Webinar Series:
Entry Point on Human well-being and capabilities

Entry points for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

01 April 2020
Online Consultation for Entry Points:

*Entry point 1 – Human well-being and capabilities*
Entry point 2 – Sustainable and just economies
Entry point 3 – Food systems and nutrition patterns
Entry point 4 – Energy decarbonization and universal access
Entry point 5 – Urban and peri-urban development
Entry point 6 – Global environmental commons
Entry Point 1: Human Wellbeing and Capabilities

Lead Agency

In collaboration with
I. HUMAN WELL-BEING AND CAPABILITIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
II. PROGRESS AND KEY CHALLENGES FOR ACCELERATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

• Poverty reduction has been significant in the region.
  • from more than 1 billion to 400 million people

• Health and education outcomes have also improved, on average.
  • life expectancy has increased, achievements in primary and secondary education

• Not on track for meeting SDG targets relating to human well-being and capabilities
  • including those on social protection, education and health care.

• Inequalities abound
  • In health care, education, and other areas of human wellbeing: who are those left behind?
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Poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific 1990-2013

Headcount ratio (percentage of population)

$1.90$ a day

$3.20$ a day

2013

1990
Absolute number of people living on less than $1.90 (light) & $3.20 (dark) per day, top countries

- India: 696 million people
- China: 164 million people
- Indonesia: 103 million people
- Bangladesh: 89 million people
- Pakistan: 77 million people
- The rest of ESCAP: 118 million people
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Life expectancy in Asia and the Pacific 1990-2017

Years

Life expectancy 1990

Life expectancy 2017
Maternal Mortality Ratio in Asia and the Pacific 1990-2015

Maternal Mortality Ratio in 2015

Maternal Mortality Ratio in 1990
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Figure 1: Sub-regional snapshot of progress and overall progress in Asia and the Pacific

Source: Authors (ESCAP, EDD) calculation using methodology used in the UN ESCAP SDG progress report (2020) and data accessed from http://data.unescap.org/escap_stat/

Note: The green line represents targets to be achieved in the 2030 Agenda. If the region was on track to achieve these targets across the six areas, the red line would have been hit by 2019.
Public spending on social protection

Percentage of GDP

Asia-Pacific Average

Global Average

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The D-index methodology to measure inequality of opportunity

• Measuring inequality in access to 12 opportunities (indicators linked to SDGs)

• Using combinations of circumstances to create distinct groups

\[ D = \frac{1}{2\bar{p}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta_i |p_i - \bar{p}| \]

• Takes values from 0-1, similar to Gini
Which opportunities do we study?

Individual-based

- Education (secondary & higher)
- Malnutrition (stunting & wasting & overweight)
- Women’s health (modern contraception & skilled birth attendance)
- Full-time employment

Household-based

- Safe drinking water
- Basic sanitation
- Clean energy (electricity & clean fuels)
- Ownership of a bank account
Overview of inequality of opportunity (D-index) in A-P

The most unequally distributed opportunities in Asia-Pacific are:

- Clean fuels
- Higher education
- Full-time employment
- Bank account
- Secondary education
- Basic sanitation
- Professional help in childbirth
- Electricity
- Modern contraception
- Basic drinking water

Average D-index

Source: ESCAP calculations using data from the latest DHS and MICS surveys for countries in Asia-Pacific.

The countries with the most unequally distributed opportunities are:

- Maldives
- Nepal
- India
- Pakistan
- Bhutan
- Bangladesh
- Afghanistan
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Viet Nam
- Timor-Leste
- Lao PDR
- Myanmar
- Cambodia
- Vanuatu
- Papua New Guinea
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Turkmenistan
- Armenia
- Tajikistan
- Mongolia

Average D-Index 12 opportunities
Figure 2: Inequality in access to key services and opportunities as measured by the dissimilarity index (D-index), latest year

Reading note: The closest a country is to the centre of the graph, the higher the D-index and higher the inequality of access. The furthest away from the centre, the lower the D-index and lower the inequality.

Who are those left behind?

• …in education, health care, clean water and sanitation and other services?

• Do common circumstances impact levels of access?
  • Wealth (bottom 40 – Top 60); Residence (rural – urban); Education (lower, secondary, higher); Gender (male – female); Age group (15-24, 25-34, 35-49); Minority (region, ethnicity, language etc.)

• An algorithm to look through survey data and identify the shared circumstances of those furthest behind:
  • Classification and Regression Tree (CART) analysis
Gaps in skilled birth attendance, Nepal

Source: SDD elaboration based on DHS and MICS data, latest year

Richer households with higher education
Access: 94%

Richer households with secondary education
Access: 88%

Richer households with lower education
Access: 65%

Poorer households with secondary or higher education
Access: 64%

Poorer households with primary education
Access: 64%

Poorer households with no education
Access: 36%

Source: SDD elaboration based on DHS and MICS data, latest year
III. COUNTRY LEVEL ANALYSIS ON ACCELERATION TOWARDS HUMAN WELLBEING AND CAPABILITIES

- Striving for more equal societies: e.g. Mongolia
- Raising the stakes in education: e.g. Viet Nam
- Prioritizing health care for all: e.g. Thailand

BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES TO ACCELERATION

- Conflicts and natural disasters. New: COVID-19
- Poorly protected populations: Less than 4/10 people covered by social protection
- Governance: Shrinking space for civic engagement
IV. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCELERATION

Expand social protection for all.

Focus on quality education for all.

Policy Recommendation 3.
Invest in universal health care.

Sustain political focus and commitment.

Policy Recommendation 5.
Build strong institutions.

Increase effectiveness of fiscal policies.
Thank You