



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

I. SUMMARY

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development. SDG17 plays a pivotal role in realizing the other 16 SDGs, recognizing the necessity of partnerships involving governments, businesses and civil society organizations (CSOs) (UNDESA 2021). There has been notable progress in indicators such as the number of Internet users, personal remittances, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, exports of commercial services and financial resources dedicated to enhancing statistical capacity. However, significant challenges persist in fully unlocking the potential of SDG 17, encompassing limited coordination, resource flow to developing countries, capacity-building needs, systemic barriers and insufficient data for progress tracking and decision-making. Despite these challenges, the Asia-



I. SUMMARY

Pacific region has demonstrated progress in implementing solutions and prioritizing actions, particularly in technology for climate change, energy transition, private sector engagement and Global South-South cooperation. In parallel, there are promising solutions and priority actions to accelerate progress. These include fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, promoting innovative financing mechanisms, strengthening statistical capacity and investing in technology and infrastructure. This positive trajectory is likely to continue, contributing to advancing the 2030 Agenda in the years ahead.

II. CURRENT STATUS

The Asia-Pacific region faces a complex and interlinked array of challenges. These span climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, inequality and political instability. Tackling this intricate web of issues demands a multi-faceted and collaborative strategy that goes beyond conventional development partnerships.

SDG 17 encompasses a diverse set of targets, requiring an enhanced focus on domestic resource mobilization, the establishment of effective public-private partnerships, intensified international financial cooperation and implementation of robust capacity-building measures in developing countries. Firm actions must be taken, leveraging intelligence and resources to meet targets and foster cross-sector collaboration. As of 2023, the progress on Goal 17 indicators for the Asia-Pacific region reflects noteworthy achievements in several domains, including the number of Internet users, personal remittances, FDI inflows, commercial service exports and financial resources dedicated to enhancing statistical capacity (Figure 1). However, progress against several other indicators appears modest; substantial efforts to bridge the gaps and attain the 2030 targets seems challenging at the current pace of progress. Furthermore, notable challenges exist in critical aspects such as domestic budgets funded by domestic taxes, debt service, use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools, and commitment to public-private and civil society partnerships.

II. CURRENT STATUS

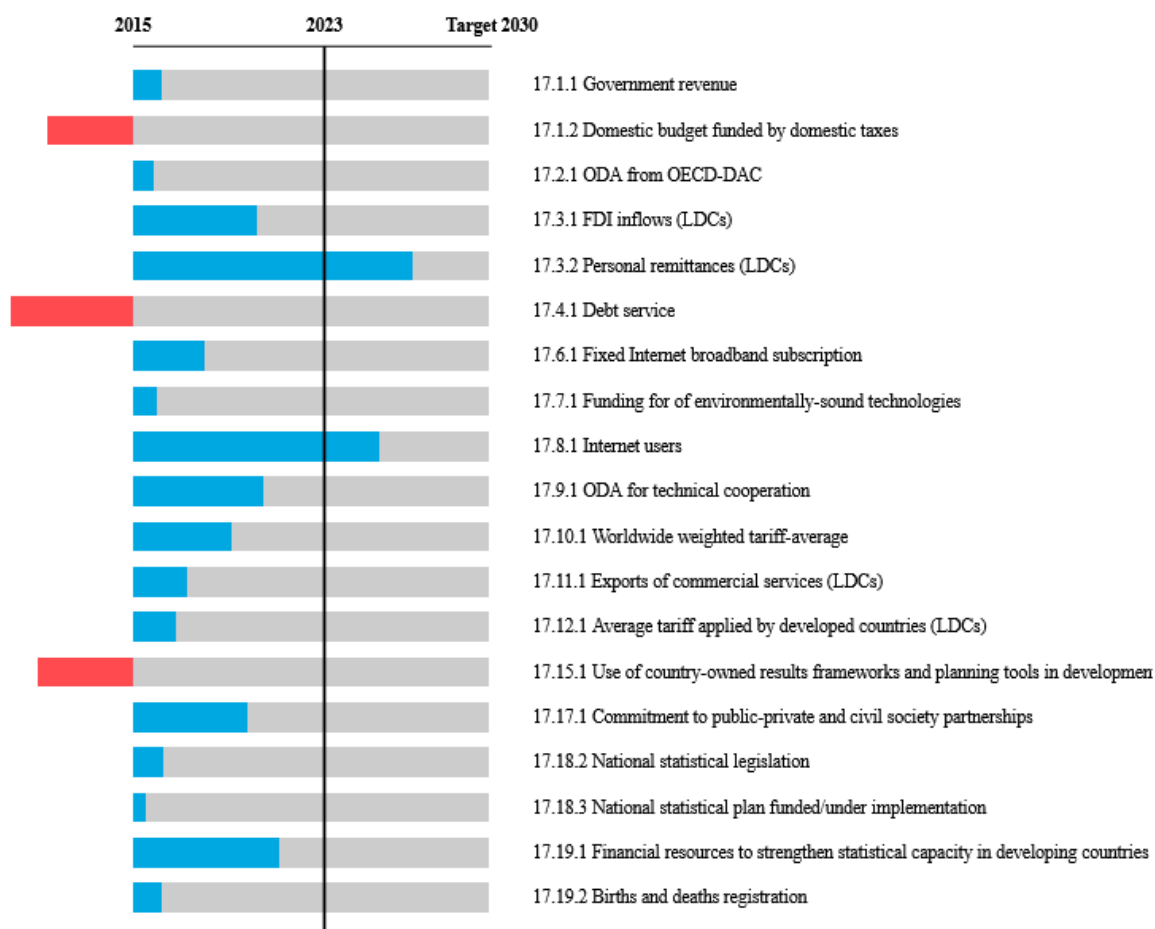


Figure 1 - Progress on Goal 17 indicators towards the 2030 targets

Source: ESCAP (2024).

A. AREAS WITH PROGRESS

MOBILIZE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES (TARGET 17.3)

Official development assistance (ODA) is only a subset of the multilateral development aid and cooperation afforded to developing countries. Financial resources are also made available through South-South cooperation, FDI and remittances. In the Asia-Pacific region, financial flows such as FDI and remittances (indicators 17.3.1 and 17.3.2 as shown in Figure 1) have grown relative to ODA (indicator 17.2.1).

II. CURRENT STATUS

While FDI inflows to the region have remained flat at US\$662 billion in 2022 given the global polycrisis resulting from the war in Ukraine, high food and energy prices and debt pressures, the region remains the largest recipient of FDI, accounting for half of global inflows. India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) were the most buoyant recipients, with increases of 10 and 5 per cent, respectively in 2022 compared to 2021, and strong growth in project announcements. Flows to China increased by 5 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021, to a record US\$189 billion (Figure 2). The increase was concentrated in manufacturing and high-tech industries, mainly electronics and communication equipment. Singapore recorded US\$141 billion in 2022, accounting for almost two-thirds of flows to ASEAN. FDI flows to India amounted to US\$49 billion, making it the third-largest host country for announced greenfield projects and the second-largest for international project finance deals (UNCTAD, 2023b).

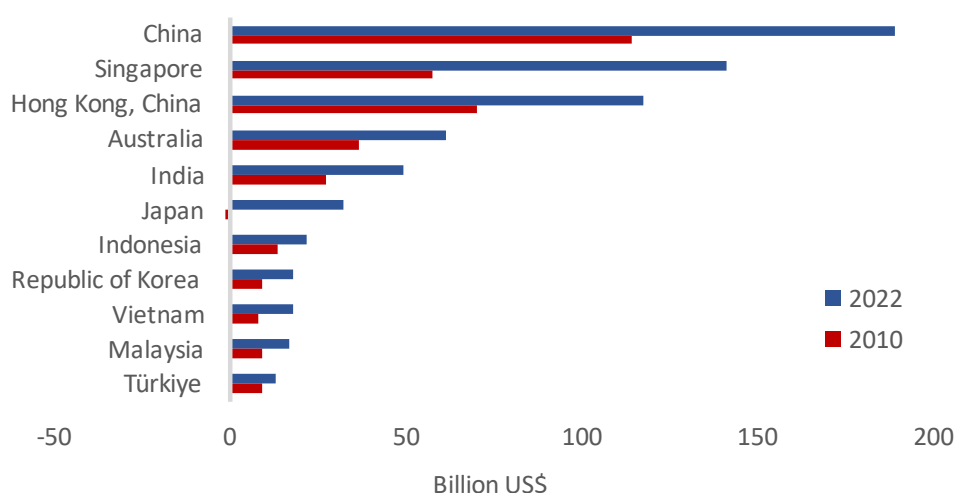


Figure 2: Top recipients of FDI in Asia-Pacific, 2010 and 2022

Source: FDI/MNE database (UNCTAD, 2023a).

Personal remittances have become key to poverty reduction and economic development, especially in least developed countries (LDCs). The Asia-Pacific region has seen a significant surge in remittance inflows (Figure 3), which have become a crucial income source for many households, especially in rural areas. This increased funding has improved living standards, enabled spending on education and health care, and promoted robust economic growth and resilience. This progress underscores a positive trajectory well ahead of the targeted goals.

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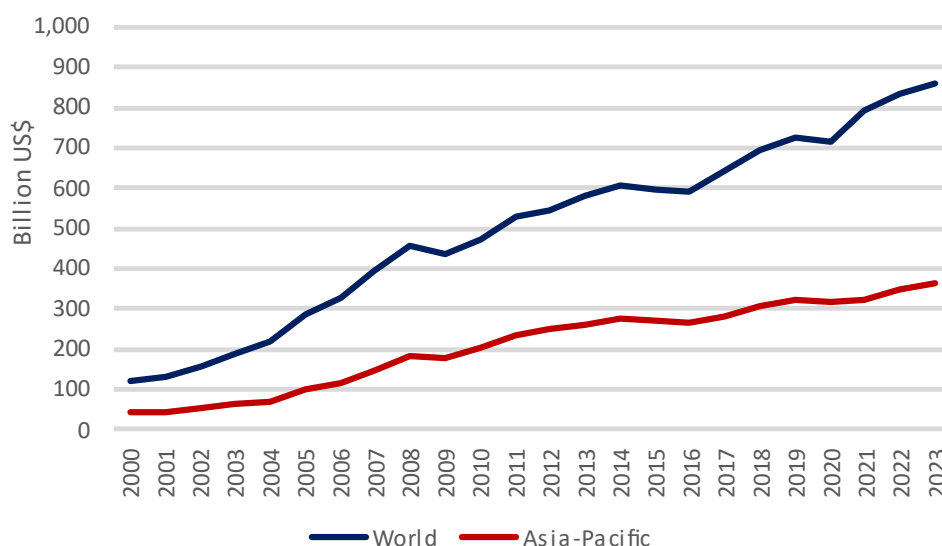


Figure 3: Remittance inflows to Asia-Pacific and the World, 2000–2023

Source: World Bank-KNOMAD December 2023 dataset (KNOMAD, 2023).

Of the top 10 recipient countries for remittances globally in absolute terms in 2023, half were in the Asia-Pacific region (India, China, the Philippines, Pakistan and Bangladesh) as shown in Figure 4. As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), Pacific and North and Central Asia countries recorded high dependency on remittances. For example, in 2023, remittances represented 48.2 per cent of GDP in Tajikistan, 40.6 per cent in Tonga and 31.9 per cent in Samoa. Given remittances growing importance as a financial lifeline in many economies, especially during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, further efforts are needed to improve the quality, frequency and granularity of remittance data (Ratha *et al.*, 2023).

II. CURRENT STATUS

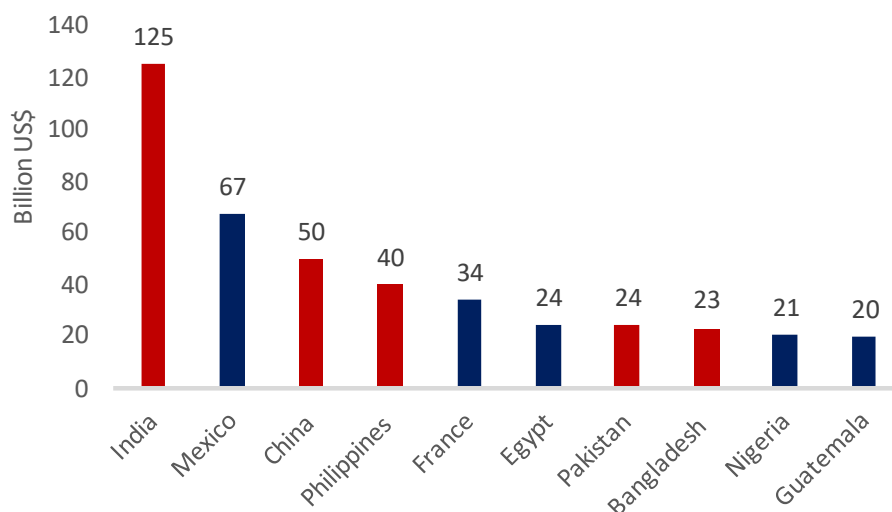


Figure 4: Top recipients of remittances, 2023

Source: World Bank-KNOMAD December 2023 dataset (KNOMAD, 2023).

Note: World Bank data for remittance inflows in 2023 are estimates.

ENHANCE NORTH-SOUTH, SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (TARGETS 17.6 AND 17.8)

Internet access and fixed-broadband subscriptions in Asia-Pacific have expanded rapidly, lowering the digital divide and promoting global economic participation. The East and Northeast Asia subregion has exceptionally high fixed-broadband subscriptions (Figure 5). The subregion has high levels of infrastructure development and most of the world's leading telecommunications equipment and smartphone manufacturers. In comparison, Southeast Asia and South and Southwest Asia subregions lag behind. Southeast Asia is a mobile-first subregion, resulting in lower penetration of fixed-line broadband, while in South and Southwest Asia (outside of Türkiye and the Islamic Republic of Iran) a larger share of the population resides in rural areas with limited infrastructure development (ESCAP and A4AI, 2021).

II. CURRENT STATUS

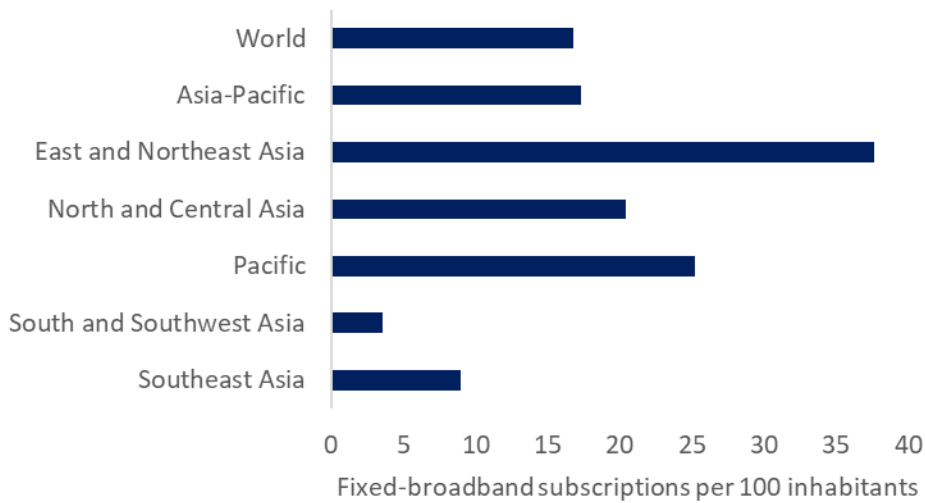


Figure 5: Access to fixed-broadband connectivity, 2021

Source: ESCAP (2023a).

Figure 6 depicts a rise in Internet users in the region, driven by affordable data plans and the widespread availability of smartphones. This heightened connectivity has empowered individuals to access information, e-commerce and online education and training. Despite this progress, it is important to acknowledge the need for continued efforts towards universal and equitable access to digital benefits.

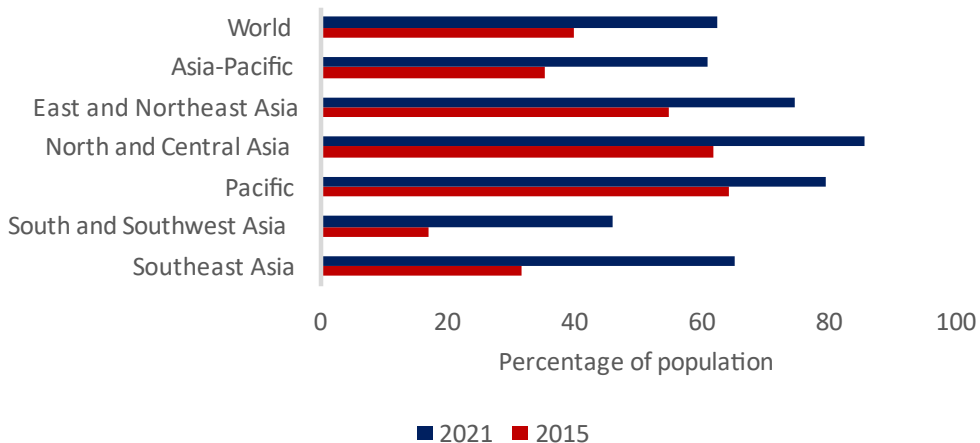


Figure 6: Access to the Internet, 2015 and 2021

Source: ESCAP (2023a).

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DEVELOP MEASUREMENTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THAT COMPLEMENT GDP (TARGET 17.19)

Financial resources devoted to improving statistical capabilities in developing countries have increased (see indicator 17.9.1 in Figure 1), reflecting commitment to bolstering data infrastructure and analytics. This crucial progress aids informed decision-making and policy implementation. However, measuring progress using GDP has its limitations where broader notions of sustainability and well-being are not reflected. There is an increasing need for new measures that would complement GDP considering “human well-being” and “ecosystem well-being” (Bordt *et al.*, 2022).

Collaborative initiatives and sustained investments are key for developing holistic national well-being and sustainability indicators that advance statistical systems beyond current GDP measures (ESCAP, 2022).

PROMOTE EFFECTIVE PUBLIC, PUBLIC-PRIVATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS (TARGET 17.17)

Over the past few years, the Asia-Pacific region has witnessed a notable surge in partnerships involving governments, businesses and CSOs, dedicated to advancing sustainable development. Evident manifestations of this commitment include initiating impactful initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Road Map for Implementing the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in Asia-Pacific (ESCAP 2017) and the Global South-South Development Expo 2022. While these endeavours signify commendable progress, it is essential to acknowledge that work remains to meet the region’s targeted objectives for sustainable development.

B. AREAS REQUIRING ATTENTION AND ASSOCIATED KEY CHALLENGES

Despite substantial progress towards Goal 17 in Asia-Pacific, persistent challenges like limited financial resources, weak capacity and poor coordination require intensified efforts. This includes a steadfast commitment to the principal of leaving no one behind, ensuring refugees, asylum seekers and stateless populations are not marginalized. Despite overall progress, recent years have seen areas of regression,

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with concern about the declining proportion of domestic budgets funded by taxes in some countries, hindering their ability to finance development programmes. Rising national debts can hinder essential service and infrastructure investments, potentially stifling economic growth. Also, the decreasing use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools in development cooperation is concerning. Thus, strengthening partnerships between nations is crucial for addressing these challenges and ensuring sustainable development progress.

STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (TARGET 17.1)

Domestic revenue collection in Asia-Pacific remains far behind the target on the total government revenue of selected countries as a percentage of GDP (Figure 7). In 2021, governments in countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Lao People's Democratic Republic, could only collect revenue worth between 8 and 15 per cent of GDP in 2021. Moreover, in countries like the Solomon Islands and Lao People's Democratic Republic, government revenue as a percentage of GDP declined significantly from 2015 to 2021.

Tax is a major source of domestic resource mobilization, yet the proportion of the domestic budget funded by domestic taxes has been declining in many countries across Asia and the Pacific. Increasing tax revenue collection is important for ensuring that adequate financial resources are allocated in areas such as health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation. The regression (Figure 1) highlights the need for targeted interventions and strategies to manage tax issues and strengthen fiscal sustainability. This approach can enable countries to shift towards self-financed development programmes and decrease dependence on donor funding and debt services for development.

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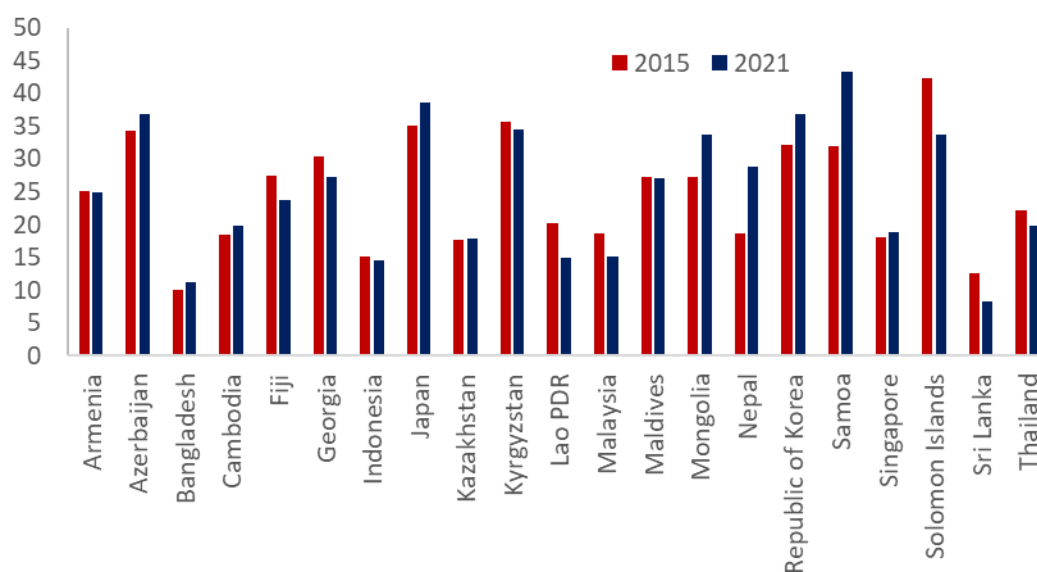


Figure 7: Government revenue (budgetary central government) as a percentage of GDP, 2015 and 2021

Source: ESCAP (2023a).

ATTAINING LONG-TERM DEBT SUSTAINABILITY (TARGET 17.4)

Rising levels of government debt have been a reality even before the COVID-19 pandemic. In Asia-Pacific the regional average reached up to 49.5 per cent of GDP in 2021, driven largely by stimulus packages and falling government revenues. Figure 8 indicates that several countries in the region had general government gross debt of more than 100 per cent of GDP in 2022 – Lao People’s Democratic Republic (128.51 per cent), Bhutan (127.33 per cent), Sri Lanka (115.54 per cent) and Maldives (114.37 per cent) (IMF, 2023).

Moreover, an increasing number of countries in the region are classified at high risk of debt distress. However, higher debt does not necessarily equate to a higher risk of debt distress. If wisely used, public debt could be a powerful tool for development with enhanced debt-funded spending. Given the lack of consensus on the ideal level of public debt for SDG financing needs, there is a need to revamp conventional debt sustainability assessment tools. This would allow consideration of the impact of climate change and SDG investments on public finances and how this should impact debt assessments (ESCAP, 2023b).

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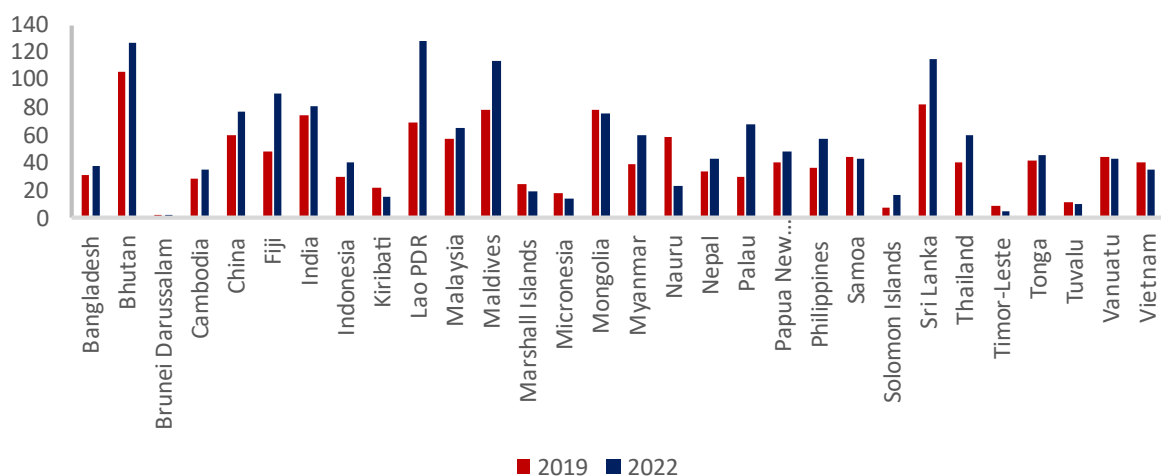


Figure 8: Government gross debt in selected countries as a percentage of GDP, 2019 and 2022

Source: IMF, (2023).

PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT, TRANSFER, DISSEMINATION AND DIFFUSION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES (TARGET 17.7)

Despite recent progress in Asia-Pacific for funding environmentally sound technologies, the region remains woefully short of its target. This area is vital for sustainable development, warranting increased investment and prioritization. The efforts of some governments, businesses and international organizations should be acknowledged where they have funded innovative, sustainable technologies aimed at reducing environmental impact. Their investments have led to cleaner energy production, enhanced resource use and improved waste management, steering towards a greener, more sustainable future.

IMPLEMENT ODA COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO NATIONAL PLANS (TARGETS 17.2 AND 17.9)

The share of gross national income (GNI) given as ODA from the OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) countries to LDCs stagnated from 2015 to 2021 (Figure 9). As LDCs bear the brunt of the recent rise in extreme poverty, fuelled by the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis, ODA becomes more critical in helping LDCs provide

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basic goods and services than other countries. Despite the pressing need to boost financial support for development projects, advancements in ODA have matched the urgency of set targets. ODA for technical cooperation has also lagged far behind the anticipated pace (see indicator 17.9.1 in Figure 1). Providing technical cooperation is crucial for building capacity and fostering sustainable development, particularly in regions that require targeted support. However, slow progress for this indicator suggests a need for intensified efforts and a collective commitment to ensuring that ODA is used effectively to promote technical cooperation.

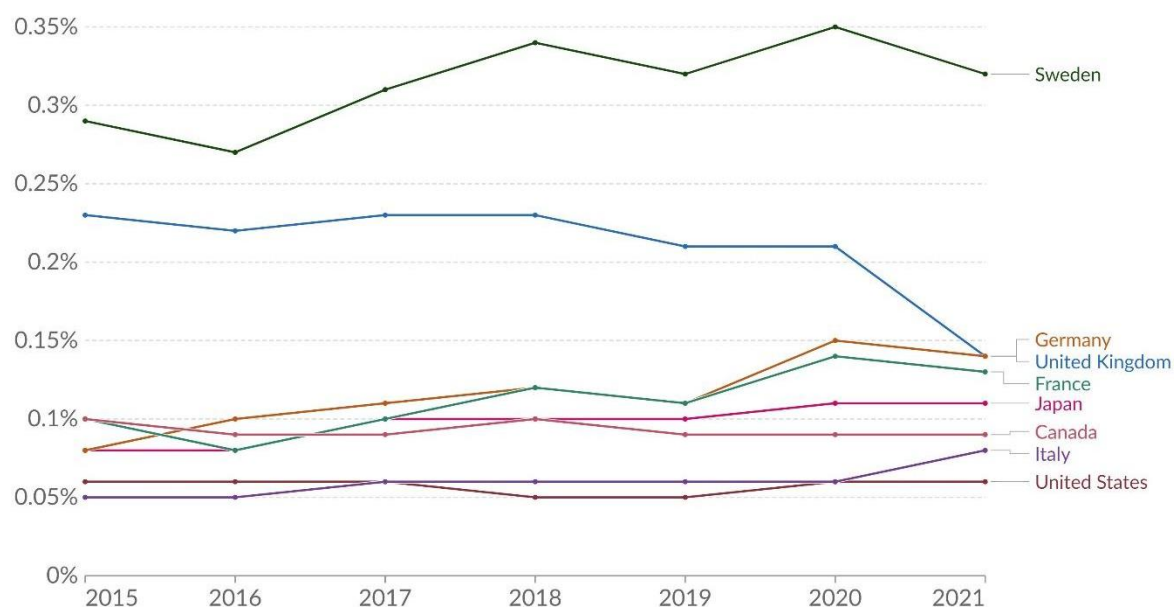


Figure 9: Net ODA from the OECD-DAC countries to LDCs, 2015-2021 (as a percentage of each donor's GNI)

Source: Our World in Data (2023).

C. AVAILABILITY OF DATA

Assessing progress towards SDGs is challenged by the partial availability of data across various indicators (Figure 10). A key issue in the region is the lack of data on countries' statistical capacity to monitor SDG progress (17.18.1). Despite this, there has been no improvement in this indicator compared to previous years. This lack of data impedes a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of statistical systems and the monitoring of progress towards SDGs across all targets.

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Furthermore, a widespread data shortage across numerous indicators complicates the task of monitoring progress. For instance, 17.2.1, measuring ODA as a percentage of GNI, has data deficits in 54 points. Concerningly, 17.5.1, focusing on investment promotion regimes for LDCs, and 17.11.1, assessing the share of global merchandise and services exports for developing LDCs, have zero data.

The plight of LDCs, often sidelined in the global economy, is accentuated by the lack of data on critical indicators. Notably, indicator 17.14.1, on policy coherence for sustainable development, 54 missing data points and 4 insufficient ones. Similarly, indicator 17.16.1, measuring development effectiveness, has 49 instances of no data and 8 instances of insufficient data.

Notably, data unavailability poses a formidable challenge in tracking sustainable development progress and has seen little to no progress in recent times. The reasons for this data gap are multi-faceted. Firstly, limited resources in many developing nations impede comprehensive data collection and analysis. Secondly, capacity limitations compound this, with a dearth of statistical expertise for robust analysis. Lastly, a lack of coordination among stakeholders adds to the data deficit, emphasizing the need for joint efforts to bridge this critical gap.

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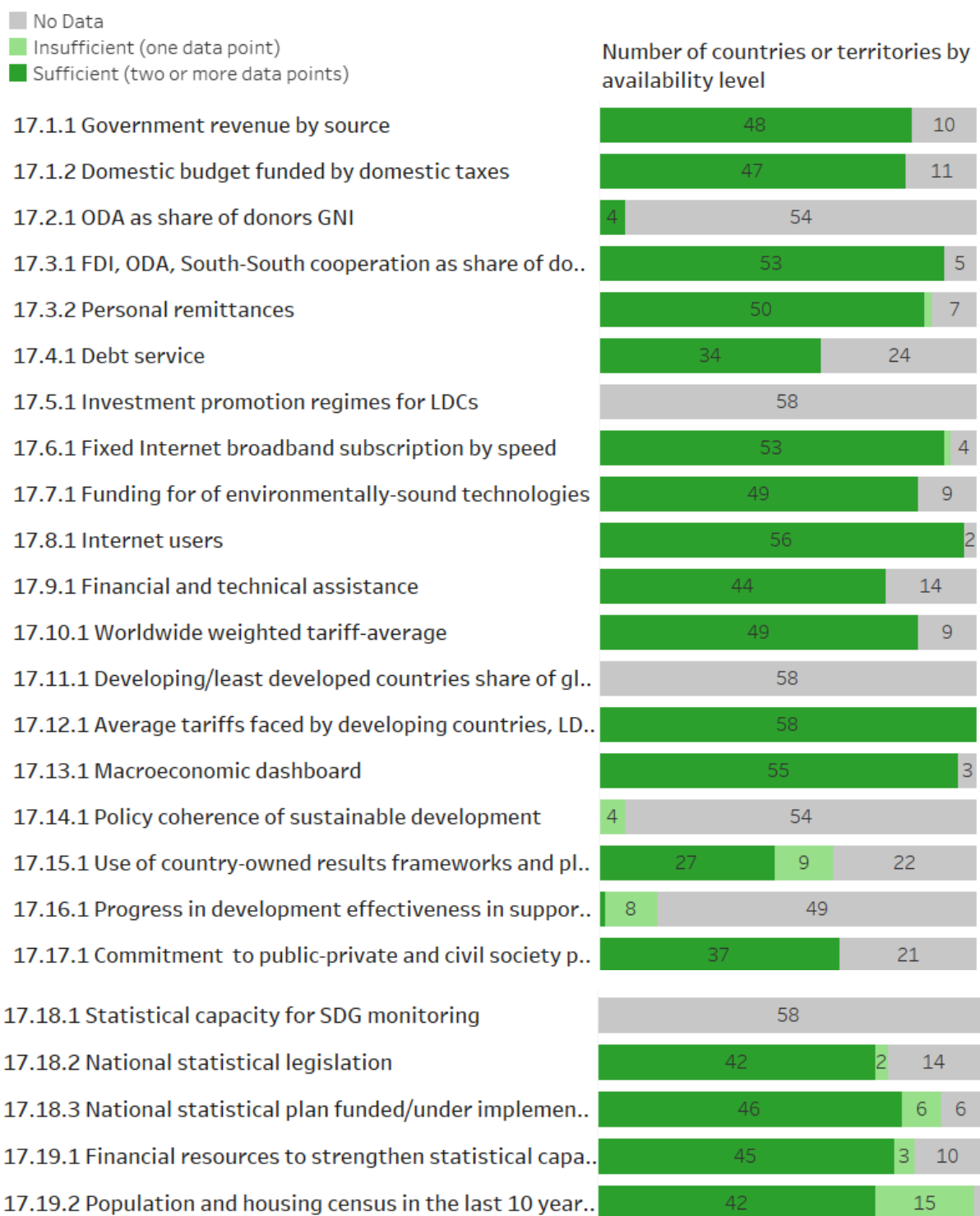


Figure 10: Availability of data across SDG 17 indicators

Source: ESCAP (2024).

III. HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

Human rights and gender equality are essential in achieving SDG 17, encompassing a comprehensive framework interweaving partnerships in finance, trade, statistics and technology. While the primary focus is on fostering global partnerships for sustainable development, the success of associated targets hinges on integrating robust human rights and gender equality considerations. Beyond the collaborative aspect, these targets emphasize the need for a holistic approach to ensuring financial systems are just, trade agreements are transparent and aligned with human rights principles, statistical methodologies are inclusive and technology transfer is equitable. This broader perspective underscores the pivotal role that human rights and gender equality play in shaping the multi-faceted landscape of SDG 17, acknowledging that sustainable development necessitates a comprehensive and inclusive strategy across all its dimensions.

Fundamental human rights considerations ensure inclusive participation of all stakeholders, especially women, Indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, in partnership decision-making. Another crucial aspect is maintaining transparency and accountability within partnerships to grant stakeholders access to information and mechanisms for partner accountability. Investment laws, policies, and international trade agreements should align with human rights obligations, and ODA should contribute to human rights.

Gender equality requires designs that empower all, regardless of gender and ensure equal participation and benefit addressing root causes. Specific examples of integrating human rights and gender equality considerations into partnerships include fair tax policies, equitable technology transfer, capacity-building programmes tailored to the needs of all genders and marginalized groups, and private sector practices advancing the well-being of vulnerable groups.

Effective integration of human rights and gender considerations in the private sector requires national policies adapting the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Such policies should encourage businesses to implement human rights,

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environmental and due diligence measures, disclose practices and progress and publicly commit to gender equality.

IV. PROMISING INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES

ENHANCING REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

Access to technology is crucial for the development of countries, establishing a digitally inclusive future, and achieving the SDGs. However, in the Asia-Pacific region, not every country has direct and reliable access to technology due to unique geographical challenges and dispersed populations. These obstacles limit the development of digital skills and widen the technological gap with better-connected countries. Therefore, collaboration, especially at the regional level, is essential for technological advancements and ensuring technological access for all in the Asia-Pacific region, leaving no one behind.

A great example of this has been the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Highway initiative (ESCAP, 2023e). This initiative lays the foundation for regional cooperation to ensure regional digital transformation, widespread digital connection and reduce the digital divide. Towards this goal, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) promotes and supports subregional initiatives and capacity-building through North-South and South-South cooperation. This is highlighted by a collaborating initiative from Fiji, New Zealand and Samoa towards operationalizing a Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) to ensure reliable, more affordable Internet and faster Internet across the Pacific (UNDESA, 2023). Small island developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific often lack such a connection to national or even international IXPs. As a result, these islands experience high network latency and high costs for Internet connectivity due to the long distances the fibre-optic cables must cover. However, the proposed new link would significantly reduce latency for at least seven Pacific islands from 187 milliseconds to just 6 milliseconds, ensuring faster, cheaper and more stable connectivity. This, in turn, facilitates better

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technological access, fosters further technological advancements, enhances people's digital skills, and promotes economic and social development (ESCAP, 2023d). Whereas the SIDS struggle with their isolated location, the landlocked developing countries in Asia-Pacific often face other geographical challenges in mountainous terrains and widely dispersed rural populations. To tackle this problem, the Government of Kazakhstan formed a partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and launched a national initiative named Giga (Giga UNICEF, 2023a). Giga is a global UNICEF-ITU initiative aimed at connecting every school worldwide to the Internet. To date, 6931 schools in Kazakhstan have been connected to the Internet, significantly increasing digital access and Internet affordability, especially for schools and children in rural areas (Giga UNICEF, 2023b). Following Kazakhstan, Giga has also collaborated with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, making substantial progress in providing thousands of children with Internet access.

DIVERSIFYING DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Given the strain on public finance caused by the polycrisis and the substantial resources needed to advance SDG progress, leveraging private sustainable finance is critical. One model of private financing is sustainability-linked bonds, which can be further categorized: green bonds for the environment, blue bonds for marine health and orange bonds for gender equality and women's empowerment. The Women's Livelihood Bond (WLB) Series, implemented by the Impact Investment Exchange (IIX) in collaboration with ESCAP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), is an example of an orange bond supporting rural women entrepreneurs in Asia and the Pacific to access affordable and well-regulated financial services (ESCAP, 2023c). The WLB Series, the world's first gender-lens investing instrument listed on a stock exchange, is structured as a set of innovative debt securities. These securities mobilize private capital to invest in a portfolio of women-focused enterprises across multiple countries and sectors, balancing risk, return and impact. The bonds in the WLB Series comply with the Orange Bond Principles, a set of guidelines to promote gender-lens investing. Gender bonds like the WLB Series have emerged in response to the growing movement to leverage innovative sources of public and private finance to tackle complex social challenges. They provide capital

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for projects generating positive social and environmental impacts. Unlike many gender bonds that focus solely on microfinance, the WLB Series recognizes its role in addressing climate change and achieving multiple crosscutting SDGs.

FOSTERING GREEN TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION

A key aspect in pursuing a sustainable future is promoting the adoption and widespread implementation of green technologies. Innovative solutions and strategic initiatives can drive the transition towards environmentally friendly practices and technologies. The UN Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is a global model for advancing the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low-carbon and climate-resilient development, particularly in response to the requests of developing countries. The CTCN and its 800+ members promote sustainability by sharing knowledge, best practices and lessons learned related to technology and capacity-building. By developing national plans, convening regional markets, de-risking of public and private investments, and creating avenues for scaling up and leveraging climate finance, CTCN has catalysed climate innovation and technological improvement.

One notable success story in Asia and the Pacific is the adoption of energy-efficient water-pumping technology solutions in the Solomon Islands. This advancement is crucial as the energy consumption for water management makes up approximately 10 per cent of the country's energy demand, which relies heavily on diesel-based electricity generators. The audit conducted afterward serves as the foundation for various energy efficiency measures. These initiatives aid in fulfilling the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Solomon Islands by enhancing energy security and curbing greenhouse gas emissions within the energy sector. They are a great example of the adoption and spread of green technology.

Another technology-driven solution is the agricultural information tech start-up, iPAGE, in Bangladesh. Implemented by a young entrepreneur, the start-up uses data, machine learning and artificial intelligence to offer actionable information to small farmers and ecosystem players to improve their operations. The initiative has cooperated with over 10,000 small farmers, resulting in a 25 per cent reduction in fertilizer use, an average yield improvement of 12 per cent, a 75 per cent reduction in capital costs, and reduction of 2 million kilograms in carbon emissions per year. The Government of

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Bangladesh backs iPAGE with support from several international development partners, United Nations entities and the private sector.

PROMOTING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

Multi-stakeholder partnerships across and within countries facilitate knowledge-sharing, science and technology transfer and resource mobilization. The Asia-Pacific region has several noteworthy examples of partnerships advancing multiple SDGs. The Energy Transition Partnership in Southeast Asia (ETP), hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) brings together governments, UN entities, the private sector and CSOs to harness the untapped potential of renewable energy into the energy mix. ETP provides coordination, multi-stakeholder dialogue and knowledge boost to leadership in and financing for the energy transition in the region, aimed at achieving the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. ETP delivers a range of technical assistance across multiple sectors involved in energy transition.

In the Philippines (Visayas and Mindanao regions) young workers in the energy and transport sectors are driving meaningful multi-stakeholder dialogue on Just Transitions through the Youth Committee within the Associated Labour Unions. This youth-led effort receives support from the International Labour Organization and the Government of Japan under the Accelerating Green Jobs and Facilitating Just Transition in ASEAN Project (ILO, 2023). The initiative empowers young people to develop action plans and campaigns on Just Transitions within the energy and transport sectors.

Another example is the Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia project under the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), which is funded by the World Bank and supported by UNOPS. This project supports circular plastic economy solutions by providing grant investments to eligible organizations, including private entities, social enterprises, non-governmental organizations, academic institutes and community-based organizations in eight SACEP Member States. The project also facilitates knowledge-sharing among practitioners and investors and supports the development of strategies and action plans to harmonize plastic pollution mitigation measures. Moreover, it facilitates collaborations by bringing together public and private actors to establish policies, standards and analytics.

V. PRIORITY ACTIONS

The [HIV/AIDS Data Hub for the Asia Pacific](#) (Data Hub) was launched in 2008 through collaborative efforts of UNICEF, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UNAIDS, with WHO support. The hub's main goal is to serve as a one-stop shop for HIV-related information for countries in the region. It is anchored by the data-use culture and common value for evidence-based AIDS responses. It offers country and regional profiles, interactive maps, statistics by populations and thematic areas, and a resource library of fact sheets, guidelines, laws and policies, tools and publications. The Data Hub team also creates data products on request to meet the specific needs of technical, development, national, and community partners. The Data Hub has an average of 20,000 monthly users.

V. PRIORITY ACTIONS

The following priority actions are proposed to counteract the prevailing regression on specific targets.

PRIORITY 1: PROMOTE SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR INTEGRATED POLICY PLANNING

South-South and triangular cooperation can facilitate integrated policy planning, exchange of best practices and contribute to the implementation of all goals. This involves strengthening the role of regional and subregional intergovernmental mechanisms and forums, including ASEAN, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, SACEP, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Mekong River Commission, Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific, Asia-Pacific Regional Hub for South-South Cooperation, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment. These forums and mechanisms can aid in developing and implementing thematic action plans and road maps to advance SDG progress.

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PRIORITY 2: MOBILIZE FINANCING FROM ALL SOURCES TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT

Increased mobilization of financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources is crucial given competing fiscal demands. This involves boosting domestic resource mobilization, attracting FDI, leveraging multilateral development banks, unlocking private finance and accessing climate finance. Addressing gaps in gender equality in the various financing instruments is critical. Integrating gender equality considerations into NDCs and National Adaptation Plans can contribute to gender-responsive climate financing and budgeting.

Given the growing interest in using the SDGs as a framework to measure and manage impact among public and private financiers, governments can adopt several measures. These include integrating the SDG targets and indicators into existing sustainability metrics for various financial instruments and investment vehicles to measure social and environmental impact. Enabling this through public-private collaborations, the development of SDG impact frameworks and the development of bankable projects for such SDG-aligned financing is important to orient greater financing that aligns with the SDGs. Development agencies and private investors can collaborate to define common frameworks to better align private sector incentives and practices with the SDGs.

PRIORITY 3: COORDINATION, COLLABORATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Enhanced coordination and collaboration among stakeholders across and within countries, including governments, CSOs, academia and the private sector can contribute to efficient resource use and alignment of Goal 17 activities. Capacity-building support in project management, monitoring and evaluation and partnership development is crucial for effective implementation. The meaningful engagement of youth in decision-making processes through mechanisms within regional forums can better integrate the ideas and concerns of young people. Sharing lessons and best practices from existing multi-stakeholder programmes such as the Energy Transition Partnership in Southeast Asia can help further scale partnerships in key climate and sustainable development initiatives. Strengthening existing regional partnerships and

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exploring the benefits of new ones are necessary. Opportunities exist for regional-level partnerships to work in tandem with global initiatives in developing strategies to advance the SDGs while adding value by tailoring solutions to suit the regions' context.

PRIORITY 4: IMPROVE DATA AND STATISTICS

Improved data collection, analysis and dissemination across all SDGs can contribute to evidence-based decision-making. Countries can benefit from regional initiatives that strengthen SDG reporting, including SDG progress assessments with the National SDG Tracker and SDG data portals. Investing in high-quality and timely data collection allowing for multiple levels of disaggregation is key for programme design, targeting and implementation. Capacity-building mechanisms and partnerships at national and regional levels with multi-stakeholder participation can enhance data availability and quality.

The emergence of “big data”, “open-source data” and digital technologies presents an unprecedented opportunity to improve the collection of extensive, recent and reliable data across the SDGs. While much of the responsibility for data collection currently falls on national statistical bureaux, the role of private entities—especially in designing innovative data collection and analysis systems based on digital technologies, artificial intelligence and mobile phones—is also critical. To scale up private sector data gathering and analytical systems, governments may need to review their policy and regulatory frameworks to incentivize private companies' involvement in data-collection efforts and, more importantly, encourage individuals to participate.

VI. CREDITS AND REFERENCES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The profile for SDG 17 was developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with inputs from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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