

PART I:

ASIA-PACIFIC

SDG PROGRESS

As of 2018, where did the Asia-Pacific region stand on each of the SDGs?

By 2030, how likely is it the region will achieve individual targets under each of the SDGs, judging by the pace of progress thus far?

1. SDG SNAPSHOT: WHERE DID THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION STAND FOR THE 17 GOALS IN 2018?¹

The Asia-Pacific region will likely miss all Goals by 2030 at the current pace of progress. The region needs to fast-track progress or reverse negative trends regarding all Sustainable Development Goals to achieve the ambition of the 2030 Agenda. At the current rate of progress, no Goal is likely to be met by 2030.

Asia-Pacific's progress is going in the wrong direction for consumption, production, water, sanitation, decent work and economic growth. Progress is below 2000 levels for clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) and responsible consumption and production (Goal 12). Additional data on Goal 8 show that more than half of Asia-Pacific's total employment is in the informal sector. Moreover, in a few countries in the region, some 15-20 per cent of children from ages 5-17 are engaged in child labour – for instance in Afghanistan, Nepal and Kyrgyzstan. One bright spot: based on limited data, some low-income countries of the region had a 25 per cent reduction in open defecation in rural areas and a 12 per cent drop in urban areas.

Trends in responsible consumption and production are particularly concerning in the Asia-Pacific region. Progress on responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) has fallen the most of all the Goals since 2000. Whilst the region was showing signs of progress in 2017, new data and additional indicators show the region is below 2000 levels and needs to reverse current trends.

Asia-Pacific's progress is stagnant on more than half of the Goals. The Asia-Pacific region has made no or little progress on zero hunger (Goal 2), industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9), reducing inequalities (Goal 10), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), climate action (Goal 13), life below water (Goal 14), life on land (Goal 15) and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16). From 2010 to 2016 for 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the growth rate of household expenditure / income per capita among the bottom

40 percent of the population was higher than the rate of the total population in 13 countries (65 per cent). Also, limited data from 10 countries reporting labour share of GDP from 2015 to 2017 showed a range of 22 per cent in Azerbaijan to 59 per cent in the Republic of Korea.

Asia-Pacific has made some but still insufficient progress on poverty, health, education, gender equality and energy. Despite significant improvements, progress is insufficient on no poverty (Goal 1), good health and well-being (Goal 3), quality education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5), and affordable and clean energy (Goal 7). On average, 2,000 people die every day in traffic accidents in the Asia-Pacific region. The gender equality SDG Targets assessed show insufficient progress to achieve gender equality within a dozen years. Limited data on unpaid work showed a large gender gap in a number of countries (such as Azerbaijan, Australia, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Turkey) where on average, women aged 15 and up spent at least 19-25 per cent of their time on unpaid domestic chores or care work versus 3-11 per cent of men in those same countries. In eight out of 20 countries with data in the region, over 25 per cent of women aged 20-24 years were first married or in union before the age of 18. And 325 million people still live without electricity.

The region must accelerate progress on the enabler Goal 17. The region is making slow progress on strengthening partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17), the very Goal instituted to enable the success of the SDGs. From mobilizing resources to statistical capacity-building, increasing tax revenue, and reducing tariffs faced by least developed countries while increasing their exports, the region's progress to date has been insufficient on Goal 17. While many Goals are inter-related, this one is most intimately tied to every single Goal's chance of success: If the region fails to meet this Goal, all Goal achievements are at potential risk.

¹ The Report uses a **Current Status Index** to analyse where did the Asia-Pacific region stand on each of the SDGs and **Anticipated Progress Index** to analyse how likely it is the region will achieve individual targets under each of the SDGs judging by the pace of progress thus far. The Current Status Index demonstrates progress as an absolute value (*distance* travelled from 2000-2018), while the Anticipated Progress Index considers the *speed* of progress thus far and predicts that rate going forward to see how far the region will be from its targets by 2030. While not comparable due to their different measurements, together the indices gauge progress to date and the required change in direction and pace of progress going forward. More information on this and other calculations is found in Annex 2 – Technical notes.

2. SDG DASHBOARD: WHERE WILL THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION BE IN 2030?

The SDG Dashboard (Figure 3) estimates the Asia-Pacific region's likelihood to achieve each of 79 measurable SDG Targets based on the rate of progress to date. The dashboard color-codes anticipated progress by green (maintain progress to achieve target), yellow (accelerate progress to achieve target) and red (reverse trend to achieve target).

Technical note: Anticipated Progress Index

The index gauges the progress gap ratio for each of the 79 measurable SDG Targets. It measures the distance between where the region is expected to be in 2030 and the target value, which is explained more in the technical note in Annex 2. Of the 105 SDG indicators used to compile Current Status Index (snapshot), two could not be used for Anticipated Progress Index (dashboard) due to lack of data.

Asia-Pacific needs to accelerate progress on most targets. The bulk of measurable SDG Targets – more than 80 per cent – require accelerating the current pace of change (targets in yellow), or a complete turnaround (targets in red).

Asia-Pacific is making good progress on some social targets. Good health and well-being (Goal 3) has five targets – more than any other Goal – where 2030 Targets can be achieved by maintaining the current pace of progress: maternal mortality, neonatal and child mortality, population covered by vaccines, risk management and health impacts of pollution. Other targets where the pace – if maintained – is on track are largely social and cover reducing violence; providing housing and basic social services; getting youths into education, employment and training; cutting national and international poverty, and recruiting qualified teachers.

Progress on many environmental targets will require a complete turnaround in the Asia-Pacific region if they are to be reached. One quarter of targets that have worsened are linked to natural resource management – including sustainable food production, populations suffering from water scarcity, renewable energy, management of chemicals and wastes, and the loss of biodiversity, to name a few.

Less than 40 per cent of SDG indicators have sufficient data. In the Asia-Pacific region, data is deemed sufficient for 83 of the 232 global SDG indicators. This represents about 36 per cent of the global SDG indicators. Fifty-three indicators (23 per cent) include series that are insufficient to estimate regional historical trends, either because data is available for only one point in time, or less than half the countries have two data points. The remaining 96 indicators have no data for any countries (41 per cent). More analysis on availability of data is presented in Part III.

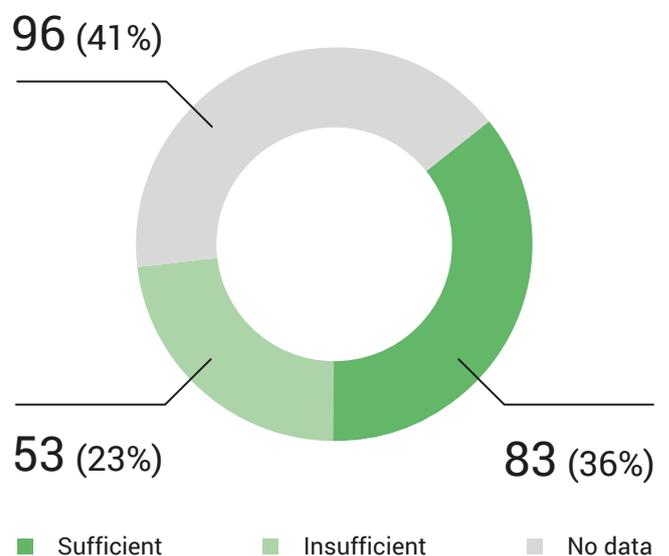


Figure 2 – SDG data availability by indicator for Asia-Pacific, 2018



Figure 3 – Dashboard of anticipated progress in 2030: Asia-Pacific region

Data availability for Asia-Pacific varies greatly across the 17 Goals. While 36 per cent of global SDG indicators have sufficient data at the Asia-Pacific regional level, data availability varies greatly across the 17 Goals (Figure 4). The share of indicators with sufficient data ranges from 50 per cent or more for good health and well-being

(Goal 3), affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9) and life on land (Goal 15) to about 10 per cent for sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12), climate action (Goal 13) and life below water (Goal 14).

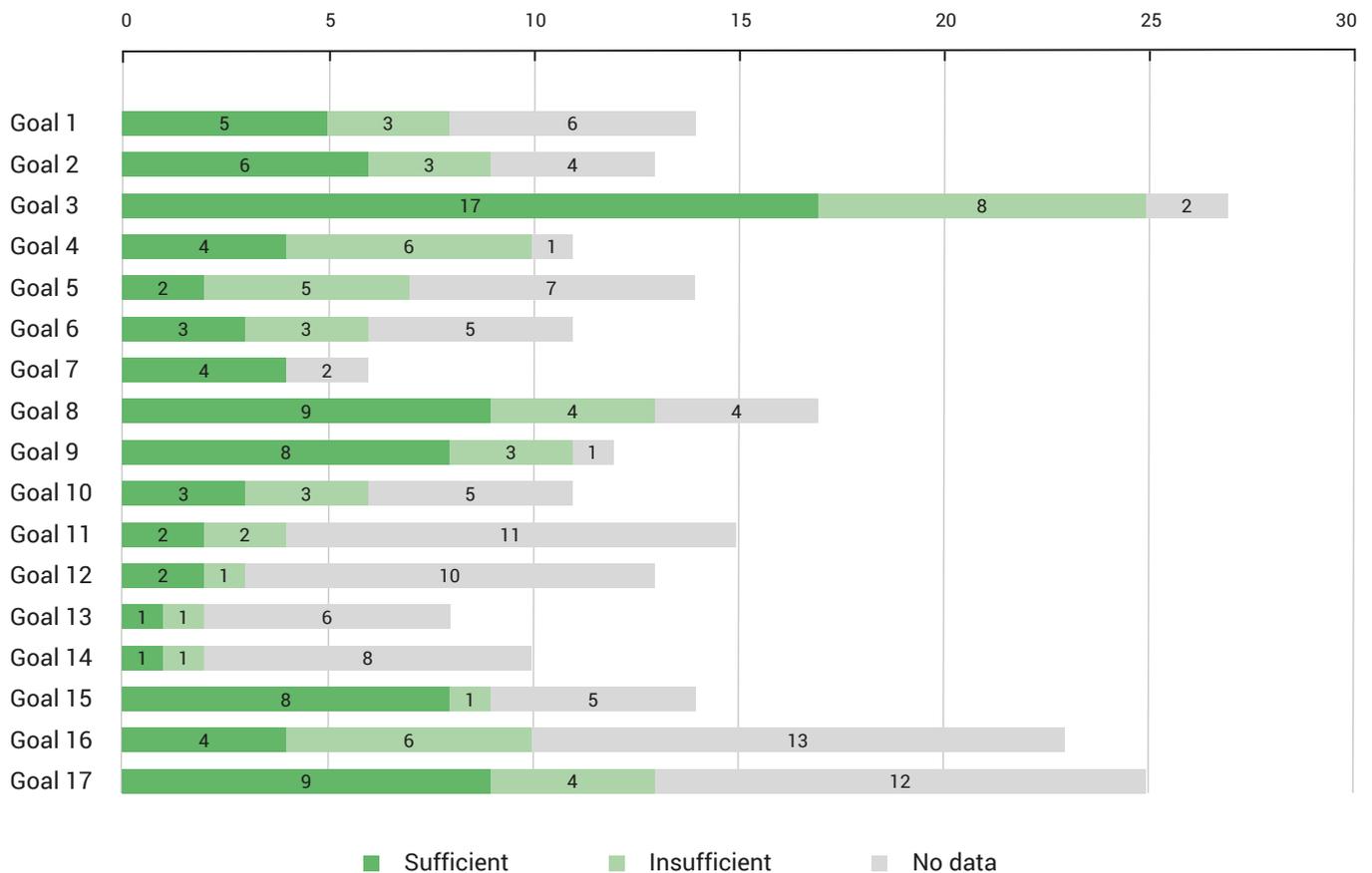


Figure 4 – SDG data availability by Goal for Asia-Pacific, 2018

3. PROGRESS GAPS: NEEDED COURSE CORRECTION AND ACCELERATION

This section analyses the progress gap for the SDG indicators across the 17 Goals. Measured by the Anticipated Progress Index, the progress gap is a value on the scale of -100 and 100, with 0-10 indicating a rate of progress that is on track.²

Asia-Pacific is on track for many indicators of good health and well-being. The Asia-Pacific region is on track for 20 per cent of SDG indicators which can be measured (Figure 5), a third of which are related to good health and well-being (Goal 3). The region will achieve the 2030 SDG Targets if it maintains the current pace of progress with these 22 SDG indicators.

Asia and the Pacific still has significant progress gaps. The Asia-Pacific region has progress gaps for 83 SDG indicators (Figure 6). The size of the progress gaps highlights top priorities for regional action to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The longer the yellow line, the more acceleration required. Red bars show a worsening trend with -100 representing the biggest regression expected by 2030 if business-as-usual continues.

50 per cent of regressions in Asia-Pacific are environmental. Nearly half of the SDG indicators in which progress is likely to deteriorate by 2030 are environmental. Hazardous waste generation (SDG indicator 12.4.2) requires the most dramatic reversal

to swing back into a positive direction. Forest area (15.1.1), permanent water body extent (6.6.1), deaths/missing/affected from disasters (1.5.1, 11.5.1, 13.1.1), greenhouse gas emissions (13.2.P2), renewable energy share (7.2.1), Ocean Health Index (14.2.P1), greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture (2.4.P1), Red List Index (a biodiversity conservation metric) (15.5.1), water stress (6.4.2), sustainable forest management (15.2.1), and economic loss from disasters (1.5.2) also require a reversal in current trends.

Some social indicators are among top priorities for Asia-Pacific. Among the top SDG indicators requiring a reversal in progress are the harmful use of alcohol (SDG indicator 3.5.2); free pre-primary education (4.2.P2); internally-displaced persons (16.b.P2) and refugees (16.b.P1), and gender wage gap (5.1.P1). Government spending on education, health and social protection (1.a.2) also requires a significant acceleration. Limited studies show that at least in 10 countries in the region, less than 75 per cent of children under five have their birth registered. Of 48 countries in region with data, only one-third in 2017 had national human rights institutions complying with the United Nations Paris Principles³, which provide international benchmarks for accreditation. In almost every country with data in Asia-Pacific region, over half of the children aged 1-14 are experiencing violent punishment.

■ WHERE IS ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ON-TRACK?

- 1.1.1 International poverty
- 1.2.1 National poverty
- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality
- 3.1.2 Births attended by skilled health personnel
- 3.2.1 Under-five mortality
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality
- 3.3.3 Malaria
- 3.9.3 Unintentional poisoning
- 3.b.1 Population covered by all vaccines in national programme
- 3.d.1 Health capacity and emergency preparedness
- 4.1.P1 Gross intake ratio
- 4.1.P3 Over-age enrolment
- 4.c.1 Organized teacher training
- 7.1.1 Access to electricity
- 8.6.1 Youth not in education, employment or training
- 8.8.1 Occupational injuries
- 8.10.2 Adults with a bank account
- 9.4.1 CO2 emission intensity
- 9.c.1 Population covered by a mobile network
- 11.1.P1 Open defecation practice (urban)
- 16.1.1 Intentional homicides
- 17.19.1 Financial resources to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

Figure 5 – SDG indicators on-track in the Asia-Pacific region

² More information on the Anticipated Progress Index in Annex 2 – Technical notes.

³ <https://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/ParisPrinciples.aspx>

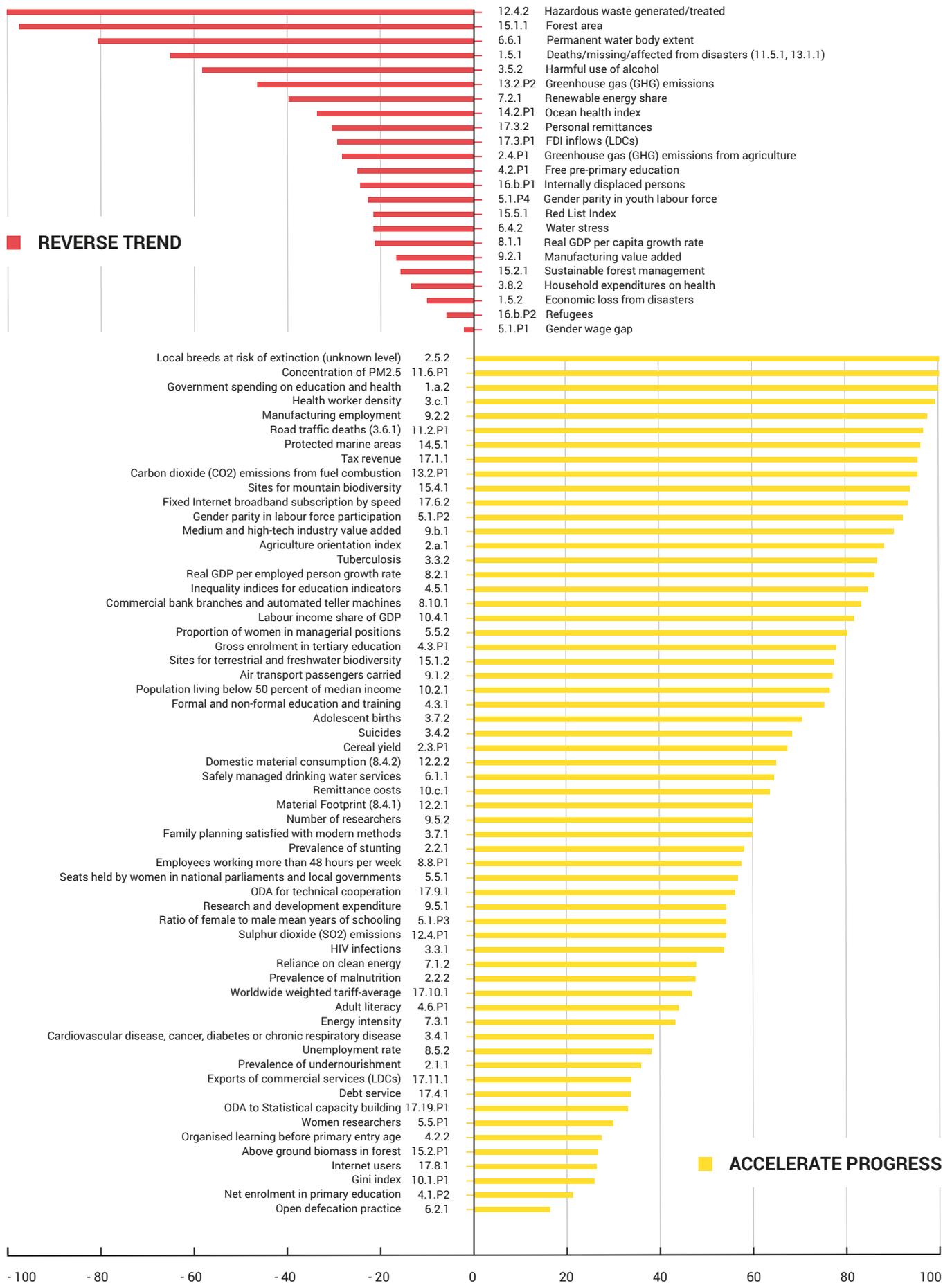


Figure 6 – Anticipated progress gaps in 2030: Asia-Pacific region

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Asia-Pacific region will not achieve any of the SDGs at the current pace. Despite significant gains in reducing maternal and under-five child mortality, there are declines in the number of people living in extreme poverty and falling rates of malnourishment. These gains are now at risk due to progress stagnation and reversal, partially explained by natural hazards, mismanagement of natural resources, increasing air and land pollutants, worsening oceans' health, falling Official Development Assistance (ODA), a rising number of refugees and displaced persons, unsustainable economic growth and more.

Progress for a Goal can mask individual declines.

Whilst a Goal can show good progress, within a Goal there are sub-sectors that require wholesale reversal, for example, the declining use of renewable energy (Goal 7), or insufficient resource mobilization to end poverty (Goal 1) and substance abuse which threatens to derail impressive gains under Goal 3. Goals' multi-dimensionality requires prioritization of certain SDG Targets and indicators (as highlighted in Figure 3 and Figure 6) as well as the most vulnerable groups.

Progress in responsible consumption and production need to be reversed in Asia-Pacific. Despite showing progress in 2017, more up to date results indicate Asia and the Pacific needs to significantly reverse current trends to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Two-thirds of the global SDG indicators cannot be measured for Asia and the Pacific. There is a lack of data preventing a comprehensive analysis of issues ranging from social protection, violence against women and girls, child and forced labour, food waste and loss, marine pollution, national and local planning of forest management, justice for all and more. Notably, one SDG Target in Goal 17 is to increase "significantly" the availability of high-quality, timely data by 2020. Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its leave-no-one-behind ambition depend on this Target, for which there is no data. Part III of this report continues this discussion.

Slow progress on SDG 17 threatens all Goal achievements. All SDG Targets under partnerships for the goals (Goal 17) need acceleration, whereas financial resources for statistical capacity building in developing countries (Indicator 17.19.1) remains insufficient for the region. SDG achievement of any goal depends on Goal 17 for tax revenues, statistical development, debt sustainability, technology transfer, international cooperation, favourable trade conditions and policy coherence on sustainable development.

