A life course perspective on population ageing:

Learning from research on the demographic dividend

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Workshop on Measuring
Population Ageing and Assessing
its Economic and Fiscal Consequences
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UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
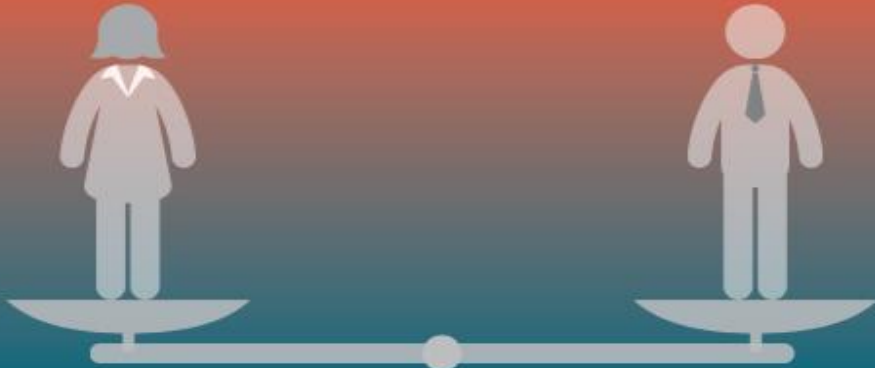Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Lessons

from the Interregional project:

DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND WITH A GENDER DIMENSION

Entry Points for Implementation of SDGs in Africa and Asia and the Pacific

Health   Education   Employment   Governance

The life course perspective

- A sequence of socially defined events and roles that the individual enacts over time.

- A framework to understand people's lives in the context of social institutions and social structure.

- A multidisciplinary approach to understanding the mental, physical and social health of individuals, which incorporates both life span and life stage concepts that determine the

What is the Demographic Dividend?

- A temporary window of opportunity for faster development and economic growth.

- At first **fertility rates decline**, leading to a reduction in younger population groups (dependents) and a shift towards working-age population groups.

- Greater numbers of productive adults translates to labour productivity increases and **faster economic growth.**

- A reduction in total population can allow Governments to increase investments per capita in education, health care and other social development factors, promoting **faster development and growth for all.**

Demographic window explained

- Share of children falls (permanently) below 30%

- Share of older persons is (still) less than 15% *(UN 2004)*

- Demographic window = window of opportunity for economic development

- Requirement, larger investments in:

    - People (education and health)

    - Infrastructure

    - Jobs

Demographic window for countries in Asia-Pacific
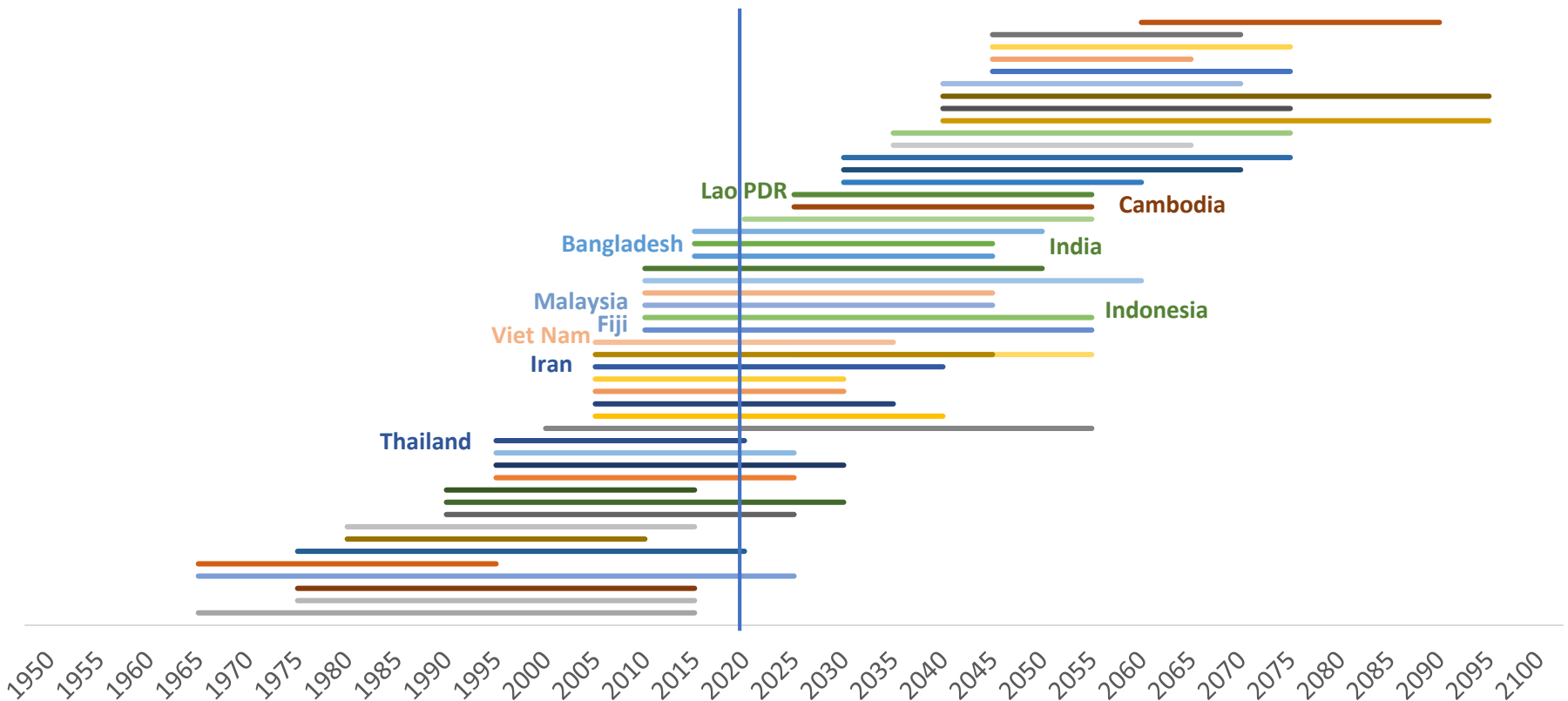
Children (0-14) < 30% and older persons (65+) <15%

Population growth rate, %, selected Asia-Pacific countries, by ESCAP subregion

Country	2000	2018	2030	2050
China	0.6	0.4	0.0	-0.5
Japan	0.2	-0.2	-0.5	-0.6
Republic of Korea	0.7	0.3	0.1	-0.5
Lao PDR	1.6	1.5	1.0	0.3
Malaysia	2.3	1.3	0.9	0.4
Thailand	1.0	0.2	-0.1	-0.6
Timor-Leste	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.5
Afghanistan	3.9	2.3	1.8	1.0
India	1.8	1.1	0.7	0.2
Nepal	1.8	1.1	0.7	0.2
Russian Federation	-0.4	0.0	-0.3	-0.2
Australia	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.7
Fiji	0.5	0.7	0.4	-0.1
Papua New Guinea	**2.6**	**2.0**	**1.7**	**1.1**
ESCAP	**1.2**	**0.8**	**0.5**	**0.0**

Source: World Population Prospects 2017

Potential consequences

If Papua New Guinea invested in its Economic, Education and Family
Planning sectors,


Population by age and sex (Millions)
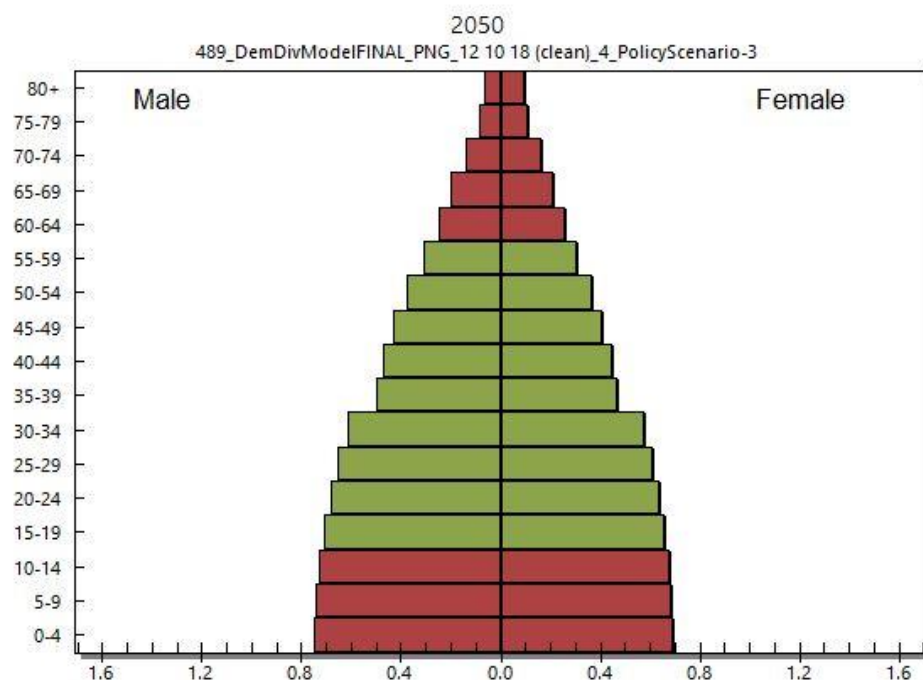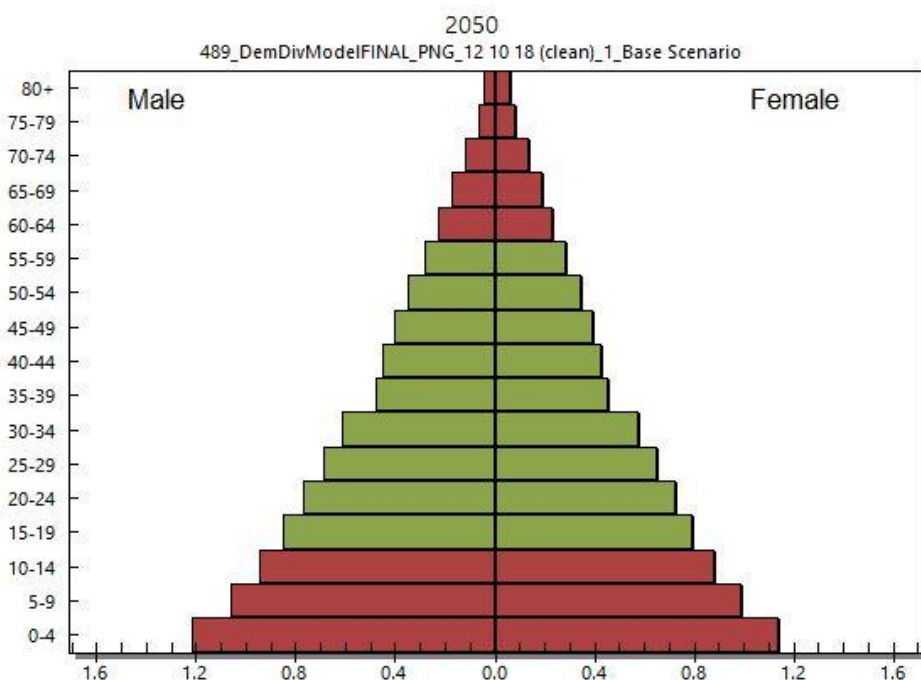
On the right, if PNG invested in **ALL THREE sectors** there would be a big reduction in the
number of younger dependents, with a shift towards working-age population groups.

Asia-Pacific old-age support ratios

Number of those aged 15-64 per person aged 65+, selected Asia-Pacific countries

Country	2018	2050
China	6.4	2.3
India	10.8	5.0
Japan	2.2	1.4
Republic of Korea	5.0	1.5
Thailand	6.0	2.0
Afghanistan	20.9	12.1
Papua New Guinea	15.5	9.0

Source: World Population Prospects 2017

Male and female literacy rates for adults and youth in Asia and the Pacific countries with rates below 90 %
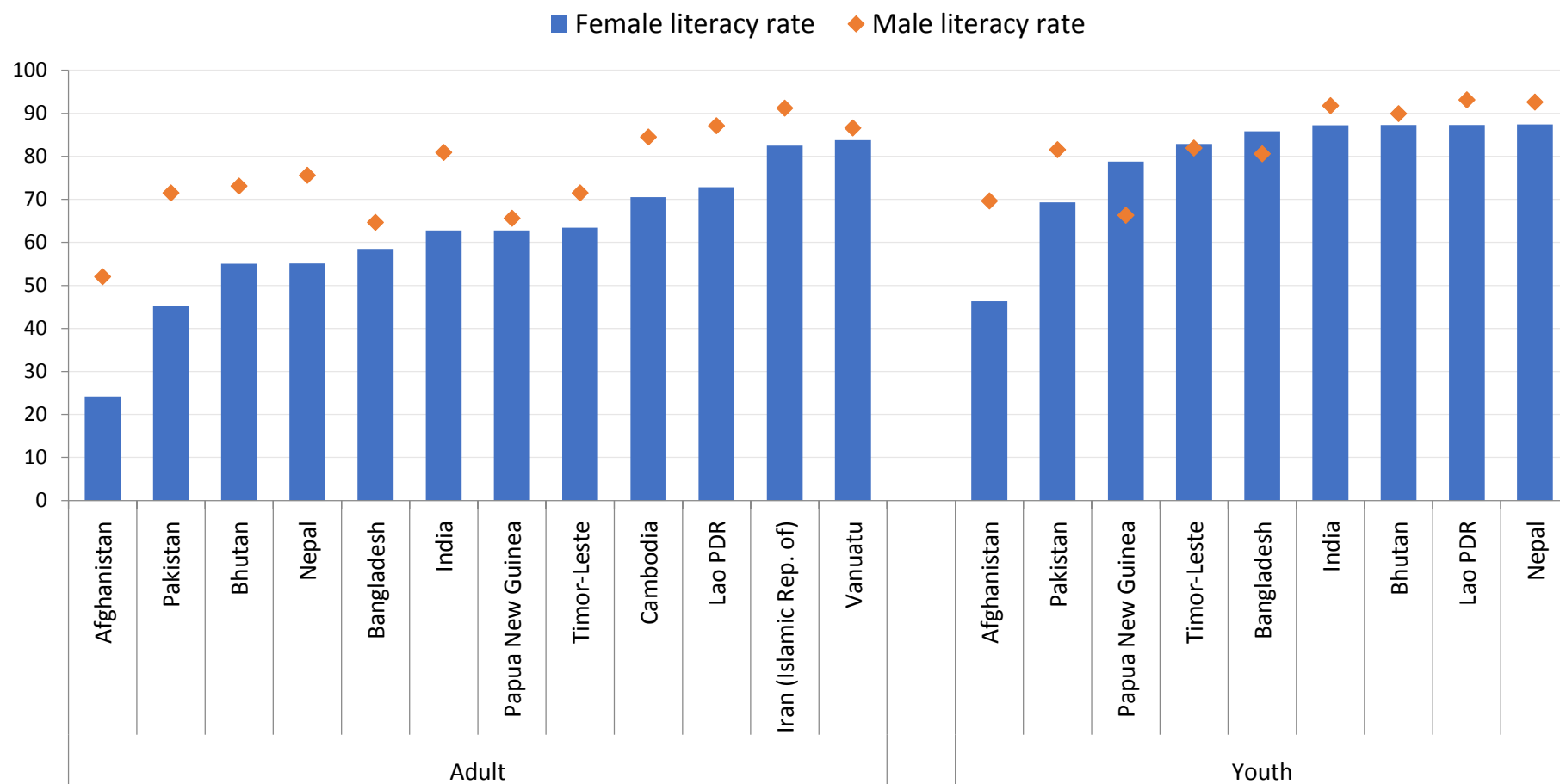
Source: UNESCAP online statistical database. All data from the year 2015.

Asia-Pacific share of births attended by skilled personnel by wealth quintile , latest year

Births attended by skilled personnel (%)

Q1 (poorest) — ARM/UZB/KAZ, VAN, NPL, IND, TLS, LAO

Q2 — ARM/UZB/KAZ, VAN, NPL, IND, LAO, TLS

Q3 — ARM/UZB/KAZ, VAN, NPL, IND, LAO, TLS

Q4 — ARM/UZB/KAZ, VAN, NPL, IND, LAO, TLS

Q5 (richest) — ARM/UZB/KAZ, NPL, IND, LAO, VAN, TLS

Stages of Development

Percentage of GDP investment in education, health & social protection, selected Asia-Pacific countries, latest year

Legend: Education · Health · Social Protection · Global Average SP+Edu+Health (20.1% of GDP)

Regions: SSWA · SEA · ENEA · Pacific · NCA

Source: ESCAP calculations based on UNESCO, World Bank and ILO.
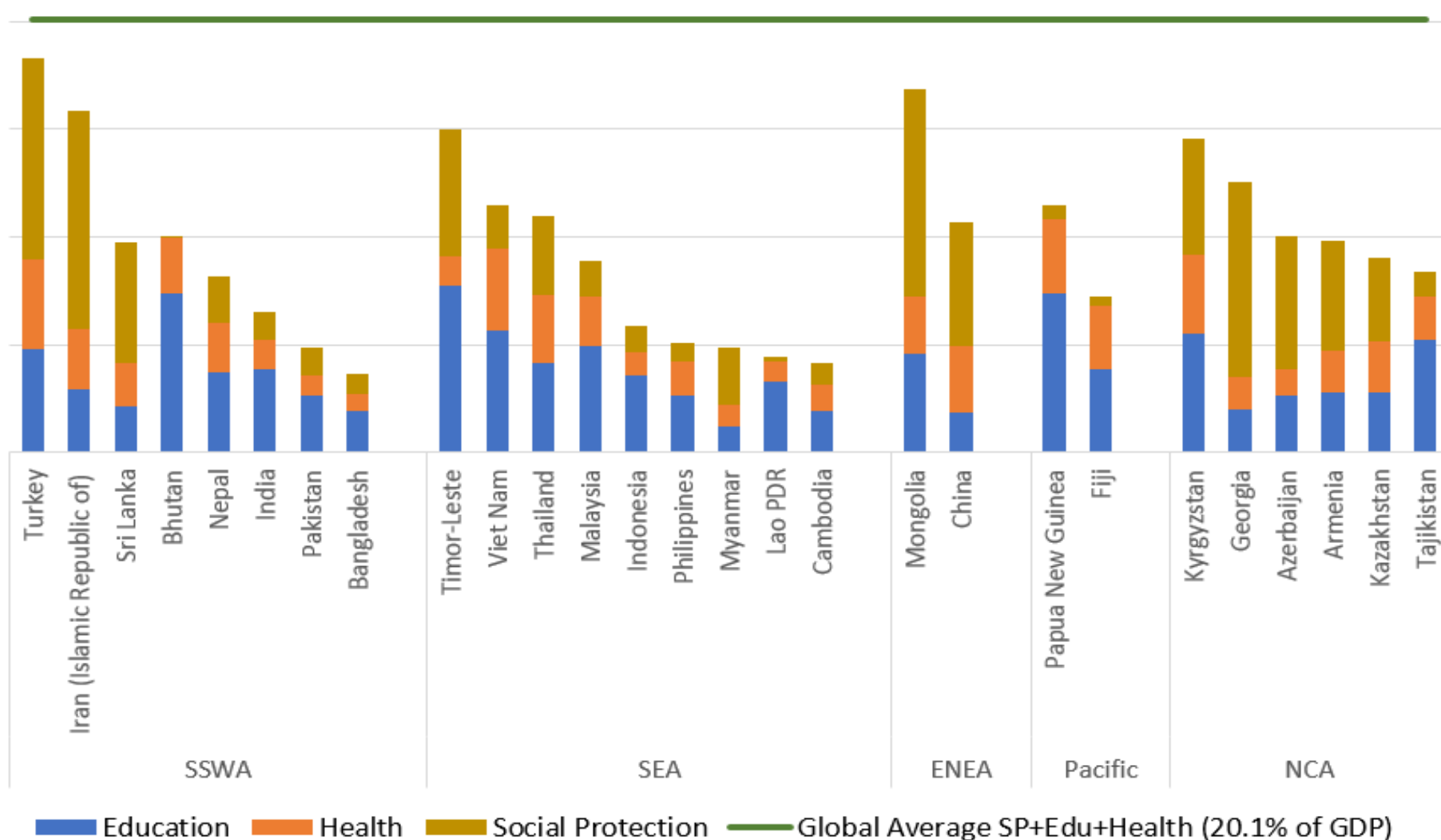
Job benefits accrued by youth in formal and informal employment, percentages, selected Asia-Pacific countries

	Bangladesh		Cambodia		Nepal		Viet Nam	
	formal	informal	formal	informal	formal	informal	Formal	informal
Annual paid leave			80.8	17.6	85.8	22.0	83.4	10.0
Paid sick leave	65.7	7.8	52.8	16.0	79.0	20.6	71.6	6.6
Pension/old-age insurance	26.5	0.9	17.7	5.4	27.3	0.6	44.7	1.3
Medical insurance coverage			51.6	7.9	38.7	10.1	83.7	3.8
Social security contribution			33.2	5.7	20.1	3.4	79.8	2.3
Educational or training courses			39.7	12.5	68.9	14.2	39.5	3.1
Maternity/paternity leave	59.0	3.8	67.4	12.6	55.9	10.2	51.1	3.1

Key	Per cent		
	0-20		61-80
	21-40		81-100
	41-60		No data available

Source: ESCAP based on ILO STWT surveys.

GOAL 3

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND
PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

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

GOAL 5

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL
WOMEN AND GIRLS

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

GOAL 10
Reduce inequality within and among countries

10

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS