Session 3: Socio-economic development in Pacific SIDS: Regional and National initiatives

Theme 4 (Social development)

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Despite gains, inequalities persist

Furthest behind in SAMOA Pathway

Large variation, particularly in access to basic resources
Despite gains, inequalities persist

Furthest behind in SAMOA Pathway

Barriers in child malnutrition manifest differently across SIDS
Despite gains, inequalities persist

LNOB have particularly low completion of secondary and tertiary education
Despite gains, inequalities persist

**Furthest behind in SAMOA Pathway**

Prevalence of VAW is particularly high
Progress and Challenges on Gender Equality

**Education**
Positive progress in net enrolment of girls in primary schools.

**Political Participation**
Proportion of elected seats held by women in national parliaments has grown.

**Women’s Leadership**
Progress in the percentage of women in managerial positions as well as in senior and middle level management positions.

**Subregional Commitments**
Adoption of the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration in 2012.

**Underrepresentation**
Women are still underrepresented in parliaments, government, and the private sector in the Pacific SIDS.

**Persistent Discrimination**
Women in the Pacific SIDS continue to face discrimination in the workplace, including unequal pay, lack of access to training and development opportunities, and sexual harassment.

**Stop Violence Against Women**
1 in 3 women in the Pacific SIDS has experienced physical or sexual violence.

**Limited Access to Basic Services**
Women in the Pacific SIDS continue to have limited access to education and healthcare.
Inequalities for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

- More than 750 million people in Asia and Pacific
- Persons with disabilities continue to experience marginalization in almost every sector of society

### Employment-to-population ratio (21 govts. with data)
24% persons with disabilities vs. 62% persons without disabilities

### Disability social protection benefit coverage (40 govts. with data)
<50% in 21 countries and territories

### Disability gap in school attendance (11 govts. with data)
Percentage of reporting countries with a disability gap:
- 22% at pre-primary school level → 88% at upper-secondary school level

### Representation in parliament (10 govts. with data)
0.8% parliamentarians with disabilities

Majority of Population Unprotected

Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection benefit in Asia and the Pacific

Source: ILO World Social Protection Database
To Meet These Challenges

**Strengthened social protection systems**

- Help prevent and reduce poverty
- Help smoothen impact of shocks
- Help mitigate against risks and vulnerabilities

**Focus on:**

- Adaptive Social Protection
- Stronger Protection for Workforce
- Inclusive Social Protection
To meet these challenges

Strengthen Regional Consensus and Cooperation

- Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection
- Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
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How far behind are LNOB in Access to Education?

• Over 50% of youth have completed secondary education in Fiji and Samoa
• Less than 5% of LNOB groups have completed secondary education in PNG and Kiribati
• Inequalities in education are high in PNG and Timor Leste

Notes: ESCAP elaborations based on DHS and MICS. Available at lnob.unescap.org.