Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific
Baseline and pathways for transformative change by 2030
Infographics
SDG 1
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

TARGETS
7

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS
6

In Asia and the Pacific, women are less likely than men to have access to social protection, including social insurance, assistance and labour programme.

WHY IT MATTERS

Ending poverty in all its forms is a cornerstone of the 2030 agenda. Inequitable access to assets and the unequal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work hamper women’s earning capacity and increasing their vulnerability to poverty. Research shows that more cash in women’s hand contribute to better education, nutrition and health outcomes of children and other family in the household.

The rate of poverty among working population for South and South-West Asia remains particularly high at 30.9% of females compared to 25.4% for males.
SDG 2
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

TARGETS
8

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS
1

Nearly one-third of women in reproductive age are undernourished

The number of women and girls aged 15–49 with anemia increased to 296 per 1,000 in 2016, up from 272 per 1,000 in 2000.

The region is home to nearly half a billion people who lack regular access to adequate food. More women than men in the region are suffering from moderate and severe food insecurity.

WHY IT MATTERS

Women play a critical role in food production, processing and distribution. But they have unequal access to and control over productive resources, markets, training and technology. Unequal gender relations often leave them trapped in domestic and subsistence activities in which they have little control over the proceeds.

Asia and the Pacific regional infographic
SDG 3
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

TARGETS

13

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

6

The absence of sexual and reproductive health and rights continues to be a significant challenge particularly for marginalised women. While maternal mortality declined, progress has been largely uneven. In 2015, 92 per cent of all maternal deaths occurred in South and South-West Asia.

WHY IT MATTERS

Gender differences in health outcomes are driven both by biological differences and social factors such as gender roles, access to resources, voice and agency. Realising sexual reproductive health and rights are key for women’s empowerment and catalyst for achieving the SDGs. It can unleash benefits for women, expanding their education and economic opportunities and improving their health outcomes.
SDG 4
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

TARGETS
10

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS
8

Many countries have achieved or surpassed gender parity in education. However, the focus of SDG 4 is on quality education. Large gaps remain in the lack of data. Insufficient disaggregation of data remains a challenge, especially to understand the important dimensions of inequality and discrimination beyond sex.

Across the region, girls outperform boys in math and reading in primary school. But this does not translate into equal economic opportunities for women and men.

WHY IT MATTERS
Education is not only an important end in itself, but a path for achieving many other SDGs, including gender equality. Access to quality education influences future economic opportunities.
Interlinkages and Synergies between goal 5 and All SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the heart of its implementation. It is the stand-alone goal and cross-cutting priority in all the SDGs.
The goal of SDG 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

WHAT?

5.1 End discrimination against all women and girls
5.2 Eliminate violence against women and girls
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices such as child marriage
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work
5.5 Ensure women's participation and leadership in decision-making
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights

HOW?

5a. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources including land
5b. Enhance the use of information and communications technology
5c. Adopt and strengthen policies and legislation

WHY IT MATTERS

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SDG 5
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

TARGETS
9

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS
14

WHY IT MATTERS
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the heart of its implementation. It is the stand-alone goal and cross-cutting priority in all the SDGs.

South and South-West Asia have the highest rates of child marriage in the region and in the world, where 1 in 3 women are married or in a union by the age of 18.
As many as one in two women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months.

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Women and girls spend up to **11 times** more of their day on unpaid care and domestic work than men and boys do.

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Women hold limited decision-making and leadership roles – as of 2017, fewer than one in five parliamentarians in the region were women.

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Two to six times more women than men carry the burden of collecting water.

Despite remarkable progress in improving household access to clean water, sub-regional disparities remain the major challenge. In 2015, among rural populations in the Pacific, 38 per cent used safely managed sanitation, compared to 75.7 per cent in urban areas.

Safe drinking water and sanitation are particularly important for women and girls, who are most often the primary users, providers and managers of water in their households. The lack of adequate sanitation may increase women’s risk of violence and harassment, be it at school, at work or in their communities.
SDG 7
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

WHY IT MATTERS

While more than 95% of households are connected to electricity, only 56% access clean energy

In rural households, women are often the primary energy managers, spending hours each day collecting fuel to cook and to heat their homes. In 2014, 80 per cent or more of Asia's rural populations had access to electricity, except in the Pacific, where just over a third had access.

Lack of access to clean, affordable energy adversely affects time use, health and economic opportunities. As women are primarily responsible for household activities such as cooking and cleaning, they can play a powerful role in the successful transition to sustainable energy for all.

Asia and the Pacific regional infographic
SDG 8
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Women and men have not benefited equally from the economic gains made in the region. While underrepresented in the labour force, women are overrepresented in informal, non-agricultural jobs. Asia and the Pacific is the only region in the world, where the participation of women in the labour force is falling.

Women in formal employment earn much less than men. The gender wage gaps range from 1.5 to 49.6% in the region.

Inclusive and sustainable growth is critical for sustainable development, poverty eradication and reducing inequality. A regular and independent source of income not only provides women with greater voice and agency in the household but has also been shown to improve investment in the well-being of household members, particularly children.

Asia and the Pacific regional infographic
SDG 9
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

TARGETS
8

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS
0

WHY IT MATTERS
Ensuring that infrastructure responds to the needs of women is critical for gender equality. For example, affordable public transport and roads enable women to travel for education, earning an income and participating in public life.

Structural transformation in the region has led to significant changes with gender equality implications. Research and innovation that is driving technological change remains male-dominated, despite women's increasing education attainment. Increased women's participation in science, technology and innovation will be significant to meet regional development challenges.

Asia and the Pacific regional infographic

Mobile-cellular subscriptions have seen a momentous increase from 62 per 1000 in 2000 to 950 per 1000 in 2015

But women access the Internet less than men
SDG 10
Reduce inequality within and among countries

TARGETS

10
GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

1

Gender-responsive fiscal and social policies are needed and critical for reducing income inequality, both between households and between women and men.

WHY IT MATTERS

Women are normally those disadvantaged by gender-based discrimination, which can intersect with other kinds of discrimination to compound the inequality they face.

Income growth for the poorest 40% is slower than national average. Sex disaggregated individual level data is required to provide insights into the position of women within the household.
Women and girls suffer disproportionately from a lack of housing, as it increases their vulnerability to eviction and exploitation. Without basic infrastructure and services, women and girls' unpaid care and domestic work increases, and deprives them of education, jobs and free time.

Girls aged under 15 are overrepresented among those living in slums. A lack of housing and of tenure increases their vulnerability to eviction and exploitation.

For women and girls, urban living often brings greater access to education, job opportunities and independence. Yet rapid urbanization also leads to increased air pollution, lack of affordable housing, lack of access to quality services, unsafe public spaces and overcrowded and inadequate public transport.
SDG 12
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

TARGETS
11

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS
0

WHY IT MATTERS

Unsustainable production and consumption patterns are the key driver behind climate change, which has a disproportionate impact on women. Women in developing countries are often at the forefront of efforts to promote responsible consumption through waste-picking and recycling.

Investing in public transportation benefits women, who rely on public transport more than men do.

While it is commonly assumed that women are more eco-conscious, systemic change in consumption and production will require public and private sector to play a role promoting sustainable production practices.
Poor rural and indigenous women depend on local natural resources for their livelihood and are disproportionately affected by climate change.

Women in developing countries are more likely to rely on agriculture, be responsible for collecting water and involved in small-scale fisheries. Natural disasters also have a disproportionate impact on women and children, who are more likely to die during disasters, or experience violence in their aftermath.

Asia and the Pacific is one of the regions most affected by the harmful impacts of climate change. Women play a key role in mitigating and adapting to climate change risks. This role must be supported, recognized and strengthened if sustainable development is to be achieved in the region.

Asia and the Pacific regional infographic
SDG 14
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

WHY IT MATTERS

In Asia and the Pacific, women play an important role in fishery value chains. However, women are often confined to low-skilled, vulnerable jobs. This puts their health at risk, and earning less than men for the same work in areas such as aquaculture.

Rising sea levels are having significant impacts on communities—most especially in Bangladesh, Maldives and other low-lying areas in Asia and the Pacific. Those most at risk include families living in coastal communities and those who depend on oceans for their livelihood. Enable women to have decision-making power in local fisheries are critical to enhance governance and conservation.

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GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

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Some 135,000 km² of natural forest were lost in Asia and the Pacific between 2000 and 2015. This accounts for 10% of the world's total loss of natural forest.

The impact of loss of forest was felt more by women, particularly those from rural, landless and land-poor households, who depend on forests to perform their roles in cooking, cattle care, supplementing household nutrition and related tasks.

Research shows that women’s participation in community forest management bodies yields positive outcomes for both forest sustainability and gender equality. Ensuring women’s participation in the governance of natural resources is critical for sustainable development.
Women homicide victims are more likely than men to be killed by a current or former intimate partner.

In five of the eight countries where data is available, more women than men were victimized by human trafficking. In all five countries that collect data on children, girls are more vulnerable than boys. Better data is needed in these areas.

**Peaceful and inclusive societies uphold the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice.** In times of conflict and crisis, women are more affected when social services such as health and education deteriorate. But women’s equal participation are critically important for conflict prevention, resolution and peace building. They also have a vital role in addressing gender-based violence in conflict, end impunity, and ensure equal access to justice and services.
We need to significantly boost investment in gender statistics to effectively monitor the SDGs

Of the 88 gender-related SDG indicators used in this report, 59% have at least one data point to develop an initial picture of the status of gender and the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific.

The main challenges for gender statistics include:

- Sex disaggregation
- Advancing methodological development
- Multidimensional disaggregation and identifying groups of women and girls that are at risk of being left behind
- Coordination and statistical capacity-building
- Data dissemination and policy use

Despite the importance of Goal 17 for gender equality, most of its indicators are not gender-specific. Advancing this indicator is crucial to ensure the collection, analysis and use of evidence-based insights to guarantee that the SDGs leave no women and girls behind.

Achieving the gender equality commitments in the SDGs requires an enabling environment at national and global level. Ensuring that sex-disaggregated data is regularly collected and analysed, and that gender statistics are periodically produced and disseminated, is an urgent regional priority for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs from a gender perspective.
Availability of data for gender-related SDG indicators

1. Of the 85 unique gender-related SDG indicators for Asia-Pacific, the status of the availability of the data is as follows:

- No data: 41%
- Widely available: 26% (2/3 or more of the region)
- Moderately available: 21% (1/3 or 2/3 of the region)
- Somewhat available: 12% (At least 1 datapoint or less than 1/3 of the region)

2. The classification of 85 unique gender-related SDG indicators

- Tier I: indicator is conceptually clear, has an established methodology and standards are available. Data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.
- Tier II: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an established methodology and standards are available,
- Tier III: No established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but the methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed and tested.

Several patterns emerge from a review of gender-related SDG indicator data availability

- Limited Goal 5 data, signals the significant investment needed to monitor gender equality in the SDGs. In particular, there are no data on intimate partner physical or sexual violence against women or female landholders in North and North-East Asia.
- There are no gender-specific data sets for any Pacific country on 22 indicators, with notable absences such as poverty rates, gender wage gaps and food insecurity.
- Developed economies must collect or make available more gender data. Developed economies have data for just 27 of 55 indicators. This undermines regional monitoring of the development agenda which must include both developed and developing countries.