SDG South and South-West Asia Subregional Forum 2023

SDG 13 Status and Opportunities in South and South-West Asia

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Climate Change Context in South and Southwest Asia

South Asia- one of most vulnerable regions to climate shocks!
- More than half of all South Asians, or 750 million people in the 8 countries were affected by one or more climate-related disasters in the last two decades.
- Changing climate could sharply diminish living conditions for up to 800 million people in a region that already has some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable populations.

Climate and disaster risks pose a threat to the hard-earned development gains!
- South and Southwest Asia is living through a “new climate normal” in which intensifying heat waves, cyclones, droughts, floods, sand and dust storms are testing the limits of government, businesses, and citizens to adapt.
- Climate extreme events (such as floods, heat waves, landslides, sand and dust storms) are expected to increase in frequency and intensity. Slow-onset events are also increasing.

Climate change is a serious risk multiplier that already hinders development in SSWA and will do so more in the future!
Emission Profile of South Asia

- SA accounts for about 8% of the global emission
- Emission from energy alone accounts for more than 70% of the emission in SA, of which nearly 50% is from electricity/heat, 22% from manufacturing/construction and around 13% from transportation.
Climate Change Projection in South and Southwest Asia

- With **4 deg. Celsius** glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalaya could **lose up to 80%** of their volume by the end of the century.

- Heatwaves and humid heat stress will be more intense and frequent during the 21st century.

- Both annual and summer monsoon precipitation will increase during the 21st century, with enhanced interannual variability.

- Increase in intensity and frequency of hot extremes, such as warm days, warm nights, and heat waves and decreases in the intensity and frequency of cold extremes, such as cold days.

- Increased heavy precipitation across Himalayas.

With current emission trajectories, the world is on track to reach 1.5 deg. Celsius temperature at least for once before 2030 (Source: WMO)
### Policy responses to Climate Change in SSWA

*Countries in South Asia are prioritizing climate change as articulated in their NDCs, NAP, LTS and sectoral policies and programs but their implementation is a challenge.*

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<th>LTS</th>
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=Submitted  ❌ = Not Submitted  NI= No information

Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
• SSWA is **progressing and on course** for achieving the targets on reducing causalities from disasters and implementation of DRR strategies at the national level.

• SSWA is **regressing** on adoption of DRR strategies at the sub-national levels and on GHG emissions.

Source: [https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/sdg-progress](https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/sdg-progress)
Priority for Climate Adaptation varies amongst countries in SSWA – adaptation efforts towards Strengthening Early Warning Systems take precedence because largest number of @ risk population not protected by early warnings.
Nowhere is the urgency of climate change more palpable than the SSWA subregion in Asia and the Pacific.

- Of 2 million fatalities in Asia-Pacific since 1970, SSWA is the most impacted with 50 percent of human cost of the disasters.
Overview of the WB’s Climate Change Action Plan

The Action Plan is underpinned by three transversal principles in support of the Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID) framework and will be operationalized through three pillars: integrating climate and development, prioritizing key systems transitions, and financing to support the transitions.
Synopsis from the Country Climate and Development Reports

1. Climate change poses a major threat to long-term development objectives. 
   Climate change can deepen monetary poverty through its impact on agricultural yields, food prices, health, labor productivity, and other factors.

2. Boosting resilience and adaptation is an urgent and integral part of development and poverty reduction, especially in low-income countries. 
   A whole-of-society approach is needed to facilitate adaptation and resilience.

3. Even with adaptation, successful development and poverty reduction require accelerated mitigation action, especially from high-income countries and large emitters.

4. Climate objectives can be achieved without compromising development.

5. Success requires urgent policy reforms and increased financial support the international community. 
   Resilient and low-carbon pathways can deliver net economic gains. But they will not be realized without improved and sustained access to finance and mobilization of private capital to meet additional annual investment needs averaging 1.4% of countries’ GDP over 2022-30 in all CCDRs and 8% in low-income CCDR countries.

Adaptation and Resilience is a priority of the countries in South and South-West Asia!
Synopsis from the Country Climate and Development Report

Key policies issues tackled and recommended implementation mechanisms in the CCDRs

Main policy issues

Recommended implementation mechanism
Questions for further discussion

1. **Climate and disaster resilient physical and social infrastructure** - With the increasing impact of climate change on physical and social infrastructure, such as damage to infrastructure and disruption to essential and critical services, how do we build institutional capacity and systems to mainstream adaptation in the infrastructure development life cycle? How would climate change affect the private sector?


3. **Knowledge and technology for climate resilience** – What is needed where and what is available? Given the transboundary nature of climate hazards and risks, how can we leverage regional collaborations and global partnerships to enhance knowledge and technology exchange for climate resilience? E.g., Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System), South Asia Hydromet Forum, Regional Plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms.
Thank You