021.
COVID-19 impacted Prosperity: employment, productivity

Unemployment rates have increased from 2019 to 2020 in the Pacific, South-East Asia and North and Central Asia.

Asia-Pacific recorded a decrease in the growth rate of real GDP per employed person from 3.6 per cent in 2019 to 1.3 per cent in 2020.
Half of the Asia Pacific countries are outperforming average regional pace of progress on some goals

Regional pace leaders:

1. Kiribati, Mongolia, Myanmar, Tajikistan, Viet Nam
2. China, Myanmar
3. Bhutan, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation
4. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Myanmar
5. Armenia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Tajikistan
6. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nauru, Solomon Islands
7. Armenia, Georgia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan

National SDG Trends: https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/country-sdg-profiles
Countries in the spotlight

Cambodia

- National Strategy for Food Security in Cambodia reduced childhood stunting
- The Clean Air Plan uses data to plan for emissions reduction.

India

- With targeted interventions, child marriage rate has decreased
Countries in the spotlight

Pakistan

- Nearly a million biometric smart identity cards were issued to the Afghan refugee population
- Upskilling of midwifery faculty increased skilled birth attendance

Timor-Leste

- Targeted initiatives to improve rate of safe births
- Remittance inflows increased as country recognised its importance
Between 2017 and 2022, the number of indicators with sufficient data doubled.
## Resources to bridge the data gaps in SDGs 5 & 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative records</th>
<th>Surveys</th>
<th>Capacity building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Crime and homicide</td>
<td>• Corruption</td>
<td>• Centre of excellence for statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gender-related killings</td>
<td>• SDG 16 survey</td>
<td>• Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Illicit financial flows</td>
<td>• Victimization</td>
<td>• Integrated database for cases on trafficking in persons in Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Trafficking in persons</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Women’s participation in political and public affairs</td>
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Explore the interactive summary and highlights

Interactive summary: https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/sdg-progress-report-2023
THANK YOU

Access full report: 

Contact us: stat.unescap@un.org