



# Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

Baseline and pathways for transformative change by 2030

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Infographics

# 1 NO POVERTY



## SDG 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### TARGETS

## 7

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

## 6



30.9%  
female



25.4%  
male



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**

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.

**2** ZERO HUNGER



## 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.

### 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.

## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



### SDG 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

#### TARGETS

13

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

6



# Every year 78,000 women die

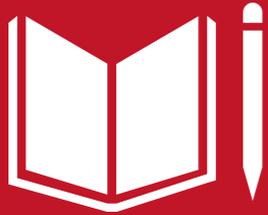
from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth

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.

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



### SDG 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

#### TARGETS

10

#### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

8



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

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.

#### 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.

# 5 GENDER EQUALITY



## SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

### TARGETS

9

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

14

## Interlinkages and Synergies between goal 5 and All SDGs



### 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.



# 5 GENDER EQUALITY



## SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

### TARGETS

9

### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

14

## 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

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5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



## SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

TARGETS

9

GENDER-SPECIFIC  
INDICATORS

14



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

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5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



## SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

TARGETS

9

GENDER-SPECIFIC  
INDICATORS

14



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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5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



## SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

TARGETS

9

GENDER-SPECIFIC  
INDICATORS

14



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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# 5 GENDER EQUALITY



## SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

### TARGETS

9

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

14



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

### WHY IT MATTERS

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## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



### SDG 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

#### TARGETS

8

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



## 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.

#### WHY IT MATTERS

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.

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



### SDG 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

#### TARGETS

5

#### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



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.

#### WHY IT MATTERS

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.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



### SDG 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

#### TARGETS

12

#### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

7



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

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.

#### WHY IT MATTERS

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.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



### SDG 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

#### TARGETS

8

#### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



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

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.

#### WHY IT MATTERS

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.



## SDG 10

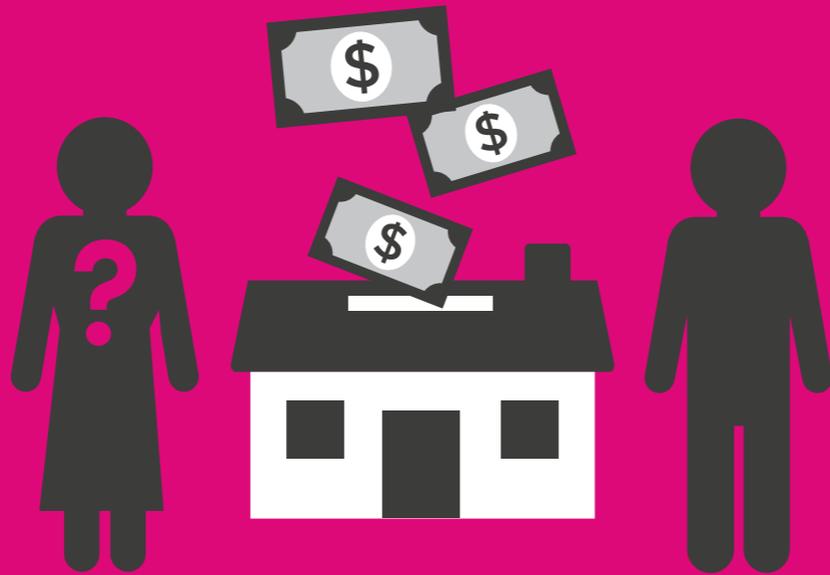
Reduce inequality within and among countries

### TARGETS

10

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

1



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

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.

# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



## SDG 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

### TARGETS

## 10

### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

## 3



**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

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.

### WHY IT MATTERS

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.

# 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



## SDG 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### TARGETS

## 11

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

## 0



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.

### 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.

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



## SDG 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

### TARGETS

## 5

### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

## 1



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.

### WHY IT MATTERS

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.



## SDG 14

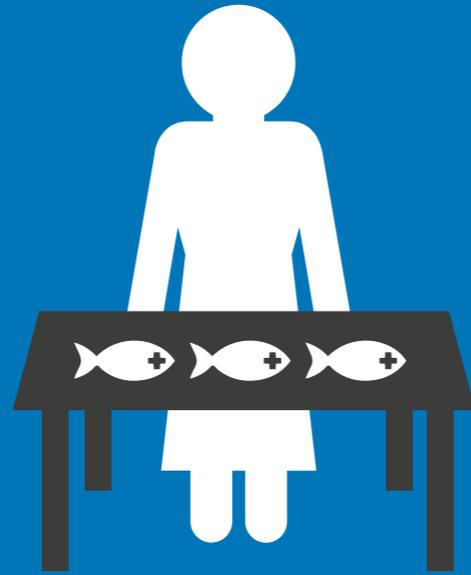
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

### TARGETS

10

### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



In the Mekong river basin, almost 5,000 fish markets are run by women, and women account for around **56%** of the annual small-scale fishery catches in the Pacific Island

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.

### WHY IT MATTERS

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.



## SDG 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

### TARGETS

12

### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

0



Some 135,000 km<sup>2</sup> 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.

### WHY IT MATTERS

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.

# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



## SDG 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

### TARGETS

# 12

### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

# 6



## 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.

### WHY IT MATTERS

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.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# SDG 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

### TARGETS

# 19

### GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

# 1



# 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**

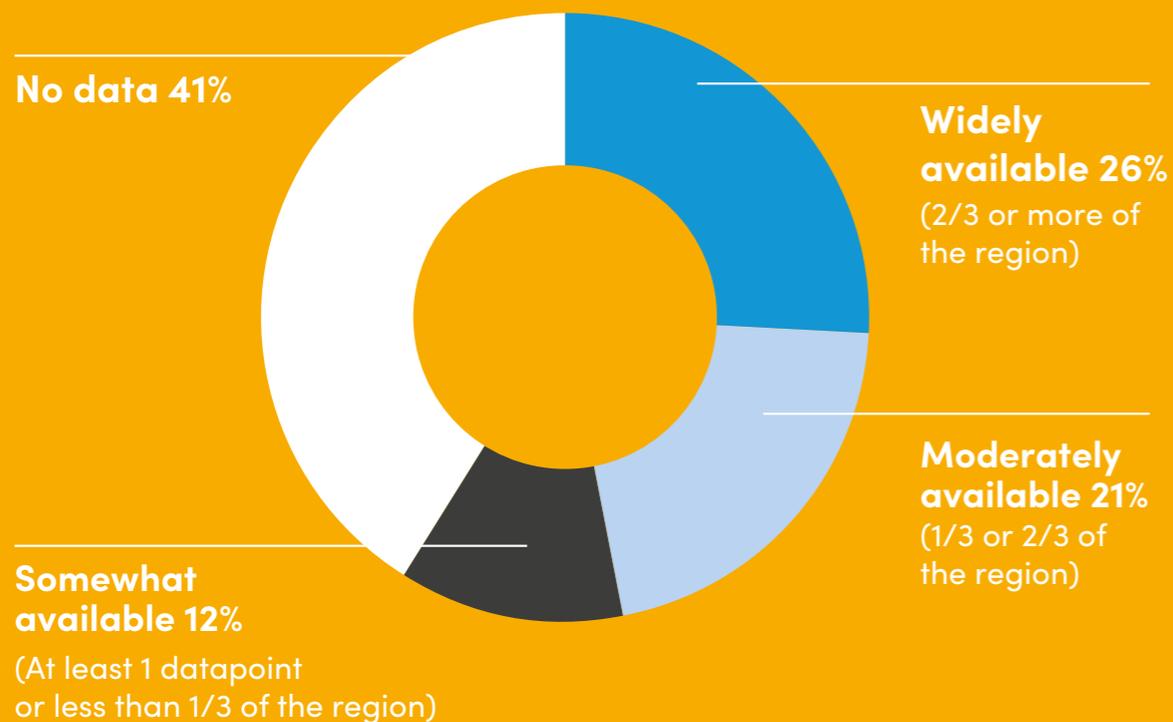
Despite the importance of Goal 17 for gender equality, most of its indicators are not gender-specific. Advancing this indicator is crucial to ensure the collection, analysis and use of evidence-based insights to guarantee that the SDGs leave no women and girls behind.

## WHY IT MATTERS

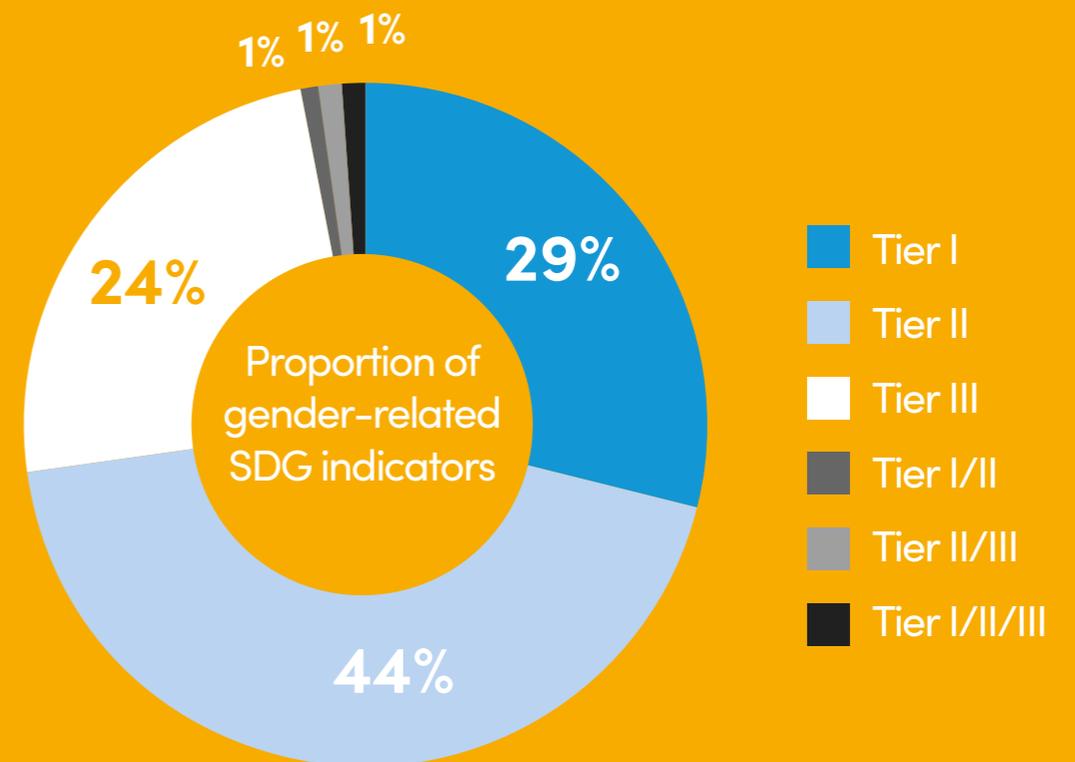
Achieving the gender equality commitments in the SDGs requires an enabling environment at national and global level. Ensuring that sex-disaggregated data is regularly collected and analysed, and that gender statistics are periodically produced and disseminated, is an urgent regional priority for the 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:



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.

