Goal One calls for an end to poverty in all forms and dimensions. Highlights of the baseline status of the region are based on available data on poverty dimensions-- focusing on the prevalence of income poverty, as measured by number of persons living on less than $1.90 a day and zeros in on the status of the working population. The analysis also highlights the population covered by social protection benefits, including social assistance and social insurance and government expenditures on health and education services -- key enabling factors for poverty reduction. Despite significant progress made in the past decades, Asia and the Pacific region is still home to more than half of the world’s extremely poor population.

More than half of the world’s extremely poor population lives in the Asia-Pacific region

The international poverty line is $1.90 per person per day, using 2011 purchasing power parity. Between the periods 2000-2004 and 2010-2013, the proportion of the world’s population living in poverty decreased from 29.7% to 10.3%.

Of the world’s 767 million poor people, 400 million live in Asia and the Pacific. The extent of poverty differs significantly across the region – from 38.2% in the Pacific (excluding Australia and New Zealand and largely due to Papua New Guinea) to 1.8% in East and North-East Asia.

Poverty rate in Asia and the Pacific, percentage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>World</th>
<th>Asia-Pacific</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td>400 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2013</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Employed persons in LDCs are far more likely to be living in poverty, than employed persons in non-LDCs

Poverty rates of employed persons are far higher in LDCs, at 59.2 per cent, compared to just 11.9 per cent for the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. This figure for LDCs has however, been decreasing since 2000, when
it was as high as 72.5 per cent. The South and South-West Asia sub-region has the highest rate of employed persons living in poverty at 20.8 per cent in the period 2010-2013, with the lowest rates for the corresponding period in East and North-East Asia (5.8 per cent) and North and Central Asia (6.2 per cent).

**Persons living in LDCs of the Asia-Pacific region are far less likely than non-LDCs to receive social assistance and social insurance**

Only 16 per cent of people in LDCs receive social assistance. And persons living in LDCs are 10 times less likely to receive social insurance payments compared to persons living in non-LDCs.

Social assistance refers to the assistance rendered by a government to persons without requiring them to make contributions to be entitled to benefits.

Social insurance refers to payments made from funds created by contributions from employees and employers, with or without a subsidy from the government.

**In the LDCs the proportion of government expenditure devoted to health is less than half that in the other countries of the region**

Over the period 2010-2014, governments of LDCs allocated 6% of government expenditure to health, compared to 15% for other countries in the region. However, there were significant differences between subregions, with the proportions ranging from 17%-18% in the Pacific to 7%-8% in South and South-West Asia.

This trend is reversed to some extent for expenditures in education. LDCs on average allocated 15% of government expenditure to education, while the other countries on average allocated 12%.