

A stylized world map in light blue and grey, centered on the Atlantic Ocean. Overlaid on the map are numerous colorful, concentric and intersecting lines in shades of green, blue, red, and yellow, resembling orbital paths or data trajectories. The background is white with faint grid lines.

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



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?

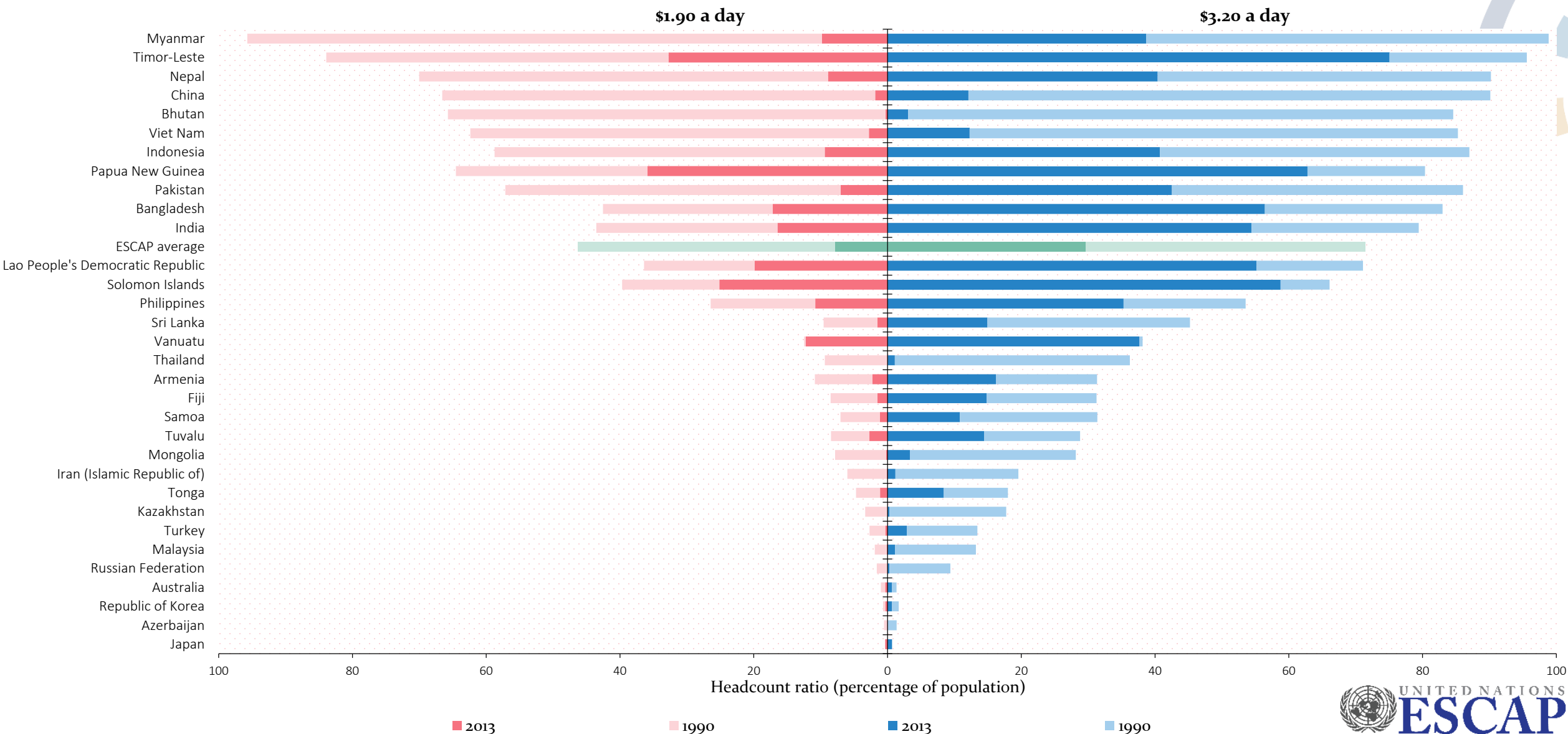


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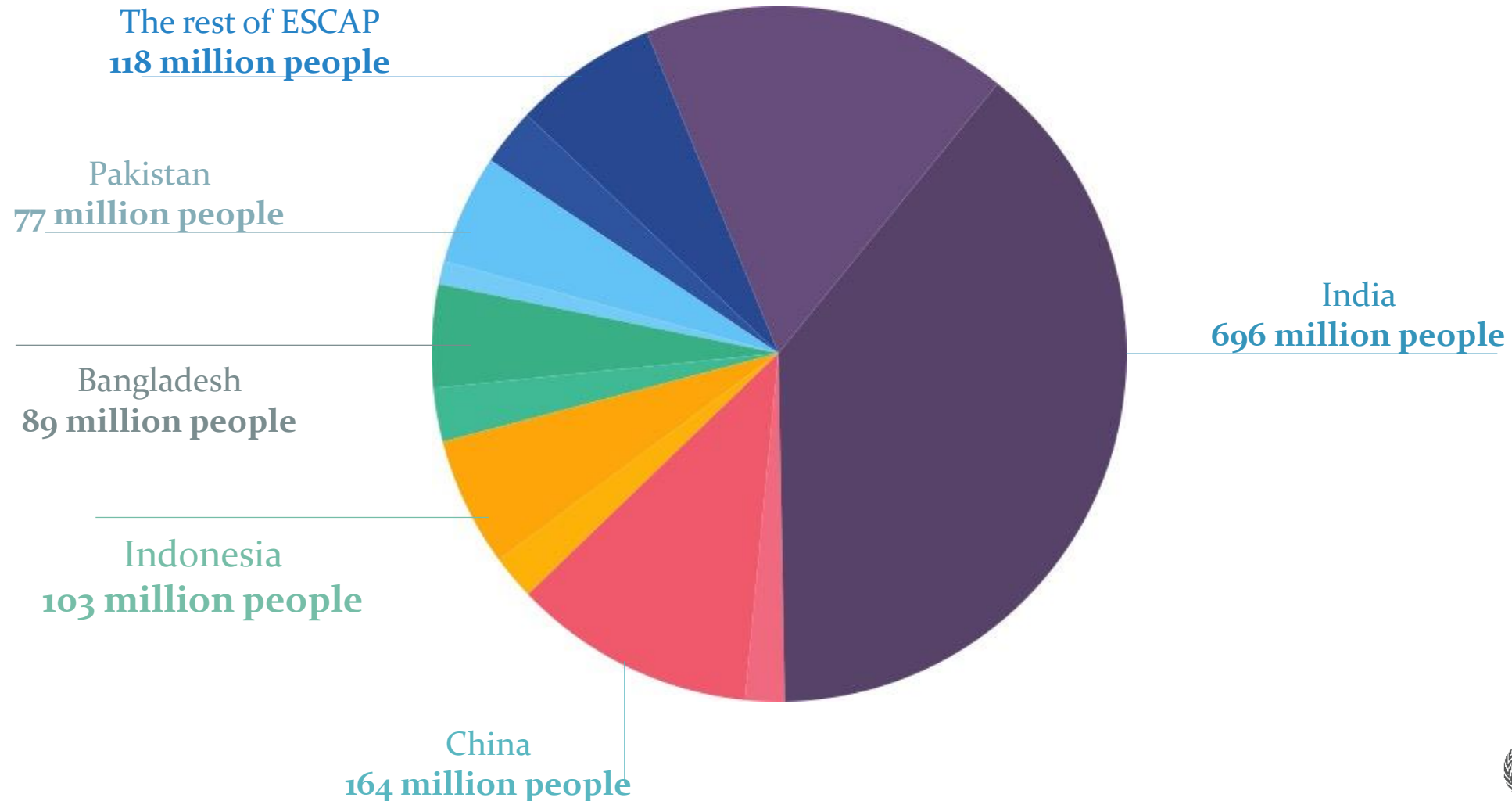
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Poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific 1990-2013



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

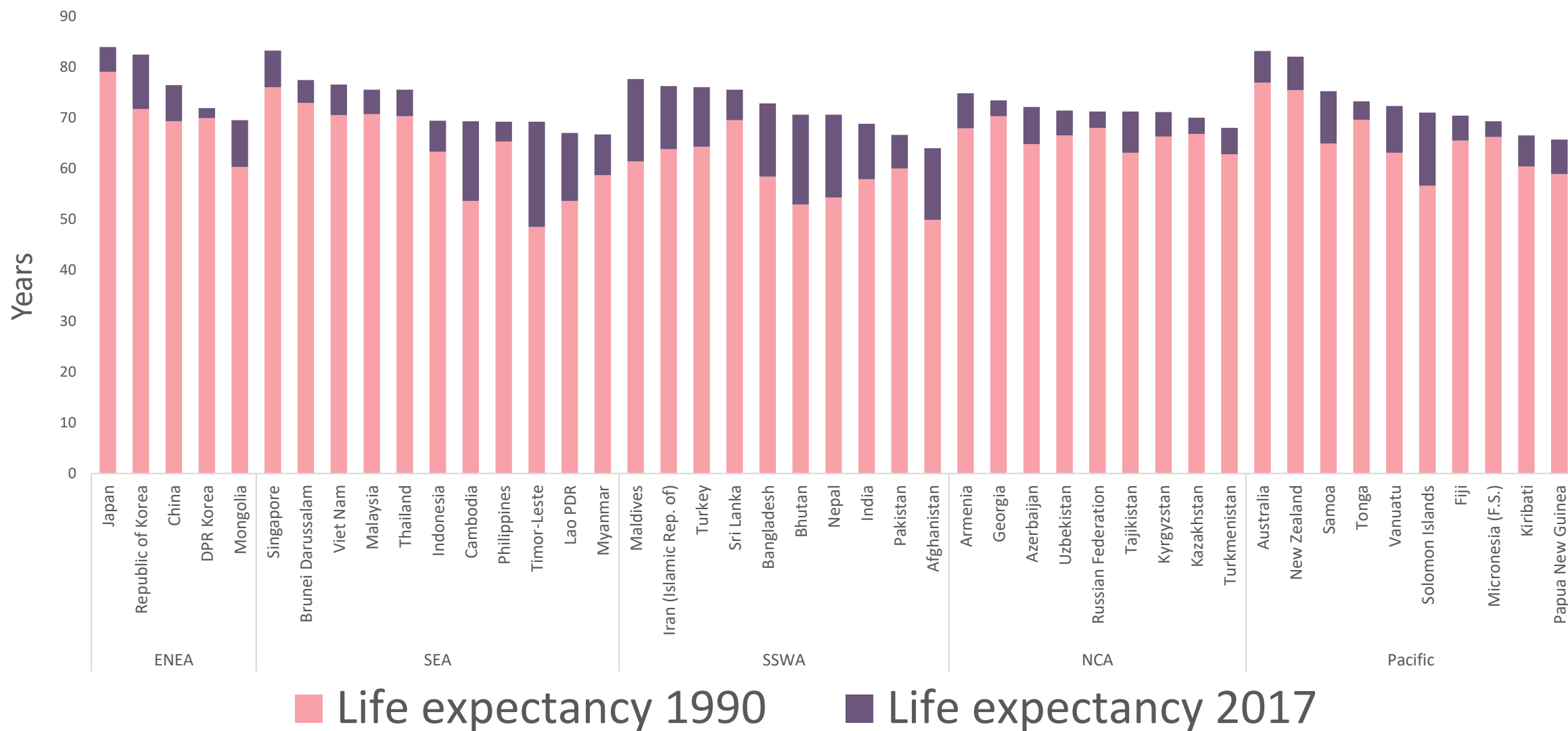


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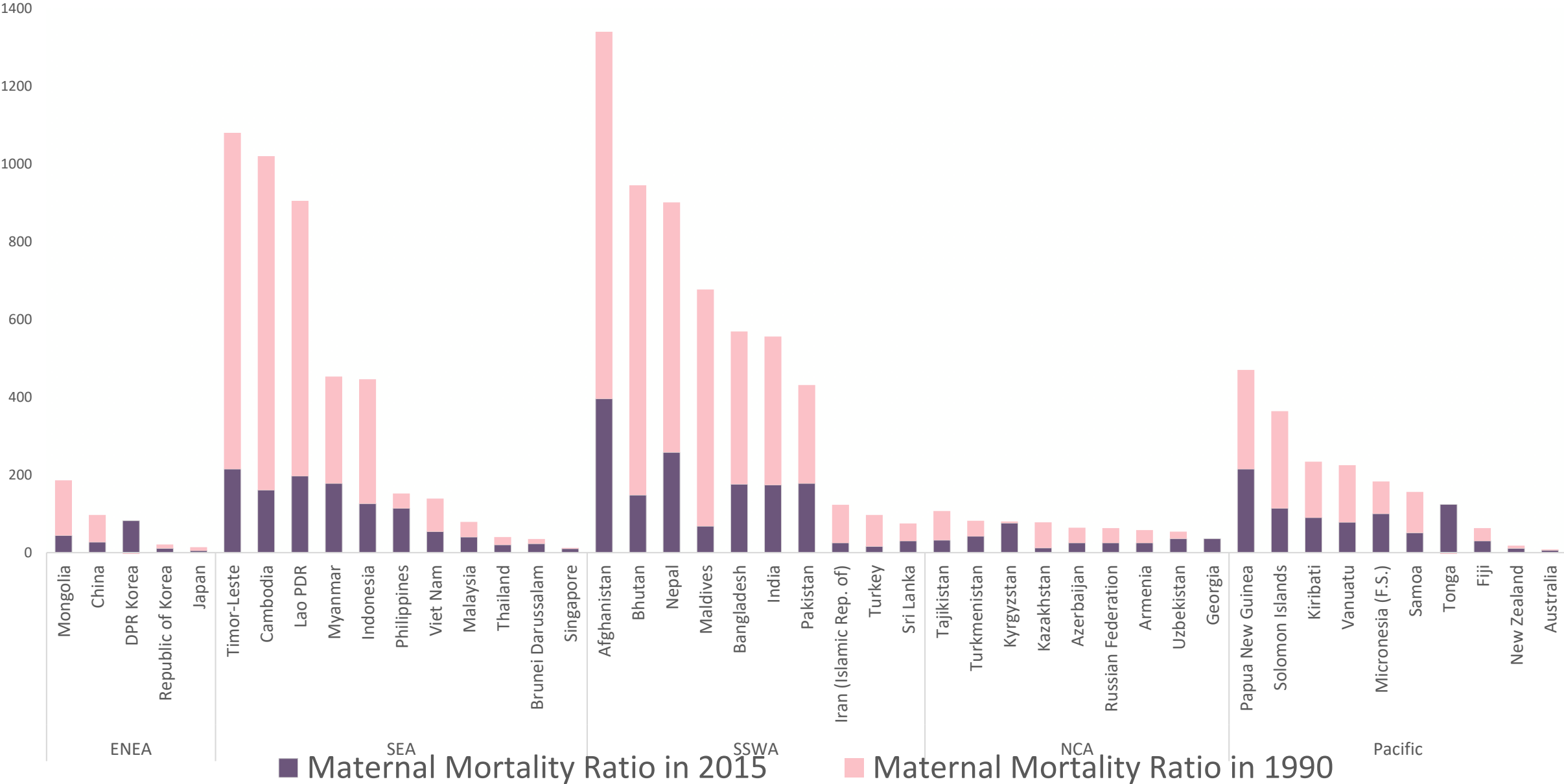
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Life expectancy in Asia and the Pacific 1990-2017



Maternal Mortality Ratio in Asia and the Pacific 1990-2015

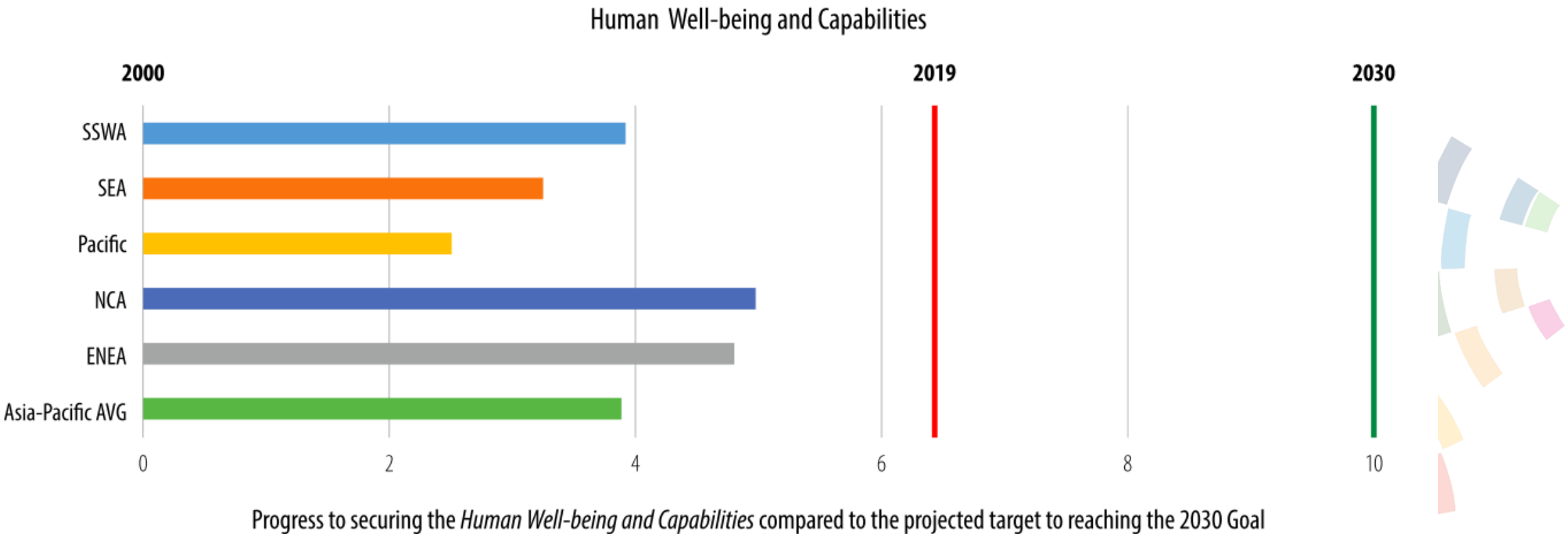


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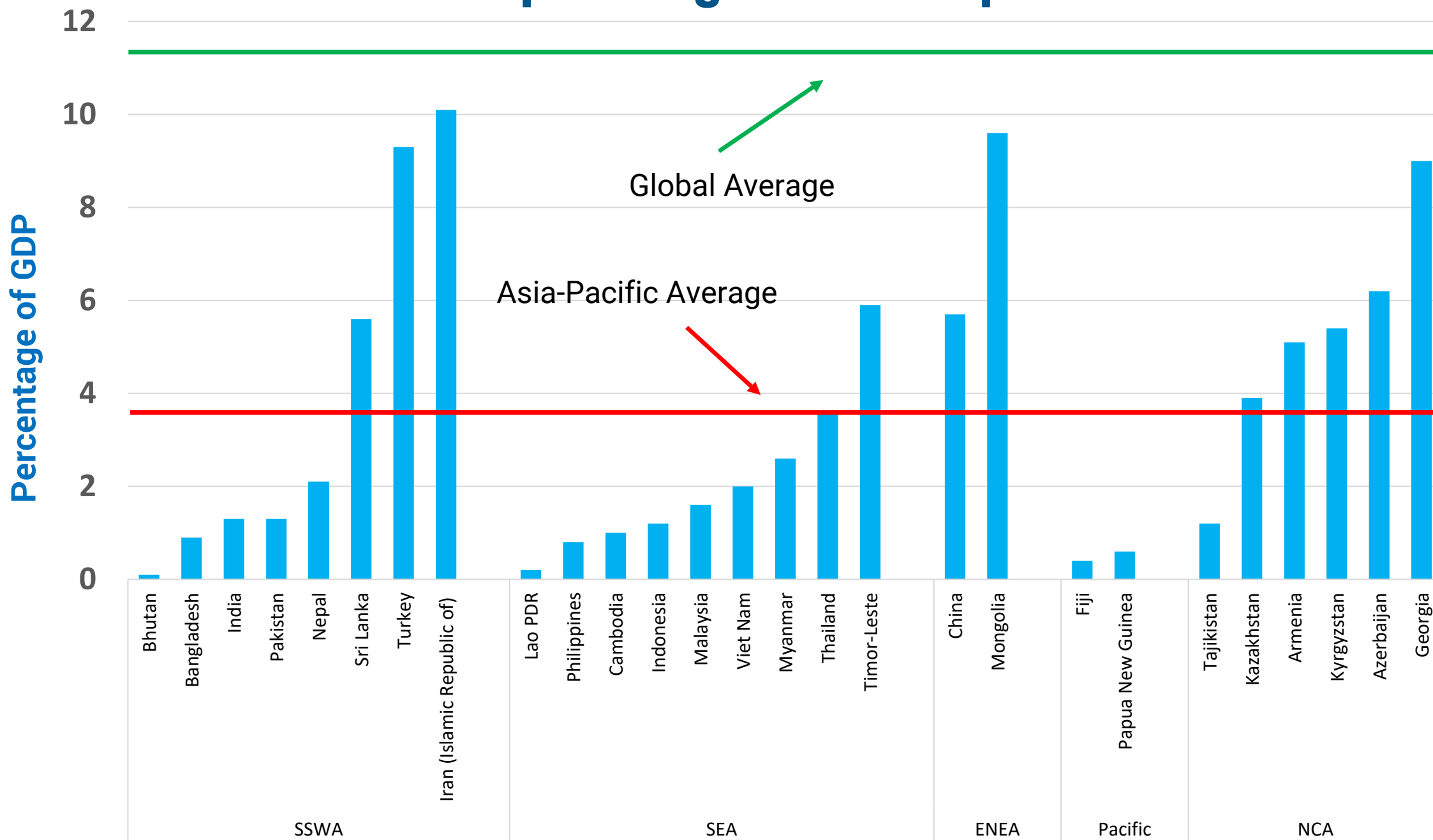
Figure 1: Sub-regional snapshot of progress and overall progress in Asia and the Pacific



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/](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



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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

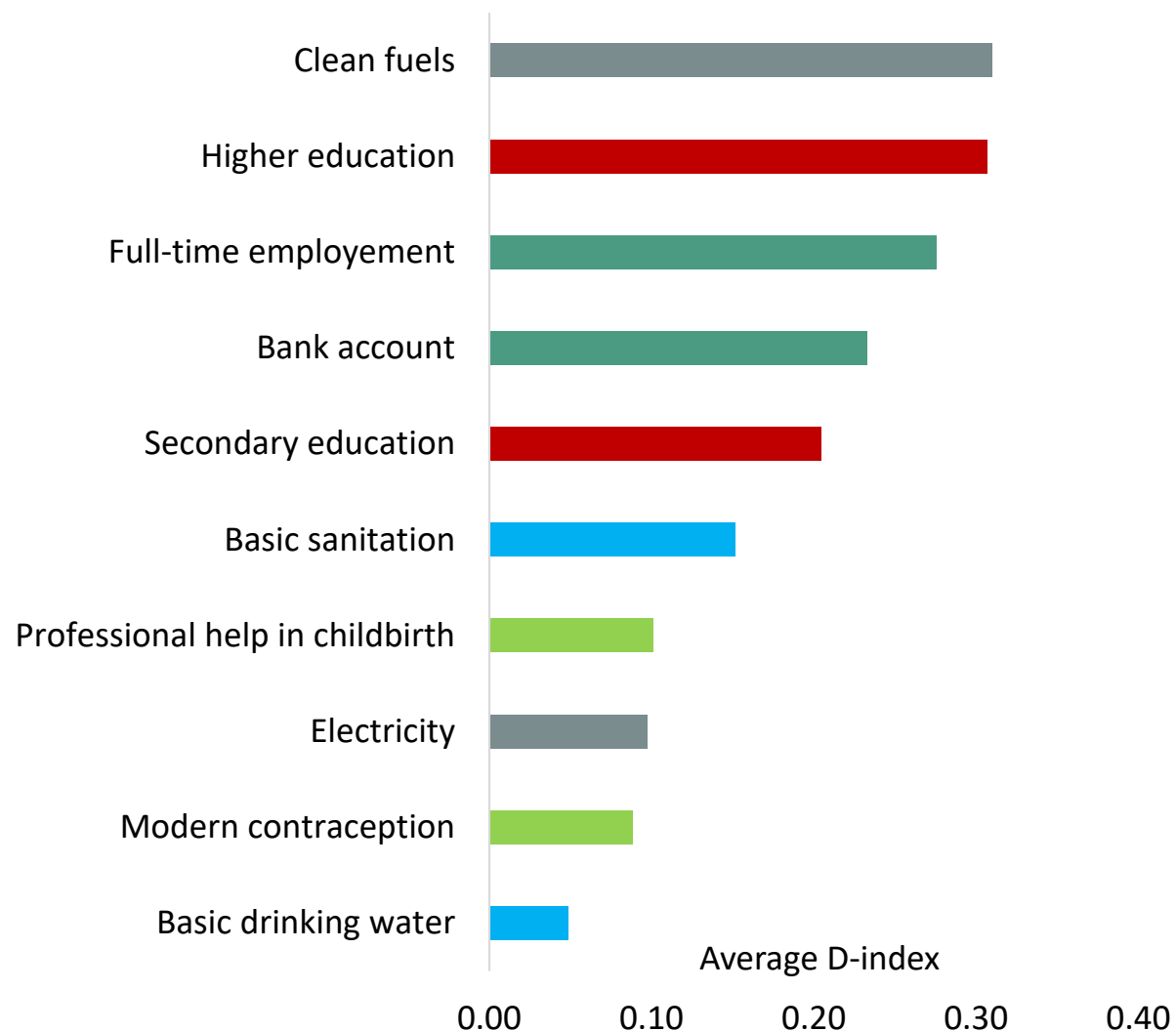
Household-based

- Safe drinking water
- Basic sanitation
- Clean energy (electricity & clean fuels)
- Ownership of a bank account

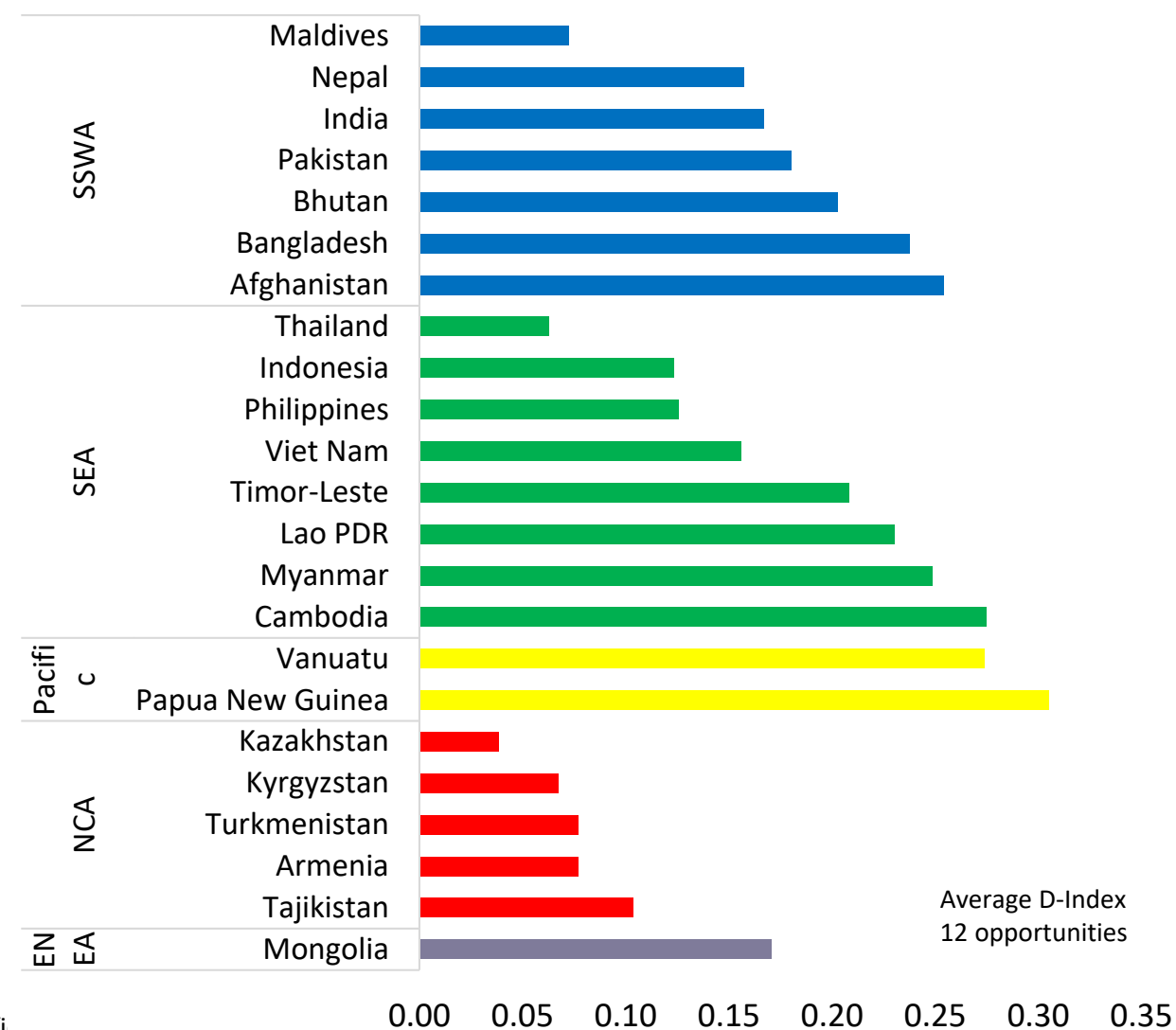


Overview of inequality of opportunity (D-index) in A-P

The most unequally distributed opportunities in Asia-Pacific are:

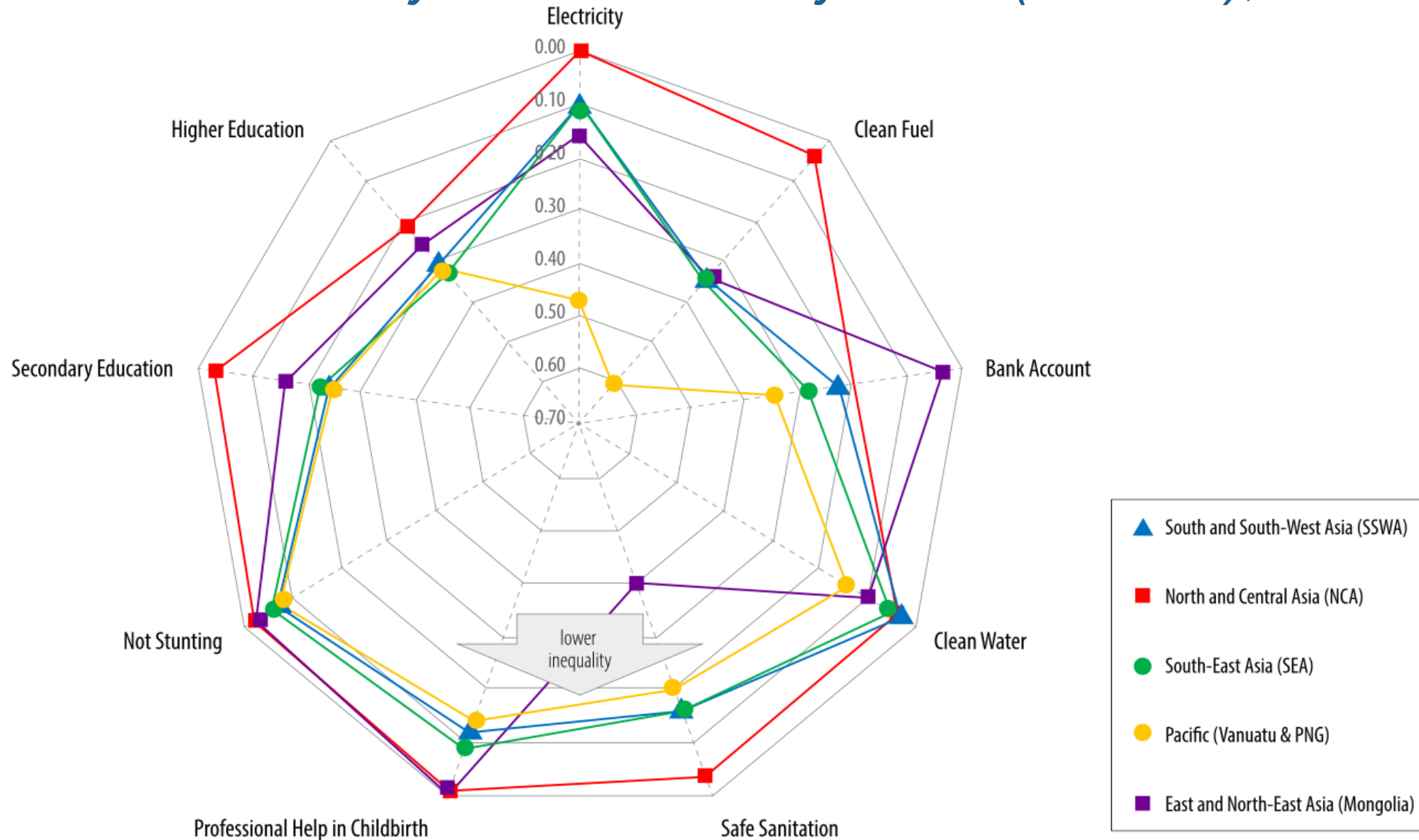


The countries with the most unequally distributed opportunities are:



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

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

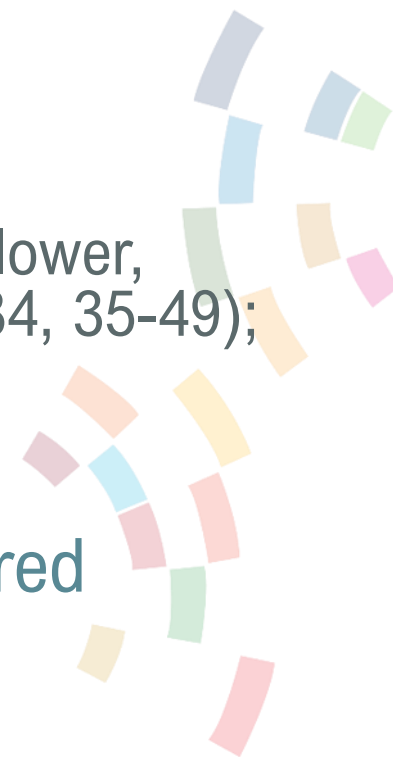


Source: ESCAP, 2018. *Inequality in Asia and the Pacific in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Data updated on 19 February 2020.

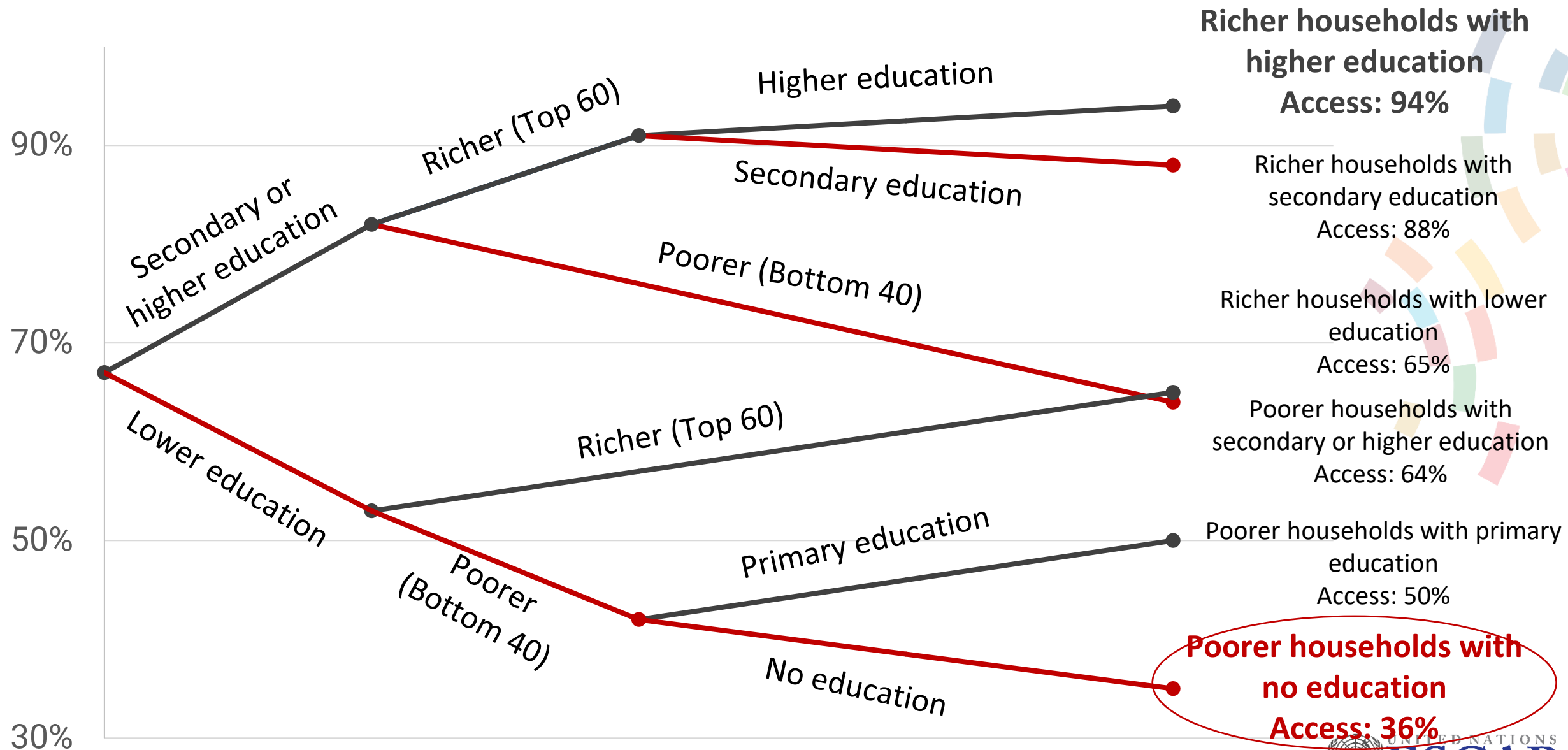
Reading note: The closer a country is to the centre of the graph, the higher the D-index and higher the inequality of access. The furthest away from the centre, the lower the D-index and lower the inequality.

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



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

Policy Recommendation 1.

Expand social protection for all.

Policy Recommendation 2.

Focus on quality education for all.

Policy Recommendation 3.

Invest in universal health care.

Policy Recommendation 4.

Sustain political focus and commitment.

Policy Recommendation 5.

Build strong institutions.

Policy Recommendation 6.

Increase effectiveness of fiscal policies.

Thank You

